

# Fire Protection District No. 3

Snohomish County Fire Protection District # 3 provides fire and emergency medical services to both the City of Monroe and the unincorporated areas surrounding it. Snohomish County Fire Protection District #3 is a combination department comprised of career and volunteer Firefighters.

## Proposition 1

### Ballot Title

#### Tax Levy for Maintenance and Operations

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 3 (Monroe Fire District 3) adopted Resolution No. 2012-3 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District beginning with collection in 2013 and continuing three consecutive years thereafter to be used for maintenance and operations to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount for each of the four years would be \$2,250,000 with an approximate rate of \$0.96 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

### Explanatory Statement

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 3 (Monroe Fire District 3) adopted Resolution No. 2012-3 requesting an election to authorize a maintenance and operations property tax levy to be collected for four years beginning in 2013. The State's voters and the State Legislature, respectively, amended the Constitution and the Revised Code of Washington in 2002 to allow maintenance and operation levies for fire districts for up to four years. As a result of declining tax revenues and increasing costs, the fire district's regular tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing fire, emergency medical, and rescue services at existing levels of service. This additional levy would maintain the existing level of service from 2013 through 2016.

This levy would fund about 29% of the department's annual budget. If the voters approve this levy, the law prohibits any additional tax levies for maintenance and operational support of the district for this four-year period.

### Statement For

Statement by: Nate Hettinga, Deborah Nalty

Please join your local firefighters and paramedics and Vote Yes for Proposition 1.

Your Yes vote will save lives and maintain the quality fire and emergency services our community expects and deserves.

Declining property values resulted in a \$1.5 million shortfall in our fire district's budget since 2010. Without this levy, this deficit will increase to over \$2 million. Firefighters and staff have already given back contractually guaranteed pay raises two years in a row. Despite reducing budgets and cutting discretionary spending, our district cannot continue to provide the same quality of services without replacing lost revenue.

Approving this levy will save lives.

- **It will keep all fire stations open and fully staffed** with highly trained firefighters and paramedics so all areas of our community have fast response to 911 calls.
- **It will prevent the planned 18 firefighter and paramedic layoffs**, so there are enough trained staff to respond to emergencies quickly.
- **It will maintain EMS ambulance transport services** so patients can get to hospitals and healthcare facilities quickly.
- **It will allow the district to continue lifesaving programs**, including flood and water rescue programs, technical rescue and hazardous materials response, and fire and injury prevention education.

Lives and property can be saved with your approval of this levy which will only cost the average homeowner about \$14 per month.

It's Your Choice! Please support the fire district that supports you. Please join local firefighters and medical professionals and Vote Yes to maintain Fire & EMS!

### No Statement Against Submitted

## Be an informed voter.

An informed voter:

- familiarizes themselves with the races and issues that appear on the ballot,
- reads and follows the ballot directions,
- does not write-in silly names for office,
- signs their ballot envelope, and
- returns their ballot as soon as practical.