

Fire Protection District No. 1 (Grand Mound - Rochester)

Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 1 (Grand Mound - Rochester) adopted Resolution No. 2007-01 concerning a proposition to restore the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would restore the District's regular property tax levy for maintenance and operations to \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2008 and to authorize setting the limit factor at 106% (but not to exceed a rate of \$1.50) for each of the five succeeding years.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 1, serving the citizens of Grand Mound - Rochester, is placing a multi-year lid lift proposition on the November 6, 2007 ballot. This proposition will authorize the property tax levy rate to remain at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2008, coupled with annual increases of up to 6% in each of the five subsequent years. The proposition is presented to allow voters to override the limitation imposed by Initiative 747, 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 voters approved in 2004.

This proposition meets the requirement of Initiative 747, that any revenue increase greater than 1%, over the previous year, be approved by the voters. Recently passed legislation allows junior taxing districts to propose multi-year lid lifts to voters.

Approval of this proposition would allow maintaining the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to the loss of at least \$211,581.00 annually in projected tax revenues, which would necessitate cutbacks in services, possible layoff of personnel, potential elimination of special services such as rescue teams, and similar cutbacks.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By: Joseph F. Quinn

Statement For:

Vote Yes To Restore Your Fire And Emergency Medical Services Operations And Maintenance Levy

Initiative 747 has restricted the fire departments to 1% budgetary increase over the previous year's budget unless voters approve a lid lift. Last year the 1% limit amounted to \$8,800, while inflation and costs of goods and services increased between 4-30%. The district's fuel bill alone in 2007 will exceed \$25,000. Expenses are outpacing revenue growth.

Your Yes Vote Will Provide Funding For Necessary Equipment Replacement And New Firefighters

In 2008 the district will be required to upgrade necessary safety equipment including radio communications, fire hoses, and "Jaws Of Life" rescue tools. Additionally, Federal mandates require upgrading self-contained breathing apparatus to meet new safety standards. With the increasing call volume, it is necessary to hire additional firefighters to maintain our average 8 minute response time. Failure to restore the funding base necessary to offset inflationary costs will result in service cutbacks, and future firefighter layoffs.

This Is Not A New Tax, This Proposition Restores The Regular Property Tax Rate

In 2004 voters authorized a lid lift to \$1.50. Since then the levy rate for operations and maintenance has decreased to \$1.22. Your Yes Vote restores the rate by .28 back to \$1.50 per thousand assessed valuation. The lid lift will cost homeowners \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed value in 2008. The *levy* is the Fire Department's primary source of revenue; the Department does not receive County, State, or Federal funding for operations and maintenance.

Vote Yes To Ensure Proper Firefighter And Public Safety

Adequate numbers of properly trained and equipped firefighters improves firefighter and public safety. Your Yes Vote authorizes the district to fund training and equipment for new volunteer firefighter/EMTs. Training and properly equipping a firefighter/EMT costs over \$10,000 per new recruit.

Statement Prepared By: Eric Smith, Ken Carlson, Roger Stone

Statement Against:

Fire Protection District No. 1 (Grand Mound - Rochester) has indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.