

Ballot Measure

PROPOSITION NO. 1
Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 2
Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 6
Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 9
Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 10

CREATION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY

The Boards of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 passed Joint Resolution No. 2008-01 concerning a proposition to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority. This measure would approve the plan to create a regional fire authority (the "Authority"). The Authority would replace Whatcom County Fire Districts 2, 6, 9 and 10 as the service provider for fire protection and emergency medical services and would consolidate operational and administrative services into one governmental agency. Funding would be provided by property taxes pursuant to the Plan; the initial levy rate for the Authority would be \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Should this proposition be: APPROVED REJECTED

Explanatory Statement

This proposition would establish a regional fire protection service authority known as South Whatcom Fire Authority (SWFA). SWFA would replace Whatcom County Fire Districts 2, 6, 9 and 10 in providing fire protection and emergency medical services to those areas. SWFA will maintain necessary emergency services and efficiently consolidate the administrative, training and operational functions of the four fire districts into one agency governed by an elected five member board with representation from each fire district on the board of commissioners. Taxes levied by the SWFA will replace taxes currently levied by the individual fire districts.

Statement For:

It's time to combine Fire Districts 2, 6, 9, and 10 (Sudden Valley, Geneva, Chuckanut, Lake Samish and Yew Street Road).

Why now? Over the last fifty years, our community fire protection has been provided by very dedicated neighbors serving as volunteers. Unfortunately, over the last few years it has been increasingly difficult to recruit and retain enough volunteers.

Why this proposal? Our fire commissioners first addressed this challenge by working together to improve operational efficiencies. This next step will allow our communities to maintain reliable and cost efficient service by pooling our resources.

Is this a new layer of tax? No, the plan provides that the tax of \$1.28 per thousand will replace the tax collected by the fire districts.

Will we lose control of our community fire service? No, the plan provides that a commissioner from each member community will be elected to the new five-member commission.

Will we still have volunteers? Yes, volunteers will remain the backbone of our protection. We will continue to augment the volunteers with a limited paid staff particularly during the day when volunteer response to emergencies is low.

Vote "YES" to maintain reliable and cost efficient community fire service.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

No Statement Submitted

Statement Against:

No Statement Submitted

Rebuttal of Statement For:

No Statement Submitted

Statement For prepared by: Citizens for Reliable & Efficient Community Fire Service

Complete text of this measure may be found on page 93

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

Continued from previous page

That the City Attorney is hereby directed to prepare an appropriate ballot title for submission of the following proposed charter amendment to the qualified voters of the City of Bellingham at the November 4, 2008 general election:

SECTION 2.02 Terms of Elected Officials

This section would be amended to provide that the term of the At-Large Council Member would be changed from two (2) years to four (4) years and would read as follows: The term of the Mayor shall be 4 years. The terms of the 6 Council Members to be elected by wards shall be 4 years. The term of the Council Member to be elected At- Large shall be 4 years. The terms of Council Members shall be so staggered that 3 ward Council members shall be elected at each municipal general election. The term of the Mayor and the Council Member At-Large shall be staggered for each municipal general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following finalization of the ballot title, the same shall be submitted to the Finance Director who shall cause the foregoing proposition to be placed on the ballot in accordance with this resolution by the transmittal of the same to the Whatcom County Auditor no later than August 12, 2008. PASSED by the Council this 21st day of July, 2008; Barbara Ryan, Council President.

APPROVED by me this 1st day of August, 2008; Daniel V. Pike, Mayor.

ATTEST: John C. Carter, Finance Director.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Joan Hoisington, Office of the City Attorney.

Ballot Measure Full Text

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the districts, at an election to be held on November 4, 2008, of a proposition regarding the creation of the South Whatcom Fire Authority coextensive with the boundaries of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 and the approval of a fire authority plan and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

WHEREAS, over the past few years, local fire protection districts have faced constraints that have resulted in decreasing tax revenues and increasing demand for services;

WHEREAS, these constraints have increased the challenges facing fire protection districts in providing fire protection and emergency services upon which their citizens depend;

WHEREAS, recent changes in the law have created opportunities that could help fire protection districts meet their needs of providing fire protection and emergency services by consolidating among several Fire Districts the resources relegated to fire protection and emergency services;

WHEREAS, this consolidation of resources, through the establishment of a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority, provides a way for the participating Fire Districts to maximize their abilities to provide fire protection and emergency services;

WHEREAS, in order that Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 may provide the most effective fire protection and emergency services, the Boards of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 have studied the design, financing and development of fire protection and emergency services pursuant to RCW 52.26.040 and have created a regional fire service authority plan (the "RFA Plan") copies of which are on file with the District Secretaries for Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10;

WHEREAS, the RFA plan proposes the formation of the South Whatcom Fire Authority whose boundaries are coextensive with Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 and which will be funded with a fire tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Fire Commissioners for Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 hereby certify the RFA Plan to the ballot under the provisions of RCW 62.26.060 by placing before the voters of the proposed Regional Fire Protection Service Authority a proposition calling for the creation of the South Whatcom Fire Authority and the approval of the RFA Plan, all in accordance with state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE RESPECTIVE BOARDS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS NOS. 2, 6, 9 AND 10 HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSITION.

The respective Boards of Fire Commissioners for Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 hereby find that it is in the best interests of the Fire Districts to submit to the qualified electors of the Districts at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008 a proposition regarding the creation of the South Whatcom Fire Authority, pursuant to chapter 52.26 RCW and the approval of the South Whatcom Fire Authority Plan (the "RFA Plan").

If approved by simple majority of the voters in Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this Proposition would: (1) create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority, as defined in RCW 52.26.020, whose boundaries are coextensive with Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 and (2) approve the RFA Plan.

Section 2. BALLOT TITLE AND PROPOSITION

Pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, the governing bodies of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 have drafted a ballot title and request that the Whatcom County Auditor submit to the qualified electors of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 at the election to be held on November 4, 2008 a proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

- [Whatcom County Fire Protection District #2]
[Whatcom County Fire Protection District #6]
[Whatcom County Fire Protection District #9]
[Whatcom County Fire Protection District #10]

CREATION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY

The Boards of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 passed Joint Resolution No. 2008-01 concerning a proposition to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority. This measure would approve the plan to create a regional fire authority (the "Authority"). The Authority would replace Whatcom County Fire Districts 2, 6, 9 and 10 as the service provider for fire protection and emergency medical services and would consolidate operational and administrative services into one governmental agency. Funding would be provided by property taxes pursuant to the Plan; the initial levy rate for the Authority would be \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED.....[]
REJECTED.....[]

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For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.38.080, the Boards of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 hereby designate Dave Ralston, Fire Chief of Whatcom County Fire District No. 2 as the individual to whom the Whatcom County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 3. COPIES FILED WITH THE WHATCOM COUNTY AUDITOR

The respective District Secretaries of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 are authorized and directed, no later than August 12, 2008, to provide to the Whatcom County Auditor a certified copy of this Resolution and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the Proposition described in this Resolution appears on the ballot at the November 4, 2008 election. All actions taken prior to the effective date of this Resolution and in furtherance of this objective are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 4. IMPLEMENTATION

Chief Dave Ralston is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

THIS RESOLUTION shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED jointly by the respective Boards of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Districts Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 10 this 2nd day of July, 2008.

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2, Ron Swanson, Fire Commissioner; Dave Hanson, Fire Commissioner; Paul Guy, Fire Commissioner.

ATTEST AND CERTIFICATION: Carrie Carter, District Secretary, Whatcom County Fire District No. 2

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6, David Franklin, Fire Commissioner; Lynn Trzynka, Fire Commissioner; Brian Martin, Fire Commissioner.

ATTEST AND CERTIFICATION: Lesa Clark, District Secretary, Whatcom County Fire District No. 6

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 9, Winton Wefer, Fire Commissioner; Chuck Swanson, Fire Commissioner; Mike Holl, Fire Commissioner.

ATTEST AND CERTIFICATION: Nancy Holl, District Secretary, Whatcom County Fire District No. 9

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 10, Robert Ekdahl, Fire Commissioner; Glen Oltman, Fire Commissioner; Tom Peterson, Fire Commissioner.

ATTEST AND CERTIFICATION: Lesa Clark, District Secretary, Whatcom County Fire District No. 10

Ballot Measure Full Text

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire District 21, Whatcom County, Washington providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a general election to be held therein on November 4, 2008, in conjunction with the State general election to be held on the same day, a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000. This proposition would authorize the District to set and maintain a regular property tax levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2008 and thereafter pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations, all as more particularly set forth herein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Board") of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21, (the "District") has determined that it appears certain money available for the Expense Fund for the calendar year 2008 would be insufficient to permit the District to meet the expenses of operation, services and maintenance essential and necessary for the protection of the public health, life, and property of its residents during such calendar year, given the current levy rate of \$1.32477 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and that it is necessary for the regular property tax levy of the District be set at \$1.40 per \$1,000, such levy to be made in 2008 for collection in 2009, and in succeeding years, on all taxable property within the District (such assessed value representing 100% of true and fair value unless specifically provided otherwise by law), in order for the Expense Fund of the District to be able to provide sufficient funds to meet those expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and the laws of the State of Washington require that the question of whether such taxes may be levied must be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection.

NOW, THEREFORE,

Section 1. The Auditor of Whatcom County, Washington, as *ex officio* Supervisor of Elections (the "Auditor"), is requested to call and conduct an election in the District, in the manner provided by law, to be held herein on November 4, 2008 in conjunction with the State general election to be held on the same date, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the District, for their approval or rejection, a proposition of whether the regular property tax levy of the District shall be set at and maintained at \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value; such levy to be made in 2008 for collection in 2009, and in succeeding years, on all the taxable property within the District (such assessed value representing 100% of true and fair value unless specifically provided otherwise by law), subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations; and for the dollar amount of such levies to be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050.

Section 2. Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, as amended, the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney is requested to prepare the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON PROPOSITION NO. 1 AUTHORIZING REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 21, Whatcom County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 2008-11 authorizing a regular property tax levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000. This proposition would authorize the District to set and maintain a regular property tax levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2008 for collection in 2009, and in succeeding years, subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations. The dollar amount of this levy would be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050. Should this proposal be?

Approved ()
Rejected ()

Section 3. The Secretary of the District is directed (a) to certify to the Auditor a copy of this Resolution No. 2008-11 showing its adoption by the Board at least 84 days prior to the date of such general election; and (b) to perform such other duties as are necessary and required by law in submitting to the voters of the District at the aforesaid election the proposition of whether such excess tax levy shall be made.

ADOPTED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21, at an open public meeting thereof this 11th day of August, 2008, of which notice was given in the manner provided by law, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

ATTEST: Rich Bosman, Commissioner; Bill Salter, Commissioner; Dean Whitney, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION: T.M. Fields, District Secretary