



NORTH COUNTY FIRE / EMS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North County Fire & EMS is on the August primary ballot

EMS proposal would fund additional personnel to respond to higher call volumes

STANWOOD, WASH. – North County Fire & EMS is asking voters for an EMS levy lid lift on the August 1, 2023, primary election ballot. EMS is the fire authority's most used service and accounts for 86 percent of all emergency calls. Ballots begin arriving in mailboxes July 14.

North County Fire & EMS provides a 24-hour EMS response that includes both Basic Life Support (BLS) with trained emergency medical technicians and Advanced Life Support (ALS) with highly skilled paramedics. ALS is the highest level of care available outside a hospital.

Call volumes for the fire authority have increased by 27 percent since 2016. The lid lift would provide full-time staffing at Station 96 in Freeborn. It would also fund up to six firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics per shift to provide an additional transport unit.

Currently there are times when emergency personnel are out of service for up to four hours while transporting a patient to an area hospital. This can lead to longer response times for EMS calls that happen during that time. Another transport unit will help reduce response times and increase service capacity districtwide.

The lid lift would also replace three ambulances and fund local training programs to ensure residents continue to receive the highest level of EMS care possible.

Voters approved an EMS levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2015. Since that time, the rate has dropped to \$0.28. The fire authority is asking voters to return the rate to \$0.50. The lid lift would cost an additional \$99 per year or \$8.25 per month for the owner of a \$450,000 home (considered average).

Ballots must be postmarked by August 1, 2023, or placed in a ballot box by 8 p.m. on Election Day to count.

More information about the EMS levy lid lift can be found at www.northcountyfireems.com.

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North County Regional Fire Authority, known as North County Fire & EMS, provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 46,000 people over 120 square miles, including the cities of Stanwood and Arlington. Emergency personnel respond to an average of 10,000 calls per year – of which 86 percent are for EMS. North County Fire & EMS operates under a balanced budget, is debt-free, and has passed all independent audits by the state.