



**RESOLUTION NO. 04-21-759
Multi-Year Lid Lift**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 16 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD THEREIN ON AUGUST 3, 2021, OF A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD RE-AUTHORIZE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVY RATE OF \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD, AND THEN WOULD ALLOW SPECIFIC INCREASES FOR EACH OF FIVE (5) CONSECUTIVE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, IN PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT APPLICABLE TO ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT, IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY CHAPTER 84.55 OF THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON AND PROVIDING THAT THE LEVY DOLLAR AMOUNT IN THE SIXTH YEAR SHALL SERVE AS THE BASE FOR COMPUTING ANY LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE YEARS' LEVIES.

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Board") of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 16 (the "District"), it is essential for the protection of the public health, safety, life, and property of the citizens and residents of the District that minimum service levels of fire and emergency medical services be maintained; and

WHEREAS, a regular property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, applicable to all taxable property located in the district, has been previously authorized and may be lawfully levied within the limits prescribed by RCW 84.55 as amended, which limits annual property tax increases to 1% over and above the previous year's tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the 1% limit on annual increases to be exceeded with voter approval, commonly referred to as a "lid lift" election, and

WHEREAS, a 1% limitation would restrict the District from levying up to its full authorized levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, necessitating a cutback in the level of services in the District, including cancellation of orders for new apparatus and equipment, layoff of personnel, eliminating special services such as rescue teams, and similar cutbacks; and

WHEREAS, the electorate should be given the opportunity to decide whether the cutbacks should occur or instead, whether the authorized rate of up to \$1.50 per \$1,000 should be

levied and maintained, waiving the 1% limit of RCW 84.55, commonly referred to as “lifting the lid”; and

WHEREAS, current statutes authorize multi-year lid lifts for up to six (6) years, with the dollar amount of the levy in the sixth year being used as the base for establishment of the tax levy rate in future years (sometimes referred to as a “permanent” lid lift);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED AND ORDERED, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A regular property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, applicable to all taxable property located in the district, has been previously duly authorized, and is necessary and appropriate to levy, notwithstanding the 1% annual increase limitation of RCW 84.55.010 et seq., as amended. RCW 84.55 places a 1% limitation on the increase of tax revenue collected by the District annually. Such 1% limitation on the increase would cause a loss of revenue to the District of approximately \$1,600,000 on an annual basis. Such a loss would necessitate cutbacks in services as enumerated in the fourth recital above. This resolution and the resultant election would give the voters the opportunity to choose to continue services pursuant to the previously authorized levy rate adopted pursuant to RCW 52.16.160 (the “third fifty cents”), waiving the 1% limit of RCW 84.55 (commonly referred to as a “lid lift”).

Section 2. The proposal set forth below, if authorized by the qualified electors of the District, will allow a levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a one (1) year period, coupled with specified increases in property taxes collected in each of the five (5) consecutive successive years thereafter. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District, for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 3, 2021 a proposition to exceed the 1% limitation (and “lift the lid”) of RCW 84.55.010 et seq. and levy the full authorized rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a one (1) year period, coupled with specified increases in property taxes collected in each of the five (5) consecutive successive years thereafter, and applying a limit factor of 6% annually, subject to statutory and constitutional limits, which are otherwise applicable; **provided further** that the dollar amount of the levy in the sixth year shall be used for the purpose of computing the limitations on future years' levies.

Section 3. The Board hereby requests the Manager of Records and Elections of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections, to call and conduct such special election to be held within the District on August 3, 2021, and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 16 (PIERCE 16)

AUTHORIZING INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE
OF UP TO \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION
FOR A SIX YEAR PERIOD (2022-2027)

The governing board of Pierce 16 adopted Resolution No. 04-21-759, concerning an increase in the District’s property tax levy. For the purpose of maintaining current levels of fire and emergency medical services, Proposition 1 will restore the District’s regular property tax levy to the previous voter-approved rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2022, set the limit factor at 6% for each of the succeeding five years and use the 2027 levy dollar amount for computing the limitations for subsequent levies. Should Proposition No. 1 be:

Approved: []

Rejected..... []

Section 4. The locations of the polling places, if any, shall be as specified by the Manager of Records and Elections of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections for the District.

Section 5. Approval of the proposition described in Section 3 above shall be construed and interpreted as qualified elector approval of a tax increase in compliance with RCW 84.55 as amended.


Section 6. The Secretary to the Board is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Manager of Records and Elections of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections for the District, on or before May 14, 2021.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 16 on this 13th day of April 2021.


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Chairperson Stanley Moffett

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Commissioner Frank Grubaugh


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Commissioner Keith Davies

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Commissioner Shawn Jensen

ATTEST:
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Executive Assistant

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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Joseph F. Quinn, Attorney, WSB#6810