

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 8
RESOLUTION NO. 23-004
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY
(Primary Election)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THURSTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 8 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 1, 2023, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION RESTORING THE DISTRICT'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE TO \$1.50 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A SIX PERCENT LIMIT FACTOR SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners ("Board") of Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 ("District") that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District. Such services will necessitate of revenues for station construction, maintenance, operations, equipment and personnel in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District.

WHEREAS, the District voters approved a six year lid lift in 2018, at the rate of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value that expires in 2024. The 2018 lid lift also established an annual growth factor of six percent.

WHEREAS, the District's current tax levy rate is approximately \$1.20 per thousand and the Board has determined that lifting the lid to \$1.50 in 2023 for collections in 2024 is appropriate. Accordingly, the intent of the Board is for this measure, if approved by the voters, to supersede and replace the final year of the 2018 six year lid lift.

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that 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 and increase the level of services currently provided by the District. The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period at a rate of six percent per year to help the District keep up with inflation in Thurston County.

WHEREAS, the funds generated by this levy will allow the District to maintain or increase the level of services and will not supplant existing funds used for the purposes identified in Section 1.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 Thurston County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to maintain and increase the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the District, it is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to acquire and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. 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, the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes 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 the District at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. 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, the District has determined that the limit factor for the five succeeding years shall be six percent. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2024-2028 to be collected in each following year. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 4. The amount levied in 2028 shall serve as the District's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 1, 2023, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by 106% for each of the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board hereby requests the Auditor of Thurston County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: Thurston County Fire Protection District 8
Proposition #: Proposition No. 1
Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 adopted Resolution No. 23-004 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition would finance fire protection and emergency medical services by restoring the District's regular property tax levy in 2023 to an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation and authorize setting the limit factor at 106% for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. The maximum allowable levy in 2028 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be: Approved Rejected

Section 6. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(1), the ballot measure shall require approval of a simple majority of voters.

Section 7. The Board finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the District. The Board further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to Thurston County Elections for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

Section 8. The Board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 9. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 10. The Fire Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 11. The Fire Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 12, 2023, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the August 1, 2023 election.

Section 12. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 13. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 14. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Adoption: ADOPTED at an open public meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 on _____, 2023 the following Commissioners being present and voting:

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Secretary