

Registration Information

How to update your address:

- Online at votewa.gov
- In-Person at the Jefferson County Auditor's Office, 1820 Jefferson Street, Rm. 170, Port Townsend, WA 98368
- Complete a Washington State Voter Registration form and return in the mail. Registration forms are available on our website. You may also contact us to have a form mailed to you, if time allows.

Registration Deadlines:

- February 6, 2023 (8 days prior to Election)
Deadline to register or update your registration online or by mail.
- February 7- 14, 2023 Visit our office in-person to register to vote or update your registration.

How to Obtain a Ballot

In-Person Voting Center for Election Services January 25 – February 14, 2023

- The Auditor's Office is here to help you! Please call or email us before you visit in-person. If possible, we may save you a trip!
- Services available:
 - o Register to vote
 - o Update an existing registration
 - o Replacement Ballot
 - o Accessible Voting unit

Returning Your Ballot

Mail: Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.

Return envelope is postage paid. **No stamp required.**

Deposit (Ballot Drop Box): Drop boxes are open 24 hours a day. For availability and locations please visit: co.jefferson.wa.us/Elections

Replacement Ballots

- If you lost or damaged your ballot, replacement ballots are available.
- To get a replacement ballot:
 - o By email: elections@co.jefferson.wa.us
 - o Online: VoteWA.gov
 - o By phone: (360)385-9119
 - o In-Person: Jefferson County Auditor's Office, 1820 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet JEFFERSON COUNTY



Special Election, February 14, 2023

Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 (East Jefferson Fire Rescue)

Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift

Proposition No. 2 - Emergency
Medical Services Levy Lid Lift

Published by the Jefferson County Auditor's Office
Elections Division
1820 Jefferson Street, Rm. 170
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone: (360)385-9119

Fax: (360)385-9228

Email: elections@co.jefferson.wa.us

Website: co.jefferson.wa.us/Elections

Introduction to Local Measures

For the measures in the Local Voters' Pamphlet the legislative authority of that jurisdiction is required to formally appoint committees to prepare statements advocating the approval and rejection of the measure. If the jurisdiction is unable to make such appointments,

the Jefferson County Auditor advertises for such appointments. The Auditor's Office encourages you to review all statements and seek additional information from the jurisdictions, the appointed citizens' committees and local media.

Statement Disclaimer:

Statements For and Against are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.

Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1

Proposition No. 1 – Levy Lid Lift

Ballot Title

The Board of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 (East Jefferson Fire Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 22-13 concerning a proposition to establish its regular property tax levy. This proposition authorizes the District to establish its regular property tax levy to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, and emergency medical services, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The dollar amount of the 2023 levy collected in 2024 shall serve as the base for computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this Proposition be:

Approved
Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1, dba East Jefferson Fire Rescue provides emergency fire protection and medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition authorizes the Department to establish its regular property tax levy to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024. The current levy is approximately \$.85 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Your fire district Board of Commissioners has determined that this proposition is necessary to maintain an effective level of services, fire fighter staffing, equipment and facilities in light of rising costs and increasing service demands. Approval of this measure will allow your fire district to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency medical services provided to its citizens.

The dollar amount levied in 2023 for collection in 2024 shall serve as the fire department's tax levy base and absent further voter approval, the tax levy will then be subject to the statutory one percent limit.

For Committee

Yes to Prop 1

Our Fire District Fire Levy has not been raised since 2011. This has resulted in the current funding gap between the essential items required to maintain our Fire District's first-response capability and the ability to pay for it. The increasing demand for services and rising costs to provide these services requires EJFR to spend more than we are able to gain in tax revenue. Improving fire protection operations, replacing aging apparatus/equipment, firefighter recruitment, training and maintaining emergency medical service levels are crucial expenses that exceed what is provided by the District's current tax levy.

Along with the usual Fire District services, wildfire threats have also risen in the Western United States, even locally and other parts of Western Washington. This threat cannot and should not be ignored. Proposition 1 Fire Lid Lift is essential to maintain the necessary funding required to keep our Fire District services viable. A yes vote for Proposition 1 will help close the revenue gap, allowing the District to keep our firefighters trained, keep the facilities and vehicles maintained, and ultimately keep our community safe.

Committee contact information:

Wayne Kier, wkier@icloud.com, (360)301-3344

Against Committee

No committee was formed.

Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1

Proposition No. 2 – Emergency Medical Services Levy Lid Lift

Ballot Title

The Board of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 (East Jefferson Fire Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 22-12 concerning a proposition to restore its Emergency Medical Services regular property tax levy. This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular EMS property tax levy to \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve emergency medical services. The maximum allowable levy in 2023 levy collected in 2024, shall serve as the base for computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this Proposition be:

Approved
Rejected

Explanatory Statement

If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to restore its EMS property tax levy for the current rate of approximately \$.36 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to \$.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation the rate previously approved by the voters in 2002.

Approval of this measure will allow the District to maintain the level of emergency medical services currently provided on a continuing basis. The District must use EMS tax revenue exclusively for emergency medical services.

The dollar amount levied in 2023 for collection in 2024 shall serve as the fire department's tax levy base and absent further voter approval, the tax levy will then be subject to the statutory one percent limit.

For Committee

Vote Yes for EMS

East Jefferson EMS needs our help.

Jefferson County has the eldest population in the State, and depends on our exceptional EMS services to support our community. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) comprise approximately 75% of the Fire District's responses. Call volume has increased by approximately 47% since the last lid lift in 2011, with no corresponding increases in personnel and has led to dangerously thin staffing, especially with overlapping call volumes.

Costs for the ambulances, rescue equipment, training and personnel are funded from the EMS levy. Although some EMS costs are reimbursed from Medicare and insurance, the remaining expenses have been in excess of the levy revenue in recent years. EJFR is left spending their reserves to make up the difference. In 2023 EJFR's projected EMS expenses will exceed revenue by \$1,843,027. These reserves are being rapidly depleted to balance the budget and not being used to replace aging equipment and vehicles. The tax revenue for EMS services has not kept up! The February 14th special election ballot measure will ask voters to raise the EMS tax levy from 36 cents to 50 cents per \$1000 in assessed property value. If approved, the levy would go in to effect in 2024.

Please support the upcoming levy lift to assure that EJFR will be able to come help you when you need their help.

Committee contact information:

Bud Ayres, aeayres10@gmail.com, (973)713-6198

Against Committee

No committee was formed.