

CITY OF CLE ELUM

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-016

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF CLE ELUM AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2026, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY ABOVE THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN CHAPTER 84.55 RCW TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CLE ELUM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS AS PROVIDED BY LAW; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT PROPOSITION; REQUESTING THAT THE KITTITAS COUNTY AUDITOR PLACE THE PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT; AND DIRECTING ACTS CONSISTENT WITH THE AUTHORIZATIONS HEREIN; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND SUMMARY PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, the City of Cle Elum (the “City”) Volunteer Fire Department provides local and regional fire prevention, suppression, emergency medical services, rescue, disaster preparedness, and community education to residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cle Elum, Washington (the “City”) desires to provide funding for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department’s continued operations, including training, capital expenditures, and facility renovations; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the foregoing, the City is in need of additional funds to supplement existing City general fund revenue which is applied for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City’s 2025 regular property tax levy was \$1.3853 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which was less than what is statutorily authorized, for a levy total of \$952,815.10; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the limitations specified in RCW Chapter 84.55 if such increased levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at an election held within the taxing district (a “levy lid lift”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the current levels of revenue will not be adequate to provide stable and continued funding for the fire department and if current levels of revenue are maintained, the City may have to consider reducing levels of service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is essential and necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare that the City raise additional funds to support levels of service for the fire department; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City and its residents to submit a levy lid lift proposition to the voters for their approval or rejection;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The City Council adopts and incorporates the recitals above as findings in support of this resolution.

Section 2. Levy of Additional Property Taxes. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the City require the submission to the qualified electors of the City a proposition regarding whether the City shall levy property taxes in above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for their ratification or rejection at an election to be held on August 4, 2026. The Director of Kittitas County Elections is hereby requested to submit to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection a proposition to authorize a levy of approximately \$650,000 per annum upon all taxable property within the City, for collection for 2 years beginning in 2027, the estimated cost to be approximately \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value, resulting in a total rate of \$1.8653 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2027 and for the following year set the limit factor at 103% of the previous year. The levy amount for 2028 would be used to calculate subsequent levy lifts.

Section 3. Purpose of Levy Lid Lift. The purpose of the proposed levy lid lift is to provide an additional funding source for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department. Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, the City may use proceeds of such levy for the purpose of adequately funding the fire department as described herein.

Section 4. Ballot Title. The ballot title and proposition to be submitted to the voters shall be in substantially the following form:

City of Cle Elum Proposition No. 1

Two Year Levy Lid Lift for Fire Department Operations and Improvements

Providing for increased funding for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department’s ongoing operations. This proposition would increase the City’s regular property tax rate by \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value to a total authorized rate of \$1.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection starting in 2027 and for one year thereafter with a limit factor at 103%. Taxpayers who qualify for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381 are exempt from the increase.

Question: Should this proposition be approved?

YES ()
NO ()

Section 5. Changes. The Mayor and the City Attorney are authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of the proposition as may be recommended or required by the Director

of Kittitas County Elections, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and as approved by the City Council.

Section 6. Authorization To Deliver Resolution and to Perform Other Necessary Duties. The City Clerk or designee is authorized and directed no later than April 30, 2026, to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Director of Elections for Kittitas County and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described herein should appear on the ballot at the election identified in Section 1 of this Resolution.

Section 7. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality or inapplicability thereof shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution.

Section 8. Corrections. Upon the approval of the city attorney, the city clerk is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this Resolution, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, Resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon passage as provided by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, the 28th day of April 2026.

CITY OF CLE ELUM



Matthew Lundh, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Robin Newcomb, Deputy City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 5/1/2026
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 4/28/2026
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2026-016

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The document has been completed.