



Marion County Voters' Pamphlet Explanatory Statement (MCVP-05)

MAR 12 2026



Elections Division

Important! Read all instructions before completing this form.

Use this form when filing a Marion County Voters' Pamphlet Explanatory Statement with the Marion County Clerk's office. Please note that some counties choose not to produce a Voters' Pamphlet. If the jurisdiction or district is located in more than one county, a separate form (prescribed by that county) must be filed and the filing fee paid in each county where the Candidate Statement is to be printed. Explanatory Statement text may be attached separately to a signed copy of this form.

Filing Information:

Measure No. _____ Election Date: 5-19-2026

Explanatory Statement:

Stayton Fire District responds to over 1,290 calls annually (averaging over 3 calls a day) providing structural and wildfire firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, motor vehicle accidents, and emergency medical response services for the communities of Elkhorn, Marion, Mehama, Mt. Pleasant, City of Stayton and 13 miles of Hwy 22; totaling 107 square miles in Marion and Linn counties combined.

How would the money be used?

If approved, this would provide enough revenue to continue the funding for nine full-time firefighter positions, 3 positions per 24-hour shift that has reduced response times 24/7, saving lives and property. The levy would pay for rising cost of salaries, health, and retirement benefits. No new positions or benefits would be added.

Why is there a need?

The fire district is experiencing an increase in calls for service and a decline in volunteers. The importance of a timely response to fires and medicals can make a difference. Volunteers respond from their homes which takes on average 7 minutes to get to the station before responding on an emergency vehicle. With staff at the fire station that response time is greatly reduced for emergency personnel to arrive at a call. There are times we have limited or no response during the weeknights and weekends from our volunteers. Our volunteers will continue to respond to provide additional resources.

The district is not part of, nor does it receive funding from any city, county, or state government. It is a separate taxing "Special District" with its own governing body.

The district is funded through a permanent property tax base rate of \$1.31 per thousand assessed value that was created in 1997 by the state. The tax revenue has not kept up with cost increases or the demand for services due to 3% cap.

What is the cost to property taxpayers?

If approved, the operation levy would be \$1.06/1,000 of taxable assessed value for five years commencing fiscal year 2027-28. The District's current operating levy is \$0.88/1,000, which is set to expire in fiscal year 2026-27. For a home having an assessed value of \$200,000, it is estimated that the average annual cost to the property owner is \$212 per year or \$18 per month. The tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on information available from the County and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and collection rates.

What if the Levy is not approved?

With the increase in calls for service and limited number of volunteers, our ability to provide reliable, effective, and efficient service will not be able to meet the increasing emergency service demand and reduced response times for our citizens. We will continue efforts to recruit additional volunteers in a time when volunteering is on the decline.

Total Words: 459 (Important: Statement may NOT exceed 500 words)

Authorized Signature: Signature Redacted Title: Fire Chief

Printed Name: Jay Alley

Government Unit: Stayton Fire District

Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess
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