



Spokane County Fire District 8

Proposition 1- Fire Levy Lid Lift

Frequently Asked Questions

What is on your August 3rd Ballot?

Fire District 8 is asking our voters to consider restoring our fire levy rate to the previously voted \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is called a "Fire Levy Lid Lift." The current fire levy rate has fallen to \$1.14 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Why is Fire District 8 asking for a Fire Levy Lid Lift?

Fire District 8 currently funds all daily operations and most of our capital replacement needs through regular operating levies. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided in the District. This means that the fire levy helps to pay for staffing, equipment, operating expenses to provide structure and wildland fire suppression, advanced life support-paramedics, fire prevention, and other essential services to the citizens in our district.

Also, Fire District 8 has seen significant increases in emergency responses with more than a 31% increase in the last six years. The increase in calls, together with the increase in operating expenses, is why we are asking our voters to consider this Fire Levy Lid Lift.

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

RCW 84.55 limits Fire District 8 to a 1% increase in revenue regardless of the increase of a property's assessed value. This means that if a home increases eight percent in assessed value, the District can still only collect 1% more than the previous year.

How will this revenue be used? *We Have a Plan*

Fire District 8 will maintain and improve service levels by hiring additional firefighters and firefighter paramedics, maintain and work to improve our current Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) insurance rating, maintain and enhance firefighter, paramedic, and volunteer training, and complete equipment and fire truck repairs.

Specifically, Fire District 8 plans to replace two structure fire trucks, two wildland fire trucks, replace aging self-contained breathing apparatus, which do not currently meet industry standards, and complete needed facility upgrades.

What will this cost? How long will it last?

The \$.36 levy lid lift will cost the owner of a \$300,000 home approximately \$9.00 per month. The lid lift would return to \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2022 and then Fire District 8 would be able to collect 1% each year or the amount allowed by the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater, for the next five years; not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000. At the end of the six years, the levy rate would start to fall.

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 is always seeking grant opportunities to supplement daily operations.

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

No. Fire District 8 is a separate from Spokane County or State of Washington governance and receives no money from them or any sales tax. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided within the Fire District.

For more info, www.SCFD8.org or call Lonnie Rash 509-370-9801