

University Place Fire Protection District No. 3



Special Election - Proposition No. 1 - Submitted by Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 3

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVY

Ballot Title: The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 3, Pierce County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 091702-368 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 \$0.70 per \$1,000 of true and assessed valuation, to provide \$1,322,041, 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. 091702-368. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: 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 dense urban areas like University Place. The regular levy is inadequate to provide fire, emergency medical and rescue services to a city of more than 30,000 people, with urban density, including substantial commercial and multiple family development. Due to population growth over the last 20 years, continuing inflation, and increased demands for paramedic services, the regular property tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing high quality service.

This excess levy would pay for approximately 23% of the department's budget. It will cost approximately \$.70 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This amounts to \$105 annually on a \$150,000 home. The money will be used to maintain services to the community.

University Place Fire Department is a combination fire department, utilizing both paid and volunteer firefighters to provide advanced fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical and rescue services throughout University Place. Currently, the Fire District also provides fire prevention and education, fire marshal and Fire Code enforcement services to the City. The regular tax levy is insufficient to maintain this level of service.

Statement For:

Your support is needed to maintain the operations of the University Place Fire Department. We are asking you to vote **Yes** for a one-year maintenance and operations levy. The levy amount is approximately 1.3 million dollars or \$0.70 per \$1000 of assessed value.

Since 1995 the call volume for the department has risen almost 40%. Additional Firefighters and staff are needed to meet the growing needs of the community. In addition, the department needs to replace worn out fire and rescue vehicles.

Recent initiatives and legislation have significantly impacted fire department funding. Current funding levels no longer provide enough revenues to operate the department adequately. Your **Yes** vote will help offset these lost revenues. Help keep the community and the Firefighters safe. *Vote Yes and Keep Help Coming.*

Committee Members Include: Pat Tobin and Jim Sharp

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.