



Questions About the Fire Levy Lid Lift?



We have the answers.

What's on my ballot?

North County Regional Fire Authority (NCRFA) is asking voters to renew the fire levy at the previously voter-approved amount of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The proposal will be on the August 5, 2025, primary election ballot.

How do we fund emergency services?

NCRFA funds emergency services through a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 and an EMS levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000. Over time, these levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the fire authority to roughly the same amount of revenue per year (or any other voter-approved amount). For example, voters approved a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2020 and it has fallen to \$1.32 per \$1,000 in 2025.

What is a "lid lift"?

As call volumes and costs increase, the fire authority requires additional revenue to maintain the level and quality of service our community receives. A "lid lift" returns the levy to an amount previously approved by voters, which provides additional funding for emergency services.

Why is my fire district asking for this?

Call volumes have increased 26% in three years. More calls mean higher costs, and these costs are significantly higher due to inflation (18.5% in the same time period). The fire levy also accounts for 60% of the revenue we have for emergency services. This means it also funds our EMS program, which is 84% of all emergency calls.

What will the lid lift fund?

The lid lift will replace two engines, one ambulance (per year for six years) and refurbish a fire ladder truck. It also will fund renovations at Station 90 (Kackman) to accommodate additional emergency personnel to improve response times. These projects are important to maintain our risk rating, which is associated with what you homeowners pay for insurance premiums.

What will it cost?

The \$0.18 lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home (considered an average for our area) an additional \$91.68 per year/\$7.64 per month.

This is not a new tax. It is a renewal of an existing levy.

Learn more at www.northcountyfireems.com or contact Fire Chief Dave Kraski at 360-629-2184 or dkraski@northcountyfireems.com. Thank you for considering our request.