

Thurston County Fire District 8 - South Bay Fire Department

How much will this cost a tax payer?

- ♦ A homeowner with a \$590,000 residence currently pays \$886 in property tax. If Proposition 1 passes, the levy rate will increase from \$1.50 to \$2.01 per thousand in 2025, raising the tax to about \$1,186 (an increase of \$300 per year). After 2025, the levy rate is expected to decrease annually due to inflation.

What if this measure does not pass?

- ♦ Without the proposed funding, North Olympia Firestation staffing would decrease, reducing service levels. Only one crew would be available, unable to handle multiple calls, increasing response times by 1-2 minutes over 3-4 years.
- ♦ The District's ability to self-fund capital asset replacement would be jeopardized.



North Olympia Station 8-3

Did you know?...

- ♦ Our District does not receive direct property tax revenue from Thurston County Medic One, except for EMS training costs and some supply reimbursements.

Where can I get more information?

- ♦ You can learn more about us and this ballot measure on our website. www.southbayfire.com
- ♦ You can attend our public presentation on October 8, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm.
- ♦ You can also contact Chief VanCamp at 360-491-5320 or email him at vancamp@southbayfire.com.

Thurston County Fire Protection District 8
3506 Shincke Rd. NE Olympia, WA 98506
(360)491-5320 | www.southbayfire.com



Join us for a public presentation on the ballot issue at our Board meeting on October 8, 2024, at South Bay Station 8-1. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm, with the presentation at 6:00 pm. Virtual attendance is available. Visit www.southbayfire.com for the link.

Tax payers have a choice. Emergency medical and fire services impact community safety and homeowner's insurance rates.
Levy ballots allow voters to consider these benefits versus costs.

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2024 Prop 1 Excess Levy for M&O Frequently Asked Questions

Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 (*South Bay Fire Department*), operates from two stations: South Bay Station 8-1 and North Olympia Station 8-3; however, staffing at North Olympia is inconsistent. Expenses exceed tax revenues, and the current \$1.50 levy rate is insufficient for staffing two stations 24/7. "Proposition 1 - Excess Levy for Maintenance & Operations" received 58.26% approval in the August primary but required 60% to pass. It will be on the November 5th ballot, proposing a \$2.01 per thousand assessed valuation levy, effective 2025, as part of our 2023 two-stage funding plan.

The following addresses frequently asked questions about the proposed ballot measure:

Why Does the District need more money?

- ♦ Increasing emergency medical service calls.
- ♦ More simultaneous calls requiring multiple response teams.
- ♦ Difficulty attracting and retaining volunteer responders.
- ♦ Rising labor costs due to reliance on full-time staff.
- ♦ Growing number of full-time responders to maintain/enhance services.
- ♦ Escalating operational and administrative expenses (utilities, supplies, insurance).
- ♦ Soaring costs for major equipment and apparatus despite prudent management.

What do you plan to do with the extra money collected?

- ♦ Meet the growing demand for full-time responders.
- ♦ Continue providing high-quality training for staff.
- ♦ Fund future capital asset replacements.
- ♦ Cover increasing operational and administrative costs.



How will this improve your services?

- ♦ In 2023, staffing a fire engine at North Olympia was achieved 57% of the time with 18 full-time career and 32 volunteer responders. The five-year plan proposes consistent staffing at both stations by 2028 with 28 full-time career and 25 volunteer responders.
- ♦ The current average response time is 7 minutes and 17 seconds. If Proposition 1 is approved by voters in 2024, in time the staffing plan could reduce response time by 1 to 1.5 minutes.