

# Fire Protection District No. 7

## Proposition 1

### Ballot Title

Authorizing Additional Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Will Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 7 be authorized to impose a PERMANENT regular property tax levy of \$0.50 or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical and paramedic services?

### Explanatory Statement

Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 7 requests voter authorization to provide funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for District 7 residents. The current EMS levy will expire at the end of 2010, and is the primary funding for paramedic and emergency medical services provided by the District. Emergency medical services are life-saving and life-sustaining services provided by the Fire District. Over 75% of the District's calls for service by the District are EMS calls. The revenue generated may only be used for EMS purposes, and the law requires separate accounting of EMS expenditures. The levy proceeds will be used exclusively for paramedic and emergency medical care or emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care and emergency services.

If approved by the voters, this proposition will allow the District to establish a permanent EMS levy rate which may be less than, but may not exceed 50 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. RCW 84.52.069 provides that an EMS levy may be permanently approved by the voters subject to an annual right of referendum by the voters. The EMS levy is an "excess" levy, meaning that disabled and low income elderly are exempt.

### Statement For

*Statement by: Troy Smith*

This EMS levy is 100% about protecting you and your family. The levy is used for emergency medical services (EMS) only. It is local dollars for local service. The revenue goes directly to services for you in your neighborhood.

The current EMS levy expires this year. Voting Yes ensures funding to maintain service at today's level. What will happen if the levy fails? Unit closures. This means when you call 911, the station closest to you may not be staffed. You will have to wait for medics to arrive from a more distant station. When you need life saving help, every second counts.

Did you know a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival decreases by 10% for every minute care is delayed?

We know times are tough. Your Fire Department has already made significant cutbacks. Unfortunately, there is no substitute for having enough trained paramedics on duty to respond to each and every call for help whenever or wherever they are needed.

Bottom line: This levy is necessary for fast emergency medical response when you need it most. If the EMS levy fails it will cause drastic cuts to emergency services. Without voter approval, our Fire District will LOSE ALL EMS FUNDING for 2011 and beyond.

Please vote Yes on the Fire District 7 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy.

For more information, see [www.VoteYesForEMS.org](http://www.VoteYesForEMS.org).

**No Statement Against Submitted**