

**Fire Protection District 17
Proposition 2024-15
Authorizing Regular Property Tax Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District 17 (the “District”), adopted Resolution No. 374 concerning the District’s regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$1.25 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2024 (for collection in 2025), and the resulting levy dollar amount would thereafter be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050.

Should this proposal be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Fire Protection District 17 (the “District”) seeks voter approval to increase its regular property tax levy to \$1.25 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2024 (with collection beginning in 2025), which is an increase of approximately \$0.56 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. This levy is the District’s primary funding source. The District suffered significant flood damage to its fire station in 2022 which needs to be relocated and rebuilt outside the flood zone. Voter approval of Proposition 2024-15 will provide funding to relocate and rebuild the station to maintain the current level of emergency services.

Statement For

In 2022 our fire district experienced two devastating coastal floods that destroyed the Sandy Point fire station and several pieces of equipment. Our ability to respond to emergency calls and conduct essential ongoing training was severely hampered. This will happen again. To protect and maintain current levels of service the district needs funding to re-locate the fire station out of the flood zone.

Funding is also needed to hire career firefighter/EMTs. Since our last levy in 2015 emergency calls in our community, primarily for emergency medical services, have increased by 103%. In 2017, to reduce the long wait times for ambulance transports the district began providing our own local ambulance transportation to the hospital. This created further stress on our available personnel. Volunteerism is dropping precipitously across the nation. Our volunteers are struggling to balance their personal lives with the enormous requirements of today’s fire/EMS services.

I support this fire district levy. I have studied the issues and believe there is no other alternative. I strongly encourage my fellow taxpayers to support this request from our fire district for station relocation and funding our vital fire and EMS services, now and in the future.

Statement For prepared by: Jeanne Carrol

Statement Against

No committee formed. No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - Special Election April 23, 2024

Voting Center:

Services Available: Voter registration, replacement ballots, and accessible voting using visual and audio technology.

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division

- Location: 311 Grand Ave., Suite 103, Bellingham
- Phone: 360-778-5102
- Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us
- Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Election Day, April 23, open until 8:00 pm

Voting Instructions:

Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot in the security sleeve
- Place the security sleeve inside the return envelope and seal

Sign:

- Sign & date the voter declaration on your return envelope

Return:

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office, Election Division

Returning Your Ballot:



By Official Ballot Drop Box

OPEN April 3

CLOSE at 8:00 pm on April 23

Attention: Only the following official ballot drop box locations will be open for the April 23 Special Election.

Bellingham	Whatcom County Courthouse, inside rotunda during business hours	311 Grand Ave.
Bellingham	In south parking lot of Courthouse, enter from Grand Avenue	247 Grand Ave.
Ferndale	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main St.
Lummi Reservation	Lummi Nation Administration Building, outside the main entrance	2665 Kwina Rd.

By Mail:

No stamp needed.

Ballots must be postmarked by April 23.

How to Register to Vote in Time for the April 23 Special:

- ONLINE: www.VoteWA.gov on or before Monday, April 15
- PAPER FORM: Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration Form. Mailed forms must be received in the Auditor's Office by Monday, April 15.
- IN PERSON: Come into the Auditor's Office by 8:00 pm on April 23.

How to Get a Ballot Packet:

- Once registered, a ballot will be sent in the mail.
- Replacement ballot packets are available in-person at the Auditor's Office or online at www.VoteWA.gov

Participating Jurisdictions:

Fire Protection District 17