

**For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:**  
*clark.wa.gov/elections/august-1-2023-primary-special-election*

*You must sign and date your return envelope in order for your ballot to be counted!*

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote online, or when you obtained your driver's license, the signature on your driver's license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your ballot or signature to go through the mail.

## Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you may do it by mail or online at **VoteWA.gov**.

A Washington driver's license or ID is required to register online. You may also complete a new voter registration form. Contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone for more information.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 5 pm Monday, July 24, 2023.

## Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

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### Clark County Elections Office

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**Phone** 564-397-2345

**Email** elections@clark.wa.gov

**Speech-to-speech Relay**

711 or 877-833-6341

**Mailing address**

PO Box 8815  
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

**Street address**

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

*front panel photo by Jakob Owens on Unsplash*

Clark County Official Local

F3

# Voters' Pamphlet

**August 1, 2023**  
**Primary and Special Election**

Fire Protection District No. 3 Edition



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# Clark County Fire Protection District No. 3

## Proposition No. 4

### Levy Lid Lift Authorizing Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

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?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

FD3 provides fire and emergency medical services to 46,000 people, responding to 4,917 calls (73% EMS-related) in 2022. Proposition 4 is necessary to maintain effective service levels, including additional firefighters, renovating facilities for 24-hour staffing, and replacing apparatus. It would authorize a levy rate of \$1.50/\$1000 of assessed value; an additional \$12.08/month (\$145/year) for a home with assessed value of \$500,000. To adjust for property value and inflation fluctuation, this limits the rate to an annual increase of 6% but never to exceed \$1.50/\$1000 per year from 2025 to 2030. More information at <https://fire3.org/fire-levy-lid-lift/>.

#### STATEMENT FOR

We support Clark County Fire District 3's proposal to renew the fire levy rate from \$1.21/\$1000 of assessed valuation to \$1.50/ \$1000. On a \$500k home, this is \$12.08 more per month. The \$1.50 levy rate is within the state law protecting taxpayers from wasteful government spending. It will allow FD3 to improve emergency service levels, meet mandated safety-requirements, expand firefighter training, and replace aging equipment.

A voter-approved increase will adjust the funding level to adapt to FD3's 26% population increase over the past 10 years, which is straining resources. It will allow FD3 to comply with new regulations requiring a minimum number of firefighters to enter an active rescue scene. FD3's history of compliance with regulations and excellent response times has resulted in improved insurance ratings, lowering premiums for property owners.

Renewing the fire levy would allow training of Swiftwater and Ropes Rescue technicians to respond quickly to our varied terrain and waterways without waiting for other county agencies. Station 34 on Rawson Road would receive 24-hour staffing, reducing response times by adding capacity district-wide.

Fire District 3 has a proven track record of financial transparency and fiscal responsibility. It has completed all promises made to taxpayers and voters since the last levy lid lift passed in 2017. We ask you to consider the facts, your community's needs, and use your vote to make a positive difference. We must continue to support our excellent Fire District and the citizens and businesses of our community!

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

FD3 has a history of long-range planning and accountable stewardship of funds, operating efficiently on budgets lower than average for county districts. Historically operating with annual 1% revenue increases, this measure allows elected commissioners to increase to max 6% - as needed - through the annual budgeting process, to maintain operational requirements and service levels. Rate cannot exceed \$1.50/\$1000. EMS tax only applies to a few residents in the northernmost region of the district.

#### Statement in Favor and Rebuttal of Statement Against

##### Submitted by:

Helga Grimsrud - Chair  
helgapratt@hotmail.com

Harold Heffner  
Don LaVallee

#### STATEMENT AGAINST

The current rate for the existing levy is \$1.21. They're asking for a 24% increase *plus* any increase in assessed values that may happen this year due to increased assessed values and new construction. The new rate would be \$1.50 with a built-in automatic increase up to 6% per year through 2030. They're estimating a 7.5% assessed property value increase per year.

A \$500,000 assessed value home is paying \$605 per year now. In 2024 the taxes paid would rise to \$750/year because the house would be assessed at \$530,000. In 2030 (assuming a 6% annual increase) the \$500,000 home value would be \$751,815. That home would pay \$1,505/ year. So that's an increase of \$900 or 148% more.

Schools get 52.47% of all property taxes. EMS and Fire are #2 and get 21.38%. Clark County can only raise property taxes 1% per year but the Fire District is asking for up to 6% more per year (600%)? Is your net income going up by 6% or more per year? They appear to think you are an endless well of money. 73% of all fire calls are medical and yet we already pay an EMS tax of \$.50/ \$1000 on top of this requested increase.

We are faced with the highest inflation in 40 years. Taxes are through the roof. Income is down. By voting *no* you tell them to hold the line and tighten their belt like the rest of us. Tell them to ask for less.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

They say it's a renewal then they say its an increase. It's an increase! They did a levy lid increase in 2017 and now ask again in 2023. They claim your premiums have gone down but offer no evidence. Only 37% of calls are fire. They offer no data on fire call growth. They don't tell you how much you pay over time. Why not? They ask for what we can't afford. Vote *No!*

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander  
Bdad2@outlook.com

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Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.