

Snohomish County Fire District 4

1525 Avenue D

Snohomish 98290

www.snohomishfire.org

360-568-2143

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID



Fire Levy Lid Lift

Snohomish County Fire District 4 is asking voters to return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.



August 1, 2023 Primary Election



 @snohomishfiredistrict4
 @SnohomishFD4
 scfd_43
 @snohomishcountyfiredistrict2009



**CALLS ARE UP
34%
SINCE 2017**

Why is my fire district asking for this?

Emergency call volumes have increased 34% since 2017. Overlapping calls – or two or more emergencies that happen at the same time – are occurring approximately 28% of the time. More calls mean added costs and those expenses are higher. In addition, our fire stations require improvements for community safety and the health and safety of firefighters.

What would the lid lift fund?

Funding from the lid lift would hire eight firefighters over six years to provide both a fire engine and medic unit in service at the same time. (Currently, we can staff just one or the other.) Additional emergency personnel will help us get to you faster.

It also will build a fire station on Pine Avenue and replace one other as funding allows. These projects will improve turnout times and provide decontamination facilities to improve firefighter health and safety.

These projects will also improve our risk rating which is connected to what you pay in homeowner insurance premiums.

Is it true that you can make these improvements without any voter-approved debt?

Yes, Snohomish 4 has a long history of funding both operations and capital projects out of its fire levy. This is unusual as many fire agencies require voter-approved bonds for stations and apparatus. Our Board feels strongly about paying cash instead of incurring debt. Debt costs taxpayers more due to interest payments.

How much will it cost?

Snohomish 4 is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.15 to \$1.50 per \$1,000. The 35-cent levy lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home an additional \$14.58 per month.

Have voters approved this fire levy rate before?

Yes, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2017. Since that time, the fire levy has fallen to \$1.15 per \$1,000. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district to the same amount of revenue per year plus a 1% increase allowed by law (or any other voter-approved amount).



More information is available at www.snohomishfire.org under the “Levy” tab.

Fire Chief Don Waller also is available to answer questions anytime at (360) 568-2141 or DonW@snohomishfire.org.