



ENUMCLAW FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Enumclaw Fire Levy Lid Lift Up for Voter Decision During August 2 Primary

Measure will increase staffing and unit reliability

ENUMCLAW, WASH. – The Enumclaw community will have the opportunity to vote this August on lifting the fire levy lid, allowing for hiring three additional firefighter/emergency medical technicians. This improvement would ensure a fire engine and medical aid unit in service 24-hours a day, increasing reliability during multiple 911 calls.

With a 12.6% increase in emergency call volumes last year, these new hires would ensure that Enumclaw Fire can quickly respond to emergencies, with a higher likelihood of success. In addition to higher call volumes as the local population grows, concurrent calls—those that happen at the same time—account for nearly 20% of all emergencies – and that number is increasing.

Fire District staff are concerned that this issue is one of safety for Enumclaw residents and its firefighters. Additional personnel will enable the agency to keep both a medical aid unit and a fire engine in service 24 hours a day. At present, a fire engine must be taken out of service when concurrent calls occur.

Fire Chief Randy Fehr says the challenges go beyond response times. “We’re filling shifts with overtime at this point. Our firefighters are really stepping up, but this is not sustainable.. It’s time to scale up our operation if we’re going to continue meeting the community’s emergency needs.” Enumclaw firefighters have publicly stated that they support the fire levy lid lift.

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.) The fire levy lid lift will appear on the August 2, 2022 primary election ballot.

More information on the fire levy lid lift can be found on the Fire District’s website at www.enumclawfire.org. Chief Fehr welcomes questions at (360) 825-5544 or 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.