



RESOLUTION #555

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4 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 STATE 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 LIMIT FACTOR BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners 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. The accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, providing staffing and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$1.15 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation.

WHEREAS, the District voters approved a six year multi lid lift in 2017, that expires in 2023. The 2017 lid lift established an annual limit factor of six percent. When the 2017 lid lift expires the annual limit factor will revert to a one percent annual factor as established by RCW 84.55.010.

WHEREAS, The District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases and the Board of Commissioners has determined that the application of the one percent limit factor 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 and will likely result in cutbacks in level of services.

WHEREAS, The District previously levied at the \$1.50 rate in 2013.

WHEREAS, The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period designed to allow the District to keep pace with inflation and has identified six percent as an appropriate measure of inflation in Snohomish County.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners 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 Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4, Snohomish 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 for collection in 2025-2029 . 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 and collected in 2029 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 Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 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 the following five years, subject to a limit of \$1.50 and other applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Snohomish 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: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4

Proposition #: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 adopted Resolution No. ____ concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2024 and authorizes annual increases of up to 6% for each of the five succeeding years to provide adequate funding to maintain service levels. The maximum allowable levy in 2028 (collected in 2029) 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 of Commissioners 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 8. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board of Commissioners hereby designates the Fire Chief , or designee as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The 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 10. The 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.

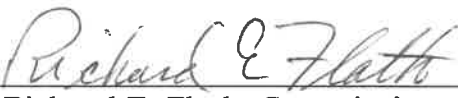
Section 11. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 12. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 14th day of March 2023, the following Board Members being present and voting:

By: 
Evan Merritt, Chair

By: 
Richard E. Flath, Commissioner

By: 
Jill Gleason, Commissioner

Attest: 
Don Waller, District Secretary/Fire Chief