

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE BOARD RESOLUTION
STATING ITS SUPPORT FOR COUNTYWIDE PROPOSITION NO.1
Resolution 09052018-15

WHEREAS, South County Fire regionally serves 250,000 people in unincorporated Snohomish County and the cities of Lynnwood, Brier, Mountlake Terrace and Edmonds. Our 300 dedicated firefighters and paramedics daily work to provide very high quality and speedy emergency services to our local communities; and

WHEREAS, in order to serve the public with outstanding, lifesaving service, our South County Fire firefighters and paramedics depend on reliable and instant 9-1-1 communications to quickly get to the scene of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, SERS, the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System, despite its best efforts, has this year experienced repeat failures and breakdowns of its existing, and outdated radio system now in its 20th year and soon reaching its expected end of life; and

WHEREAS, emergency 9-1-1 radio service has become increasingly problematic and unreliable for conducting essential 9-1-1 first response communications; and

WHEREAS, 16 other counties in our state have already taken action to fund updating their 9-1-1 equipment by utilizing the only specific state authorized funding mechanism to meet this emergency communications equipment funding need; and

WHEREAS, as Fire Commissioners, we have joined other local government officials from around the county to urge Snohomish County to provide voters with an opportunity this year to decide on whether to approve a countywide sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent as specifically authorized by RCW 82.14.420.

WHEREAS, the Board, to achieve greater efficiencies, has supported 2018 consolidation efforts to combine two previously independent 9-1-1 local dispatch centers and to now merge with SERS to form one, unified emergency communications organization under the banner of Snohomish County 911, and

WHEREAS, following our recommendation along with other local agencies and those of Snohomish County's Executive and Sheriff, the five-member County Council unanimously voted on June 20, 2018 to authorize a countywide vote at the upcoming November 6 general election on this proposed sales tax funding measure; and

WHEREAS, we support a small and dedicated county sales tax increase intended only to fund local emergency 9-1-1 communications equipment and infrastructure as it would avoid adding to local property tax burdens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Commissioners of South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue (aka South County Fire), respectfully urge that voters consider the need for maintaining continual 9-1-1 emergency communications when deciding how to vote on Proposition No. 1. We believe having a reliable radio system to replace the existing failing countywide SERS 911 emergency radio system is critical to maintaining lifesaving public safety services in our South County region. Having considered this ballot proposition in an open public meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners for South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue formally expresses its support of countywide Proposition No.1 as it appears on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot.

RESOLVED this 5th day of September, 2018 the following Commissioners being present and voting.



Jim Kenny, CHAIR




Ben Goodwin, VICE-CHAIR



David Chan, Commissioner

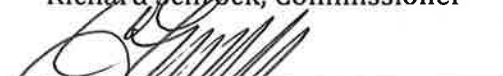


Bob Meador, Commissioner



Richard Schrock, Commissioner

Jim McGaughey, Commissioner



Christine Prizzell, Commissioner



Attest: Melissa Blankenship, Board Secretary

