

November 3, 2026 General Election

Jackson County, Oregon

Referred to the People by the Jackson County Vector Control District

Measure: 15-244

Caption: Five-Year Local Option Levy for Vector (Mosquito, Fly) Control

Question: Shall District impose five-year operating levy of \$.05/\$1,000 of assessed value beginning FY2027-28? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: This measure authorizes the Jackson County Vector Control District to impose a new local option levy to support operations in Jackson County, including:

- Increasing monitoring and prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases;
- Increasing surveillance and control of larval and adult mosquitoes, flies, and ticks in Jackson County;
- Adding an additional full-time Lab/Surveillance Technician;
- Funding vehicle and equipment maintenance; and
- Expanding public outreach and education.

The District serves a population of more than 200,000 in a service area of 2,802 square miles.

For a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, the levy would result in an estimated tax of \$15.00 per year.

The levy is estimated to raise the following amounts: FY2027-28 - \$1,474,188; FY2028-29 - \$1,518,413; FY2029-30 - \$1,563,965; FY2030-31 - \$1,610,844; FY2031-32 - \$1,659,251; for five-year total of \$7,826,661

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

Explanatory Statement:

The Jackson County Vector Control District ("JCVCD") is responsible for monitoring vectors that transmit diseases (primarily mosquitoes, flies, and ticks), and for implementing measures to control them.

JCVCD is a local government entity governed by a volunteer board. It serves a population of more than 200,000 in a service area of 2,802 square miles. JCVCD derives most of its funding from property taxes assessed on real properties in Jackson County.

JCVCD's current permanent tax rate is \$.04 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The proposed measure, if passed, would authorize JCVCD to impose an additional local option tax levy of \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years.

There are several factors prompting JCVCD to request approval of the levy, including:

- Increased cost of modern mosquito surveillance and control equipment such as drones for monitoring and treating hard-to-access areas
- Expansion of service areas and an increasing number of public service requests due to human population growth and climate-driven changes to mosquito habitat
- The need for additional surveillance of invasive species like *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito that can transmit diseases like dengue and Zika virus, and which has been found in Jackson County the last two years
- The need for more permanent staffing to bolster surveillance and control operations
- The desire to provide additional community grants for backyard mosquito reduction programs
- The ability to upgrade lab facilities in order to increase sample testing and virus detection

The additional funding would be used to support vector control operations in Jackson County, including:

- Providing surveillance of mosquito and tick populations county-wide
- Implementing multiple methods for control of larval and adult mosquitoes
- Performing disease testing of mosquitoes and ticks, e.g., West Nile virus and Lyme disease
- Making site visits and providing technical advice to landowners experiencing mosquitoes
- Conducting tire disposal drives to reduce mosquito breeding habitat
- Providing Mosquitofish for artificial water sources
- Providing rat and fly control materials
- Conducting outreach to, and making presentations for, classrooms and special interest groups

Currently, a home with an assessed value of \$300,000 pays approximately \$12 per year for JCVCD services. If the local option levy is approved, a home of the same value would pay an estimated additional tax of \$15 per year.

(This information furnished by the Jackson County Vector Control District.)