

Fire Protection District No. 11 (Littlerock)

Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 11 (a/k/a Littlerock Fire Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 396 proposing 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:

This proposition will authorize Thurston County Fire District No. 11 (Littlerock) to restore the districts regular property tax levy rate for maintenance and operations to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2008 and for each of the next five years to set the limit factor for the property tax levy rate at 106% (but not to exceed a rate of \$1.50).

Previous laws limited the Fire District's total property tax revenue to 101% of the previous year's revenue. The 1% limitation requires the Fire District to place a proposition on the ballot every 2-3 years to maintain funding to offset inflationary costs, which have exceeded 1%. Election costs associated with placing a proposition on the ballot can be excessive, and in 2007 new legislation was passed authorizing Fire Districts to place a multi-year proposition on the ballot to restore fire districts' regular property tax for up to six years.

Over the past three years the Fire District's levy rate has decreased by .30 cents per thousand because of the 1% limitation. Approval of this Proposition would authorize the Fire District to restore the regular property tax levy rate by .30 cents back to \$1.50 per thousand assessed valuation. In the five succeeding years, the levy rate cannot exceed \$1.50.

Authorization of this proposition will allow the District to sustain increased call volume from growth, offset inflationary cost, improve services and maintain staffing. Rejection of this proposition may necessitate cutbacks in fire and emergency medical services and layoff of personnel.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By: Judy Andrews (Gottlieb, Fisher & Andrews)

Statement For:

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

Since enacted in 2001, Initiative 747 has restricted the fire department to a 1% budgetary increase over the previous year's budget. Last year the 1% limit amounted to \$9,457, while inflation and cost of goods and services have increased between 4-30%. The district fuel bill alone in 2007 will exceed \$35,000. Simply stated expenses are outpacing revenue growth.

Your Yes Vote Will Improve Response Time, Service & Public Safety

In 2008 the district will complete development of planned substations, your support will stabilize funding necessary to staff substations and complete the district's comprehensive plan developed in 2003. Upon completion residents will realize improvements in response time, service and public safety. 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 the voters authorized a lid lift to \$1.50. Since that time the regular property tax rate for operations and maintenance has decreased to \$1.20. Your Yes Vote will restore the levy rate by .30 cents back to \$1.50 per thousand assessed valuation. The lid lift will cost a homeowner \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value in 2008. The *levy* is the Fire Department's primary source of revenue; the Fire 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 improve firefighter and public safety. Your Yes Vote will authorize the district to fund proper training and equipment for new volunteer firefighter/EMT. Training and properly equipping firefighter/EMT costs over \$10,000 per new recruit.

Statement Prepared By: Tom Fitzgerald, (President) Littlerock Firefighters Association

Statement Against:

Fire Protection District No. 11 (Littlerock) has indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.