

San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2

Proposition No. 1 - Authorizing Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Commissioners of San Juan County Fire District No. 2 (the "District"), adopted Resolution No. 2024-2 concerning an increase to the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$0.77 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2024 (for collection in 2025) and in 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 the levy amount will be subject to the limitations under RCW Chapter 84.55 and thereafter be subject to any otherwise applicable statutory levy amount limitations.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

Written by Richard Davis, Attorney for San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2

San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 (the "District") provides fire and emergency medical services to Orcas Island. The District's primary source of funding is a tax levy on real property within the District as authorized by RCW 84.55.050. State law limits annual increases in tax levies to 101% of the previous year plus new construction unless the voters authorize a higher amount.

In 2014, voters of the District approved a 10-year lid lift which expires this year. The District's levy rate in 2024 is about \$0.53 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and the levy amount to be collected is approximately \$2.4 million. Without a levy lid lift, the District's levy amount will decrease to approximately \$1.26 million in 2025. This decreased funding would be insufficient to maintain the District's existing level of EMS and firefighting and other emergency services.

Approval of Proposition No. 1 will increase the District's levy rate to \$0.77 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and will result in a levy amount estimated to be approximately \$3.645 million. The actual levy amount will depend upon property values in the year the levy is imposed. This levy is expected to allow the District to maintain staffing and existing levels of service while maintaining a stable reserve. The lid lift is subject to the annual statutory increase if approved by the Board of the District and would expire after the levy collected in the year 2029 (five years). A majority of those voting on the measure is required for approval.

Argument For

The proposed five-year temporary levy will support Orcas Island's Fire District's operations. Elected in November 2023, the new Board of Fire Commissioners actively sought voter feedback before finalizing the new levy rate of 77 cents / \$1000 valuation. This rate is less than the two previously proposed rates and is only 24 cents over the current levy rate of 53 cents / \$1000.

When passed, this new levy will provide the necessary resources to continue meeting our island's needs for critical life-saving assistance, as well as for personal and property safety services. This funding will ensure the level of vital medical support you have come to expect regardless of the time of day or night. The levy will also provide for volunteer and full time professionally trained fire and rescue personnel delivering safety and protective services across our island.

Passing this levy safeguards the essential emergency medical, firefighting and rescue services that we all depend on.

Please join us in voting YES.

Written by

Bob Distler, rsd@rsd.aero
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Argument Against

No information submitted.

Return Your Ballot

Ballot drop box

Return your ballot to a ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 23:

San Juan County Elections Office
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor, WA
M–Th 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Election Day 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Orcas Island Senior Center
62 Henry Rd, Eastsound, WA

In person

The Elections office is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M–Th, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 23,

San Juan County Elections
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor, WA
(across from the Courthouse)

By mail

No stamp is needed! Place your ballot in the mail before the deadline. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before April 23, in order to count.

Replacement Ballots

1. Contact SJC Elections as soon as possible:
Phone: 360-378-3357
Email: elections@sanjuancountywa.gov
OR
2. Print a replacement ballot:
 - Sign in to votewa.gov with your name/birthdate
 - Click on Download ballot packet
 - Follow instructions to vote and return your ballot

Photo credit: Orcas Island Moran State Park, Greg Lee, SJC ER&R



San Juan County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet April 23, 2024 Special



Local Jurisdiction Participating in this Election
San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2

Register to Vote

Online

Log in to votewa.gov to register to vote or update your address. You must have a Washington State driver's license, permit, or ID card. Online registrations must be submitted no later than April 15 in order to process the registration for the Special Election.

In person

The Elections office is open for registration 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M–Th, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 23. In person registrations must be initiated no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 23.

By mail

Print a voter registration form from sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx
Fill out the form and mail it to:

San Juan County Auditor
Elections Division
PO Box 638
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

San Juan County Elections must receive the mailed form by April 15 in order to process the registration for the Special Election.

Accessible Voting

San Juan County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an accessible voting unit.

The accessible voting equipment will be available Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, beginning Thursday, April 4, through April 23, and from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 23.