

East Pierce Fire & Rescue

Fire Protection District No. 22



Special Election - Proposition No. 1 - Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 22
RENEWAL OF REGULAR EMS TAX LEVY

Ballot Title: Shall Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 22 be re-authorized to impose regular property levies of \$0.50 or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for each of ten consecutive years, beginning in 2002, to continue providing emergency medical services and advanced life support (paramedic) services?

Explanatory Statement: The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 22 (East Pierce Fire & Rescue) has passed a resolution requesting an election to reauthorize for ten years a levy of a property tax in an amount not to exceed fifty cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. This levy would only be for emergency medical services (EMS). It would provide funds necessary to obtain, operate and maintain emergency medical aid vehicles and facilities staffed by paramedics and emergency medical technicians. The voters have authorized an EMS levy since 1980.

The funds would be used for personnel, training, equipment, supplies, vehicles and facilities. Annually, the Commissioners would establish the levy amount, which may be less than, but will not exceed, fifty cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

Most District calls for emergency service are EMS calls. The regular levy provides funds for fire prevention and suppression, but does not provide funds for an adequate level of emergency medical services. Rapid population growth has increased demand for services, and especially emergency medical services. A 10-year EMS levy helps to plan for these increases, and continue to provide Advanced Life Support Services (paramedics) at least until more permanent funding can be identified.

Statement For:

Renewal of our current Emergency Medical Services Levy is necessary to retain the paramedic service provided by our fire department. This is **not a new tax**, but a **renewal** of the current EMS Levy, at the same rate currently assessed. *Paramedic service* is a vital part of our community safety net. Over 75% of the 3000 emergency calls that our fire department responded to last year were for medical aid. The EMS Levy funds are required by law to be spent on providing this essential life-saving service. Please continue to support our fire department by voting **Yes for the EMS Levy!**

Committee Members Include: Zane Gibson, John McDonald, Karlyne McGinnis

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.