



# Spokane County Fire District 8

## Proposition 1- Maintenance and Operations Levy

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is on your February 2023 Ballot?**

Fire District 8 is asking our voters to consider *replacing* the Maintenance and Operations Levy which expires at the end of 2023. The Maintenance and Operations levy is required to be placed on the ballot every four years for replacement and previously passed in 2015 and 2019. The Maintenance and Operations levy must receive a super majority or 60 percent approval to pass.

#### **Why is Fire District 8 asking for a renewal of the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy?**

- **The levy funds will allow the Fire District to continue to recruit, train and staff stations with firefighter-EMT's and firefighter-paramedics. Over 80% of the Fire District's emergency calls are for medical response and firefighter-paramedics have additional training in emergency medicine that goes beyond the EMT training all Fire District firefighters have. The M & O Levy accounts for approximately one-fourth of our budget for Firefighter and Firefighter-Paramedic staffing.**
- **The levy will maintain the Fire District's capacity to respond effectively when multiple calls are received at the same time. Call volume is up 29% and population has grown by nearly 2,000 residents over the past four years.**
- State and federal firefighter safety laws require a specific number of firefighters on scene before certain actions can be taken at fire and emergency medical incidents. The levy funds will be used to maintain a sufficient number of firefighter-EMT's and firefighter/paramedics.
- The levy will allow the fire district to continue to use Fire and EMS levy funds to maintain and upgrade equipment and aging fire stations.
- The levy will allow us to maintain, and in some areas improve, fire insurance ratings.

#### **Does Fire District 8 receive more taxes because of the increased assessed property values?**

The M & O levy does not apply directly to assessed property values after 2024. The District has estimated the funding needed to maintain and operate in 2024-2027 and is only asking for what is needed to maintain current service levels during those years.



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#### **What will this cost? How long will it last?**

The levy is a replacement for the current M & O levy which expires at the end of 2023; it is not a new tax and is being paid by homeowners today. The proposed four-year levy renewal will remain at approximately \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Each \$100,000 of assessed value will cost a homeowner approximately \$4.17 per month. For example, a \$300,000 assessed home will be approximately \$12.51 per month.

#### **What is Fire District 8 doing to make tax dollars stretch further?**

Fire District 8 has strong management and financial practices; passing all State of Washington financial audits. The District recently secured a \$360,000 federal grant to off-set the cost of purchasing critical safety equipment. We continually look for grant opportunities to supplement daily operational costs.

#### **Does Fire District 8 receive money or funding from the state or county?**

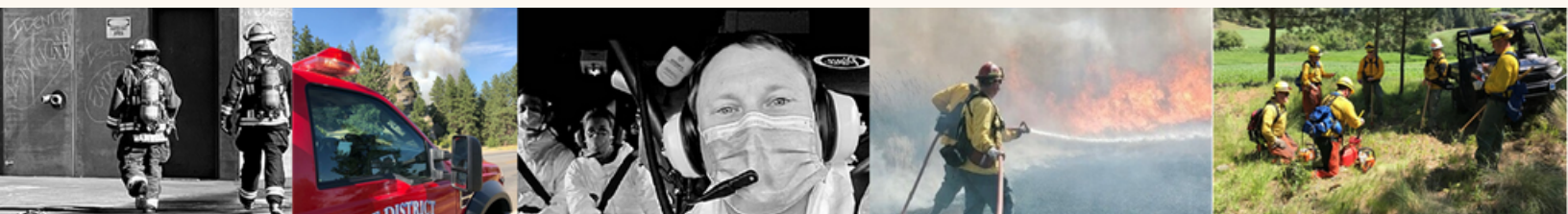
No. Fire District 8 is separate from Spokane County and the State of Washington governance and receives no money from them or any sales tax revenue. Levies are our primary funding sources for fire and emergency services.

#### **Who is Fire District 8?**

Fire District 8 is *your* fire district. We provide emergency medical and fire response to our growing community of 24,000 citizens over 4,200 times each year from four (4) neighborhood fire stations in our fire district. We are governed by a three-person board of elected commissioners and do so much more including, business inspections, community education, and safety training, etc.

#### **Where can I learn more?**

Please check our website at [www.scf8.org](http://www.scf8.org) or call Chief Lonnie Rash on his cellphone at 509.370.9801 - [lrash@scfd8.org](mailto:lrash@scfd8.org).



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