

## RESOLUTION NO. 2935

### A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON A FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

#### Findings

- A. The Bend Fire Department currently receives \$1.185 per \$1,000 from the city's permanent tax rate of \$2.80 per \$1,000 in tax assessed value.
- B. Staffing levels at the Bend Fire Department are significantly below other Oregon cities and districts of comparable size.
- C. Population growth has outpaced the Fire Department's ability to maintain response times that meet national fire and emergency medical service standards, and adequate core services are essential to Bend's quality of life. Today, the department has fewer personnel than six years ago.
- D. The Jail Bond and Bend Library Bond will be expiring during this time that will significantly offset the cost to taxpayers.
- E. 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value is projected to raise about \$1,800,000 in the first year of the levy and a total of \$10,000,000 over 5 years.
- F. The funding would allow the department to increase staffing in order to improve response times to be closer to national fire and emergency medical service standards. The increased funding could also pay for additional needed training and equipment.
- G. Local physicians support this levy because fire and emergency medical services will reach residents more quickly, and research shows this can save lives.
- H. Efficient and wise use of tax dollars has allowed the department to avoid asking for a tax increase throughout its history.

Based on these findings,

#### THE CITY OF BEND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. An election is called in the City of Bend for the purpose of submitting to the legal voters of the City the following question:

Shall Bend issue a five-year local option operating levy of \$.20/\$1,000 assessed value for fire and emergency services beginning 2014-2015?

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

- Section 2. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, is designated as the date for holding the election on the question stated in Section 1.
- Section 3. The election will be conducted by the Deschutes County Elections Department.
- Section 4. The precincts for the election shall include all territory within the City of Bend.
- Section 5. The ballot title to appear on the ballot shall be: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAPTION**

Five-year local option levy for fire and emergency medical services

**QUESTION**

Shall Bend issue a five-year local option operating levy of \$.20/\$1,000 assessed value for fire and emergency services beginning 2014-2015?

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

**SUMMARY**

The measure, if approved, would authorize the City of Bend to levy taxes to supplement the annual cost of fire and emergency medical services provided to Bend residents. The measure would provide for a local option operating levy of \$.20/\$1,000 of assessed value for 5 years, beginning July 1, 2014. Current response times do not meet national fire and emergency medical service standards. Revenue from the levy would be used to increase staffing with the goal of improving response times.

The estimated local option taxes over 5 years are:

2014-2015: \$1,800,000  
2015-2016: \$1,900,000  
2016-2017: \$2,000,000  
2017-2018: \$2,100,000  
2018-2019: \$2,200,000

If the maximum levy is assessed, the estimated total tax raised over 5 years would be \$10,000,000.

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 estimate.

Section 6. The Council adopts the Explanatory Statement for the Voters' Pamphlet attached as Exhibit A.

Section 7. The City Recorder and staff shall take all necessary steps to effectuate this resolution, including providing public notice and submitting required materials to the County Elections Officer. If the measure is approved, the City will act consistently with the ballot title and explanatory statement.

Section 8. This resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

Adopted by a roll call vote of the Bend City Council on January 8, 2014.

YES: Mayor Jim Clinton  
Councilor Jodie Barram  
Councilor Scott Ramsay  
Councilor Mark Capell  
Councilor Victor Chudowsky  
Councilor Doug Knight  
Councilor Sally Russell

NO: none

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Clinton, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robyn Christie, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary A. Winters, City Attorney

## EXHIBIT A

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The measure, if approved, would authorize the City of Bend to levy \$.20/\$1,000 of assessed property value for 5 years, beginning July 1, 2014. If approved, the levy would raise a projected \$1,800,000 in the first year and \$10,000,000 over 5 years for fire and emergency medical services.

The Bend Fire Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical care, emergency transport, rescue, and fire prevention services. The population of Bend and demand for fire and emergency services have grown. The staffing level in the Bend Fire Department has fallen below that of comparable Oregon Fire Departments. Response times do not meet national standards for comparable sized cities.

This revenue would be used to increase staffing with the goal of improving response times to reach people more quickly in the event of a fire or medical emergency. The increased funding could also pay for additional training and equipment, to maintain well-trained fire and emergency medical personnel.

If approved, the proposed levy would pay for the following:

- Hiring firefighters and ambulance personnel to help ensure sufficient personnel arrive within the initial minutes of an emergency.
- Supporting positions in training and fire prevention.
- Firefighter and emergency medical safety equipment.
- Tools for firefighting and emergency medical response.
- Technology enhancements.

This levy, if approved, would be off-set to some extent because bond measures are expiring for the Jail Bond and for the Bend Library. The levy would result in annual taxes of \$40 on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000.

The measure will coincide with a companion ballot measure in the Rural Fire District, which is also asking for \$.20/\$1,000 of assessed value.