

# Lakewood Fire Protection District No. 2



Special Election - Proposition No. 1 - Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2  
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVY

**Ballot Title:** The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 2, Pierce County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 062402-979 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition, if approved, will authorize the District to levy an excess tax upon all taxable property within the District of approximately \$1.5717 per \$1,000 of true and assessed valuation, to provide \$5,494,754, to be levied in 2002, collected in 2003, and used for maintenance and operations to maintain the current level of fire services and emergency medical services as provided in Resolution No. 062402-979. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

**Explanatory Statement:** Lakewood Fire Department is requesting a one-year renewal of the maintenance and operation levy. The department and voters have found it necessary to supplement the regular tax levy since 1974. In 1939, the legislature established fire districts to serve rural areas; the tax levy was intended to fund a rural level of service, rather than urban areas like Lakewood. The regular levy is inadequate to provide fire, emergency medical and rescue services to a city of more than 65,000 people, a hospital, two colleges, and a major state mental institution.

This special levy pays for approximately 35% of the department's budget. It will cost approximately \$1.57 per \$1,000 of assessed value, replacing one that was approved in 2001 for the year 2002. The money will be used to maintain critical services to the community.

Lakewood Fire Department is a fully paid department providing fire suppression, fire prevention/education, Fire Marshall, code enforcement, emergency medical and rescue services throughout Lakewood. Traditionally Lakewood Fire has enjoyed widespread citizen support for this levy.

## Statement For:

Since 1975 you have supported the special levy for maintenance and operations, which supplements basic property taxes for fire and emergency medical services.

We need your continued support. You will be voting on a one-year levy for 2003. The amount will be \$5,494,754, which is approximately \$1.57 per \$1,000 assessed value.

The levy will allow us to maintain our current level of service, continue funding our vehicle replacement plan, and maintain our staffing levels to meet minimum safety standards. It will also enable us to provide adequate staffing for our fifth station on Pacific Highway.

The Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act was recently amended to require at least four firefighters on scene before they enter a burning building to perform fire fighting "rescue" operations. What has been a long standing accepted practice is now a law.

Vote Yes, and "Keep Help Coming"!

*Committee Members Include: Layne Bladow, Jack Asby*

## Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

*This space is available each election for citizens and/or committees opposing measures to publish a Statement Against. For information, contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office at (253) 798-7430.*

# Lakewood Fire Protection District No. 2



Special Election - Proposition No. 2 - Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROPERTY TAX LEVY

**Ballot Title:** Shall Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of six consecutive years for Emergency Medical Services?

**Explanatory Statement:** The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 2 has passed a resolution requesting an election to authorize a levy of a property tax in an amount not to exceed fifty cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, each year for six (6) consecutive years. This particular property tax levy would only be for the provision of emergency medical services. The funds raised would be used for personnel, training, equipment, supplies, vehicles and other facilities needed for emergency medical services. It would provide funds necessary to maintain properly trained paramedics and other medical personnel. The funds would also be used to obtain medical supplies and appliances to equip such vehicles and facilities. This EMS levy would be in addition to the regular levy for maintenance and operation costs, and the funds raised by such levy can only be used for the provision of emergency medical care and emergency medical services.

### Statement For:

Since 1986, Lakewood Fire District 2 has successfully returned to the voters every six years to renew its \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, Emergency Medical Services Levy.

The regular property tax levy does not provide funds for an adequate level of emergency medical services. Approximately 75% of Lakewood Fire District 2's 7,556 emergency 911 calls for service in 2001 were emergency medical related.

Currently, you enjoy an advanced level of emergency medical services. All Lakewood firefighters are emergency medical technicians and 25 are paramedics. Lakewood Fire District 2 staffs two transport capable paramedic units administering advanced life support on 911 calls all day, every day for Lakewood residents.

The Emergency Medical Service Levy is a renewal. Call volume has increased 99% since 1986.

By law, all monies collected from this Levy must be used to provide Emergency Medical Services.

Vote Yes, and "keep help coming"! Thank you.

*Committee Members Include: Layne Bladow, Jack Asby*

### Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

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