

Questions About the Proposed Facilities Bond on Your Ballot?



GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions...

What's on my ballot now? Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One (GHFMO) is asking voters to consider a bond on the August 2 ballot to improve facilities and the health and safety of our community and its firefighters, as well as shelter emergency apparatus. The timing is favorable with lower interest rates, and the financial health of GHFMO helps ensure a favorable finance rate.

What will the bond fund? The bond would construct a fire training facility on land owned by the Fire District adjacent to Station 58 (Swede Hill). Stations 53 (Fox Island), 57 (Crescent Valley), 58 (Swede Hill), and 59 (Artondale) are scheduled for renovations. Station 51 in Gig Harbor is the Fire District's busiest station, and would be replaced at the same location.

Why can't you fund the station projects out of the taxes I already pay? GHFMO funds daily operations with a fire levy and an EMS levy capped at \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Bonds are used for capital items, such as fire stations and emergency apparatus. We are unable to fund capital projects from our operating levies without significantly cutting emergency service levels.

How will this improve public safety? The Fire District has no facility for regular live fire trainings. This means firefighters may only train with live fire once every three years and must leave the area to do so. A local fire training facility would ensure firefighters train more often, and perfect these life and property-saving skills.

Some stations do not meet ADA requirements, or current seismic standards. They lack living quarters to accommodate current and projected staffing levels, and a diverse work force. Renovations to stations will improve our ability to respond to emergencies, and ensure our facilities can withstand an earthquake.

How will this improve the health and safety of our firefighters? Cancer is known to be a leading cause of death among firefighters. Some of our stations lack decontamination areas to remove soot, hydrocarbons and toxic chemicals from firefighting gear. There is also a need for space to decontaminate medical equipment after EMS calls.

Thank you for considering our request.

BOND LENGTH: 20 YEARS
PROJECTED RATE: \$0.2376/1,000 AV



COST TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITH
ASSESSED VALUE* (AV) OF \$500,000
\$118.80 per year
-or-
\$9.90 per month

*Assessed value is typically lower than market value



MORE INFORMATION
www.gigharborfire.org

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