



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire District 1 seeks lid lift, bond to meet increased demand for emergency services

(Clayton, Wash.) Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 is asking voters to approve a levy lid lift and a bond on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. The ballot measures will help meet the increased demand for emergency services and replace two fire stations to reduce response times.

In the last year alone, call volumes have increased by 21 percent. Firefighters also have responded to a record 30 wildland fires this summer. The district is struggling to keep up with this higher demand for emergency services because 20 percent of its volunteer firefighters have left due to age or work commitments.

The lid lift would fund an additional full-time firefighter to provide some relief to existing personnel. It also would fund the replacement of aging vehicles and equipment that no longer meet recognized safety standards. The bond would replace two of the district's busiest stations at Loon Lake and Suncrest to reduce response times and improve firefighter health and safety.

The new stations would have sleeping quarters, which would reduce response times by an estimated five minutes on average. Currently, firefighters respond from home or work, which can cause delays. The stations also would contain decontamination units, training space and proper ventilation to move exhaust fumes away from personnel inside buildings.

Combined, the ballot measures would cost the average homeowner an additional 52.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$8.75 per month. Taxes paid to the district are deductible on federal income tax returns which reduce the overall amount property owners would pay.

The Stevens County Elections Department mailed ballots to voters on Oct. 15. For more information about the ballot measures, visit <http://scfpd1.com/about/proposed-funding-measures/>.

Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 provides structure and wildland fire protection, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical service for 13,500 people (22,000 during the summer) over 375 square miles. The fire chief, seven full-time and 40 volunteer firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) respond to an average of 1,200 calls per year.

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Fire Protection District 1

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