

Ballot Measure

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue

Proposition No. 1

Emergency Medical Services Property Tax Levy Renewal

Official Ballot Title

For the purpose of providing emergency medical services, will South Kitsap Fire and Rescue be authorized to continue to impose regular property tax levies of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of six consecutive years, with collection starting in 2016? (Authority: RCW 84.52.069 & SKFR Res. No. 2015-03)

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)

RCW 84.52.069 provides that South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, a taxing district, may impose additional regular property tax levies for emergency medical care and services, including related costs for personnel, training for such personnel, equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care or services (EMS levy) in an amount up to, but not exceeding, fifty cents (\$.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed value of property in the taxing district. The proposed measure is an uninterrupted continuation of a six year EMS levy, beginning in 2015, at the same levy rate which, pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, can be approved with a simple majority vote.

Effect of the proposed measure, if it becomes law: South Kitsap Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2015-03, which contains a proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters of the district for approval or rejection of the continuation of an additional property tax EMS levy to fund emergency medical services. If approved, South Kitsap Fire and Rescue will continue its EMS levy for six additional years beginning in 2015 of additional regular property taxes in the amount equal to fifty cents (\$.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed property value and shall collect such levy each year for six consecutive years beginning in 2016. Revenue collected by this EMS levy may only be used for emergency medical care or services and related costs.

Argument For the Measure

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (SKFR) is seeking a renewal of the existing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy. This is not a new tax, but the continuation of an established source of funding which has received the support of the citizens of South Kitsap since its inception in 1974 and has been renewed every six years. Establishment of the EMS levy allowed then Kitsap County Fire District #7 to buy equipment and acquire personnel and training for the first paramedics in South Kitsap. Today, the SKFR medic program is state of the art, delivering this critical service to the citizens of South Kitsap each and every day. SKFR medical responses totaled 6,157 in 2014 which represents 68% of SKFR's overall call volume. SKFR is the largest and busiest fire district in Kitsap County, serving over 72,046 citizens in the 117 square mile jurisdiction. SKFR responded to 9,068 calls for service in 2014, an average of over 24 calls per day from the 911 system.

The EMS levy is the cornerstone of funding for a system that hires and trains EMS personnel, and purchases medical equipment, supplies, and vehicles necessary to provide both basic and advanced life support services to the South Kitsap community. The Fire District is grateful for the support of the citizens, has demonstrated good stewardship of these funds, and is asking to continue this service for its residents uninterrupted for the next six years.

Rebuttal to Argument Against

No argument against the measure submitted for rebuttal.

Committee Information

Arguments prepared by the Committee For the Measure: Chairperson Mike Wernet; Committee Members Ken Laha, Ken Maples.

Argument Against the Measure

No argument submitted.

Rebuttal to Argument For

No rebuttal submitted.

Committee Information

No committee against formed for appointment.