

# City of Olympia Proposition No. 1

Only voters in the City of Olympia will vote on this measure.

## Levy for Fire Safety and Emergency Management Purposes

### Ballot Title:

The City Council of the City of Olympia adopted Ordinance 6707 concerning property taxes for fire safety and emergency management purposes. To finance fire safety and emergency management operations and improvements, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy to a total authorized rate of not to exceed \$2.218 per \$1,000 (an estimated increase of \$0.25 per \$1,000 over the current levy) of assessed valuation for collection beginning 2011 and to use the 2011 levy amount to recalculate subsequent levy limits.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved  
 Rejected

### Explanatory Statement:

Proposition 1 authorizes the City to raise funds for fire safety and emergency management purposes through an increase in the regular property tax levy. With this funding, the City plans to hire additional firefighters to staff the new fire station, and to provide other fire safety and emergency management operations and improvements. The proposed increase will result in a total levy rate not to exceed \$2.218 per thousand, which is an estimated increase of 25¢ per thousand over the current levy.

A 25¢ increase in the regular property tax levy is estimated to increase the amount to be collected on a \$225,000 home in 2011 by approximately \$56.25 over the amount collected under the 2010 levy. The proposed increase in the regular property tax levy is projected to create an increase in revenues in 2011 of approximately \$1,500,000 for the staffing of the new fire station and the provision of fire safety and emergency management operations and improvements. The proposed levy increase will continue to produce revenues for these purposes in future years.

Explanatory statement prepared by: Tom Morrill, Olympia City Attorney.

### Statement For:

We expect firefighters will arrive quickly when we need help. Current resources allow the Olympia Fire Department to arrive at an emergency citywide in 11 minutes, 90 percent of the time. This is not fast enough. An optimal response is 6 minutes, 90 percent of the time. A growing population and more calls for service spread firefighters across the city and increase response times to unsafe levels. With a "yes" vote, the city will invest our resources to hire 13 firefighters and reduce response times to 6 instead of 11 minutes. A "yes" vote results in additional firefighters - making our community safer.

Your continued support is an investment in safety. In 2008, 70 percent voted to add a fourth fire station. Now, a weak economy prevents the city from hiring the needed firefighters to fully operate the new station. The Department already cut spending by \$1.2 million, leaving no room for additional budget reductions without impacting safety, reliability, and performance. Spreading current staff between the city's four stations will not change response times. A "yes" vote results in reduced response times - saving lives and property.

Doing nothing is unacceptable. Let's finish what we started. A house can become engulfed by flames in minutes. Severe damage occurs in the body after the first few minutes of a heart attack. Meeting the national standard of 6 minutes saves lives and property. We all benefit from reduced response times and improved safety. Thank you for voting "yes" on proposition one.

Statement For prepared and written by: Doug Mah and Kelly Fox.

### Statement Against:

No one could be found to write a statement against the City of Olympia Proposition No. 1.

Please Note: "for" and "against" statements are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for factual accuracy by the Auditor's Office.