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JOSEPHINE COUNTY CLERK

# Notice of Measure Election

District

<b>Notice</b>			
<b>Date of Notice</b> 8/16/2021	<b>Name of District</b> Illinois Valley Fire District	<b>Name of County or Counties</b> Josephine	<b>Date of Election</b> 11/2/2021

**Ballot Title** Prepare with assistance from the district attorney or an attorney employed by the district.

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

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

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

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

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.

"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."

(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** 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 district governing body; or  
→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance. **Explanatory Statement Attached?**  Yes  No

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

<b>Name</b> Cheryl Johnson	<b>Title</b> Board President
<b>Mailing Address</b> 681 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523	<b>Contact Phone</b> 541-415-0199

*By signing this document:*  
→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election and I certify the above ballot title is true and complete.

  
Signature

8/16/2021

Date Signed

## **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.