

## West Valley Fire District

### Referred by West Valley Fire District Measure 36-203

#### Five-year operating levy for fire and emergency medical services

**Question:** Should the District issue a local operating levy for fire and emergency services for five years beginning in 2020-21? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**Summary:** The measure, if approved, would authorize the District to levy taxes to support the annual cost of fire and emergency medical services. The measure would provide for a local option operating levy at a rate not to exceed \$1.06 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value within the District for five years, beginning July 1, 2020. The estimated revenue over five years is:

Fiscal Year	Estimated-Yearly Total
2020-21	\$332,458
2021-22	\$342,432
2022-23	\$352,705
2023-24	\$363,286
2024-25	\$374,185
Total	\$1,765,086

The District's goal with this levy would be to hire additional Firefighter/Paramedics to improve our emergency response force. The District has identified a trend of increasing call volume and decreasing volunteer response. Money would also be used to purchase a new ambulance, replacing an ambulance that is over 15 years old. This added revenue would allow the District to continue to provide our community with a reliable and effective service capability.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY, based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time.

**NO ARGUMENTS  
WERE FILED IN  
OPPOSITION TO THIS  
MEASURE**

## West Valley Fire District

### Explanatory Statement Measure 36-203

#### FIVE-YEAR OPERATING LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The measure, if approved, would authorize the District to levy taxes to support the annual cost of fire and emergency medical services. The measure would provide for a local option operating levy at a rate not to exceed \$1.06 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value within the District for five years, beginning July 1, 2020. The estimated revenue per year is estimated at \$353,000.

The District's goal with this levy would be to hire additional Firefighter/Paramedics to improve our emergency response force. The District has identified a trend of increasing call volume. In addition, locally, regionally and nationally there has been a decline in volunteer fire and emergency medical service (EMS) responses. West Valley Fire District has not been exempt from this decline. Money would also be used to purchase a new ambulance, replacing an ambulance that is over 15 years old. The cost of repair and maintenance continues to increase while the reliability decreases. This added revenue would allow the District to continue to provide our community with the reliable and effective response capability that our citizens expect and deserve.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) have announced that beginning this year they will be establishing their own fire and emergency medical services agency. This agency will serve the citizens of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in place of the existing contracted workforce provided by West Valley Fire District. This opportunity challenges West Valley Fire District financially and operationally. Financially, this contract provided funding for the three firefighter/emergency medical technicians and the three firefighter/paramedics that staffed the CTGR fire station in Grand Ronde. The medical incidents handled by this staff also generated revenue for West Valley Fire District. As this great partnership evolves, the funding from the contract and the calls will change with it. Operationally, the contract provides facilities and apparatus in the Grand Ronde area. The facilities and some apparatus are owned by CTGR. West Valley Fire District will need to adapt its response coverage, in order to provide service through and after this transition.

Currently, the West Valley Fire District is unable to provide a 24 hour a day staffed ambulance response out of the Willamina Fire Station. This levy resolves this issue.

*Information furnished by Fire Chief Fred Hertel  
West Valley Fire District*

## West Valley Fire District

### Measure 36-203 Argument in Support

#### West Valley Professional Firefighters Support Measure 36-203 So We Can Serve Our Community Better

I am pleased to write on behalf of the men and women who proudly serve as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics for the West Valley Fire District.

#### Thank you!

First, let me pass on an important message from all of us — thank you. Thank you for your past support and your willingness to consider additional funding so that we can better serve you.

#### Help Us Serve You Better!

You call, and we come as fast as we can. However, there are times when the ambulance (Medic-181) at Station 180 in Willamina is not staffed at all. This means another ambulance must come from another community, and this takes time. A fast and reliable paramedic response and transport to the emergency room is critical to survivability in the event of a heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrest or significant trauma. When an ambulance must come from another community, critical care is delayed. This levy will provide the West Valley community with a faster and more reliable response to medical incidents as well as residential and commercial fires, motor vehicle crashes and other emergencies.

Your support for this levy will allow us to better serve you. Please join us in voting YES for Measure 36-203, and help us provide you with faster, more reliable EMS and fire protection services.

Michaela Woods - President of West Professional Firefighters -  
IAFF Local 4861

*Information furnished by Michaela Woods*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Yamhill County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy of statements made in the argument.

## West Valley Fire District

### Measure 36-203 Argument in Support

#### Willamina Chamber of Commerce Supports Measure 36-203

As business leaders, we have a vested interest in community safety. Here's why we think Measure 36-203 makes good business sense:

#### Meeting customer expectations:

Whether business owners or homeowners, we all have the same top priority for West Valley Fire District: When we call 911, we expect a fast and reliable fire and emergency medical response. This is the core objective behind the levy.

#### We understand that our community will continue to grow:

The community of West Valley will continue to grow in population. The addition of two professional firefighter/paramedics will allow the West Valley Fire District to meet the demands of our growing community. The 911 calls for emergency service in West Valley have increased in the past five years. Adding two firefighter/paramedics will mean a faster, more reliable service when our neighbors need it most.

#### The cost is reasonable:

The proposed five-year, local option levy will support the addition of two professional firefighter/paramedic positions and the purchase of a new ambulance. If approved, Measure 36-203 would cost \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed (not market) value. A resident with a home assessed at \$150,000 would pay an estimated \$160 per year or \$13 per month. In January 2019, a 20-year, West Valley Fire District general obligation bond expired, and this reduced our taxation by \$0.59 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. When this reduction is factored in, the net increase (if the levy is approved) would be only \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value!

#### Measure 36-203 makes good business sense and is good for our community.

#### Join us and Vote Yes!

Don Shelton - President Willamina Chamber of Commerce  
Rolland Heuser  
Geneva Wymore  
Robert Burr

*Information furnished by Don Shelton*

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## West Valley Fire District

### Measure 36-203 Argument in Support

#### WEST VALLEY FIRE BOARD SUPPORTS MEASURE 36-203

As the voter-elected Board of Directors for West Valley Fire District, we are referring this local option levy to the ballot for these reasons:

#### **Our community expects and deserves a fast and reliable fire and emergency medical response.**

The West Valley Fire District does not have the funding necessary to properly staff an ambulance at Station 180 in Willamina. When an ambulance must come from another community, critical care is delayed. This levy will provide funds to hire at least two additional firefighter/paramedics. This increase in staffing would mean the ambulance (Medic-181) at Station 180 located in Willamina will be in service more often and ready to respond to critical emergency calls in our community.

#### **We only ask for additional funding when it is necessary.**

We would not ask for additional funding unless it was critical to providing essential emergency services. The last time the West Valley Community approved a funding measure was a general obligation bond in 1998. That general obligation bond expired in January 2019, and this reduced the tax rate by \$0.59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. When this reduction is factored in, the net increase (if the levy is approved) would be only \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value!

#### **We have considered other options.**

Our volunteers serve our community with pride, and their service is very much appreciated. Like most communities, West Valley has seen a reduction in support from volunteers. The availability and reliability of volunteers has decreased in recent years. The recruitment and retention of volunteers is increasingly difficult. Every aspect of running fire protection and emergency medical services has increased in cost while the tax rate has remained the same.

**Join us and vote YES for Measure 36-203.**

**Roy Whitman  
Rick Mishler  
Chris Greenhill  
Don Shelton  
Gary Brooks**

*Information furnished by Chris Greenhill*

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## West Valley Fire District

### Measure 36-203 Argument in Support

#### A grateful mother supports Measure 36-203

I have lived in Willamina for 30+ years, watching my children and their friends grow into wonderful adults, and many of them, parents themselves. I have been grateful for the peace of mind knowing there's a local fire department to support my family, friends and neighbors as they are needed throughout the years.

My daughter Laura had an emergency c-section for her first and only child, six weeks premature, in May 2017. Laura and Macy were discharged to come home after spending a week in the NICU at OHSU. During the middle of the night, Laura began hemorrhaging, losing mass quantities of blood. We couldn't get the bleeding to stop, and she was getting light-headed. We called 911. The West Valley Fire District Medic 181 from the Willamina Station arrived within three to five minutes. They quickly assessed Laura and loaded her in the ambulance for transport to the hospital. Without the fast response of the local EMS team, I am unsure of the outcome and frankly, prefer not to think about the "What if...." I'm just grateful that Laura is all right and got the emergency medical response that she needed.

I want everyone in our community to get the same fast and reliable fire/emergency medical response that Laura received that stressful, early morning in 2017. Sadly, right now, Medic 181 stationed in Willamina is not always staffed. This means someone from our community could call 911 for uncontrolled bleeding, and the ambulance would need to come from much further away.

This is why I am supporting Measure 36-203. I support the levy in allowing my family, friends and other community members 24/7 coverage because we deserve it! It will bring a sense of peace knowing that when a neighbor or a loved one is in dire need of medical attention, WVFD Medic 181 will be there to respond in a few minutes.

*Information furnished by Melissa Ivey*

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