



Clark County Fire District 5

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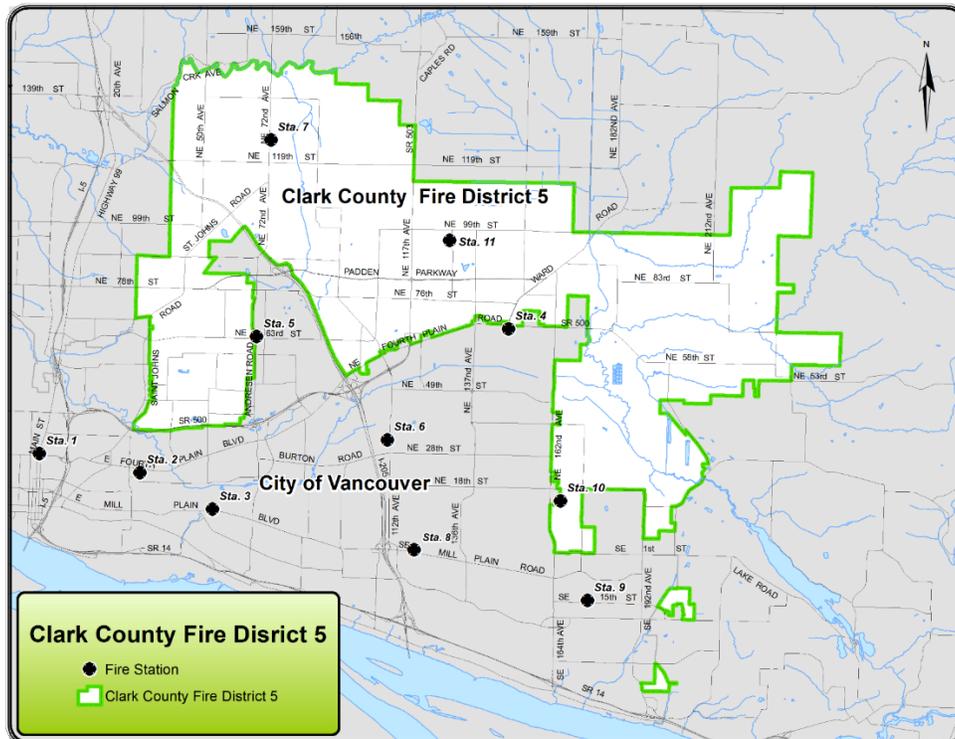
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Learn More About Clark County Fire District 5 *Fire Levy Lid Lift on August Primary Election Ballot*



Clark County Fire District 5 includes the unincorporated areas around the City of Vancouver, Wash.

VANCOUVER, WASH. – Clark County Fire District 5 includes the unincorporated areas almost surrounding the City of Vancouver, Wash. The Fire District includes approximately 94,000 residents and businesses over 36 square miles. CCFD5 has received fire and emergency medical service through a cooperative agreement with the Vancouver Fire Department since 1994. This agreement helps the Fire District provide a higher level and quality of service than a standalone department. It also adds capacity district-wide with additional units able to respond to emergencies.

“This partnership is a perfect example of how regionalization works. It’s more cost-effective for taxpayers, and benefits District residents by providing a higher level of service than each could afford on their own,” said Roy Rhine, who chairs the CCFD5 Board of Fire Commissioners.

Fire department operations at CCFD5 are funded by a voter-approved fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Over time, a fire levy rate falls as property values rise to limit a fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year (plus a 1% increase). CCFD5’s fire levy rate has fallen to \$1.01 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

At its March meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners for CCFD5 unanimously passed a resolution placing a fire levy lid lift on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. If approved by voters, the fire levy would reset at \$1.25 per \$1,000 A/V starting in 2023. The maximum a fire district could request for its fire levy is \$1.50 per \$1,000 A/V.

In 2021, firefighters responded to almost 7,000 calls for service in Fire District 5, a 20.8% increase in just three years. However, the number of firefighters serving the Vancouver area hasn’t changed for 15 years.

Revenue from the lid lift would be used to provide sustainable funding and hire three additional firefighters, including a paramedic, at the new Fire Station 11, which will begin serving the Orchards-Sifton area this fall. These new positions will help improve emergency response times district-wide.

Fire Department facilities also require improvements including seismic upgrades to ensure that stations can continue to operate in the event of an earthquake. Staffing and facility improvements will help maintain CCFD5’s risk rating, which is linked to what homeowners pay in insurance premiums.

Voters in the City of Vancouver approved a property tax increase of \$0.50 per \$1,000 A/V in February of this year. Voters in CCFD5 are being asked to consider a fire levy lid lift of \$0.24 per \$1,000 A/V. Neighboring agencies with a fire and EMS levy are paying closer to \$2 per \$1,000 for the same quality and level of service.

The lid lift would cost the owner of a \$400,000 home an additional \$8 per month (\$96 per year). This would be the first voter-approved funding increase in approximately 28 years for CCFD5.

“We have worked closely with Clark County Fire District 5 to operate a cost-effective and highly-efficient emergency response system for the residents and visitors of the greater Vancouver area,” said Fire Chief Brennan Blue. “The lid lift is an investment to protect the quality and level of service residents require.”

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Clark County Fire District 5 contracts with the Vancouver Fire Department to provide fire and life safety services to approximately 94,000 people over 36 square miles. In 2021, firefighters responded to almost 7,000 calls for service in CCFD5, a 20.8% increase in just three years. CCFD5 has been a leader in the county for improving the quality of emergency services, and health and safety through its public education and training programs. More information on CCFD5 can be found on its website www.ccf5.org.