

Newberg Rural Fire Protection District

Referred by the Newberg Rural Fire Protection District

Measure 36-188

Annexation of Newberg Rural into Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

Question: Upon dissolution, shall all properties within Newberg Rural Fire Protection District be annexed by Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue?

Summary: This measure approves annexation of all territory within Newberg Rural Fire Protection District (Newberg Rural) into Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R). Annexation was proposed by the elected bodies of Newberg Rural and TVF&R to provide stable, long-term fire protection and emergency medical services to the Newberg Rural area.

Annexation is contingent upon voter approval of a separate dissolution measure. If Newberg Rural voters approve dissolution and annexation, all assets and liabilities of Newberg Rural shall be transferred to and assumed by TVF&R under the plan of dissolution available for inspection at the office of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners. TVF&R will reinvest any proceeds from Newberg Rural's cash assets into future infrastructure that will serve the area.

Newberg Rural's permanent tax rate of \$.4329 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would be eliminated. TVF&R's permanent tax rate of \$1.5252, a local option levy of \$0.45 that expires on July 1, 2020, and bonded indebtedness of \$0.1047 (total combined rate of \$2.0799) would be levied beginning July 1, 2018.

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

Newberg Rural Fire Protection District

Explanatory Statement

Measure 36-188

This measure approves annexation of all territory within Newberg Rural Fire Protection District (Newberg Rural) into Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R). Annexation was proposed by the elected bodies of Newberg Rural and TVF&R to provide stable, long-term fire protection and emergency medical services to the Newberg Rural area. Annexation is contingent upon Newberg Rural's voters approving a separate measure to dissolve Newberg Rural.

For decades, Newberg Rural had an agreement with the City of Newberg for the provision of fire and emergency medical services. The City of Newberg approached TVF&R for contract services in 2016 due to funding limitations that made it difficult to sustain adequate staffing, maintain equipment, and comply with national standards given increased service demands.

When the City of Newberg began contracting with TVF&R, services were extended to Newberg Rural to honor the historic arrangement. Since there are no fire stations in Newberg Rural's area, the City of Newberg subsidized emergency services by having resources respond from the City. As part of the contract, TVF&R has provided additional firefighters, apparatus and equipment to improve coverage, response and medical transport services to the City and Newberg Rural areas. The City of Newberg is also seeking approval from its voters in the November 7, 2017 election to annex the City's territory into TVF&R.

Newberg Rural's board of directors hired an independent consultant to research options for Newberg Rural's future. Under most of the options considered, Newberg Rural would likely have to ask voters to approve a levy and/or bond since Newberg Rural's existing rate of \$0.4329 per \$1,000 assessed value does not generate enough revenue to hire staff, invest in infrastructure, and cover operational costs. Newberg Rural's board decided that dissolution of the district and annexation to TVF&R would provide the most stable solution for long-term service to the area.

TVF&R took shape between 1972 and 2004, as a number of small and rural fire departments consolidated to share limited resources and save money. TVF&R achieves cost savings through economies of scale such as buying trucks and equipment in bulk, reducing administrative overhead, and leveraging a system of response to strategically locate stations, resources, and personnel.

TVF&R will reinvest proceeds from Newberg Rural's cash assets into future infrastructure that will serve the area. Upon annexation, TVF&R will also begin planning to add at least one fire station with staff to serve Newberg Rural residents and businesses.

If approved, Newberg Rural's permanent tax rate of \$.4329 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would be eliminated. TVF&R's permanent tax rate of \$1.5252, a local option levy of \$0.45 and bonded indebtedness of \$0.1047 (total combined rate of \$2.0799) would be levied beginning July 1, 2018. TVF&R's local option levy expires on July 1, 2020.

*Information furnished by Cassandra Ulven, Public Affairs Chief
Newberg Rural Fire Protection District*

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

WE CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

As members of the Board of Directors for Newberg Rural Fire Protection District, our priority is to secure the best emergency services for our residents at the best price. For decades, we had an agreement with the City of Newberg for fire service. Unfortunately, the City has struggled with funding limitations that made it difficult to sustain adequate staffing, maintain equipment, or justify subsidizing the rural area.

When we learned our discounted contract was no longer viable, we hired an independent consultant to research options for our future. Under most of the options considered, we would have to ask voters to approve a significant levy and/or bond since the existing rate of \$0.4329 per \$1,000 assessed value does not generate enough revenue to hire staff, invest in infrastructure or cover operational costs. We decided that dissolution of the district and annexation to TVF&R would provide the most affordable and stable solution.

Annexing to TVF&R will add a fire station in the rural area with dedicated firefighters, which has never existed before, and we will benefit from TVF&R's network of fire stations and firefighters.

We believe the transition to TVF&R secures the best possible future for fire protection and emergency medical services for our community. We encourage you to vote yes on Measures 36-187 and 36-188.

President Tim Dietz
Vice President Eric Bergquam
Secretary-Treasurer John Fawcett
Director Christian Boenisch

Information furnished by Newberg Rural Board Members

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Newberg Firefighters Support Measure 36-188

For decades, residents living in the area outside Newberg have received fire and emergency medical services through a contract with Newberg Fire Department. Newberg can no longer keep up with service demands in their city, let alone in Newberg Rural Fire Protection District. As a result, their city council wants to join TVF&R and the subsidized contract with Newberg Rural FPD is no longer an option.

Newberg firefighters have been humbled to serve residents living in Newberg Rural FPD's area, but it's time for a more stable and fair solution. By joining Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue permanently, Newberg Rural FPD will be served by more firefighters, including those who are also trained paramedics. This ensures a better level of emergency medical care. TVF&R will also add a fire station in the rural area, which has never existed before.

We joined the fire service because we care about helping people when they need it most. Voting yes for Measures 36-187 and 36-188 will ensure that there are firefighters to serve the rural area today and in the future.

Les Hallman, Chris Mayfield, Alex Haven, Andrew Willette, Jeremy Friedrich, Lawrence Dickenson, Burk Whitmire, Clinton A Hardeman, Brent Carr, Jacob Cowan, Michael Erwin, Shannon Hankel, Donald Hartmann, Brandon Henry, Michael Jennings, Greg Mau, Griffin Rojo, Ryan Schnell, Colin Sorensen, John Tish

Information furnished by Newberg Firefighters

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Precision Helicopter Urges You to Vote Yes to Join TVF&R

In addition to owning a business in Yamhill County, my late husband Dennis was a board member for Newberg Rural Fire Protection District. Our family has also volunteered in the fire service and supported aerial wildfire suppression efforts for decades.

We know how devastating fires can be, and we feel it's time that the rural area had more reliable emergency medical and fire service. As our area develops and agriculture business and tourism grow, we need more coverage than a volunteer force can provide. We need our own fire station with dedicated full-time firefighters.

Joining TVF&R will mean reliable service and the support from a large network of fire stations and professional firefighters. Yes, there will be an increase in cost, but it will be far less than trying to build our own fire department or suffering the consequences of not being able to fight fires in our community.

Please vote yes on Measures 36-187 and 36-188.

Nancy Sturdevant, Owner of Precision Helicopter

Information furnished by Nancy Sturdevant

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Please vote yes for TVF&R! In the 20 plus years my family has lived on Highway 219, we've seen several horrific auto accidents. Since joining TVF&R, there's been a decrease in response time and an increase in personnel and equipment to resolve these terrible accidents quickly. This past June, there was also a 15-acre wildfire nearby. TVF&R provided an immediate coordinated response with six water tenders, several engines, brush rigs and adequate personnel who were properly trained to fight wildland fires. They worked for 72 hours while hot spots continued to burn and monitored for weeks because of burning stumps.

- In the past, we didn't have the response time that we have now, nor did we have the personnel needed to adequately cover the various incidents that occur on the Mountain. TVF&R has been able to provide additional firefighters who can treat traumatic injuries, use technical extraction equipment for traffic accidents.
- Before joining TVF&R, we relied on mutual aid from another fire department. But now being part of TVF&R, they automatically roll more equipment as part of the initial response.

I don't think we can put a price tag on life and safety. As a parent, landowner, and active community member I could not be more pleased with the decision to join forces with TVF&R.

Linda Sandberg
Chehalem Mountain Resident

Information furnished by Linda Sandberg

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

As the owners of a winery, our livelihood grows in the ground.

If there is a nearby grass or brush fire, our vineyard could be at risk. It's important that we have reliable fire protection. We support Measures 36-187 and 36-188 and feel Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue can provide good service to other agribusinesses and residents in our area.

Jeff Meader, Owner of Eminent Domaine

Information furnished by Jeff Meader

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

TUALATIN VALLEY FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT ANNEXATION

Residents living in the Newberg rural area deserve to have reliable fire protection and emergency medical care. Though the Newberg Fire Department did their best to serve the rural area, it became increasingly difficult for the department to meet demands in the city or surrounding county.

Tualatin Valley Firefighters feel that the community will receive better service by joining TVF&R and leveraging an established emergency response system. TVF&R will be able to add a fire station with dedicated firefighters to serve the rural area.

We encourage you to vote yes on Measures 36-187 and 36-188.

In service,
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1660

Information furnished by Tualatin Valley Firefighters

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Professional Emergency Medical Response is Important for Rural Residents

As an emergency medical practitioner for 37 years, retired Newberg Fire Department EMS Chief and Newberg resident for 22 years, I believe that you deserve the best possible care in your time of need. Whether you live inside or outside the city, you should expect a skilled responder to care for an elderly parent who's fallen, a child who's suffered a seizure or a person who has experienced a cardiac arrest.

Newberg firefighters were passionate and proud to serve residents in the city and rural area, but resources were stretched thin. Additionally, I saw call volumes continue to increase year after year. TVF&R has provided additional staffing in Newberg and will add a fire station and firefighter medics in the rural area to improve response times.

For these reasons, I hope you will join me in voting to ensure the safety of our community and a permanent solution for fire and emergency medical services for rural residents.

Frank Douglas
Retired Newberg Fire Department EMS Chief

Information furnished by Frank Douglas

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's history is rooted in partnerships and cooperative efforts.

In the 1940's, when our area was primarily rural, farmers and other rural residents in Washington County decided to pool their resources to provide better fire protection. That desire to combine resources and cooperate to achieve better results became a foundation principle. Over decades, several city departments and rural fire protection districts combined to form the TVF&R of today.

TVF&R provides high quality emergency medical care, fire suppression, technical and water rescue services, hazardous materials response, fire prevention and education. TVF&R provides this broad level of public safety service in both rural and urban areas. While we have evolved in our mission as life became more complex, we have kept the same ethic and stewardship of our founders by being resourceful and accountable.

If you choose to join TVF&R by voting yes on Measures 36-187 and 36-188, know that the Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that you receive excellent service and that your tax dollars invested in emergency service will be wisely spent.

TVF&R Board President Clark Balfour

Information furnished by Clark Balfour

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Chehalem Valley Chamber Supports Joining TVF&R

The Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce enables business people to accomplish collectively, what no one of them could do individually. This same concept applies to fire service. Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue is compiled of small cities like Newberg that can collectively provide a higher level of service and depth of resources than any one city could achieve on their own. In addition to fire and emergency medical services, Tualatin Valley has a technical rescue team, a hazardous materials team, a water rescue team and prevention personnel who help keep businesses safe through complimentary inspections to spare them from fires that can damage property. Because of economies of scale, they can do this more economically and efficiently. Having a fire service provider with rigorous response standards can also benefit insurance rates for businesses and homeowners. The Newberg Fire Department did a great job for many years with limited resources, but it's time that our growing community has enough firefighters and life saving equipment to properly protect and serve the businesses and families in the Newberg area.

*Information furnished by Sheryl Kelsh,
Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce*

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

My name is Donny Lehmann. I'm a longtime Newberg resident and a business owner in Yamhill County. I'm writing this to show support for TVF&R. I personally want the best service available considering a majority of my children and grandchildren live in the Newberg area. Since the merger, I've had experiences with the crews from TVF&R. Two of these were emergency situations involving family members. They provided excellent care and showed concern for our family members. They also supported my community service project to have a life jacket station at Roger's Landing to prevent drownings.

In my spare time, I monitor emergency scanners in Yamhill and Washington counties. Three years ago, I created a social media site called YamCo Watch. The page was created to keep the public informed of emergencies where they live.

I wasn't initially supportive of TVF&R replacing Newberg Fire Department and Newberg Rural District, but my attitude changed after I participated in one of TVFR's community academies. After 27 hours of class and staying in a Wilsonville fire station overnight, it really opened my eyes of what they have to offer. I've also realized Newberg is growing faster than the local fire department could keep up with.

In conclusion I welcome TVF&R with open arms to Newberg and hope they can expand throughout Yamhill County because the fact is that volunteer firefighter programs aren't working like they use to.

Sincerely, Donny Lehmann

Information furnished by Donny Lehmann

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Best Option We Have

I was born and raised in Newberg-Dundee. I was also a Newberg Fire Department volunteer for 20 years and retired as a captain. My priority as a firefighter was to make sure my neighbors were protected, so I continued that work by serving on the Newberg Rural Fire Protection Board for 37 years.

I am proud of the work the Rural Board has done on behalf of our community, as it balanced safety and fiscal responsibility. Due to statewide measures, the rural tax amount was locked in and ended up at an unrealistic rate for a long-time. Don't get me wrong, I hate paying one penny more than I need to, but the current Rural Board have looked at the other options and we either go with TVF&R or have next to nothing for fire coverage. As a firefighter, I can't support my neighbors going unprotected and risk our community's safety. That is why I urge my fellow rural patrons to vote yes for this annexation, this will ensure we have quality fire protection and emergency medical response.

Good or bad, I've always been someone to give my honest opinion. I am not happy at all about losing our fire department, but this new district has treated myself and others with respect, they have answered questions and been straight with me and most importantly our fire service is better staffed and our community is safer.

Stan Gaibler
Retired Newberg Rural Fire Protection Board Member

Information furnished by Stan Gaibler

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.

**Newberg Rural Fire
Protection District**

**Measure 36-188
Argument in Support**

Joining TVF&R strengthens core services for Newberg area.

I have dedicated my life to community service and creating a vibrant, livable community.

Whether it's directing the Newberg Downtown Coalition or volunteering my time with several civic organizations, I want the Newberg area to thrive for future generations including my children and grandchildren. I am comforted knowing there will be enough firefighters to appropriately manage, mitigate or prevent emergencies.

Please join me in supporting Measure 36-188.

Mike Ragsdale

Director of Newberg Downtown Coalition
Board member of Chehalem Park and Recreation District
Board member of the Chehalem Valley Cultural Center Association
Member of the Yamhill County Parkway Committee
Member of the Newberg Early Bird Rotary
Member of the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce
Former State Representative and State Senator

Information furnished by Mike Ragsdale

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.