



## ENUMCLAW FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Enumclaw Board of Fire Commissioners Passes Lid Lift Resolution**

*Proposal Is on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election Ballot*

ENUMCLAW, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for the Enumclaw Fire Department passed a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. The lid lift would fund three firefighters to respond to higher call volumes that have increased 12.6% in the last year. Concurrent calls, or those that happen at the same time, account for nearly 20% of all emergencies, and that number is growing.

“We have an obligation to share information with our community. The truth is that we’re struggling,” said Fire Chief Randy Fehr. “Our overtime budget is in the hundreds of thousands just to get enough personnel to respond to calls. More full-time firefighters are necessary to maintain service levels.”

Fire District personnel have said publicly that this issue is one of safety for the Enumclaw community and its firefighters. Additional personnel will enable the agency can keep both a medical aid unit and a fire engine in service 24 hours a day. Currently, it must take a fire engine out of service when multiple calls come in at the same time.

If approved by voters, funding from the lid lift will hire three additional firefighters, who are also qualified emergency medical technicians. Emergency medical service accounted for 74% of all emergency calls for the Fire District in 2021.

Additional personnel also will reduce the amount of overtime the Fire District pays to firefighters, who work additional shifts to fill vacancies. In 2021, that cost was over \$200,000. Even with a loss of overtime pay, Enumclaw firefighters support this move, and the funding request to go with it.

The Fire District is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.36 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The 14-cent lid lift would cost \$5.83 per month (\$70 a year) for the owner of a \$500,000 home. (The assessed value of a property is lower than its market value.)

More information on the fire levy lid lift can be found on the Fire District’s website at [www.enumclawfire.org](http://www.enumclawfire.org). Chief Fehr also welcomes questions at (360) 825-5544 or [rfehr@enumclawfire.org](mailto:rfehr@enumclawfire.org).

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*The Enumclaw Fire Department provides fire and life safety services to 22,500 people over 56 square miles. EFD relies on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel to respond to an average of 2,500 calls a year, 74% of which are for emergency medical service. Firefighters are highly-trained to provide quality emergency services often found in larger communities, such as technical rescue, hazardous material spills, auto extrication, fire prevention and life safety programs.*