

COPY

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Marion County Clerk

Measure No. 24-459

AUG 31 2021

Election Date: 11-2-2021

Stayton Fire District responds to over 1,100 annually (averaging over 3 calls a day) providing structural and wildfire firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, motor vehicle accidents and emergency medical calls for service to the communities of Elkhorn, Marion, Mehama, Mt. Pleasant, City of Stayton and 13 miles of Hwy 22; totaling 107 square miles in Marion and Linn counties combined.

How would the money be used?

If approved this would provide enough revenue to fund nine full-time firefighter positions, 3 positions per 24-hour shift, to improve response times 24/7. These positions would assist our current 5 paid firefighters who work 8 to 5, Monday thru Friday performing functional duties for the district and response to emergency calls and our dedicated volunteer responders who respond after hours and on weekends.

Why is there a need?

The fire district is experiencing an increase in calls for service and a decline in volunteers. The importance of a timely response to fires and medicals can make a difference. Volunteers respond from their homes which takes on average 7 minutes to get to the station before responding on an emergency vehicle. With staff at the fire station that response time is greatly reduced for emergency personnel to arrive at a call. There are times we have limited or no response during the weeknights and weekends from our volunteers. Our volunteers will continue to respond to provide additional resources.

The district is not part of, nor does it receive funding from any city, county, or state government. It is a separate taxing "Special District".

The district is funded through a permanent property tax base rate of \$1.33 per thousand assessed value that was created in 1997 by the state. The tax revenue has not kept up with cost increase or the demand for services.

What is the cost to property taxpayers?

This 5-year levy would have a fixed rate of \$.8885 cents per thousand for five years. This means for a house with an assessed value of \$250,000, it would cost the average homeowner \$222.13 per year or \$18.51 per month.

What if the Levy is not approved?

With the increase in calls for service and limited number of volunteers, our ability to provide reliable, effective, and efficient service will not be able to meet the increasing emergency service demand and response times for our citizens. We will continue efforts to recruit additional volunteers in a time when volunteering is on the decline.



Total Words 406 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature *Jack R. Carriger* Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Jack R. Carriger

Local Government Unit Stayton Fire District