

Fire Protection District No. 1 (Grand Mound-Rochester) & Fire Protection District No. 11 (Littlerock) Proposition No. 1

Creation of Regional Fire Protection Service Authority

The West Thurston Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to the Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 a Regional Fire Service Protection Authority Plan to create, effective January 1, 2010, 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

Statement For:

What is a Regional Fire Authority (RFA)?

In a declining economy the responsible approach to managing, maintaining and improving emergency services without increasing taxes is by building partnerships. RFA legislation allows fire districts to achieve the efficiencies of consolidation while maintaining local representation, community identity and control. A Yes vote will simply authorize the formation of a successful partnership between Fire District 1 and 11; forming the West Thurston RFA.

Will the West Thurston RFA partnership cost me more money?

No, taxpayers will pay the same rate to the RFA partnership that they would have paid to the fire district(s).

How will the RFA partnership improve my Emergency Service?

The RFA will improve emergency service by reorganizing administrative, secretarial/clerical, accounting/payroll, fire/EMS training, and other functions and by avoiding duplicate costs and eliminating redundant functions. Potential costs saving will be used to hire additional firefighters to staff fire stations and respond to local emergencies, essentially putting more boots on the ground which improves emergency response times and available resources.

How will the RFA partnership maintain local representation and community identity?

The RFA Governance Board will consist of the three Fire Commissioners (from each district) you elected to serve you, each station will maintain their communities' identity and the apparatus will proudly display the community they're from.

Vote Yes - RFA Endorsed by: The Grand Mound/Rochester and Littlerock: Citizens Advisory Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Firefighters Associations, WT Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3825 and Senator Dan Swecker.

To review the RFA Plan visit:<http://www.westthurstonfire.org/>

Statement prepared by: Committee for RFA: Tom Fitzgerald, Roger Stone, and Eric Smith

Explanatory Statement:

The West Thurston Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to the governing boards of District 1 (Grand Mound/Rochester) and District 11 (Littlerock), a Regional Fire Service Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority ("Authority") under chapter 52.26. RCW. The Authority is intended to improve emergency response times and resources without raising tax rates. Efficiencies are gained by avoiding duplication, reorganizing administrative, accounting, operations, training and other activities, while maintaining local community identity and control. Savings will be used to staff fire stations and hire additional firefighters. For more than ten years the Fire Districts have been working successfully together to combine resources to achieve major emergency service improvements that were unattainable independent of one another. If this measure is approved, it would create the Authority, commencing on January 1, 2010 for fire protection and emergency services funded with current taxing rates (not more than \$1.50/\$1,000 assessed value). The Authority's own tax financing would begin January 1, 2011.

To view the complete WTRFPSA plan visit:
www.westthurstonfire.org

*Statement prepared by: Joseph F. Quinn,
Attorney for Districts*

Statement Against:

Fire Protection District No. 1 (Grand Mound - Rochester) & Fire Protection District No. 11 (Littlerock) have indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.