

## NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE AND MEASURE ELECTION

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/11/2026.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a ballot title for a measure referred by Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on February 11, 2026. The measure election will be conducted by mail and will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

The ballot title caption is: **Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Local Levy**

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### **CAPTION**

Five-year local option levy for fire operations

### **QUESTION**

Shall district levy \$2.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 5 years beginning 2026-2027 for staffing and equipment? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

### **SUMMARY**

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District (VRFPD) currently has a local option levy in place of \$1.24/\$1,000 of assessed value. VRFPD is seeking to replace the current levy with a new levy of \$2.02 /\$1,000 for an increase of \$0.78/\$1,000. If this levy is approved, the prior levy will be retired.

Revenue raised from the levy will be used to cover increased operating costs; such as to replace inoperable breathing apparatus refill station, transition part-time Fire Chief position back to full-time, add part-time Firefighter/EMT's to increase DAYTIME staffing to two Firefighter/EMT's when volunteers are typically unavailable, increase training budget, construct a small training structure on district property, and increase VRFPD's ability to save money for replacing vehicles and equipment at end of service life.

Estimate of tax INCREASE for a home assessed at \$200,000: \$156 per year or \$13 per month.

Average assessed valuation of homes within VRFPD is \$156,205.

Estimate of the tax to be raised:

\$714,024 in 2026-2027, \$735,445 in 2027-2028, \$757,508 in 2028-2029,  
\$780,233 in 2029-2030, \$803,640 in 2030-2031

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**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 close of business February 20<sup>th</sup> (which is the 7<sup>th</sup> business day after receipt.) The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 255.155). This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Debbie Klug, Columbia County Clerk.