

BALLOT TITLE

Continuation of Five-Year Local Option Levy for General Operating Purposes

Explanatory Statement

The continuing mission of the Sauvie Island Volunteer Rural Fire Protection District 30J is to provide medical assistance, and fire protection service to the residents of Sauvie Island and to provide mutual aid assistance, per our contracts, with Scappoose Fire Department and the Portland Fire Bureau. This mission requires passage of a five-year Local Option Levy for general operating purposes.

Many factors contribute to the departments continued increase in cost of operations. Basic resources such as electricity, fuel, and natural gas prices have increased dramatically. OSHA has instituted institutional testing and physical wellness monitoring for all fire fighters, and the cost of these mandatory services rise each year. Maintenance of our hard goods, equipment and basic fire protection gear continue to be high cost items (with one set of turnouts for one firefighter costing from \$4000-\$5000). Additionally, equipment needs to be replaced as it becomes dramatically outdated, falls below Federal Standard or becomes unsafe.

The above reflect only a small selection of the costs and reasons for the Local Option Levy. Detailed explanations of any of the above costs and a review of the District's Budgets is available to residents of the district by mail, email or at public meetings and Department board meetings.

Without the passing of this levy the district faces the elimination of part of its services, or the ceasing of operations altogether.