



# Resolution Cover Sheet

This form is mandatory and must accompany each resolution.

Name of District: Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 15

District Address: 609 NW KERRON ST. WINLOCK, WA 98596

Date of Election: November 5, 2024

Contact Person: AMY ARCHER Title: DISTRICT SECRETARY

Contact Phone: 360-785-4221 Email: lewis15@compprime.com

2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Person: RICHARD UNDERDAHL Title: FIRE CHIEF

2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Phone: 360-785-4221 Email: richard.underdahl@lewis15.org

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.): Multi Year Permanent Levy 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. 15  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-02  
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY  
GENERAL ELECTION**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEWIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 15 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$1.35 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A THREE PERCENT LIMIT FACTOR SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS TO PROVIDE FUNDING REQUIRED BY THE DISTRICT TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

WHEREAS, the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing these services necessitate the continued expenditure of revenues for personnel, operations equipment and facilities at a level that cannot be sustained by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of \$1.04 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as constrained by the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010. Population within the Winlock City limits, alone, shows it has grown from 1791 per 2019 Census to 2,115 in 2022, and this does not count the population in the rural areas of the District. Fire Department staffing has increased from three 24-hour full-time EMT / Firefighters and three 24 hour full-time Liutenants (EMT / Firefighters) in 2022 to six 24 hour full-time paramedics and six full time EMT / Firefighters in 2023 to cover service calls from 833 in 2020 to 1,794 in 2023. The increased call responses create more maintenance costs for vehicles and equipment and higher costs for liability insurance for the District.

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 at a rate of three percent per year to help the District keep up with 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 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. 15, Lewis County, Washington as follows:

**Section 1.** In order to meet increased call volumes, maintain 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 and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained firefighters equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

**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, and levy beginning in 2024 and collection beginning in 2025, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.35 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 three 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 2025-2029 for collection in each subsequent year. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

**Section 4.** The amount levied 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 the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the state general election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be established at \$1.35 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by 103% each year for the following five years, 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. 15  
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. 15 adopted Resolution No. 2024-06-02 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition would finance fire protection and emergency medical services by establishing the District's regular property tax levy in 2024 at an amount not to exceed \$1.35 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation and authorize setting the limit factor at 103% for each of the following five years. The maximum allowable levy in the final year shall serve as



the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

**Section 6.** Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1), the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

**Section 7.** The Board of Commissioners finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District 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 District. The Board of Commissioners 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 8.** The Board hereby assigns to the Fire 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 9.** 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 Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

**Section 10.** The Chief 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

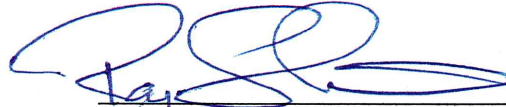
**Section 11.** The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 6, 2024, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

**Section 12.** 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 13.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**Section 14.** This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

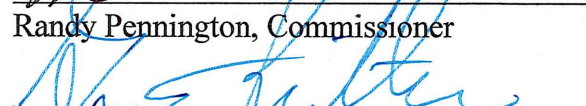
**Adoption:** ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 15 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 9 day of July 2024, the following Commissioners being present and voting:



Ray Shipman, Chair



Randy Pennington, Commissioner



Grant Kistler, Commissioner

Attest:



Amy Archer District Secretary

Election Date: November 5, 2024

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 15

Contact Name: Amy Archer

Daytime Contact Phone Number: 360-785-4221

**Explanatory Statement  
(250 Word Limit)**

Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 15 provides emergency fire protection and medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to establish its regular real property tax levy rate at \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2024 for collection in 2025 (the current levy is approximately \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). The proposition will also allow the District to keep pace with inflation by establishing an annual growth factor of 3% per year. The dollar amount levied in the 2029 and collected in 2030 shall serve as the District's future tax levy base.

The population and infrastructure of the District have increased over the past five years and the number of calls for service have increased from 833 in 2020 to 1,794 in 2023. In order to meet this demand Fire Department staffing has increased from three 24-hour full-time EMT / Firefighters and three 24 hour full-time Lieutenants (EMT / Firefighters) in 2022 to six 24 hour full-time paramedics and six full time EMT / Firefighters in 2023.

The District's Board of Commissioners has determined that this proposition is necessary to maintain the increased staffing levels and to maintain an effective level of services, fire fighter staffing, equipment and facilities in light of rising costs and increasing demand. Approval of this measure will allow the District to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency medical services provided to its citizens.

Prepared by: Brian K. Snure  
Attorney for District  
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Des Moines, WA 98198-6836  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Auditor's Office  
**FROM:** David E. Bailey, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
**RE:** Approval of Ballot Language and Explanatory Statement / FPD15 Levy  
**DATE:** August 5, 2024

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Our office has reviewed the proposed levy for the Fire Protection District No. 15 to impose a multi year permanent levy lid lift. 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.