

February 11, 2025 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by the Proposed Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority

Sign up for ballot alerts!

Get texts or emails as your ballot is processed and counted. Opt in at kce.wiki/TrackMyBallot.



Register to vote



Online: Visit VoteWA.gov to register to vote online. The deadline to register online for the February Special Election is February 3.



By mail: Download and print a registration form from kce.wiki/VoterReg and mail to King County Elections: 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057. It must be received by February 3.



In person: You can register in person through February 11, Election Day, at King County Elections headquarters. More information about hours and services can be found at kingcounty.gov/elections.

Contact us to receive this pamphlet in an alternate format.

Contact us to receive your voting materials in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish or Vietnamese.

如需獲取您的中文投票資訊，請與我們聯絡。

한국어로 투표 자료를 받으시려면 저희에게 연락하세요.

Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы получать материалы для голосования на русском.

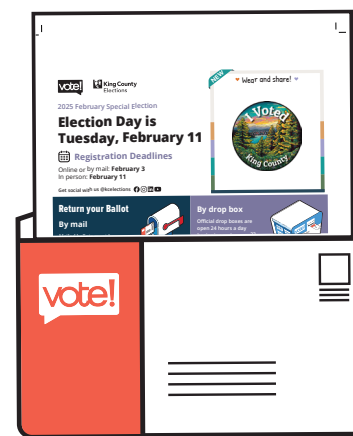
Nala soo xiriir si aad u hesho agabkaaga codeynta oo ku qoran Af-Soomaali.

Comuníquese con nosotros para recibir sus materiales de votación en español.

Xin vui lòng liên lạc với Sở Bầu cử Quận King để nhận tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Việt.



Learn more about drop boxes, vote centers, and more!



We are here to help!

Elections staff can help you register and get a new ballot all the way up to Election Day. Need a replacement ballot and want to mark your ballot privately? Access your ballot online at kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp to utilize the Online Ballot Marking Program.

Wrapped around your ballot is vital information about how to return your ballot, receive assistance, and more. Be sure to check out your ballot wrap for:

- The five closest drop boxes to you
- Where to get in-person assistance
- How to print your ballot if yours is lost or damaged.

How to vote!

1 Read the statements in this insert about the contests you're voting on.



2 On your ballot, fill in the oval beside your choice with any color pen.



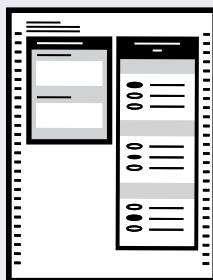
3 Sign your envelope. Your signature must match the signature on your voter registration record for your ballot to be counted.



4 Return your ballot early. Whether using a drop box or the mail, vote early!



5 Track your ballot at kce.wiki/TrackMyBallot. This is the fastest way for you to know your ballot was counted, and your voice was heard.



Need a replacement ballot?

If your ballot is lost or damaged, you can print a replacement from home, the library, or wherever is convenient.

The Online Ballot Marking Program (OBMP) is available for all registered voters. It's designed to enable voters with disabilities, particularly who are blind or low vision, to mark their ballot privately.



How to use the Online Ballot Marking Program



- Go to kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp.
 - Enter your information in the form.
 - Mark your ballot choices online and then print your completed ballot.
 - OR
 - Print your ballot and mark it by hand.
 - Check that your ballot is marked correctly.
 - Return your ballot as usual, at a ballot drop box or via USPS.
- No postage is required when you use the envelope cover sheet included when you print your ballot.



If you need additional assistance or another way to cast your ballot, please contact our office at 206-296-VOTE (8683).



Who donates to campaigns?

View financial contributors for state and local candidates and measures:

Public Disclosure Commission
www.pdc.wa.gov | Toll Free 1-877-601-2828

206-296-VOTE (8683)
elections@kingcounty.gov
kingcounty.gov/elections

Get social with us @[@kcelections](https://twitter.com/kcelections)



Proposition No. 1

The Shoreline Fire Department and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority Plan ("Plan") creating a Regional Fire Authority ("RFA"), effective May 1, 2025.

This proposition would approve the Plan to create the Shoreline Fire Department RFA to provide fire protection and emergency medical services funded by a property tax of \$.70 per thousand of assessed value in 2025 (not to exceed \$1.00 per thousand in subsequent years) and a six-year fire benefit charge (not to exceed 60% of the operating budget). The funding would replace the current property tax levies and fire benefit charges collected by the Districts.

Should the Plan to create the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority be approved?

Yes

No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at kingcounty.gov/elections.



You will be voting Yes or No to approve Proposition No. 1

Requirement passage: 60% approval (RCW 52.26.050 and 52.26.060)

Explanatory statement

After decades of working cooperatively to provide fire and emergency medical services in the Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore communities, the Boards of Commissioners of the Shoreline Fire Departments and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department jointly prepared and approved a plan to formally create and merge fire, rescue, and emergency medical operations of both Fire Districts into a Regional Fire Authority ("RFA") under chapter 52.26. RCW.

If voters approve Proposition 1, the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments will create the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority ("SHFD") as a RFA effective May 1, 2025. The SHFD will operate under a governing board consisting of ten governing members, initially filled by seated fire Commissioners of both fire districts.

The SHFD will be funded by a fire benefit charge, and a property tax not to exceed \$.70 per thousand of assessed valuation to be levied in 2025 and collected in 2026. The SHFD property tax and fire benefit charge will replace the regular property tax levies and existing fire benefit charges of the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments.

The SHFD is designed to improve levels of service across all three communities, create financial and logistical efficiencies and savings, and ensure local geographical representation on the RFA governing board. The RFA has been discussed for many years, provides an opportunity for emergency service improvements, and will also support long-term sustainability and allow for future partnership opportunities. To view the complete RFA Plan, please visit: https://shorelinefire.com/news/regional-fire-authority-ballot-measure.

For questions about this measure, contact:

Matt Cowan Fire Chief (206) 533-6510 mcowan@shorelinefire.com

Statement in favor

Charlie Kimball, Jon Culver, Evan Voltsis yesrfa.org

Residents, community leaders, firefighters and public safety experts across Shoreline, Kenmore and Lake Forest Park are in strong support of Prop 1, a Regional Fire Authority (RFA). Prop 1 further strengthens the existing relationship between the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments. It will reduce costs, streamline operations, and support our firefighters to continue delivering exceptional fire and emergency medical services.

Shoreline and Northshore Fire have worked together successfully for decades. Starting in 2022, they began formally sharing staff and resources under contract, which has seen great success. The RFA is a natural next step and is specifically designed to deliver improved levels of public safety at a lower cost for residents. Further, the RFA will be governed by representatives from each community in the RFA, giving all of our cities a voice in how our fire services are managed.

Overall, the RFA is a win-win for the community and for our firefighters. We humbly ask for your support: Vote Yes on Prop 1!

Selected Endorsements: State Senators Derek Stanford, Jesse Salomon; State Representatives Cindy Ryu, Davina Duerr, Lauren Davis, Shelly Kloba; King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski; Kenmore and Lake Forest Park City Councils; Shoreline Firefighters Local 1760; 1st LD Democrats.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The RFA delivers affordability, improved services, and local control. 100% of homeowners will see a reduction in their levy rate, resource sharing will improve service levels, and each City will be represented on the RFA Board. By resolution, 2026's levy rate is set at \$.70, and State law limits increases to 1% annually.

Building on proven successes of the current agreement, Prop 1 has won widespread community support. For exceptional, affordable service, Vote Yes!

Statement in opposition

David Maehren, Paul Hess, Jeff Dairiki no-rfa.info

The Current System Works Well. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. There is Nothing the RFA can do that the Fire Districts cannot already do. Once formed there is no realistic way back. We will lose local control. Today there is equity. Each district pays for the services it receives. The efficiencies and cost savings of consolidation have already been realized under the current Northshore/Shoreline services agreement. One administration, one labor group, one policy and training.

No Real Savings Or Service Improvements. The proposed tax reductions are achieved by spending down reserve funds. Risky! The RFA Plan will Increase the Levy Authorization from 70¢ to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation in 2026. The current Northshore/Shoreline contract for services compels Shoreline to provide outstanding service and control costs. These incentives will be lost with an RFA. No additional services are added with the RFA.

Loss Of Local Control. Currently, each district sets its own service level, tax rate and has ownership of property and reserve funds. RFA imposes a one size fits all solution. Our cities were formed to exert local control serving their communities' specific needs. Why give that up now? There is no valid reason for change.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

We support our firefighters. This is about governance, not firefighter needs. Seven of the ten commissioners have fire service connections: Two active firefighters, Three past Shoreline firefighters, two spouses of past Shoreline Fire Chiefs. Who represents the public's interests? No tangible advantages with the RFA, only risk and higher taxes. Endorsements? - Politicians are reluctant to oppose firefighter interests. This is a classic Boondoggle. Pointless, but giving the appearance of having value. Please Vote No.