

# Notice of Measure Election

## County

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250.175, 254.103, 254.465

MAR 09 2021

JOSEPHINE  
COUNTY CLERK

### Notice

**Date of Notice**

March 3, 2021

**Name of County or Counties**

Josephine County

**Date of Election**

May 18, 2021

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Form Rural Fire District with permanent rate to fund services

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall a fire protection district be formed with permanent rate limit of \$1.74 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning 7/1/2021?

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

If approved, the Josephine Independent Rural Fire Protection District would be formed as an independent district, with permanent funding dedicated to fire protection services in the district.

The district would have powers granted to fire districts under state law. The district would be governed by a five-member board of directors who are elected at the time of district formation. The district board would determine the fire protection, prevention and suppression services, and any other services legally available under ORS Chapter 478. Services of this district would be available to properties within the boundaries of the district.

The boundary would include the areas of Josephine County as shown on the map filed with the County Clerk. The boundary would not include territory within already established, existing rural fire protections districts. The boundary would not include territory within the City of Grants Pass or the City of Cave Junction and would exclude certain territories as set forth in ORS Chapter 478.

An estimate of the amount raised in the first year is approximately \$6.4 million dollars.

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the county governing body; or

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

**Explanatory Statement Attached?**

Yes

No

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

**Name**

M. Wally Hicks

**Title**

Josephine County Legal Counsel

**Mailing Address**

500 NW Sixth St., Dept. 13, Grants Pass, OR 97526

**Contact Phone**

(541)474-5226

*By signing this document:*

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.



Signature

3/3/2021

Date Signed

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

**Ballot Title Caption** Form Rural Fire District with permanent rate to fund services

**Measure No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Word Total (500 max)** 498

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Based on voter response to an advisory question on the May 2019 ballot, the county formed an advisory committee and contracted with Public Consulting Group, Inc. The committee and consultant made recommendations to the county, and the consultant provided an economic feasibility statement regarding options for fire protection services in the unprotected areas.

In December of 2020, the county initiated the formation of a rural fire protection district organized under ORS Chapter 478 and held public hearings regarding the proposal.

In Josephine County there are four rural fire protection districts: Applegate, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek. The Illinois Valley District covers the city of Cave Junction, and municipal fire protection service is provided in the city of Grants Pass.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides wildfire protection on ODF protected lands in Josephine County. Much of Josephine County is not covered by a governmentally provided structural fire service. Those areas include the communities of Sunny Valley, Hugo, Fort Vannoy, Merlin, Galice, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, North Valley and Shan Creek. Optional fire protection services are provided in those areas by private fire companies.

Passage of this measure would authorize the formation of a rural fire protection district. The purpose of the District would be to provide all hazard fire protection, prevention and suppression services, and any other services legally available under Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 478.

Formation of the District would establish a unit of government that is separate and distinct from the county. The District would be governed by a five-member board of directors. The District board would have its own powers to perform necessary and authorized acts and would be responsible for the day to day operations of the District. The District would be responsible for providing all hazard fire protection. The District board would determine what services to provide. The District board would also make determinations about future needs of the District.

The District board would decide how to deliver fire protection services. There are many options for delivering such service. Services delivered could include fire response, medical emergencies, motor vehicle crashes, rescue emergencies, and initial response to hazardous materials incidents. The District could also provide public education and fire prevention services. The District could maintain a radio frequency to enable the dispatch of emergency services.

Formation of the District would provide a permanent source of revenue to operate the District. If approved, the District would be formed with a permanent rate limit of \$1.74 per \$1,000 of

assessed property value up to a statutory limit. The tax for the District is assessed against all structures and the first five acres of land. If the tax lot is greater than five acres, those acres in excess of the five are not assessed to the District.

The District boundaries are as shown in the map in the possession of the County Clerk. The proposed District consists of approximately 338 square miles (approximately 216,140 acres) of suburban and forested land and represents approximately 23,971 registered voters.

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Board of County Commissioners

Person responsible for the content of the Statement

Josephine County

Name of the Government Body person represents