

Special Election - Proposition No. 1

Fire Protection District No. 18 (Orting Valley Fire & Rescue)

Excess Property Tax Levy for Maintenance and Operation Expenses

Official Ballot Title

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 18 (Orting Valley Fire & Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 2012-015 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to be used for maintenance and operations to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services:

<u>Levy Year</u>	<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2013	2014	\$0.92	\$825,000
2014	2015	\$0.92	\$825,000
2015	2016	\$0.91	\$825,000
2016	2017	\$0.89	\$825,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2012-015. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Statement For

Support Your Fire District and Firefighters

Orting Valley Fire & Rescue needs your support. Please Vote Yes to maintain the current level of fire protection and emergency services by approving a four-year maintenance and operations levy. Your *Yes* vote on the M&O Levy will make sure our district and firefighters have the resources, training and personnel they need to save lives.

The Fire District has Reduced Spending

The recession of 2009, has challenged us to think proactively about how to address reduced costs. These reductions include pay cuts, reduced overtime & training, and leaving an integral position vacant.

The district has lost 30% of its funding since 2009 and is expecting another 2% drop in funding next year.

Maintain High Quality Service

Approving the levy will maintain the quality service levels and rapid response times that our citizens have come to expect. Please vote *Yes* to keep the services you deserve.

Committee Members: Pamela Giles, palajen@aol.com, Cole Kiphart, and Jonathan Burgos
OYes (Orting Yes for Emergency Services)

Explanatory Statement

Orting Valley Fire and Rescue is placing an excess levy proposition on the April 23, 2013 ballot. This proposition will authorize the fire district to collect \$825,000 annually, at an approximate rate of \$0.89 to \$0.92 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for a four year period covering 2014 through 2017. The proposition is presented to allow voters the opportunity to maintain current fire department services, personnel and reserves at current levels. The fire district has lost over \$826,220 in revenue since 2009 due to the nationwide recession, necessitating cutbacks in expenditures and drastic cuts to reserve funds, but without significant service level cuts thus far. Since 2010, the department has made the following reductions, training programs \$30,000; cleaning supplies \$1,500; legal fees \$15,000; volunteer reimbursements \$30,000; change of insurance \$16,000; Firefighter and staff salary concessions \$72,983; and staff reassignments \$50,000

Approval of this proposition would maintain the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to further reductions in service levels.

Statement Against

No statement was submitted against this issue.