

To: Burlington Water District Customers

From: Commissioners of the Burlington Water District Board

EXPLANATION OF BALLOT MEASURE

Burlington Water District (District) a municipal corporation receives revenue from water sales and loan payments for infrastructure. The District receives tax revenues from properties within the District boundaries for services for emergency (fire and ambulance) services contracted with other agencies. The district provides water and emergency services to approximately 400 people.

The proposed levy of \$1.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value would raise an estimated average of \$87,029 annually for five years. This will supplement the existing \$3.4269 permanent rate and is separate from water rates. Rising costs from the City of Portland Fire Bureau make this adjustment necessary; average annual increases have risen 10% per year over the past four years, nearly double the average growth in property taxes. Current property tax revenue is no longer enough to cover the costs of emergency services. The average assessed value for a property in our taxing district is \$166,000.00. For the average property, the current monthly cost for emergency services is \$47. The local levy option would add \$24 per month for a total of \$70.92. These taxes are collected by Multnomah County and can only be used to pay for emergency services. Median property values are lower than the average. The property rate would increase property taxes by \$11 for the median property with an assessed value of \$77,000.

Burlington Water District Special Levy up for vote again!

This past spring, May 2026, the Burlington Water District (BWD) Board of Directors put measure 20-264 on the Ballot for a Levy to help fund the Portland Fire and Rescue fire protection and emergency services. The Levy failed by five (5) votes.

The Portland Fire and Rescue has increased the fee for these services annually. The property tax base we currently work with is insufficient to cover these fees in the years ahead with the projected increased cost for these services. We are working with Portland Fire and Rescue asking them to lower the cost to Burlington Water District without any agreement being reached thus far. Since the Levy failed by five votes, we are putting it (Levy 26-269) back on the Ballot for November 2026. This levy will impact the ability to provide fire and emergency services for those living in Burlington Water District and receiving this newsletter.

If you have questions or concerns, please attend the online meeting with the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission and Commissioners of Burlington Water District, October 15, at 5:30 pm. You can access this meeting by visiting our webpage at <http://burlingtonwater.specialdistrict.org/governance> and select Board Meetings and the date or **<http://meet.goto.com/391404301>**

You will need to download the GoTo app prior to the meeting. If you have any difficulty accessing this page, please contact Tami at bwd.tami@hotmail.com or call 503-621-9216 for assistance.

Please consider joining the BWD Board. There is presently one board position open and in February there will be one more. The BWD Board should have five members to function efficiently. You can be appointed to the board at any time outside an election year and then run for your position at the next election cycle in 2027.