

Skagit County Local Voters' Pamphlet

April 23, 2024 Special Election

Countywide Measure - Skagit County EMS

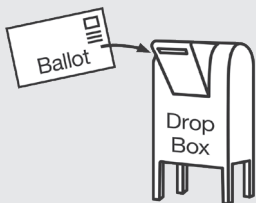
Proposition No. 1 - Continuation of Emergency Medical Services Levy

Mount Vernon School District No. 320

Proposition No. 1 - Replacement Safety and Technology Capital Projects Levy

Fire Protection District No. 9

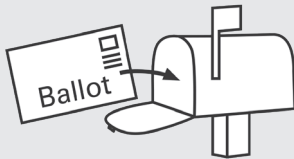
Proposition No. 1 - Restoring Regular Property Tax Levy



Return your ballot at a drop box.

Drop boxes are open until 8:00 pm sharp on April 23.

Boxes open for this election are listed on your ballot wrap.



Return your ballot by mail.

No Stamp Needed!

We strongly recommend returning your ballot as early as possible.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by April 23.

Register to vote or update your information

Online

You can register to vote online at VoteWA.gov -- all you need is a Washington State Driver's License or ID and a few minutes. You can register or update your information online by April 15 for this election.

Mail


Download and print a registration form at sos.wa.gov/elections and mail it to Skagit County Elections. It must be received by April 15 for this Special election.

In person

You can register in person up until 8:00pm on April 23, Election Day.

Skagit County Elections
700 S. 2nd St, Room 201
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

 skagitcounty.net/elections

 360-416-1702

 sselections@co.skagit.wa.us

Proposition No. 1

Continuation of Emergency Medical Services Levy (Skagit County EMS System)

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners adopted Resolution R20240016 concerning continued funding of the countywide emergency medical services system. Shall Skagit County be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of \$0.47 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025 and for five consecutive years thereafter?

Explanatory Statement

Written by Skagit County

This proposition would authorize Skagit County to renew the additional regular property tax levy approved by voters in 2018 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 a rate of \$0.47 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (which is a \$0.03 increase from the rate approved by voters in 2018) on all taxable property within Skagit County and would continue for six consecutive years, beginning in 2025.

Argument For

In April, our county will have the opportunity to vote on an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) levy ballot measure. EMS is the backbone of our healthcare infrastructure, providing immediate assistance in times of crisis, accidents, and life-threatening situations. The proposed EMS levy aims to enhance and sustain these vital services. Here are key reasons why we urge you to support the EMS levy:

Rapid Response and Life-Saving Care — The levy will be directed towards maintaining and upgrading EMS equipment. In addition, adequate staffing is essential. By supporting the levy, we can ensure that you, your family, and your friends have a well-trained and sufficient number of paramedics and emergency medical technicians available to respond promptly.

Safety and Well-Being of Those We Love — Investing in our EMS not only benefits individuals in crisis but also contributes to the overall safety and well-being of you and those you love. Voting in favor of the EMS levy is an opportunity for us to come together and prioritize our own and our neighbors' health and safety.

Let's stand together and ensure that our Emergency Medical Services have the resources they need to continue providing exceptional care when we need it most!

Committee Spokesperson: Jada Trammell
 Contact: 360-661-5379; jada_t@msn.com
 Committee Members: Judy Derbyshire, Ken Ball

Argument Against

No information submitted.

Proposition No. 1 Replacement Safety and Technology Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Mount Vernon School District No. 320 adopted Resolution # 05/23-24 concerning a school facilities levy. This proposition authorizes upgrades to District facilities, including safety and security upgrades, acquisition, installation, implementation and management of technology systems, including related maintenance, staffing and training; and authorizes the following excess levies to replace an expiring levy for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.957	\$7,495,542
2026	\$0.855	\$7,495,542
2027	\$0.763	\$7,495,542
2028	\$0.681	\$7,495,542

all as provided in District Resolution # 05/23-24.
Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Written by Mount Vernon School District No. 320
Pursuant to Resolution #05/23-24 of the Board of Directors of Mount Vernon School District No. 320, the passage of Proposition No. 1 would renew an expiring levy and allow the levy of \$7,495,542 in property taxes within the District for collection in each of the calendar years 2025 through 2028 to fund the acquisition and installation, implementation and management of safety and security systems, computer technology and technology systems, facilities and projects, including but not limited to enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications, staffing and training related to the installation of the foregoing, and shall make other capital project expenditures as found necessary by the Board of Directors. These taxes would be collected over the 2024-2025 through 2028-2029 school years, inclusive, and deposited in the District’s Capital Projects Fund for such improvements to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$0.957 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2025, \$0.855 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2026, \$0.763 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2027 and \$0.681 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2028. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Skagit County Assessor at 360-416-1780.

Argument For

This Replacement Levy is a vital Investment in District Safety, Security and Technology Systems

Passage of Proposition No. 1 is critical for Mount Vernon School District’s development. This replacement levy, totaling \$7,495,542 annually (2025-2028), focuses on maintaining and upgrading safety and security systems as well as improving technology to ensure a secure and well-structured learning environment.

Addressing Capital Needs

The resolution, pursuant to Board Resolution #05/23-24, prioritizes capital improvements critical for the district. Funds will support salaries for safety, security and technology staff and facilitate infrastructure enhancements including security cameras, locks on doors, hardware acquisitions, and software licensing along with staff training and installation costs.

Responsibly Managed Replacement Levy Rates

The estimated property tax rates in this proposed levy start at \$0.96 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2025 and gradually decrease to \$0.68 by 2028 (compared to the current levy which started at \$0.92 and has decreased to \$0.74). These rates are carefully chosen to meet the basic technology, safety and security needs of our district and its students.

Committee Spokesperson: Robert Coffey
Contact: 360-941-0504; robcoffey@comcast.net

Argument Against

No information submitted.

Proposition No. 1

Restoring Regular Property Tax Levy

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Skagit County Fire Protection District No. 9 (the "District"), adopted Resolution No. 24-254 concerning a proposition to authorize the District's regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$0.5791 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2024 (for collection in 2025), and the resulting levy dollar amount would thereafter be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050. Should this proposal be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Written by Fire Protection District No. 9

Skagit County Fire Protection District No. 9 (the "District") seeks voter approval to authorize an increase of \$0.19 per \$1,000 to restore its regular property tax levy to \$0.5791 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2024 (with collection beginning in 2025). This levy is the primary funding source for emergency services provided by the District. Fire and emergency medical services response standards and demand for service have increased. State limitations on funding increases do not allow the District to keep up with increasing operational costs, and planned capital projects. Voter approval of Proposition 1 will provide funding for the District to continue with the plan for fire and emergency medical services at current levels, and for the planned capital projects.

Argument For

Vote "Yes" on Prop. 1 for BLFD9, as our community's safety depends on it! In 2023, BLFD9 responded to 344 calls, including 11.3% for fires and 75.3% for medical emergencies, highlighting critical moments where lives, homes, and our community were at risk.

In our close-knit community, the likelihood of the BLFD responding to a call involving someone we know and care about is high. Our volunteer firefighters tirelessly *Serve and Save* those we cherish. It's unlikely any of us haven't been touched by the dedication of the BLFD at some point.

The last levy rate approved by voters in 2002 helped to restore crucial funding, similar to what Prop. 1 seeks from its supporters. Understanding the impacts of rising costs and taxes on us all, Prop. 1 is focused solely on essential needs.

The proposed \$0.19 levy lid increase, resulting in a total of \$0.5791 per \$1000, will ensure BLFD9 can maintain its current level of service and start to prepare for capital needs that will be necessary in the future. This contrasts with the 2022 General Election, where voters were asked to raise taxes to \$0.77 per \$1000. Further, the bond for our new firehall is set to be fully paid off by December 2032.

As our population continues to grow and demands increase, your Yes vote ensures BLFD9 remains a reliable source of aid during times of need. Join us in supporting the BLFD and our firefighters by making this critical investment to keep our community safe.

Committee Spokesperson: Pam Baird
 Contact: pamanddanbaird@msn.com
 Committee Members: Jerry Severson, Dani Russell

Argument Against

No information submitted.