

City of Olympia Proposition No. 1

Fire Department Acquisition and Improvement Bonds - \$16,500,000

The City Council of the City of Olympia passed Ordinance No. 6554 concerning this proposition. This proposition authorizes the City to construct and equip a new fire station and a fire training center and acquire two fire engines and a ladder truck, issue general obligation bonds in the principal amount of \$16,500,000, maturing within a maximum of twenty years from date of issue, and levy property taxes annually in addition to regular tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Ordinance No. 6554.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

The Olympia City Council has placed a proposition on the ballot asking its citizens for authority to issue bonds for capital improvements and related purchases for Fire Department purposes. The City would use the funds to build and equip a new fire station and training center, and to purchase two fire trucks and a ladder truck. A vote to approve this proposition will provide the City with authority to incur debt by issuing and selling general obligation bonds not to exceed a principal amount of \$16,500,000 to finance these capital improvements. The bonds would mature within twenty years and would be repaid through an excess property tax levied at an estimated tax rate of approximately .21 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

Statement prepared by: Olympia City Attorney's Office

Statement For:

We demand that our firefighters be well trained, properly equipped and arrive the instant we need them. The Olympia Fire Department can arrive at an emergency any place citywide in under 11 minutes, 90 percent of the time, with current resources. The national standard for optimal response, however, is 6 minutes, 90 percent of the time. Growing call volumes spread our first responders across the city and increase response times. Since 1970, we've gone from 470 to over 9,000 calls each year, without adding a station. A "yes" vote will build a new fire station and make our community safer.

Your support is a strong investment in safety. The average homeowner will pay only \$53.55 annually over 20 years, based on a \$250,000 home. In return, the city will invest our combined \$16.5 million to build a fourth fire station, training facility, and purchase three trucks with service lives of 25 years. The new station will be in the vicinity of Lilly and Stoll Roads. An additional station in this area will dramatically reduce response times across the city. The training facility allows the Department to improve fire suppression and rescue skills without leaving the community, saving time and money. Two new engines and a ladder truck ensure our first responders have the right equipment to reliably meet all emergency situations. We all benefit by ensuring our firefighters can do their jobs well, making our community safe for everyone. Thank you for voting "yes" on Proposition One.

Statement prepared by: Doug Mah, Kelly Fox, and Dr. Pellicer

Statement Against:

City of Olympia has indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.