

This non-partisan report was prepared by volunteer members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County.

Measure 20-382

Dexter Rural Fire Protection District Renewal Levy

Official Title: Renewal of 5 Year Local Option Tax

Referral: This measure was referred to voters by the Dexter Rural Fire Protection District.

Question: Shall Dexter Fire District renew the 5-year local option tax of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning FY 2027-2028. This measure renews current option taxes.

Financial Impact

If adopted, the measure would renew the existing levy of \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed value starting in FY 2027-28, raising between \$268,317 to \$301,393 per year for an estimated total of \$1,424,530 over five years. It will continue the rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is set to expire at the end of FY 2026-2027. A home with the approximate median assessed value of \$281,200 can expect to continue to pay \$281 per year, or \$23.43 per month.

Note: Assessed value (AV) is the value used to calculate property tax. It is shown on the property tax statement. It is NOT the same as real market value (RMV), which is the market price of the home.

Probable Result Of A “Yes” Vote

If adopted, this measure would renew the existing levy to allow Dexter Fire District to continue the current 24-hour staffing model providing medical response and fire protection. Daily operations, facility and vehicle maintenance, training, and equipment replacement would continue as at present. Taxes will not increase.

Probable Result Of A “No” Vote

If the levy does not pass, it would expire and taxes would be reduced beginning in 2027. Emergency services (medical response and fire protection) would no longer be staffed over 24 hours. In addition to affecting daily operations, facility and vehicle maintenance, training, and equipment replacement will be negatively impacted.

Background

Dexter Rural Fire Protection District provides professional fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue operations, and community risk reduction to the community of Dexter and its surrounding areas, which includes all of Highway 58 from milepost 8 to milepost 20, and those who live along Wheeler Road from the Chevron to Riverside Drive. The District is funded by tax dollars of residents who live within it, including residences with Lowell and Pleasant Hill addresses that are in the rural fire district boundary. Firefighters, paid and volunteer, are trained in fire suppression in residential and commercial structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland and brush fires, and chimney and utility-related fires in addition to search and rescue operations. They also respond to medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac and respiratory events, and motor vehicle crashes. Personnel participate in ongoing EMS training and certification. These services are in demand year-round, with the number of calls rising steadily since 2015. In August 2025 crews responded to 42 emergency calls about medical crises, motor vehicle accidents, fire alarms, and mutual aid responses. In 2025, the District experienced its highest number of calls related to fire alarms, ambulance assists, structure fires, and traffic crashes with injuries. The station and personnel also offer a public gathering space for community events.

Proposal

Renewal of the 5-year local option tax of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning FY 2027-28 will allow the Dexter Rural Fire Protection District to maintain current services without increasing taxes.

There is no organized support or opposition to this measure.

Editor's Notes:

The median assessed value of property in Dexter Rural Fire Protection District:

https://www.lanecountyor.gov/government/county_departments/assessment_taxation/tax_reports_by_tax_year. 2025-26 Value Comparisons. Dexter RFPD has a real market value of \$478,035,483 and taxable value of \$252,914,794, yielding a ratio of .529.

<https://www.zillow.com/home-values/11110/dexter-or/> lists median home value at \$531,602, giving a median assessed value of \$531,602 * .529 = \$281,217, rounded to \$281,200 for this report.