



Resolution Cover Sheet

This form is mandatory and must accompany each resolution.

Name of District: Lewis County Fire Protection District #3
 District Address: 238 Mossyrock Rd. East Mossyrock, WA 98564
 Date of Election: November 7, 2023
 Contact Person: Doug Fosburg Title: Fire Chief
 Contact Phone: 360-983-3456 Email: fd3@tds.net
 2nd Contact Person: Amanda Blankenship Title: Admin Assistant
 2nd Contact Phone: 360-983-3456 Email: fd3clerk@tds.net

Attorney for District: Brian Snure
 Attorney Phone: 206-824-5630 Attorney Email: brian@snurelaw.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, sales tax, etc.): Multiple Year Permanent Lid Lift

Pass/Fail requirement for this measure as determined by your legal counsel: _____



Simple majority or majority 50% +1



Supermajority or 60%

Applicable statutory reference as determined by legal counsel: RCW 84.55.050(1)

Validation requirement as determined by your legal counsel. The minimum number of voters "required" to turnout (cast a ballot) in an excess levy or bond election.

This issue requires validation: ☐ Yes ☒ No

This form must accompany each resolution filed with Lewis County Elections. The contact person or persons should have the authority to do so and be available to answer questions.

LEWIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.3
RESOLUTION NO. 23-04
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY LID LIFT
(GENERAL ELECTION - PROVISIONAL)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEWIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION ESTABLISHING THE DISTRICT'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE AT \$.90 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A LIMIT FACTOR OF THE GREATER OF FOUR PERCENT OR THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BUT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT PERCENT SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS. **PROVIDED, THIS PROPOSITION SHALL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS IF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION NO. 23-02 IS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2023.**

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health, property and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District.

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners 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 the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$.37 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation.

WHEREAS, The District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases.

WHEREAS, The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period designed to allow the District to keep pace with inflation and has determined that the annual West Region CPI-U as reported in June of each as an appropriate measure of inflation in Lewis County.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the District 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 Board of Commissioners of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3, Lewis 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 the District, it is necessary for the District 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 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, the District 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 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, and RCW 52.16.140, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$.90 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 2024, the District has determined that the limit factor for the five succeeding years shall be the greater of four percent or the West Region CPI-U for the period of June to June as reported in the levy year but not to exceed eight percent. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2024-2028 for collection in 2025-2029.

Section 4. The amount levied in 2028 and collected in 2029 shall serve as the District'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 Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3 for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 7, 2023, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be established at \$.90 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by the greater of four percent or the West Region CPI-U for the period of June to June as reported in the levy year, but not to exceed eight percent subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Lewis 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: Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3
Proposition #: Proposition No. 1
Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 23-04 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition would authorize the District to establish its 2023 property tax levy at \$.90 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation with annual adjustments for the five succeeding years based on the greater of four percent or the 12-month West Region CPI-U reported in June of each levy year but not to exceed eight percent, subject to statutory limits. The maximum allowable levy in the final year shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations.

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 Board of Commissioners hereby assigns to the District Administrator 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 Board of Commissioners hereby designates the District Administrator, or designee, as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The District Administrator 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.

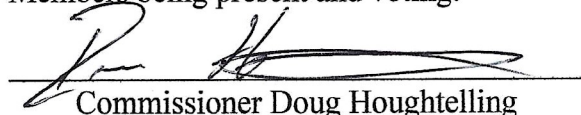
Section 10. The District Administrator, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 1, 2023, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 7, 2023 election. **The Chief, or designee, is further authorized to withdraw this Resolution without further action by the Board in the event the District voters approve the Lid Lift at the August 1, 2023 primary 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 Board of Commissioners of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 19th day of July, 2023, the following Board Members being present and voting:


Commissioner Doug Houghtelling


Commissioner Marty Majors


Commissioner Curt Spahn


Admin Assistant Amanda Blankenship

Election Date: November 7, 2023

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3

Contact Name: Doug Fosburg

Daytime Contact Phone Number: 360-983-3456

PROPOSITION NO. 1
(Multiple Year Levy Lid Lift)

LEWIS COUNTY BALLOT ISSUE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(250 Word Limit)

Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3 (Mossyrock Fire District) provides emergency fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services to its community.

The maximum regular levy rate for Washington fire districts is \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Due to the statutory 1% limitation on property tax increases, the Mossyrock Fire District's current levy rate in 2023 is less than \$0.38. This would be the first lid lift since incorporation in 1948.

If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy rate at \$0.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024. The proposition will also allow the District to keep pace with inflation by establishing an annual growth factor based on the greater of 4% or the annual consumer price index identified in the Board's Resolution but not to exceed 8%. At the end of the six-year period, absent further voter approval, the District tax levy rate in the final year will subject to statutory limitations.

The Board of Commissioners has determined that the tax levy and the revenue it will produce is necessary to maintain the current level of services, fire fighter staffing, equipment and facilities and to purchase updated apparatus to continue to improve services for the protection of life and property in the growing District and to enhance public safety.

Prepared by: Brian K. Snure
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Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Auditor's Office
FROM: Robert W. Bradley, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
RE: Approval of Ballot Language and Explanatory Statement
DATE: July 28, 2023

Our office has reviewed the proposed levy for Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 3. The ballot language and explanatory statement are impartial, written in clear and concise language, avoid the use of legal and technical terms whenever possible, and do not exceed statutory word limits.

Our office approves as to form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Bradley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Bradley
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

END

It is the Mission of the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office to zealously seek justice in all criminal matters, consistently promote public confidence in the legal system, and diligently represent county government while adhering to the highest ethical and moral standards.