

CLARK COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 3

RESOLUTION 2023-04

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF CLARK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF FIRE DISTRICT 3, AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE FIRE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 1, 2023, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE LIMITATIONS.

WHEREAS, Clark County Fire District 3 ("Fire District 3") provides fire and life safety services to approximately 46,000 people in east Clark County, including the City of Battle Ground, responding to an average of 4,500 emergency calls per year, with 4,917 calls for service in 2022 alone; and

WHEREAS, Fire District 3 has adopted a strategic plan and operates by the core values of professionalism, safety, teamwork, integrity, and community; and

WHEREAS, Fire District 3 operates under a balanced budget, maintains adequate reserves in case of emergencies, has a long history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state, and actively looks for ways to be more cost-effective for its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in the past ten years, the population within Fire District 3 has increased 26 percent. Call volumes are steadily increasing, EMS calls account for 73 percent of all emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of Fire District 3's mission to provide life safety and fire protection throughout its growing community, it desires to hire additional personnel to allow for staffing of three firefighters per engine, the industry best practices for districts of comparable size. Additionally, Fire District 3 wishes to train firefighters in additional forms of rescue, including swift water, high angle, ropes, alleviating the need to rely on outside help and thus resulting in faster response. Fire District 3 also hopes to remodel Station 34 to allow full-time staffing to reduce response times and to replace a fire engine, ambulance, marine rescue unit and other minor apparatus that have reached the end of their usable lives.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners ("Board") of Fire District 3 has determined that the continued application of the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 will not be sufficient to provide for the expected cost increases required to

maintain the level of services currently provided by Fire District 3 and to provide for the increased level of service that Fire District 3 desires to provide to the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Fire District 3 that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of Fire District 3 that fire and emergency medical services be provided by Fire District 3. The accelerated demands for and increasing costs of providing these services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for maintenance, operations, and equipment in excess of those which can be provided by Fire District 3's regular tax revenue levied at the current effective rate of \$1.21 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property within Fire District 3 as limited by the 101% limitation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark County Fire Protection District No. 3, Clark County Washington as follows:

Section 1: In order to maintain and increase the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and to provide for the continued protection of life and property in the District in light of growing service demands, it is necessary for the District to: hire and retain additional properly trained personnel and to equip them with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment; acquire, operate and maintain emergency additional fire and medical service vehicles; and to acquire and renovate fire stations and other capital facilities.

Section 2: In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing the adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1, and to assure the continuation of such services, Fire District 3 shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property tax imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within Fire District 3 at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3: In order to obtain, operate, and maintain emergency services, Fire District 3 has determined a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, as authorized by state law, is adequate.

Section 4: LIMIT FACTOR. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1, and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2024, Fire District 3 has determined that a limit factor of 6% shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to a maximum rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in 2024-2030. The 2030 levy amount will serve as the basis for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Fire District 3 for their ratification or rejection, at the election on August 1, 2023, 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 Fire District 3 should be \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation in 2024, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations in 2024, and be adjusted by a limit factor of 6% for the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Clark County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to submit the following proposition at the election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

**Clark County Fire Protection District #3 – Board of Fire Commissioners
Authorizing Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

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The Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark County Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution 2023-04 concerning funding for fire protection and emergency medical services.

This proposition would authorize an increase in the District’s maximum property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, with collection beginning in 2024, to fund staffing, training, maintenance, operations, facilities, and equipment. It would authorize an annual increase of the levy rate up to 6% in years 2025-2030, never exceeding \$1.50/\$1,000 assessed valuation. The 2030 levy amount would serve as the basis for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should the proposition be enacted into law?

YES

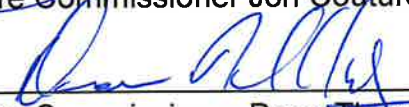
NO

ADOPTED, at the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark County Fire Protection District No. 3 on this 24th day of April 2023, the following Fire Commissioners being present and voting.

APPROVED:



Fire Commissioner Jon Couture



Fire Commissioner Dean Thornberry



Fire Commissioner Rick Steele

District Secretary 
