This nonpartisan report was prepared by volunteer members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County.

## Measure 20-389
## Western Lane Ambulance District Levy

**Official Title:** Renew Five-Year Option Levy for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services.

**Question:** Shall the District renew existing 45 cents per $1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2027-2028 for emergency medical operations? This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Referral:** This measure is referred to voters by the Western Lane Ambulance District.

### Financial Impact
Based on the median home valuation in Lane County, renewing the existing levy would cost a homeowner an estimated $105.72 on the 2027-28 property tax bill.

Note: Assessed value is the value used to calculate property tax and is stated on property tax statements. It is NOT the same as real market value, which is the market price of a home.

The levy rate would generate approximately $6,679,137 for Western Lane Ambulance District operations over five years.

### Probable Result of a "Yes" Vote
If this measure passes, the Western Lane Ambulance District will continue to provide emergency medical care, ambulance transportation, and community services such as lift assists to residents who have fallen, acquisition and maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), CPR training and certification, and community education and outreach. Taxes will remain the same.

### Probable Result of a "No" Vote
If this measure fails, the Western Lane Ambulance District will continue to provide emergency medical services but may be forced to cut back community support that is currently offered at no cost to residents. Taxes for this District will decrease.

### Background
The Western Lane Ambulance District provides emergency medical services to more than 20,000 residents in western Lane County, including the communities of Florence, Mapleton, Swisshome, and Dune City. The District employs 25 paramedics and EMTs who provide critical care and ambulance transportation around the clock every day. Its three ambulances are based in two stations in Florence.

The District's service area expanded from 564 to 686 square miles this summer when it agreed to serve Ambulance Service Area (ASA) #2 in northwest Lane County; that ASA had previously been served by the South Lincoln Ambulance Association. The District does not receive

additional revenue for serving that area beyond health insurance reimbursement for ambulance calls, which typically does not cover the full costs of providing that service.

Formed in 2012, the District relies in near-equal measure on property taxes and health insurance reimbursements to fund operating expenses. This ballot measure marks the third renewal of its local option levy without an increase, although its service area has expanded by 120 square miles, call volume has increased 60 percent, and operational costs have risen significantly.

The District is an independent entity that works in concert with Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue. The two Districts consolidated administrative staff in 2019 to improve efficiency and reduce costs and consolidated operational personnel in 2022.

**Proposal**
Renewing the local option levy will allow the District to maintain current service levels and keep pace with growing community needs.

**Supporters Say**

- The Western Lane Ambulance District provides critical medical services to residents of remote communities and rural areas.
- The District has taken steps to operate as efficiently as possible within existing funding constraints.

**Opponents Say**
Some residents have questioned the need for property tax support for the ambulance service.

~~Editor's Notes:~~

~~Comments from Nancy Mills, LWV Lane Co VS:~~
~~I have attached a draft of Measure 20-389. The author feels that the opponent statement is weak and self evident but she hasn't been able to identify any opposition and the EMS Fire chief provided only the comment about tax support for the district. I was also concerned that there was no reference that Western Ambulance was just assigned the responsibilities covered by South Lincoln ambulance. This would seem to have some financial consequences and it would be good to briefly discuss this because of the potential impact. However the Chief is out of town until Tuesday so can't respond to any questions.~~

~~Do you think that the inclusion of information about the impact of covering what South Lincoln Ambulance did needs to be in this explanation? If so, I can tell the author. The ballot measure seems a little plain vanilla but I may tend to wordier than is necessary.~~