

**Emergency Medical Services Division**

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## **Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system of King County serving Seattle and King County -- Fact Sheet**

On June 3, 2013, the King County Council passed an ordinance placing a 6-year, 33.5-cent Medic One/EMS levy before the voters in November, 2013. This 33.5-cent levy rate supports the programmatic and fiscal proposals contained in the Council-adopted Medic One/EMS 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, and is the rate that the EMS Advisory Task Force endorsed in July of 2012. The levy is estimated to support approximately \$696 million in services over the next six years, and will cost the average homeowner about \$107 a year.

Following is information about the Medic One/EMS system serving Seattle and King County, and what the levy, if approved by voters in November of 2013, would fund.

### **What is Medic One/EMS?**

- Medic One/EMS services are those that you get anytime you call 911 for a medical emergency.
- The Medic One program was started in Seattle in 1970.
- It serves a region of roughly 2 million in population, and responds every 3 minutes to a medical emergency.
- Roughly 10% - 1 out of 10 - of our residents have used this Medic One/EMS system.
  - In 2012, firefighter/EMTs responded to more than 172,000 calls in King County.
  - Paramedics responded to more than 48,000 of those calls to provide critical medical help.

The cardiac arrest survival rate in 2012 for the Medic One/EMS system of King County is 57%. **This is the highest reported rate anywhere.**

### **What is Medic One/EMS Levy?**

- The Medic One/EMS system of King County has been primarily supported by an EMS levy since 1979, with subsequent levies in 1985, 1991, 1998, 2001 and 2007.
- The EMS levy is a property tax levy.
- The current Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2013.
- Voters will be asked to approve a levy renewal for 2014–2019 to fund this service.
- The Medic One/EMS levy renewal will be on the November 5, 2013 ballot.

## **What is the levy rate? How much will it cost me?**

- The proposed levy rate is 33.5-cents per \$1,000 AV.
- An average homeowner will pay approx. \$107 a year for Medic One services.
- The expiring levy rate is 30 cents per \$1,000 AV.
- An average homeowner paid approximately \$110 a year for Medic One Services under the expiring levy.
- A 33.5-cent rate will maintain existing services and allow services needed to meet future demand.

## **What will the levy fund?**

The levy will fund the proposal outlined in the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan.

- **Maintains existing programs**  
Continues the programs currently in place through 2014-2019 levy span:
  - The lights and sirens piece:
    - ALS (paramedic) services
    - First responder (BLS) services for local fire and emergency response departments
  - Programs that support functions and services across the entire Medic One/EMS system.
  - Maintains reserves.
- **Allows services needed to meet future demand**  
Services to maintain the Medic One system and manage the growth in demand and the costs of the system.
  - Modified programs so that the system can meet emerging community needs.