

“WHERE COMPASSION AND ACTION MEET.”



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PRESS RELEASE
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EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE TO PLACE TWO LEVY MEASURES ON AUGUST 3rd BALLOT

At the April 20th regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, two ballot measures were approved to place on the August 3, 2021 primary election.

Proposition 1 will ask voters to renew the **EMS Levy**, at the statutory limit of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The District is in the final year of a ten-year EMS Levy and is seeking to renew the levy for another ten years. This levy must be renewed by the voters for the District to continue collecting this revenue, which accounts for 25% of the District's tax revenue.

The EMS Levy provides for the paramedic level or advanced life support (ALS) service which is provided by the District. The EMS Levy also provides for emergency transport of our citizens to local hospitals at no out of pocket expense. The District does bill the insurance company, but then writes off any co-pay that would be the patient's responsibility. These vital services cannot be provided without the approval of the EMS Levy this fall.

Proposition 2 will ask voters to reauthorize the collection of the **Regular (Fire) Levy** to the statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is often referred to as a lid lift. Currently, the 2021 levy rate is \$1.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Collection rates erode due to an automatic limit on the growth of property taxes. That normal limit is one percent (1%) per year, but Proposition 2 will ask for the ability to collect up to six percent (6%) for the three subsequent years following the first year at the \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The tax rate can never exceed the collection rate of \$1.50.

The additional growth in revenue provided by the lid lift will provide funding for additional response crews to staff a new station in Tehaleh and provide staffing at the Milton fire station. Neither proposition is a new tax. Both are current taxes that have been used to fund daily operations for decades.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue remains the most cost-effective career department in Pierce County when compared to the collection rates of other fire districts. We continue to operate and make system

improvements by just collecting the Regular and EMS levies. Most other career fire districts have additional revenues provided by benefit charges or maintenance & operations levies.

If you have any questions, or would like to schedule a presentation for your HOA or other group, please email Chief@eastpiercefire.org