

Lakewood Fire Department

Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Lakewood Fire Department
(Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2)
**AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS EXPENSES**

Official Ballot Title: The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 adopted Resolution No. 072604-1057 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would permit the District to levy, without regard to the dollar rate and percentage limitations imposed by Ch. 84.52 RCW, a tax upon all taxable property within the District of approximately:

<u>Levy Year</u>	<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2004	2005	\$1.6666	\$6,251,126
2005	2006	\$1.6666	\$6,506,171

and used for maintenance and operation expenses to maintain the current level of fire services and emergency medical services as provided in Resolution No. 072604-1057. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement: The State's voters and the State Legislature, respectively, recently amended the Constitution and the Revised Code of Washington to allow maintenance and operation levies for fire districts for more than one year.

Lakewood Fire Department is requesting renewal of the maintenance and operation levy for two years. The department and the voters have found it necessary to supplement the regular levy since 1974. In 1939, the legislature established fire districts to serve rural areas, 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, a major state mental institution, and a regional shopping mall.

This levy funds about 41% of the department's budget. It will cost approximately \$1.66 per thousand dollars of assessed value in 2005, and approximately \$1.66 in 2006. The law prohibits any further additional tax levies for maintenance and operational support of the district for this two-year period, if the voters approve this multi-year levy.

Lakewood Fire Department is a fully paid department providing advanced fire suppression, fire prevention and code enforcement, emergency medical and rescue services throughout Lakewood.

Statement For:

Lakewood Fire District 2 needs your support. We are asking you to **Vote Yes** for our two year maintenance and operations levy. This is not a new tax, but rather a continuation of supplemental funding that has been supported by Lakewood citizens for the past 30 years.

Lakewood Fire District 2 is a taxing district which has been in existence since 1940. The fire district does not receive funding through the City of Lakewood, Pierce County or the State of Washington. The levy request is for a total of \$12,757,297 and will be collected over two years, 2005 and 2006.

Passage of this levy allows the fire district to maintain the current level of service and staffing levels to meet minimum safety standards. Failure of this levy eliminates approximately 41% of our operational funding and the 55 personnel and two fire stations it supports.

Vote Yes and Keep Help Coming!

Committee Members Include: Layne Bladow, Bart Dalton

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.