



East County Fire and Rescue

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Resolution #343-03192024

A resolution providing for the submission of levy-primary election.

A resolution of the East County Fire and Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at an election to be held within the district on August 6, 2024, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing a levy of property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations.

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the board of fire commissioners of that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the district that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the district.

WHEREAS, the board of fire commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, firefighter recruitment and training and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by the district's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$1.08 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the district as limited by the 101% limitation, not to exceed 1% maximum increase per year.

WHEREAS, the district previously levied at its full \$1.50 rate in 2019.

WHEREAS, the board of fire commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the district that the maximum allowable levy authorized by this resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the East County Fire and Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners, Clark County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to meet increased call volumes, maintain the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the district, it is necessary for the district to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained firefighters equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services the district shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed

by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2024 and collect beginning in 2025, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the district at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. The amount levied in 2024 shall serve as the district's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 4. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the district for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 6, 2024, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the district should be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Clark County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: East County Fire and Rescue

Proposition #: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of East County Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 343-03192024 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund district operations.

This proposition authorizes the district to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2024 and collected in 2025. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, emergency medical services and facilities, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2025 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Section 5. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1), the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

Section 6. The Board hereby assigns to the chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 7. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the board hereby designates the chief or designee as the individuals to whom the county auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 8. The chief or designee is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 9. The chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 3, 2024, to provide to the county auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper district officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the August 6, 2024 election.

Section 10. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 11. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 12. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED at a regular open public meeting of the Board of Commissioners for East County Fire and Rescue March 19, 2024, with the following commissioners being present and voting:



Joshua Seeds Chairperson


Michael Taggart, Vice Chair


Martha Martin, Commissioner


Steve Hofmaster, Commissioner

Attest


Debbie Macias, District Secretary
Ed Hartin, Chief (Alternate)

