



Spokane County Fire District 8 Passes EMS Levy Lid Lift Resolution

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Spokane County Fire Protection District No.8 voted unanimously to place a multi-year *Emergency Medical Services* Levy lid lift on the April Election ballot. If approved by voters, a “lid lift” allows the fire district to *restore* the levy rate for emergency medical services to \$.50 per \$1000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2026 and allows for the five succeeding years to authorize one percent or the percentage allowed by the consumer price index increase reported each June, whichever is greater.

The EMS Levy lid lift is necessary for Spokane County Fire District 8 to continue essential levels of service. Funding from the lid lift would be used to maintain daily operations and improve emergency service levels, specifically maintain Paramedics and EMT’s at our four fire stations, improve firefighter/EMT and paramedic training, and repair aging EMS equipment and apparatus.

RCW 84.55 limits the District to a 1% revenue increase per year. Due to the 1% limit, most taxpayers are paying less to the EMS levy each year as property values increase. The amount collected by the District is not keeping up with the cost of inflation.

If approved by voters, the lid lift would restore the EMS Levy to \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The proposal would be on the April 22, 2025 Election ballot and cost approximately 21 cents per \$1,000 (or approximately \$13.00 per month for the owner of a \$750,000 assessed value home).

The EMS levy rate has fallen to \$.29/\$1,000 in 2025. Spokane County Fire District 8 is primarily funded through fire and EMS levy taxes. Each year the fire district is limited to roughly the same amount of revenue due to the limitations of RCW 84.55.

Pro and Con Committees

Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 8 recently adopted Resolution No. 25-05 providing for the submission to the voters on April 22, 2025 a proposition authorizing the District to restore its EMS Levy to \$.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. The Fire District is accepting names of people interested in participating in voter pamphlet statement pro and con committees.

Citizens interested in participating, please contact Lonnie Rash by February 21, 2025 at 509.370.9801 or lrash@scfd8.org. Committee appointments must be submitted the County by February 21, 2025.