

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Election Date: November 3, 2020

Name of Jurisdiction  
Submitting Measure: Graham Fire & Rescue  
(Pierce County Fire Protection District #21)

Contact Name: Fire Chief Pat Dale

Contact Phone Number: (253) 253-8811

Graham Fire & Rescue—Pierce County Fire Protection District #21-- is placing a “benefit charge” proposition on the November 3, 2020 ballot, pursuant to RCW 52.18, which allows the benefit charges to fund and maintain fire district operations. A benefit charge is not a tax and is not based on property valuation, but on the cost of providing service. If approved, the benefit charge, in effect for six years commencing in 2021, will be based on square footage and fire flows for all types of property, utilizing a consistent, industry-accepted formula.

Historically, the District has used regular tax levies and/or excess levies for maintenance and operations to provide sufficient revenue to maintain services. During that time the average tax rates have been more than \$1.00 per thousand of assessed valuation. If the benefit charge is approved, the property tax rate will be capped at \$1.00 per thousand. The benefit charge will provide the necessary revenue to maintain services, but on a more fair and logical basis than a property tax. Benefit charges cannot exceed 60% of the operating budget.

Approval of this proposition would allow the District to maintain the current level of services, while making the charges to citizens fairer.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By: Joseph F. Quinn, Attorney at Law