

### Notice of District Measure Election SCAPPOOSE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 a measure election will be held in Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District, Columbia and Multnomah County, Oregon.

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters on this date: May 16, 2006

5-144

#### CAPTION

**FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.**

#### QUESTION

Shall the Scappoose Fire District impose .94¢ per \$1,000 assessed value for 5-years for personnel and equipment beginning 2007-2008? *This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.*

#### SUMMARY

*This measure may be passed only at an election of at least 50 percent voter turnout.*

A "yes" vote on this levy would allow for additional paid firefighter/medical positions and funds needed for fire and ambulance equipment. The District's goal is to have 3 paid personnel on duty, 24-hours per day to respond to fire and medical emergencies immediately. The District currently has 2 paid personnel on duty. Many emergencies require volunteers to respond to the station prior to answering your emergency call for help. When seconds count, this time waiting for volunteers is critical.

The tax rate of \$1.1145 per \$1,000 assessed value is inadequate to properly ensure fire and ambulance service. The District is operating with a local option levy which expires in 2007. Due to the continuing growth in the community, emergency alarms have increased significantly and have become extremely demanding for our volunteer force to provide consistent coverage for fire and ambulance emergencies.

This levy will begin after the expiration of the current levy. The increase from the current 66¢ levy to the 94¢ levy on a \$150,000 home would be \$42 per year for 5 years. *The proposed rate will raise approximately \$752,347 in 2007/08, \$782,441 in 2008/09, \$813,739 in 2009/10, \$846,288 in 2010/11 and \$880,140 in 2011/12. 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.*

The following authorized district official hereby certifies the above ballot title is true and complete.

Dennis J. Marceau  
Dennis Marceau, President  
Board of Directors

3-9-06  
Date

06 MAR 13 AM 8:26  
JOY KAHAM  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

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ATTEST:

Joe Baker  
Joe Baker, Secretary/Treasurer  
Board of Directors

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
COLUMBIA CO. CLERK

3-9-06  
Date

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**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

Ballot Title Caption

**FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.**Measure Number: **5-144**

Word Total (500 Max): 500

The Scappoose Rural Fire District provides fire and ambulance service to 12,000 citizens in Scappoose, Chapman, Holbrook, and Warren areas. The District is seeking renewal of a 5-year local option levy expiring June 30, 2006. This increases the levy rate from \$0.66 per thousand to \$0.94 per thousand of assessed valuation.

The primary use of the renewed levy is to retain the current paid personnel covered by the outgoing 5-year levy and add additional paid personnel to cover the continuing increase in fire and medical calls. Additional levy funds will be used to purchase and upgrade lifesaving fire and medical equipment.

Due to the increased number of calls, the District's plan to maintain an adequate level of service using volunteer and paid firefighters and medical personnel is increasingly being compromised. The continuing growth of the community and the corresponding increase in emergency calls along with a decline in volunteers has put emergency response time at risk when overlapping alarms occur. The District responded to 1246 emergency incidents in 2005 and 70% were medically related. If a transport is required it typically takes 2 hours from the time of the call until the ambulance returns to the fire station and is ready for the next emergency. Transport time is very demanding on volunteers. The levy will maintain the firefighter/paramedics hired under the current levy and hire additional paid firefighter/paramedics thereby improving 24-hour coverage and improving emergency response times.

Without the 5-year levy, the current tax rate of \$1.1145 per \$1,000 assessed value is not adequate to properly ensure the current level of fire and ambulance service. Many emergencies, especially overlapping emergencies will require volunteer response to the station before answering the alarm. The 5-year levy provides 3 on-duty personnel 24-hours a day, allowing immediate fire or medical response. We will then rely on the available volunteers to assist with the second and third emergency calls for help.

**What happens if the levy fails?**

As the emergencies increase, residents will most likely see delays in response to their emergency. The District's current tax rate can fund one paid on-duty firefighter/paramedic 24-hours a day. The on-duty firefighter/paramedic will have to wait until volunteer personnel respond from their home to the station before responding to your emergency. Volunteers are not always available to respond to your emergency call for help. Overlapping alarms will become even more difficult. The current local option levy expires in June 2007 and funds the second paid firefighter/paramedic on 24-hour shifts. If the levy fails, there would only be one firefighter/paramedic on duty.

**If the levy passes, the additional revenue would be used to:**

- Maintain the current paid Firefighter/Paramedics
- Hire more paid Firefighter/Paramedics to complete staffing of one ambulance or one engine company
- Purchase and upgrade lifesaving fire and medical equipment
- Purchase equipment to support emergency operations

**What will it cost me?**

Beginning in July 2007, homeowners with a house assessed at \$150,000 will pay \$42 per year or \$3.50 per month above the current 5-year levy.

Person responsible for the content of the Explanatory Statement:

*Dennis J. Marceaux*  
Dennis Marceaux, President, Board of Directors  
Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District

JOHN RAUFFMAN  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

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F-1

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MCED 011 (Rev. 09/2005)

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 2006       General Election 20\_\_       Special Election \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Measure No.: <u>5-144</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Opposition	<b>This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):</b> <b>Name of person:</b> DENNIS MARCEAUX  <b>Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:</b> SCAPPOOSE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Argument  <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Argument		
Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument) <u>Dennis Marceaux, PO Box 625, SCAPPOOSE OR 97056</u>		<b>Argument Paid For By: (name and address)</b> SCAPPOOSE RURAL FIRE PROT. DISTRICT PO Box 625, Scappoose OR 97056
Telephone (home) 503-543-2602	Telephone (work) 503-543-5026	

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument  
 Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: \_\_\_\_\_)

Note: Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.405 or 251.415 may be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

By signing this document, I hereby state I am responsible for the content of this argument. ORS 251.415 (2)

Dennis J. Marceaux      3/17/06  
Signature of person furnishing argument      Date signed  
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Staff Initials <u>CB</u>	Argument order number <u>F-1 (5-144)</u>
Cash or Check Number <u>18964</u>	Statement(s) of Endorsement? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES # _____
Receipt Number <u>21328</u>	Word/Number Count Total <u>382</u>

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06 MAR 17 PM 1:12  
JOHN KAUFFMAN  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

# Argument Statement for County Voters' Pamphlet

Ballot Title Caption

## Five-Year Local Option Levy for Personnel and Equipment

Measure Number: 5-144

Word Total: (325 max) 302

Argument in Favor

Argument in Opposition

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Since 1954, the Board of Directors of the Scappoose Fire District has managed the operations of the District. The small Scappoose community began the fire district with an all-volunteer force. Since that time, the community has grown and so have the needs of the citizens.

It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that citizens are provided with rapid, quality care when they have fire and medical emergencies. With the current tax rate, the Board feels that they can no longer offer that security and is asking voters to renew a 5-Year Local Option Levy.

The District currently staffs the fire station with two paid firefighter/paramedics 24-hours per day. This staffing is deemed to be inadequate to rapidly respond to nearly 1300 fire and medical emergencies each year. Renewing the levy would fund one additional firefighter/paramedic per shift increasing the total to three firefighter/paramedics on duty 24-hours per day.

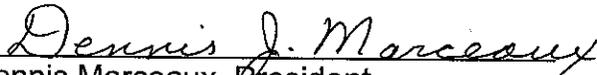
The Board believes that this staffing level is still a conservative approach compared to other fire districts. We still hope to increase our volunteer roster knowing that Scappoose is a tight-knit community that enjoys volunteering. Volunteerism has declined nationwide due to two-income families, longer commutes, year-round sports and changes in society. The District will still rely on volunteers to complete the staffing of fire and medical apparatus.

If the levy fails, the District will have to reduce staffing to only one paid firefighter/paramedic on duty 24-hours per day. The one person will have to wait for volunteers to respond to the fire station before responding to your emergency. A minimum of two is required to respond to medical emergencies and a minimum of four is needed to respond to fires and other emergencies. Volunteers can only respond when available and many hold full-time jobs outside of the community.

**Your vote counts when seconds count!**

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Person responsible for the content of the ARGUMENT STATEMENT:

  
Dennis Marceaux, President  
Board of Directors  
Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District