



Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-10 Multi-Year Lid Lift

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5 (GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE) PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD THEREIN ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017, OF A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD RESTORE THE REGULAR FIRE SUPPRESSION TAX LEVY RATE TO \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD, AND THEN WOULD ALLOW SPECIFIC INCREASES FOR EACH OF FIVE (5) CONSECUTIVE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, IN PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT APPLICABLE TO ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT, IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY CHAPTER 84.55 OF THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON AND PROVIDING THAT THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF THE LEVY IN THE SIXTH YEAR SHALL SERVE AS THE BASE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FUTURE YEARS' LEVIES; SAID LEVY SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE SUPPRESSION SERVICES, INCLUDING PERSONNEL COSTS, TRAINING FOR SUCH PERSONNEL, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND VEHICLES.

WHEREAS, Fire Protection District No. 5, Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, has heretofore received approval by qualified electors of a regular property tax levy of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation to defray the cost of fire protection, fire suppression and other emergency services provided by the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Board") of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5 (the "District"), it is essential for the protection of the public health, safety, and life, of the residents of the District that minimum emergency service levels be maintained; and

WHEREAS, a regular property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, applicable to all taxable property located in the district, has been previously authorized for fire protection, fire suppression and other emergency services and may be lawfully levied within the limits prescribed by RCW 84.55 as amended, which limits annual property tax increases to 1% over and above the previous year's tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the 1% limit on annual increases to be exceeded with voter approval, commonly referred to as a "lid lift" election, and

WHEREAS, a 1% limitation would restrict the District from levying up to its full authorized levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, resulting in an inability to maintain current levels of services and fast response times in a community where the demand for service (911 call volume) has increased by 25% since 2011; and

WHEREAS, the electorate should be given the opportunity to decide whether the reduction in services and fast response times should occur or instead, whether the authorized rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 should be levied, waiving the 1% limit of RCW 84.55, commonly referred to as "lifting the lid"; and

WHEREAS, current statutes authorize multi-year lid lifts for up to six (6) years, with the levy dollar amount in the sixth year being used as a base for establishment of the tax levy rate in future years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED AND ORDERED, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A regular property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, applicable to all taxable property located in the district, has been previously duly authorized for fire protection, fire suppression and other emergency services, and is necessary and appropriate to levy, notwithstanding the 1% annual increase limitation of RCW 84.55.010 et seq., as amended. RCW 84.55 places a 1% limitation on the increase of tax revenue collected by the District annually. Such 1% limitation on the increase caused a loss of revenue to the District of \$290,335.67 in 2017. The loss of revenue due to 1% limitations is expected to increase in 2018. Such losses will necessitate reduction in services and fast response times as enumerated in the fifth recital above. This resolution and the resultant election would give the voters the opportunity to choose to continue services pursuant to the previously authorized levy rate approved by the voters, waiving the 1% limit of RCW 84.55 (commonly referred to as a "lid lift".)

Section 2. The proposal set forth below, if authorized by the qualified electors of the District, will allow a levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a one (1) year period, coupled with specified increases in property taxes collected in each of the five (5) consecutive successive years thereafter. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District, for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 7, 2017 a proposition to exceed the 1% limitation (and "lift the lid") of RCW 84.55.010 et seq. and levy the full authorized rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a one (1) year period, coupled with specified increases in property taxes collected in each of the five (5) consecutive successive years thereafter, and applying a limit factor of 6% annually, subject to statutory and constitutional limits, which are otherwise applicable; **provided further** that the levy dollar amount in the sixth year shall be used as the base for establishment of the levy for future years' levies.

Section 3. The Board hereby requests the Auditor of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections, to call and conduct such special election to be held within the District on November 7, 2017, and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5
(GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE)

RE-AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE
OF \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION
FOR A SIX YEAR PERIOD (2018-2023)

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Pierce County Fire District #5 adopted Resolution No. 2017-10, restoring the rate of \$1.50 per thousand dollars of valuation. Shall the District be authorized to restore the rate to \$1.50 per thousand, exceeding the 1% limitation on annual increases in tax revenues for six years, maintaining the rate at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2018, with annual increases of up to 6% (but never exceeding the \$1.50 rate limit) for the succeeding five years, and the levy dollar amount for collection in 2023 be used for computing the limitations for subsequent levies?

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

To vote IN FAVOR OF the foregoing proposition, mark a cross (X) in the "Levy, Yes" square.

To vote AGAINST the foregoing proposition, mark a cross (X) in the "Levy, No" square.

LEVY, YES

LEVY, NO

Section 4. The locations of the polling places, if any, shall be as specified by the Auditor of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections for the District.

Section 5. Approval of the proposition described in Section 3 above shall be construed and interpreted as qualified elector approval of a tax increase in compliance with RCW 84.55 as amended.

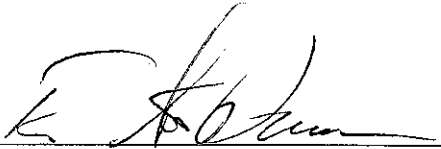
Section 6. With respect to this election, the District shall participate in the publication of information in the Local Voters' Pamphlet, including but not limited to an explanatory statement

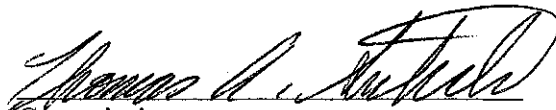
reviewed and approved by the District's attorney, a Statement For, and a Statement Against, pursuant to Chapter 29.81A of the Revised Code of Washington.

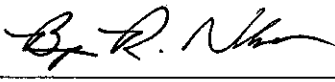
Section 7. The Secretary to the Board is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Auditor of Pierce County, Washington, as ex officio County Supervisor of Elections for the District, on or before August 1, 2017.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

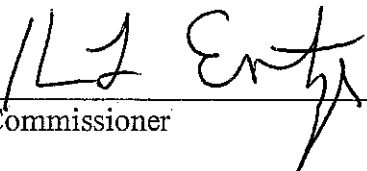
ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5 on this 25th day of July, 2017.


Chairperson



Commissioner


Commissioner

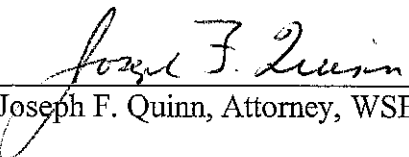

Commissioner


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Joseph F. Quinn, Attorney, WSB#6810



Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One

Explanatory Statement

Election Date: November 7, 2017

Name of Jurisdiction:
Submitting Measure: Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5

Contact Name: John Burgess, Fire Chief

Daytime Contact Phone Number: (253) 851-3111

Proposition 1

Pierce County Fire Protection District #5
(Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One)

Multi-Year Lid Lift

Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One responded to the community's requests for emergency medical care, fire suppression, rescue, and service 5551 times last year. This is a 25% increase in calls since 2011. However, while firefighters are responding to more calls, the voter approved \$1.50 fire levy has been reduced to \$1.47 due to 1% limitations. This measure would restore the levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2018 and then apply a limit factor of 6% in the succeeding five years.

Revenue raised by this measure provides funding for fire protection, fire suppression, fire prevention and other services. It will help the Department keep up with increased service demand and continue to provide a high level of service to the community.

If approved, this measure authorizes Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One to restore the levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value as approved by voters. It would allow the levy dollar amount to increase by up to 6% in the succeeding five years, but the rate cannot exceed \$1.50 even if properties increase in value. The dollar amount of the levy in 2023 would be used to calculate future levy increase limits.