



Fire District 3

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners passes fire levy lid lift resolution

Proposition will appear on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot

BRUSH PRAIRIE, WASH. — The Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The lid lift would fund additional staffing at all five stations and pay for service improvements to keep up with higher call volumes and costs to provide emergency services.

Call volumes have increased more than 25 percent in the last six years. Medical emergencies now account for 70 percent of all calls. Staffing levels have not kept up with the growing demand for emergency services and the district is struggling to maintain the level and quality of services the community requires.

Costs to provide emergency services increase almost 6 percent each year, but the district is limited by state law to just a 1 percent revenue increase per year.

In 2023, voters turned down a fire levy lid lift to lift the 1 percent lid – and this is impacting service levels. Two of the district's 14 firefighter/paramedics left for other jobs, and those positions are now unfunded.

The current fire levy of \$1.16 per \$1,000 of assessed property value is not adequate to maintain staffing and service levels needed to respond to calls. The district is asking voters for a \$0.34 lid lift to reset the fire levy rate to \$1.50.

If approved by voters, the lid lift will fund:

- 24-hour staffing at all five stations
- Additional paramedic certified firefighters to improve survival rates in the community
- The purchase of a new ambulance to be used when transport to hospital cannot be delayed
- Fire station improvements that are needed to maintain operational readiness

The fire levy lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home an additional \$14.17 per month or \$170 per year.

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Clark County Fire District 3 provides fire and life safety services to 46,000 people in east Clark County, including the city of Battle Ground. Full-time and volunteer emergency personnel responded to 5,173 calls in 2023, of which 70 percent were for EMS. Fire District 3 operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state. More information on Fire District 3 can be found on its website www.fire3.org.

“more than fire...”

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