

Measure 17-104 Williams Rural Fire Protection District

17-104

Renewal of current local option tax to maintain district operations.

QUESTION: Shall the District impose five-year levy beginning FY2022/2023 for \$0.65/\$1000 assessed value for general operating purposes? This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY: The Board of the Williams Rural Fire Protection District has determined that the need exists for the district to continue to operate at current capacity, improve facilities, upgrade wildland, structural, and EMS capabilities, and to continue current district staffing.

The measure authorizes the district to levy property taxes at a rate of \$0.65 per \$1000 of assessed valuation each year commencing the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 for five consecutive years. The levy will allow for continued district staffing, upgrades to equipment/facilities, and advancements in EMS provisions.

The levy will not begin until the 2017 levy ends. This measure will be a continued levy expense, not an additional one, renewing the current local option taxes at the same rate as the expiring levy. Total amount of local option tax to be raised, in dollars and cents at the proposed rate of \$0.65 per \$1,000 will raise approximately \$137,730 in fiscal year 2022-23, \$141,173 in fiscal year 2023-24, \$144,702 in fiscal year 2024-25, \$148,320 in fiscal year 2025-26, and \$152,028 in fiscal year 2026-27.

“The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.”

No one knows when a disaster will strike, and the Williams Fire District wants to be prepared to offer the highest level of service to our community. We all have a responsibility to maintain a level of self-sufficiency and be prepared for a disaster but the Williams Rural Fire Protection District believes the need exists in our community to maintain the current operational levy so we can take care of our own citizens.

The upgrades to wildland and structural firefighting capabilities along with the advancement of EMS capabilities is vital to the fire district to continue to provide the highest level of service to our community.

It has been extremely difficult to find and maintain volunteer firefighters in our community and we strive to be creative and implement new ideas that are fiscally responsible and still continue to provide the highest level of service to our community.

(This information furnished by Rick Vetter, Fire Chief, Williams Rural Fire Protection District.)

Explanatory Statement

The residents of the Williams Rural Fire Protection District currently pay \$1.7052 per \$1000 which includes the current \$0.65 per \$1000 operational levy. The permanent base tax rate of \$1.0552 per \$1000 of property value has been deemed insufficient by the Board of Directors to support the current operational level of the Williams Rural Fire Protection District. Emergency response equipment, maintenance, and operational needs have been met by a combination of the permanent tax base, operational levy, grants, donations, and a few other minor income sources. The Williams Fire District Board believes the fire district needs the operational levy to continue (with no changes in rate) in order to maintain the current operational level and service to the residents of the Williams community. The proposal is that the current levy will continue current district staffing, improvement of facilities, upgrading of wildland and structural firefighting capabilities, and advancement of EMS capabilities.

The Williams Rural Fire Protection District is looking for approval by the voters for \$0.65 per \$1000 assessed value for a period of five years which will continue the current combined tax rate total of \$1.7052 per \$1000 assessed value. This rate continues to be significantly less than the rate paid by residents of the Applegate Fire District, Illinois Valley Fire District, and Wolf Creek Fire Districts.

Measure 17-101 Illinois Valley Fire District

17-101

Renewal of current five-year local tax option to maintain Firefighter/EMT’s.

QUESTION: Shall the District impose five-year levy, beginning in 2022, for \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value, specifically to maintain firefighter staffing. This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY: The Illinois Valley Fire District, a primarily volunteer department, was formed by local citizens in 1954. As our Valley, continues to grow laws requiring volunteer education and commitment have put a strain on the volunteer program. This Levy would allow us to continue to provide a minimum staff, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to respond to the needs of our Valley residents.

The revenue generated will be for the sole purpose of keeping our current Levy EMT/Firefighters and NOT to fund any additional money for administration or operations of the District. This levy would not begin until the 2017 Levy ends, which would be a continued levy expense not an additional one.

Currently we pay \$1.87/\$1,000 for the operations of the District and \$0.30/\$1,000 for the Bond that built four of the six stations and expires in 2023, and \$.50/\$1,000 for Local Tax Option Levy.

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(The proposed rate of \$0.50/\$1,000 will raise approximately \$384,376 in the fiscal year 2022-2023; \$395,908 in the fiscal year 2023-2024; \$407,786 in the fiscal year 2024-2025; \$420,020 in the fiscal year 2025-2026; and \$432,621 in the fiscal year 2026-2027.)

Explanatory Statement

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) is a primarily volunteer fire department covering 144 square miles from Hayes Hill to the California border. IVFD provides a full range of fire and emergency services with six fire stations.

During the last 10 years, IVFD has experienced increased call volumes from 1,176 calls for service in 2011 to 1,418 in 2020. Prior to instituting paid firefighter 24-hour staffing, average out-the-door response time was between four to six minutes. With our current paid-firefighter staffing, out-the-door response times have decreased to less than two minutes.

When an emergency happens, a timely response makes a huge difference. During cardiac arrest, brain death occurs in 4-6 minutes. With today’s modern construction and furnishings, in a residential house fire, flashover occurs in 7-9 minutes. We never know when an emergency will happen. What we do know is that having Firefighter/EMTs available for a rapid response is vital to save lives and property.

Volunteer fire departments nationwide continue to see a steady decline in participation due to increasing requirements to maintain certifications, families working multiple jobs and growing personal cost and time necessary to be a volunteer firefighter. But the need is great. During the 2020 Slater Fire,

which originated near Happy Camp, Calif., our valley experienced an imminent threat at a time where there were limited state-funded resources available to help. IVFD was able to aggressively provide for the safety of our community largely due to our career and volunteer firefighters and aid from departments and districts across Oregon.

The proposed levy will maintain IVFD’s existing four (4) Firefighter/EMT positions for another five years and will take effect after the current levy expires in 2022. These firefighters work alternating 24- hour shifts to provide full-time staff for rapid response to emergencies and make it possible to handle multiple calls at the same time, which is occurring more and more frequently. Paid staff aid volunteer firefighter recruitment, provide consistent training opportunities for our volunteer firefighters, and actively engage the community through student programs.

Additionally, the improved response times and coverage these firefighter positions provide allow us to maintain a lower Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating, resulting in insurance premium cost savings for most homeowners.

Will this levy cost me more?

No, this levy will provide continued funding to maintain our current four (4) full time Firefighter/EMTs and will not add any additional cost to property owners. In fact, in 2023, our 20 year General Obligation Bond will have expired and property owners will see a \$0.30/\$1,000 assessed property value decrease in their taxes. Keeping our fire stations staffed with firefighters allows us to help save lives and property when minutes count the most.

Not one cent of the levy will leave the Valley.

Not one cent of the levy will be used for any additional administrative costs.

Not one cent of the levy will be used for any other projects, buildings, or apparatus.

(This information furnished by Sheryl Johnson, Board President, Illinois Valley Fire District.)

Measure 17-102 Josephine County

17-102

Renew Adult Jail, Juvenile Detention Five-Year Local Option Tax.

QUESTION: Shall County renew five-year levy of \$0.93 per \$1,000 assessed value for Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention services beginning 2022-2023? This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY: This measure renews for five years a current local option tax at the existing rate of \$0.93 per \$1000 of assessed value. Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. By law, Josephine County would use this revenue only to:

- Maintain the current inmate capacity at the Adult Jail to allow intake of persons arrested in Josephine County;
- Maintain Juvenile Detention services to allow intake of youths who are taken into custody in Josephine County;
- Cover related administrative expenses.

At \$0.93 per \$1,000, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost \$7.75 per month or \$93.00 per year. The approximate tax increase for a home valued at the County median residential assessed value of \$176,790.00 would be approximately \$164.41 per year.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$8,350,00 in 2022-23; \$8,600,500 in 2023-2024; \$8,858,510 in 2024-2025; \$9,124,270 in 2025-2026; and \$9,398,00 in 2026-2027.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

who have been convicted of crimes and are serving a court-imposed sentence.

This measure would maintain the present level of Juvenile Department services by providing funding to keep the Juvenile Detention Center open. The Center would retain the capacity to lodge 14 youth offenders, and would provide detention services for youth offenders who are taken into custody in Josephine County. The Juvenile Department provides services to youths under the age of 18 who have had contact with the criminal justice system. Services provided by the Juvenile Department include: crime prevention and criminal accountability programs; gang intervention and graffiti prevention; anti-bullying guidance; substance abuse training; family counseling; short-term lodging for runaways; and youth suicide prevention.

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

Argument in Favor

Your Local Chamber of Commerce urges you to vote YES on the Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Levy renewal.

The Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the five-year levy renewal to fund our Adult Jail and Juvenile Department Services. More than ever public safety and criminal justice services are critical to our community's economic development growth and wellbeing.

This levy is a renewal. This means the levy will not increase the county property tax rates. We appreciate that the County Sheriff's Department is operating within their existing budget while providing quality service.

The Sheriff's Department needs these resources to remain operational and provide the many other services for our community. These services are essential for an operational criminal justice system. Renewal of this levy will maintain current services for the Adult Jail and Juvenile Department Services.

There are also protections in the levy that insures these dollars can only fund operation of the Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Systems. Josephine County must pass this levy to maintain our current services and protect our community. An adequately funded and staffed criminal justice system is imperative for a healthy and growing local economy.

This levy does not increase our tax rates and is fiscally responsible; and it allows the Sheriff Department to focus on keeping our community safe and allow businesses to grow and prosper. The Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce supports our Sheriff's office. Join us in voting YES to renew the Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Levy renewal.

(This information furnished by Josie Molloy, Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce.)

"Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument."

Measure 17-103 Josephine County

17-103

Animal Shelter and Control Five Year Local Option Tax.

QUESTION: Shall Josephine County levy \$0.11 per \$1,000 assessed value for Animal Shelter and Animal Control for five years beginning 2022-2023? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: This increases the current local option tax expiring June 2022 by \$0.03 and would continue through June 2027. Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. By law, Josephine County would use this revenue only to:

- Fund the Animal Shelter and Animal Control program;
- Cover related administrative expenses.

Animal Shelter provides adoption, food, care, medical treatment and temporary shelter for dogs, cats, and other animals impounded under law.

Animal Control investigates animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, and abandonment. Animal Control enforces state and local laws that regulate dogs running at large, that attack livestock, and that are dangerous or a public nuisance.

At \$0.11 per \$1,000, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost \$0.92 per month or \$11.00 per year. The approximate tax increase for a home valued at the County median residential assessed value of \$176,790 would be approximately \$19.45 per year.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$995,280 in 2022-2023, \$1,027,852 in 2023-2024, \$1,061,728 in 2024-2025, \$1,096,659 in 2025-2026, and \$1,118,235 in 2026-2027, for a total of \$5,299,754.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

- Adoption programs for stray, impounded, and surrendered animals;
- Lost/found database to reunite lost pets with their owners;
- A Live Release Rate of over 90% (meeting No-Kill standards);
- Veterinary care for all animals in custody, including spay/neuter, vaccination, parasite treatment, and microchipping of all animals adopted out;
- Emergency veterinary care for sick or injured strays;
- Targeted spay/neuter program to reduce free-roaming cat populations;
- An up-to-date shelter data management computer program;
- Health programs such as disease testing before adoption, rabies quarantine and control;
- Facility upgrades to provide sanitary housing;
- Adoption options for heartworm positive dogs, FIV positive cats, and unsocialized cats;
- Public access to the shelter six days per week;
- Outdoor play yards and a walking path for socializing and exercising dogs;
- 365 days/year staffing.

The Animal Control program is supervised by the Sheriff's Office. In fiscal years 2018-2020 Animal Control Officers investigated over 2,000 complaints including animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, abandonment, dog bites and dog versus livestock encounters. Animal Control Officers also enforce state and local laws regulating dogs running at large, and dogs that are or may be dangerous or a public nuisance. Services provided by the Animal Control Program include:

- Four fulltime Animal Control Officer (ACO) positions;
- Seven days/week response to animal bites, animal crimes and nuisance animals;
- Public education regarding responsible pet ownership;
- Animal bite management and communicable disease control;
- Provision of safety equipment for ACOs;
- Training for ACOs;
- Investigation and prosecution of animal-related cases.

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee receives monthly reports regarding expenditure of levy funds and advises the Board of County Commissioners on animal-related issues.

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

Explanatory Statement

In May 2017 voters passed a five-year local option tax of \$0.08 per \$1,000 assessed value to provide for Animal Shelter and Animal Control services countywide. That measure expires in June 2022.

This proposed new local option tax of \$0.11 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value would provide funding for Animal Shelter and Animal Control programs through June 2027. The revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. By law, the fund could be used only for Animal Shelter and Animal Control services, and related administrative expenses which include Finance, Human Resources, Legal Counsel, and Information Technology. No revenue from this measure would fund the office or salaries of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Animal Shelter is part of the Public Health Department. The Shelter provides food, care and temporary shelter for an average of 2,054 dogs, cats, and other animals each year. The Shelter also provides adoption services for homeless animals. In fiscal year 2019-2020 the shelter adopted out approximately 1,585 animals and reunited approximately 374 animals. Services provided by the Animal Shelter currently include:

Explanatory Statement

This measure would affect only Adult Jail services, Juvenile Detention services and related administrative expenses. Adults are persons aged 18 years and over, and juveniles (youths) are ages 12 to 17. The revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. By law, the fund could be used only for Adult Jail services and Juvenile Detention services, and related administrative expenses which include Finance, Human Resources, Legal Counsel, and Information Technology. No revenue from this measure would fund the office or salaries of the Board of County Commissioners.

Present Funding to June 30, 2022

A levy is currently funding the Adult Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center through June 30, 2022. The Adult Jail can currently lodge 185 inmates. The Juvenile Detention Center can currently lodge 14 youths. After June 30, 2022 a decline in projected revenue would drop the Adult Jail population to 80- 90 inmates, and the Juvenile Detention Center would close.

Measure Funding

The proceeds from this five-year measure would allow the Adult Jail to retain the capacity to lodge 185 inmates. This would allow for the intake of persons who are arrested in Josephine County, including persons arrested in the cities of Grants Pass and Cave Junction, and in the unincorporated areas of Josephine County. The Adult Jail would also retain its capacity to house inmates