

April 17, 2012 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by South King Fire & Rescue



For more information call
206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit
www.kingcounty.gov/elections



King County
Elections

Registering to vote is easy

Requirements

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington State
- At least 18 years old by Election Day

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, www.sos.wa.gov
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website, and return it by mail or in person
- Register in person at the King County Elections office

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the April 17, 2012, special election:

- **March 19** – Deadline to register by mail or online, or to transfer or update voter registration.
- **April 9** – Deadline to register in-person for people who are not currently registered in Washington. You can register in-person at the Elections office in Renton or at our new Voter Registration Annex located at the King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave., Room 311 in Seattle.

Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

Accessible voting center

Accessible voting centers are available for voters who need assistance completing their ballot. Trained staff and specialized equipment is available to help voters with disabilities cast a private, independent ballot. Voters may also return ballots at this location during business hours.

King County Elections

919 SW Grady Way, Renton, 98057

March 30 - April 16

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

April 17

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Returning your ballot

Voting begins as soon as you receive your ballot in the mail. Consider returning it early to be counted in election night results and to have time to resolve any issues with your signature.



Through the mail

You can vote and return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service as soon as you receive it.

Ballots must be postmarked by April 17. This requires first class postage.

Ballot drop boxes

King County Elections offers ballot drop boxes as an option for returning your ballot without using the U.S. Postal Service or a first class stamp. Ballot drop boxes are open 24-hours a day beginning Thursday, March 29.



By law, ballots cannot be accepted at ballot drop box locations after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Crossroads Shopping Center South entrance

15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue 98008

Federal Way City Hall

33325 8th Avenue S, Federal Way 98003

Issaquah City Hall

130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027

Regional Justice Center

401 4th Avenue N, Kent 98032

Near parking garage entrance

King County Elections

919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

King County Administration Building

500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104



Proposition No. 1 Fire and Emergency Medical Services Excess Levy

The Board of Commissioners of South King Fire & Rescue adopted Resolution No. 481 concerning an excess levy for maintenance and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District beginning with collection in 2013 and continuing for three years thereafter to be used for maintenance and operations and to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount for each of the four years would be \$3,500,000 with an approximate rate in the first year of \$0.29 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. Should this proposition be approved?

- YES
 NO

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

Statement in favor

SKF&R has consistently offered higher quality fire and emergency services at a lower cost to taxpayers than most surrounding communities. **However**, those services are being **threatened**. In order to **maintain our service**, **please VOTE YES** for SKF&R's maintenance and operations levy.

The fire district **has lost** over 22% of its annual revenue since 2009 as property values have declined. This reduction has necessitated major cutbacks in service levels and personnel, longer emergency response times, and 23 departmental vacancies including front line firefighters. Those who remain have taken voluntary cuts in pay and benefits in order to maintain services. This levy **will maintain** current fire department services and personnel, and will restore an emergency aid unit in order to improve response times.

Our department understands the need to run a lean operation without sacrificing public safety. With the passing of this levy, our department's tax rate will remain lower than most neighboring jurisdictions, while retaining the distinction of being the only fire district in the history of the State to have been awarded a **Class 2** insurance rating. **We couldn't have done this without YOU.**

Thanks for voting YES in continued SUPPORT of our community's safety!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

SKF&R runs a lean operation without sacrificing public safety. This maintenance and operations levy balances the need to maintain services without sacrificing safety, while recognizing that many of our citizens are hurting financially.

While the opposition to this levy cites the need for more money to come into our department, it doesn't take into consideration current economic realities. We have clearly articulated a more measured and manageable approach. It's simply a matter of balance.

Statement submitted by: Wayne Corey, Amye Bronson-Doherty and Jon McIntosh • wayne@corey.cc

Explanatory statement

South King Fire and Rescue, serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines, is placing an excess levy proposition on the April 17th, 2012 ballot. This proposition will authorize the fire district to collect \$3.5 million annually, at an approximate rate of \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for a four year period covering 2013 through 2016. The proposition is presented to allow voters the opportunity to maintain current fire department services and personnel. In addition, it will allow the district to re-staff an aid car for emergency responses, which has been closed due to decreased revenues the past few years.

The fire district has lost over 22% of its annual revenue since 2009 due to the nationwide recession and loss of property values, necessitating cutbacks in service levels and personnel, including elimination of public education programs, closure of one aid car and reducing another to part-time status, the layoff of four employees, and a total of 23 departmental vacancies including thirteen firefighters whose positions have been eliminated through attrition.

Approval of this proposition would allow the department to maintain the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to additional reductions in service levels, the layoff of additional fire department personnel including the possible layoff of firefighters, potential elimination of special services such as rescue teams, and similar cutbacks.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Allen D. Church - Fire Chief/Administrator
253-946-7258 • info@southkingfire.org

Statement in opposition

Does the district need additional funding from this Excess Levy? Yes. However, \$3.5 million only covers the bare minimum, keeping firefighter numbers at skeleton-bare crews and administrative staffing at barebones capacity while training and buildings suffer.

Desperate stopgap actions are not the answer for unaddressed existing and forecast expenses. Elections costing an estimated \$170,000, this administration is not showing leadership and financial responsibility when the district likely will be back again in each of the next three years asking for more money.

New elections are needed for the \$4.7 million training center property now **costing \$230,000 per year in interest only payments** with not one dime paying the principal and another costly election is required to fund construction of the training center.

Delayed again, the responsible decision of a Service Benefit Charge (SBC) will require a third election.

The six year term of the SBC, fixed at 2010 revenues limits, allows for a reliable, flexible funding mechanism, much better serving this community and the district.

Vote for greater efficiency; Vote for improved operations; Vote for a 21st century emergency response unit; Demand a fixed cap Service Benefit Charge.

Vote No for this temporary patch. VOTE NO on the Excess Levy.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Restoring one emergency aid unit will add only 9 employees to the payroll yet cost \$2 million. Why?

Commissioner Bonds quietly bought training center property. But you'll never see results without public vote. Essentially, over \$4.7million wasted.

Demand accountable, responsible leadership; not several expensive elections for temporary fixes.

Demand your elected governance and administrators Walk-the-Talk of restraint and present effective funding provided by a **fixed cap** Service Benefit Charge.

Vote NO Excess Levy

Statement submitted by: Jerry Galland • cuttinglight@comcast.net

Your *signature* verifies your vote

Sign and date the declaration on the back of your return envelope before returning it. Take your time and sign carefully.

Before any ballot is counted, state law requires that your signature is on the ballot envelope and it matches the signature on file with your voter registration. If you forget to sign or if the signatures don't match, the Elections department cannot open and count your ballot. If this happens, Elections staff will contact you to try to remedy the issue.

Sign and date below

X *Jane Doe* 4/5/12
signature of voter (required) date (mm/dd/yy)

janedoe@mailbox.com
email or phone number (optional, in case there is an issue with your signature)

Read the declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of the state of Washington;
- At least 18 years old on election day;
- Voting only once in this election;
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction; and
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

It is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot. Attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this oath is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

Sign and date below

X *Jane Doe* 4/5/12
signature of voter (required) date (mm/dd/yy)

janedoe@mailbox.com
email or phone number (optional, in case there is an issue with your signature)

If you are unable to sign, make a mark in the signature area above. Have your mark witnessed and signed by two people below.

signature of witness 1 _____ signature of witness 2 _____

Information about your signature

Before any ballot is counted, state law requires that specially trained staff make sure the signature on this envelope matches the signature on file with your voter registration.

A power of attorney signature is not valid in Washington State for the purpose of voting.

This envelope is only for:

15643312 41
BEL41-0112 1 15643312 4/17/2012

JANE DOE
1111 SAMPLE AVE S
BELLEVUE, WA 98111

Election Day: April 17, 2012

You've moved your furniture, your clothes, the kids and the dog.

But what about your vote?

Did you know that when you move you need to update your address with King County Elections?

You can update your address online, by phone, or by visiting our office.



To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683).

In accordance with Federal law, King County also produces election materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. If you, or someone you know, needs language assistance, call King County Elections at 206-296-8683 and request a ballot and voting material in Chinese or Vietnamese.

Theo luật Liên bang, quận King cũng sẽ xuất bản tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Hoa và tiếng Việt. Nếu quý vị, hoặc người nào khác mà quý vị biết, cần trợ giúp ngôn ngữ, vui lòng gọi Hội đồng bầu cử quận King số 206-296-8683 để yêu cầu một lá phiếu và tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Việt.

根據聯邦法律規定，金郡也提供中文和越南文版本的選舉資訊。如果您或您認識的人需要語言協助，請致電206-296-8683與金郡選舉部聯絡，索取一份中文選票和投票資料。



Contact us

Phone:

206-296-VOTE (8683)

1-800-325-6165

TTY Relay: 711

Email:

elections@kingcounty.gov

Online:

www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Mail or in-person:

919 SW Grady Way

Renton, WA 98057



Voter Registration Annex:

King County Administration Building

500 4th Ave., Room 311

Seattle, WA 98104



Please recycle your voters' pamphlet