



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PUGET SOUND FIRE PROPOSITION 1**

Kent, Wash –Aug 7, 2019

While the official King County elections report shows only a percentage of the votes counted, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Proposition 1 appears to be passing.

Proposition 1 was run on the primary election ballot to authorize the RFA to restore its regular property tax levy to a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This was not a new tax but a rebalancing of the funding mechanism to maintain and fund Puget Sound Fire operations.

As a Regional Fire Authority, we rely on a two-part funding system including the property tax in combination with a fire benefit charge. The benefit charge is a service fee based on the square footage of your structure and the amount of resources needed to extinguish a fire. Over time, the property tax collection rate across the fire authority has decreased from the previously approved \$1.00 to \$0.706 per \$1,000 of assessed value and has not kept up with the operational needs of our growing community. If approved, Proposition 1 restores the property tax rate to the previous amount and decreases the reliance on the benefit charge. With the restoration of the property tax to \$1.00 per thousand the department will lower and recalculate the benefit charge and apply that reduction to all parcels in the fire authority based on size and use to rebalance the funding systems. This rebalancing of the two-part funding will allow the department to continue to maintain and improve fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and continue to provide the level of service you are used to over the entire Puget Sound Fire response area.

Fire Chief Matt Morris stated, “While we recognize these results are not final or official, we feel confident that our measure will pass successfully. We will report the results as soon as they are posted.”

Terry McCartin, Chair of the Yes on Prop 1 committee added, “To all of our supporters, we thank you! The ballot measure upon which you said “yes”, will ensure a continued level of response to your emergent and non-emergent needs. The PSRFA sincerely appreciates your vote.”

King County elections will update their results daily at 4:00 We will continue to follow the results.

###

---

**MEDIA CONTACT: Captain Joe Root, PIO**  
24611 116th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington 98030  
**Desk 253.856.4481 - Cell 206.972.4082**