

# Fire Protection District No. 7

## Proposition 1

### Ballot Title

Authorizing Additional Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Shall Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 7 be authorized to impose a PERMANENT regular property tax levy of \$0.50 or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical services?

### Explanatory Statement

Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 7 requests voter authorization to provide funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for District 7 residents. The current EMS levy will expire at the end of 2010, and is the primary funding for paramedic and emergency medical services provided by the District. Emergency medical services are life-saving and life-sustaining services provided by the Fire District. Over 75% of the District's calls for service by the District are EMS calls. The revenue generated may only be used for EMS purposes, and the law requires separate accounting of EMS expenditures. The levy proceeds will be used exclusively for paramedic and emergency medical care or emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care and emergency services.

If approved by the voters, this proposition will allow the District to establish a permanent EMS/levy rate which may be less than, but may not exceed 50 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. RCW 84.52.069 provides that an EMS levy may be permanently approved by the voters subject to an annual right of referendum by the voters. The EMS levy is an "excess" levy, meaning that disabled and low income elderly are exempt.

### Statement For

Statements by: Troy Smith

Please vote Yes on the Fire District 7 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy. Local dollars go directly to local service.

The current EMS Levy expires in 2010 and is up for renewal. We will maintain our current level of service by approving a permanent \$0.50/\$1,000 assessed value rate.

A permanent rate provides stable EMS funding in an uncertain world. Our paramedics are the first responders in a disaster. Our area will always be prone to storms, floods, and earthquakes, and we will always want EMS services available. A Yes vote keeps us protected!

Fire District 7 cannot continue to maintain today's level of service at the expiring levy rate. Fire levies are being used to offset shrinking EMS funding to provide this level of service. This EMS levy provides more balanced funding.

Every so often, some EMS apparatus must be taken offline due to budget constraints. This increases response times and decreases the unit's reliability in a 911 emergency. A cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival is decreased by 10% for every minute care is delayed. A no vote would risk our safety, and the safety of those protecting us.

The difference between the current levy and its replacement is \$8.47 per month for a home assessed at \$406,000. This is a small price to pay to ensure that someone shows up quickly when we call 911!

For more information, see [www.VoteYesForEMS.org](http://www.VoteYesForEMS.org).

### Statement Against

Statements by: George G. Smith

Voters need to know if the costs and the service provided are required and are as efficient as possible for this measure. With this proposal, the voter's don't know. The Fire District is going for the maximum currently allowed under RCW 84.52.069 - \$.50 per \$1000 of assessed value. The district's tax rate increases nearly 30% from \$1.6962 to \$2.1962 per \$1000 of assessed value and if approved the Fire District Levy will be the second highest property tax. When it comes to taxes, voters rarely get a say on how much they are taxed. In the last 5 years (2005-2009), less than 1/3 of the property taxes were voter approved. Voters always get a say in the easy ones that are important to the electorate such as Schools, Hospitals, Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS. In the August 2008 primary, the district's levy proposal exceeded the 1% property tax limit in effect at the time, yet it easily passed with 60% margin. Now the State Supreme Court has struck down property tax limits imposed by I-747. Vote no to higher taxes, while you can.

# Fire Protection District No. 7

## Proposition 1 (continued)

### Rebuttal of Statement Against

We do get a say!  
We need to have a say!  
This is our chance to say, "Emergency Medical Services are essential". Our families depend on these services when we need them the most!  
These are the dollars that make a difference on OUR doorstep!  
Fire District 7 has a proven track record of responsible management.  
Together, let's give them the tools they need to protect us.  
Vote Yes!

### Rebuttal of Statement For

A permanent levy – as in FOREVER!  
Will your property stay at the same assessed value forever? The same old argument - FEAR, don't approve this levy and you put yourself at risk.  
How about Rural Metro, Shepard Ambulance, Shannon Ambulance and American Medical? Aren't they local too? Just \$8.47 more a month for a \$406,000 assessment? Check the math using current and proposed rates. It's \$891.66 @ year instead of \$688.66 for a \$406,000 home.