



# Special Election - Proposition No. 1 City of DuPont Levy Lid Lift for Fire and Medic One



## Official Ballot Title:

The City Council has adopted Ordinance 09-875 concerning funding for Fire and Medic One purposes. If approved, this proposition would authorize the City to levy regular property taxes at a rate of \$1.997397/\$1,000 assessed valuation for 2010 collection. The 2009 rate was \$0.997397/\$1,000, so this would be an increase of \$1.00/\$1,000. The 2010 levy amount will be used to calculate the levy limits under chapter 84.55 RCW for future levies to be collected in 2011, 2012 and 2013. The City may only use the additional revenues for Fire and Medic One purposes. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

## Statement For:

Proposition 1 will provide funding that can only be used for Fire and Medic One services in the City of DuPont. These services will provide the City with a fully staffed fire engine **and** a Fire Department ambulance, staffed with Firefighter/Paramedics.

The previous ballot measure that failed last November cost \$1.80 per thousand. Since then, City officials have worked diligently to craft a responsible funding measure that provides Fire and Medic One services. Proposition 1 is \$1.00 per thousand, costing the average DuPont homeowner about \$25 per month.

The City of DuPont is a growing community with diverse risks. To adequately address these diverse risks, the City needs competent, dedicated Fire and Medic One services.

Please vote **Yes** on Proposition 1 to provide the funding for a professional, dedicated Fire Department the City of DuPont and its citizens deserve.

**Committee Members:** Linda B. Cumberbatch, Hazel Printz and Ali Bailey, Citizens for Fire & Medic One Levy, 253-964-0651, [firemediconelevy@yahoo.com](mailto:firemediconelevy@yahoo.com), [firemediconelevy.com](http://firemediconelevy.com)

## Rebuttal of Statement Against:

The November 2008 ballot request was for \$1.80 per/\$1,000, however this new request is for \$1.00 per/\$1,000.

The 2008 fire department budget was \$2,376,537. The 2009 budget is \$1,700,000, a 28.5% reduction that decreased services, including elimination of the ambulance.

The estimated 2010 budget is \$2,974,000, which would fund a contract with Lakewood Fire District 2 for Fire & Medic One services, including a medic unit (ambulance) stationed in the city and staffed by Firefighter/Paramedics.

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## Explanatory Statement:

Upon recommendation of the DuPont Fire and EMS Task Force, the DuPont City Council placed a lid lift proposition on the November 2008 ballot. This measure failed, only attaining 48% approval. As a result, the Council passed an ordinance at their meeting on March 3, 2009, to place a lid lift proposition on the April 28, 2009, ballot.

Proposition 1 would authorize the City of DuPont to levy property tax to specifically provide dedicated, stable and sustainable funding for Fire and Medic One services, beginning in 2010. This proposition will authorize the regular property tax levy rate to be increased by \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for an estimated total levy rate of \$1.97 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2010. Proposition 1 allows the City to maintain this levy through 2013, after which time it will expire.

Approval of this measure will generate adequate revenue to provide the level of Fire and Medic One services requested by the citizens of DuPont, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services. This proposition meets the requirement of Initiative 747, that any revenue increase greater than 1% over the previous year be approved by the voters.

## Statement Against:

In November 2008 the voters said **No** to an increase in their property taxes and told city government how they felt about the fire levy. City officials are continuing to pursue this single option of increasing property taxes in order to pay for a contract with Lakewood Fire District. Since the beginning of 2008, DuPont's elected officials have increased the fire budget by 186%. In 2007 the city spent \$1.5M and now 16 months later they've budgeted \$2.8M. We are being forced into one high priced fire option while less expensive choices are available. Your city property tax rate will increase by almost 100% starting in 2010 and more in the future if you vote yes on this levy. Tell city hall that you want a typical fire budget of approximately 17% of the General Fund through more financially efficient fire delivery models and better management. Vote **No** on Proposition 1.

**Committee Members:** Don Dresser and Jim Hills, [dupontlevy.spaces.live.com](http://dupontlevy.spaces.live.com)

## Rebuttal of Statement For:

Let's not be fooled! The \$1.2M from this levy will be used to pay-off a contract with Lakewood Fire. Fire and Medic One services can be achieved at a lower cost from a variety of other staffing models. This is strictly an effort to expand the control, authority and taxing base of a neighboring fire district. Integration/annexation isn't working between the City of Lacey and Fire District 3 as reported in *The Olympian*.

**Committee Members:** Don Dresser and Jim Hills, [dupontlevy.spaces.live.com](http://dupontlevy.spaces.live.com)