

Fire District 7 Levy Lid Lift

will be on the primary ballot on August 2, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 2, 2022, a special election, in conjunction with the state primary, will be held for the submission to the qualified electors of Kittitas County Fire District No.7, to answer the following question:

Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 7 Proposition No. 1 Single Year Levy Lid Lift

Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 7 provides emergency fire protection and emergency medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition authorizes the Fire District to establish its regular real property tax levy rate at \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2022 for collection in 2023 (the current levy is approximately \$.93 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.)

Approved [] Rejected []

Your Fire District Board of Commissioners has determined that this proposition is necessary to maintain an effective level of service, that include fire fighter staffing, procurement of equipment and facility maintenance. Approval of this measure will allow your fire department to maintain the level of fire protection and EMS as well as account for budgetary constraints due to the current inflation. The District is authorized to be at \$1.50, however, the Board is asking for \$1.25 to meet the needs of the District.

What will the funds be used for?

- Augment our awesome volunteer firefighters with career firefighters and staff Station 7-2. This station located at 970 and Airport Road will allow us to respond to emergencies on the East side of the District and better protect the communities of Teanaway, Liberty, Hidden Valley and the 97 and 970 corridors.
- To maintain and enhance current service levels of fire protection and Emergency Medical Services.
- Enhance our robust volunteer firefighter program. Enhance our staffing to meet growing need.
- Replace our oldest fire engines, that are currently 25 to 37 years old.
- Community Risk Reduction with Fire Adaptive Community efforts. There is wildfire danger.
- Work with neighboring fire departments and districts to enhance emergency response to the entire Upper County and work to regionalize efforts with willing partners.

I-747 is a 2001 initiative that stringently limited increases in property tax levies by all of Washington's jurisdictions (to 101% of the previous year, plus new construction). Thus, as our assessed values in our jurisdiction goes up, our levy rate must go down to keep at the 101%. In 2021 our levy rate was \$1.00 but has dropped to .93 cents in 2022 and will likely fall another 8-10 cents next year. With inflation rates close to 8% and rising costs to maintain the needs of the district, Fire District 7 is facing limited resources to combat our increasing demand.

Fire District 7 was the second fastest growing fire district in Washington State between 2010-2020. This all equates to more houses, people and fire risk. Fire District 7 provides fire protection to 128 square miles and currently has 8 stations with 10 career firefighters and 50 volunteers. Population and calls volumes are increasing along with the cost to maintain stations, aging apparatus and the need for more career staff. Thanks to voters approving the lid lift in 2020, Fire District 7 was able to purchase 3 automatic water tenders, and 4 new brush trucks replacing our 20-30-year-old apparatus.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Sinclair, Fire Chief, for additional information 509-656-4369. 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily, seven days a week.