

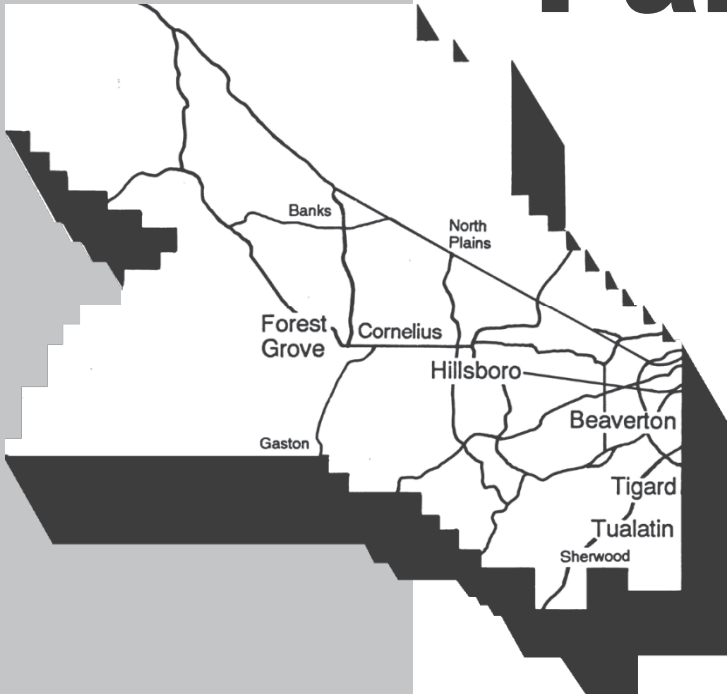


Elections Division
2925 NE Alcock Dr #170
Hillsboro, OR 97124-7523

www.washcovotes.org

A

Washington County Voters' Pamphlet



**SPECIAL
ELECTION
November 7, 2023**

Washington County Board of County Commissioners

Kathryn Harrington, Chair
Nafisa Fai, District 1
Pam Treece, District 2
Roy Rogers, District 3
Jerry Willey, District 4

ATTENTION

This is your county voters' pamphlet. Washington County Elections prints information as submitted. We do not correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, errors, or inaccurate information. This pamphlet contains information for several districts and there may be candidates/measures that are not included on your ballot. If you have any questions, call 503-846-5800.



Dear Voters,

Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at **oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP**

تتوفر أجزاء مختارة من كتيبات الناخبين لهذه المقاطعة باللغة العربية يمكن العثور على هذه الكتيبات عبر الإنترنت على
[.oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP)

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访**oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP**获取译本。

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인
oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу:
oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en
oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP

Các phần được chọn trong tập thông tin cho cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại **oregonvotes.gov/WashingtonVP**

Department of Assessment & Taxation, Elections Division

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City of Cornelius

Measure No. 34-325

Ballot Title

Replacement Local Option Levy to Increase Fire and Emergency Services

Question: Shall Cornelius increase fire services with a five-year replacement levy of \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: Cornelius has had a local option levy to support fire services since 2015. The current levy expires in 2024. This measure, if approved, would replace the expiring levy at \$1.461 per \$1,000 and would allow the Fire Department to meet increased costs and call demand, reduce 911 response times, and better deliver advanced lifesaving medical treatment by funding: - Three additional firefighters, increasing the number of daily professional firefighters available to serve the community; - Four early-career student interns to address the decrease in volunteer firefighters; and - Replacement of decades-old fire vehicles and equipment, and improvements to the Cornelius Public Safety building.

If not approved, additional funding would not be provided, resulting in no staffing increases, an inability to maintain current staffing levels, no reduction in response times, and no capital improvements.

The replacement levy of \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value would cost roughly \$365 per year, or \$30.41 per month, for a home assessed at \$250,000 for five years beginning July 2024. In most cases, assessed value is lower than market value.

An estimate of the total amount of money to be raised for each year of the proposed replacement levy is:

FY 2024-2025:	\$1,440,264
FY 2025-2026:	\$1,483,472
FY 2026-2027:	\$1,573,815
FY 2027-2028:	\$1,621,029
FY 2028-2029:	\$1,669,660
Total:	\$7,788,240

Explanatory Statement

CORNELIUS FIRE DEPARTMENT 5-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY

As Cornelius grows, so do the needs of our community. The population of Cornelius has grown by over 30% since 2000, leading to increased housing density, more commercial businesses, additional industrial warehouses, and added daily pedestrian and vehicle traffic. This has resulted in increased demand for fire and rescue services; emergency call volume has increased 34% over the last five years, and 14% since 2022 alone. Those calls result in the Cornelius Fire Department (Department) responding to an average of nearly seven emergencies daily.

Yet current professional and volunteer firefighter staffing at the Department falls below fire industry standards and community expectations. A recent survey suggests that an average level of staffing across cities with populations between 25,000 and 50,000 in western U.S. states is 1.01 professional firefighters per capita, but current Department professional staffing is approximately only half that at .49 per capita. Historically, the Department was able to maintain relatively lower levels of professional staff by relying on trained and experienced volunteer firefighters. However, like 73% of fire departments across Oregon, Cornelius has seen a decline in volunteer firefighter commitment over the past five years.

Meanwhile, our community faces threats of natural and human-caused emergencies such as wildfire, natural disasters, and other low frequency/high impact incidents. A timely and effective response to these threats is critical to minimize loss to life and property. In addition, the cost of staffing, materials, supplies and equipment has increased.

WHAT WILL THE LEVY COST, AND WHAT SERVICES WILL IT PROVIDE?

The City of Cornelius is asking voters to approve a 5-year local option levy for fire and emergency services that will cost \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For an average home assessed at \$250,000, this would be approximately \$365 per year. The proposed levy is intended to meet the growing and evolving fire and emergency needs, and would allow the Department to:

- Improve emergency response services by adding five additional professional and medically trained firefighters, which would provide staffing levels consistent with industry standards;
- Decrease 911 response times;
- Address the significant increase in call volume;
- Better deliver advanced lifesaving medical treatment;
- Purchase updated fire vehicles and equipment; and
- Provide improvements to the Cornelius Public Safety Building

WHAT IF THIS LEVY FAILS?

If this measure is not approved, a levy for fire and emergency services will no longer be assessed and the Department will eliminate two professional firefighter positions and will be unable to maintain current service levels.

Submitted by:
Peter Brandom, City Manager

No Arguments in Opposition of this measure were filed.

City of Cornelius

Measure No. 34-325 Arguments

Argument in Favor

CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL ASKS YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!

The Cornelius Fire Department is a vital pillar of our community, tirelessly protecting us during medical emergencies, fires, car accidents, and various other incidents. Throughout our history, volunteers have been the backbone of the Cornelius Fire Department's emergency services. However, as our city's population continues to grow, and modern life imposes new demands, our fire department faces pressing demands.

Currently, our fire department operates with just two professional firefighters on duty each day. They are supported by college student volunteers and individuals from outside our community, most with daytime jobs elsewhere. Unfortunately, this staffing model falls short of industry standards, and the situation is exacerbated by a 34% increase in service calls over the past five years. To ensure our city's safety, we must invest in more career professional firefighters.

In recent years, the costs associated with equipment, supplies, vehicles, and personnel have risen significantly. To address these challenges, the passage of Measure 34-325 is vital. This replacement levy will enable the Department to hire three additional firefighter/paramedics, ensuring coverage for each of three daily shifts. Additionally, it will provide the necessary funds for equipment, vehicles, and the maintenance of the Cornelius Public Safety building.

We thank you for your overwhelming support of the past two levies, and we urge you to join us in voting YES ON MEASURE 34-325! Our fire department deserves and needs our unwavering support, and you deserve to be safe too.

Cornelius City Council
Jeffrey C. Dalin, Mayor
John Colgan, Council President
Angeles Godinez, Councilor
Eden Lopez, Councilor

This information furnished by:
Jeffrey Dalin
Committee for Sustainable Cornelius Fire Services

Argument in Favor

Cornelius Firefighters support Measure 34-325 because it allows for investments in staffing that we need to provide professional and reliable service to our community.

It is an honor to serve the people living in our service area, and we are grateful for the support you have shown us in the past. Over the past 5 years, calls for service have increased by 34%.

If Measure 34-325 passes, it would provide significant benefits.

- It provides funding to maintain current staffing and add additional firefighters to respond to emergencies in the growing City of Cornelius.
- Add additional certified EMT's and Paramedics to serve the significant increase in medical calls in the community.

For these reasons, Cornelius Firefighters urge a YES vote on Measure 34-325.

In service,

Trevor Storms, Shop Steward
Tualatin Valley Firefighters
IAFF Local 1660

This information furnished by:
Trevor Storms
Tualatin Valley Firefighters Union

Argument in Favor

The Forest Grove Cornelius Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support for the upcoming levy for the Cornelius Fire Department. As a community, we rely on our fire department to protect us in emergencies, and we believe that it is essential to provide them with the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.

We are reminded of this need by the recent fire in downtown Hillsboro, which was a frightening reminder that these things can happen in any community. We also recognize the increased threat of wildfires in our area, which further underscores the importance of having a strong and well-equipped fire department.

The Cornelius Fire Department has a proud history of serving our community, and we believe that they deserve our full support. We understand that their daily staffing falls short of industry standards and that they have faced rising costs for equipment, supplies, vehicles, and staff in recent years. We believe that passing this levy would be an essential step in addressing these challenges and ensuring that our fire department can continue to serve us well into the future.

We urge all of our fellow citizens to vote yes on Measure 34-325 and to support our fire department. Let's come together as a community and show our appreciation for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect us.

Sincerely,

The Forest Grove / Cornelius Chamber of Commerce

This information furnished by:
Claudia P. Yakos
Forest Grove / Cornelius Chamber of Commerce

Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District

Measure No. 34-324

Ballot Title

Five-Year Local Option Tax Levy for Operations

Question: Shall District impose \$1.4516 per \$1,000 of assessed value for general operations for five years beginning 2024–2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: With this measure, the Board of Directors of the Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District seeks approval from the voters to adopt a new local option tax levy. This tax levy would replace the current tax levy that expires June 30, 2024.

The Fire District's permanent tax rate of \$.6164 per \$1,000 of assessed value does not generate sufficient revenue to fund the District's contract for emergency services with the City of Cornelius. Prior levies approved in 2008, 2013, and 2019 covered the difference between the District's service contract costs and its permanent tax rate revenues. This proposed new levy is intended to continue covering this difference for the next five years to maintain the current level of services.

If adopted, this measure will allow the Fire District to continue to contract with the City of Cornelius for fire and life safety services. Without the revenue from this measure, the Fire District Board of Directors would need to make decisions to cut back on services provided by the City of Cornelius.

The proposed rate will raise approximately: \$322,788 in 2024-25; \$332,471 in 2025-26; \$342,445 in 2026-27; \$352,719 in 2027-28; and \$363,300 in 2028-29, for a total of \$1,713,723.

Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District is not a part of the city or county. The Fire District is a "special district," a separate unit of government, similar to a city or county. It is governed by an elected Board of Directors who are residents of the Fire District. As elected representatives, their responsibility is to represent the interests of Fire District residents by making policy decisions that ensure the highest level of fire services, emergency medical services, and life safety services provided in the most cost effective manner. The Fire District also has a budget committee made up of the Board of Directors and five Fire District citizens that makes recommendations on Fire District expenditures.

Submitted by:
Dan Eischen, Board Treasurer

Explanatory Statement

This ballot measure seeks approval from the voters of the Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District for a new five-year local option property tax levy. The current five-year tax levy expires June, 2024. If adopted, this new tax levy would begin in July, 2024 and fund Fire District operations for five years.

The Fire District does not have its own firefighting staff. Instead, the Fire District contracts with the City of Cornelius to provide fire and life safety services within the territory of the Fire District. Coordinating fire and life safety services with the city has been in place since the 1940s.

The funds raised by this levy would be used to meet the contractual agreement for fire and life safety services provided by the City of Cornelius. The Fire District permanent tax rate of \$.6164 per \$1,000 of assessed value does not generate sufficient revenues to cover the Fire District contract with the city. Passage of this new levy would mean that the Fire District will continue its contract with the city and service levels will remain the same. If this levy is not adopted, service levels would have to be decreased. Fire District voters have approved local option tax levies in November, 2008, November, 2013, and May 2019.

The current levy raised \$97,500 per year over the last five years. This new levy seeks to raise more money to account for the increasing costs associated with receiving fire and life safety services from the City of Cornelius.

The District Board of Directors is asking voters to adopt this new local option tax so that the Fire District can maintain its operations at current service levels. If approved, the local option tax would generate revenue necessary to continue the Fire District's current contractual services with the city.

No Arguments in Opposition of this measure were filed.

Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District

Measure No. 34-324 Arguments

Argument in Favor

A Yes Vote on Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District Replacement Levy Measure is in Our Best Interest

As your elected Directors for the Cornelius Rural Fire Protection district we are urging you to support Measure 34-324. This levy seeks only to continue current service levels and will allow our district to continue the quality fire service we, as residents of the fire district, have come to depend on and expect from our fire agency.

This levy replacement is forward looking, and crafted to maintain an essential level of fire services. In balancing all the needs of our community, safety in our neighborhoods has to be one of the highest priorities. **Voting yes on Replacement Levy Measure 34-324 will continue the funding our District needs to maintain current services that are essential to our safety.**

Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Wes VanDyke, President
Aubrey Harris, Vice-President
Anna Jesse, Secretary
Dan Eischen, Treasurer
Kurt Albee, Director

This information furnished by:
Dan Eischen

Argument in Favor

Cornelius Firefighters support Measure 34-324 because it allows for investments in staffing that we need to provide professional and reliable service to our community.

It is an honor to serve the people living in our service area, and we are grateful for the support you have shown us in the past. Over the past 5 years, calls for service have increased by 34%.

If Measure 34-324 passes, it would provide significant benefits.

- It provides funding to maintain current staffing and add additional firefighters to respond to emergencies in the growing Cornelius Region.
- Add additional certified EMT's and Paramedics to serve the significant increase in medical calls in the community.

For these reasons, Cornelius Firefighters urge a YES vote on Measure 34-324.

In service,

Trevor Storms, Shop Steward
Tualatin Valley Firefighters
IAFF Local 1660

This information furnished by:
Trevor Storms
Tualatin Valley Firefighters Union

It's against the law to:

- ✗ sign another person's ballot return envelope for them
- ✗ vote more than once in an election or cast a fraudulent ballot
- ✗ vote a ballot if you are not legally qualified to do so
- ✗ coerce, pressure or otherwise unduly influence another voter
- ✗ sell, offer to sell, purchase or offer to purchase another voter's ballot
- ✗ obstruct an entrance of a building in which a voting booth or official ballot dropsite is located
- ✗ deface, remove, alter or destroy another voter's ballot, a posted election notice or election equipment or supplies
- ✗ attempt to collect voted ballots within 100 feet of an official ballot dropsite
- ✗ establish a dropsite without displaying a sign stating "Not An Official Ballot Dropsite"

Any violations of the identified election laws are subject to penalties ranging from Civil Penalties (Up to \$250 per violation), Class A Misdemeanors or Class C Felonies.

For more information about voting in Oregon or if you think your rights as a voter have been violated:

oregonvotes.gov

1 866 673 VOTE / 1 866 673 8683
se habla español

1 800 735 2900
for the hearing impaired



Washington County Official Ballot Drop Boxes

Return your voted ballot to an official ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. No postage is required.

All of the official drop boxes listed below are open 24 hours a day until the 8:00 p.m. deadline on Election Day.

CORNELIUS:

Cornelius City Hall
1355 N. Barlow St
Cornelius, OR 97113

FOREST GROVE:

Forest Grove City Library
Pacific Ave & Birch St
Forest Grove, OR 97116

HILLSBORO:

Washington County Elections
2925 NE Aloclek Dr, Ste 170
Hillsboro, OR 97124

TUALATIN:

Tualatin City Hall
18880 SW Martinazzi Ave
Tualatin, OR 97062

Scan this QR code to see these drop box locations on a map:



You may drop off your ballot at any official ballot drop box or elections office in the State of Oregon.

Voter Registration Information

The logo features a large, bold checkmark symbol to the left of the word "Voter". Below "Voter" are the words "Registration" and "Information" stacked vertically in a similar bold font.

Registering to vote

You are qualified to register to vote in Oregon if you can answer yes to the following questions:

- ✓ Are you a resident of Oregon?
- ✓ Are you a US citizen?
- ✓ Are you at least 16 years of age?

If you are 16 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

How to register

Register to vote online at **oregonvotes.gov** or pick up a voter registration card at any of the following places:

- Any County Elections Office
- The Secretary of State's Office
- Some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- A voter registration drive
- Some locations of the US Postal Service
- Libraries

After completing your registration card, mail or bring it to our office in person.

The deadline for new registrations and party changes is 21 days prior to Election Day.

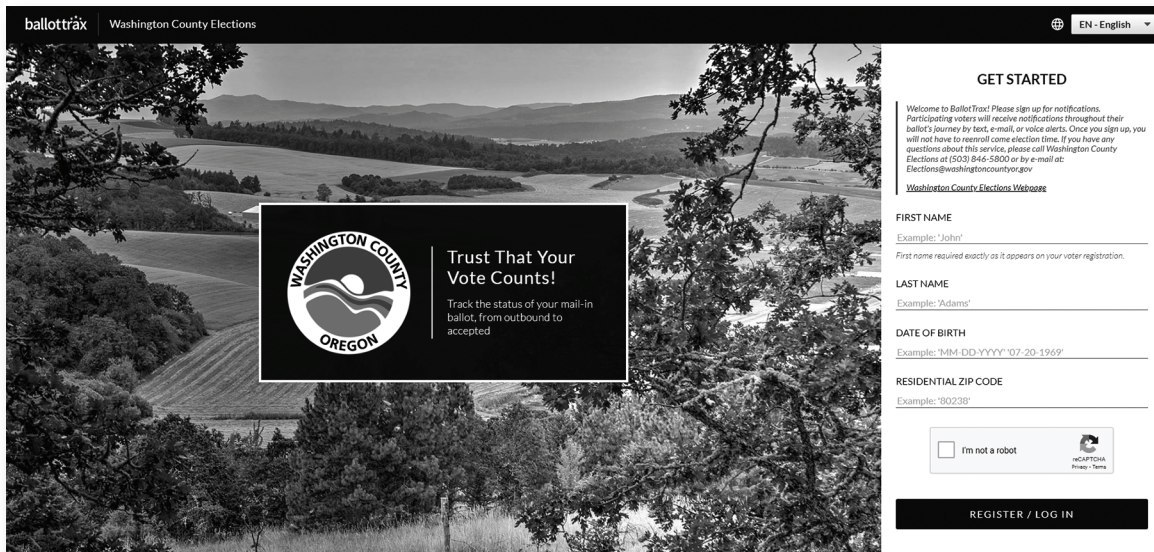
What information is required to register?

To complete your registration, you must provide the following:

- Full legal name
- Home address
- Mailing address (if applicable)
- Date of birth
- Signature
- Oregon Driver's License number, Identification Card number, or a Social Security number

Track Your Ballot!

Sign up to receive updates and notifications about your ballot from Washington County Elections. Receive text, email, or voice alerts when we have mailed your ballot, when your ballot has been received at the Elections office, and when your ballot has been accepted and counted.



Sign up at
washcovotes.ballottrax.net/voter
or scan this QR code



The Washington County ballot tracking program is a partnership with i3ballot.
If you have any questions about this service, please call
Washington County Elections at **(503) 846-5800** or email us at
elections@washingtoncountyor.gov

**Sign up today to begin receiving
notifications on your ballot!**