

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Election Date: April 27, 2021

Name of Jurisdiction
Submitting Measure:

Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 18

Contact Name:

Margaret O’Harra Buttz, Board Chair

Contact Phone Number:

360-893-2221

Orting Valley Fire & Rescue (OVFR) provides fire protection and emergency medical services.

A benefit charge is not a property tax. A benefit charge is a user fee based on risk factors and the cost of providing fire protection services. The amount of any benefit charge imposed on a specific property cannot exceed the measurable benefits of the services afforded to the property and is subject to appeal before a review board.

Under state law, fire districts that collect benefit charges have reduced taxing authority. Benefit charges can constitute no more than 60 percent of a fire district’s annual operating budget, and the maximum property tax rate is reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

OVFR’s Board of Commissioners has determined a benefit charge is the fairest, most stable, reliable and cost-effective method for financing operations of OVFR and maintaining a satisfactory level of service.

The proposition requests voters authorize the benefit charge to be collected for six years.