



SPRINGFIELD BALLOT MEASURE 20-311

Fire & Life Safety Services Special Operating Levy

What is Proposed Ballot Measure 20-311?

Measure 20-311 proposes a levy of \$0.38 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning July 1, 2021 for fire and life safety services in Springfield.

The proposed levy would be based upon assessed value, not market value. If the measure passes, in the first year a Springfield homeowner with an assessed value of \$164,000 would pay \$62.32 under this proposed levy. Total estimated payments for a homeowner over the five-year life of this levy would be \$330. This would be an increase of \$0.02 per \$1,000 assessed value over the current levy and reflects estimated costs of materials, services, and staffing through the five-year period of the proposed levy.

Funding would be used for fire and life safety services in Springfield. If passed, this proposed levy would replace the current levy, which is set to expire on June 30, 2021.

IF PASSED, THE
PROPOSED 5-YEAR
LEVY WOULD:

FUND FIRE & LIFE
SAFETY SERVICES IN
SPRINGFIELD

HELP FUND A
FIRE CREW WITH
FIREFIGHTER/
PARAMEDICS
& EQUIPMENT

MAINTAIN INCIDENT
RESPONSE TIMES

MAINTAIN CURRENT
FIRE PROTECTION,
RESCUE, & MEDICAL
SERVICES



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If the proposed measure passes, what would the levy fund?

The proposed levy would maintain Springfield's current model of emergency response for fire protection, rescue, hazardous materials release and mitigation, and emergency medical response by helping fund staffing and equipment to maintain and operate one of the five fire engine crews serving Springfield.

Currently, all five engines are staffed with firefighter-paramedics. Staffing and operations costs include wages and benefits, safety equipment, vehicle and equipment expenses, dispatch, and fire academy training. This proposed levy would help fund approximately eight full-time equivalent firefighter-paramedics.

If the measure passes, this proposed levy would maintain current incident response times in Springfield for both emergency and non-emergency calls, and maintain the number of firefighter-paramedics on duty each shift. If the levy does not pass, there would be no continued levy dedicated to funding one of the five fire engine crews that currently serve Springfield. Based on a home with an assessed value of \$164,000, the reduction in property taxes would be approximately \$59 when the current levy sunsets in June 2021.

Why did Springfield refer the proposed measure to the ballot?

In 1995, Springfield voters approved a general obligation bond issue that included funding to construct a fifth fire station for the City.

Springfield voters have since passed special operating levies for fire and life safety services in 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2015.

More information about the levy is available at www.springfield-or.gov under "Proposed Fire & Life Safety Services Measure."

How much would it raise?

If the proposed measure passes, it would raise about \$1,926,331 in 2021-22, \$1,964,857 in 2022-23, \$2,004,154 in 2023-24, \$2,044,238 in 2024-25, and \$2,085,122 in 2025-26 for a total of about \$10,024,702.

If the measure passes, would this proposed levy add services?

If the measure passes, the proposed levy rate is expected to provide the same level of service as the current levy rate, considering the effects of inflation for materials, services, and staffing costs.

City Council has adjusted the proposed levy rate to reflect the cost of providing fire and life safety services in Springfield. The levy rate was \$0.36 in 2002, \$0.40 in 2006, \$0.36 in 2010, and \$0.36 in 2015.

How are Springfield fire & life safety services currently provided?

Fire and life safety services in Springfield are currently provided through five fire stations located throughout Springfield to provide incident response. One fire crew is assigned to each fire station. Each fire crew also serves as the first paramedic response unit, dispatched with an ambulance, to all life-threatening emergency medical calls for service.

In Fiscal Year 2020, there were 7,807 medical calls, 135 fire calls, 416 public assistance calls, and 5,682 transports in Springfield.