

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

Measure 18-143

Klamath County Fire & EMS Services

Official Title: Five-year Local Option Tax for Operations and Maintenance

Referral: This measure was referred to voters by Klamath County Fire District 4.

Question: Shall the District pass a Levy of \$0.64 per \$1,000 for Five Years for Fire & EMS Services Beginning FY 2026/2027? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Financial Impact

The proposed measure would increase taxes \$0.64 per \$1,000. Taxes on a property assessed at approximately the median value, \$151,000, would increase \$96.64 per year.

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 Results of "Yes" Vote

A "Yes" vote would give the District a total operating budget of \$292,745.00 for FY2026/FY2027. It would allow the District to not only maintain but also increase the level of service it provides. Taxes would increase.

Probable Results of "No" Vote

A "No" vote would mean that the District would have insufficient funding to keep up with vehicle and building maintenance as well as to replace and update antiquated equipment. Taxes for the District would remain the same.

Background

Klamath County Fire District 4 Fire and EMS is facing difficulties in keeping up with vehicle and building maintenance, as well as replacing and updating antiquated equipment without additional funding. The District tax rate, which has not been increased in decades, is not enough to meet the demands of inflation, call volume, and vehicle maintenance replacement and repair.

Proposal

This measure increases the current tax rate for the District by \$0.64 per \$1,000 for 5 years beginning in 2026-2027 to maintain and improve district service..

There is no organized support for or opposition to this measure.

Editors' Notes:

Ratio of assessed to rmv in Klamath County is here:

<https://www.klamathcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/35400/Tax-Book---2023>, RMV:

\$14,799,784,850 AV: \$7,002,753,756 Ratio: 47.3% Same source gives Klamath Fire #4 tax rate as 0.0011013, Amount to be imposed as \$200,443.

Redfin (<https://www.redfin.com/county/2342/OR/Klamath-County>) lists the median sales price for February 2026 as \$320,000. 47.3% of that is 151,360. Using \$151,000 as the median assessed value.