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# Statesman Journal

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The Stayton Fire District covers about 12,000 people over 107 square miles in and around Stayton.  
PHOTOS BY BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Voters will decide on funding measure for fire district

Bill Poehler  
Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Stayton Fire District will ask voters to raise property taxes in order to keep nine firefighters it hired in 2022 so it could provide service around the clock.

The district is putting a five-year \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value operations levy to voters in the May 19 election. In the same election, the City of Stayton has a 98.5 cent per \$1,000 operations levy for its parks and pool operations.

Stayton Fire Chief Jay Alley said the district didn't intend to go head-to-head with the city measure.

"I'm not thrilled about that," Alley said. "I have no reason to believe why it wouldn't pass because I think people support Stayton fire.

"What I'm not sure of is that people's attitude or people's outlook on things, how it will be when they have other things on the ballot that they have to make a decision on."

The district covers about 12,000 people over 107 square miles including Stayton; unincorporated communities that include Marion, Mehama and Elkhorn; and rural areas around the city including parts of Linn County.

The new operations levy would not go into effect until July 1, 2027. That means the district will have two more opportunities to pitch the levy to voters if it fails in May.

The City of Stayton, meanwhile, warns it may have to close the pool and stop maintaining parks in the city if its levy doesn't pass in May.

"And so what we're looking at is the political climate that's out there and everything that's going on," Alley said. "We wanted to ensure that we got this to the voters prior to it expiring. So the opportunity was there if



The Stayton Fire District is asking voters to pass a \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value operations levy in the May 19 election.

for some reason it didn't pass, there was another opportunity."

**Stayton Fire levy would raise taxes about \$45 per year**

The Stayton Fire District's permanent tax rate is \$1.33 per \$1,000. The current operations levy, which passed in 2021, taxes residents 88 cents per \$1,000.

That funding gave the district the funds to hire nine firefighters to staff the department at all times. It is the only fire district in the Santiam Canyon that has 24/7 staffing.

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## Study: Oregon's sea level forecasts more accurate than others

Courtney Sherwood  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

A recent study in the scientific journal "Nature" says many forecasters are underestimating how much sea level will rise due to climate change in the years ahead.

But predictions for the Oregon Coast are much more accurate than in some areas of the globe, according to a researcher in the state.

Peter Ruggiero is a professor at Oregon State University and the director of The Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub, a federally-funded research project.

He says the main lesson of the new research, which he didn't participate in, is that understanding large-scale sea level change requires accurate data and an understanding of how the ocean works.

"It's a reminder that when you're doing these kinds of hazard assessments, there are a lot of things to keep track of," Ruggiero said.

The paper, written by scientists from Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands, found that areas in the global south often have less data collection and need better scientific assessments of sea

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## More sunlight comes in springtime regardless of daylight saving time

Jeanine Santucci  
USA TODAY

The long nights and short days of winter are rapidly giving way to much more daylight, part of a fascinating and unbalanced yearly cycle.

While sunrise and sunset times are constantly on the move, sunlight rapidly increases in March (and rapidly decreases in September).

During the month of March, some parts of the country will add over an hour-and-a-half of sun by the end of the month. Even Florida will gain 40 to 50 minutes of daylight during March. The change in daylight is least noticeable around the solstices in June and December, when sunlight varies by just seconds during the month.

The increase in daylight, or the amount of time the sun spends above the horizon, will be most obvious in the northernmost parts of the United States, which will face the sun more directly as our Northern Hemisphere tilts toward the sun on Earth's axis at a 23.5-degree angle, according to Brandon Buckingham, a meteorologist at AccuWeather.

Separately, daylight saving time started at 2 a.m. March 8.

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