

**Questions about the fire levy lid lift?
We have the answers.**

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CLARK COUNTY

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Clark County Fire District 5 is asking voters for a fire levy lid lift. The proposal will be on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. More information can be found on CCFD5's website at www.ccf5.org. Jennifer Bethke, District Administrator, also is available to answer questions about the lid lift at 564-397-2148 or jennifer.bethke@ccfd5.org.

Who provides my family/business with fire and emergency medical service?

CCFD5 has a cooperative agreement with the Vancouver Fire Department to provide fire and emergency medical service. This provides a higher level and quality of service than the District could afford on its own.

Why is my fire district asking for this?

Call volumes have increased 20.8% in three years, but the number of firefighters serving Vancouver and the CCFD5 community has not changed for 15 years. Fire facilities are aging and require renovations for public and firefighter safety, and space for additional staffing. Emergency apparatus also needs replacing to better serve the community.

What's the most my fire district could ask for? When was the last voter-approved tax increase?

By state law, a fire district can ask voters to approve \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Voters last approved a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed property value (A/V) 30 years ago. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year. CCFD5's levy has fallen to \$1.01 per \$1,000 A/V since that time.

Didn't voters in the City of Vancouver recently pass a tax increase for fire/EMS?

Yes, voters passed a \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value tax increase for emergency services. CCFD5 is asking for \$0.24 per \$1,000 to keep up with rising costs to provide service.

If Vancouver property owners passed a tax increase, why are you asking us to do so?

We are served by the Vancouver Fire Department on a contract basis. Contract costs are increasing, and this lid lift is necessary in order to maintain emergency service levels for District residents and businesses.

How much will it cost? How long will it last?

The lid lift would increase the fire levy from \$1.01 to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and last for six years. If approved by voters, the 24-cent "lid lift" would cost the owner of a \$400,000 home an additional \$8 per month (\$96 per year). With voter approval, the District is able to increase the fire levy up to 6% per year not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of AV. (This is standard language, and the CCFD5 Board of Fire Commissioners has typically only taken a 1% increase.)