

2024 Fire Levy Lid Lift

Clark County Fire District 3 is asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift in the August primary election to hire more firefighters and improve emergency services.



How are we funded?

We pay for daily operations through a fire levy capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. In 2017, voters approved a levy rate of \$1.42. Since then, the rate has dropped to \$1.16. Our fire levy pays for fire prevention/suppression and emergency medical services (EMS). We do not collect a separate EMS levy.

What will be on the ballot?

Fire District 3 is asking voters for a fire levy lid lift of \$0.34 per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the August 6, 2024 primary election. It is called Proposition 5.

What will the lid lift fund?

- 24-hour staffing for our fire stations to improve response times
- Additional paramedic-certified firefighters and modern medical equipment to improve survival rates
- Replacing an aging ambulance to transport patients to area hospitals
- Emergency service levels that will maintain our risk rating for homeowner insurance premiums

**Homeowners who are 61 years or older and others who meet income and eligibility requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption. Contact the [Clark County Assessor](#) at 564-397-2391 or online at [see if you qualify](#).*

Why are we asking for this?

Call volumes have increased more than 25 percent in the last six years. Costs rise six percent per year on average, but state law limits us to a one percent revenue increase (and one-time payments for new construction).

We have had to make cuts to balance our budget. Specifically, we are not able to fill vacant positions when firefighters leave for fire districts that are better funded. This is impacting service levels and response times.

The bottom line is patient outcome. The cost and demand for emergency services is outpacing the revenue we have to provide it. This is a concern since 70 percent of our calls are for medical emergencies.

What will this cost?*

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

Where can I find more information?

Learn more at www.fire3.org. Fire Chief Scott Sorenson welcomes your questions at 360-989-7375 or scott@fire3.org.



What will happen if the lid lift is not passed?

Because of rising costs, fire stations will be shut down for certain periods of time. We will lose (and not be able to replace) additional personnel as they leave for better funded fire districts. This will result in longer emergency response times. We also will not have the funds to replace aging fire engines and equipment.

These cuts will increase our risk rating with insurance companies and cause higher insurance premiums for some businesses and homeowners.