

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON, APPROVING A COUNTY WIDE BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR A LEVY TO FUND A COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028, PURSUANT TO RCW 84.52.069

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Whatcom County electorate approved a six-year county-wide levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services (“EMS”) (the “2016 EMS Levy”); and

WHEREAS, the 2016 EMS Levy expires on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the expiration of the 2016 EMS Levy, the Whatcom County Emergency Medical System Oversight Board (“EOB”) convened an EMS Levy Planning Committee on March 10th, 2021, with the mission “to recommend a funding strategy and mechanism that will support a countywide emergency medical system”; and

WHEREAS, the EMS Levy Planning Committee has produced the 2023-2028 Levy Plan that has been endorsed by the EOB; and

WHEREAS, among other findings and recommendations, the 2023-2028 Levy Plan recommends submission to the Whatcom County electorate of a ballot proposition for the continuation of county-wide regular property tax levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years for the purpose of continuing to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2022, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2022-055, providing for submission to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition renewing the levy of a regular property tax each year for six years, collection beginning in 2023, at a rate of \$0.295 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to continue to provide emergency medical services, in the general election to be held November 3, 2022; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 requires the approval of the legislative authority of a majority of at least seventy-five percent of all cities exceeding a population of fifty thousand within the county to put an EMS Levy on the ballot.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

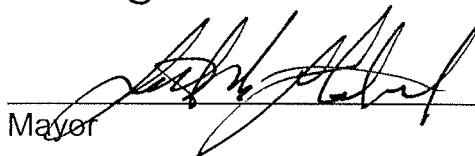
Section 1. The City of Bellingham supports the Whatcom County EMS Levy Planning Committee recommendations prepared and submitted to the EMS Oversight Board in May 2022 and supports placement of a ballot proposition on the ballot in the 2022 general election, as set forth in Whatcom County Ordinance 2022-055.

Section 2. The City of Bellingham hereby approves, pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, submission to the voters of a ballot proposition described in Whatcom County Ordinance 2022-055 for the continuation of countywide regular property tax levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years, commencing January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2028, to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services.


PASSED by the Council this 1st day of August, 2022.


Council President

APPROVED by me this 2 day of August, 2022.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney