

Josephine County voters' pamphlet



Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special Election

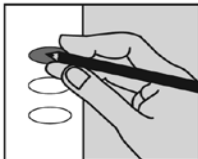
November 5, 2019

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Examine your **Official Ballot** and locate the response of your choice. To vote, you must completely darken the oval (●) to the left of the response of your choice with black or blue ink.

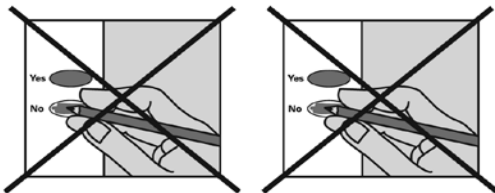
check your ballot!

Make sure you have completely filled in the ovals next to your choices.



If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote **both Yes and No** on a measure, it is called an overvote.

Your vote **will not count** for that candidate or measure.



You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

Contact Josephine County Elections to request a replacement ballot if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged or spoiled
- your ballot is lost

or for any other reason.

Josephine County Elections

500 NW 6th St., Dept. 1, Rm. #170
Grants Pass, OR 97526

541 474 5243

www.co.josephine.or.us

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

- **By mail:** Attach first-class postage to the signed and sealed return identification envelope. Mail it as soon as possible to arrive at the Josephine County Clerk's office no later than 8:00 p.m. Election Day. **Postmarks do not count!**
- **In person at the official drop sites:** Deliver the signed and sealed return identification envelope to the official drop site no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Postage is NOT required if delivered to the official ballot drop sites.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registering to Vote

To vote in Oregon you need to be registered in the county where you reside.

You can register if you can answer yes to these three questions:

- Are you a resident of Oregon?
- Are you a US citizen?
- Are you at least 17 years of age?

If you are 17 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

How to register

You can register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov or you can get a voter registration card at any of the following places:

- any county elections office
- the Secretary of State's Office
- some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- a voter registration drive

You can fill the card out in person or send it in by US mail.

You can also print out a registration card online at:

www.oregonvotes.gov.

Updating your voter registration

Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at www.oregonvotes.gov or by completing and returning a voter registration card with the new information. You should update your registration if you do any of the following:

- change your home address
- change your mailing address
- change your name
- change your signature
- want to change or select a political party
- will be away from home on election day

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BALLOTS: 8 P.M.

ELECTION DAY, November 5, 2019

Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations

Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member. (ORS 254.445)

Measure 17-93 Proposed Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

Referred to the People by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners

17-93

Form Fire Rescue District with permanent rate to fund services

QUESTION: Shall a fire rescue district be formed with permanent rate limit of \$2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning 2020-2021?

SUMMARY: If approved, the Grants Pass Fire Rescue District would be formed as an independent district, with a permanent rate dedicated to fire rescue services. The City would no longer collect funds through the existing public safety levy.

The District would have powers granted to fire districts under state law. An elected five-member district board would serve as the governing board of the district to provide oversight and accountability. The boundary would include territory within Josephine County, including all properties within the City and certain non-contiguous properties in the City's Urban Growth Boundary that are currently receiving City public safety services through Service and Annexation agreements.

Forming the district would:

- Provide permanent funding for fire rescue services in the district;
- Replace the City fire department;
- Require the City to transfer to the district City's ownership of fire apparatus, equipment, and personnel;
- Require City to grant to the district the ownership or no-cost lease of public safety facilities.

In the first year of imposition, the proposed rate would raise approximately \$6.7 million dollars.

Argument in Favor

The City of Grants Pass' general fund budget is facing continue draw to fund both Police and Fire services under the Public Safety Model. Since your police and fire departments consume around 1 million dollars of the general fund, it is obvious that this is unsustainable.

What can be done about this very serious problem? The best answer is the proposed creation of the Grants Pass Fire-Rescue District. Why is the creation of the fire district the right route, the fire department would have long-term, stable funding and the City would have the funds it previously spent on fire protection services to fund your police department. Approving the fire district removes the fire department from the General Fund making future funds available for your police department.

Despite our best efforts in budgeting and maintaining the Public Safety Levy at the \$1.79 for the last 10 years, it must increase. Public Safety is a necessity to fund the future growth and prosperity of our community.

If creation is not approved and if the City of Grants Pass were successful in getting voter approval on a serial levy, taxes would probably also increase, maybe the same or more than cited above. Once this levy ends another would have to take its place returning our City right back where it is now, unstable. Additionally, the salaries and, more importantly, the PERS obligation for all fire personnel would no longer be the responsibility and burden for city tax payers.

It's time for you to get involved with your community; support your Fire and Police Departments with your YES vote on Measure 17-93.

(This information furnished by Heather Yerrick, President, Grants Pass Police Association.)

Explanatory Statement

For more than 20 years, Police and Fire Rescue services in Grants Pass have been subsidized by a temporary operating levy. Voters passed the current levy of \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2017 and it is set to expire in 2021. By law, local option levies can only last for up to five years.

Forming a fire rescue district that includes the City of Grants Pass and certain additional property outside the City that currently receive fire services from the City, would provide a permanent source of revenue to provide fire rescue services. A permanent source of revenue would also allow the City to discontinue collecting funds through the existing levy and will allow the City to operate public safety services, including police, without a reduction in current services.

If approved, the Grants Pass Fire Rescue District would be formed with a permanent rate limit of \$2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For every \$100,000 of a property's assessed value, the tax would cost \$203.00 per year, or approximately \$16.92 per month. If approved, the Grants Pass Police and Fire levy would be discontinued in the same year that the new Grants Pass Fire Rescue District rate would begin.

The Grants Pass Fire Rescue District would provide:

- Fire rescue services at the same level of service currently provided by the City of Grants Pass.
- Continued partnership in the Two County Mutual / Automatic Aid Agreement through the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association.
- Continued closest engine response (mutual / automatic aid) system with the Rural Metro Fire Department (RMFD).
- Continued Student Firefighter program and continued current partnerships and working relationship with other local and state agencies.

A five-member, independently elected board, not the Grant Pass City Council or Board of County Commissioners, would serve as the governing body of the district to provide oversight and accountability to the public, with local authority and power that is granted to fire districts under state law.

(This information furnished by the Josephine County Board of County Commissioners.)

See full-size map on page 15.

The printing of these arguments does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Josephine, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

Measure 17-93 Proposed Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

Argument in Favor

On behalf of the Grants Pass Professional Firefighters' Association, I urge you to vote yes on ballot measure 17-93. Approval of this measure will enable the firefighters of Grants Pass to continue to provide the prompt and highly skilled attention you deserve in times of crisis. Over the past several years, the inadequate level of funding allocated to the Grants Pass Fire-Rescue Bureau has left us unable to plan for growth, meet local and national standards for emergency response times, replace aging fire engines, or address fire station health/safety issues. Increased population, traffic, and housing density are also factors that add to our difficulty in delivering quality fire protection and emergency services. What's more, the budget shortfall confronting the City of Grants Pass means that things can only get worse for those who provide public safety. Is creation of a Grants Pass Fire Rescue District the right thing? Grants Pass firefighters definitely believe so - 100% of them. A fire district will provide citizens with the following:

. Dedicated Stable Funding -

All revenue collected by Grants Pass Fire Rescue District will be spent directly on fire protection and emergency services instead of going into the city's general fund which is then split among many departments. A consistent tax base will ensure quality service for years to come.

Increased Citizen Control-

A board of directors currently governs and would continue to govern Grants Pass Fire Rescue District. These individuals are elected from the District's service area and have a single focus - to provide you the best service at a practical cost. Their only focus is your safety.

You deserve and should demand Fire and Emergency Medical response that is consistent with the standard nationwide. Less is unacceptable. Please vote YES on ballot measure 17-93.

(This information furnished by Marty Adamo, President, Grants Pass Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3564.)

Argument in Favor

VOTE YES!

Local Measure #17 -93 Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

If approved the new District would provide a permanent funding solution for Public Safety's delivery of service and allow the City to eliminate the temporary funding of the Public Safety Levy.

If passed:

-The District would start out with the same boundary as the City limits (City residents and service annexation agreement holders only).

- The District would provide the same level of service currently provided by the City.

-The District would continue to use the equipment currently used by the City.

- All current City Fire Rescue staff would transition over to the new District.

-The new tax rate would be \$2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

- The District would be managed by voter selected five-member district board.

-The permanent tax rate could never be increased per state constitutional law.

- The District would provide a permanent funding solution for the City ' s Public Safety System.

- Grants Pass Fire Rescue would continue to provide the same 24/7 level of services as provided today.

- The District would have lower PERS rates due to being a new independent district and save about \$233,000 per year for a new district compared to City of Grants Pass rates (firefighters in Oregon are required to be on PERS or similar plan)

A YES Vote maintains a high level of service, stable funding for public safety, and provides a fire district board focused on delivering cost effective and efficient fire rescue services.

Paid for by Citizens for Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

(This information furnished by Brad Lyon, President, Citizens for Grants Pass Fire Rescue District.)

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Argument in Opposition

The Proposed City Fire District Is A Terrible Idea

FOUR COMPELLING REASONS TO VOTE "NO"

It's a 13.4% tax increase with no increased service. This makes NO sense.

**Former GP Public Safety Director Joe Henner
Thinks It's A Bad Idea And Stated:**

"The greater question is, why should we vote to increase our taxes from \$1.79 per thousand of assessed value (the current Public Safety levy) to \$2.03 (the proposed district's new rate) when we'll see no change in service levels? Since we see no change, I believe the dramatic increase in taxes is necessary to cover the cost associated with creating the fire district, another government entity." A new position of District Fire Chief would be created that will cost city taxpayers an additional \$130,000/yr.

Quote from Grants Pass Daily Courier 8 August 2019 Page 4A

**Very Bad For Average Income Working Households
and Fixed Income Seniors**

Earlier this year a disturbing report was published by Realtor.com. It studied the entire US and rated cities' affordability based on the average income of its residents in relation to their housing costs. **Grants Pass was rated the third least affordable city in the whole country!** When property taxes increase, rents will increase further. Doesn't seem like the City Manager cares about this. Now we must vote it down.

**It Would Create A Taxpayer Funded
Rogue Agency That Answers To No One**

The proposed District would be run by board of directors (we have no idea who) that is separate and distinct from city management and would NOT be accountable to our elected City Council. The Fire District budget would be separate from the City's budget, therefore not subject to oversight by the City's Budget Committee. Additional levies on top of the \$2.03 can be added if the board wants more money. This entirely new government entity would effectively answer to no one.

Our Current Public Safety Department Is Cost Effective And Works Well

VOTE NO - IT'S MORE MONEY FOR THE EXACT SAME SERVICE!

(This information furnished by Gordon Langenbeck.)

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Measure 17-93 Proposed Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

Argument in Opposition

Taxpayer Alert...The Grants Pass Fire District Proposal Is Illogical, Misleading, and Totally Unnecessary

**IT DESERVES A NO VOTE
FROM ALL PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS**

Illogical

It offers the exact same service that city residents already have but would cost 13% more than the levy it would replace. It calls for creation of an additional City Fire Chief position that will cost taxpayers, including benefits, approximately \$130,000/yr. The current Public Safety director would no longer supervise the City's fire division which means he'll be supervising 30% fewer employees but will have no salary reduction.

Misleading

The ballot language describing this proposal is very misleading. It states: "If the district is formed, the permanent tax rate could never be increased per state constitutional law." Be very careful before jumping to erroneous conclusions.

Most people would probably incorrectly think that statement means what we'll pay for fire protection can never increase. However, Oregon law (ORS 478.410) is quite clear that while the district cannot legally raise its base rate, it can easily request more of our money with a levy on top of the base rate.

That means to me when equipment replacement, building maintenance, payroll costs, or anything else exceeds initial estimates, we can expect the district's board of directors to ask for an increase with a levy just to maintain full service (which is what we already have for less money than they're asking).

Totally unnecessary

The Grants Pass Public Safety Department and its Fire Division are very well funded, staffed, and equipped. Proponents of creating a new City Fire District falsely claim the need to "stabilize funding." FACT- the last time the City Public Safety levy was on the ballot in 2017 it won in a landslide, 71% - 29%. GP Public Safety has consistently been supported like this for over 2 decades.

No Need To Change What's Already Working Well

VOTE NO - IT'S MORE MONEY FOR THE EXACT SAME SERVICE

(This information furnished by Rob Pell.)

Argument in Opposition

**VOTE NO
ON THIS CON JOB!**

Our Commissioners betrayed the very citizens they were supposed to represent.

On June 6th they passed Order #42 in their little back room initiating the formation of a **Rural Fire Protection District.** (Countywide, we voted this down in November of 2008.)

Then they noticed a First Public Hearing on July 10th for a **Grants Pass Fire Rescue District.** For this hearing, citizens were given a "DRAFT" of Order #46 to review which contained unreadable maps and a missing exhibit.

Citizens had no clue if they were even in the District!

Soon **AFTER** that First Public Hearing, the County sneakily re-scanned the entire document packet into the record substituting a complete, final version of Order #46 for the "DRAFT" version we were given.

This goes beyond deceit!

On July 31st the Commissioners noticed a Second Public Hearing for the **Grants Pass Fire Rescue District,** but this time neglected to give **ANY** documentation to the public in the document packet. When asked about this, the official response was that it was a hearing only and there were no documents for the Board to consider. (Then please tell us why the Legal Notices for this Second Public Hearing cited Order #46.)

**Citizens never had the opportunity to review
a final, complete Order #46
for either Public Hearing!**

Order #47 was then passed on August 7th to refer the **Grants Pass Fire Rescue District** to voters in this election.

But when the County submitted the Ballot Title to the Clerk, they conveniently dropped the words **Grants Pass** from the **Grants Pass Fire Rescue District.**

The Ballot Caption and Question now just asks about the formation of a **Fire Rescue District.**

Slick trick!

Have only City people vote on this, but make it appear as a general, Countywide Fire Rescue District by omitting the words **Grants Pass** from the Ballot Title.

We got scammed big time on this, people!

**VOTE NO
ON MEASURE 17.93**

(This information furnished by Sandi Cassanelli.)

Measure 17-93 Proposed Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

Argument in Opposition

Please Vote NO on Measure 17-93
by November 5, 2019 at 8:00p.m.

**Protect your Property,
Now and in the Future**

Should City voters really vote for this measure? **No!**

Don't be fooled. This property tax of \$2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed values will **affect everyone**. **Residential Renters** (many of whom are elderly) and **Business Renters** will all be affected through **massive rent increases** imposed by landlords.

Since when did the City of Grants Pass feel the need to separate our Fire Department from our Police Department? Our services have been adequately funded with short term Levies in the past, which we have been more than willing to support.

But to be **forced to forever pay** for a permanent Fire Rescue Taxing District at the rate of \$2.03 per \$1,000 **is insane!**

According to the Josephine County Clerk's web-page, *Form SEL 801* stated that Measure 17-93 was referred to the people by the **Board of County Commissioners** and was authorized by the **Josephine County Legal Counsel**. **WHY?**

It's all very odd because the **Grants Pass City Council** has the power and authority to submit measures directly to the voters of Grants Pass just as they have done in the past.

And supposedly this measure in **no way** affects the residents of the County.

Bottom line: It seems that Local Government's sole purpose is to get more and more of **our resources through taxation** in order to **fund their pet projects**.

It shouldn't be this way. Economies grow and are supported through our **spending**, **NOT through Taxation!**

Please Vote NO on Measures 17-93 & 17-94
by November 5, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

**Protect your Property Rights,
Now and in the Future**

For more information, contact www.w4acg.com

(This information furnished by Ward Ockenden.)

Argument in Opposition

**Don't be fooled by Government Greed!
Simply Vote No**

Currently we have a Levy of \$1.79 per thousand which funds both our Police and Fire Departments. But government officials want to replace it with a Taxing District of \$2.03 per thousand, which will fund only the Fire Department. That's a lot more money for the exact same Fire Service with zero funding for the Police!

City bureaucrats desperately want to get their "permanent funding" for the Fire Department without the bother of coming to the people for their approval on future levies. This is not good for citizens. It would give easy money to the government while forever burdening our citizens with exorbitant property taxes.

**City residents don't want
to pay more taxes
for something we already have!**

This Taxing District would end up costing us a whole lot more since a Fire Chief would have to be hired. There would also be no accountability to us or the City Council. A 5 member District Board would be calling the shots.

Some other points to ponder:

Why were signatures not gathered in order to put this Taxing District on the ballot?

Why did the City let the County Commissioners process the District through their Weekly Business Sessions, instead of going through normal City Council Meetings?

How does Public Safety feel about this? We already know that Former Public Safety Director Joe Henner opposes it. (*Courier*, August 8, 2019)

There are too many unanswered questions, too much government greed and too many behind-the-scenes shenanigans going on for a citizen to support any aspect of this horrific Taxing District.

**Join me in
Voting No on Measure 17.93!**

And also
Vote No on Measure 17.94!

We don't need an 11 year General Obligation Bond for City schools that will cost us an additional \$2.59 per thousand!

**City Residents don't have unlimited amounts of money!
We're already taxed beyond our limits.**

(This information furnished by Kurt Ramme, for We're for A Constitutional Government.)

Measure 17-93 Proposed Grants Pass Fire Rescue District

Argument in Opposition

Vote No on Measure 17.93

If passed, the Grants Pass Fire Rescue District **shall** have a **permanent** tax base rate of \$2.03 per \$1,000.00 of Assessed Values on properties in Grants Pass and those with City Service Agreements.

The City wants stable funding at the cost of you giving up your right to vote for Levies. A Levy has a sunset and needs to be renewed periodically by your vote, but a Taxing District is **FOREVER!**

And if passed, this Taxing District will **automatically increase at the rate of 3% per year**. *Property Values increase at the same rate.*

Vote No on Measure 17.93

If passed, the City of Grants Pass will **no longer be accountable to you or your Fire Department**. An elected five (5) member board will have the **authority** and **power** to place **additional levies** on future ballots to supplement this base rate.

Vote No on Measure 17.93

For over 20 years, Grants Pass has had a Public Safety Department that combined the Police and Fire Departments and saved tax payers the expense of paying for **double** the Administrative costs. Both Police and Fire personnel were cross trained to serve Grants Pass more efficiently.

Vote No on Measure 17.93

Whose **idea** was it to now separate the Police and Fire Departments? **The Grants Pass City Council, NO! The Grants Pass Mayor, NO!** It was the **Josephine County Commissioners** and **County Legal Counsel** who placed this measure on the ballot for you, the **Grants Pass voters**; but they didn't include Josephine County voters. **Why?**

Vote No on Measure 17.93

It's been said, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" The Grants Pass Fire Department is not broken, and citizens don't need to pay more for this **hugely expensive Taxing District which will not fund the Police and will not increase any Fire Services to the public.**

We're for A Constitutional Government

(w4acg.com)

encourages you to

Vote No on Measure's 17.93 & 17.94

(This information furnished by Jim Rafferty, for We're for A Constitutional Government.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Referred to the People by the Grants Pass School District #7

17-94

Authorizes General Obligation Bonds to Construct and Renovate School Facilities

QUESTION: Shall the District issue \$95,630,000 in general obligation bonds to enhance safety, renovate and replace facilities, and receive \$6,477,286 grant? 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: Grants Pass School District has been awarded \$6,477,286 in State grants if the bonds are approved. If the bonds are not approved, these funds will go to another district.

This measure would finance capital costs, including – Improving student/staff safety and security by – Updating doors and door locking mechanisms; improving emergency alert and building entry systems; and Conducting abatement of hazardous materials.

Relieve overcrowding and provide capacity to meet projected enrollment needs by – Replacing North Middle at the current location; Adding classrooms and infrastructure expansion at other location; and Upgrading bathroom facilities.

Protect Community Investment in existing facilities by Replacing old boilers with new heating and cooling units and modernizing for efficiency existing heating and cooling units; Replacing failing electrical panels; expanding electrical service; Replacing windows; Replacing flooring; and Replacing roofs.

Improve learning environments by Upgrading technology infrastructure; and Creating flexible learning spaces.

- Bonds would mature in 11 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

- Upgrading bathroom facilities.

3. Protect Community Investment in existing facilities by:

- Replacing old boilers with new heating and cooling units and modernizing for efficiency existing heating and cooling units;
- Replacing failing electrical panels; expanding electrical service;
- Replacing windows;
- Replacing flooring;
- Replacing roofs.

4. Improve Learning Environments by:

- Upgrading technology infrastructure at all schools;
- Creating flexible learning spaces to support current and future teaching and learning strategies and better prepare students for careers after high school or college.

The cost for these projects, after deducting the \$6,477,286 in grants the District has been awarded, is estimated to be \$95.63 million.

The tax rate on the bonds is projected to be \$2.59 per thousand of assessed value or \$518 annually on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000. The actual rate may differ based upon growth in assessed values and interest rates incurred.

(This information furnished by Sherry Ely, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, Grants Pass School District No. 7.)

Explanatory Statement

Grants Pass School District is proposing a capital bond to improve the safety and security of all buildings and to create 21st Century learning environments to provide students additional opportunities to become career and college ready, address capital needs that could result in loss or damage to existing District buildings or property, and alleviate overcrowding and structural deficiencies at our middle and older elementary schools. The middle schools have seen an increase in enrollment since 2000 of nearly 37% and are over capacity.

The District serves nearly 6,200 students in 10 schools across approximately 30 square miles. Some buildings were built in the 1950s – 1960s and are showing structural deficiencies, are overcrowded, and were constructed when student security issues were not as significant.

If the voters approve this bond, the District will receive \$6,477,286 in matching funds from the State. If the bonds are not approved, the State will give these funds to another school district that successfully passes a capital improvement bond.

The District has engaged four architect and engineering firms to conduct facility capacity and condition studies. These studies indicate that three of our schools are in critical condition and need to be replaced; five are in poor condition and need significant infrastructure improvements. As a result of these studies and input from our community through surveys and meetings, the Board and Administration have developed the following project priorities:

1. Improve districtwide student/staff safety and security by:

- Updating doors, door locking mechanisms
- Improving emergency alert and building entry systems
- Conducting abatement of hazardous materials.

2. Relieve overcrowding and provide capacity to meet projected enrollment needs by:

- Replacing North Middle at the current location;
- Adding classrooms and infrastructure expansion at other locations;

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Favor

Why the School Board is Asking You to Support Measure 17.94

Grants Pass School Board members voted unanimously to refer this \$95.6 million bond to voters and we want to ask you to join us in investing in our kids.

Measure 17.94 is critical to give our Grants Pass students the room, opportunity, and safety, to grow and contribute in positive, productive ways.

We have real needs in our district due to the growth in our community, the success of our programs, the advancements of technology, career and technical training, and the security issues of our times. We have aging infrastructure that has exceeded expected use by over 20 years.

Prioritizes Safety and Security

- We must protect our students, and this bond invests in much needed improvements including updated doors, door locks, cameras and communications systems

Listening to the Community

The bond was reduced by \$43 million versus the previous bond, and the term has been shortened to 10 years.

Addresses Overcrowding

- Replaces North Middle at current location with a new school, \$71 million
- Renovates existing South Middle, \$5 million
- Shifts some of the overcrowding at South to the new North
- Improves safety for Redwood and prepares for the South replacement

Prolongs Life of Current Buildings

This Bond invests in critical repairs now, so they don't cost more later.

- HVAC upgrades system wide
- New roofs at Lincoln and Redwood elementary schools
- Replaces failing electrical panels at Allen Dale, Highland, and Riverside elementary schools
- Allendale, \$3.7 million
- Highland, \$3.3 million
- Lincoln, \$2.3 million
- Parkside, \$1.7 million
- Redwood, \$2.8 million
- Riverside, \$3.5 million
- Grants Pass High School, \$3.4 million
- Gladiola, \$1.0 million

Provides a Modern Education

- Upgrades technology at all schools
- Updated and new career technical education spaces

We ask your help to provide a safe, efficient, modern learning environment for our children.

Visit <https://www.grantspass.k12.or.us/> for bond details.

(This information furnished by Gary Richardson, Chair, Grants Pass School District #7 Board.)

Argument in Favor

Paying It Forward

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit."

Elton Trueblood

An opportunity is at hand to participate in a project that will test the measure of this saying. A need has arisen in our community to improve the facilities we use to educate our youth. In 1995, the community passed a bond measure to construct a new high school. This facility has had a positive impact on our children and the community. It is a shining example of what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

Today we have another opportunity to see the community come together, even though we may not enjoy the shade of the tree. Bond Measure 17.94 will allow for the construction of a new middle school and make necessary improvements on all of our other schools. Five of our schools, which accounts for 2,898 children, are older than 50 years and have no air conditioning or adequate heat. The halls of our elementary and middle schools are cramped and classrooms overcrowded. This bond will begin the process of updating and maintaining our schools. It will provide a better environment for learning, safer buildings and be a source of pride for our community.

Our community, 24 years ago, did the right thing to pass a bond to build a facility that is still a shining example of "planting trees" for the benefit of others. Today, we have the same opportunity. We encourage everyone to support a bond measure that will bring our school facilities to the standard we need for an appropriate learning environment for our children, the staff, and the betterment of the community.

Communities are measured on how they contribute to the needs of others. Our community is kind and willing to sacrifice for those in need. We have a need. Let us plant a tree for the future. Please vote for bond measure 17.94.

(This information furnished by R. Scott Nelson.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Favor

What Measure 17.94 Will Mean to My Students

I joined D7 teaching science at North Middle School in '99, to help give students the personal and academic skills that they need as future citizens. Built in 1967, the school was old even then. My room, like all the others, had no smoke detector. It lacked double-paned windows and air conditioning, making temperatures unbearable on hot days.

Around 7 years ago, our student population began increasing. To address growth and overheated classrooms, two years ago, we attempted a bond levy to replace both middle schools. Though the levy was narrowly defeated, voters clearly understood the need to address our aged, uncomfortable, and outgrown facilities. Since then, our PE classes continue to grow; music participation has soared, and our most recently hired teacher has to travel between four classrooms each day.

We've identified critical health and safety issues as well. During the Chetco Bar Fire, the district was forced to choose between closing windows during the school day and allowing classrooms to reach 100 degrees or higher, or to open windows and expose students and staff to smoke caused by wildfires.

The School District hired professionals to determine whether it is more cost effective: bulldoze and start over... or refurbish.

Their findings:

- The school doesn't meet fire, seismic, and energy codes.
- The school is exposed in the event of an active assailant.
- Both middle schools are crowded and overenrolled, increasing behavior issues.
- Current facilities lack space for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- The school needs capital improvements including fixing leaky roofs and crumbling floors, and upgraded HVAC systems
- It is cheaper to replace the building

Measure 17.94 will fund a safe, modern, healthy school where our kids can grow and thrive. As you cast your ballot, please join me in voting yes on Measure 17.94. It's not an expense. It's an investment in the future of Grants Pass. Our students deserve a modern school.

(This information furnished by Robert M. Bath.)

Argument in Favor

Vote Yes for Safe & Healthy Schools

Why does the **Grants Pass Police Association Support Measure 17.94?**

Because the protection, safety, and well-being of a community's children is one of the most sacred responsibilities and priorities for any society.

Measure 17.94 would allocate funding for crucial safety improvements for the health and protection of every student.

Grants Pass School District's footprint includes 10 schools over almost 30 square miles. Some of these schools were built in the fifties and sixties, including North and South Middle Schools. These buildings are showing structural wear and tear, are overcrowded, and were built when security issues were not as critical.

These older buildings lack features critical to keeping students safe in today's world: modern communications systems, security cameras, up to date locking systems, & fire alarms.

Passage of **Measure 17.94** would allow the District to improve the safety and security of all buildings as well as alleviate the overcrowding and structural deficiencies at North Middle school that is being pushed well beyond its intended capacity.

Specifically, it will:

- Add cameras and upgrade security features that help keep students and staff safe in an emergency;
- Update fire safety features by adding sprinklers and updating alarms and other features in buildings across the district;
- Increase student and staff safety by removing asbestos, replacing rusty piping, and updating exposed electrical wiring; and
- Provide for needed replacement and repair work on aging roofs, siding, and floor coverings.

The safety and health of our students has always been one of this community's top priorities and it requires ongoing vigilance and a willingness to invest when needed to ensure it remains so.

School safety issues are only too common in today's world and we, as parents, grandparents and community members have a responsibility to do everything we can to invest in their health and safety when called upon to do so.

Vote YES for Safe and Healthy Schools for Grants Pass Kids!

(This information furnished by Ryan J. Brown, Vice President, Grants Pass Police Association.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Favor

The Grants Pass School District school buildings have served our community well for many years. With the growth in student population the need to improve our schools is past due. Our students deserve the opportunity to learn in a school with better air quality, increased security measures and room to move.

Air quality is an issue in nearly every building in GPSD. Temperature in the classrooms is not the only concern. Without proper ventilation and air circulation carbon dioxide levels increase while the brains ability to retain information decreases.

GPSD buildings were built when safety needs and expectations were very different. Unfortunately, the buildings do not offer the level of security we need and require upgrades. North has exterior walkways. While the fresh air is great, the safety is not. Most other schools in the district need security upgrades as well. Our students deserve safer schools.

We love working with students and helping them grow. We wish we could say our middle schools are a calm, safe place students come to each day. Both middle schools are over capacity and it is not an ideal environment. Hallways and cafeterias are overcrowded. During passing periods there are many times students can barely move because of the bottle necks created in the hallways for no other reason than they are trying to get to and from class. We have seen an increase in discipline issues in the common areas. Students need to be able to move comfortably and safely.

The buildings in GPSD are aging. Each school has major building maintenance needs. Now is the time to replace North and upgrade HVAC, windows, roofs and other needs at the other schools. Our students deserve great schools.

Please join us and support our students, the future of Grants Pass, and support a school district with a proven track record of paying off bonds early and passing that savings to property owners.

Erica Butler
Teacher
South Middle School

(This information furnished by Erica Butler.)

Argument in Favor

Why YOU should **support Measure 17.94?**

Because it will improve the security, air quality and the learning environment of all buildings, as well as alleviate the overcrowding and structural deficiencies at the middle school level by replacing North Middle School and investing in site preparation for a new South Middle School at the district owned property next to Redwood Elementary.

Because I know that the appropriate space and ability to introduce true vocational programs at the middle school level will mean not only a higher engagement rate at a critical time in young peoples' lives; keeping them engaged in school and out of trouble, but it will also provide future generations entering the workforce prepared with the skills to contribute to our community and build a better life for themselves right away.

Because schools built for tomorrow's ever-changing technology mean students leave school better equipped to make their own lives & our community better.

Our children deserve to be able to learn in an environment at both the elementary schools & middle schools that have acceptable classroom temperatures that don't reach 90+ degrees and acceptable air quality on days when the air outside is poor.

It's our duty to ensure our schools are **safe** and our children are protected when they go to school every day.

It is our responsibility as members of this community to ensure we continue to make progress to build up our community. It's time to invest now like the generations before us invested for our sake. It's our turn- Pay it forward.

(This information furnished by Garry Penning.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Favor

Measure 17.94 is Good for Local Businesses

Any bond measure represents an investment in the community, but some investments are better than others; some are short sighted, while others take a long-term view. The Grants Pass District School Board has an established track record making solid, long-term investments including acquiring properties long ago that continue to provide the District with expansion capability, as well as provide our community with parks like Gilbert Creek.

As business leaders in Grants Pass we are asking you to join us in **Voting Yes on 17.94** because good schools are the backbone of our community and critical for a healthy local economy.

In 1995, voters approved a bond to replace the High School and add Parkside to alleviate elementary school overcrowding. These projects were finished on time and within budget.

Measure 17.94 will improve the security of all buildings, as well as alleviate the overcrowding and structural deficiencies at the Middle Schools that are simply showing their age.

The bond is not only an investment in future generations, it is fiscally responsible and good for local businesses in that it:

- Provides for a better educated and well trained local workforce good for businesses and the local economy
- Results in bond money being spent in our community, creating current & future jobs and improving property values here;
- Updates an aged school system which will in turn help attract skilled workers/professionals to move their families to our community;
- Saves taxpayers money by making its buildings more energy efficient, allowing the schools to redirect more dollars to the classroom where it belongs;
- Is accountable to taxpayers, addressing problems now so they don't cost more later;
- Reduces reliance on temporary, inefficient and unsecure portable classrooms.

Measure 17.94 is supported by these local businesses:

- Dutch Bros
- Walker Construction and Rentals
- Insurance Lounge
- Brownell's Electric
- Rogue Valley Consulting

The Need is Real, the Time is Now.

(This information furnished by Casey Durbin.)

Argument in Favor

This is a discussion of the tools that people who do not want the bond levy to pass use to create fear, uncertainty, and doubt.

They will state the bond levy increases every year. This is not true. The bonds, once sold, have a contractual amount that the District must pay every year. They are sold in staged amounts to try to make the bond levy rate stay flat over the term of the bond levy.

There will be claims that the District will not be accountable for the bond expenditures. This is not true. Look at the record of the District. The people of District #7 live and work here and care very much about wise use of public funds. This is not some project done by people hundreds of miles away.

They will talk about Public Employees Retirement System problems and try to indicate this is a problem that District #7 created. This is not true. Those decisions came from the state level. District #7 has no control over the PERS problems.

They will claim that District #7 is failing to educate the students and the District should be denied any resources until after improvements are made. At no time in the history of the District have the tasks required of the District been as great as they are now. What rational person thinks that with the additional work the District does that it should use facilities from the last century?

There will be claims that the students of today should not have it any better than students of 40 or 50 years ago. They should walk 5 miles to school, uphill, in the snow. My Dad did walk 1 mile to school. I road a bus. He and I both milked a cow by hand. For my kids it came from a store. Things change, and claiming that air quality or air conditioning are luxuries is not honest.

Please vote Yes.

(This information furnished by Gary Richardson.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Opposition

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

Enough is Enough

First the government placed an unnecessary Fire District on the ballot which would **forever** increase City property taxes by **\$2.03/\$1,000** of assessed values.

(By the way, Vote No on Measure 17.93)

Then the Grants Pass School Board decided to place this **11 year** General Obligation Bond on the ballot for **\$2.59/\$1,000**. At their August meeting, they said it was for "updating our facilities to help students achieve and thrive when they go out into the world." **What rubbish!**

Now the Explanatory Statement says it's to construct and renovate school facilities "to create 21st Century learning environments." **Can these people think beyond their own hubris?**

Most people who will be funding all this don't live, or work, in updated facilities or 21st Century environments. Many spend their days in homes, and buildings, much older than these schools, and without the benefit of heating and cooling units that are modernized for efficiency.

Vote No on Measure 17.94

There is no way property owners can absorb this obligation. The fiscal consequences are too severe. Everyone will end up paying more for Grants Pass goods and services and rents will increase to offset the taxes.

Additionally, many property owners are living on fixed incomes or very limited resources, and they're already struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Most businesses in Grants Pass run on such a tight margin of profit, this Bond would force many to close their doors.

We already have enough homeless in the City! We have had enough businesses go belly up because of high taxation! Please don't create a financial situation that would encourage more of the same.

Vote No on Measure 17.94

If both Measures pass, property owners will be paying **\$4.62/\$1,000** of assessed values! That's a hefty chunk of change to dole out each year to fund "Nice-To-Have" projects.

**Don't enslave your future with Exorbitant Taxation!
Vote No on Measures 17.93 & 17.94**

(This information furnished by Judy Ahrens.)

Argument in Opposition

Vote NO on Measure 17.94

Something doesn't smell right!

During the meeting of the Grants Pass School District No.7 on August 13th, the minutes reflect a very different scenario than what ended up in this Measure.

The School Board had a choice of a **10 year bond for \$2.59/\$1,000** of assessed values, or an **11 year bond for \$2.39/\$1,000**. The Board unanimously voted for the **10 year and \$2.39/\$1,000** option. But when paperwork was filed with the Clerk, we got the longer term at the higher rate, **11 years for \$2.59/\$1,000!** That sleight of hand cost property owners **Millions of Dollars!**

**Good for Schools,
Horrible for Taxpayers**

Projected costs are estimated at \$102.1 Million, and we're told how wonderful it will be if the Bond passes because the State will cough up more than \$6.4 Million toward the expense. **Now wait a minute.**

There's NO free State money

The State gets its money from the same taxpayer who pays Property Taxes to run the schools. Local government takes from a taxpayer's front pocket, while State and Federal Governments take his money from back pockets.

Take a good look at your Property **Tax Bill** to see how much you're already forking over to the schools. It's by far the lion's share, and this Bond will be money **IN ADDITION** to what the schools are already receiving from you.

**Don't believe the hype of
"It's for the Children"**

Will this Bond improve a student's understanding of English, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies? **NO!**

Will it graduate more students, or reduce the dropout rate? **NO!**

**This money will NOT go to the improvement
of a student's education**

If you want to support District 7 with more money, **donate** to the school system, but please don't vote to **obligate** neighbors, many of whom just might not be able afford it.

Vote NO on Measure 17.94

For more information, contact
We're for A Constitutional Government
(w4acg.com)

(This information furnished by Ward Ockenden.)

Measure 17-94 Grants Pass School District No. 7

Argument in Opposition

Too much money AND too little money.

This bond measure costs too much money. This bond would increase property taxes by \$2.59/thousand or \$721 per year for the medium-priced home in Grants Pass. Families are already strapped. Builders find it nearly impossible to build affordable housing. Senior citizens make do on fixed incomes. Our housing crisis can only be made worse by higher property taxes.

South Middle School does not get replaced or remodeled under this proposed bond. An alternative plan to remodel South Middle School under this bond was voted down by the school board at its 8/13/2019 board meeting. One board member said, “there is an **element of unfairness** that North will get a new School and South will not have a new one or renovated one.”

The board discussed coming back later for a South MS bond. The cost would be \$60 million according to the district’s construction plan. Director Sherry Ely said “it is up to the Board if they want to go out for another bond in a few years and you can do creative financing and stack the bonds.”

*Source: 8/13/2019 school board minutes.
<https://www.grantspass.k12.or.us/cms/lib/OR01915715/Centricity/domain/40/minutes/2019-2020/Board%20Mtg%20081319%20Minutes.pdf>*

How much would all this cost? \$99.6 million in this bond measure and \$60.0 million in the South MS bond would total \$159.6 million dollars. The property tax increase would total over \$4.00 per thousand. This is simply too much for our community to absorb.

The board should produce a plan which improves the education of all middle school students in Grants Pass. Under this bond plan, the board either waits to pay off the North Middle School bond in ten years to improve South Middle School or it “stacks” a second school bond on already over-taxed families and businesses.

Our kids deserve a plan which will help all middle schoolers not just those north of the Rogue River. Wait for a fairer and affordable plan by voting NO on measure 17-94.

(This information furnished by Richard Emmons.)

Argument in Opposition

Bigger isn't always better when it comes to education

This bond measure promises a “21st Century learning environment” for students attending North Middle School yet does nothing for South Middle School. Why? The problem is a brand-new North Middle School costs a lot of money. South MS gets left in the 1950’s.

Can we do better for less money? Yes we can.

21st Century education does not depend upon large 1000-student middle schools. Khanacademy.org has over a million students K-12 and is online and free. REACH charter school combines classroom and online education to teach hundreds of Josephine County students. REACH just purchased a building in Grants Pass and did not need a bond measure to do it. They will pay for it with existing school funding resources. That gets an A+ in my grade book.

Will our children be safe in a mega-sized middle school? Will they get the individual attention they need to really excel? Many parents today want a smaller school environment for their kids. This is a big reason why charter schools are thriving. Another grade of A.

Our schools have adjusted as enrollment has gone up. No children have been turned away from our local schools. No schools have been closed for safety reasons. We have time to do it right. Why should North Middle School get an A+ campus while South Middle School gets a C- campus?

We all agree that we want the best education possible for our kids. This bond measure only helps half the middle schoolers in Grants Pass.

We can do better than this and for a lot less money. Vote No on measure 17-94.

(This information furnished by Carmela Harboldt.)

Grants Pass Fire Rescue District Board Member, Position No. 1



**Roy
Lindsay**

Occupation: Not employed. Mayor of Grants Pass (unpaid volunteer)

Occupational Background: Retired Computer Science

Educational Background: Hamden High School - graduated; Oberlin College - BS Chemistry minor in Math & Physics

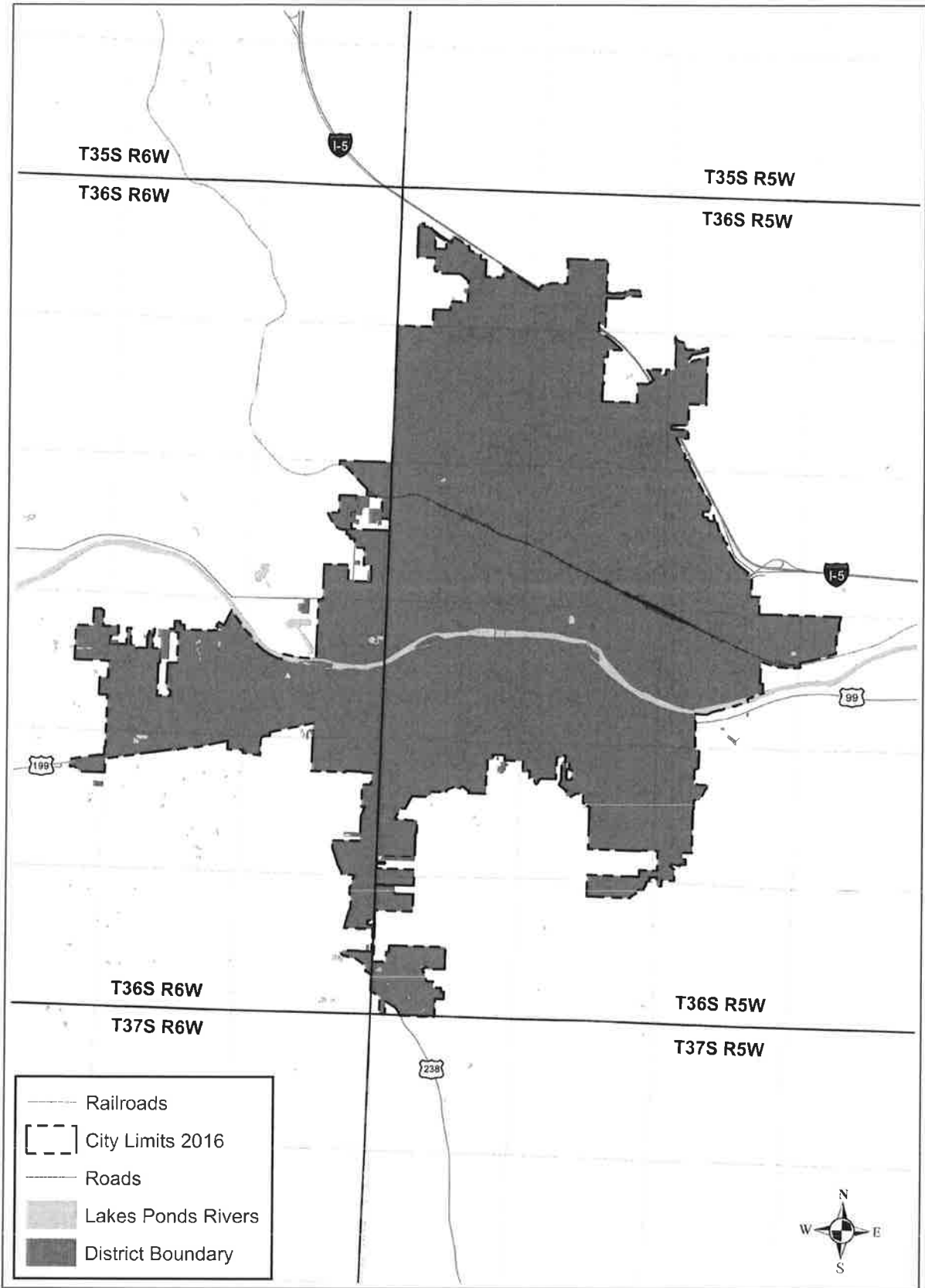
Prior Governmental Experience: County & City Committees; City Council; Mayor

The times are changing and conditions need new ideas and approaches to solve problems. The City of Grants Pass has changing needs that require innovative approaches and solutions. The Public Safety Department has basically been underfunded for quite some time. The dedication of all property taxes to Public Safety has not met the needs of the department requiring the Council to devote some additional general funds to Public Safety. The current Levy has not changed in over 10 years while costs have risen. Fully funding Fire/Rescue through a new District is what is needed. Should the Fire/Rescue District be approved, the current levy of \$1.79 will be terminated. The permanent tax rate for the new District of \$2.03 should fund the District for several years providing stability for the District. The current levy does not cover the needs of Fire Rescue. I have been a City Councilor for 4 years and have served on many County and City committees for many years. As Mayor I want to see the District succeed and flourish.

That is why I am running for Position 1 on the District Board. It is legally possible for me to be both Mayor and on the new District Board. My experience and knowledge of the Public Safety Department and the Fire/Rescue part will enable me to help in the transition to the District. If elected I will willingly accept the short term position. In that 2 years I plan to help the new District become established and help ensure that the response levels and excellent service currently provided continue. Grants Pass is growing and needs effective leadership to ensure that what needs to be done is done correctly and effectively. Please vote YES on measure 17-93 and, of course, vote for me as well. Thank you.

(This information furnished by Roy Lindsay.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.



PROPOSED GRANTS PASS FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARY

**BALLOTS
MUST BE RETURNED
BY
8:00 PM
ON
ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

Josephine County Official Ballot Drop Site Locations

Open from October 16, 2019 until 8 pm, November 5, 2019

Josephine County Courthouse:

The County Clerk's Office (7:50 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday) *Open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on election day*

Justice Building side, ground floor next to the elevator (24 hours / 7 days)

Next to the "C" Street Entrance (Tax Office Entrance) (24 hours / 7 days)

South Grants Pass:

Washington Federal, 290 Union Avenue, front parking lot (24 hours / 7 days)

Library Drive-up Ballot Drop:

Josephine Community Library, Parking lot behind library. Enter from "C" Street (24 hours / 7 days)

Merlin:

Umpqua Bank, Merlin Rd. & Monument Dr., parking lot (24 hours / 7 days)

Murphy:

Hidden Valley Market, in front, on the left side of the building (24 hours / 7 days)