



Resolution Cover Sheet

This form is mandatory and must accompany each resolution.

24-001

Name of District:

Lewis County Fire District 17

District Address:

136 Osborn Rd Ashford WA, 98304

Date of Election:

April 23, 2024

Contact Person:

Dennis Day

Title:

Fire Commissioner 1st chair

Contact Phone:

253 466 8783

Email:

Lewiscofire17@gmail.com

2nd Contact Person:

Matt Medford

Title:

Fire Chief

2nd Contact Phone:

360 569 2752

Email:

matt.medford@pcfd23.org

Attorney for District:

Richard A. Davis III

CSD Attorneys At Law

Attorney Phone:

360-306-3000

Attorney Email:

rdavis@csdlaw.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, sales tax, etc.):

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 52.16.130 & RCW 84.55.050

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. 17

RESOLUTION NO. 24-001

AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY

A **RESOLUTION** of the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Board") of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17 (the "District") providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held therein on April 23, 2024, in conjunction with the State special election to be held on the same day, a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy of One Dollar (\$1.00) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in assessed valuation.

WHEREAS, the Board of the District recognizes that its provision of fire and emergency medical services is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District, which requires expenditure of revenues for maintenance, operations, equipment, and structures;

WHEREAS, the District currently receives service by contract from Pierce County Fire District No. 23 ("PCFD 23"), which is not a long-term solution, and which does not ensure continuity of service for the constituents of the District;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a merger into PCFD 23 should be pursued in order to permanently guarantee uninterrupted fire and EMS;

WHEREAS, in order to set the stage for a potential merger to be voted upon by registered voters within the District, it is critical to align the tax rates of the District more closely with those of PCFD 23 which this measure will accomplish;

WHEREAS, the current levy rate for the District is approximately .59 Cents (\$0.59) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) assessed value; and

WHEREAS, the District's levy increases are limited by state law to an increase of one hundred one percent (101%) per year unless the voters of the District approve a greater increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

SECTION 1. The District shall provide for fire and emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed for the provision of fire and emergency medical services, as authorized by law.

SECTION 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1, and to assure the continuation and improvement 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, levy beginning in 2024, and collect beginning in 2025, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130 and RCW 52.16.140, general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of One Dollar (\$1.00) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation. The resulting levy dollar amount would thereafter be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050.

SECTION 3. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection at an election on April 23, 2024, the question of whether or not such levy shall be made.

SECTION 4. The District's attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as deemed appropriate or as may be recommended by the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office or the Lewis County Auditor, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and as approved by the Board.

SECTION 5. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and 29A.36.071, the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney is requested to prepare the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
LEWIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17
AUTHORIZING REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17 (the "District"), adopted Resolution No. 24-001 concerning the District's regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize a regular property tax levy of One Dollar (\$1.00) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation in 2024 (for collection in 2025), and the resulting levy dollar amount would thereafter be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050.
Should this proposal be approved?

YES.....●
NO.....●

SECTION 6. The Secretary of the District is directed to (a) certify to the Auditor a copy of this Resolution showing its adoption by the Board by February 23, 2024; and (b) perform such other duties as are necessary and required by law in submitting to the voters of the District at the aforesaid election the proposition of whether such tax levy shall be made.


SECTION 7. The Fire Chief of the District is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

SECTION 9. If any provision of this Resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or illegal, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution, and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Resolution.

ADOPTED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17, at a regularly scheduled open public meeting thereof this 14 day of February, 2024 of which notice was given in the manner provided by law, the following Fire Commissioners being present and voting.

By:
Dennis Day, Commissioner



By:
Thomas O'Haver, Commissioner



By:
Nicolas Waruszewski, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Julie Day, District Secretary

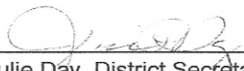
□

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Secretary of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17, (the "District"), hereby certify as follows:

1. The attached copy of Resolution No. [24-001] (the "Resolution") is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District (the "Board") held on the 14 day of February, 2024, as the Resolution appears on the minute book of the District, and the Resolution is now in full force and effect.
2. The regular meeting was held in accordance with law.
3. A quorum of the members of the Board was present throughout the meeting and a majority of those members present voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14 day of February, 2024.


Julie Day, District Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT – PROPOSITION NO. 1

Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17 (the "District") seeks voter approval to increase its regular property tax levy to One Dollar (\$1.00) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation in 2024 (with collection beginning in 2025), which is an increase of approximately \$0.41 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation. This levy is the District's primary funding source. The District intends to commence the steps later this year to merge into the Pierce County Fire District No. 23 ("PCFD 23") which currently provides service to the District by contract. Voter approval of this measure will closely align the District's levy rate with that of PCFD 23 such that the merger, if approved, would result in minimal tax adjustments for the property owners in either district.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-001
AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY – 2



Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

345 W. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Chehalis, WA 98532
Phone: (360) 740-1240
Fax: (360) 740-1497
TDD: (360) 740-1480

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Auditor's Office
FROM: Robert W. Bradley, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
RE: Approval of Ballot Language and Explanatory Statement
DATE: March 1, 2024

Our office has reviewed the proposed levies for Lewis County Fire District 17. The ballot language and explanatory statements 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 both as to form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Bradley". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

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.