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# Notice of Measure Election

## County

### Notice

**Date of Notice**

March 6, 2019

**Name of County or Counties**

Josephine County

**Date of Election**

May 21, 2019

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Advisory Question on a Rural Fire Protection District

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

In your opinion, should Josephine County begin the process to form a Rural Fire Protection District in currently unprotected areas?

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

The outcome of this advisory question will not be binding. It will provide information to the County Commissioners while the Board formulates policy.

The Commissioners are considering whether to begin the process of forming a rural fire protection district in unprotected areas of the County. The formation process requires the Board to hold public hearings, establish boundaries, and provide for an election on whether to form the district.

The purpose of the district would be to provide an adequate level of fire protection service throughout rural areas of the county that are currently not within a rural fire protection district.

The district would not include the cities of Grants Pass and Cave Junction. The District would be governed by an independent board that would determine an appropriate level of fire protection, prevention and suppression services, and any services legally available under chapter 478 of the Oregon Revised Statutes.

Electors within the proposed district boundary would vote on formation of the district with taxes to fund it, and would vote for the first district board.

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the county governing body; or
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

**Explanatory Statement Attached?**  Yes  No

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

**Name**

M. Wally Hicks

**Title**

County Legal Counsel

**Mailing Address**

500 NW Sixth Street, Dept. 13, Grants Pass, OR 97526

**Contact Phone**

541-474-5226

*By signing this document:*

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

March 6, 2019

Date Signed

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

**Ballot Title Caption** Advisory Question on a Rural Fire Protection District

**Measure No.** 17.89

**Word Total (500 max)** 441

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In Josephine County there are five governmental fire service agencies that provide structural fire protection in the county. Four are rural fire protection districts: Applegate Valley, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek districts. The Illinois Valley Fire District covers most of the Illinois Valley, including the city of Cave Junction. Municipal fire protection service is provided in the city of Grants Pass.

There are approximately 300 square miles outside of the municipal and fire district taxing boundaries in the county. Those areas include the communities of Sunny Valley, Hugo, Fort Vannoy, Merlin, Galice, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, North Valley and Shan Creek. Optional fire protection services are provided in those areas by private fire companies through a subscription service.

The process of forming a rural fire protection district would begin with a feasibility study that would provide information to the Commissioners about a proposed district boundary. The study would also include a recommendation about the amount of tax that would be necessary to fund the operations of the district.

The Commissioners would be required to hold public hearings before making decisions regarding district formation. The Commissioners would determine the territory that would be included in the boundary of the proposed district. As part of the process, the Commissioners would make findings to determine whether formation of the district would be consistent with local comprehensive planning for the area. They would also make findings about whether the area within the proposed district boundary could be benefited by the district formation.

The Commissioners would also make a decision about whether to ask the voters in the proposed district boundary whether to form a district with taxes to fund the district.

The district would be governed by an independent board that would be elected at the time of district formation. Any taxation measures would be subject to approval of the voters who reside within the district.

The district board would decide how to deliver fire protection services. There are many options for delivering such service. Options include: contract out to private providers, contract to existing districts and cities, and delivering the service directly. Services delivered would include the response to hostile fires such as structural fires, wildland fires, vehicle fires, and fires involving other improvements. The district could also respond to medical emergencies, motor vehicle crashes, various first response to technical rescue emergencies, and initial response to hazardous materials incidents. The district could also provide various forms of public education and fire prevention services.

The district could maintain a radio frequency to enable the dispatch of emergency services. Currently, the only radio frequency being used in the unprotected area is provided by a private company.

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Board of County Commissioners  
Person responsible for the content of the Statement

Josephine County  
Name of the Government Body person represents