

# Jackson County voters' pamphlet

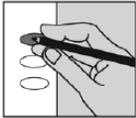


Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special Election

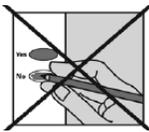
**November 5, 2019**

## VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Examine your Official Ballot and locate the response of your choice. To vote, you must completely darken the oval (  ) to the left of the response of your choice with black or blue ink.



If you vote **both** Yes **and** No on a measure, it is called an overvote. Your vote **will not count** for that measure.



Contact Jackson County Elections to request a replacement if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged or spoiled
- your ballot is lost

or for any other reason.

## RETURN YOUR BALLOT

**By mail:** Attach first-class postage to the signed and sealed return identification envelope. Mail it as soon as possible to arrive at Jackson County Elections no later than 8 pm Election Day.

**Postmarks do not count!**

**In person at an official drop site:** Deliver the signed and sealed return identification envelope to an official drop site no later than 8 pm on Election Day. Postage is NOT required if delivered to an official ballot drop site.

### Jackson County Elections

1101 W Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 774-6148 [www.jacksoncountyor.org](http://www.jacksoncountyor.org)

## DROP SITE LOCATIONS

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BALLOTS:

8 PM ELECTION DAY, November 5, 2019

### Jackson County Elections

1101 W. Main St., Suite 201  
Medford, OR 97501  
Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(left lane—W Main)  
Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm  
(7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)

### Ashland Library

410 Siskiyou Blvd.  
Ashland, OR 97520  
Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(alley off Gresham St. by book drop)  
Closes at 8 pm Election Day

### Central Point Library

116 S. 3rd St.  
Central Point, OR 97502  
Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(south side of library building, main entrance)  
Closes at 8 pm Election Day

### Eagle Point Library

239 W. Main St.  
Eagle Point, OR 97524  
Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(library main branch entrance)  
Closes at 8 pm Election Day

### Phoenix Library

510 W. 1st St.  
Phoenix, OR 97535  
Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(library main branch entrance)  
Closes at 8 pm Election Day

### Rogue River Library

412 E. Main St.  
Rogue River, OR 97537  
Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily  
(library main branch entrance)  
Closes at 8 pm Election Day

### Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations

Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member. (ORS 254.445)

# Measure 15-186 Jackson County

## Ballot Title

# 15-186

## Jackson County General Obligation Emergency Communications System Bonds

**QUESTION:** Shall Jackson County be authorized to issue general obligation bonds to upgrade and replace emergency communications system not exceeding \$28,000,000? 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.

**SUMMARY:** If approved, this measure would authorize the County to issue up to \$28,000,000 of general obligation bonds to replace the current outdated public safety emergency communications system, by financing capital costs expected to include:

- Modernized P25 (industry standard) digital radios with improved voice communications for public safety users (Fire, EMS, Police).
- New IP Dispatch Radio Consoles for communicating on the radio system, paging, fire station alerting, emergency calls and alarms.
- Updated Microwave radios on tower sites throughout Jackson County. Provides communication link transmitting voice and data to public safety.
- Mobile radios in emergency vehicles; hand held radios for Fire/EMS, and Police.
- Tower acquisition, construction and related land acquisition/site improvements providing improved radio coverage.

The bonds would mature in twenty-one (21) years or less from issuance and may be issued in one or more series. Bonds would also finance issuance costs. The County estimates property owners would pay \$9.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value per year. Actual rate may vary depending upon interest rates, assessed value growth, and other factors.

## Explanatory Statement

### What would this measure do?

This measure would replace the current emergency communications system, including:

- Converting the analog emergency communications system to digital technology providing voice and data to emergency responders;
- Expanding coverage to areas in the county where responders currently have difficulty communicating with dispatch and other emergency responders;
- Improving reliability during major disasters
- Replacing analog first responder portable and mobile radios countywide
- Replacing outdated 911 dispatch technology used to communicate with police, fire, and EMS responding to citizens' emergency needs

### Why is this being proposed?

Three key factors are prompting the request for upgrades:

- *A Growing Demand for Emergency Services.* Population and emergency call volume has grown, and is expected to continue to grow over the coming decades. Updated equipment would enable public safety to remain effective.
- *Changes in Emergency Communications Technology.* Existing emergency radio communications serving all of Jackson County's public safety was built using 1990's technology. This technology is approaching obsolescence. The analog components of the system are beyond end of life, spare parts are hard to obtain and there is little vendor support remaining. Like cell phones have transitioned to digital, radio infrastructure must be updated to include voice and data for Fire, EMS, and Police, and to communicate with dispatch, and other responders to help members of the public during emergencies. In addition, the 2010 FCC mandate to narrowband frequencies caused decreased radio coverage.

- *Improving Reliability During Major Disasters.* The emergency communications system is designed, built and maintained to a much higher standard than consumer telecommunications. The system must continue to work reliably even when a storm, earthquake or other major emergency causes landline or cell phone networks to overload or fail. Updating equipment would improve the reliability of the system.

### How much is this expected to cost?

A preliminary design of a replacement system meeting the current and future needs of the public safety community shows that the cost of this replacement system would be approximately \$28 million.

Costs include P25 equipment at all radio sites, new dispatch consoles, new subscriber terminal equipment, site development costs to bring radio sites up to standard for digital equipment, and complete design, deployment, installation and acceptance costs to deliver the final system.

*(This information furnished by Bob Strosser, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Jackson County.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Vote YES on Measure 15-186

As a former director of the Southern Oregon Regional Communications Center, I ask for your YES vote on Measure 15-186.

This measure allows the purchase of new equipment, including:

- Upgrades to existing radio towers at multiple mountaintop sites
- A new mountain top site providing coverage in the West County / Applegate area
- Enhancement of radio coverage in the Shady Cove area
- Enhancement of coverage in the Evans Valley/Wimer area
- Dispatch radio consoles and antenna systems; and
- Microwave radios and 1,800 new handheld and vehicle mobile radios for police, fire, and EMS personnel

The existing emergency dispatch radio system in Jackson County is a mix of old analog and digital systems, requiring work arounds and conversion modules between analog and digital equipment, thereby creating patches allowing the two systems to talk to each other. Some of this equipment is 30 years old.

Parts for analog radios are no longer manufactured. Our emergency responder agencies are borrowing or buying parts from other jurisdictions and purchasing used parts from E-bay.

**The current system does not meet the needs of our emergency responders, nor does it provide adequate radio coverage within Jackson County.** It has too many weak points enabling failure and radio coverage is not satisfactory.

A passing of the bond levy provides the required standardized level of digital radio equipment for the emergency service responders in Jackson County. Additionally, the bond allows expanded radio coverage needed in three county areas.

This bond will cost \$27 dollars a year for a home assessed at \$300,000. That is only \$2.25 cents per month to upgrade the county's emergency radio system.

This measure is an accountable way to upgrade out-of-date systems and help save lives. It's a small price to pay to keep our community and first responders safe.

*Pamela Johnson worked in emergency communications in Jackson County from 1977- 1999 and was director of the Southern Oregon Regional Communications Center from 1986-1999.*

*(This information furnished by Pamela Johnson.)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.*

# Measure 15-186 Jackson County

## Argument in Favor

### First Responders Need New Radios to Help You

#### Vote YES on Measure 15-186

As a Paramedic, I need radio equipment that is reliable so I can talk to the dispatch center and it can talk to me. I need to know this equipment will work, no matter what part of the county I'm in, particularly rural areas. And, I need to know my radio can reliably talk to those used by other agencies I work with in Jackson County for support.

Right now, the radio equipment we're using on the job is 30 years old. It's done its job but it's worn out. Our technicians are finding it harder and harder to find spare parts and service.

Measure 15-186 will give us the tools in the field we need to respond to incidents.

Measure 15-186 will also provide radio equipment to eliminate dead zones in coverage.

Whether responding to a car crash, a forest fire, a heart attack in someone's home or an active shooter incident, myself and my colleagues in police and fire agencies need new radios to do our jobs.

I ask your support to help keep you safe. I ask your support to give me the tools I need to respond as quickly as I can.

Please vote YES on Measure 15-186

Brandon Winwood is a Firefighter/Paramedic with the International Association of Firefighters Local 1269 in Ashland.

*(This information furnished by Brandon Winwood.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Vote YES on Measure 15-186

#### Invest Now - It's our responsibility

As a citizen of Jackson County, and someone with almost 30 years of experience in Public Safety Communications, I am greatly concerned about the state of our radio system serving public safety responders in our valley.

Our emergency radio system may fail soon. In fact, it is already failing. The existing system is almost 30 years old. There has been an increase in system crashes, and in a recent internal survey, 70% of our emergency responders rated our existing communications system as marginal or poor.

**When first responders head into harm's way, it's our responsibility to ensure they have an emergency communications system they trust and can rely on to call for help when they need it.**

I have family members and friends in public safety and believe strongly in providing them with the tools to go home safe every night. If someone puts their life on the line for mine, I want to make sure they have the tools they need to do the job.

It is time to bring all of our communications systems up to date, ensuring police, fire, and emergency responders have integrated systems that work as designed.

A **YES** vote will:

- Protect those who put their lives on the line for us
- Increase emergency response radio coverage in Jackson County
- Cost the average homeowner only \$2.25 cents per month
- Make the county a safer place to live, work and raise a family

**Please join me by voting YES Measure 15-186.** This is a small price to pay for increased safety.

*(This information furnished by Margie Moulin.)*

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## Argument in Favor

### Emergency responders need your help: **VOTE YES on Measure 15-186 so they have the tools they need to keep us safe**

Throughout my police career at Medford Police Department for 29 years and Talent Police Department for eight years, I believed good emergency communications equipment was among the most vital elements of providing safety to our citizens.

Currently the emergency communications hardware in Jackson County is aged and it is not providing the safest and most reliable service to public safety professionals who protect us. The existing system is almost 30 years old. Through the skills of our emergency response and communications staff we've gotten a tremendous value out of the equipment over the last 30 years of use. Unfortunately, the technology that has been used is no longer supported. Replacement parts are hard to find and staff has resorted to trying to find some used parts on e-bay.

When first responders head into harm's way, it's our responsibility to ensure they have an emergency communications system they trust and can rely on when they need it. It's time to bring all of our communications systems up to date.

This measure will protect our public safety workers and make us all safer for a very small price. The cost for the average homeowner is only \$2.25 cents per month.

We are all responsible for making our community a safer place to live, work and raise a family. Emergency personnel will do their part when duty calls. We can help them by doing our part and voting YES on Measure 15-186.

Mike Moran

Retired Police Chief City of Talent

Retired Lieutenant Medford Police

*(This information furnished by Mike Moran.)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.*

# Measure 15-186 Jackson County

## Argument in Favor

### Help keep Public Safety Safe!

Vote YES on Measure 15-186

As a detective at a local public safety agency in Jackson County, I have worked to protect and serve for twelve years. Before that, I worked in our local 9-1-1 Center as a dispatch supervisor, as an EMT-Intermediate with an ambulance company, and as a lieutenant with a local fire district. Overall, I have spent more than 20 years serving this community in public safety. Through each of these professions, the emergency radio system was key to helping me save lives, and to keeping me safe.

Today, our radio communications systems are in dire need of repair, and replacement. As a citizen, I want to make sure public safety has the tools necessary to serve the public while maintaining their own safety. I have been in many situations where I attempted to communicate by radio and had the radio system fail, preventing me from requesting backup, or requiring me to use other means to communicate with dispatch or other emergency personnel. We cannot put our public safety responders in more danger by risking failure of the radio system when they are working to keep our community safe.

Measure 15-186 will update and modernize the outdated analog emergency radio systems. The county estimates that this will only cost homeowners \$2.25 a month, which equates to \$27 a year for a house assessed at \$300,000. It's a small price to pay to keep public safety safe.

Jackson County is my home and I ask the taxpayers to give our first responders the tools they need to keep our community safe. Please join me in voting YES on Measure 15-186.

*(This information furnished by Dan Moulin.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Vote YES on Measure 15-186

Help Keep our Community and Most Vulnerable Residents Safe

The Oregon Health Care Association represents long-term care providers in Oregon, including Jackson County. Our members care for thousands of seniors and people with disabilities in Jackson County and we interact with emergency response agencies frequently as they respond to life-threatening health events and transport our residents to local hospitals.

These are situations in which every second counts. Lives are on the line.

Because the radio equipment being used by emergency agencies in Jackson County is so old, it sometimes does not work in larger buildings such as hospitals, care facilities and other large commercial structures.

This is a serious issue. Nothing is more important to our members and their residents, and their families, than living in a community where they feel safe.

It is critical that local emergency personnel have the equipment they need to communicate effectively so that they can do their jobs of responding to those in need.

Our current 9-1-1 radio systems are extremely outdated and need immediate upgrades. This bond will replace the radio system that sheriff's deputies, police, firefighters, and EMTs use to communicate with 9-1-1 dispatchers in an emergency.

This proposal is a small price to pay to provide greatly needed equipment that will help keep us all safe, costing the average homeowner **\$2.25 per month**.

And just as important, this measure will improve the safety of our fire and paramedic first responders who care for our community when we need them.

**Please vote YES on Measure 15-186. Keep Jackson County Safe.**

*(This information furnished by Chris Madden, Oregon Health Care Association.)*

# Measure 15-186 Jackson County

## Argument in Favor

Vote YES on Measure 15-186

A Small Price to Pay to keep our Community Safe

As a small business owner in Jackson County, nothing is more important to me than working and living in a community where I feel safe. I believe Measure 15-186 will make Jackson County a safer, healthier place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our current 9-1-1 radio systems are outdated and need desperate upgrades. I recently heard that both North and South County Fire have had their systems crash and radio repeaters often fail to work. This bond will replace the radio system that sheriff's deputies, police, firefighters, and EMTs use to communicate with 9-1-1- dispatchers in an emergency.

It's our responsibility to ensure that when we ask first responders to head into harm's way, they have an emergency communications system they can rely on to call for help when they need it. This innovative proposal is a small price to pay to for a good investment for the future. In fact, this measure will only cost the average homeowner **\$2.25 per month**. As a taxpayer, I want to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live.

Most importantly, this bond measure helps keep safe the people who put their lives on the line for us.

**Please join me by voting YES on Measure 15-186.** This is a small price to pay to keep our Jackson County community safe.

Dawn M. Mena  
DBA Mena's Catering

*(This information furnished by Dawn M. Mena.)*

## Argument in Favor

**Please Vote Yes on 15-186**

**Fire Service Agency Leaders Agree - It's Time to Update**

As a leader of a fire service agency, I am kept up at night worrying about the reliability of our radio systems in Jackson County. The ability for our firefighters to be successful in their jobs depends on an uninterrupted communications system. There are times, particularly in our rural communities, where firefighters are unable to communicate with each other and the 911 dispatch center due to the failing radio system. We need to do better to ensure an uninterrupted communications system for all our public safety officers working day in and day out to keep our communities safe.

Measure 15-186 will give our public safety officers the equipment necessary for seamless communications to each other and the 911 dispatch center. In addition, this measure will improve the system to eliminate the "dead spots" that render our responders unable to communicate with each other and the 911 dispatch center.

Please join the other Jackson County citizens support our public safety responders by voting

**YES on Measure 15-186**

*(This information furnished by Robert Horton.)*

# VOTER REGISTRATION

*The deadline to register to vote is the 21st day before an election.*

## Registering to Vote

To vote in Oregon you need to be registered in the county where you reside.

You can register if you can answer yes to these three questions:

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

If you are 16 or 17 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

## How to register

You can register to vote online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) or you can get 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

You can fill the card out in person or send it in by US mail. You can also print out a registration card online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov).

## Updating your voter registration

Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) or by completing and returning a voter registration card with the new information. You should update your registration if you do any of the following:

- change your home address
- change your mailing address
- change your name
- change your signature
- want to change or select a political party
- will be away from home on election day



**REMEMBER!**

**All ballots must be received at an official drop site or at Jackson County Elections no later than**

**8 pm, November 5, 2019**

**Postmarks Do Not Count!**