

Fire Protection District No. 17 (Bald Hills)

Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 17 adopted Resolution No. 08-01-07, 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. 08-01-07.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Thurston County Fire Protection District #17, serving the citizens of the Bald Hills and surrounding areas, is placing a multi-year lid lift proposition on the November 6th, 2007 ballot. This proposition will authorize the District to restore the regular property tax levy rate for maintenance and operations to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2008, coupled with annual increases of up to 6% in each of the five subsequent years – not to exceed the \$1.50 limit. 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 year's revenue, regardless of the authorized dollar rate limitation of \$1.50.

This proposition meets the requirement of Initiative 747, that any revenue increase greater than 1%, over the previous year, be approved by the voters. The Washington State Legislative has passed legislation that allows junior taxing districts to include fire districts to propose multi-year lid lifts to voters.

Approval of this proposition would allow the fire district to maintain the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would necessitate cutbacks in services and increased response times.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By: Charles H. Houser III, Valz, Houser, Kogut & Barnes P.S., Attorneys at Law

Statement For:

Where does your fire protection money go?

The Bald Hills Fire Department, Fire District No. 17, provides emergency medical services, fights fires, and provides community support through education and community activities. When you dial 911, Bald Hills Fire Department responds. Approximately 85 percent of all 911 calls are medical emergencies. Your fire department also responds to structure fires, wildland fires, traffic accidents, downed power lines, flooding, and checks fire alarms and responds to service calls.

It's a long way to the hospital, the gas station, the grocery store . . .

In any emergency, every minute counts. We're at the end of the road by ourselves. In times of need, we rely on our family, friends, and neighbors. These are the same people who volunteer for your fire department. Your volunteer responders need training, equipment, and leadership to provide quality services. That takes money.

How much will this cost you?

Bald Hills Fire Department is asking for 29 cents more per \$1,000 assessed property value. Based on a property value of \$100,000, that's less than the cost of a latte or a gallon of gas per month. How much is your life and property worth to you? We all have busy lives. Sometimes, in our busyness, safety can be overlooked. Bald Hills Fire Department is all about safety. Qualified people and proper equipment can provide that safety where it counts the most – close to your home. Vote for the levy.

Statement Prepared By: Mike and Beverly Wright and Debbie Bies

Statement Against:

Fire Protection District No. 17 (Bald Hills) has indicated they could not find anyone to write a statement against this proposition.