

History of Elections for Fire and EMS Services

Most fire agencies, especially fire districts and regional fire authorities, place regular measures on the ballot to secure and increase their funding for fire services. Cities that provide fire services don't seem to do this as regularly as fire districts. *The information below is from Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC).*

Local Ballot Measure Database

Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) has created a Local Ballot Measure Database that tracks how city, county, and special purpose district ballot measures have fared in Washington State since November 2011, including the jurisdiction, date, statutory authority, voter approval percentage, and summary of each measure.

The results in this database are unofficial and are for research purposes only. Please note that MRSC does not track school district ballot measures. Many local ballot measures only require a simple majority (50% plus one) with no minimum voter turnout. However, bond measures and certain other voted revenue sources require a 60% supermajority and may also require minimum validation (voter turnout) requirements. While MRSC does its best to accurately reflect this information in the database, MRSC does not track voter turnout and cannot guarantee that ballot measures requiring validation have met their minimum voter turnout requirements.

For official vote tallies, check with the local county auditor's office. However, it is up to each taxing district (and not the county auditor's office or MRSC) to determine whether any given ballot measure passed.

How Often are the Results Updated? MRSC updates the database a few weeks after every special, primary, and general election, as soon as possible after the results are certified by the counties. **The database is current through the August 2021 primary election.**

Results Summary

Statewide, there were 2,133 Ballot measures by city, county and special districts in the past ten years. Overall, 77% of these measures passed. Statewide, there were 614 Ballot measures that had the word "Fire" in them, and of these 84% passed. There are also several ballot measures with "EMS" and these are often included in "Fire" ballot measures.

In King County, there were 208 Ballot measures by city, county and special districts in the past ten years. Overall, 69% of these measures passed. In King County, there were 72 Ballot measures that had the word "Fire" in them, and of these 82% passed.

For measures that didn't pass the first time, many jurisdictions often placed another similar measure on the ballot on an upcoming election, which more often did pass the second time.

MRSC Local Ballot Measure Database from November 2011 to August 2021 for city, county and special districts

Summary Information

State wide	Statewide	"Fire"	% Statewide
Total Ballot Measures	2133	614	29%
Measures Passed	1640	516	31%
Measures Failed	454	98	22%
Advisory Measures	39	0	0%
Pass Percentage	77%	84%	

	King County	"Fire"	% King County
Total Ballot Measures	208	72	35%
Measures Passed	144	59	41%
Measures Failed	55	13	24%
Advisory Measures	9	0	0%
Pass Percentage	69%	82%	

Below are the detailed ballot measures in King County that were for “Fire” services; South King County (Zone 3) Jurisdictions are noted with an asterisk (*)

[Bellevue](#)

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.125 to \$1.255, 20 years) for fire improvements, including seismic retrofits, new fire station, and logistics warehouse space.

November 2016 - Passed (56.98% / 43.02%)

[Bothell](#)

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.96, 6 years) for increased fire, police, and traffic officers, mental health staff, and other public safety expenses. Limit factor: annual CPI-W change; levy lid lift expires in 2030.

November 2018 - Passed (60.06% / 39.94%)

[Bothell](#)

Bonds (20 years, \$35.5 million) to reconstruct or renovate two fire stations.

November 2018 - Passed (64.51% / 35.49%)

[Eastside Regional Fire Protection Authority](#)

Formation of a regional fire protection service authority by two fire districts.

November 2016 - Failed (58.49% / 41.51%)

[Eastside Regional Fire Protection Authority](#)

Forming a new regional fire authority from two fire protection districts and funded by regional fire authority benefit charges (6 years) and a regular property tax levy (not to exceed \$1.00, or \$1.50 if benefit charges are not collected).

April 2016 - Failed (56.80% / 43.20%)

*[Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority](#) (now Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority)
Regional fire authority benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

April 2016 - Passed (64.54% / 35.46%)

[King County](#)

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.07, 9 years) to replace the emergency radio network used by police, fire, and other first responders.

April 2015 - Passed (65.41% / 34.59%)

*[King County Fire District No. 39 - South King County Fire and Rescue](#)

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.29) for fire and EMS maintenance, operations, and increased level of service.

August 2012 - Passed (60.96% / 39.04%)

*[King County Fire District No. 39 - South King County Fire and Rescue](#)

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.29) for fire and EMS maintenance and operations.

April 2012 - Failed (59.32% / 40.68%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 10](#)

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (10 years).

August 2021 - Passed (77.79% / 22.21%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 10](#)

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

November 2015 - Passed (78.81% / 21.19%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 10](#)

Bonds (20 years, \$5.5 million) for new and remodeled fire stations and related equipment.

February 2012 - Passed (64.69% / 35.31%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 16 - Northshore Fire Department](#)

Merger into Woodinville Fire & Rescue.

April 2021 - Failed (20.13% / 79.87%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 16 - Northshore Fire Department](#)

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

February 2019 - Passed (90.66% / 9.34%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 16 - Northshore Fire Department](#)

Fire benefit charges, continued imposition (6 years).

April 2013 - Passed (88.04% / 11.96%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 2

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) to maintain current levels of fire and emergency medical services. Limit factor: 106%.

August 2021 - Passed (59.48% / 40.52%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 2 – Burien/Normandy Park

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) for fire district operations and maintenance. Limit factor: 6% annually.

August 2016 - Passed (57.94% / 42.06%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 2 – Burien/Normandy Park

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent), for fire district maintenance and operations. Limit factor: 6% annually.

November 2015 - Failed (47.33% / 52.67%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 20 - Skyway/Bryn Mawr/Lakeridge area

Fire district excess levy (4 years, up to \$0.53) for fire district maintenance and operations.

November 2017 - Passed (70.71% / 29.29%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 20 - Skyway/Bryn Mawr/Lakeridge area

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.60 up to \$0.90) for fire protection and EMS maintenance and operations.

November 2012 - Passed (72.71% / 27.29%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 27 - Fall City

Fire district excess levy (4 year, \$0.47) for fire and EMS support, replacing expiring levy.

November 2020 - Passed (71.99% / 28.01%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 27 - Fall City

Merger into King County Fire District No. 10.

April 2019 - Failed (46.25% / 53.75%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 27 - Fall City

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.45) for maintenance and operation costs.

November 2016 - Passed (66.67% / 33.33%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 27 - Fall City

Fire district excess levy (3 years, \$0.50) for fire protection and EMS maintenance and operation.

November 2013 - Passed (75.31% / 24.69%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 28 - Enumclaw

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years) for fire and EMS. Limit factor: 6% annually.

April 2016 - Passed (53.42% / 46.58%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 28 - Enumclaw

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) for fire district maintenance, operations, and equipment. Limit factor: annual CPI increase.

November 2013 - Failed (36.16% / 63.84%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 40 - Spring Glen

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

April 2019 - Passed (88.10% / 11.90%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 40 - Spring Glen

Fire benefit charges, continued imposition (6 years).

April 2013 - Passed (87.51% / 12.49%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 43 - Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) for fire district operations. Limit factor: 6% annually.

November 2017 - Passed (59.80% / 40.20%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 43 - Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety

Fire district benefit charges, initial levy (6 years).

August 2017 - Failed (44.85% / 55.15%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 43 - Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety

Fire district benefit charges, initial levy (6 years).

August 2016 - Failed (58.72% / 41.28%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 43 - Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety

Fire district excess levy (3 years, \$0.38) for maintenance and operations.

April 2013 - Passed (63.41% / 35.69%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 44 - Mountain View Fire Rescue

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.30) to adequately fund fire protection and emergency medical services.

August 2020 - Passed (61.80% / 38.20%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 44 - Mountain View Fire Rescue

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.31) for fire protection and EMS maintenance and operations.

November 2013 - Passed (60.39% / 39.61%)

*King County Fire Protection District No. 44 - Mountain View Fire Rescue

Fire benefit charges, continued imposition (6 years).

April 2013 - Passed (57.72% / 42.28%)

King County Fire Protection District No. 45 - Duvall Fire

Fire district benefit charges, initial levy (6 years).

November 2019 - Passed (72.48% / 27.52%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 45 - Duvall Fire](#)

Bonds (20 years, \$7.65 million) for new fire station and renovation of existing stations.

November 2018 - Passed (67.41% / 32.59%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 45 - Duvall Fire](#)

Bonds (20 years, \$7.5 million) for construction of one new fire station and renovation of existing fire stations.

April 2018 - Failed (59.45% / 40.55%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 45 - Duvall Fire](#)

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.38) for fire and EMS.

April 2016 - Passed (74.62% / 25.38%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 45 - Duvall Fire](#)

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.53) for fire protection and EMS maintenance and operations.

November 2012 - Passed (71.95 % / 28.05%)

[King County Fire Protection District No. 50 - Skykomish Fire Department](#)

Bonds (20 years, \$690,000) to improve or construct fire stations; upgrade and acquire fire trucks, ambulances, and related equipment; and modernize technology infrastructure.

August 2015 - Passed (67.16% / 32.84%)

[Kirkland](#)

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.24 to \$1.23, permanent) for fire and emergency medical services/facilities, with exemption for qualifying seniors and people with disabilities.

November 2020 - Passed (71.28% / 28.72%)

[Medina](#)

Multi-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.20 to \$0.84, 6 years/permanent) to maintain police, fire, parks, and mandated community services. Limit factor: 5% annually. Includes exemption for qualifying low income seniors and people with disabilities.

November 2019 - Passed (50.91% / 49.09%)

[Mercer Island](#)

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.09 to \$1.52, 9 years) to finance a new fire station and related equipment.

November 2012 - Passed (71.95% / 28.05%)

[Milton](#)

Annexation into East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

April 2013 - Passed (86.67% / 13.33%)

Newcastle

Referendum on whether to approve 3% utility tax to fund police and fire services. *(Voters rejected the utility tax.)*

November 2020 - Failed (40.76% / 59.24%)

North Highline Fire District - King County Fire Protection District No. 11

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (10 years).

November 2020 - Passed (84.32% / 15.68%)

North Highline Fire District - King County Fire Protection District No. 11

Fire benefit charges, initial imposition (6 years).

August 2014 - Passed (69.96% / 30.04%)

*Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority

Regional fire authority benefit charges, continuation levy (permanent).

August 2021 - Passed (73.40% / 26.60%)

*Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.00, 6 years/permanent) to maintain and adequately fund fire operations. Limit factor: Seattle CPI-W or 1%, whichever is greater.

August 2019 - Passed (56.70% / 43.30%)

*Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority

Single-year levy lid lift (increase to \$1.00, permanent) to maintain and improve fire protection and EMS.

April 2018 - Failed (42.83% / 57.17%)

*Renton Regional Fire Authority

Forming a new regional fire authority from the City of Renton and King County Fire District #25, funded by regional fire authority benefit charges (6 years) and a regular property tax (not to exceed \$1.00).

April 2016 - Passed (62.64% / 37.36%)

Shoreline Fire Department

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (10 years).

April 2021 - Passed (85.50% / 14.50%)

Shoreline Fire Department

Fire benefit charges, initial imposition (6 years).

August 2015 - Passed (74.64% / 25.36%)

Shoreline Fire Department

Bonds (10 years, \$9.5 million) to rebuild/relocate a fire station and purchase fire engines and other emergency vehicles.

August 2015 - Passed (80.17% / 19.83%)

Snoqualmie

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.23, permanent) for a public safety plan, including two extra police officers and one firefighter.

November 2016 - Passed (57.51% / 42.49%)

Snoqualmie

Single-year levy lid lift (increase of \$0.24 to \$2.99, permanent) for police, firefighters, EMS technicians, street maintenance and improvements, and preservation of parks and open space.

November 2012 - Passed (52.37% / 47.63%)

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue - King County Fire Protection District No. 51

Single-year levy lid lift (to \$1.00, permanent) to maintain and improve fire protection and EMS.

August 2021 - Passed (61.90% / 38.10%)

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue - King County Fire Protection District No. 51

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

August 2020 - Passed (81.28% / 18.72%)

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue - King County Fire Protection District No. 51

Fire benefit charges, initial imposition (6 years).

August 2014 - Passed (71.82% / 28.18%)

*South King Fire and Rescue

Fire district excess levy (4 years, \$0.19) for maintenance and operation expenses.

August 2020 - Passed (64.33% / 35.67%)

*South King Fire and Rescue

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) for fire protection and EMS. Limit factor: 6% annually.

August 2018 - Passed (58.55% / 41.45%)

*South King Fire and Rescue

Fire district excess levy (4 years, up to \$0.19) for fire and EMS maintenance and operation costs.

November 2016 - Passed (66.71% / 33.29%)

*South King Fire and Rescue

Bonds (20 years, \$39 million) for fire station improvements, ambulances and emergency vehicles, and other fire facilities and equipment.

November 2015 - Passed (61.71% / 38.29%)

*South King Fire and Rescue

Bonds (20 years, \$54 million) for fire station improvement and construction, new and upgraded fire trucks and ambulances, fire and EMS equipment, and technology improvements.

April 2015 - Failed (57.55% / 42.45%)

*Tukwila

Bonds (20 years, \$77 million) to replace fire stations, build a police and court facility, and establish a financial oversight committee.

November 2016 - Passed (60.54% / 39.46%)

*Valley Regional Fire Authority

Single-year levy lid lift (to \$1.00, permanent) for fire protection and EMS.

February 2020 - Passed (63.59% / 36.41%)

*Valley Regional Fire Authority

Regional fire authority benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

February 2018 - Passed (76.75% / 23.25%)

*Valley Regional Fire Authority

Continuing fire benefit charges for 6 years.

August 2012 - Passed (76.01% / 23.99%)

*Vashon Island Fire and Rescue

Multi-year levy lid lift (to \$1.50, 6 years/permanent) for fire district operations. Limit factor: 6% annually.

November 2017 - Passed (66.78% / 33.22%)

Woodinville Fire and Rescue

Fire district benefit charges, continuation levy (6 years).

April 2019 - Passed (84.17% / 15.83%)

Woodinville Fire and Rescue

Fire benefit charges, continued imposition (6 years).

April 2013 - Passed (88.10% / 11.90%)