



Snohomish County FIRE DISTRICT 7

Earning Trust Through Action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What's on My Ballot? Snohomish County Fire District 7 Asks Voters to Fund Its Fire Levy

Monroe, Wash. – Ballots are in the hands of voters, and Snohomish County Fire District 7 is asking for a 14-cent fire levy lid lift. Fire Chief Gary Meek says that fully funding its fire and EMS levies prevents the District from having to ask for voter-approved bonds.

“Bonds cost taxpayers more because of interest payments,” said Chief Meek. “Because of our fiscal responsibility and strong financial management practices, Fire District 7 has been able to fund daily operations and capital facilities through its operating levies.”

Fire District 7's fire levy has fallen from the voter-approved rate of \$1.50 to \$1.36 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If approved by voters, the fire levy would return to \$1.50 per \$1,000 for one year. The 14-cent lid lift would cost the owner of a \$450,000 home an additional \$63 or \$5.25 per month for one year.

By state law, the combined rate for fire and EMS levies cannot exceed \$2 per \$1,000 (\$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for EMS) of assessed property value. Fire District 7's combined levy rate in 2019 is \$1.76 per \$1,000 (\$1.36 for fire and \$0.40 cents for EMS).

Revenue from the lid lift will continue the Fire District's current financial practices of funding both its operational and capital needs through its two levies. Ballots must be postmarked by November 5, 2019 to count in the General Election.

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found on Fire District 7's web site at <http://snofire7.org/fire-levy>. Chief Gary Meek also is available to answer questions at gmeek@snofire7.org or (360) 794-7666.

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Snohomish County Fire District 7 provides fire and life safety services to over 118,500 people over 98.5 square miles in central and east Snohomish County, including the communities of Clearview, Maltby, Mill Creek and Monroe. In 2018 our emergency personnel responded to more than 11,000 emergency calls. Through taxpayer support, Fire District 7 has built the most advanced emergency response systems in Snohomish County with highly-trained personnel, facilities, apparatus, and rescue programs.