



Sandy Fire District #72

Special Board Meeting Briefing Packet

**July 29, 2025
1:00 P.M.**

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SANDY FIRE DISTRICT

Here for you



Board of Directors Special Meeting

JULY 29, 2025

Meeting Location: Remote Video Conferencing

1:00 pm

AGENDA

REGULAR SESSION

- I. CALL TO ORDER PER ORS 192.610 TO 192.690**
ORS 192.650 – The meeting is being recorded.

- II. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

- III. BUSINESS – Action required**
 - B-1 Request Board Approval of Amended Sandy Fire Ballot Title, Question, Summary & Explanatory Statement – CIO Chris Edmonds**

- X. ADJOURNMENT**



CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT

Here for you

Memo

To	Sandy Fire District Board of Directors
From	Chris Edmonds on behalf of Fire Chief Nick Browne
Date	July 23, 2025
Subject	Technical updates to annexation ballot question and summary

Action Requested

Staff request Board approval of a revised ballot question and summary to ensure compliance with ORS 198.920. The updated language adds the words “dissolve and” and “dissolves and” to the ballot question and summary, respectively, with no other changes recommended.

The proposed changes are below, in red:

Ballot Question (20-word limit)

Shall Sandy Fire District **dissolve and** be annexed into Clackamas Fire District for fire protection and emergency medical services?

Ballot Summary (175-word limit)

This measure **dissolves and** annexes Sandy Fire District into Clackamas Fire District, which currently provides fire and emergency medical services to Sandy-area residents under a contract expiring in June 2030.

Annexation will ensure permanent, district-level fire and EMS services for residents, replacing the temporary contract. It will give residents the ability to vote in fire district elections, serve on

Background

Following Sandy Fire District Board approval of a ballot title, question, summary, and explanatory statement, staff became aware of a requirement in ORS 198.920 to formally dissolve a district before it is possible to annex its territory into another. Legal counsel has indicated that this issue can be addressed by adding dissolution language to the ballot question and summary, as reflected in the revised document.

Board Policy Implications

There are no known board policy implications.

Budget Implications

There are no known budget implications of making this change, beyond ensuring compliance with ORS 198.920 governing the process to dissolve and annex a special district.

Trust • Empowerment • Accountability • Mindset • Service

Sandy Annexation Measure *(Revised 7.22.25)*
Title, Question, Summary and Explanatory Statement

Ballot Title (10-word limit)

Annexes Sandy Fire District into Clackamas Fire District

Ballot Question (20-word limit)

Shall Sandy Fire District **dissolve and** be annexed into Clackamas Fire District for fire protection and emergency medical services?

Ballot Summary (175-word limit)

This measure **dissolves and** annexes Sandy Fire District into Clackamas Fire District, which currently provides fire and emergency medical services to Sandy-area residents under a contract expiring in June 2030.

Annexation will ensure permanent, district-level fire and EMS services for residents, replacing the temporary contract. It will give residents the ability to vote in fire district elections, serve on the district's board of directors, and help shape decisions about service levels and funding measures, such as bonds or levies.

Clackamas Fire serves more than 265,000 residents in communities including Boring, Eagle Creek, Damascus, and Oregon City—all of which voted to permanently join the district within the past 20 years.

If approved, property owners will pay the district's permanent tax rate of \$2.4012 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For the median assessed property in Sandy Fire District, the cost impact is estimated to be \$4.68 per month.

Annexation will protect critical investments in staffing and equipment for wildfire response, enhanced rural protection, and emergency medical services.

Explanatory Statement (500-word limit)

Since July 2023, Clackamas Fire has been providing full emergency fire and medical services to Sandy under a service contract. Thanks to this partnership, residents have received improved emergency services, with Clackamas Fire staffing a three-person engine company 24/7 and a two-person rescue unit for 12 hours a day, seven days a week at Sandy's main station.

The Sandy Fire District is referring this measure to voters to consider formal annexation into Clackamas Fire District. Annexation would ensure long-term emergency response stability, expand local representation by allowing Sandy voters to elect district board members, and provide access to the same service levels enjoyed by other communities in the district, including Boring, Happy Valley, Damascus, and Oregon City. Clackamas Fire District has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 2 rating, which is higher than Sandy's. Annexation into Clackamas Fire may help some property owners secure more affordable insurance coverage.

If approved, property owners would pay taxes directly to Clackamas Fire for fire and EMS services. Property owners would pay the district's permanent tax rate of \$2.4012 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The cost difference between the Clackamas Fire rate and what residents currently pay for emergency services is estimated to be \$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or approximately \$4.68 per month for the median assessed home.

In 2023, Clackamas Fire voters approved an enhanced funding levy, at a rate of \$0.52/1000, for emergency response. If annexation is approved, Sandy-area residents would not pay this levy and would have the opportunity to vote on any future funding measures, such as a levy renewal.

Annexation would provide a predictable funding structure, maintain professional firefighter staffing, and enhance regional coordination. Clackamas Fire would continue to operate out of the Sandy and Dover Fire Stations. The main station in Sandy has been fully staffed with Clackamas Fire personnel since 2023, and since that time there has been a significant increase in volunteer staffing at the Dover Station. Annexation would support maintaining these enhanced staffing levels over the long-term.

A "yes" vote supports annexation into Clackamas Fire District, effective July 1, 2026. In spring 2025, Sandy and Clackamas Fire Districts hosted a joint public meeting and two community open houses, conducted a survey, and recorded a webinar that is available at www.ClackamasFire.com/clackamas-annexations.

Based on community feedback, the Sandy Fire District determined there is strong public interest in securing long-term, stable fire and EMS services by joining Clackamas Fire.

A "no" vote would maintain the current temporary contract with Clackamas Fire District. Should Sandy residents decide not to join Clackamas Fire, options are limited. Clackamas Fire would likely require an updated contract to cover the true cost of enhanced service level standards, including wildfire prevention, emergency response and deployment of light vehicles. This would likely mean additional taxes or cuts to fire and emergency medical services for Sandy residents, one reason both elected district boards support annexation.