



# voters' pamphlet

## November 7, 2023 Special Election

### Index to Voters' Pamphlet

This Voters' Pamphlet is provided to give voters additional information on this measure. Your ballot will contain only those issues for which you are eligible to vote, based on where you live. The text of the statements is printed as submitted.

#### Measure

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### Ballot Drop Site Locations

Open Friday, October 20: Available 7 days a week  
Election Day, Tuesday, November 7: Open until 8 pm

Bend	La Pine	Redmond (New Locations)	
<b>Deschutes Services Center</b> 1300 NW Wall St, Bend  <i>(Walk-up &amp; Drive-through exterior Drop Boxes located on west side of building)</i>	<b>La Pine Public Library</b> 16425 1st St, La Pine  <i>(Box located at 1st St &amp; Huntington Rd)</i>	<b>Parking Lot across from Centennial Park</b> (Temporarily moved from the Redmond Library) 716 SW Evergreen Ave, Redmond  <i>(Box located at north end of parking lot)</i>	<b>Deschutes County Expo Center (Fairgrounds)</b> 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond  <i>(Box located on roundabout in east end parking lot)</i>

-- OR --

**Mail** your voted ballot in your postage-paid return envelope by **8 pm, Tuesday, November 7, 2023**. Remember to sign your ballot envelope. Ballots that are mailed, postmarked by the United States Postal Service (USPS) by 8 pm on Election Day and received by the Clerk's office by November 14 will be accepted.

# Voting Information

## Registering to Vote

To be eligible to vote in the November 7, 2023 Special Election, a completed voter registration card must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

### To register to vote in Oregon, you must be:

1. A resident of Oregon.
2. A United States citizen.
3. At least 18 years old by Election Day.

### You must update your registration if:

1. Your residence or mailing address changes.
2. Your name changes.
3. You wish to change your party affiliation.

**Important Note:** If you have moved or changed your name and you have not yet updated your registration, you are still eligible to vote. Call the Deschutes County Elections Office at (541) 388-6547 for further information.

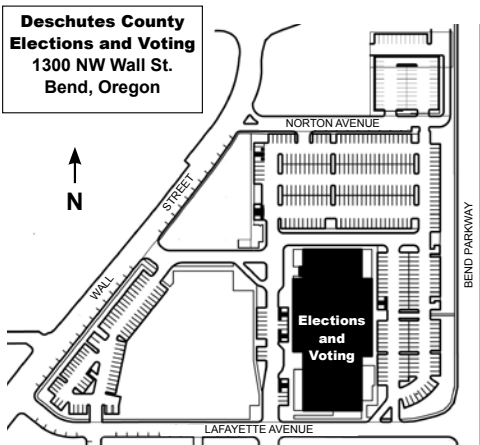
### Voters with disabilities:

If you need assistance with voting or casting your ballot, call the Deschutes County Elections Office at (541) 388-6547. We will provide two staff to assist you in voting. You may also authorize a friend, family member, or other trusted person, who are not affiliated with your employer or union, to assist you.

An audio edition of the Voters' Pamphlet is available. To order, please contact Independent Living Resources at (503) 232-7411 or TTY (503) 232-8408.

### Contact:

Deschutes County Elections  
(541) 388-6547 [Deschutescounty.gov/elections](https://deschutescounty.gov/elections)  
1 (866) ORE-VOTES (se habla Español)  
[www.oregonvotes.gov](https://www.oregonvotes.gov)  
TTY 1 (800) 735-2900



## Voting Instructions

Your Ballot Packet will contain the following items:

- Printed ballot
- Postage-paid return envelope to be signed
- Voters' Pamphlet

### Examine your official ballot and vote it:

Examine your official ballot and locate the candidate or measure response oval of your choice for each contest. To vote, you must blacken the oval (●) completely with a pen (black or blue ink) next to your choices. Do not use a felt tip pen.

### Review your ballot:

Ensure you correctly marked your choice for each contest. Your official ballot may contain contests printed on both sides of your ballot.

### Prepare to return your ballot:

Place your ballot in the postage-paid return envelope. Election staff will ensure the secrecy of your ballot. Read the voter's statement on the return envelope and sign in the signature box.

### Signing your ballot return envelope:

Your ballot will not be counted if the return envelope is not signed. Every signature is checked against the registration signature on file and the signature must match for the ballot to be counted.

### Return your ballot:

- **By mail:** Return your ballot in your signed and sealed ballot return envelope. A stamp is not required. Mail your voted ballot no later than Tuesday, November 7, 2023.
- **At any official drop site:** Deliver the signed and sealed ballot return envelope to an official drop site no later than 8 pm on Election Day. Postage is not required.

**Remember, review both sides of your ballot. Some ballots may have contests/measures on both sides.**

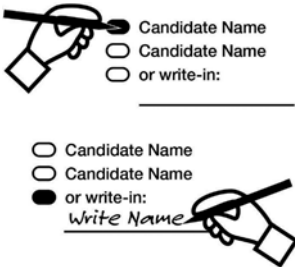
### Disclaimer:

Information provided in statements or arguments by a candidate, a political party, an assembly of electors, or a person supporting or opposing a measure have not been verified for accuracy by Deschutes County.

# How to Cast Your Vote

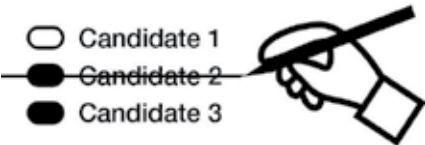
## 1 Complete your ballot

- To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice with a pen (black or blue ink). Do not use a felt tip pen.
- To vote for a person not on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the “write-in” line, then neatly write the name of the person on the line provided. Do not write a candidate’s name that already appears on the ballot.
- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.



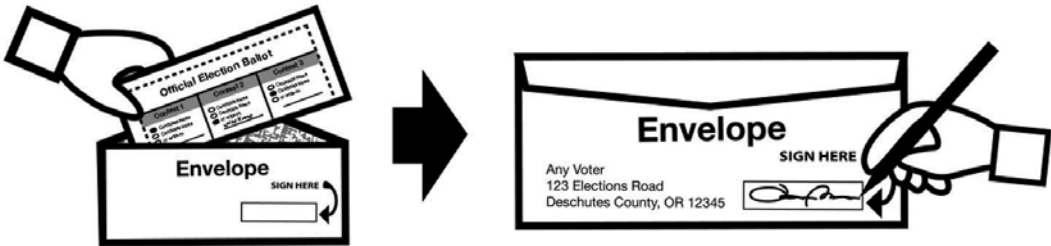
## 2 Check for errors

- If you vote for more options than are allowed, your vote **will not count** for that contest.
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may make your changes on the ballot. Draw a line through the entire candidate name or measure response. You then have the option of making another choice.
- Contact Deschutes County Elections Office at (541) 388-6547 to request a replacement ballot if:
  - you make a mistake that you cannot correct
  - your ballot is damaged or spoiled
  - your ballot is lost



## 3 Insert ballot & sign your return envelope

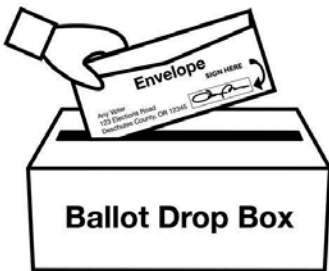
- Insert only your voted ballot (not another person’s ballot) inside your ballot return envelope. *(If we receive an envelope with more than one ballot inside, all enclosed ballots will be rejected and not counted).*
- You must sign your ballot return envelope or **your vote will not count.**



- The signature on each voter’s ballot return envelope is verified against the voter’s signature on file. The signatures must match before a ballot can be counted. If your signature has changed, please update your voter registration.

## 4 Return your ballot

- By mail:** Return your ballot in your signed and sealed ballot return envelope. Postage is not required. Mail your voted ballot no later than Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Ballots that are mailed, postmarked by the United States Postal Service (USPS) by 8 pm Election Day and received by the Clerk’s office by November 14, will be accepted.
- At any official drop site:** Deliver the signed and sealed ballot return envelope to an official drop site no later than 8 pm on Election Day. Postage is not required.

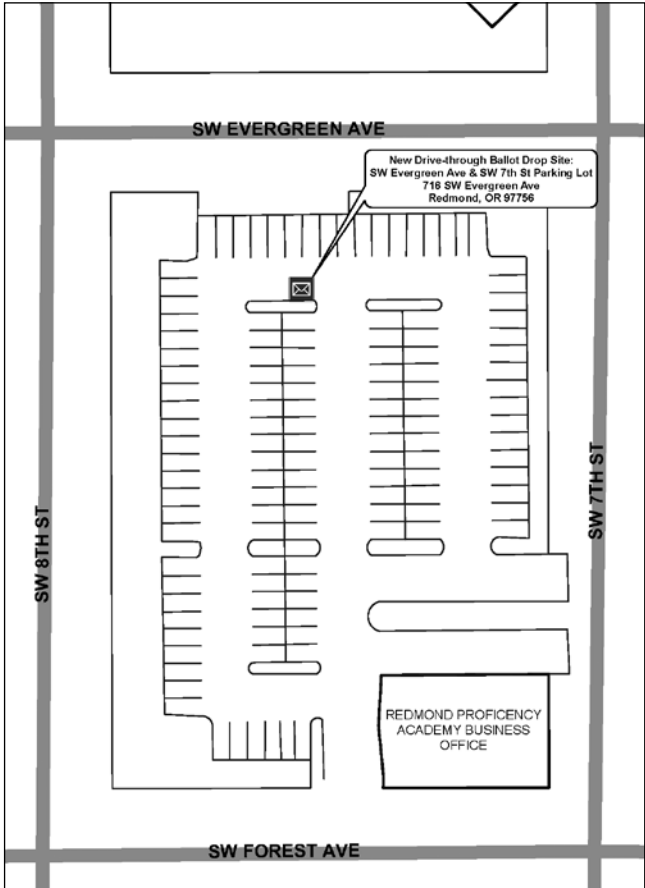


# Directions to Your Newest Ballot Drop Sites

*Watch for signs and banners to direct you to these drop sites.*

## Redmond Library Ballot Drop Box Has Temporarily Moved to the Parking Lot at SW Evergreen Ave & SW 7th St, Redmond

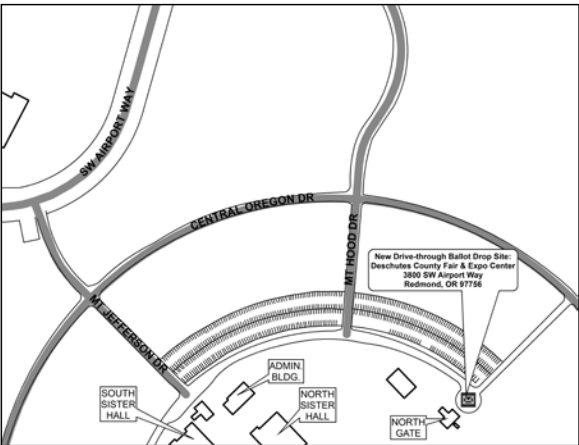
The Redmond Library is under construction until the expected completion date of June 2024. Signage will be posted directing voters to enter the parking lot via SW 7th St and exit on SW Forest Ave.



## Deschutes County Expo Center (Fairgrounds)

### 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond

Drive-through box is located on the round-about in the east end parking lot.



### .... Reminders ....

#### Your Ballot Packet

Your ballot packet will contain a ballot, a postage-paid return envelope, and a Voters' Pamphlet.

#### Signing Your Ballot Return Envelope

Remember to sign your ballot return envelope.

The signature on each voter's ballot return envelope is verified against the voter's signature on file. The signature must match before a ballot can be counted. If your signature has changed, please update your voter registration.

#### Returning Your Ballot

No stamp required.

Mail by Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

# Translation Information

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Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, French, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访问 **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)** 获取译本。

Des sections sélectionnées des brochures de l'électeur de ce comté sont disponibles en français. Ces traductions peuvent être consultées en ligne à l'adresse suivante : **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)** 에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

Ang mga piling bahagi ng mga pamphlet na ito para sa mga botante ng county ay mababasa sa Tagalog. Makikita online ang mga pagsasaling-wikang ito sa **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

Các phần được chọn trong tập thông tin cho cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại **[oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP](https://oregonvotes.gov/DeschutesVP)**

# Measure 9-162 Redmond Fire & Rescue

## Ballot Title

# 9-162

### Local Option Levy to Maintain Fire and Emergency Medical Services

**QUESTION:** Shall the District levy \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value to maintain general operations for five years, beginning 2024-2025?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than three percent.

**SUMMARY:** The measure, if approved, would authorize Redmond Fire & Rescue ("the District") to levy taxes to support the annual cost of fire and emergency medical service. The measure would provide for a local option levy at a rate of \$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value for five years, beginning July 1, 2024. For a home having an assessed value of \$200,000, the estimated annual cost would be \$150.00 per year or about \$12.50 per month. Funds would be used to:

- Maintain and support paramedic-level response to all life-threatening medical emergencies.
- Support increasing demand for response to wildland and structural fires.
- Help the District keep pace with recent increases in call volume.

Total ESTIMATED revenue for each year of the levy:

\$3,604,000 in 2024-2025

\$3,712,000 in 2025-2026

\$3,823,500 in 2026-2027

\$3,938,500 in 2027-2028

\$4,056,500 in 2028-2029

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY, based on the best information available from the county assessors at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

Funds would be used to maintain the District's current level of response to fire and medical emergencies, as well as ambulance transport. Population growth and aging have contributed to a 68% increase in emergency calls in the last 10 years. Passage would help ensure continued response to each emergency by a minimum of two, fully-trained firefighters or medics at all hours of the day and night.

If approved, the levy would:

- Help ensure paramedic-level response to all life-threatening medical emergencies. (Paramedics with Advanced Life Support skills are able to provide procedures on scene that were once only available in emergency-rooms.)
- Support continued response to all medical calls by a team of at least two medics. (Medical emergencies make up approximately 85% of the calls Redmond Fire & Rescue responds to.)
- Support increasing demand for response to wildland and structural fires.
- Help the District keep pace with recent increases in call volume.

### What is the cost to property taxpayers?

The levy would be at a fixed rate of \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value (assessed value is different than market value). The cost of the levy for property assessed at \$200,000, for residential property in the District, would be \$150.00 a year, or about \$12.50 per month.

### What if the levy is not approved?

If the five-year levy is not approved, the additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions will not be filled and response times will continue to increase. As the Fire District's population continues to grow, Redmond Fire & Rescue will not be able to keep up with the demand for emergency services and will need to seek additional funding measures or change the way services are delivered.

### Need more information?

Visit the District's website at <http://www.rdmfire.org>.

*(This information furnished by Pat Dale, Fire Chief, Redmond Fire & Rescue.)*

## Explanatory Statement

### What services does Redmond Fire & Rescue provide?

Redmond Fire & Rescue (the District) is the first responder for fire and medical emergencies in its service area providing fire prevention, public education, aircraft rescue firefighting, and basic rope, water and ice rescue as well as Basic and Advanced Life Support ambulance transport for patients. It is staffed by 58 career firefighter/paramedics, paramedics and EMTs.

### Who does the District serve?

Redmond Fire & Rescue provides emergency response services to residents of a 294 square mile area including Redmond, Terrebonne, Eagle Crest and surrounding areas as well as the Redmond Airport. The District responded to approximately 7,100 calls in 2022 for the District's approximately 47,500 full-time residents and the many part-time residents.

### How is the District funded?

The District is funded primarily through a property tax base, including an existing local operating levy of \$0.27 per 1,000 of assessed value that will expire in 2024-2025. In addition, it receives revenue from ambulance billings and a contract to provide services to the Redmond Airport. If approved, the five-year local option levy would supplement the tax base.

### How would levy funds be used?



# Measure 9-162 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

Citizens of Redmond Fire District:

I am writing this letter to offer my endorsement and full support for the upcoming Redmond Fire & Rescue Local Option Levy that will be presented to our community on November 7, 2023. As the Sheriff of Deschutes County, I have had the privilege of working closely with our local fire district and witnessing their professionalism and unwavering dedication to protecting our community.

The Redmond Fire & Rescue Local Option Levy is a crucial initiative that will play a significant role in ensuring the continued effectiveness and efficiency of our fire district's operations. The funding generated through this levy will directly contribute to enhancing emergency response capabilities, hiring additional firefighter paramedics, and improving retention programs for our current fire personnel.

Our local fire district has consistently demonstrated its commitment to public safety through their quick response times, impeccable professionalism, and dedication to mitigating emergencies. This levy will empower them to maintain these high standards and further improve their ability to keep our community safe.

I firmly believe that public safety is a collaborative effort that involves various agencies working together to protect our community. By endorsing the Redmond Fire & Rescue Local Option Levy, I am demonstrating my strong support for our fire district and their mission. I urge our community members to join me in voting in favor of this levy to ensure that our fire district has the resources needed to fulfill their vital role effectively. Together, we can make a difference in the safety and well-being of our community.

Respectfully,

Sheriff L. Shane Nelson  
Deschutes County Sheriff's Office

*(This information furnished by Sheriff L. Shane Nelson, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.)*

## Argument in Favor

A core component while serving as Redmond Mayor for 8 years was ensuring the community had a well functioning fire department. In a similar manner that oversight continued on a broader scope during my tenure as County Commissioner. In both capacities it was my responsibility to oversee those functions within the bounds of our available budget while balancing minimization of undue cost to the taxpayer.

Redmond Fire & Rescue has seen a 68% increase in demand over the past 10 years, with a respective 26% increase in population. Our community demands more of our fire service now, then it has in the past.

RF&R serves the regions of Redmond, Cline Falls, Eagle Crest, Terrebonne, along with unincorporated areas of Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties. RF&R covers 133 square miles of fire suppression and 294 square miles of ambulance service coverage for 47,500 residents through 7,126 emergency calls. The nature of fire and emergency services means a call can come out of any of those regions at any time. Therefore, their personnel, apparatus, and equipment must be distributed to minimize response time. Response times are a standard measurement of fire and emergency services effectiveness. Proper funding is crucial to get to those in need quickly with the appropriate amount of adequately equipped and trained personnel.

Due to the increases in demand along with the corresponding increases in costs of operations I'm endorsing a 'Yes' vote for Measure 9-162 to increase Redmond Fire & Rescue funding.

Alan G Unger, Former City of Redmond Mayor/Formal Deschutes County Commissioner

*(This information furnished by Alan G. Unger.)*

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# Measure 9-162 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

Please join me in supporting Redmond Fire & Rescue Measure 9-162, for one very important reason, SAFETY.

SAFETY for you and your family, and SAFETY for our District Firefighter/ Paramedics, who protect us everyday. The Redmond Fire & Rescue District (the District) needs this important operating levy to help support and acquire critically needed resources to help suppress structural and wildland fires, and provide emergency medical services in a timely manner to all of us in this beautiful Central Oregon community we live in.

The demand for emergency services is growing in our community. The District reported approximately 7,100 calls in 2022, many requiring multiple apparatus and crews dispatched on single calls. The District has experienced a 68% increase in call volume and approximately a 26% increase in population over the past 10 years. (*RF&R Board Meeting Agenda, July 19, 2023*)

To keep up with the increased demand for services, our District is proposing to replace the current local option levy. Funding from this proposed local operating levy will be used to hire additional Firefighter/Paramedics which will allow for faster, more effective, and efficient emergency response for the safety of you and your family and our Firefighters/Paramedics.

We all respect and are proud of the services provided by our Firefighter/Paramedics, who serve and protect the growing demands of our citizens' everyday with professionalism and care. The District wants to be able to be there in a timely manner, on what could be the worst day of our lives.

Please join me in supporting Measure 9-162, which will make available critically needed additional funding that will help in providing timely and effective life-saving assistance for us all.

Respectfully,  
John Blanton, Board Member, Redmond Fire & Rescue

*(This information furnished by John Blanton, Board Member, Redmond Fire & Rescue.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Vote YES on Measure 9-162

It has been my privilege to serve with Redmond Fire & Rescue since 2000 in a variety of capacities, most recently as a Board Director.

I am asking for your support to vote **YES** for the Redmond Fire & Rescue Local Option Levy.

The Local Option Levy is an essential investment in the future of our fire district.

### The funds will be used to hire additional firefighter/paramedics.

As you know, our city is growing. As cities grow, it is common for emergency calls to grow even faster. This levy is important to maintain our excellent customer service to you.

More firefighter/paramedics will help us serve you in the following ways:

1. Enhance response reliability and improve emergency response times.
2. Reduce the need to choose between a fire engine and medic unit; allowing responders to staff two emergency vehicles at once.
3. Improve firefighter safety at hazardous incidents.

Our community's safety is of paramount importance, and this levy represents a significant step toward ensuring that our fire district remains well-equipped and prepared to handle any emergency situation.

I encourage all residents to join me in supporting this levy to provide our fire district with the resources we need to continue our exceptional service.

Vote **YES** for Redmond Fire & Rescue Local Option Levy!

Please visit the website for more information:  
[www.rdmfire.org/242/Local-Option-Levy](http://www.rdmfire.org/242/Local-Option-Levy)

Jessica Meyer, Board Member, Redmond Fire & Rescue

*(This information furnished by Jessica Meyer, Board Member, Redmond Fire & Rescue.)*

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# Measure 9-162 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

Having served with Redmond Fire & Rescue for 29 years, I have seen the increase in demand and the requisite need for an increase in emergency response funding for our local community.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) creates national codes and standards to be modeled throughout the fire service. NFPA 1710 recommends a fire engine be staffed with four firefighters. Redmond Fire currently staffs its engines with only 2-3 firefighters. This is due to budgetary constraints. This requires crews to cross staff multiple different pieces of apparatus. As a continuous staffing model, this is seen as an unsafe practice in the fire industry. Structure and wildland fire, vehicle extrication, technical rescue, and cardiac arrests are just a few of the call types that demand a personnel heavy response. RF&R indisputably needs additional funding to increase its staffing model to three firefighters dedicated on each engine, moving us closer to meeting national standards, keeping our communities safer during these events. Additionally, this funding will permit *Cline Falls and Terrebonne Fire Stations* to be independently staffed with a dedicated engine company, allowing RF&R to respond to multiple calls, or with multiple units concurrently.

A 68% increase in call volume with a 26% increase in population in 10 years is a clear and simple way to understand that the demand on the fire service has increased per capita, and only an increase in funding will allow Redmond Fire to keep up. Please help them continue to help us by voting yes on Measure 9-162.

Jon Wood, Redmond Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief – Retired

*(This information furnished by Jon Wood.)*

## Argument in Favor

Redmond Fire and Rescue have not sought a new operating levy in quite some time. Since then, of course, things for the district have changed quite dramatically. Over the past 10 years, the fire district has experienced a 26% increase in population, and 68% increase in emergency call volume. The Fire District now serves about 47,500 residents, and emergency calls for service in 2022 were 7,126.

What will a new operating levy do for the District? The funding will be used to hire additional firefighter/paramedics, and enhance recruitment programs and retention of current firefighter/paramedics. This is vitally important because the additional staffing will:

- Enhance response reliability and improve emergency response times.
- Reduce the need to choose between a fire engine and medic unit; allowing responders to staff two emergency vehicles at once.
- Improve firefighter safety at hazardous incidents.

I encourage the District voters to support this ballot measure. We need our community to be as safe as it possibly can, and one way to achieve this to ensure we have adequate and proper fire and rescue capabilities in place.

George Endicott  
Former Redmond Mayor

*(This information furnished by George Endicott, Former Redmond Mayor.)*

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# Measure 9-162 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

This November the voters within the Redmond Fire and Rescue District will be asked to approve a new operating levy. The levy will give our firefighters and first responders the personnel and resources to meet the growing demand for fire protection and emergency services within our district. This new levy will replace the existing operating levy and ensure those in need be able to get help in a timely manner.

Our Fire and Rescue District provides protection for fires and emergency services in Redmond, Cline Falls, Eagle Crest, Terrebonne and other unincorporated areas into Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties. The District serves approximately 47,000 residents and in 2022 responded to 7126 emergency calls.

Over the past 10 years the District has experienced a 26% increase in the number of residents within the district. Our fire stations have also seen a 68% increase in call volumes. The current levy was approved by the voters in 2020 and is scheduled to expire in 2025.

As members of the Redmond City Council, we support the levy being placed before the voters this November. There is no question this vital service must be provided at a level commensurate with our growing population and our increasing need for emergency services.

Please join us in voting YES for the Redmond Fire and Rescue District levy.

Thank you.

Ed Fitch, Mayor  
Cat Zwicker, Council President  
Shannon Wedding, City Councilor  
Clifford Evelyn, City Councilor  
John Nielsen, City Councilor  
Kathryn Osborne, City Councilor  
Tobias Colvin, City Councilor

*(This information furnished by Ed Fitch, City of Redmond.)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Deschutes, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.*

# Measure 9-163

## Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District

### Ballot Title

# 9-163

### Five Year Local Option Tax for General Operations

**QUESTION:** Shall Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District impose \$6,000 each year for five years for general operations beginning 2023/2024? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**SUMMARY:** The taxes needed for five years total \$30,000, which will be imposed in equal amounts of \$6,000 each year. The tax revenue from this measure will provide revenues sufficient for the Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District to operate at its current level of service for residents within the boundary of the Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District including:

Road Grading, Surfacing with Rock, Dust Control, Snow Plowing, Safety and Traffic Control Signs, District Insurance, Operating Expenses of the District

When the District was formed, the Board, with advice from Deschutes County, determined the tax rate to be \$1.0469 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This estimate included property along Rim Rd that is NOT part of the District. After removing the Rim Rd properties from the District, the District's remaining property value resulted in less tax revenue for the district.

This new rate would REPLACE the expired levy rate. It is NOT in addition to the rate assessed for the expired levy.

### Explanatory Statement

When the Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District was formed, the Board, with advice from Deschutes County, determined the rate needed for the road district's goals to be \$1.0469 per \$1000 of assessed value. This rate of \$1.0469 per \$1000 of assessed value is the permanent rate and can only be changed through approval by a vote of the people of the State of Oregon in a statewide election.

The base map boundary establishing the district was drawn wrong and included property along Rim Rd. that is NOT part of the road district. After removing the Rim Rd. properties from the Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District, Deschutes County reassessed the road district's property values. This reassessment resulted in less tax revenue for the district.

Road District expenditures are anticipated to exceed tax revenues in the near future, due to increased costs for snow plowing, grading, rock surfacing, district insurance and dust control. The proposed five-year local option tax will provide revenues more sufficient to meet road improvement, snow removal, dust control and safety issues for the near future.

This new rate would REPLACE the EXPIRED levy rate. It is NOT in addition to the rate assessed for the EXPIRED levy.

*(This information furnished by Debra L Grinols, Ponderosa Pines East Special Road District.)*

# Measure 16-107 Crooked River Ranch RFPD

## Ballot Title

# 16-107

## Five-Year Local Option Levy for Fire & Emergency Operations

**QUESTION:** Shall District impose \$1.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value for emergency services operations for five years beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**SUMMARY:** This measure, if approved, authorizes Crooked River Ranch Rural Fire Protection District to levy taxes to support the annual cost of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services operations. The measure provides for a local option levy at a rate of \$1.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years, beginning July 1, 2024. This measure replaces the current levy that expires June 30, 2024. For a home having an assessed value of \$200,000, the estimated cost would be \$234 per year or \$19.50 per month.

The District is facing escalating costs caused by increasing emergency call volume and rising costs to provide emergency services. Funds from this levy would be used to sustain operations, including: 1) maintain increased staffing to meet the increasing call volume; 2) support increasing costs for providing fire, rescue, and medical responses; 3) assist in saving for capital equipment replacement.

The proposed levy rate would raise approximately \$492,649 in 2024-2025, \$514,819 in 2025-2026, \$537,986 in 2026-2027, \$562,195 in 2027-2028, and \$587,494 in 2028-2029, for a total of \$2,695,143.

If approved, the levy would:

- Allow the District to maintain two grant funded firefighter/paramedics and add a third firefighter/paramedic, bringing each of the three shifts to two career firefighter/paramedics. These additional firefighter/paramedics will ensure the District has the flexibility to respond to the increasing number of emergency medical service calls and meet national standards on minimum staffing for structure fires.
- Support the increasing demand for response to wildland and structure fires.
- Help the District cover the increasing costs of providing emergency services.
- Help the District save for future capital equipment replacement costs.

What is the cost to property taxpayers?

The new levy would be at a fixed rate of \$1.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value (assessed value is different than market value). This new levy rate is a \$0.28 increase over the expiring levy. For a property with an assessed value of \$200,000 the cost increase over the expiring levy is \$56.00 per year or about \$4.66 per month. The total cost of the new levy for property assessed at \$200,000 would be \$234.00 a year or \$19.50 per month.

What if the levy is not approved?

If the five-year levy is not approved, the additional firefighter/paramedics would not be able to be maintained and response times would increase to certain emergencies. As the District's population continues to grow, Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue will not be able to keep up with the demand for emergency services and will need to see additional funding measures or change the way services are delivered.

Need more information?

Visit the District's website at <http://www.crrfire.org>.

## Explanatory Statement

What services does Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue provide?

Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue (the District) provides emergency response in its service area providing fire suppression, fire prevention, technical rope rescue, and basic and advanced life support ambulance service. It is staffed by six career and twenty-one volunteers that are firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs.

Who does the District Serve?

Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue provides emergency response services to the approximately 5,500 residents and many visitors of the 16.4 square mile Crooked River Ranch community. The District responded to over 600 calls in 2022.

How is the District Funded

The District is funded primarily by property taxes, including an existing local option levy of \$0.89 per \$1,000 of assessed value that will expire June 30, 2024. In addition, it receives revenue from ambulance billing. If approved, the new five-year levy would supplement the permanent tax base.

How would levy funds be used?

Funds would be used to maintain the District's current level of response to fire and medical emergencies, including those requiring ambulance transport. Population growth and an aging population have contributed to a 36% increase in total call volume over the last 10 years and a 66% increase in emergency medical calls over the last 10 years. Passage would help ensure continued response to each emergency with fully trained firefighter/paramedics at all hours of the day and night.

*(This information furnished by Sean Hartley, Fire Chief, Crooked River Ranch RFPD.)*

# Know Your Rights You have the right to **vote!**

If you are a US citizen, live in Oregon, are 18 years old, and have registered to vote.

- **You have the right** to vote even if you are houseless.
- **You have the right** to vote if you have been convicted of a felony but have been released from custody, even if you are on probation or parole.
- **You have the right** to vote even if you have a guardian and even if you need help reading or filling out your ballot.
- **You have the right** to vote or cast your ballot if you are in line by 8 pm on Election Day.
- **You have the right** to know if you are registered to vote.
- **You have the right** to choose whether or not you want to register as a member of a political party.
- **You have the right** to use a signature stamp or other mark but first you have to fill out a form. No one can sign for you.
- **You have the right** to ask for help from elections staff or from a friend or family member. There are some people who cannot help you vote, for example, your boss or a union officer from your job.
- **You have the right** to a secret vote. You do not have to tell anyone how you voted.
- **You have the right** to get a "provisional ballot," even if you are told you are not registered to vote.
- **You have the right** to get a new ballot if you make a mistake.
- **You have the right** to vote for the person you want. You can write in someone else's name if you don't like the choices on your ballot.
- **You have the right** to vote "yes" or "no" on any issue on your ballot.
- **You have the right** to leave some choices blank on your ballot. The choices you do mark will still count.
- **You have the right** to use a voting system for all Federal Elections that makes it equally possible for people with disabilities to vote privately and independently.
- **You have the right** to know if your ballot, including a "provisional ballot," was accepted for counting.
- **You have the right** to file a complaint if you think your voting rights have been denied.

for more information



**1 866 673 8683**

*se habla español*

**TTY 1 800 735 2900**

*for the hearing impaired*

(Oregon Constitution, Sections 2 and 3; ORS Chapters 137, 246, 247, and 254; Vote By Mail Manual; Help America Vote Act of 2002; OAR 165-001-0090 and 165-007-0030)

# The Elections Process in Deschutes County



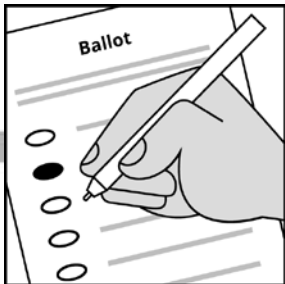
**Step 1.**  
**Voter Registration**

To register to vote, you are required to provide valid identification proving that you are eligible to vote. After reviewing and verifying your information, we enter it into our voter registration database.  
ORS 247.012



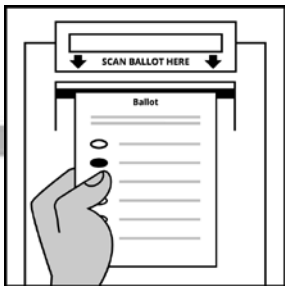
**Step 2.**  
**Election Equipment Testing**

We use election equipment that is certified according to State and Federal standards. We test our election equipment before, during, and after each election.  
ORS 254.235



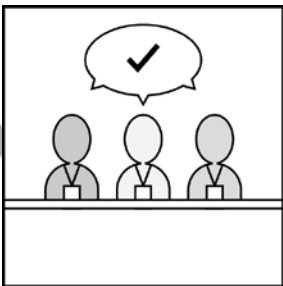
**Step 3.**  
**Ballots Are Mailed**

All registered voters are mailed a ballot packet containing their ballot and a postage-paid return envelope that has a printed security weave on the inside that protects your privacy and the secrecy of your vote. We provide registered Uniformed and Overseas Civilian voters access to their ballots via mail or online portal.  
ORS 253.065, 253.545, 254.470

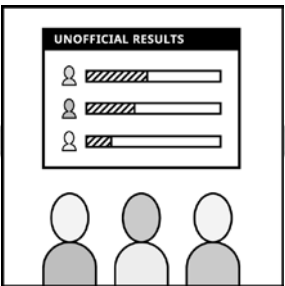


**Step 7.**  
**Ballot Scanning & Tabulation**

After ballots are removed from their envelopes, we scan the ballots and count all the valid votes to determine the results of each contest in the election. Our federally and state certified voting system is secure and never connected to the internet.  
ORS 254.485, 254.500



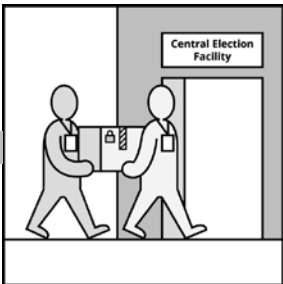
**Step 8.**  
**Ballot Adjudication**  
Teams of two staff, each of different political parties, review if ballots are damaged, have stray marks, or have corrections, undervotes, overvotes, and blank contests to verify voter intent and ensure accurate tabulation. All ballots are stored in a secure location under 24/7 surveillance.  
ORS 254.476, 254.482, 254.483



**Step 9.**  
**Unofficial Results**  
We begin publishing unofficial results after 8pm on Election Day. Results are unofficial until after all ballot return deadlines have passed and after we have counted every valid ballot we received.  
ORS 254.545  
**Find unofficial results on**  
[deschutescounty.gov/electionresults](https://deschutescounty.gov/electionresults)



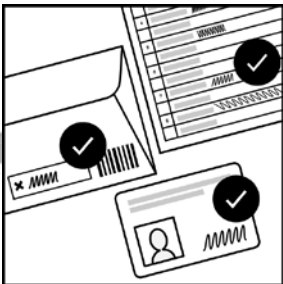
# The Elections Process in Deschutes County



## Step 4. Ballot Collection

In Deschutes County, voters can return their voted ballot by mail or at one of our ten Official Ballot Drop Site locations, conveniently located throughout the county. Drop Site ballots are collected, and mailed ballots are received at our Clerk's Office located in the Deschutes Services Building for ballot tabulation.

ORS 254.4



## Step 5. Verify Voter Eligibility

Upon receipt of your ballot, it is sent through our ballot envelope sorting machine, which scans an image of your signature while sorting your ballot by voting precinct. Trained elections staff verify your envelope signature by comparing it to your signature on file in the voter registration database.

ORS 247.012, 247.019, 247.025, & 254.470



## Step 6. Processing Ballots

If your signatures match, your ballot envelope moves on to be opened. If they don't match, we contact you by mail to resolve the issue so we can count your ballot. If a ballot is damaged or contains machine-unreadable marks, we flag it for manual review. Our goal is to count all eligible ballots as voters intend.

ORS 254.478



## Step 10. Certification of Official Results

After the Board of Canvassers reviews and verifies the outcome of the election, official election results are certified by the county.

ORS 254.545(3)

**Certified election results are published 27 days after Election Day on**

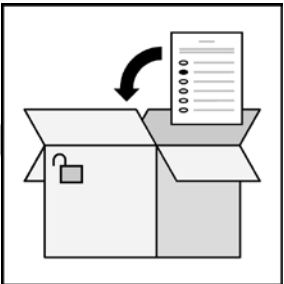
[deschutescounty.gov/electionresults](https://deschutescounty.gov/electionresults)



## Step 11. Audit

Audits are a normal check and balance that are part of every election. We use audits to confirm that election equipment accurately interpreted and tallied voters' ballots, that the outcome of the election reflects how voters voted, and that election workers followed procedures.

ORS 254.529



## Step 12. Ballot Storage

We securely store all paper ballots and other records as part of the official record for two years. After two years, the ballots are destroyed.

OAR 166-150-0035(14)(a)

# Deschutes County Elections: 2024 “I Voted” Sticker Contest

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Deschutes County Clerk's Office invites local students to enter the **Deschutes County “I Voted” Sticker Contest**. K-12 students are encouraged to design an “I Voted” sticker that will be used during the 2024 Presidential Primary and General elections, and featured in each election’s Voters’ Pamphlet.

Elementary school (K-5) sticker design submissions will be accepted through the end of the year, with the winner announced in February 2024. Middle-high school (6-12) sticker design submissions will be accepted through the end of June 2024, with the winner announced in August 2024. Winning artwork will be used in Deschutes County Elections materials, promotions and outreach and exhibited throughout the Deschutes County Services Building in downtown Bend.

## Contest Details

The “I Voted” Sticker Contest Entry Form and the Design Template are available at the Clerk’s Office and for download on the Deschutes County Elections website:

[www.deschutescounty.gov/artcontest](http://www.deschutescounty.gov/artcontest).

Elementary school (K-5) students should mail or deliver their entries by December 31, 2023.

Middle-high school (6-12) students should mail or deliver their entries by June 30, 2024:

**In-Person:** Deschutes County Clerk's Office, 1300 NW Wall Street, Ste 202, Bend

**By Mail:** Deschutes County Clerk's Office, “I Voted” Sticker Contest, PO Box 6005, Bend, Oregon 97708

**Email:** [artcontest@deschutescounty.gov](mailto:artcontest@deschutescounty.gov)

## “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest Rules

- Circular “I Voted” sticker design (will be resized to fit a two inch (2”) diameter sticker)
- Hand rendered and digital designs accepted
  - Digital submissions should have a minimum resolution of 300 ppi
  - Hand rendered submissions should be drawn on white paper
- Designs should be nonpartisan and should not reference any political group
- Designs must include red, white, and blue colors at a minimum
- Designs must be original work and cannot use or reuse any imagery that is not theirs (no clip art or copyrighted imagery)