

NORTH KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE

PROPOSITION 1: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

North Kitsap Fire & Rescue (NKF&R) has placed a measure on the November general election ballot that, if approved, will maintain levels of service by restoring the fire levy rate to the previously-approved level of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, replacing funding from an expiring special levy. Proposition 1 will also provide resources to finance replacement of the district's outdated Suquamish station, replace aging apparatus and add additional firefighter positions.

**North Kitsap Fire and Rescue
Proposition No. 1
Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift
for Fire Protection
& Emergency Medical Services**

The Board of Commissioners of North Kitsap Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2022-13 proposing an increase in the fire district's regular property tax levy. To fund fire protection and emergency medical services for six years, this proposition authorizes a maximum levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023 and authorizes annual adjustments for the five succeeding years based on the greater of the statutory 1% or the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index referenced in the Resolution, not to exceed 6%. The final year's levy dollar amount would be used to compute limitations for subsequent levies. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes []
No []

What is the district proposing to voters?

The proposed fire levy lid-lift would allow the district to collect \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation in 2023. Due to caps on property tax revenue increases, fire district levy rates have decreased as assessed property valuations have increased. In 2022, NKF&R is collecting about \$0.97 per \$1,000 on its fire levy. Its special maintenance and operations levy ends after this year. Because the voter-approved measure is expiring and increasing assessed valuations are causing other levy rates to fall, it's estimated that restoration of the fire levy rate to \$1.50 will result in a total fire tax rate in 2023 that's just \$0.11 per \$1,000 higher than in 2022.

Why is this proposal necessary?

By state law, fire protection districts are limited in their revenue sources. NKF&R receives no on-going federal, state or county funding and the district gets 77% of its operating funds from local property taxes. Statutory limits on tax increases

keep fire district revenues well below the rate of inflation unless voters approve otherwise; proposed measures like NKF&R's give voters more control over fire district funding, determining what level of service can be offered. Proposition 1 will replace an expiring special levy and help the district maintain levels of service and finance important capital projects.

What will be funded by Proposition 1?

Most importantly, Proposition 1 will help maintain levels of service by replacing the funding that would otherwise be lost with the expiration of the district's 2018 special levy.

The funds will also make it possible for the district to finance construction of a new Suquamish fire station and fund its apparatus replacement program. NKF&R's Suquamish station is the district's oldest. Originally built in the middle of the last century, it wasn't designed to withstand an earthquake or meet other modern safety standards. Each of NKF&R's four staffed stations are interdependent and vital to the district's emergency response. The Suquamish station's replacement will ensure reliable response to the community by providing firefighters with a safer and healthier work environment.

With average ambulance transport distances of 35 miles round-trip, NKF&R's medic and aid cars rack up miles quickly. The district needs to order one new ambulance as soon as possible, and will re chassis others over the next few years. Additionally, the district will replace an engine that's nearing the end of its reliability as first-out apparatus.

NKF&R will also add three firefighter positions.



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NORTH KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE

For information about tax exemptions and deferrals for seniors, the disabled and low-income persons, see www.kitsapgov.com/assessor/ or contact us.



How will Proposition 1 affect individual taxes?

The Kitsap County Assessor estimates that the 2022 median assessed valuation of a home in NKF&R's district is \$453,910. In 2023, the median assessed valuation is expected to rise to \$550,840. Restoration of the fire levy would cost the owner of the median home about \$230 (or \$19 per month) in 2023, the measure's first year. In the measure's remaining five years and to ensure that the district can accomplish its stated goals as prices rise, the fire levy would be limited to annual increases of 1% or the rate of the consumer price index, not to exceed 6%. The effects on individual taxpayers will vary with increases or decreases to each property's assessed valuation. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the district at (360)297-3619 for information on impacts to their specific tax bill.

	2022		2023	
Median Home	\$453,910		\$550,840	
	Rate	Tax	Rate	Tax
Fire	\$0.97	\$440	\$1.50	\$826
EMS	\$0.44	\$200	\$0.37	\$204
M & O	\$0.35	\$159	0	0
TOTAL	\$1.76	\$799	\$1.87	\$1,030
			+\$0.11	+\$231

Open Houses

Wednesday, October 5
4 - 7 p.m.

Suquamish

18533 Augusta Ave

Saturday, October 8
2 - 5 p.m.

Indianola/Jefferson Beach

23260 S. Kingston Rd

Thursday, October 13
4 - 7 p.m.

Hansville

4911 Twin Spits Road

Saturday, October 15
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Kingston

26642 Miller Bay Rd

9/27/22

What if the measure fails?

If Proposition 1 doesn't pass, the district would first seek as much public input as possible before determining its next steps. However, it's important to note that current levels of service cannot be maintained indefinitely without replacement funding.

Looking for more information?

To ensure that the public has all of the information needed to make a decision on the proposal, NKF&R is hosting a series of public meetings. The most current list of those events as well as many other resources is available on the district's web site at www.nkfr.org. If you have questions or would like to schedule a presentation for your group, call us at (360)297-3619.

NKF&R serves the communities of Hansville, Kingston, Miller Bay, Indianola and Suquamish across a 46 square mile area. A board of five commissioners, elected at large, oversees the district. That body meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m. in NKF&R's headquarters fire station (26642 Miller Bay Road NE). The district's 2022 operating budget is \$10.2 million. In 2022, crews responded to 3,360 incidents from four staffed fire stations. About two-third of all calls were for emergency medical services.

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