

Fire Protection District No. 11 Littlerock Fire Rescue - Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title:



The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 2004-313, concerning a proposition to increase the regular property tax rate. This proposition would authorize the District to increase its regular property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed value to be levied in 2004 and collected in 2005 with the proceeds used for maintenance and operation expenses of the District as provided in Resolution No. 2004-313.

Should this proposition be:

Approved _____

Rejected _____

Statement For:

It's Your Fire Department and We Need Your Help:

Voters want to know where their tax money goes. The Fire Department is unique in that every dollar collected by the levy assessment stays within the district where it is collected. No Fire Department funding comes from County, State or Federal sources. Your Fire Department is funded entirely by the residents within its district.

One Percent Limitation Risks Service Delivery as Costs Continue to Rise:

Without voter approval, laws limit the District to a 1% per year budgetary increase for inflation, regardless of increasing demand for services or inflationary and other costs. Even with cutbacks and increased operational efficiency, it is impossible to meet growing demands with such limitations. Like all business, personnel, insurance and other costs have increased well above 1%. The Department's emergency 911 calls increased 17% last year, while other costs have increased over 25%.

Your Fire Department Operates Very Efficiently:

The Fire Department employs only four firefighters/EMTs, the other 60 dedicated members are volunteer firefighters/EMTs. This combination department brings to you a very high degree of professional services at the lowest possible cost.

Your Fire Department Has Collected a Lower Tax Rate Each Year Since 2001:

Since 2001 your Fire Department tax rate has decreased by \$0.18 per \$1000 assessed value. The Fire Department has not requested an increase in over ten years, however; to continue the service expected when someone calls 911, the Department is requesting a Levy Lift to re-establish the rate at the 2001 level, a \$0.18 levy increase or \$18 per year for an owner of property

with an assessed value of \$100,000.

Vote yes to continue an effective and efficient Fire Department.

Voters' Pamphlet statement prepared by: Tom Culleton, Tom Fitzgerald, Ken Frasl

Statement Against:

No statement against was submitted.

Explanatory Statement:

Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 11 (Littlerock Fire Rescue) provides fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services to the largest geographical fire district in Thurston County. Existing law allows the Fire District to raise its regular property tax revenues that fund district operation and maintenance expenses by only 1% without a vote of the citizens. Due to population growth, increased demand for services and continuing inflation, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that a 1% increase is not adequate to cover increased cost of goods and services and other operational expenses of the District.

Passage of Proposition 1 will authorize the Fire District to re-establish the regular property tax levy rate to \$1.50, an increase of \$0.18 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, for collection in 2005. Approval of this proposition would allow the Fire District to preserve its current level of services, programs and resources.

If approved, the operations and maintenance increase to the regular property tax levy would be \$0.18 per \$1,000 assessed value.

The owner of property valued at \$100,000 would pay: \$18 per year, or \$1.50 per month, or \$ 0.34 per week.

Voters' Pamphlet statement prepared by: Gottlieb, Fisher & Andrews, PLLC