



# Pierce County Fire District 21

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**Gerald W. Gustafson**  
Commissioner

**Russell T. Barstow**  
Commissioner

**Adam Rosenlund**  
Commissioner

**Ryan Baskett**  
Fire Chief

## RESOLUTION NO. 859

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21, GRAHAM FIRE AND RESCUE, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE FIRE DISTRICT, AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE FIRE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 2, 2016, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A PERMANENT LEVY OF A REGULAR PROPERTY TAX IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY CENTS (50¢) PER THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) OF THE TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION, IN ADDITION TO ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY, AS AUTHORIZED IN RCW 84.52.069, TO BE LEVIED FIRST IN 2016, AND TO BE COLLECTED IN 2017 AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER SUCCEEDING THE YEAR OF THE LEVY. SAID LEVY SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PERMANENT PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, INCLUDING PERSONNEL COSTS, TRAINING FOR SUCH PERSONNEL, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND VEHICLES. THIS RESOLUTION ALSO ESTABLISHES A REFERENDUM PROCEDURE APPLICABLE TO THE ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING THE TAX, AND REQUIRES SEPARATE ACCOUNTING FOR EMS EXPENDITURES AND REVENUE, AND REQUIRES AT LEAST A BIENNIAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT, AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE.

WHEREAS, Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21, Graham Fire and Rescue, has heretofore received approval by qualified electors of an EMS levy as an additional regular property tax in an amount equal to fifty cents (50¢) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value of property, to support the cost of emergency medical services provided by the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the nation, in Pierce County, and in the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of paramedic services in Pierce County has greatly enhanced the survival rate of victims of cardiac arrest and the initiation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation by bystanders or emergency medical technicians has doubled hospital discharge rates; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Fire District No.21 that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the Fire District that emergency medical services be maintained and improved; and

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WHEREAS, such services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for maintenance, operations, equipment and personnel in excess of those moneys provided by the District's regular tax levy; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 allows the voters to approve a permanent EMS levy to assure necessary funding in the future to provide revenue for these essential life-saving services; and

WHEREAS, such statute provides for a referendum procedure, applicable to the resolution imposing the tax;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** To continue to meet the need for high quality emergency medical services, including advanced life support (paramedic) services, and to meet the emergency medical needs arising from accelerated growth within the community, to satisfy personnel and equipment needs, to raise revenues adequate to pay costs attributable to providing adequate emergency medical services, and to maintain reserve funds, the Fire District shall commence to levy in 2016, for collection each and every year thereafter beginning in 2017, a general tax on taxable property in the District in an amount of up to fifty cents (50¢) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of true and fair assessed valuation of the District.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to the authorization in RCW 84.52.069, as amended, this levy is a permanent regular property tax levy in addition to the statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043 and is not subject to the limitation of RCW 84.55.010 for the first levy imposed pursuant to RCW 84.52.069(6), but is subject thereto for all future levies.

**Section 3.** This levy must be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters of the Fire District approving the proposition authorizing the levies, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent (40%) of the total number of voters voting in the District at the last preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the total number of voters voting in the District in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters of the District voting on the proposition when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent (40%) of the total number of voters voting in the District in the last preceding general election.

**Section 4.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Fire District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on August 2, 2016, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 21 does hereby declare that the auditor of Pierce County, as ex officio Supervisor of Elections, is hereby requested to call said election and to submit the following proposition at said election in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

**Proposition One**  
**Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21**  
**(Graham Fire and Rescue)**  
**Permanent Regular Property Tax Levy**  
**For Emergency Medical Services**

The Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 has adopted a resolution calling for an election to authorize a permanent EMS levy. This tax levy, subject to an annual right of referendum by the voters, shall only be used for EMS, and specifically personnel costs, training for such personnel, and equipment, all related to providing emergency medical services.

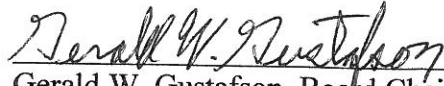
Shall Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 be authorized to impose a permanent regular property tax levy of up to fifty cents (50¢) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation, for EMS services, subject to an annual right of referendum?

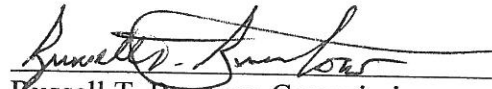
YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

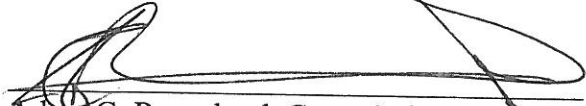
**Section 5.** There is hereby established a referendum procedure applicable to the annual resolution of the Fire Commissioners imposing the tax. A referendum petition may be filed with the Fire Chief or his delegee, within twenty (20) days after adoption of the annual resolution imposing the tax. Within ten (10) days after such filing, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification number, and secure an accurate, concise and positive ballot title from the attorney for the District. The petitioner shall then have thirty (30) days in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330.

**Section 6.** Separate accounting shall be established for all revenues to and expenditures from the EMS funds generated pursuant to this resolution and the resultant annual EMS levies. The District shall maintain a statement of the accounting, which shall be updated at least every two (2) years and shall be available to the public upon request at no charge.

**MOVED AND PASSED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 ON APRIL 25, 2016, OF WHICH ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE NOTIFIED AND THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AND VOTING:**

  
Gerald W. Gustafson, Board Chairman

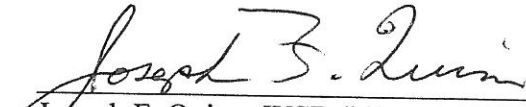
  
Russell T. Barstow, Commissioner

  
Adam G. Rosenlund, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Joseph F. Quinn, WSB #6810  
Attorney for District 21