

**RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04**

**INTENT TO CONTINUE VOTER AUTHORIZED BENEFIT CHARGE
(GENERAL ELECTION)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR THE RE-AUTHORIZATION AND CONTINUATION OF A BENEFIT CHARGE; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE RFA AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE RFA ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF A BENEFIT CHARGE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE RFA FOR UP TO TEN YEARS; AND, CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING.

Background: WHEREAS, the RFA is authorized by the Renton 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, in 2016 the RFA's voters authorized the RFA to establish, impose and collect a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the RFA for a six-year period; 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 operations of the RFA needed to maintain a satisfactory level of RFA services; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has determined that a ten-year extension of the benefit charge, beginning in 2023 after the current six-year period has expired, as authorized by chapter 52.26 RCW will reduce future election costs and provide longer term stable funding for the RFA; 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, it is reasonable and necessary that the RFA continue the benefit charge to maintain and improve the services provided by the RFA;

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of Renton Regional Fire Authority as follows:

Section 1. Continuation of Benefit Charge. It is the declared intent of the Governing Board to continue to fix and impose 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.

1.1. Method of Apportionment. The benefit charge shall be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services provided by the RFA using a method of apportionment established on an annual basis in accordance with RCW 52.26.180, and 52.26.190.

1.2. 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 operating budget of the RFA.

1.3. Notice of the Benefit Charge. Subsequent to the annual 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.

1.4. Review Board. Subsequent to the 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.

Section 2. Effective Date. If approved by the voters, the benefit charge shall be imposed on the affected properties beginning January 1, 2023.

Section 3. Public Hearing. The Governing Board will schedule a public hearing before the Board at a subsequent date at least ten days prior to the election to consider the proposal to impose benefit charges for the support of the legally authorized activities of the RFA to maintain and improve the services afforded in the RFA.

Section 4. Election. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the RFA for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 2, 2021, in conjunction with the state general election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not such benefit charge for services shall be authorized. The Governing Board hereby requests that the Auditor of King County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot titled substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION
Renton Regional Fire Authority
Continuation of Benefit Charge

Shall Renton Regional Fire Authority be authorized to continue the voter-authorized benefit charges each year for ten consecutive years beginning in 2023, in an amount 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

Section 5. Voter Approval Requirement. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.220(3)(a) the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

Section 6. 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.

Section 7. 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.

Section 8. 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.

Section 9. 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.

Section 10. Filing of Ballot Measure. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 3, 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 November 2, 2021 election.


Section 11. 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.

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


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


Adoption: ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Renton Regional Fire Authority, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 26th day of July, 2021, the following Board Members being present and voting:


Kerry Abercrombie (Jul 26, 2021 11:43 PDT)
Board Member


Randy Corman (Jul 26, 2021 11:49 PDT)
Board Member


Ruth Perez (Jul 26, 2021 11:46 PDT)
Board Member


Ryan McIrvine (Jul 26, 2021 11:50 PDT)
Board Member


Marcus Morrell (Jul 26, 2021 11:47 PDT)
Board Member

Board Member











2021-04 Intent to Continue Voter Authorized Benefit Charge (General Election)


Final Audit Report


2021-07-26


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