

PUBLIC NOTICE

Spokane County Fire District 10 Passes Fire Levy Lid Lift Resolution

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Spokane County Fire Protection District No.10 voted unanimously to place a multi-year Fire Levy lid lift on the August Primary Election ballot. If approved by voters, a “lid lift” allows the fire district to *restore* the levy rate for emergency services to \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2024 and allows for the five succeeding years to authorize one percent or the percentage allowed by the consumer price index increase reported each June, whichever is greater.

The Fire Levy lid lift is necessary for Spokane County Fire District 10 to continue essential levels of service. Funding from the lid lift would be used to maintain daily operations and improve emergency service levels, improve firefighter training, and repair equipment and apparatus and well as replace aging structural and wildland fire trucks and required firefighter safety equipment. These items also are necessary to maintain the community’s insurance rating, which could affect the premiums paid by home and business owners.

RCW 84.55 limits the District to a 1% revenue increase per year. Due to the 1% limit, most taxpayers are paying less to the fire levy each year as property values increase. The amount collected by the District is not keeping up with the cost of inflation.

If approved by voters, the lid lift would restore the Fire Levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The proposal would be on the August 1st Primary Election ballot and cost approximately 69 cents per \$1,000 (or approximately \$17.25 per month for the owner of a \$300,000 home).

The levy rate fell to \$.81/\$1,000 in 2022. Spokane County Fire District 10 is primarily funded through fire levy taxes. Each year the fire district is limited to roughly the same amount of revenue due to the limitations of RCW 84.55.

Pro and Con Committees

Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 10 recently adopted Resolution No. 23-01 providing for the submission to the voters on August 1, 2023 a proposition authorizing the District to restore its 2008 regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. The Fire District is accepting names of people interested in participating in voter pamphlet statement pro and con committees.

Citizens interested in participating, please call Don Malone at 509-244-2425 or via email at DMalone@scfd10.org by May 12, 2023.

Statements must be completed and submitted to the Spokane County Elections Division by May 19, 2023.