

RESOLUTION NO. 3094

A RESOLUTION TO REFER A FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Findings

- A. The Bend Fire Department currently receives \$1.185 per \$1,000 from the City's permanent tax rate of \$2.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- B. Prior to 2014, staffing levels at the Department had been significantly below other Oregon cities and districts of comparable size, and response times did not meet national fire and emergency service standards.
- C. In 2014, voters approved Measure 9-98, a local option operating levy at a rate of \$.20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The funding allowed the Department to hire additional personnel, resulting in response times that improved by over a minute, and improved cardiac survival rates.
- D. The current levy expires in 2019. Renewing the levy would allow the Department to maintain the staffing levels and resources that have contributed to better response times and service, which have made positive impacts for residents and visitors to the area.
- E. The rate of \$.20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value is projected to raise approximately \$2,300,000 in fiscal year 2019-20, the first year of a renewed levy, and a total of approximately \$12,500,000 over five years.
- F. The Bend Fire Department Physician Advisors support this levy because timely fire and emergency medical services lead to better outcomes for service recipients.

Based on these findings,

THE CITY OF BEND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. An election is called in the City of Bend for the purpose of submitting to the legal voters of the City the following question:

Should Bend issue a local operating levy for fire and emergency services for five years beginning in 2019?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

Section 2. Tuesday, May 15, 2018, is designated as the date for holding the election on the question stated in Section 1.

- Section 3. The election will be conducted by the Deschutes County Elections Department.
- Section 4. The precincts for the election shall include all territory within the City of Bend.
- Section 5. The ballot title to appear on the ballot shall be:

CAPTION

Five-year operating levy for fire and emergency medical services.

QUESTION

Should Bend issue a local operating levy for fire and emergency services for five years beginning in 2019?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY

The measure, if approved, would authorize the City of Bend to levy taxes to support the annual cost of fire and emergency medical services provided to Bend residents. The measure would provide for a local option operating levy at a rate of \$.20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years, beginning July 1, 2019. Revenue from the levy would be used to maintain adequate staffing with the goal of assuring adequate response times.

The estimated revenue over five years is:

2019-2020: \$2,300,000
2020-2021: \$2,400,000
2021-2022: \$2,500,000
2022-2023: \$2,600,000
2023-2024: \$2,700,000

If the maximum levy is assessed, the estimated total revenue raised over five years would be approximately \$12,500,000.

The estimated revenue for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available at the time of estimate.

- Section 6. The Council adopts the Explanatory Statement for the Voters' Pamphlet attached as Exhibit A.

Section 7. The City Recorder and staff shall take all necessary steps to effectuate this resolution, including providing public notice and submitting required materials to the County Elections Officer. If the measure is approved, the City will act consistently with the ballot title and explanatory statement.

Section 8. This resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

Adopted by the Bend City Council on December 20, 2017.

YES: Casey Roats, Mayor
Sally Russell
Bill Moseley
Bruce Abernethy
Nathan Boddie
Justin Livingston
Barb Campbell

NO: NONE



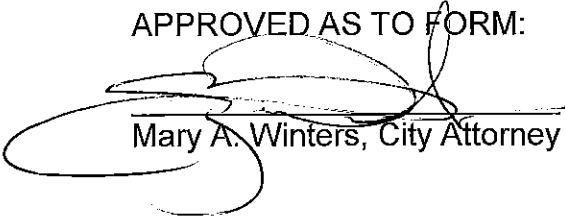
Casey Roats, Mayor

ATTEST:



Robyn Christie, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Mary A. Winters, City Attorney

Explanatory Statement
Exhibit A

The measure, if approved, would authorize the City of Bend to renew an operating levy for fire and emergency medical services at a rate of \$.20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for five years, beginning July 1, 2019. The rate is the same as the levy approved by voters in 2014. If approved, the levy would raise a projected \$2,300,000 in fiscal year 2019-20, and an estimated total of approximately \$12,500,000 over the five year period.

The Bend Fire Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical care and transport, rescue, and fire prevention services. The population of Bend and the demand on fire and emergency services continues to grow. Approval of the 2014 levy allowed the Department to improve response times to meet national standards for cities of comparable size. Revenue from a renewed levy would be used to maintain staffing in order to ensure adequate emergency response times. The funding could also support additional training and equipment necessary to maintain services.

If approved, the proposed levy would pay for the following:

- Maintaining staff to ensure sufficient personnel can provide timely services in emergencies.
- Supporting positions in training and fire prevention.
- Firefighter and emergency medical safety equipment
- Tools for firefighting and emergency medical response.
- Technology enhancements.