



MAY 09 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 153

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE RFA AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE RFA ON AUGUST 6, 2019, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION RESTORING THE RFA'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE TO \$1.00 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A LIMIT FACTOR BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

Background:

1. **WHEREAS**, it is the judgment of the Governing Board of Puget Sound Fire that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of Puget Sound Fire that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by Puget Sound Fire.
2. **WHEREAS**, The Governing Board has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, providing staffing and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by Puget Sound Fire's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$.706 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within Puget Sound Fire as limited by the 101% limitation.
3. **WHEREAS**, Puget Sound Regional Fire experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases.
4. **WHEREAS**, Puget Sound Regional Fire believes that adopting a growth factor for years 2 -6 of the levy lid lift period based on the greater of 1% or the annual CPI-W for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue as reported in June as such CPI index is used in the RFA's labor contracts and other service agreements.
5. **WHEREAS**, Puget Sound Regional Fire previously levied its regular property tax at the rate of \$1.00 per thousand of assessed valuation of taxable property.
6. **WHEREAS**, the Governing Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the RFA that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority King County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to maintain and increase the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in Puget Sound Fire, it is

necessary for Puget Sound Fire to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to acquire and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services Puget Sound Fire shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2019 and collect beginning in 2020, pursuant to RCW 52.26.140, a general tax on taxable property within Puget Sound Fire at a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2020, the RFA has determined that the limit factor for the five succeeding years shall be the greater of the statutorily authorized one percent or the CPI-W for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue for the period of June to June as reported in the levy year. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2020-2024. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 4. The amount levied in 2024 shall serve as Puget Sound Fire's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Puget Sound Fire for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 6, 2019, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of Puget Sound Fire should be restored to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by the greater of the statutorily authorized one percent or the CPI-W for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue for the period of June to June as reported in the levy year for the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Governing Board hereby requests the auditor of King County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority

Proposition #: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority adopted Resolution No. 153 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund Puget Sound Fire operations.

This proposition authorizes the RFA to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation to be levied in 2019 and authorizes annual adjustments by

the greater of 1% or the annual CPI-W for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue as reported in June of the levy year for each of the five succeeding years. The maximum allowable levy in 2024 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be: Approved ☐ Rejected ☐

Section 6. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(1), the ballot measure shall require approval of a simple majority of voters.

Section 7. The Governing Board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 8. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Governing Board hereby designates the Fire Chief and legal counsel as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The Fire Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 10. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 10, 2019, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper RFA officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the August 6, 2019 election.

Section 11. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 12. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority at an open public meeting of such Board on the 1st day of May 2019, the following Board Members being present and voting:


Board Member


Board Member


Board Member


Board Member


Board Member


Board Member


Board Secretary