

**Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 6**

**Resolution No. 2022-01**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY  
PRIMARY ELECTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 2, 2022, 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 \$1.00 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.**

**Background:**

**WHEREAS** it is the judgement 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 fire and emergency 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 and equipment at a level that cannot be sustained by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of .53 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.

**WHEREAS** the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 have resulted in the highest call volumes in the history of Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 6. Growing volumes by 39% in 3 years.

**WHEREAS** in early 2022 we are trending at a 34% increase in calls over our record call volume in 2021.

**WHEREAS** the current staffing for the district is 1 Full-Time Chief that works 5 days a week. The rest of a response is made up entirely of volunteers.

**WHEREAS**, upon passing this resolution the District would like to add staff to meet the demands for increasing volume and complexity of 911 calls for service, assist in training the volunteers and other administrative and operational duties.

**WHEREAS**, in addition, the Board of Commissioners have prioritized replacement of aged apparatus and outdated equipment to include, one 34-year-old fire engine, one 30-year-old brush truck, one 30-year-old water tender, the addition of PPE (personal protective equipment), other equipment and technologies providing for and firefighter safety and facility updates for station security.

**Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 6, Kittitas County, Washington as follows,

Section 1. In order to provide fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services in the District, it is necessary for the District to obtain, operate and maintain emergency Fire and Medical vehicles and facilities, add additional staff to meet the demands for increasing volume and complexity of 911 calls for service and equip employees and volunteer firefighters with suitable and safe firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services, apparatus, staff, facilities and equipment as described in Section 1, and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation 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 2022 and collecting in 2023, 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 \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. The amount levied in 2022 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 the primary election on August 2, 2022, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be increased to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Kittitas 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:

**Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 6  
Proposition increasing Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection  
and Emergency Medical Services.**

The Board of Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 6 Adopted Resolution No. 2022-01 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition authorizes the District to increase its regular property tax levy to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2022 and collected in 2023. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services, replace apparatus, equipment, and facilities, and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2022 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 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 7. 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 and legal counsel as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 8. 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 description to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 9. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 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 2, 2022 election.

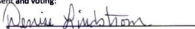
Section 10. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

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

Section 12. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 6, Kittitas County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, the following commissioners being present and voting:

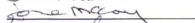
Denise Lindstrom - Board Chair



David Bertschi - Commissioner



Joanne McCoy - Commissioner



Jeannine Lavande - Secretary



Troy Jackson - Fire Chief

