



Duty • Honor • Community

HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT #74

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2019 HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT LOCAL OPTION LEVY FACT SHEET

- ▶ **Board approval.** The Hoodland Fire District (HFD) Board of Directors voted unanimously on February 12, 2019 to place a five-year local option levy on the May 21, 2019 ballot.
- ▶ **Amount of local option levy request.** If approved, HFD's local option levy would be 25¢ per thousand of assessed property value (not market value). The District has not asked voters to increase its property tax support for more than 20 years.
- ▶ **Impact on property owners.** The cost to the individual property owner would vary depending on the tax assessed value (not market value) of the property. For residential property with a tax assessed value of \$150,000, about average for residential property in the District, the cost of a 25¢ local option levy would be \$38 per year or about \$3 per month.
- ▶ **Purpose of the funds.** Funds generated by the local option levy would enable the District to continue to keep a minimum of two firefighter/paramedics on duty at all hours and add a paramedic chief officer in order to improve the speed of response when emergency calls overlap and to improve incident command effectiveness.
- ▶ **Key facts about the local option levy:**
 - ✓ Paramedics with Advanced Life Support training improve survival rates. Levy funds would ensure that 3 firefighter/paramedics with these skills are available to respond at all hours.
 - ✓ In 2017 the District increased emergency response availability by career firefighter/paramedics from 12 hours a day to 24 hours a day. Levy funds would help ensure that 24/7 response by career firefighters will continue.
 - ✓ With funds from the levy, the District would add a chief officer with firefighter/paramedic skills to ensure command coverage 24/7 and to allow faster response to many second-call situations that would otherwise have to wait 20 minutes or more for responders from other districts to arrive.
 - ✓ Funds would also be used to provide additional "Firewise" assistance to residents that can improve the odds of homes and businesses surviving a wildland fire.
 - ✓ The District's firefighter/paramedics are supported by approximately 30 local volunteers who assist when more responders are needed. The volunteer program would continue regardless of whether the levy passes.
- ▶ **Impact if the local option levy fails.** If the levy is not approved, the District would not be able to keep three firefighter/paramedics available 24/7 and response when emergency calls overlap would be delayed more often, due to the additional time required for backup responders from other districts, most often the Sandy Fire District, to arrive.
- ▶ **HFD total tax rate.** HFD's current permanent tax rate is \$2.64 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the local option levy of 25¢ is approved, the total tax rate would be \$2.89 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

***For more information contact Fire Chief John Ingrao, 503-622-3256,
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