

**RESOLUTION NO. 175
INTENT TO CONTINUE BENEFIT CHARGE**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR THE RE-AUTHORIZATION AND CONTINUATION OF A BENEFIT CHARGE; TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE RFA AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE RFA ON AUGUST 3, 2021 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A PERMANENT BENEFIT CHARGE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE RFA AND, CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING.

Background: WHEREAS, the RFA is authorized by the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Plan and chapter 52.26 RCW to establish, impose and collect a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the RFA; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the RFA previously authorized the RFA to impose and collect a benefit charge for six years in 2010 and the voters reauthorized the benefit charge for an additional six years in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has determined that the benefit charge, established in conjunction with a lower level of property taxes, provides the most stable, reliable and cost-effective method for financing the services the RFA provides to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the benefit charge will be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services provided by the RFA and shall not exceed 60% of the operating budget of the RFA; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has now authorized the RFA to request voter approval of a permanent benefit charge and the Governing Board has determined that a permanent benefit charge better serves the citizens of the RFA by providing for long term revenue stability and reduces future administrative and election costs associated with shorter term benefit charge authorizations; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable and necessary that the RFA obtain voter approval to continue its benefit charge on a permanent basis to maintain and improve the services provided by the RFA;

RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority:

1. **Continuation of Benefit Charge.** It is the declared intent of the Governing Board to continue imposing a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the RFA, which have or will receive benefits provided by the RFA to be paid by owners of such properties.
2. **Method of Apportionment.** The total benefit charge authorized by this resolution shall be reasonably apportioned among the affected parcels of property initially by the general method described in **Exhibit A** in accordance with RCW 52.26.180, and 52.26.190.

3. **Amount of Benefit Charge.** The benefit charge for each year shall be set in the year preceding imposition of the charge after a public hearing to review and establish the amount of the benefit charge pursuant RCW 52.26.230 and shall not exceed 60% of the RFA's operating budget.
4. **Notice of the Benefit Charge.** Subsequent to the public hearing referred to in Section 3, property owners will be notified in writing each year of the benefit charge and the amounts thereof to be charged in the subsequent year.
5. **Review Board.** Subsequent to establishing the annual benefit charge and notifying the property owners, the RFA shall form a review board pursuant to RCW 52.26.250. The review board shall be convened and available for at least a two-week period to hear and decide written appeals from property owners regarding their particular benefit charge assessment.
6. **Effective Date.** If approved by the voters, the continued benefit charge shall be imposed on the affected properties beginning January 1, 2022.
7. **Contract for Administration.** The Chief of the RFA is authorized and directed to negotiate a contract with the King County treasurer to provide for the administration and collection of the benefit charge. The contract shall establish the fee to be paid by the RFA to the County Treasurer and County Assessor for services to be performed under the contract.
8. **Public Hearing.** The Governing Board will hold a public hearing before the Board on June 16, 2021 as part of the Governing Board's regular meeting to consider the proposal to continue the benefit charge to support the legally authorized activities of the RFA to maintain and improve the services afforded in the RFA.
9. **Election.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.220, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the RFA for their ratification or rejection, at a special election on August 3, 2021, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not such benefit charge for services provided by the RFA shall be continued. The Governing Board hereby requests that the Elections Division of King County call such special election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot titled substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION
Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority
Continuation of Benefit Charge

Shall the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges on a permanent basis, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.26.140(1)(c)?

Yes
No

10. **Voter Approval Requirement.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.220(3)(a) the measure requires a sixty percent majority vote to be approved without validation requirements.
11. **Voter Pamphlet.** The Governing Board finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the RFA to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet.

Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the RFA. The Governing Board further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections Department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

12. **Pro and Con Committees.** The Board hereby assigns to the 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.
13. **Election Notices.** For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Chief or designee as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.
14. **Modifications.** The Chief or designee 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.
15. **Filing of Ballot Measure.** The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 14, 2021, to provide to the County Auditors 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 3, 2021 election.
16. **Severability.** 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.
17. **Ratification.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.
18. **Effective Date.** This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority in a regular open public meeting on the 5th day of May 2021.

Toni Troutner
Toni Troutner (May 6, 2021 11:00 CDT)
 Board Chair Troutner

Allan Barrie
Allan Barrie (May 6, 2021 10:20 PDT)
 Board Vice Chair Barrie

Margaret Harto
Margaret Harto (May 6, 2021 21:45 PDT)
 Board Member Harto

[Signature]
Board Member Boyce (May 6, 2021 12:31 PDT)
 Board Member Boyce

Lea Thomas
Lea Thomas (May 7, 2021 12:50 PDT)
 Board Member Thomas

James A. Scott Sr
James A. Scott Sr (May 7, 2021 09:09 PDT)
 Board Member Scott

[Signature]
 Board Secretary Steward