

Passed April 27, 2021

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #21

Resolution 2021-03

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 (the "District"), providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held therein on August 3, 2021, a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy of \$1.45 per \$1,000 for 2021. This proposition would authorize the District to impose a regular property tax levy of \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2021 pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and would be subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations, all as more particularly set forth herein.

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency services enumerated in this resolution be provided by the District. Such services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for maintenance, operations, and equipment;

WHEREAS, the District has determined it will not be able to maintain its present service levels to its citizens without the approval of a levy lid lift;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved capital facilities, additional staffing, apparatus maintenance and operations in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$1.14671 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation; and

WHEREAS, the funds generated by this levy will not supplant existing funds used for the delivery of fire and emergency services in the Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the District shall provide fire and emergency services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed for the provision of fire and emergency services.

SECTION 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services, the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010 and levy beginning in 2021 and collect beginning in 2022, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130 and RCW 52.16.140 general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.45 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

SECTION 3. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection at an election on August 3, 2021 the question of whether or not such levy for maintenance and operations shall be made.

SECTION 4. The District's attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as deemed appropriate or as may be recommended by the Whatcom County

Prosecuting Attorney's Office or the Whatcom County Auditor and its Supervisor of Elections, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

SECTION 5. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and 84.52.069 and 29A.36.071, the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney is requested to prepare the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21
AUTHORIZING REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 (the "District"), adopted Resolution No. 2021-03 concerning a proposition to authorize the District's regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$1.45 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2021 (for collection in 2022) and would thereafter be subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations. The dollar amount of this levy would be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050. Should this proposal be approved?

YES.....☐
NO.....☐

SECTION 6. The Secretary of the District is directed to (a) certify to the Auditor a copy of this Resolution No. 2021-03 showing its adoption by the Board by May 14, 2021; and (b) perform such other duties as are necessary and required by law in submitting to the voters of the District at the aforesaid election the proposition of whether such tax levy shall be made.

SECTION 7. The Fire Chief of the District is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

SECTION 10. If any provision of this resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be severable from the remaining provisions of this resolution, and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution.

ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21, at a regularly scheduled open public meeting thereof this 27th day of April 2021, of which notice was given in the manner provided by law, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

ATTEST:

Bruce Ansell, Chairman

Rich Bosman, Vice-Chairman

John Crawford, Commissioner

Scott Fischer, Commissioner

Kimberly McMurray, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief

Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

**Whatcom County
Auditor's Office**

Whatcom County Courthouse
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Email: auditor@co.whatcom.wa.us
Internet: www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor



Diana Bradrick
County Auditor

Stacy Henthorn
Chief Deputy Auditor

To: County Executive, County Council, Cities, and Districts

From: Diana Bradrick, Auditor

Date: April 15, 2021

Re: Submitting a Ballot Measure in 2021

If your city or district is putting a measure on the ballot in 2021, the resolution submittal deadline date for each election follows:

| Resolution Submittal Deadline | Election Date | Election Type |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| May 14, 2021 @ 4:30 pm | August 3, 2021 | Primary |
| August 3, 2021 @ 4:30 pm | November 2, 2021 | General |

Voter Participation Numbers:

We provide the number of voters participating in the last General Election for each city and taxing district for use in determining the number of votes required for bond and levy passage in the next year.

The number of voters participating in the 2020 General Election for your city or district is posted to our website at <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3593/District-Resources>.

Reminder:

The Whatcom County Auditor's Office will produce a full pamphlet for the primary and general elections. The following must accompany the resolution for every election:



Committee Statement Deadlines & Requirements 2021 Whatcom County Local Voters' Pamphlets

| Election Date | Committee Statements Due by 4:30 pm | Rebuttal Due by 4:30 pm |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| August 3, 2021 | May 19, 2021 | May 24, 2021 |
| November 2, 2021 | August 9, 2021 | August 12, 2021 |

Actions by Committee:

1. Committee **prepares** the statement according to statement requirements listed below.

Committees appointed to write statements For or Against measures appearing in the local voters' pamphlet may select other persons to serve as an advisory committee. Persons drafting statements For or Against measures appearing in the voters' pamphlet who are officers, employees, or representative of any organization may only be designated as such if that organization has taken an official action to support or oppose the measure, as the case may be.

2. Chair **e-mails** the "Committee Statement Form" as an attachment to an e-mail by the deadline to:
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Statement Requirements:

Length

- 200-word maximum.
- No more than four (4) paragraphs.
- All words count (including "a" "I" "of" "on", etc). Word count will be determined using the Microsoft Word "Word Count" application.
- If the statement is over the 200-word limit, the Auditor's Office will attempt to notify the committee Chair with a request to reduce the word count. If there is no reply within 24 hours, the Auditor's Office will simply remove the words that are in excess from the end of the statement until a sentence break is reached that falls within the word count.

Format & Style

- Use only *italics* to emphasize words or phrases.
- Not allowed: Bolding, underlining, all caps, tables, lists, and bullets.
- Text must be written in paragraphs.
- The committee name, if applicable, **and** committee members' names will be published. This information is not included in the word count.

Editing

The Auditor's Office will **not** correct any errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation found in the committee's statement.

Statement Rejections

If the Auditor has any question as to whether any statements may not conform to submission requirements or may contain language which is defamatory or otherwise inappropriate, such questions will be referred to the Prosecuting Attorney. Committees will be notified via email and/or telephone if their statement or any portion of it has been rejected for any reason. Committees will have three (3) days after the rejection notice is sent to submit a re-written statement.

Committees can file an appeal with the Auditor within two (2) days of receiving the notice of rejection. The Prosecuting Attorney will render a decision of the appeal within two (2) days, and the decision will be final. In the event a Prosecuting Attorney participated in the initial review and rejection, a second Prosecuting Attorney will review the statement on appeal. The committee will be notified of the Prosecuting Attorney's decision.

Rebuttal Statements

Upon receipt of "For" and "Against" statements, the Local Voters' Pamphlet Coordinator will email copies to the opposing committee's Chair so that each can write a rebuttal, **not to exceed 75 words and one paragraph**. Rebuttals are due 3 days after the statement deadline. If the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline will be the following Monday.

- The rebuttal statements must address the opposition argument and not inject any new issue.
- Rebuttal statements will not be shared with the opposing committee until both rebuttals have been received and reviewed.
- The failure of a "For" or "Against" committee to submit a statement will disqualify that committee from submitting a rebuttal statement.
- Once submitted, statements and rebuttals cannot be modified or withdrawn.

Public Inspection of Statements

Statements submitted for publication in the local voters' pamphlet are not available for public inspection or copying until all statements and rebuttals pertaining to the specified ballot measure have been received and reviewed.

Disclaimer

The following statement will be printed at the bottom of each page where statements for or against ballot measures appear. "Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency."

If an error or omission occurs, the Auditor, in consultation with the Prosecuting Attorney, will determine the best, most practical remedy. However, the pamphlet will not be reprinted and distributed in its entirety.

Questions

Direct any questions to the Election Division at (360) 778-5102 or e-mail your question(s) to: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us.



Whatcom County Auditor's Office

Ballot Measure Coversheet

District Information

District Name: _____

District Address: _____

Contact Person 1

Name & Title

Phone & email

Contact Person 2

Name & Title

Phone & email

Attorney Information

Name & Title

Phone & email

Has your attorney prepared this ballot measure?

Yes

No

Are the following *required* documents included?

(circle one)

Resolution

with original signatures or a certified copy

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

prepared by your attorney, not to exceed 100 words

Yes

No

“For” and “Against” Committee Appointment Forms

Yes

No

Completed Ballot Measure Coversheet

Yes

No

Complete if anything is missing...

I understand that the deadline to submit the missing information is _____.

The Auditor's Office will not begin processing this ballot measure until all required documents have been submitted.

Date Stamp

Presenter's Signature

Deputy Auditor's Signature



Whatcom County Auditor's Office

Committee Appointment Form

District & Ballot Measure Information

District Name: _____

Proposition Name: _____

| Appointment of: | No Committee Formed: |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST |
| <p>NOTE:</p> <p>The Chair of the committee will serve as the contact person for Auditor's staff. The Chair will also be the recipient of the opposing committee's statement so the rebuttal can be prepared.</p> <p>The phone numbers and e-mail addresses listed below will not be published. However, the information provided on this form is subject to public disclosure laws under RCW 42.56 and 42.17. A copy of this form will be released to anyone requesting it.</p> | <p>Actions taken to solicit committee members (required, select at least 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Posting the request on the jurisdiction's website, if they have one<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting volunteers to serve at any commissioner meeting when the proposal is being discussed<input type="checkbox"/> Making direct phone calls to potential individuals<input type="checkbox"/> Putting up flyers on bulletin boards in libraries, grocery stores, or other community boards<input type="checkbox"/> Submitting a news release or letter to the editor to the newspapers (whether for printed version or online version) requesting volunteers (A "paid ad" in the Legal Notices is not required)<input type="checkbox"/> Posting on a reader board or sandwich board<input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting at any district events (i.e. monthly pancake feed)<input type="checkbox"/> Putting notice in emails or newsletters sent to individuals in the district<input type="checkbox"/> Inserts in bills<input type="checkbox"/> Other direct mail/email notifications<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Committee:

| | Name | Phone | email |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Chair | <div></div> | <div></div> | <div></div> |
| 2. Member | <div></div> | <div></div> | <div></div> |
| 3. Member | <div></div> | <div></div> | <div></div> |

I hereby certify the above name individuals have been appointed and have consented to serve as indicated, or at least 3 actions have been taken to solicit committee members.

Authorized Signature (individual with authority to sign for the district)

Date



Whatcom County Local Voters' Pamphlet Committee Statement *

1. Go to: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1734/Districts-Maps>
2. Download and save form.
3. Read the Committee Statement Deadlines & Requirements.
4. Enter all information requested in boxes provided.
5. SAVE the document.
6. Email this completed form to the Election Division of the Auditor's Office: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

This is the statement of the: ☐ Committee FOR ☐ Committee AGAINST

District Name:

Proposition Name and/or Description:

Date of Election:

Election Type (General, Primary, or Special):

Type Statement Below:

Committee members' names and committee name (if applicable) will be published in the Whatcom County Local Voters' Pamphlet. Statement prepared by:

Committee Member Name:

Committee Member Name:

Committee Member Name:

Committee Name (if applicable):

**The information provided on this form is subject to public disclosure laws under RCW 42.56 and RCW 42.17.*

Revised 9/19/17