

Corbett Fire District No. 14 Measure 26-237

Title: Corbett Fire District No. 14 General Obligation Bond Authorization

Question: Shall Corbett Fire District No. 14 issue \$4,500,000 general obligation bonds to finance capital costs, improvements and equipment? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Financial Impact: This measure authorizes \$4.5 million in general obligation bonds. It is estimated the average cost will be \$0.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value over the term of the bond. For a property assessed at \$300,000 taxes would be \$195 per year. Bonds would mature in 21 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

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: A “Yes” vote will allow the District to acquire emergency and firefighting equipment, renovate and expand facilities in order to meet current and future District needs.

Probable Result of a no vote: The District would lack funding to acquire equipment and renovate and expand facilities to meet current and future needs.

Background: The Corbett Fire District covers 40 square miles of eastern Multnomah County, providing fire, rescue and emergency services to approximately 4,000 residents in the communities of Corbett, Springdale, Aims, Latourell, Bridal Veil and surrounding areas. The district includes many acres of wildland/urban interface (areas where structures are in or near wildland vegetation), forest land, over 2,000 acres of Oregon State Parks, Columbia and Sandy River recreation areas, Interstate 84, and Union Pacific Railroad property. Corbett Fire District has been providing services since 1949.

Corbett Fire District is staffed primarily by volunteers based out of three stations located in Corbett, Springdale and Aims. The District’s thirty-one volunteer firefighters are trained in structural firefighting as well as emergency medicine, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, vehicle extrication, Gorge trail rescues, and wildland fire suppression.

Property taxes provide the bulk of funding for the Corbett Fire District, supplemented by protection agreement contracts with Multnomah County and Oregon State Parks.

Summary: If approved, bond funds would provide for:

- Renovation and expansion of the District's three fire stations, including space for equipment storage, improved public access and possible seismic upgrades (\$2,600,000)
- Installation of five water cisterns for structural and wildland firefighting where water sources are absent or not easily accessible (\$500,000)
- Construction of a training facility to aid in meeting national training standards (\$100,000)
- Acquisition of emergency and firefighting equipment, including a new rescue vehicle with improved capacity to access rural residential driveways and a two-thousand gallon tanker with fire pump suitable for fighting larger fires (\$500,000)
- Upgrading of fire fuel storage apparatus (\$50,000)
- Installation of a new furnace system and an automatic back-up generator at the Aims Station (\$25,000)

The remaining funds would cover contingencies (\$566,250) and extraneous requirements from Multnomah County Planning/Zoning and ODOT (\$158,750).

At this time there is no organized support for, or opposition to, this measure.