

Special Election - Proposition No. 1

Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 14
(Riverside Fire & Rescue)
AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 14 (Riverside Fire & Rescue) passed Resolution No. 2008-191 proposing to authorize the imposition of an Emergency Medical Services property tax levy. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would permit the District to levy for collection commencing in 2009 the regular property tax at the rate of \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for six (6) consecutive years for emergency medical services. Shall Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 14 (Riverside) has passed a resolution requesting an election to re-authorize for six years a property tax levy not to exceed fifty cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. This levy would only be for emergency medical services (EMS). It would provide funds necessary to operate and maintain emergency medical aid vehicles staffed by emergency medical technicians. District voters have authorized an EMS levy three previous times, starting in 1990.

The funds would be used for personnel, training, equipment, supplies, vehicles or facilities. Annually, the Commissioners would establish the levy amount, which may be less than, but will not exceed, fifty cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

Approximately 75% of District calls for service are EMS calls. The regular levy does not adequately fund emergency medical services. Population growth has increased demand for services, with call volume reaching 470 calls per year.

For approval, this measure must be approved by a super-majority, i.e. a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters, and there is a validation requirement.

Statement For:

We are asking for your continuing support. In April you are being asked to renew the current Emergency Medical Service levy for 6 more years. This is *not a new tax or an increase* in the current tax. Voters approved the last three 6 year levies to ensure continued basic life support in the community provided by Riverside's volunteer firefighters. This renewal will continue the tax of .50 cents per thousand. A house valued at \$100,000.00 will pay \$50.00 a year. This levy allows the district to purchase medical supplies, upgrade out-dated equipment, and provide ongoing training for its personnel. At the current pace, Riverside Fire and Rescue will respond to over 500 calls this year. Over 70% of these calls are requests for medical help and are not funded out of the regular property taxes. Please support your fire department and vote yes for EMS.

Committee Members: Anthony Cooper, Peter Allison, Adrian Smith

Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

This space is available each election for citizens and/or committees opposing measures to publish a "Statement Against". For information, contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office at (253) 798-VOTE (8683).

Special Election - Proposition No. 2

Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 14
(Riverside Fire & Rescue)
LEVY OF GENERAL TAX

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 14 (Riverside Fire & Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 2008-193 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. If passed, Proposition No. 2 would permit the District to levy, without regard to the dollar rate and percentage limitations imposed by Ch. 84.52 RCW, a tax on all taxable property within the District of approximately:

<u>Levy Year</u>	<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2008	2009	\$0.45	\$74,632
2009	2010	\$0.45	\$82,790
2010	2011	\$0.45	\$91,069
2011	2012	\$0.45	\$99,348

and used for maintenance and operation expenses to maintain the current level of fire services and emergency medical services as provided in Resolution No. 2008-193. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 14 (Riverside) has passed a resolution requesting an election to re-authorize for four years a maintenance and operations property tax levy approved in 2003. The State's voters and the State Legislature, respectively, amended the Constitution and the Revised Code of Washington in 2002 to allow maintenance and operation levies for fire districts for up to four years.

In 1939, the legislature established fire districts to serve rural areas, rather than urban areas like Riverside. The regular levy is inadequate to provide fire, emergency medical and rescue services to a district with more than 3,500 residents. The department and the voters have found it necessary to supplement the regular levy since 2000.

This levy funds about 23 % of the department's budget. By spreading costs over four years, the district is able to limit the levy to forty-five (45) cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, to be collected annually from 2008 to 2011. The law prohibits any additional tax levies for maintenance and operational support of the district for this four-year period, if the voters approve this levy.

Statement For:

Riverside is a small community located between the cities of Tacoma and Puyallup. Through funds raised from our communities taxes and previous M/O levies Riverside fire is able to provide dependable quality emergency services. While growth and development in the area have remained the same, Riverside's current budget has become insufficient in meeting our communities increasing needs for emergency services.

Due to the changing demographics of our community we feel an increase in paid staff is imperative. Currently the Fire Chief is the only paid employee. The M/O levy will allow us to hire a second full-time position as well as provide a continuation of training, guaranteeing the quality and dependability of care our community deserves.

The M/O levy also allows us to keep up with inflation on daily bills and ensure the maintenance of equipment and apparatus.

Vote **Yes** to continued quality emergency services for our community

Committee Members: Anthony Cooper, Peter Allison, Adrian Smith

Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

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