

PUBLIC NOTICE

Spokane Valley Fire Department Passes Fire Levy Lid Lift Resolution

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Spokane Valley Fire Department voted unanimously to place a multi-year Fire Levy lid lift on the August Primary Election ballot. If approved by voters, a "lid lift" allows the fire district to *restore* its regular real property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2022 for collection in 2023 and will establish an annual growth rate of the greater of the statutorily authorized 1% or the U.S. City average unadjusted, all items index, west city class B/C, for the CPI-W for the period of June to June as reported in the levy year, not to exceed 6% per year for each of the following 5 years.

The Fire Levy lid lift is necessary for Spokane Valley Fire to ensure sustainable funding for essential levels of service. Funding from the lid lift would be used to maintain daily operations and improve emergency service levels by hiring additional Firefighter EMTs and Firefighter Paramedics; maintaining and enhancing training; replacing aging equipment and responder vehicles; and improving our current Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) Insurance Rating, which affects the premiums paid by home and business owners.

RCW 84.55 limits the District to a 1% revenue increase per year. Due to the 1% limit, most taxpayers are paying less to the fire levy each year as property values increase. The amount collected by the District is not keeping up with the cost of inflation.

If approved by voters, the lid lift would restore the Fire Levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The proposal would be on the August 2nd Primary Election ballot and cost approximately \$0.45 cents per \$1,000 (or approximately \$15.14 per month for the owner of a \$400,000 home).

The levy rate has fallen to \$1.0457/\$1,000 in 2022. Each year, Spokane Valley Fire is limited to roughly the same amount of revenue due to the limitations of RCW 84.55.

Pro and Con Committees

The Spokane Valley Fire Department has recently adopted Resolution No. 2022-513 providing for the submission to the voters on August 2, 2022, a proposition authorizing the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023. The Fire District is accepting names of people interested in participating in voter pamphlet statement "for" (Pro) and "against" (Con) committees.

Citizens interested in participating, please email LevyCommittee@spokanevalleyfire.com by May 10, 2022. SVFD will provide the committees with copies of instructions, specifications, and deadlines.

Statements must be completed and submitted, by the Pro and Con Committees, to the Spokane County Elections Division by May 20, 2022, at 1:00pm.