To register to vote in Washington, you must be:
• A citizen of the United States;
• A legal resident of Washington State;
• At least 18 years old by Election Day; and
• Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

To register to vote:
• Download a registration form from the King County Elections website and return it by mail.
• Register online with the Secretary of State, or contact King County Elections office.
• Register in person at the King County Elections office.
• Register in person at the Voter Annex in Seattle.
• Register via Online Voter Registration.

How to register:
To register to vote at any time, there are no registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the April 23, 2013, special election are:
• April 15 – In-person registration deadline for people who need assistance completing their registration form or who want to register in a private, independent ballot.
• April 22 – Deadline to register to vote online or by mail, or update existing voter registration information.

Registering to vote Returning your ballot

For this election

More information inside

Edition 5

King County Official Local Voters’ Pamphlet
as requested by King County Fire Protection District No. 40

April 23, 2013 Special Election

Contact us

Phone: 206-296-VOTE (8683)
1-800-325-6165
TTY Relay: 711

Email: elections@kingcounty.gov

Online: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Mail or in-person:
919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Voter Registration
500 4th Ave., Room 311
Renton, WA 98057

Annex: Seattle, WA 98104

For more information call 206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Please recycle your voters’ pamphlet
To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

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Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply download a new registration form to update your information.

Requirements

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More information inside
King County Fire Protection District No. 40

Proposition No. 1
Benefit Charge Continuation

Shall King County Fire Protection District No. 40 be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each year for six years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.100?
Yes
No

Statement in favor

Voters of King County Fire District #40 first approved the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) in 1990, reauthorizing it in 1995, 2001 and 2007. We are asking for your support to ensure fire and life safety protection for the citizens and businesses of Fairwood.

What is the advantage of the FBC? The FBC provides funding for appropriate staffing levels for a 24-hour Aid Car, a fire engine and modern apparatus to respond to emergencies. The fire district can keep its facilities safe, updated and maintained to provide essential services. The FBC allows the fire district to be less dependent on property taxes while maintaining stable service levels for its citizens.

State law allows the FBC to be up to 60% of the fire district’s operational budget. The district’s Board of Fire Commissioners has stayed well below that amount, with a ten year average of 40.3 percent.

We ask for your support in keeping our community safe. Vote yes on Prop 1!

This Fire Benefit Charge is endorsed by:
King County Councilman Reagan Dunn (R)
Washington State Senators: Bob Hasegawa (D-11th) and Joe Fain (R-47th)
Washington State Representatives: Pat Sullivan (D-47th), Zack Hudgins (D-11th) and Steve Bergquist (D-11th)

Statement submitted by: Doug Gibbs, Marcia Holland, and Bill Taylor • drgibbs40@aol.com

Explanatory statement

King County Fire Protection District 40 is responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical services in your community. For over the last twenty years the Fire District has funded these services primarily through a combination of property taxes and voter approved benefit charges.

Benefit charges are based on risk factors and the cost of providing fire protection services, unlike property taxes that relate to the value of property. Under state law, voters must renew the use of benefit charges every 6 years and the Fire District’s Elected Board of Commissioners is required to hold a public hearing each year to review and establish the amount of the benefit charge. Once established the aggregate amount of the charge is pro-rated to individual properties based on risk factors and collected by the county assessor, together with property taxes. The amount of any benefit charge imposed on any given property cannot exceed the measurable benefits of the services afforded to the property by the Fire District and are subject to appeal.

Under state law, fire districts which collect benefit charges authorized under Chapter 52.18 RCW have reduced taxing authority. Benefit charges can constitute no more than 60 percent of a district’s annual operating budget and the fire district’s maximum property tax rate is reduced from $1.50 to $1.00 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

If approved, Proposition 1 would continue the current funding methods utilized by Fire District 40 to provide emergency medical and fire protection services for the next 6 years.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Paul Witt
425-255-6931 • FireDistrict40@gmail.com

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

The security envelope has been redesigned

1. Slip your ballot inside the black and white envelope. The margin of your ballot will stick out from the side, but all your votes will be covered.

2. Do not make additional folds to your ballot or tape the envelope shut.

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Statement submitted by: Doug Gibbs, Marcia Holland, and Bill Taylor • drgibbs40@aol.com

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.
Proposition No. 1
Levy of General Tax for Maintenance and Operations

The Board of King County Fire Protection District No. 44 adopted Resolution No. 13-484 concerning a proposition to adequately finance maintenance and operation costs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District beginning with collection in 2014 and continuing for three years thereafter to be used for the support of fire protection and emergency medical services, facilities, maintenance, staffing and operations. The levy amount for each of the four years would be $650,000 with an approximate rate each year of $0.31 per $1,000 of assessed valuation (the actual rate will be based on assessed values).

Should this proposition be approved?
Yes
No

Statement in favor

Fire District 44 has never requested a levy of this type. The District has met our needs with the statutory funds based on property value. Due to the 39.8% decline in assessed valuation of property in our district, the district now needs to ask us for support. This need will be short-term (four years) as property values are expected to increase.

As your neighbors, we encourage you to vote “YES” for this levy. The Fire District has been there for us when loved ones have had heart attacks, when our children have sustained serious injuries, when our homes have been consumed with fire—we need to support the district now so that they will continue to provide the level of service we need.

Many could share a personal story of how the District 44’s response has impacted our lives. We are blessed with a district that exceeds county and national average in heart attack survival rates—this is due to response time, skill and training. It is also critical that the eight schools in our district have timely emergency response from trained professionals.

We ask you to please vote “YES” and mail in your ballot!

Linda S. Cowan, Monroe Shropshire, and Karen Weisman

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Explanatory statement

If approved by the voters, the Fire District will be authorized to levy a maintenance and operations excess levy in the sum of $650,000.00 per year to be collected in 2014 through 2017. Such levy will be in addition to the District’s regular and EMS tax levies for a temporary four-year period. Based on current assessed property valuations the District estimates that the tax levy rate necessary to generate these funds each year will be approximately $0.31 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. In subsequent years the levy rate will decrease if assessed property values increase.

Declining assessed property values have caused the District’s revenue to drop $1,850,151.00 from 2008 to 2013. During this same period, the cost of specialized equipment, personnel training, and supplies required by various laws, codes and standards have increased. Due to the decrease in revenues, the District will not be able to maintain current staffing and service levels within the limitations of the District’s regular tax levy. The proposed maintenance and operations levy funds will be used to maintain service levels and retain firefighters.

If the levy is approved, the additional maximum tax per $100,000.00 assessed valuation is estimated not to exceed approximately $31.00 each year or an additional $2.58 per month for fire protection and emergency medical services.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Greg Smith - Fire Chief
253-755-0284 • info@kcfd44.org

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement submitted by: Linda S. Cowan, Monroe Shropshire, and Karen Weisman

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Make your declaration before placing your ballot into the security envelope.
To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

• A citizen of the United States;
• A legal resident of Washington State;
• At least 16 years old by Election Day, and
• Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

To register:

• Download a registration form from the King County Elections website and return it by mail.
• Register in person at the King County Elections office.
• Register online with the Secretary of State.

Check your voter registration:

• Online by visiting the Secretary of State’s website.
• By calling 206-296-VOTE (8683).
• At a voting center on Election Day.

Keep your voter registration current:

• Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

For more information call 206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections