

City of Lafayette

Referred by the City of Lafayette

Measure 36-189

Bonds to Construct and Equip Fire Station and City Hall

Question: Shall Lafayette issue up to \$7,950,000 in general obligation bonds for construction of a new Fire Station and City Hall? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary: If approved, bond funds would be used for capital construction costs to construct, equip and furnish a new Fire Station/City Hall and pay capitalized interest on and costs of issuance of the bonds. The existing City Hall is concrete block construction that would not withstand a moderate earthquake and lacks fire sprinklers. The new Fire Station/City Hall will meet seismic standards and provide a central community facility for future emergency response. This new downtown structure will be larger to accommodate future growth and include:

- Three bays to accommodate modern fire apparatus with a vehicle exhaust removal system.
- A decontamination room for bio-hazards and carcinogens.
- Dedicated storage for equipment, protective clothing, and public records.
- Day room/kitchen and living quarters for interns, volunteers, and eventual 24-hour coverage.
- Additional area for meetings, workspaces, and an Emergency Operations Center.

The City estimates the bonds would cost property owners \$1.59 per \$1,000 assessed value per year. Bonds will mature over a period not to exceed 31 years from the date of issuance.

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

City of Lafayette

Explanatory Statement

Measure 36-189

The Lafayette Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency medical services to nearly 4,000 residents in its service area. If approved, the \$7.95 million bond would be used for capital construction costs to construct and equip a new Fire Station/City Hall. This facility will comply with pedestrian-friendly downtown commercial development standards, as well as earthquake and safety standards for fire stations and emergency operations centers. The existing Fire Station/City Hall was originally designed as an agricultural building and was never intended to be used for its current purpose. The deficiencies of the current building include:

- **Building safety standards:** the concrete block construction would not withstand a moderate earthquake and lacks fire sprinklers.
- **Code requirements for vehicle exhaust and isolation of contaminated materials:** there is no ventilation system to remove diesel exhaust fumes from the building. Contaminated materials come in contact with operations areas, and protective clothing is exposed to greater wear due to limited storage space.
- **Limited space for equipment and personnel:** the current building is at capacity and has no available space for equipment or additional public safety or administrative staff as the city grows.

What does the bond entail?

The new Fire Station/City Hall will be built at the current downtown location, will be larger to accommodate future growth, and will be deemed to comply with all structural, mechanical, ADA and occupant health requirements. The bond will also fund:

- Three bays to accommodate modern fire apparatus with a vehicle exhaust removal system.
- A decontamination room for bio-hazards and carcinogens.
- Dedicated storage for equipment, protective clothing, and public records.
- Day room/kitchen and living quarters for interns, volunteers, and 24 hour-coverage.
- Area for meetings and workspaces, as well as provide greater security for staff, law enforcement, and municipal court functions.
- A multi-purpose Council Chambers that would serve as an emergency operations center, with modern equipment that would remain operational during disasters including wind, flood, and earthquake events, to ensure the city's ability to respond to community needs.

How much would the bond cost?

The total principal amount of the bonds for the new Lafayette Fire Station/City Hall is estimated at \$7.95 million. The estimated tax rate increase will be approximately \$1.59 per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year, or \$159 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value to be paid over a maximum 31 years. This rate is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on current information from the County Assessor's Officer. Rates could vary depending on interest rates, growth in the City's total assessed value and other factors. Repayment will be structured so owners of new construction would assist in paying the bonded debt.

Summary

The new Fire Station/City Hall is designed to meet the City's growth needs for public safety. A central downtown facility ensures that emergency vehicles and personnel respond quickly to calls from the community. If approved, this bond would provide larger, modern emergency and operational facilities and updated on-site training and living facilities for emergency responders.

*Information furnished by Preston Polasek, City Administrator
City of Lafayette*

City of Lafayette

Measure 36-189 Argument in Support

As the Sheriff of Yamhill County and a citizen of Lafayette for 11 years, I am writing to urge your support of Measure 36-189, Bonds to Construct & Equip Fire Station & City Hall. Prior to being elected Sheriff, I served on the City of Lafayette Budget Committee. During my time on the Board, I saw firsthand the city plan for the future, in support of which they progressively began to put money aside for growth of the City Hall and Fire Station. As the sergeant responsible for police services for the City of Lafayette, I personally experienced the growing need for a more efficient, environmentally sound, safer, and larger space to store Fire Department assets, including the new fire engine paid for by City of Lafayette taxes. The City has done their part to pave the way for this project. It is now time for the citizens to do their part to secure the funding needed to complete the project.

I believe Government needs to be fiscally responsible; I support this bond because it is the right thing to do for the citizens of Lafayette. This \$7.95 million bond will be used for capital construction costs and equipment needs of a new City Hall/ Fire Station. The new building will be constructed in the current downtown location, will be larger to accommodate future growth, and will comply with all structural, mechanical, ADA, and occupant health requirements, including the ability to allow for 24 hour-coverage onsite through living and dining quarters for interns and volunteers.

I urge the citizens of Lafayette to make an informed decision and join me in supporting this bond. I feel this is an appropriate use of public funds to support our community needs for years to come.

Information furnished by Sheriff Tim Svenson

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.

City of Lafayette

Measure 36-189 Argument in Support

Vote YES on 36-189
Lafayette Fire Station/City Hall

Vote YES for EMERGENCY SERVICES

Vote YES for PUBLIC SAFETY

Our growing community of 4,000 residents should have a Fire Station for volunteers, equipment, training, and eventual 24-hour staffing. For over 30 years, Lafayette emergency services and City Hall have operated out of the present building. With our low tax and fire insurance rates, property owners should support this temporary tax measure to guarantee quick emergency response in the future. The estimated bond rate of \$1.59 means that the average homeowner would pay about \$225 per year, that's less than \$20 a month! Please support this important Public Safety measure along with these residents and businesses that endorse this measure:

Mayor Chris Pagella
Lafayette Volunteer Firefighters Association
Tim Svenson, Yamhill County Sheriff
Former Mayor Don Leard
Marie Sproul, Pioneer Estates
Steve Grittman, Lafayette Auto Body
Issac Alimin, Shell Station
Kourtney Ferrua
Local 3099, McMinnville Firefighters

Paid for by the Lafayette Citizens For Public Safety
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Information furnished by Lafayette Citizens for Public Safety

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