

Fire Protection District No. 8 (South Bay)

Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 8 (South Bay) adopted Resolution No. 07-05, concerning a proposition relating to its regular property tax levy. The proposition would restore its regular property tax levy for maintenance and operations to an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed value 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 as provided in Resolution No. 07-05.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

This proposition will authorize Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 to restore the District's regular property tax levy rate for maintenance and operations to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2008 and provide for annual increases up to 6% (but not exceeding the statutory limit of \$1.50) for each of the five succeeding 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 years revenue, regardless of the authorized dollar rate limitation of \$1.50 for a district.

If approved, the additional funds will be used for operations, maintenance and staffing to increase the level of service.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By: Brian K Snure

Statement For:

The Challenge

South Bay Fire District 8 is facing two major resource challenges: revenue 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 2004.

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 career Firefighters or EMTs. This coupled with increasing call volume in both the fire and EMS areas means more training and updated or replaced equipment. Expenses to recruit and train volunteer responders have also risen.

The Cost

In 2004, voters authorized the District to collect \$1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed property value, however, by 2007 this rate has been reduced to \$1.20. The ballot measure, if passed, would allow the District to collect the additional 30 cents, costing the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$60 per year. It would also provide adequate funding for the next six years.

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 November 6th.

Statement Prepared By: Robert Green, Dr John Brown, and Sean Murphy

Statement Against:

Fire Protection District No. 8 (South Bay) has indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.