

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE AND MEASURE ELECTION

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 08/02/2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure referred by Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on August, 2nd, 2023. The measure election will be conducted by mail and will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

The ballot title caption is: 5-Year Local Option Tax for Operations.

Caption

5-Year Local Option Tax for Operations

Question

Shall the District impose \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value for general operations beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary

If approved, Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District will use the proceeds to pay the cost of:

1. Continuing to provide emergency services at present levels due to a 161% increase in call volume over the last 2 years; and
2. Hiring up to 2 full time equivalent Firefighter/EMTs; and
3. Providing competitive salary and benefits for existing staff; and
4. Providing funds toward replacement of fire and EMS equipment, apparatus, and other tangible property in support of operations; and
5. Providing funds toward station maintenance.

This levy is the first levy the Fire District has requested since its formation. The average assessed home value in the Fire District is \$300,000. This would cause the average homeowner to pay approximately \$330 more a year towards their Emergency Services.

It is estimated that this tax will raise \$386,000 in 2024-2025, \$416,000 in 2025-2026, \$449,000 in 2026-2027, \$484,000 in 2027-2028, and \$522,000 in 2028-2029 for a total of \$2,257,000. 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 and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any elector may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. August 11th, 2023 (which is the 7th business day after receipt.) ORS 255.155. This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Debbie Klug, Columbia County Clerk.
