



Fire Chief Steven T. Wright

**RESOLUTION 2017-01 – PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY
(Multi Year)**

A resolution of the board of commissioners of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at the primary election to be held within the district on August 1, 2017, in conjunction with the state election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing renewal of a levy of a property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and establishing a six year limit factor subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations.

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2017

AUDITOR / ELECTIONS
KITSAP COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (“District” or “SKFR”) has adopted a strategic plan, capital plan and mission statement to provide timely and professional fire and emergency medical services to the community it serves; and,

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the District Commissioners it is essential and necessary for the protection of the public health, life, and property that the District maintain adequate staff and credible response times for the Basic and Advanced Life Support, and fire and rescue services it provides; and,

WHEREAS, all District career Firefighters are either Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics; and,

WHEREAS, SKFR responses have grown to approximately 9,580 emergency calls for help each year, with approximately 78% of those calls being emergency medical service calls; and

WHEREAS, The District was required to reduce its workforce of Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician’s/Paramedics over the past three years from 84 to 72 in order to maintain a balanced and stable budget; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in force required the un-staffing of two of the Districts eight staffed stations and lowered the level of service provided by the District throughout the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, increases in 911 emergency call responses and population have occurred during the past several years, and are forecasted to continue into the future; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined it will not be able to maintain its present service levels to its citizens without renewal of the temporary six-year levy increase approved in 2012; and

WHEREAS, continued employment and future expansion of the current workforce of Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician's/Paramedics is necessary to maintain adequate response personnel at the District's staffed fire stations, without an additional reduction in such response time, for the Advanced/Basic Life Support, and fire and rescue emergency services it provides; and,

WHEREAS, the continued employment and future expansion of the current workforce of Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedic is beyond the District's financial capabilities without a successful public vote to renew the levy lid lift; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the current workforce is necessary to return the service levels within the District back to the level maintained before the reduction in force happened over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, the District levied a total of \$13,192,931 for the fire levy and EMS levy for taxes due in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the temporary fire levy increase approved in 2012 represents approximately \$2 million of the total \$13,192,931 levied in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved capital facilities, additional staffing, apparatus maintenance and operations in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the 2012 rate of approximately \$1.48 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the continued application of the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 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

WHEREAS, the funds generated by this levy will not supplant existing funds used for the delivery of fire and emergency medical services in the South Kitsap community; and

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.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED 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 acquire and 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 maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement 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 2017 and collect beginning in 2018, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130 and RCW 52.16.140 general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. The District has previously levied at the \$1.48 per \$1,000.00 rate.

Section 3. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2018, the District has determined that the limit factor for each of the following five years shall be **100% of the first-half to first-half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area** but shall be no lower than or the amount authorized under RCW 84.55.0101. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to a limit of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2018 – 2022. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 4. The dollar amount levied in 2022 for collection in 2023 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. The District's attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as deemed appropriate or as may be recommended by the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office or the Kitsap County Auditor and its Supervisor of Elections, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 6. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at the primary on August 1, 2017, in conjunction with the state election to be held on the same date the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be established at \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation in 2017 and be adjusted by the amount authorized under RCW 84.55.0101 or 100% of the first-half to first-half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage

Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area, whichever is greater, for each of the following five years, subject to a limit of \$1.50 and otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Kitsap 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:

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue
Board of Commissioners

Proposition for renewal and restoration of a permanent lid lift of the regular Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

The Board of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2017-01 proposing the renewal and restoration of the fire district's regular property tax levy, to fund fire protection and emergency medical services for a six year period.

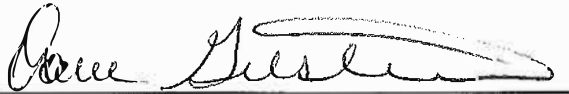
This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2018 and authorizes a limit factor for each subsequent year at 100% plus the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (as described in the Resolution) or the amount authorized per Washington State law, whichever is greater. The final year's levy dollar amount would be used to compute limitations for subsequent levies as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved •
- Rejected •

This resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue on April 27, 2017.

SOUTH KITSAP FIRE AND RESCUE



by: Chairman Dave Gelsleichter



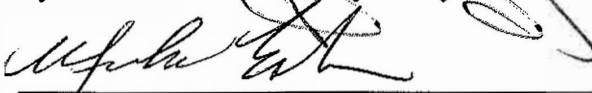
by: Commissioner Paul Golnik



by: Commissioner Dusty Wiley



by: Commissioner Gerald Preuss



by: Commissioner Miche Eslava



Attest by: Attorney/Secretary: Kenneth Bagwell

BALLOT TITLE
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue
Proposition No. 1
Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift for Fire Protection
& Emergency Medical Services

The Board of Commissioners of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2017-01 proposing an increase in the fire district's regular property tax levy. To fund fire protection and emergency medical services for six years, this proposition authorizes a maximum levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2018 (superseding the temporary lid lift currently in effect for that year) and sets the limit factor for each subsequent year at 100% plus the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (as described in the Resolution), or 1%, whichever is greater. The final year's levy dollar amount would be used to compute limitations for subsequent levies.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes []

No []