

RESOLUTION NO. 21-003
Multi-Year Lid Lift

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD THEREIN ON NOVEMBER 2, 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. 23 (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; and

WHEREAS, the number of calls to which the District has responded has increased for the last several years; 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 \$82,000.00 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 November 2, 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 3% 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 November 2, 2021, and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 2

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23

**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 23 adopted Resolution No. 21-003, concerning an increase in the District’s property tax levy. For the purpose of maintaining current levels of fire and

voter-approved rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2022, set the limit factor at 3% 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 July 31, 2021.


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

Section 8. The District shall participate in the Local Voters' Pamphlet and submit an Explanatory Statement prepared by its attorney.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 23 on this 14th day of June, 2021.



Chairperson



Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:



District Secretary

FINAL – 7/23/2021

Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 23
(Ashford, Elbe, Alder)
Special Election – Proposition No. 2
Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title: The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 23 adopted Resolution No. 21-003 concerning an increase in the District’s regular property tax levy. If approved, Proposition No. 2 will restore the District’s regular property tax levy to the previous voter-approved rate of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation for collection in 2022 and apply a limit factor of three (3%) percent annually for each of the succeeding five (5) years to maintain fire protection services and use the 2027 levy dollar amount for computing the limitation for subsequent levies. Should Proposition No. 2 be approved?

Yes...[]

No ...[]

Fire Lid Lift

Explanatory Statement

Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 23, serving the citizens of Ashford, Elbe and Alder, is placing a lid lift proposition on the November 2, 2021 ballot. This proposition will reauthorize the property tax levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for 2022 tax collections. The proposition is presented to allow voters to override the limitation imposed by state law, 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, which voters approved many years ago.

This proposition meets the requirements of Chapter 84.55 RCW, that any revenue increase greater than 1% over the previous year, be approved by voters.

Approval of this proposition would allow maintaining the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to the loss of up to \$60,000.00 annually in projected tax revenues, which would necessitate cutbacks in services.