

City of Newberg

Referred by the City of Newberg

Measure 36-190

Annexation of Newberg to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue District

Question: Shall Newberg annex into Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue District to receive fire, emergency medical and ambulance services?

Summary: In 2016, Newberg signed a two-year contract with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue District (TVFR) to provide fire, advanced emergency medical and ambulance services. TVFR hired Newberg's firefighters and paramedics. TVFR added 12 firefighters/paramedics to provide 24/7 coverage. It added a ladder truck and two ambulances. The contract required the City Council to determine the feasibility and cost-benefit of annexing to TVFR. In June, 2017 the Council approved annexation, subject to voter approval. TVFR has a permanent property tax rate of \$1.5252 per \$1000 assessed value, a temporary levy of \$0.45 expiring in 2020 and currently levies \$0.1220 in bonded indebtedness. A dwelling assessed at the \$229,698 average for Newberg would pay about \$482 in TVFR taxes. It is estimated it would cost the City about \$6,863,510 to provide these services for fiscal year 2018/2019, not including start-up costs. TVFR taxes would total about \$3,862,752. Once annexed, city voters become eligible to vote for TVFR directors and on any TVFR property tax proposals.

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

City of Newberg

Explanatory Statement

Measure 36-190

Approval of this Measure would annex the City of Newberg into the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue District (TVF&R).

The City and TVF&R conducted public outreach and evaluated how to provide fire, advanced emergency medical response and ambulance services. Calls for these services have increased approximately 40% in the last 10 years but the City has not increased staffing since 2006. It is increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers, resulting in staffing issues. The City's equipment is aging but funds for replacement or upgrades have been limited.

In 2016, the City entered into a 2-year contract with TVF&R to provide fire, advanced emergency medical and ambulance services. TVF&R hired City fire department personnel and added staff and equipment. TVF&R:

- Provides 6 career firefighters/advanced EMT's on a 24/7 basis at each fire station. Previously these stations were staffed with 4 city firefighters and volunteers.
- Added 1 newer ladder fire truck and 2 new ambulances.
- Maintains a volunteer program, involvement in community programs and events and training, including the Toy and Joy program and community CPR classes.

Previously, the City spent about \$3.4M in tax dollars per fiscal year for fire and emergency medical services. It is estimated that it would cost the City about \$6.8M in tax dollars to provide these services at the enhanced level now provided by TVF&R, not including start-up costs.

Beginning in 1991 the City collected a fire truck/equipment fee, added to the utility bill. When the City entered into the contract with TVF&R that fee was suspended. It will be eliminated if annexation occurs.

If annexation occurs, TVF&R taxes initially would total about \$3,862,752. The TVF&R permanent property tax rate of \$1.5252 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, a temporary levy of \$0.45 (expiring in 2020) and a bond levy of \$0.1220 would apply in the City. A dwelling assessed at the \$229,698 average for Newberg would pay about \$482 in TVF&R taxes. (Assessed value typically is lower than market value.) City voters would become entitled to vote for TVF&R directors and on TVF&R tax proposals.

To offset TVF&R taxes, the City Council is considering reducing the City property tax rate levy in future years. If voters approve the City Charter amendment referred by Council, Council would be required to lower city tax rates by an amount approximately equal to the amount the City previously spent on these services.

No decision has been made on how to provide these services if voters reject annexation. Options include:

- Return to providing the prior level of services using current City revenues.
- Use City funds to upgrade services. This probably would require reductions in other services or asking City voters to approve additional property taxes.
- Seek a contract extension with TVF&R. This might include asking City voters to approve additional property taxes to pay some or a portion of the services. TVF&R could, however, decline to renew or could terminate the contract at some future point.

A "yes" vote approves annexation. A "no" vote rejects annexation.

*Information furnished by Joe Hannan, City Manager
City of Newberg*

City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

TVF&R Makes Sense for Newberg

The Newberg City Council is committed to cultivating a healthy, safe environment where citizens can work, play and grow in a friendly, dynamic and diverse community. We feel that reliable emergency services are an important part of maintaining a safe environment for our residents. For years, the city has faced funding shortfalls which limited the ability to keep pace with demands on our fire department. This is why we asked Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue to provide service to our community.

TVF&R serves several cities like ours. They're able to provide a deeper level of service, more firefighters, more training and better equipment at a lower cost than cities can do on their own.

We believe that annexing to TVF&R is the best permanent solution for fire and emergency medical services. TVF&R can provide dependable and economical service to the residents of Newberg while maintaining the feel of a small-town department.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 36-190!

Newberg Mayor Bob Andrews
Council President Stephen McKinney
Councilor Denise Bacon
Councilor Mike Corey
Councilor Scott Essin
Councilor Patrick Johnson
Councilor Matt Murray

Information furnished by Newberg Councilors

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 Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

Newberg Firefighters & Staff Support TVF&R Annexation

For many years, we've proudly served Newberg residents. We also want to recognize and thank the many volunteers, previous firefighters and chiefs who contributed to the rich history of the Newberg Fire Department.

As any city grows, so do the needs of the community. Over the past decade, the Newberg Fire Department worked hard to provide the best service possible. With emergency calls increasing, zero growth in staffing levels and a decline in volunteerism, it became a daily struggle for us to maintain the service you deserve. Many options were considered, but it was evident we needed more help. The contract with TVF&R has provided a dramatic improvement, including doubling the number of firefighters on duty in Newberg daily.

By joining TVF&R permanently, our community will be served by more staff and firefighters, including those who are also trained paramedics. This ensures a high level of emergency medical care and ambulance service. We'll also get better tools, vehicles and training.

We joined the fire service because we care about helping people when they need it most. Voting yes for Measure 36-190 will ensure your firefighters are equipped to serve you today and in the future.

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

Information furnished by Newberg Firefighters

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City of Newberg

**Measure 36-190
Argument in Support**

**PROVIDENCE NEWBERG MEDICAL CENTER SUPPORTS
MEASURE 36-190**

Our nurses, physicians and staff share many core values with firefighters, including:

Respect, Compassion, Excellence, and Stewardship

Every day, firefighter medics from Newberg and TVF&R provide crucial emergency medical care in the field to people before they become our patients. We feel it's imperative that there is a strong emergency medical system in place to ensure the best possible outcomes for those in our community who experience illness or injury.

If Newberg joins TVF&R permanently, our emergency medical system will become stronger. Our community will benefit from added firefighters working 24/7 at Newberg fire stations as well as those working at the other 24 TVF&R stations. Together, TVF&R and Providence Newberg Medical Center will leverage their existing partnership to provide high quality care for Newberg families for generations.

Lori Bergen, CEO of Providence Newberg Medical Center

Information furnished by Lori Bergen, CEO Providence Newberg Medical Center

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City of Newberg

**Measure 36-190
Argument in Support**

Tualatin Valley Firefighters Support Measure 36-190

*TVF&R and Newberg firefighters have long-shared the same outlook:
We're willing to risk our lives to save yours.*

There are a lot of things we do to ensure we're prepared to answer a call for help.

We stay fit. We train hard. We act with integrity.
We exercise compassion. We work as a team.

Tualatin Valley Firefighters believe that the team of responders serving the Newberg area will grow even stronger if the community chooses to support annexation. We can provide a deeper level of service by adding more firefighters and leveraging an established emergency response system.

In service,
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1660

Information furnished by Tualatin Valley Firefighters

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 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 Keish

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

Former Newberg Fire Chief Will Vote Yes on Measure 36-190

I spent 50 years in the fire service. A lot changed during that time. Our community grew and the fire service evolved. When I started with Newberg Fire Department, there were only three paid employees. The rest of the force volunteered their time. That worked well for us for many years. But the fire service changed and our community's needs did too. Now, as they should, firefighters are expected to provide critical emergency medical care when they rescue someone from a burning building or a car crash. They are the first to arrive when someone has chest pain or difficulty breathing.

Joining Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue is a wise investment in our future. Tualatin Valley will continue the good service that Newberg Fire Department offered. But they will have even more resources to make sure that Newberg residents can count on highly-trained professionals who can care for our elders, young families and victims of crisis in their time of need.

Retired Chief Al Blodgett, Newberg Fire Department

Information furnished by Al Blodgett

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 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, 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

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Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

Our family will vote yes for Measure 36-190

My husband and I live in Newberg. We love the community atmosphere and have decided to raise our family here.

We are voting yes on this measure because of what it means for our community. We want to ensure our child grows up in a safe community with high quality fire and emergency medical service. The estimated annual cost increase of \$36.15 is well worth the increased service level that comes with Tualatin Valley.

Please join me in voting yes on Measure 36-190.

Karrie Spencer

Information furnished by Karrie Spencer

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

TVF&R Has Continued Our Local Community Events and Programs

For years I have volunteered my time to partner with Newberg's firefighters to raise funds to support local programs like Toy and Joy. Together we raised thousands of dollars and made sure that hundreds of children throughout Newberg had a gift underneath their tree. For that reason it was important to me that the programs I had strongly supported were not forgotten and continued into the future.

Since TVF&R has been running the fire department, I am proud that those community events and programs have continued. I still have the opportunity to work with the great firefighters that I worked with previously and, most importantly, last December thousands of presents were distributed to boys and girls in our community.

In addition to the improvements they have made to the department that have made our community safer, I think the decision on this annexation is clear. Please join me in voting yes for the annexation to ensure the safety of our community and the continuation of our long-standing community programs.

Bob Ficker

*Retired Banker
25 plus years in Newberg
Toy and Joy Golf Scramble Committee Member*

Information furnished by Bob Ficker

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City of Newberg

**Measure 36-190
Argument in Support**

Quality Emergency Medical Response Is Too Important

As an emergency medical practitioner for 37 years, retired Newberg Fire Department EMS Chief, and Newberg resident for 22 years, I believe that our community deserves the best possible care in their time of need. Whether it's an aging parent that has fallen, a child suffering a seizure, or someone in cardiac arrest - training matters, staffing matters, equipment matters.

Newberg firefighters have been passionate and proud to serve their community, but resources were stretched thin. Additionally, I saw call volumes continue to increase year after year. The need increased but the amount of firefighter medics did not. TVF&R has provided Newberg firefighters with additional staffing, tools, and the depth of resources needed to respond to the many medical calls that happen every day throughout our city.

For these reasons, I hope you will join me in voting to ensure the safety of our community and support our firefighters in providing top-quality emergency medical care.

Frank Douglas
Retired Newberg Fire Department EMS Chief

Information furnished by Frank Douglas

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**Measure 36-190
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

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

Annexing to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue gives us the resources to grow.

With the move from Newberg Fire Department to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Newberg will be better protected, have newer equipment, more resources and an organization that cares about our community.

Over the course of my career, first as a newspaper reporter, as a business advocate and now as a city councilor, I have had the opportunity to witness how TVFR works in a community. For 20 years I have communicated and worked with them on any number of issues and in every single instance TVFR officials have been safety and community focused. For example, when I was working in Wilsonville, TVFR took over that city's fire protection. Much like Newberg they had a volunteer fire department. A long-time volunteer, Terry Lowrie, a butcher at Lowrie's IGA could be seen for years, running from his grocery store, in his butcher apron, jumping onto a fire truck. Terry did many volunteer activities for the Wilsonville community. So TVFR named one of their stations after him – even though they had never done that before.

When I was appointed to city council the TVFR contract was already in place, and I spent hours looking into all of the concerns I received. I can say unequivocally I feel comfortable TVFR will provide professional, quality service this community deserves. I would urge you to vote for the annexation.

Patrick Johnson
Newberg City Councilor
District 4

Information furnished by Patrick Johnson

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City of Newberg

Measure 36-190 Argument in Support

Annexation Makes Sense For Our Community

When you call 9-1-1, you can't put a price tag of the safety of your neighbors and loved ones, but the reality is that those specialized apparatus, tools and professional firefighters cost money. Therefore the question I have asked myself is how do we create a sustainable fire and emergency medical service while being prudent with our city's finance.

In researching Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, I have found that they are prudent with their finances, transparent with the budget and hold a triple A Moody's rating for their bonds. Also as a special district serving multiple cities, they have been able to garner purchasing power that achieves cost savings and reduces expenses. Finally, when I compare them to other organizations of similar size and levels of service, they are extremely competitive in keeping a low tax rate.

These attributes, combined with how much I care about our community and the safety of my family, friends and neighbors, I urge everyone to vote yes on Measure 36-190. It makes sense for our safety, it makes sense for our community and it also makes good business sense.

Allyn W. Edwards
Edwards + Associates Financial Svcs., INC.

Information furnished by Allyn Edwards

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City of Newberg

**Measure 36-190
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 Newberg 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 36-190.

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

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City of Newberg

**Measure 36-190
Argument in Support**

Safety and Community Service Should be Top Priorities

I write this letter to express my support of the annexation with TVF&R. Like many in the community, I had misgivings about TVF&R taking over and replacing Newberg Fire Department. However, since the original transition I have experienced nothing but the highest level of professional support and engagement from TVF&R.

TVF&R has worked tirelessly to ensure the Newberg community receives quality care, localized support, and community investment that we have come to expect from our emergency services. As the City of Newberg faced increasing funding challenges to keep pace with our rapidly expanding community TVF&R was able to provide a network of enhanced services, improved responsiveness, new equipment and technology, and leveraged management expertise to broaden the level of care we receive.

Personally and professionally I can also attest to the commitment TVF&R has made to honor the history of the Newberg Fire Department in terms of community engagement. They have been active throughout the community in events such as the annual Toy and Joy Drive, the Rotary Pancake Breakfast, the community Easter Egg Hunt, and weekly Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce events.

I encourage you to support this critical ballot measure as it only brings positive enhancements to the community. As this region continues to grow and expand TVF&R will be able to effectively keep pace by offering enhanced staffing and technical support along with improved apparatus.

Thank you,
Ron Wolfe

Information furnished by Ron Wolfe

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