

Petition to the Newberg City Council

We, the undersigned, have serious concerns about the property tax implications that will occur if Newberg annexes into the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue district. Specifically, the Newberg Budget Committee and Newberg City Council will have the sole authority to continue to levy the property taxes that are presently being used to fund Fire and EMS services even though the liability of funding such services will be removed. We strongly feel that it is inappropriate for such authority to continue.

To this end we petition the Newberg City Council to request Staff to prepare a Request for Council Action to initiate a process of adopting an amendment to the Newberg City Charter, to be heard by the Council in the near future. The Charter amendment shall prohibit the Council from levying any part of the taxes that are presently being used to fund the TVF&R contract. To be more specific, Newberg staff has estimated this amount as \$1.88/\$1,000 of assessed value. The limitation shall begin in the first fiscal year during which Newberg is annexed into the TVF&R district. It would have no effect if no annexation ever occurs.

We recognize that this keeps with the spirit of Ballot Measures 47 and 50 and leaves the City of Newberg with the same funding for non-Fire/EMS services as it has now.

We feel that it is important for the City Council to initiate the Charter amendment process for three reasons:

- 1) It will demonstrate to Newberg residents that the move from the Newberg Fire Department to the TVF&R district that the Council initiated in 2016 was motivated by a desire for public safety and not for purposes of avoiding the property tax limitations placed by the voters with Ballot Measures 47 and 50.
- 2) With such a good-faith effort on the part of the Council, it will be much easier to get support for the annexation by the citizens of Newberg.
- 3) If the Council does not choose to initiate the Charter amendment, it very likely will be done by citizens, further damaging the reputation of the Council.

We urge the City Council to be respectful of what voters intended with Ballot Measures 47 and 50. To that end, we implore you to direct Staff to prepare an RCA for the Charter amendment and to pass that RCA when it comes back before you.

Date: _____