

SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Fire Commissioners of San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 (the "District"), providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held therein on August 1, 2023, a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy of \$1.06 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for 2023. This proposition would authorize the District to impose a regular property tax levy of \$1.06 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation for 2023 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 Fifty-Eight Cents (\$0.58) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the one hundred one percent (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 San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 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 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130 and RCW 52.16.140 general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.06 per One Thousand Dollars (\$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 1, 2023, 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 San Juan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office or the San Juan 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 San Juan 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
SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2
RESTORING REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 (Orcas Island Fire & Rescue), adopted Resolution No. 2023-07 concerning a proposition to restore Orcas Island Fire & Rescue's regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$1.06 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation in 2023 (for collection in 2024) 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. 2023-07 showing its adoption by the Board by May 11, 2023; 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 San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2, at an open public Special Meeting thereof this 11th day of May 2023, of which notice was given in the manner provided by law, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

By: _____
Tim Fuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Leith Templin, Commissioner

By: _____
Alan Stameisen, Commissioner

By: _____
Nick Negulescu, Commissioner

By: _____
Jim Biddick, Commissioner

ATTEST:

District Secretary

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Secretary of San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 (the "District"), hereby certify as follows:

1. The attached copy of Resolution No. 2023-07 (the "Resolution") is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted at a Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District (the "Board") held on May 11th, 2023, as the Resolution appears on the minute book of the District and the Resolution is now in full force and effect.
2. A quorum of the members of the Board was present throughout the meeting and a majority of those members present voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of May 2023.

District Secretary

Explanatory Statement

San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 (Orcas Island Fire & Rescue) (“OIFR”) provides fire protection, prevention, and emergency medical services to the residents of Orcas Island. OIFR seeks voter approval to authorize an increase of its regular property tax levy to \$1.06 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation in 2023 (with collection beginning in 2024), which is an increase of approximately \$0.48 per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation. This levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency medical services provided by OIFR.

Fire and emergency medical services response standards and demand for service have increased. The legal maximum regular levy rate for a fire district is One Dollar Fifty Cents (\$1.50) (per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value). However, due to rapid increases in property values and the statutory 1% limitation on annual property tax increases, OIFR’s current levy rate has decreased to approximately \$0.58. Due to the impacts of inflation and increases in the cost of services provided by the District, the funds available under the current tax limit are insufficient to maintain the current level of service provided by OIFR. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will increase OIFR’s regular property tax levy rate to \$1.06 in 2023 and allow OIFR to maintain current service levels. The estimated \$0.48 increase in 2023 would equal approximately \$20 per month for a \$500,000 home. The 2023 levy amount will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.