

Restoration of CKFR's Regular Fire Levy

Ballots will be mailed out on October 19, 2018. Election Day is November 6, 2018.

In November, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue (CKFR) voters will be asked to restore the Regular Fire Levy to the \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (AV). This tax will replace the Maintenance & Operations Levy (M&O) that was passed in 2015.

Background

CKFR's regular property tax levy is the primary funding source for the maintenance and operations of the fire district. CKFR's current M&O Levy expires on December 31, 2019. The M&O Levy currently contributes \$1.8 million each year toward staffing and operations (currently at \$0.21 per \$1000 AV). If successful, based on a conservative five-year estimate using average changes in AV, the Lid Lift will produce revenues similar to that of the M&O Levy.

CKFR Quick Facts

Service Area:	115 sq. miles
Population Served:	71,167
2017 Total Calls:	7,982
2017 EMS Calls:	4,881
2017 EMS Transports:	4,567
Career Employees:	110
Volunteers:	42
Elected Officials:	5

Why a Lid Lift?

CKFR formed an internal stakeholder economic summit committee to recommend potential solutions to future budgetary shortfalls. This committee included the District's Fire Commissioners, management team, IAFF Local 2819, and CKFR volunteers. After evaluating the current and future revenue and expense trends, the committee concluded the District should seek a Permanent Lid Lift for the Regular Property Tax Levy up to the \$1.50. This recommendation was presented to CKFR's Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Board of Fire Commissioners.

What will this cost?

Much of this levy restoration is the current rate that citizens are already paying today (\$1.32). Using the 2018 AV and the median CK home value (\$296,680), the Lid Lift is estimated to cost \$4.38/month or \$52.58/year for a CK homeowner.



What does this additional revenue mean to CKFR?

Due to the accelerated demands of and increasing costs of providing fire and emergency response services, restoring the levy lid to \$1.50 will allow CKFR to maintain adequate service levels. This Lid Lift replaces the funding for the fire district after the expiration of the M&O Levy beginning in 2020.

If successful, during 2019 only, the District would collect on the final year of the M&O Levy and Levy Lid Lift. Additional funds received during 2019 will be earmarked for purchasing two new transport medic units (with equipment); a new water tender; a new fire engine; equipment for earthquake emergency management and operational preparedness; and critical infrastructure earthquake evaluations, engineering, and imminent repairs.

What if the Lid Lift fails?

This Levy Lid Lift must be voter-approved and requires a fifty percent (50%) majority for approval. If the measure does not pass, the District will need to seek an alternative funding source to replace the M&O Levy at an election in 2019, which would be more expensive depending on which election.

A failure of the Levy Lid Lift would mean a reevaluation of the District's budget and priorities. Without a replacement funding source for the M&O Levy, the District will not be able to maintain its current service levels. CKFR will be forced to consider reductions in staffing, maintenance to fire and EMS vehicles, fire station and capital facilities improvements, as well as in training programs for personnel. These reductions will impact the level of service to CKFR citizens and cripple the District's response times.



The Central Kitsap community continues to experience tremendous growth, evident by the expansion of Harrison Hospital's campus in Silverdale, a multitude of new housing developments, and the new commercial center at the Trails. From 2016 to 2017, the demand for service increased by 6.5%. Additional funding is needed if CKFR is to continue providing adequate service in the future.

For further information, please call Fire Chief Scott Weninger, (360) 447-3550 or email sweninger@ckfr.org