

Election Date: August, 1, 2023

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3

Contact Name: Deb Arnold

Daytime Contact Phone Number: 509-235-6645

### **Explanatory Statement**

(175 Word Limit)

Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3 provides emergency fire protection and medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to restore its regular real property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024 (the current levy is approximately \$1.22 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and the voters last approved a \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2021). The dollar amount levied in 2023 shall serve as the District's tax levy base and in 2024, absent further voter approval, the tax levy will be subject to the statutory one percent limit.

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

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# Spokane County Resolution Cover Sheet

This form must accompany each resolution filed with Spokane County Elections. The contact person or persons should have the authority to do so and be available to answer questions.

Name of District: SPOKANE CO FIRE DIST 3  
District Address: 10 S. PRESLEY DR, CHENEY, WA 99004  
Date of Election: 8/1/2023  
Contact Person: DEB ARNOLD Title: EXEC ADMIN  
Contact Phone: 509-235-6645 Fax: 509-235-6183  
Contact Email: darnold@SCFD3.ORG  
2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Person: TARYN BARE Title: ADMIN ASST  
2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Phone: 509-235-6645  
2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Email: TBARE@SCFD3.ORG

Attorney for District: Brian Snure  
Attorney Phone: 206-824-5630 Attorney Fax: n/a  
Attorney Email Address: brian@snurelaw.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): Single Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift

Please state the pass/fail requirement for this measure (i.e. simple majority, 60%, etc.) as determined by your legal counsel, together with applicable statutory references: Simple Majority RCW 84.55.050(1)

Signature: Deb Arnold Date: 4/12/2023  
of person filing this form

This form may be filled out and printed.

**This mandatory resolution cover sheet must accompany any resolution.**

**SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-2  
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY  
PRIMARY ELECTION**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 1, 2023, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$1.50 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.

**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 Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, firefighter recruitment and training and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$1.22 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation, not to exceed 1% maximum increase per year.

WHEREAS, The District has previously levied at the full \$1.50 rate in 2021.

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 Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3, Spokane 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 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, 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 \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

**Section 3.** The amount levied in 2023 and collected in 2024 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 4.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 1, 2023, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Spokane 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: Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3  
Proposition #: Proposition No. 1  
Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 23-2 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, emergency medical services and facilities, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2023 (collected in 2024) shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

**Section 5.** Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1), the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

**Section 6.** 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 or designee to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

**Section 7.** 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 8.** 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 or designee as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

**Section 9.** The Chief, or designee, 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 10.** The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 12, 2023, 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 August 1, 2023 election.

**Section 11.** 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 12.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**Section 13.** This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

**Adoption:** ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 3 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 12th day of April, 2023, the following Commissioners being present and voting:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary