Jackson County Voters' Pamphlet

SPECIAL ELECTION
March 11, 2008

CITY OF PHOENIX

Measure No. 15-82

BALLOT TITLE

15-82 ANNEXATION OF PHOENIX TO JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

QUESTION: Shall City of Phoenix annex into the boundaries of Jackson County Fire District No. 5 effective July 1, 2008?

SUMMARY: The annexation of the City to the District would be effective July 1, 2008.

The current permanent tax rate for the District, which may not exceed $3.1976 per one thousand dollars of assessed value on improved property, would not change as the result of the annexation. Upon the annexation, the City of Phoenix would no longer impose the Public Safety Local Option Tax of $2.85 per one thousand dollars for the remainder of the term of the Local Option Tax.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The annexation of the City of Phoenix into the jurisdictional boundaries of Jackson County Fire District 5 will enable Phoenix residents to continue to receive twenty-four (24) hour fire and life safety services effective July 1, 2008. Fire District 5 will provide fire prevention, public education, fire code enforcement, fire suppression, hazardous materials response and emergency medical services for both City and rural residents. The current permanent tax rate for the District, which may not exceed $3.1976 per one thousand dollars of assessed value on improved property, would not change as the result of the annexation.

BACKGROUND

Since the 1960's Phoenix Fire Department and Jackson County Fire District 5 have worked side-by-side to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to their respective customers. Although each department has done an excellent job, it has become increasingly obvious the two departments are duplicating efforts in many areas such as administration, training, fire prevention, public education and emergency response. Additionally, due to budget constraints and increased costs of providing quality emergency services, each agency has been looking at creative ways of becoming more cost effective and operationally efficient.

Since October 1, 2007, Fire District 5 has been providing fire protection and emergency medical services to the City of Phoenix on a contract basis. The contract has been very successful in terms of maintaining staffing levels, providing services, reducing costs, cost avoidance and reducing duplication of effort and services for both departments.

Discussions have been ongoing for years regarding whether Fire District 5 and Phoenix Fire Departments should become one fire department. Department costs have increased annually in excess of 10%, while revenue used to support the department is not keeping pace. Finally, after establishing the contract for service (effective through June 30, 2008), the Phoenix City Council and Board of Directors for Fire District 5 have called for an election on the issue. In order for the annexation to occur, voters in both the City and Fire District must approve the measure.

ANNEXATION OBJECTIVES

- Provide 24-hour fire protection and emergency medical services for the City and the Fire District
- Staff the City of Phoenix fire station 24-hours per day
- Provide long-term financial stability
- Eliminate duplication of services
- Improve services and reduce costs

SUMMARY

The City of Phoenix currently collects $2.85 per one thousand dollars of assessed value on improved property for a public safety local option tax. With the approval of the annexation measure, the City will discontinue collection of the local option tax, making the effect to City taxpayers, a net increase of $.34 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. For example, the additional taxes on a home assessed at $150,000 would be $51.00 per year.

(Information furnished by Betty S. Smith, City Recorder/Treasurer, City of Phoenix.)

— CONTINUES —

Measure No. 15-82

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Citizens Connection Committee

The Phoenix City Council asked citizens to advise them on helping fix the city's financial problems. Stable funding for quality fire, ambulance and emergency response services is a top priority. After extensive research, the citizens' committee voted for annexation to a fire district and recommended the City join Fire District 5. Recently, the Phoenix City Council voted to contract with Fire District 5 and to ask our citizens to vote for permanent annexation in a March 2008 election. The **Citizens' Connection Committee** recommends that you vote **YES** for annexation.

"Yes" vote means:

- Cost stability: by sharing the financial burden among 25,000 users in Fire District 5 rather than among Phoenix's population of less than 5,000.
- Cost amounts to only thirty-four cents more per $1,000 property value ($3.19/$1,000), replacing the current levy of $2.85/$1,000, which will go away.
- The cost is a tax on our property tax bill, thus it can be deducted from our annual state and federal income taxes.
- Fire district 5 has an eight-year positive track record serving Talent as well as backing up the Phoenix Fire Department.

"No" vote means:

- A drastic cut in fire and police services OR the passage of a new levy of $4 to $4.50 per $1,000 property value (versus $3.19 for a YES vote) will be needed just to cover current costs for services.
- Without annexation or a vote for a new levy, Phoenix will not have adequate fire protection. Without adequate fire protection your homeowner's insurance will increase substantially. You can check this cost with your insurance carrier.

A **"YES"** Vote makes sense for Phoenix – Thank You.

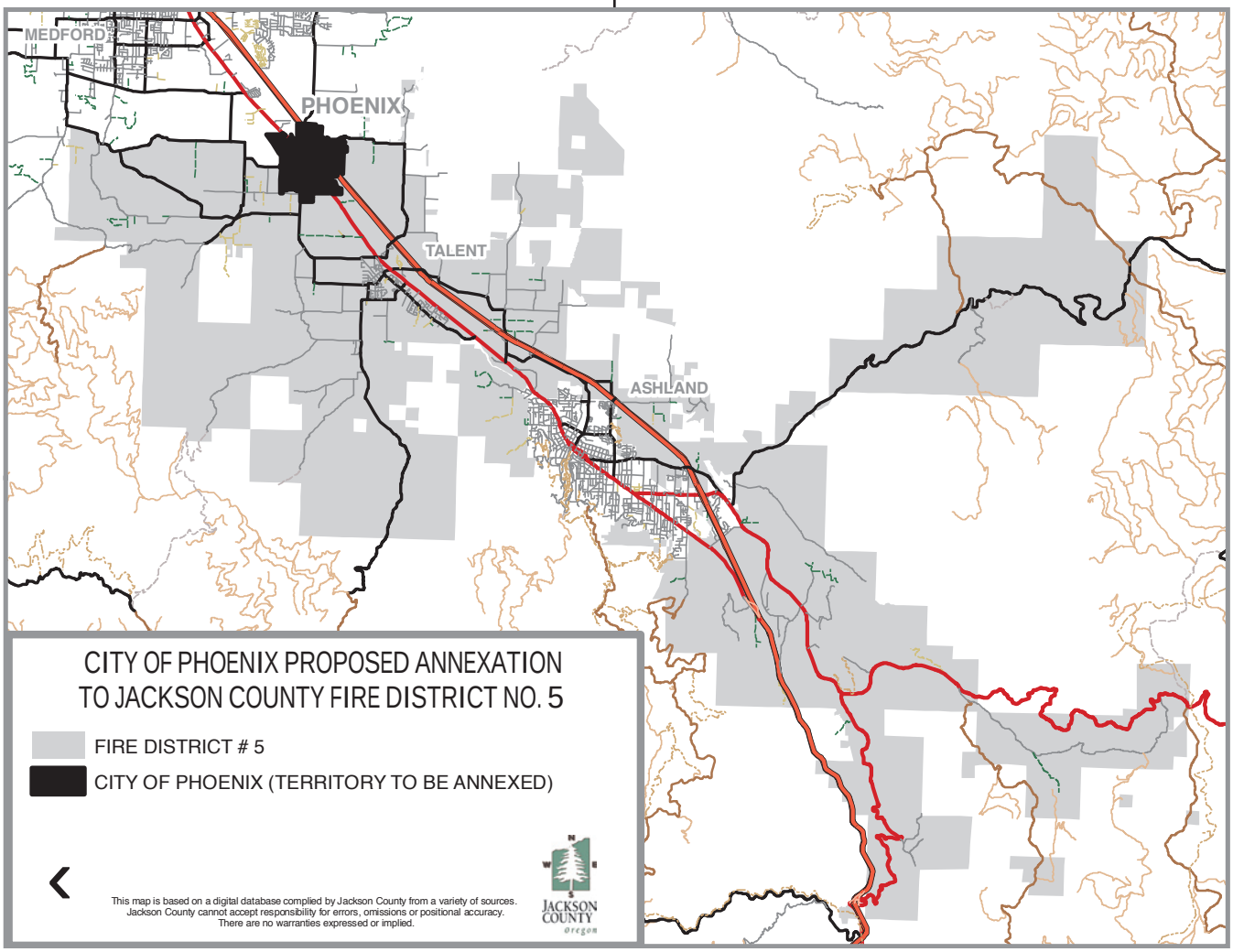
Sponsored by Citizens' Connection Committee

(Information furnished by Brian J. Lewis, Ph.D, Citizens Connection Committee.)

ARGUMENT AGAINST

NONE FILED

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.



VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

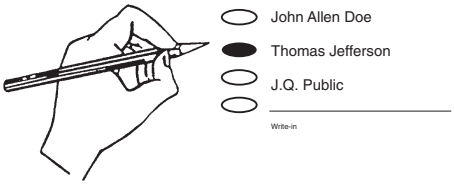
YOU MAY USE A PENCIL OR PEN

At the Special Election of 2008 the voters of Jackson County will cast their votes on the ballot illustrated below. This page has been inserted into the Voters' Pamphlet as an aid for using this ballot.

1. **TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL (⬬) TO THE LEFT OF THE RESPONSE OF YOUR CHOICE.**

EXAMPLE

PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)

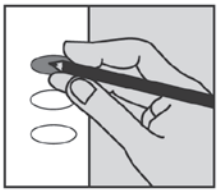


2. **DO NOT CROSS OUT —** IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, CONTACT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT AT 774-6148 FOR A REPLACEMENT BALLOT.

REMEMBER, IF STATED ON YOUR BALLOT, VOTE BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BALLOT!

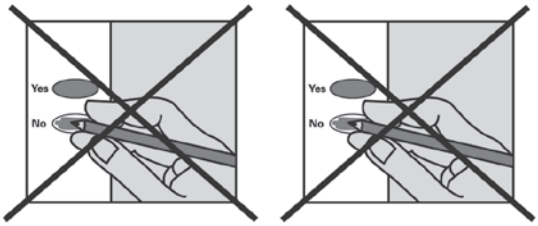
check your ballot!

Make sure you have completely filled in the ovals next to your choices.



If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote **both** Yes **and** No on a measure, it is called an overvote.

Your vote **will not count** for that candidate or measure.



You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

Contact Jackson County Elections to request a replacement ballot if:

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

or for any other reason.

Jackson County Elections
1101 W Main Street Suite 201
Medford OR 97501

541 774 6148
www.co.jackson.or.us

OFFICIAL DROP SITE LOCATION

OPENING FEBRUARY 23, 2008

The drop site location listed below will be the only one used for the March 11th Special Election in Jackson County.

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)

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BALLOTS: 8 P.M. ELECTION DAY, MARCH 11, 2008