



**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PERMANENT LEVY LID LIFT –
PRIMARY ELECTION**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 6, 2024 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$1.50 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A SIX YEAR LIMIT FACTOR SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the fire district that fire and emergency medical services be provided by the fire district. Such services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for station construction, maintenance, operations, equipment and personnel in excess of those which can be provided by the fire district's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the fire district.

WHEREAS, The Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that the application of the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 will not allow the fire district to generate sufficient revenue to provide for the expected cost increases required to maintain and increase the level of services currently provided by the fire district.

WHEREAS, the funds generated by this levy will allow the fire district to maintain or increase the level of services and will not supplant existing funds used for the purposes identified in Section 1.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the fire district that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue, in Ridgefield, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to provide fire protection, prevention, and emergency medical services in the fire district, it is necessary for the fire district to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to construct and remodel station facilities and other capital facilities, and to appropriately staff these facilities with properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.



CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE RESOLUTION NO. 240425-1

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing and maintaining adequate life protection services, facilities, and equipment as described in Section 1, to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services, and to assure the improvement of such services, the fire district shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the one percent limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010 and levy beginning in 2024 and collect beginning in 2025, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the fire district at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. The fire district previously obtained voter approval to establish the levy rate at \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation in 2017.

Section 4. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services beyond 2025, the fire district has determined that a limit factor of 106% shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2025 – 2029. The dollar amount levied in 2029 shall serve as the fire district's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the fire district for their ratification or rejection, at a special election on August 6, 2024, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the fire district should be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation in 2024 and be adjusted by 106% for the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Auditors of Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as ex-officio Supervisors of Elections, are hereby requested to call such special elections, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Proposition No. 1
Levy Lid Lift Authorizing Restoration of Previous Property Tax Levy

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue adopted Resolution No. 240328-1 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund fire district operations.

This proposition authorizes the fire district to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025 with annual increases up to 6% (not to exceed the \$1.50 rate) for each of the five succeeding years for the purposes of acquiring critical emergency response equipment, addressing capital facility needs, and improving department operations. The maximum allowable levy in 2029 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations.

Should this proposition be: Approved ☐ Rejected ☐



**CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
RESOLUTION NO. 240425-1**

ADOPTED by the Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners in Ridgefield, Washington, at a regular meeting of said Board on the 28th day of March, 2024 the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Commissioner Stanley Chunn

Commissioner David Town

Commissioner Larry Bartel

Commissioner Ken Ayers

Commissioner Jade Bourke

Attest: District Secretary

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