

CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD THEREIN ON APRIL 23, 2024, OF A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD RESTORE THE REGULAR FIRE SUPPRESSION TAX LEVY RATE OF \$1.00 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION, 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; SAID LEVY SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INCLUDING PERSONNEL COSTS, TRAINING FOR SUCH PERSONNEL, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND VEHICLES.

WHEREAS: Central Pierce Fire & Rescue has heretofore received approval by qualified electors of a regular property tax levy of \$1.00 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 Central Pierce Fire & Rescue (the "District"), it is essential for the protection of the public health, safety, and life of District residents that minimum emergency service levels be maintained; and

WHEREAS: A regular property tax rate of \$1.00 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 \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, resulting in an inability to maintain current levels of services or response times in a community where the demand for service (911 call volume) has increased 31% since 2014; and

WHEREAS: The electorate should be given the opportunity to decide whether the reduction in services and/or response times should occur or instead,

whether the authorized rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 should be levied, waiving the 1% limit of RCW 84.55, commonly referred to as "lifting the lid."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE THAT:

Section 1. A regular property tax rate of \$1.00 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. This 1% limitation is projected to result in a revenue shortfall of approximately \$11,660,000 in 2025, calculated based on current property values and expected growth rates, with this shortfall compounding in future years. Such a revenue shortfall will necessitate reduction in services and 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 \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District, for their ratification or rejection, at an election on April 23, 2024, 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 \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

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 April 23, 2024, and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

RE-AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE OF \$1.00 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR 2024

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue adopted Resolution No. 24-01, to restore the rate of \$1.00 per thousand dollars of valuation. Shall the District be authorized to restore the District's regular property tax rate to \$1.00 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, exceeding the 1% limitation on annual increases in tax

revenues for one year, with the levy dollar amount collected in 2025 to 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 29A.32 of the Revised Code of Washington.

Section 7. The Secretary to the Board is hereby directed to deliver an original or certified copy of this resolution to the Auditor of Pierce County, Washington, as ex-officio.

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

MOVED AND PASSED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE ON JANUARY 22, 2024, OF WHICH ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE NOTIFIED AND 5 WERE PRESENT AND VOTING:



Matt Holm, Commissioner



Steve Stringfellow, Commissioner



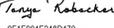
Rich Coleman, Commissioner



Bob Willis, Commissioner


Dale Mitchell, Commissioner

ATTEST:

 DocuSigned by:

Tanya Robacker
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Tanya Robacker, District Secretary