

# Special Election - April 27, 2021

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet published by the Pierce County Auditor's Office.

## Drop Boxes Open 24/7 April 9 - April 27. Close at 8 p.m. April 27, 2021.

### Orting

Orting Public Safety Building  
401 Washington Ave SE

### Using a Drop Box?

(No stamp required)  
Drop off ballot by 8 p.m.  
April 27, 2021.

### Mailing your ballot?

(No stamp required)  
Must be postmarked by  
April 27, 2021.



## Need help?

Most services can be provided by phone or online rather than coming to the Election Center in-person. Vote the ballot mailed to you. Washington State is a vote-by-mail state. We're still here to help, but you need to call first.

(253) 798-VOTE (8683)

Access services online at [VoteWa.gov](https://VoteWa.gov)

### Pierce County Elections Voting Center

2501 S 35th St, Suite C  
Tacoma, WA 98409

Open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Extended hours on Election Day  
8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Questions?

[PierceCountyElections.org](https://PierceCountyElections.org)  
[Elections@PierceCountyWa.gov](mailto:Elections@PierceCountyWa.gov)  
(253) 798-VOTE (8683) or (800) 446-4979

### Services available starting April 9, 2021:

- Register to vote.
- Address change/update voter registration.
- Get a ballot and vote.
- Replacement ballots for lost, damaged, or mismatched ballots.
- Disability assistance — Large font, color contrast, and audible ballot options.

### Track your ballot or update your address:

- Visit [VoteWa.gov](https://VoteWa.gov)

## Not registered to vote?

### To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington state.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

### Registration Deadlines:

- Online or by mail through April 19, 2021 at [VoteWa.gov](https://VoteWa.gov)
- In person - April 20 - April 27, 2021  
Pierce County Election Center  
2501 S 35<sup>th</sup> St, Ste C, Tacoma, WA 98409  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,  
**Election Day, 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
Benefit Charge

See complete resolution text at  
PierceCountyElections.org

Ballot Title

Shall the Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 18 (Orting Valley Fire & Rescue) be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for six years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

Explanatory Statement

Orting Valley Fire & Rescue (OVFR) provides fire protection and emergency medical services. A benefit charge is not a property tax. A benefit charge is a user fee based on risk factors and the cost of providing fire protection services. The amount of any benefit charge imposed on a specific property cannot exceed the measurable benefits of the services afforded to the property and is subject to appeal before a review board.

Under state law, fire districts that collect benefit charges have reduced taxing authority. Benefit charges can constitute no more than 60 percent of a fire district’s annual operating budget, and the maximum property tax rate is reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

OVFR’s Board of Commissioners has determined a benefit charge is the fairest, most stable, reliable and cost-effective method for financing operations of OVFR and maintaining a satisfactory level of service. The proposition requests voters authorize the benefit charge to be collected for six years.

Statement For

**Stabilize Fire Department Funding**

A Yes Vote would *stabilize* department funding through a Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) that is based on Square Footage of a home and *not* assessed value, allowing for stable funding and proper staffing. This measure would *replace* the current Maintenance and Operating Levy.

**Increasing Call Volume with Limited Resources**

Pierce County Fire District 18 (Orting) has experienced a 47% increase call volume since 2008 with *no* increase to firefighting and EMS levels. This measure would *increase* firefighting and EMS levels by adding a second ambulance into service 24/7 and staffing a second station full time.

**Supported by Elected Fire Commissioners and Your Firefighters**

The Board of Fire Commissioners and your firefighters determined this measure to be both necessary and essential for the protection of life and property and would allow us to meet the challenges of the growing demand for services.

**Committee Members:** Jonathan Burgos, *voteyes4ortingfire@gmail.com*, Amy McAlindon, and Arlene Dannat

Statement Against

No statement was submitted against this issue.