


Jackson County voters' pamphlet

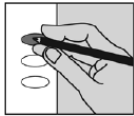


Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special Election

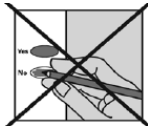
November 7, 2023

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.



If you vote **both** Yes **and** No on a measure, it is called an overvote. Your vote **will not count** for that measure.



Contact Jackson County Elections to request a replacement if:

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

or for any other reason.

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

By mail: Mail your ballot so it is postmarked by the USPS by Election Day.

In person at an official drop site: Deposit your ballot in an official Oregon ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day.

Jackson County Elections

1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 774-6148 www.jacksoncountyor.org

DROP SITE LOCATIONS

Ballots must be deposited in an official ballot drop site by 8 pm on ELECTION DAY, November 7, 2023.

Jackson County Elections *Opening Monday, October 23rd*

1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501

Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (left lane - W. Main)

Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm (7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)

VOTER REGISTRATION

The deadline to register to vote is the 21st day before an election.

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 U.S. citizen?
- Are you at least 16 years of age?

If you are 16 or 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.

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)

Translation Information

Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访问 oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP 获取译本。

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP 에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Ang mga piling bahagi ng mga pamphlet na ito para sa mga botante ng county ay mababasa sa Tagalog. Makikita online ang mga pagsasaling-wikang ito sa oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Các phần được chọn trong tập thông tin cho cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Measure 15-220 Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District 9

Ballot Title

15-220

Five Year Local Option Levy for Staffing and Operations

Question: Shall the District impose \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years for staffing and operations beginning in FY2024/25? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: The purpose of this temporary levy is to provide funding that will allow Applegate Fire District #9 to operate at today's service levels.

This levy would fund the following:

- 24/7 staffing at Station 51 (Applegate) and Station 53 (Ruch) by retaining most of the positions that are currently grant funded.
- Retain a Fire Marshal position that is currently grant funded.
- Recruit and Train new volunteer firefighters and medical personnel.
- Replace aging fire engines and staff vehicles.

This request is for \$1.25/\$1000 of assessed value, to replace the current levy that expires in 2024.

If the levy does not pass, taxes would remain at \$1.6787/\$1000 of assessed value, the \$1.25/\$1000 of assessed value would not be assessed, resulting in a 43% reduction in the District's Operating Budget and the District would no longer be able to provide 24/7 staffing at any station.

The estimated amount of taxes that would be raised per year is as follows: \$842,550 in 2024/25, \$867,827 in 2025/26, \$893,861 in 2026/27, \$920,667 in 2027/28, and \$948,297 in 2028/29.

Explanatory Statement

Applegate Valley RFPD#9 (District) provides firefighting, emergency medical care, rescue and fire prevention services to a 181 square mile area including the residents and businesses in the Ruch, Applegate, Provolt, and McKee Bridge areas. Voters will have the opportunity to consider a Measure on the November 2023 ballot, which would authorize a tax rate of \$1.25 per \$1000 of assessed property value and fund the above services.

The District has had a local option operation levy in place, and renewed it, every five years since 1998. These levies have provided enough tax revenue to staff Station 53 (Ruch), 24/7, with a combination of permanent full-time, seasonal full-time, and student firefighters. The levies have also provided funding to repair, replace, and maintain its fleet of vehicles, equipment and facilities.

With the help of two grants, the district has begun staffing a second station (Station 51), 24/7, in Applegate, with added Full-Time and Student Firefighters. Additionally, one of the grants funds a full-time Fire Prevention (Fire Marshal) position. The two grants expire March of 2026 and May of 2027.

In 2022, the District responded to 768 emergency calls for service, with medical emergencies accounting for approximately two thirds of the District's responses. Simultaneous calls for emergency service happened approximately 24% of the time in 2022. Staffing both Stations 51 & 53 now allows the District to respond to these emergency incidents that overlap or occur at the same time.

If the Measure passes, it will cost homeowners \$1.25 per \$1000 of assessed property value and would replace the current levy of \$1.05 that expires at the end of June 2024. The Measure would authorize collection of tax revenue in the amount of \$4,473,202 over the following five years.

If passed, the Measure would provide sufficient funding for the District to continue to staff Stations 51 (Applegate) & 53 (Ruch), as well as retain the Fire Marshal position through June 2029. The Measure would also provide funding for the District to continue to repair, replace, and maintain its current fleet of vehicles, equipment and facilities.

If the Measure does not pass, the firefighting, fire prevention, emergency medical and rescue services described above would not be provided as planned and the current levy of \$1.05 per \$1000 of assessed property value would not continue.

(This information furnished by Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District 9.)

Argument in Favor

A Home ignites due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200'

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the Applegate Fire District's ballot measure seeking approval of a temporary tax levy. As a retired employee of the Applegate Fire District and current lead of a Firewise community, I know the importance of collaboration between residents and our fire agencies to strategically prevent wildfires.

One crucial aspect of this ballot measure is the retention of the newly established fire prevention coordinator position. This position will provide a greater understanding of our needs and the resources necessary to address them effectively. This ballot measure will provide the resources for property owners to request fire assessments.

In an area like ours, prone to wildfires, prevention is KEY to safeguarding lives, homes, and natural resources. This program will enhance our readiness by educating residents about defensible spaces, proper land management, and hazard reduction. We can collectively reduce the risk of devastating fires and create stronger, more resilient communities.

The issue of community resiliency resonates deeply with me. Our rural setting demands that we unite in our efforts to prepare for and respond to emergencies. By approving the temporary tax levy, we invest in our shared future. The levy will provide the resources necessary to sustain the fire prevention program.

We have all chosen to live in an Extreme Fire danger risk area. I implore our community members to rally behind this ballot measure 15-220. Let us show our commitment to safety, preparedness, and resiliency by voting in favor of the Applegate Fire District's proposal.

Sincerely,

Carey Chaput, Firewise Community Coordinator

Annette Parson & Jim Clover, Applegate Landowners

Cris Usher, Retired Applegate FD Volunteer

(This information furnished by Carey Chaput, Firewise Community Organizer.)

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

Argument in Favor

Dear Voters,

On behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), I am pleased to extend our enthusiastic endorsement of the Applegate Fire District's ballot measure seeking approval of a temporary tax levy. This measure provides strategic funding that not only supports the enhancement of community safety but also recognizes the critical symbiosis between the fire district and our dedicated union members.

The provision to allocate funds for seasonal firefighter positions during fire season and student firefighter positions during the school year is a testament to the forward-thinking approach of the Applegate Fire District. We understand the unique dynamics of the district and acknowledge that it may not become a fully paid union member organization. However, the establishment of these positions underscores a mutual commitment to safeguarding the well-being of both the community and our union members.

By maintaining a contingent of well-trained seasonal firefighters, the Applegate Fire District demonstrates a dedication to tackling the heightened risks posed by fire season. These positions not only bolster the district's response capabilities but also provide an additional layer of protection for our union members on the front lines. Student firefighter positions also fosters a culture of learning and growth, reinforcing the fire district's capacity to adapt to evolving challenges.

The IAFF recognizes that the success of our union members is intricately linked with the community's safety and confidence in our services. Supporting these seasonal and student positions under the proposed temporary tax levy ensures that the district remains resilient, responsive, and capable of delivering high-level services. This collaboration sets a commendable example for the harmonious coexistence of the fire district and our union members.

In light of these considerations, the IAFF wholeheartedly endorses the Applegate Fire District's ballot measure. We encourage all residents to vote in favor of this initiative, understanding that it not only secures a safer community but also strengthens the foundation of our union's role within it.

(This information furnished by Marty Adamo, IAFF3564 President.)

Argument in Favor

Dear community members,

We are writing to express our support of the Applegate Fire District levy and why we believe it deserves your -YES vote

- **Preserving Public Safety:** The Applegate Fire District plays an essential role in safeguarding our lives, properties, and environment from the devastating impacts of fires and emergencies. By providing the necessary resources, this levy will enable our local firefighters to respond promptly and effectively, minimizing potential damage and saving lives.
- **Maintaining Efficient Emergency Response:** A well-equipped and staffed fire department is essential for timely emergency response. The levy will ensure that the district has the necessary personnel, training, and modern equipment to manage various situations effectively, whether it is a wildfire, medical emergency, or hazardous material incident.
- **Protecting Property Values:** A well-funded fire district contributes safety and security that can positively impact property values throughout our community.
- **Enhancing Community Resilience:** While facing the increasing challenges, the threat of wildfires and other natural disasters is growing. By supporting this levy, we are taking proactive measures to strengthen our community's ability to manage and survive the threat that a wild fire poses to our home and community. Adequate funding will allow the district to engage in vital prevention, education, and mitigation efforts that can reduce the impact of future disasters.
- **Transparent and Accountable Funding:** the tax levy comes with fiscal transparency from careful Board and Budget review, where community members are always encouraged to participate. Taxpayers can be assured that the funds generated will be used for the specified purposes.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Fire safety is a shared responsibility. This levy is an equitable way for all property owners to play a part in maintaining the safety of our community.

In conclusion, we encourage you to join us in voting YES for Measure 15-220 ensuring that our local fire department remains well-equipped, responsive, and capable of meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

(This information furnished by Babette Rapp, Friends of the Applegate Valley Fire District #9.)

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Argument in Favor

To sustain essential firefighting, emergency medical care, rescue, and fire prevention services, the Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District (AVFD) is seeking your approval for the continuation of the local levy-with minimal increase-to provide additional needed coverage. This levy will replace the current five-year levy that expires June 2024. A yes vote will ensure the continuation of critical services.

AVFD encompasses 181 square miles, including Ruch, Applegate, Provolt, and McKee Bridge areas. Without revenue generated by the proposed levy, AVFD would face a substantial reduction in staffing and response capabilities. It would lead to the elimination of 3 permanent shift captains, 12 seasonal firefighters, 12 student firefighters, and 1 fire marshal. Simply put, if this levy is not continued, AVFD would no longer be able to provide you 24/7 coverage. This local option levy is a recurring lifeline for AVFD since 1998. The community has historically recognized the importance of supporting AVFD's emergency response abilities by voting yes.

AVFD response demands are diverse, with medical emergencies nearly two thirds of calls. Response levels continue to increase each year to include simultaneous emergency calls, 24 % of the time in 2022. Strategic staffing of Stations 51/53 (Applegate/Ruch) is instrumental to respond to concurrent emergency incidents. Station 51 in Applegate benefits from funding through two grants, however these grants expire in 2026/2027, and are not eligible for renewal. This local option levy is crucial to ensure prompt emergency response by funding staffing at Station 51 & 53, through June 2029.

We encourage residents to understand the consequences of not continuing the current levy with the minimal increase. Approval of the levy will not only secure uninterrupted emergency services until July 2029, but will also provide increased emergency services by staffing Station 51 in the Applegate area. Denying the levy would end 24/7 coverage for AVFD as a whole. We urge all eligible voters to vote yes on Measure 15-220.

(This information furnished by Rob Underwood, Applegate Fire District Board of Directors.)

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