

The Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System

EMS LEVY FACT SHEET

What is Medic One/EMS?

The Medic One/EMS system serving Seattle and King County is known worldwide for its excellent medical results.

It provides lifesaving **services every 3 minutes**.

It is **available to everyone**, whatever the medical emergency.

By dialing 9-1-1, all residents **have immediate access to** the best possible medical care, regardless of location, circumstances, or time of day.

In **2016**, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was **56%** throughout the region.

Because of our strong program, cardiac arrest victims here are **3 to 4 times more likely to survive**, compared to other cities.

Why does our system work so well?

We get these high survival rates because of the unique configuration of our system. It includes the following key components:

It is a regional system based on partnerships so that no matter where you are in King County, you receive the same, consistent, high quality medical care.

It uses a tiered medical model founded on medicine so its services and practices are based on the highest standards of training, care, and scientific evidence.

It utilizes programs and innovative strategies to obtain superior medical outcomes and continually improve to meet its own needs and expectations, as well as those of its residents.

It focuses on cost effectiveness and efficiencies that extend through all EMS program areas, and benefit the entire regional EMS system and its users.

It maintains an EMS levy as its funding source which has proven to be secure and reliable.

What is the EMS levy?

The Medic One/EMS system of King County has been primarily supported by a countywide, voter-approved EMS levy since 1979.

The current Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2019.

Voters will be asked to renew the levy in order to continue funding this life-saving service.

In 2018, the region will begin its comprehensive levy planning process to develop the Strategic Plan and levy rate for the next Medic One/EMS levy.

The all-inclusive process will bring together **leaders and decision-makers from throughout region** and **Stakeholders** representing all parts of the system to assess the needs of the system and developed recommendations to direct the system into the future.

Medic One/EMS levy details

RCW 84.52.069 allows jurisdictions to levy a property tax “for the purpose of providing emergency medical services”. Specifically, it:

- Allows a jurisdiction to impose an additional regular property tax **up to \$0.50 per \$1,000 Assessed Value (AV)**;

Current levy: Beginning (2014) rate of 33.5 cents per \$1,000 AV

The increased AV results in lowering of the levy rate:

2017 levy rate:	26.3 cents per \$1,000 AV
2018 levy rate:	24.2 cents per \$1,000 AV
2019 levy rate:	22.9 cents per \$1,000 AV

- Allows for a **six-year, ten-year, or permanent levy period**;

King County EMS levies have never exceeded 6 years.

- Falls **outside the \$5.90 per \$1,000 AV statutory tax levy limitations**;

- Allows **taxing districts to levy a tax equal to the difference between the County rate and 50 cents**;

- Must be run at a different election;
- Would end concurrently with the County levy; and
- Would be reduced first if combined levies (County and other district) exceed 50 cents.

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- Requires approval by the legislative authority of **cities with population exceeding 50,000** before placing the levy on the ballot, and the King County Council;

As of April 2017, there are 11 cities, with the new ones in **bold**: Auburn, Bellevue, **Burien**, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, **Sammamish**, Seattle and Shoreline

- Requires for passage an **approval rate of 60% or greater** at an election for which the **voter turnout must exceed 40%** of the prior general election; and

Previous (2012) general election turnout:	978,377
Ballots cast in 2013 general:	<u>551,665</u>
% turnout:	56.39%

2013 approval rating: 84%

- Requires a **simple majority vote** if continuing a levy at the same rate.

2017 EMS levy rates

Jurisdiction	2017 rate
City of Arlington	\$0.42
City of Brier	\$0.43
City of Edmonds	\$0.49
City of Everett	\$0.44
City of Lynnwood	\$0.41
City of Marysville	\$0.39
City of Mill Creek	\$0.50
City of Mountlake Terrace	\$0.46
City of Mukilteo	\$0.43
City of Stanwood	\$0.48
City of Bainbridge	\$0.37
City of Bremerton	\$0.45
City of Poulsbo	\$0.46
City of Silverdale	\$0.46
City of Buckley	\$0.50
City of Eatonville	\$0.50
City of Tacoma	\$0.50
City of Spokane	\$0.50
City of Bothell	\$0.25
Skagit County	\$0.36
Thurston County	\$0.35
King County	\$0.26
Yakima County	\$0.25