



Skagit County Fire District 6

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FIRE LEVY LID LIFT 2023

Skagit County Fire District No. 6 is asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift in the November general election to hire firefighters and improve emergency services.



@Skagit Co Fire Dist. 6



www.skagitfire6.com

What is on the ballot?

We are asking voters to consider a \$0.35 lid lift on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. This would raise the fire levy rate to \$1.05 per \$1,000. In 2018, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.05. Since then, the rate has dropped to \$0.70.

What will this cost?

The owner of a \$400,000 home (considered average) would pay an additional \$11.67 per month or \$140 per year.

How are we funded?

Our daily operations are funded by a fire levy currently at \$0.70 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The fire levy pays for fire and basic EMS. (Skagit County residents pay a separate EMS levy for Advanced Life Support and transport.)

Why are we asking for this?

Our call volumes have increased 102% since 2016. We need adequate staffing to meet the emergency service level needs of our community. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of all calls are for EMS. Our response times are

increasing because current staffing levels are unable to keep up with higher call volumes. Costs to provide service and replace aging equipment are also up. We can make these improvements without having to borrow money, which costs taxpayers more in interest payments. These improvements also will maintain or improve our risk rating, which is connected to what homeowners pay in insurance premiums.

Do my property taxes increase by the same percent of my home's assessed value?

No. We can only increase our revenue by 1 percent more per state law. Any amount higher than that must be approved by voters. This means that even if your property value increases by 20 percent, we can only collect 1 percent more (or any voter-approved increase) than the previous year.

Is there a homeowner's exemption?

Yes. Homeowners who are 61 years or older and others who meet income and eligibility requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption. Contact the County Assessor's Office to see if you qualify.

What will the lid lift fund?



Two firefighters to keep up with higher call volumes



Replace an aging ambulance and self-contained breathing tanks and protective gear



Fire station renovations to add more sleeping quarters for additional 24-hour emergency response coverage



Find out more at www.skagitfire6.com. Fire Chief Ed Tjeerdsma also welcomes your questions at etjeerdsma@skagitfire6.com or 360-757-2891.