

City of Olympia Proposition No. 1 Parks and Recreation Facilities

Official Ballot Title:



The Olympia City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6314 to increase the tax on telephone, electrical, and natural gas business, for the purpose of helping fund wildlife habitat, natural areas, open space, parks, and trails and recreation-related sidewalks. This ballot measure would allow the City of Olympia to protect and preserve wildlife habitat, natural areas, and open space; acquire, develop and maintain waterfront, neighborhood, community and special use parks and playgrounds; and construct and improve hiking, biking, and walking trails and recreation-related sidewalks by increasing the tax on telephone, electrical, and natural gas business by three percent, all subject to review and recommendation by City Council-appointed citizen advisory committees.

Should this measure be:

Approved _____ Rejected _____

Statement For:

One hundred years ago, the citizens who created Priest Point Park left a legacy for Olympia. Now, it's our turn.

What is included and how is it funded?

In the first ten years, this measure acquires nine neighborhood parks, three large community parks, eighty-seven acres of natural wildlife habitat, ten walking trails, and new sidewalks along seventeen major roads. In later years, there are funds for more parks, open space, sidewalks, and maintenance. The highest priorities were identified by citizen advisory committees, with extensive public input.

This measure is funded by a 3% tax on phone, electricity, and natural gas utilities. For typical Olympia households, this is about \$60 per year – or sixteen cents per day. A utility tax spreads the cost more fairly, places a smaller burden on fixed-income homeowners and renters, avoids park usage fees, and promotes energy conservation.

For a Livable Community

A good community is more than buildings and streets.

Rebuttal for Statement Against:

Preserving natural areas, building trails through open spaces, acquiring park sites, and building sidewalks is not “silly.” It is essential to our quality of life.

Social service leaders and small business owners are supporting this proposal because it improves our community.

A 3% surcharge on our electricity, natural gas, and telephone bills - sixteen cents a day per household - is a bargain for the legacy of natural treasures this measure secures for our future.

Vote Yes.

It's also pleasant parks, safe sidewalks, and protected natural places and wildlife habitat. With our growing city, we must preserve the most valuable lands quickly.

For Health and Safety

The healthiest activity for children (and adults) is to go out and play! Walking to a park on a sidewalk, not driving, is even better. Walking is the most popular active recreation, but busy streets are dangerous without sidewalks.

For a Legacy of Natural Treasures

Priest Point Park. Watershed Park. Percival Landing. We are thankful for these places. A century from now, Olympians will thank us: for protecting natural wildlife habitat, for creating more parks, for our legacy to them.

Please vote *yes!*

www.walkolympia.org

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Beth Doglio, Joe Hyer and Eileen McKenzie Sullivan

Explanatory Statement:

The purpose of this ballot measure is to fund the City's 2002 adopted plans for parks and recreation, by providing revenue to purchase, improve, operate and/or maintain parks, open space, wildlife habitat; natural areas and open space; waterfront, neighborhood, community and special use parks and playgrounds; hiking, biking and walking trails and recreation-related sidewalks. These additional parks and recreation facilities will provide for anticipated growth in Olympia's population and increased use of existing parks and recreation facilities. Because the Olympia City Council's adopted strategy places park land acquisition as a priority ahead of investments in park development, revenue from this measure would fund acquisition of approximately 500 acres of land, and development and maintenance of six park sites in the next 20 years. It would also fund construction of an estimated 70,000 feet of sidewalk on major streets, with an emphasis on those streets which connect neighborhoods to parks, recreational facilities and trails.

The effect of the ballot measure would be to raise the utility tax rate from 6% to 9% on privately-provided utilities, including telephone, electricity, and natural gas. This is a 3% increase that would raise approximately \$2.25 million in revenue per year. If a customer's monthly bills for telephone, electricity and natural gas services total \$165, \$9.90 in private utility tax is assessed per month. If this measure passes, the assessment would increase by \$4.95 to a new total of \$14.85 per month. The total amount of the increase in this example would be \$59.40 per year. This ballot measure would not tax utilities provided by the City of Olympia, such as water, sewer, storm water, and solid waste removal. The ballot measure also would not tax cable television services, which are regulated by federal law.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Bob C. Sterbank, Olympia City Attorney

Statement Against:

City's sidewalk plan—just silly, *vote no*.

The City of Olympia's plan to increase utility taxes by 50 percent will fall on those who can least afford it. Utility taxes will harm the many nonprofit organizations that call Olympia home. Hardest hit will be the shelters, the food banks, and those social service agencies that are barely scraping by today.

In addition, all of the small businesses in downtown Olympia will be hit the hardest. While residents pay just a small amount of utility taxes, small businesses, such as restaurants that use large

amounts of water, natural gas and electricity, will be hard hit. The 50 percent increase in taxes may be enough to send some of them over the edge into bankruptcy.

And, all this so the city can build more sidewalks. Many neighborhoods have survived just fine, for decades without sidewalks, so what, all of a sudden, is the urgent need. We have more pressing and significant needs in Olympia. Isn't it time to say *enough* -- save tax increases for the more important needs of our city. Building more sidewalks seems a silly waste of the city's taxing authority.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Alan R McWain

Rebuttal for Statement For:

Olympia's official website boasts over 700 acres of parkland, listing 22 parks, not including state and county parks such as Heritage, Sylvester or Burfoot Park.

The additional 3% tax on telephone, electricity and natural gas, costs my typical business an additional \$800.00 per year or \$2.20 per day. This unfairly places the largest burden on businesses, that don't use parks, by having to pay fourteen times that of a typical homeowner, who does.

Fire Protection District No. 1 – Grand Mound-Rochester

Proposition No. 1

Levy Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 1 adopted Resolution No. 2004-1, 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 as provided in Resolution No. 2004-1. Should this proposition be:



Approved _____ Rejected _____

Statement For:

Let us Help You! Restore our funding . . .

Thurston County Fire District #1, Grand Mound – Rochester, generates 81% of its revenue from a tax levy based on the assessed value of the property in our district. The area covered by the district has seen unusually rapid growth, but the district services have been unable to keep up with the growth due to the 1% limitation established by Initiative 747.

Current staffing is at stake . . .

In 2004, it is projected that our District will respond to over 1,500 emergency calls for service. Our department has six career fire personnel. We also operate a SPRINT paramedic unit under contract with Fire District #11 and Thurston County Medic One. Our volunteers continue to be the backbone of our service and the fire district's goal is to assure the citizens of our community that we will have minimum manning of at least two firefighters for emergency response at any given time.

What the money will be used for . . .

The current rate is \$1.31/per thousand assessed value. The restored levy rate would be \$1.50/per thousand assessed value. This is an increase of \$0.19 or \$19.00 for a home valued at \$100,000. Funds generated from the "lid lift" will be used to maintain current staffing levels for emergency responses and fund programs such as preventative maintenance for vehicles, facilities repairs, and on-going training for personnel.

Continue your support . . .

Your district needs your help. Restore funding to a fair level and maintain the service level and programs we currently have. We will be there for you when you need us, please support us now.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Grand Mound – Rochester Firefighter's Association – Deborah A. Slem, Secretary.

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 1 - Grand Mound-Rochester - Levy Lid Lift.

Explanatory Statement:

The Grand Mound – Rochester Fire Department, a junior taxing district located in Thurston County, is placing a lid lift proposition on the September 2004 ballot. This proposition will authorize the property tax levy rate to remain at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The proposition is presented to provide voters the opportunity to exceed the limitation imposed by statute, which would otherwise limit total property tax revenue to 101% of the previous year's revenue, regardless of the authorized dollar rate limitation of \$1.50, which the voters first approved in September 1997.

This proposition meets the requirement of Initiative 747, which mandates that any increase in revenue of more than 1%, over the previous year, be approved by the voters.

Approval of this proposition would allow the maintaining of the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to the loss of approximately \$98,000 in projected tax revenue, which would necessitate some reductions in services, potentially including cancellation of future emergency equipment purchases, possible layoff of personnel, potential elimination of special services, and similar cutbacks.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Joseph F. Quinn.

Fire Protection District No. 6 – East Olympia

Proposition No. 1

Fire Protection Bonds

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 04-04 concerning a proposition to issue general obligation bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to acquire new and upgrade existing emergency response vehicles, acquire new equipment, remodel and upgrade existing fire station facilities, as well as undertake other capital projects throughout the District, incur indebtedness, and issue no more than \$2,850,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 6 years payable from annual excess property tax levies upon all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 04-04.

Should this proposition be:

Approved _____ **Rejected** _____



Statement For:

Next year *East Olympia Fire District 6* will be celebrating 50 years of providing emergency services to our growing community.

This bond will fund only capital improvement. It ensures our Fire District is prepared for the future, maintains readiness to respond to emergencies, and can handle increased call volume. The Fire District will continue to operate efficiently by having the resources to refurbish or upgrade equipment and facilities, as necessary.

Older vehicles and equipment need to be upgraded. Additional emergency vehicles will ensure continued reliability for increased services based on demands of a growing community. Station 64, which houses volunteer firefighters and provides training facilities, is scheduled for remodel.

Improvements include purchasing new fire hose, upgrading the 50-year old 30,000 gallon water storage tank with twice the volume, upgrading communication radios, and providing more training props and personal protective clothing. The Fire District will also purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera to assist in determining the locations of people and fire in a burning structure.

What will it cost? This 6-year bond cycle will cost about \$0.57/\$1,000 of valuation. An owner of property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$57 per year or \$4.75 per month. This new average assessed rate is less than the 1996 bond's rate that expires in December 2004.

Why vote yes? Because a well-maintained and well-equipped Fire District means quality emergency services for all of us. Please join with the District's Citizens' Advisory Committee and proudly *vote yes!*

Voters' Pamphlet statement prepared by: the Fire District 6 Citizens' Advisory Committee: Charles Heimbigner, Duane T. Ullmann and Richard L. Schmitt Jr.

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 6 - East Olympia - Fire Protection Bonds.

Explanatory Statement:

The Board of Commissioners of the East Olympia Fire Department (Thurston County Fire Protection District 6) has placed a proposition on the ballot asking its citizens for authority to issue bonds for capital improvements and purchases. As proposed, the District would use these bond funds to pay the capital costs of acquiring new emergency response vehicles, acquiring new equipment, upgrading existing equipment, remodeling and upgrading existing Fire Station facilities and undertaking other capital projects throughout the District so as to maintain and/or improve District service levels to its residents. A vote for Proposition No. 1 will authorize the Fire District to incur debt and to issue and sell bonds for no more than \$2,850,000 to finance these capital improvements. If approved, the bonds will mature within six years of issuance and be repaid through annual levies of property taxes at an average estimated tax rate of 57 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. This is estimated to be approximately 5 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation less than is being paid under the bond issue that ends in December of this year.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Kinnon W. Williams, Attorney for Thurston County Fire District 6

Fire Protection District No. 8 – South Bay Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 8 adopted Resolution No. 04-02, 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 as provided in Resolution No. 04-02. Should this proposition be:



Approved _____ Rejected _____

Statement For:

The Challenge

South Bay Fire District 8 is facing two major resource challenges: revenues and staffing. Even with prudent management of budgets and heavy reliance upon volunteers, recent voter approved property tax initiatives have caused a strain on the District's ability to continue to pay its day-to-day expenses. Voters are being asked to approve a measure to restore a levy rate that was last approved in 1992.

The Need

While tax revenues have been generally held to no more than 1 percent increases, costs have increased an average of 4 to 6 percent per year, even more for volunteers' health and safety programs.

Volunteer responders are expected to have the same level of training and responsibility as a career Firefighter or EMT. This, coupled with increasing call volume in both the fire and EMS areas mean more training and updated or replaced equipment. Expenses to recruit and train volunteer responders have also risen.

The Cost

In 1992 voters authorized the District to collect \$1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed property value, however by 2004 this rate has been reduced to \$1.27. The ballot measure if passed, would allow the District to collect the additional 23 cents, costing the owner of a \$200 thousand home an additional \$46 per year.

We Need Your "YES" Vote

Help South Bay Fire District 8 continue to provide service with quality, trained personnel as you have come to expect. Vote "yes" for Proposition 1 on September 14th.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: South Bay Firefighters' Association, Les Robinette, President.

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 8 - South Bay - Levy Lid Lift.

Explanatory Statement:

If approved by the voters, Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 8 will be authorized to restore its regular real property tax levy rate to the maximum statutory dollar rate set in 1992 of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the maximum rate is levied it would be a change from the current rate of \$1.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The revenue received from the regular tax levy will be used to provide fire and emergency medical services within the District.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Kenneth R. Ahlf of The Ahlf Law Office

Fire Protection District No. 9 – McLane Proposition No. 1 Fire Protection Bonds

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 9 adopted Resolution No. 04-347 concerning a proposition to issue general obligation bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to acquire and equip new fire apparatus, a water tender and rescue vehicles, acquire real property and equipment, and construct, remodel and equip new and existing fire stations, incur indebtedness and issue no more than \$5,900,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years payable from annual excess property tax levies upon all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 04-347. Should this proposition be:

Approved _____ **Rejected** _____



Statement For:

Citizen’s Advisory Board recommends approval of \$5.9 million bond request

This volunteer group representing stakeholders from throughout the District concludes that requested bond funds are necessary to mitigate deficiencies by providing essential apparatus, facilities and training improvements, critical to meeting the current and future service needs of the community. Their recommendation is made after nine months of evaluating the District’s response capabilities, growth projections, apparatus, facilities and fiscal resources.

Improved facilities support faster, more reliable system wide response

Replacing the 42-year old headquarters station with a new station on a larger site and building a new sub-station will provide the necessary sleeping, living, parking and training space to accommodate more on-duty firefighters. Firefighter availability equates to faster service. Training grounds located in the core of the District at the new headquarters station will greatly reduce the need for off-site training, keeping firefighters readily available for response.

The new headquarters station will be a community resource; functioning as a disaster shelter and providing meeting rooms with adequate parking to accommodate local community needs.

Sufficient and reliable apparatus are critical to emergency response

The District’s aged fleet of apparatus is unreliable. The first out fire engines exceed industry standard life expectancies. Fleet maintenance costs have soared because of major repairs. The District is without a required backup fire engine or water tender. Reliable apparatus are critical to meeting

the response needs of the community.

Vote yes to support fast, reliable, cost effective service

Bond Funds will provide essential facilities, apparatus and training grounds critical to meeting the response needs of the community and will cost approximately \$0.35/\$1000 of assessed value. By partnering with local municipalities to meet collective needs, tax dollars will be maximized.

Voters’ Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Tod Miner, Michel George, Casey Sobol.

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 9 - McLane - Fire Protection Bonds.

Explanatory Statement:

A vote for Proposition No. 1 will authorize Thurston County Fire District 9 to incur debt and to issue and sell bonds for no more than \$5,900,000 to acquire and equip new fire apparatus, acquire real property for expanded parking and potential future station expansion, construct and equip two new Fire Stations and remodel existing Fire Stations.

The bond proceeds will be used to pay the costs of capital improvements in the District as recommended by the District’s Citizen’s Advisory Board following a comprehensive needs assessment and incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan so as to maintain and/or improve service levels and benefit all residents serviced by the District.

If approved, the bonds will mature within 20 years of issue and be repaid through annual levies of property taxes.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Gottlieb, Fisher & Andrews, PLLC, bond counsel to the District.

Fire Protection District No. 11 - Littlerock 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. 2004-324, 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 as provided in Resolution No. 2004-324.

Should this proposition be:

Approved _____ **Rejected** _____

Statement For:

The Levy is the Fire District's only source of revenue to fund essential services

The Fire District is requesting to restore the regular property tax Levy by \$0.18 cents per thousand dollars assessed property value. The Levy is the Fire District's only source of revenue to fund fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. The Fire District does not receive any government funding and has not requested an increase since 1992.

Approval of an 18-cent increase will ensure quality Emergency Services Continue

The Levy rate you paid in 1992 was \$1.50 per thousand dollars property value, since that time your property tax rate has decreased by 18-cents, due to new laws limiting the Fire District to a 1% annual budget increase, the current rate is \$1.32 per thousand assessed value. Over the same period, emergency 911 calls have doubled which has increased operational and maintenance costs sharply. While inflationary costs increase 3 – 5% annually, limiting the District's ability to maintain pace with increased inflationary and other increasing costs. Approval will authorize the District to restore the 1992 levy rate.

Littlerock Fire delivers quality services with exceptional efficiency

Sound management of the Department and an exceptionally efficient 90% volunteer team delivers quality emergency services in the largest geographical and one of the fastest growing fire districts in Thurston County. These volunteer members are committed to spending hundreds of hours training and responding to meet your emergency service needs. You can support them by ensuring adequate funding to provide quality training, firefighter protective clothing and equipment.

Keep help coming, without a budget adjustment your fire district must reduce expenses

Approval will provide funding to maintain services,

without funding necessary to maintain services the Fire District must reduce expenses, which may include closing fire stations, selling equipment and eliminating services.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Littlerock Volunteer Firefighters Association, Tom Fitzgerald President.

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 11 - Littlerock - Levy Lid Lift.

Explanatory Statement:

The Levy is a regular property tax that the Fire District uses to fund fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services, and is the only source of revenue to fund essential services. The District does not receive any government funding; the residents of the District are the only source of funding. Initiative 747 limits the District to a 1% annual budget adjustment, which is not adequate to cover costs necessary to maintain essential services.

The current Levy rate you pay is \$1.32 per \$1,000 assessed value. Law authorizes Fire Districts to collect \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value. Since 1992 the tax rate to fund essential services has gone down by \$0.18 cents. Therefore, pursuant to Initiative 747 the District is seeking approval of the voters to restore the Levy of \$0.18 cents, back to the 1992 rate. Since the District's last Levy lift in 1992, emergency 911-call volume has more than doubled, causing associated operational, maintenance and other inflationary costs of providing essential services to increase beyond budget limitations.

Approval will authorize the District to maintain essential fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services in the largest geographical and one of the fastest growing fire districts in Thurston County. Without a budget adjustment necessary to maintain services, the Fire District may soon be forced to reduce expenses, which may require closing fire stations, selling equipment, and eliminating services.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Gottlieb, Fisher & Andrews, PLLC

Fire Protection District No. 12 - Tenino

Proposition No. 1

Levy Lid Lift



Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 12 adopted Resolution No. 2004-004, 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 \$1.10 per one thousand dollars of assessed value to be levied in 2004 and collected in 2005 as provided in Resolution No. 2004-004.

Should this proposition be:

Approved _____ **Rejected** _____

Statement For:

Being fellow taxpayers your elected commissioners, and the management of District 12 work hard to keep the spending of our tax dollars to a minimum. Living in Fire District #12 you now pay some of the lowest fire taxes in Thurston County. Fire District #12 generates 98% of its revenue from a tax levy based on the assessed value of property in our 44 square mile district. Not unlike the rest of Thurston County, our district has seen unusually rapid growth and the 1% limitation established by Initiative 747. The district has been able to maintain current services, but our resources have been stretched to their limit. Because of the rising costs of normal operations and the number of fire and medical emergencies we respond to, the district is struggling to meet the demands with our current budget. The district is asking for a modest increase in our taxes for this levy to help maintain our high standard of service to the community.

The Cost

The current rate is just \$1.01 per thousand assessed value. This is an increase of 9 cents or \$13.50 a year for a home valued at \$150,000.

Please Support This Levy

You have 30 dedicated volunteers who donate their time 24 hours a day responding to your calls for help. Last year we responded to over 600 alarms. Your fire department is asking for your "yes" vote to help maintain the high level services provided.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Steven Whalen

No Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the Fire District No. 12 - Tenino - Levy Lid Lift.

Explanatory Statement:

This proposition will authorize Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 12 to increase its 2004 property tax levy rate to \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for collection in 2005. This proposition is presented to provide voters the opportunity to exceed the limitation imposed by Initiative 747, which limits total property tax revenue to 101% of the previous year's revenue, regardless of the authorized dollar rate limitation for a district.

Approval of this proposition would allow the Fire District to meet rising costs of operation, maintenance and capital expenditures needed to provide continued fire protection services.

Passage of this proposition will authorize the Fire District to increase the regular property tax levy rate from \$1.01 to \$1.10, an increase of \$0.09 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, for collection in 2005. Approval of this proposition would allow the Fire District to provide continued fire protection services at its current level of services, programs and resources.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Gottlieb, Fisher & Andrews, PLLC, bond counsel to the District

Fire Protection District No. 13 – Griffin Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 13 adopted Resolution No. 04-05, 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 as provided in Resolution No. 04-05.

Should this proposition be:



Approved _____ Rejected _____

Statement For:

Restore our funding so that we can help you!

Our district generates 99% of its revenue from taxes levied on the assessed value of property in our district. Our area population and new housing has been growing very rapidly. Our district services have not been able to keep up with the growth due to the 1% limitation established by Initiative 747.

We rely on our volunteers for all of our calls. We have two career fire personnel to respond during the day when volunteers are not readily available. Generally the District has trained personnel on an emergency scene within 7 minutes of a 911 call. We need funding to continue this service.

What the money will be used for...

The current fire levy tax rate is \$1.09 per thousand of assessed value on your home. The restored levy rate would be \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value. On a house with an assessed value of \$150,000 this would be an increase of \$61.50 for the tax year. This money will help to restore our services and help to provide more and better services in the years to come.

We are asking for your continued support...

The District has had wonderful support in the past from the people of our district and we are asking that you continue your support for us in the future.

*Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Skip Nichols,
Bill Durward and Jim McGarva*

Rebuttal for Statement Against:

The Fire District can't control the rising cost of insurance, fuel, personnel benefits, equipment and facility maintenance. Due to the drop in volunteer personnel and higher alarm volume, the Fire District needs to return to the former level of operations. This will also require additional personnel in the near future. The District needs a secure funding base that the Fire Commissioners can work with instead of going to the voters every few years.

Explanatory Statement:

Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 13, Griffin Fire Department, has placed a proposition on the September 14, 2004 ballot to authorize Thurston County to return the property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. The proposition is presented to voters pursuant to Initiative 747. Initiative 747 mandates that any increase in property tax revenue of more than 1% be approved by the voters. Initiative 747 limits property tax revenue to 101% of the previous year's revenue or the previous highest revenue. The statutory authorized dollar rate for junior taxing districts is \$1.50.

Approval of this proposition would allow Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 13 to maintain our present level of service to the people in our district. Rejection of the proposition will lead to a decline in services to the community.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Griffin Fire Department

Statement Against:

Opposing Griffin Fire District's request to lift the 101% property tax lid may seem like being against motherhood and apple pie, especially since FD 13 is primarily staffed by greatly appreciated volunteers. But FD 13 has not identified exactly what the money is for and its proposal to go from a property tax levy rate of \$1.09 in the 2004 collection year to \$1.50 in 2005 will result in a 37% increase in FD 13's budget dollars. This estimate is based on the Assessor's value of the district for the 2004 collection and the \$1.50 levy rate. This increased dollar amount will become the budget base for every future year.

I am not convinced that taxing districts can survive

on a 1% budget increase each year plus the tax dollars generated from new construction. However, a 37% increase is excessive. Add to the equation this year's new construction and the fact that the Assessor is revaluing the Griffin area for the 2005 collection year and FD 13 is likely to receive far more than a 37% budget increase. If new construction approximates last year's figure and the district's value increases 15%, FD 13 stands to gain another 23% on the current year's budget for a total increase of 60%.

Fire District 13 should follow the lead of FD 12 (\$1.00 to \$1.10) – identify what they need and request a property tax lid lift for only what they need.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement prepared by: Lucille Carlson

Rebuttal for Statement For:

FD 13 receives budget dollars over the 1% limit every year for new construction. It has had only three collection years under the 1% budget limitation, yet we are being asked to fund more and better services to the tune of a budget increase of at least 37% and quite likely near 60%. FD 13 will also have a much higher budget base for years to come.