

City of Yelm Proposition No. 1

Creation of Regional Fire Protection Service Authority

The Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to the City of Yelm, Yelm Fire District #2 and Thurston County Fire District #4 (Rainier) a Regional Fire Service Protection Authority Plan to create and fund a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority under RCW 52.26. If this Plan is approved, it will create a regional authority for fire protection and emergency medical services funded by a regular property tax, not to exceed \$1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed value.

Should the Plan for a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be approved:

- Yes
 No

Explanatory Statement:

This proposition would establish a regional fire protection service authority known as S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority (SETRFA). SETRFA would replace Yelm Fire District #2 and Thurston County Fire District #4 – Rainier, in providing fire protection and emergency medical services to those areas, including the City of Yelm. SETRFA will maintain necessary emergency services and efficiently consolidate the administrative, training and operational functions of the two fire districts into one agency governed by an elected nine member board with equal representation on the board of commissioners. Taxes levied by the SETRFA are limited at \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value.

*Statement prepared by: Brent F. Dille,
Yelm City Attorney*

Statement For:

Why should you support the RFA?

It provides Yelm citizens with consistent, reliable services from our city government and our fire department, as well as the opportunity to serve on the governing boards of each.

Will it cost us more?

The new tax structure equalizes the rate for all homeowners within the RFA. For a Yelm resident, their city tax will go down about 30 cents and the new RFA tax will be imposed at \$1.50/1,000 for a net increase of about \$1.20. The owner of a \$200,000 home in the city limits of Yelm will pay about \$240 more a year in tax – that's about 66 cents a day – starting in January of 2011.

It's the future of the fire service.

Cities and fire districts around the state are finding regional fire authorities the most cost-efficient way to provide essential services. Contracts between cities and fire districts are not sustainable without impacting other city services; as the cost of emergency services rises, other city services are affected. With the RFA, the contract between the city and fire district is no longer necessary. Each voting citizen of Yelm has a say in how their money is used to provide fire and EMS services, and their city taxes are used appropriately for city services.

Creating a Regional Fire Authority is responsible governance.

Combining three separate taxing entities into one agency allows citizens to create a fair tax structure with which to fund and direct essential fire and Emergency Medical Services.

*Statement prepared by: Citizens for Fire Protection -
City of Yelm - JW Foster, Rhonda Civiletti and Ksea Rogers*

Statement Against:

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

