



Whatcom County Auditor's Office
Ballot Measure Coversheet

District Information

District Name: Whatcom County

District Address: 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham, WA 998225

Contact Person 1

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Name & Title

360-778-5010 DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us

Phone & email

Contact Person 2

Jackie Lassiter, Legislative Clerk

Name & Title

360-778-5018 jlassite@co.whatcom.wa.us

Phone & email

Attorney Information

Karen Frakes

Name & Title

360-778-5757 kfrakes@co.whatcom.wa.us

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.

Presenter's Signature

Received In Person

AUG 02 2022



Whatcom County Elections

Deputy Auditor's Signature



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2022-382

File ID:	AB2022-382	Version:	1	Status:	Substitute Adopted
File Created:	06/28/2022	Entered by:			
Department:		File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Committee of the Whole			Final Action:	07/26/2022
Agenda Date:	07/26/2022			Enactment #:	ORD 2022-055

Primary Contact Email: mhillley@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance providing for submission to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition renewing the levy of a regular property tax at a rate of \$.295 or less per \$1000 assessed valuation to continue to provide emergency medical services

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
07/12/2022	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Committee of the Whole
		Aye: 4 Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Galloway	
		Nay: 3 Byrd, Elenbaas, and Kershner	
		Absent: 0	
07/26/2022	Council Committee of the Whole	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)	
		Aye: 5 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Galloway	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	
		Absent: 0	
		Abstain: 1 Kershner	
07/26/2022	Council	SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED	

Aye: 5 Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner
Nay: 1 Elenbaas
Absent: 1 Byrd

Attachments: Memo (from June 21 packet), Ordinance, Substitute Levy Plan (Frazey) for July 12, EMS - BLS Budget, EMS Ordinance for Introduction July 12, 2022, Substitute Ordinance as Amended in COTW 7.26.22, Lagerway EMS Levy

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53

PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: JULY 12, 2022

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-055

PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY A PROPOSITION RENEWIING THE LEVY OF A REGULAR PROPERTY TAX EACH YEAR FOR SIX YEARS, COLLECTION BEGINNING IN 2023, AT A RATE OF \$.295 OR LESS PER \$1000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, IN THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2022

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a complex, coordinated response and Emergency Medical Care system, that requires people and agencies to perform an essential role as part of a coordinated, tiered, and seamless system of integrated emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, fire districts, departments and agencies provide first responder services and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service and the Bellingham Fire Department and Whatcom Fire District #7 provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County's EMS system has evolved over 48 years, and has transitioned into a tiered level of services supported by the countywide EMS Levy; and

WHEREAS, the countywide Emergency Medical System serves all of Whatcom County including Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Blaine, Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas; and

WHEREAS, the EMS system responds to a broad range of people who will benefit from responders reflecting the diverse communities of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services are essential and necessary for the protection and health and life of Whatcom County residents, and stable funding through the countywide Levy is a practical solution to continue providing EMS services at the current level as described in the 2023 to 2028 EMS Levy Strategic Plan in order to sustain the system into the future and to meet increased demands for service.

WHEREAS, the EMS system also includes regional support programs and services that provide administration, medical oversight and direction, citizen and emergency personnel training, planning, public education, and other support programs and services; and

WHEREAS, investing in programs and services to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, including training and dedicated personnel to improve and track progress on recruitment and retention, hiring practices, and a workplace culture of inclusion may enhance EMS service delivery and better assist those in need; and

WHEREAS, The EMS Levy Planning Committee confirmed by the Emergency Medical Services Oversight Board (EOB) recommended a funding strategy and levy rate that will support and sustain the countywide EMS system; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the state legislature, through RCW 84.52.069, has recognized the needs
2 and concerns described above, and has provided the mechanism for achieving a stable
3 funding source for the provision of such Emergency Medical Services through a voter
4 approved levy, and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, supporting the EMS Levy, as a primary funding mechanism for
7 countywide EMS, is key to advancing Whatcom County's diversity, equity, and inclusion
8 priorities; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The EMS Levy Planning Committee and EMS Oversight Board
11 recommends the continuation/renewal of the countywide EMS Levy to provide a stable
12 funding source that will sustain the system for the next 6 years; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, in order to assure the continued provision of services, it is both
15 necessary and appropriate to renew the regular property tax levy of \$.295 or less per \$1000
16 of assessed valuation as provided for in this ordinance;
17

18 **WHEREAS**, if the voters approve the proposed renewal of the EMS levy, for the tax
19 year 2023, the property tax levy rate would be set at \$0.295 per \$1,000 of assessed
20 valuation; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, beginning in the 2024 tax year and for the remaining tax years of the
23 levy, the County Council would have the opportunity to review and potentially reduce the
24 EMS property tax levy in its annual EMS property tax levy ordinance, if the Council
25 determines that EMS needs can be fully met with a lower levy;
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF WHATCOM COUNTY DOES ORDAIN AS**
28 **FOLLOWS:**
29

30 **Section 1. Approval of cities over 50,000 population.** Pursuant to RCW 84.52.069,
31 approval to place this county-wide levy proposal on the ballot has been obtained from the
32 legislative body of the City of Bellingham through Resolutions 2022- _____. The City of
33 Bellingham is presently the only city in Whatcom County having a population over 50,000.
34

35 **Section 2. Deposit of levy proceeds and eligible expenditures.** All levy proceeds shall
36 be deposited into the County Emergency Medical Services Fund. If approved by the
37 qualified electors of the County, all levy proceeds authorized in the ordinance shall be used
38 only for the provision of emergency medical services, including related personnel costs,
39 training for such personnel and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed
40 for the provision of emergency medical services, and as may otherwise be provided under
41 RCW 84.52.043. Where permissible by law, personnel costs and training should also include
42 essential diversity, equity and inclusion components of recruitment, hiring, retention, and
43 training of personnel.
44

45 **Section 3. Type of Levy.** Pursuant to the authorization in RCW 84.52.069, this levy is a
46 regular property tax levy on all taxable property located in Whatcom County and is in
47 addition to the statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043.
48

49 **Section 4. Levy Rate.** The proposed levy rate submitted to the voters shall be \$.295 or
50 less per \$1000 of assessed valuation each year, for six consecutive years, beginning in
51 2023. The collections of the taxes will begin in 2023. Taxes will be based on the previous
52 year's assessment.
53

1 **Section 5. Ratification by the Electorate.** The proposal for this levy shall be submitted to
2 and approved by the voters in accordance with RCW 84.52.069.

3
4 **Section 6. Call for Election.** A ballot measure for a proposition authorizing the levy
5 described herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of Whatcom County at the
6 general election to be held on November 3, 2022. The Whatcom County Auditor is hereby
7 authorized, directed, and empowered to cause notices of this ordinance and such election in
8 accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the registered
9 voters of the County, at the special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth.
10 Furthermore, the County Executive is hereby authorized and requested to initiate the
11 appropriate action necessary to ensure a proposition in substantially the following form shall
12 be submitted to the voters of Whatcom County:

13
14 Whatcom County, Washington

15
16 Proposition _____: Regular Property Tax
17 Levy for Emergency Medical Services

18
19 The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance 2022-_____ concerning the
20 renewed funding for the countywide Emergency Medical Services system. Will Whatcom
21 County be authorized to continue to impose a regular property tax levy of \$0.295 or less
22 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of the six consecutive years, with
23 collection beginning in 2023, for the continued provision of emergency medical services?

24
25 Yes _____

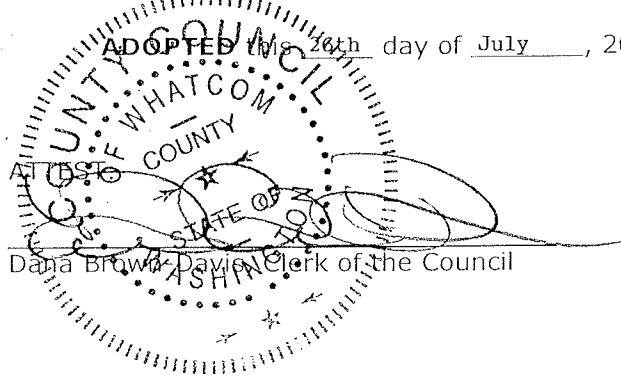
26 No _____

27
28 **Section 7. Authorization for Interlocal Agreements.** The County Executive is hereby
29 authorized and requested to negotiate interlocal agreements: 1) with the City of Bellingham
30 and Fire District #7 for EMS services consistent with the recommendations of the EMS Levy
31 Planning Committee and the EMS Oversight Board; 2) and Whatcom County Fire Districts
32 where levy collections provide fire agencies with limited BLS funding consistent with RCW
33 84.52.069 relating to the provision of emergency medical services over the length of time
34 the levy is imposed.

35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53

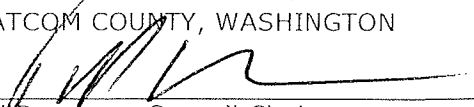
1 **Section 8. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person
2 or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the
3 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

4
5 ADOPTED this 20th day of July, 2022.



10
11
12 Dana Brown-Davies, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

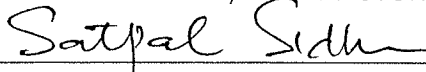

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

13
14
15
16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

17
18 /s/ Karen Frakes (approved via phone 7.25.22) / JL

19 Karen Frakes
20 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Satpal Sidhu,
County Executive

Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

LEVY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

This proposition would authorize Whatcom County to renew the additional regular property tax levy approved by the voters in 2016 to fund the countywide provision of emergency medical services (EMS), including related personnel costs, training, equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures. To provide stable funding for EMS at the current level and sustain the system into the future, the renewed levy would be imposed at the same rate of \$0.295 or less per \$1000 of assessed valuation as the existing EMS levy on all taxable property within Whatcom County and would continue for six consecutive years, beginning in 2023.



Whatcom County Auditor's Office

Committee Appointment Form

District & Ballot Measure Information

 District Name: Whatcom County

 Proposition Name: Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Appointment of: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST	No Committee Formed: <input type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST
NOTE: 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. 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.	Actions taken to solicit committee members (required, select at least 3 and provide documentation when applicable): <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	<u>RobRoy Graham</u>	<u>360-303-2780</u>	<u>rgraham@wcfd14.org</u>
2. Member	_____	_____	_____
3. Member	_____	_____	_____

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)

August 1, 2022

 Date



Whatcom County Auditor's Office

Committee Appointment Form

District & Ballot Measure Information

District Name: Whatcom County

Proposition Name: Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Appointment of: <input type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST	No Committee Formed: <input type="checkbox"/> Committee FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Committee AGAINST
NOTE: 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. 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.	Actions taken to solicit committee members (required, select at least 3 and provide documentation when applicable): <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	Todd Lagastee	360-927-3753	toddlag@gmail.com
2. Member	Laurie Williams	360-223-2912	Laurie@c-t-construction.com
3. Member			

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)

August 1, 2022

 Date