

Graham Fire & Rescue

Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Graham Fire & Rescue
(Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21)
RE-AUTHORIZING PREVIOUSLY EXISTING PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE

Official Ballot Title: The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 (Graham Fire & Rescue) passed Resolution No. 580 proposing to re-authorize the previously existing property tax levy rate. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would permit the District to levy for collection in 2005, without regard to statutory limitation on annual increases in property tax revenues imposed by ch. 84.55 RCW, the regular property tax at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is the rate previously existing and authorized by the voters in the District. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: In 2003, Graham Fire & Rescue responded to 3,888 emergency response calls from the community. Since 1993, Graham Fire & Rescue has experienced a 203% increase in 9-1-1 emergency calls answered.

Approval of this Proposition will generate sufficient funds to sustain the current level of fire, rescue and medical services, and supplement the funding of growth related costs that include replacing inadequate fire stations, adding firefighters and paramedics, and acquiring modern equipment.

Graham Fire & Rescue or Pierce County Fire District No. 21 is placing a lid lift proposition on the September 14, 2004 ballot. This proposition will re-authorize the property tax levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In 2004, your levied rate as per Initiative 747 was \$1.476. This request will authorize the Fire District to collect an additional 2 ½ cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, bringing your total property tax levy rate back to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

This proposition meets the requirements of Initiative 747, which was enacted by the voters of the State of Washington in November 2001, mandating that any increase in revenue of more than 1% over the previous year be approved by the voters.

Statement For:

I am enthusiastically voting yes for the "lid lift" of the fire tax in Graham Fire & Rescue because when I lay in agony after a serious injury the care they provided was most appreciated by me and my family. Be assured, I know personally that the life-saving services they provide were critical to the health and safety of my family and will be for my neighbor's too.

This is not a new tax. The "lid lift" simply allows the fire district to assess property at the full \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation instead of \$1.476 rate that was assessed in 2003. Passage of this measure would increase a property owner's fire tax by \$4.80 each year on a \$200,000 home.

Graham deserves a fire department that will meet the increasing emergency service needs of this fast growing community. Let's help those who help us by approving this measure.

Committee Members Include: Walter Balmer

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.