

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Referred by the Yamhill Fire Protection District Measure 36-200

#### Five-Year Local Option Levy for Capital Projects

**Question:** Shall District levy \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years for capital projects beginning in 2019-2020? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than 3 percent.

**Summary:** If approved, this measure would fund Yamhill Fire Protection District efforts to replace and upgrade District equipment.

Specifically, this measure would provide funds to:

- Replace a 1991 Fire Engine (28 years old)
- Replace Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

The requested rate of \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would generate approximately \$181,469 in 2019-2020, \$186,913 in 2020-2021, \$192,520 in 2021-2022, \$198,296 in 2022-2023, \$204,245 in 2023-2024, for a total of \$963,444.

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

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Explanatory Statement Measure 36-200

Yamhill Fire Protection District provides emergency medical response, fire suppression, rescue services, and fire prevention to seventy-two (72) square miles located in the north portion of Yamhill County. It is a special service district, governed by a Board of Directors elected by District residents, and staffed by 1 fulltime Fire Chief and 34 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

The Board voted to seek voter approval for a five-year capital project local option tax levy of \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value on the May 21, 2019, ballot. If approved, this measure would provide funding for the purchase of emergency response vehicles, and self-contained breathing equipment.

The Board placed the measure on the ballot for the following reasons:

1. Replace Fire Engine:
  - A 1991 Fire Engine that is limited to a 500-gallon water tank and 28 years old.
  - Does not meet current NFPA 1901 standards for Fire Engines and Fire Fighter Safety.
2. Replace the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's):
  - The standard lifespan for SCBA is 20 years for the packs and 15 years for the Air Bottles. The current SCBA equipment was purchased in 2005 so the Air bottles must be replaced by 2020.
  - SCBA equipment is used to enter a burning structure for fire suppression and fire life safety purposes.

The requested rate of \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would generate approximately \$181,469 in 2019-2020, \$186,913 in 2020-2021, \$192,520 in 2021-2022, \$198,296 in 2022-2023, \$204,245 in 2023-2024, for a total of \$963,444.

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Measure 36-200 Argument in Support

Chief Leipfert, McMinnville Fire, in his News-Register article, "Costs Swelling, dollars shrinking at Mac Fire", Friday, Feb 15, 2019 does an excellent job of describing the dismal state of funding for fire departments and districts, across the country. YFPD is no exception and faces serious funding issues that could restrict future support for fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls.

A growing population, aging demographic, and increased traffic put an ever increasing demand on the District and volunteers.

The cost of business keeps going up. New legislation, regulations, training, certifications/recertification's, expiration dates on equipment, and inflation seriously stress existing resources, which will ultimately degrade services.

Equipment examples: SCBA's expire after 15 years (\$250,000); turnouts, the protective cloth the firefighters wear, 10 years (\$5,662 per set which includes structural and wildland); fire hoses expire after 10 years ranging in price from (\$105 to \$339) per 50' section; and fire engines 25 years (\$500,000).

The Fire Chief and Fire Board have done a great job of stretching tax dollars to provide excellent service to the community. Tax dollars are not enough, the use of grants and donated equipment has provided some relief. Grants and donations are not guaranteed sources of income, therefore unreliable!

The district has 32 volunteers, put in over 3,693 hours in the past year to acquire new certifications, recertification's, and improve skills. The volunteers have put in 4,191 hours responding to fire, rescue, and medical emergencies calls.

If residents of the YFPD want to keep high standards, and good level of service, additional revenue is required. At this point that can only be accomplished through this tax levy.

**PLEASE VOTE: YES to support the volunteers that support you!**

*Information furnished by Jay Disbrow, Yamhill Fire Political Action Committee*

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.

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Measure 36-200 Argument in Support

Generally speaking, the cost of fire protection and rescue equipment goes up about 8-12% per year. Total program cost to replace all District equipment, over the next 30 years would be on the order of \$3,500,000. So, it's imperative to start to process well in advance of end of life as procurement times can be a year or longer. The following table gives a rough idea of financial magnitude to keep the District viable into the future. The table year/description, Acquisition status (new or used), Age, Service Life, and program replacement costs.

The property taxes supporting the district were ample when the district did firefighting only. Now that the district is doing unfunded rescue and medical service, the tax income is stretched to the limit. It's only through innovation, perseverance, and dedication that the district has been able to barely keep up with costs.

Much of the District equipment is overdue for replacement. It's imperative that this levy passes to start the process of bringing the District equipment up to snuff. Information from Yamhill Fire Protection District Apparatus Replacement Plan dated June 15, 2018

**PLEASE VOTE: YES**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACQ STATUS	AGE YRS	SVC LIFE	REPLACEMENT COST
2018	Command/Medical/brush Rig C-4- 200 gallons	New	1	20	\$100,000
2011	Rescue- 4 Medical Calls and Fire Rehab	Used	8	20	\$100,000
2004	BrushRig-4 400 gallons	Used	15	20	\$175,000
2004	Excursion-4 Medical Calls and Personnel	Used	15	20	\$100,000
2001	Suburban-41 Medical Calls and Personnel	Used	18	20	\$100,000
1997	Fire Engine-42 1,500 gallons	New	22	30	\$500,000
1995	Fire Engine-41 2,500 gallons	New	24	30	\$500,000
1991	Fire Engine-4 500 gallons	Used	28	30	\$500,000
1989	Fire Engine-43 1,000 gallons	Used	30	30	\$500,000
	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	New	13	15	\$250,000

**OTHER EQUIPMENTS:**

Turnouts \$192,000  
 Medical Equipment \$100,000  
 Radios- mobile/Portable \$200,000  
 Extraction Equipment \$50,000  
 Hose's \$100,000  
 Misc. tool and equipment \$200,000

*Information furnished by Jay Disbrow, Yamhill Fire Political Action Committee*

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.

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Measure 36-200 Argument in Support

To our Friends, Neighbors and Patrons,

We, the under signed, urge you and all Yamhill Fire Protection District (YFPD) residents to join us to help our local firefighters by voting YES for the Yamhill Fire Protection District levy, 36-200. These funds will be used to replace vital equipment, which without, the firefighters will be unable to protect our lives and property. In particular, the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are nearing the end of the useful period. If the SCBA's aren't replaced, our firefighters will NOT be able to enter burning buildings or enter areas that are affected by toxic gases. This would greatly reduce their ability to fight fires and save our homes. In addition, the YFPD currently relies on aged engines which have already passed deadline serviceable dates.

In short, we need to support our firefighters who already risk their lives to help save our lives and property by giving them the support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

It will keep our men and women safe as they do their very important job of keeping us safe.

**Please join us in voting: YES**

Thanks for your attention,

Ralph and Jo Weinstein

Dee Crawford

Larry Heesacker, President, A-1 Logging Inc.

Julie Donnell, Bellwether Insurance

Tony and Kara Weber, Edge Electric, Inc.

Rocky Losli

Paul Everts

Donna Dempsey

Jay Disbrow

Yamhill Fire Political Action Committee

C F Laughlin Logging

T & E's General Store

Jon Peasley

*Information furnished by Jay Disbrow, Yamhill Fire Political Action Committee*

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.

## Yamhill Fire Protection District

### Measure 36-200 Argument in Support

Keep Volunteers Safe

Since moving Rural and City together in 1988 to form the current Yamhill Fire Protection District the department has gone through many changes.

The core ingredient to making the department work revolves around the volunteers. At present we have one paid Fire Chief and 32 volunteers.

The Fire Chief is an essential part to keep things organized and also responds to Fire and rescue calls.

After the Chief the rest of the work falls to the volunteers. Men and women from all corners of our community and all ages. New volunteers put in 88 hours of training, firefighting and basic first aid before they can respond. Current volunteers spend approximately 100 hours a year to keep certified.

In 2018 Yamhill volunteers spent 3,693 hours in training and 4,191 hours responding to fire and rescue calls. You may ask about compensation and on an average, 1 paycheck per year for approximately \$300.00.

The volunteers give up personal and family time to put on a pager and respond to the district fire and rescue calls. Volunteers are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week, including holidays.

As a volunteer fireman and a board member for the last 43 years I would urge voters to look hard at what the district is asking for.

Keeping our volunteers safe is our most important job.

Yamhill fire has a webpage and a Facebook page to help gather information. You are also welcome to stop by the fire hall during the day.

These are the first responders when you call 911 for help and I believe they deserve our help.

Jim Phillips - Fire Board Chair  
Jim and Cathy Phillips  
C.F. Laughlin Logging Co.

*Information furnished by Jim Phillips - Fire Board Chair  
Jim & Cathy Phillips, C F Laughlin Logging Co*

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.