

Spokane Co Fire District 10 Fire Levy Lid Lift - Frequently Asked Questions



What is on your August 1st Ballot?

Fire District 10 is asking our voters to consider restoring our fire levy rate to the previously voted \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is called a "Fire Levy Lid Lift." The current fire levy rate has fallen to \$.81 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Why is Fire District 10 asking for a Fire Levy Lid Lift?

Fire District 10 currently funds all daily operations and most of our capital replacement needs through regular operating levies. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided in the District. This means that the fire levy helps to pay for staffing, equipment, operating expenses to provide structure and wildland fire suppression, fire prevention, and other essential services to the citizens in our district.

Also, Fire District 10 has seen significant increases in emergency responses over the last 10 years. In 2012 the district had 852 calls and in 2022 there were 1400 calls for service which is over 64% increase since this levy was approved in 2007. The increase in calls, together with the increase in operating expenses, is why we are asking our voters to consider this Fire Levy Lid Lift.

Does Fire District 10 receive more taxes because of the increased assessed property values?

RCW 84.55 limits Fire District 10 to a 1% increase in revenue regardless of the increase of a property's assessed value. This means that if a home increases eight percent in assessed value, the district can still only collect 1% more than the previous year.

How will this revenue be used? *We Have a Plan*

Fire District 10 will reduce risk in your community by hiring additional firefighter/EMT's, maintain our current Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) insurance rating, maintain firefighter, EMT, volunteer training, and complete equipment and fire truck repairs.

Specifically, Fire District 10 plans to hire additional firefighters to staff a 2nd station 24/7, replace aging fire apparatus, and complete much needed facility upgrades at our 5 stations throughout the 90 square miles we service.

What will this cost?

The \$.69 levy lid lift will cost the owner of a \$300,000 home approximately \$17.25 per month. The lid lift would return to \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2024 and then Fire District 10 would be able to collect 1% each year or the amount allowed by the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater; not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.

What is Fire District 10 doing to make tax dollars stretch further?

Fire District 10 has strong management and financial practices, passing all State of Washington financial audits. The District is always seeking grant opportunities to supplement daily operations.

Does Fire District 10 receive money from the state or county?

No. Fire District 10 is separate from Spokane County or State of Washington governance and receives no money from them or any sales tax. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided within the Fire District.