



POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1

1800 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351

Phone: 503-838-1510 Fax: 503-838-1235

Ben Stange, Fire Chief

Central Fire Station
Station #90
1800 Monmouth St
Independence

Airlie
Station #80
14775 Airlie Rd
Monmouth

Pedee
Station #70
12485 Kings Valley
Monmouth

Buena Vista
Station #40
11350 Church St
Independence

March 16, 2018

Dear Community Member,

On February 6th, 2018 the Polk County Fire District No.1 Board of Directors voted to refer an operating levy in the amount of \$.19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to the May, 2018 ballot. If the levy on the May ballot passes, it would renew the current levy and would not increase taxes from the current rate. If the levy does not pass, a levy would not be assessed which would mean a cost to individuals would not be assessed.

I would like to take a minute and explain the impacts of this levy should it pass or not pass, as well as give you an idea of where the District's revenue comes from.

IF THE LEVY DOES NOT PASS:

Should the levy not pass, the Fire District's revenue would decrease from the current level by approximately 8%. If the levy does not pass, in addition to the District being unable to implement the items listed in the next section, the following changes would likely occur:

1. There would be a reduction in staffing during certain hours when personnel are sick or on vacation (those shifts would go unfilled).
2. The District would not be able to fund the Equipment Replacement Plan as projected. There would be other reductions throughout the budget, such as a decrease in outside training, but a majority of the reductions would come from the two items above.

IF THE LEVY IS PASSED:

Should the levy pass, the Fire District would maintain the current taxing rate. If the levy passes, the funds would be used as set out below:

1. Addition of one Firefighter/Paramedic: The Fire District currently has 3 Firefighter/Paramedics on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as well as 2 day-time Firefighter/Paramedics. The Fire District's response goals (documented in the Standard of Cover) show the need for additional staffing due to an increase in call volume. With the addition of 1 Firefighter/Paramedic and moving the 2 day-time Firefighter/Paramedics to 24 hour schedules, the Fire District would have 4 Firefighter/Paramedics on duty 24/7 (providing 84 hours per week more coverage than currently available).
2. Addition of a part-time Fire Marshal: In 2012, the District laid off the full-time Fire Marshal. Since then the District has not been able to fulfill all the duties of that position.
3. Equipment Replacement Plan: A rate of \$.19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value would allow the District to meet the basic elements of the Equipment Replacement Plan through the life of the levy.



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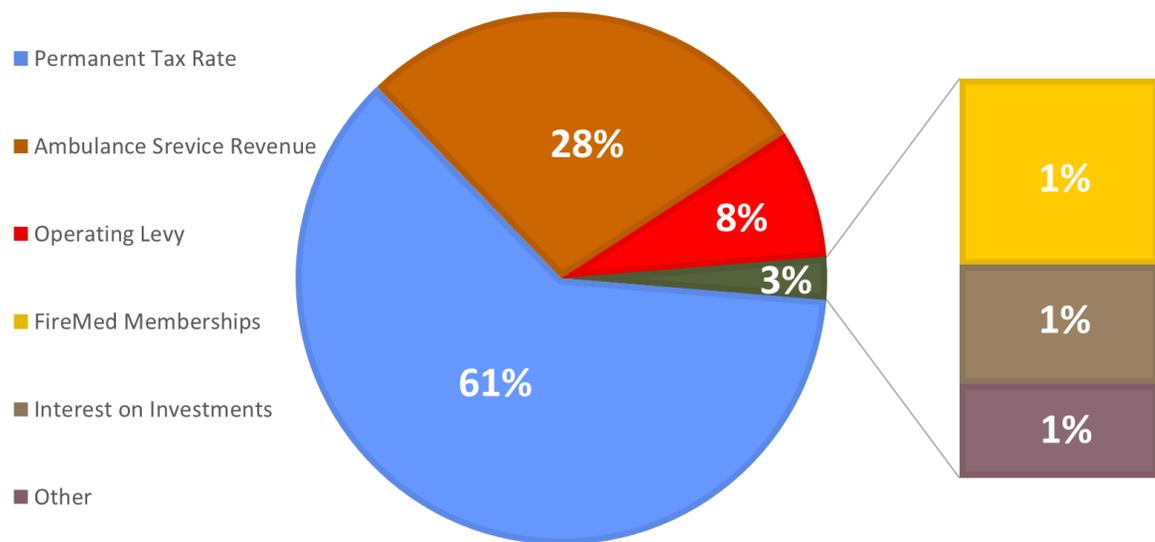
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WHERE THE FIRE DISTRICT'S REVENUE COMES FROM:

Below is a chart showing where the Fire District's revenue comes from. The majority is from the District's permanent tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The second source of revenue is from providing ambulance service. The Fire District considered other funding sources in lieu of referring a levy to the voters including seeking available grants and increasing ambulance service fees. The Fire District increased ambulance service fees January 1st of 2018. The Fire District's current operating levy of \$.19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value represents roughly 8% of the total budget.



In May, voters have the option to vote on the levy at the current rate of \$.19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If you have any questions regarding this topic, please feel free to give me a call at 503-838-1510, or stop by the Central Fire Station across from Winco in Independence. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ben Stange