

RESOLUTION NO. R-17-1164

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING *SUPPORT FOR THE BALLOT MEASURE PUT BEFORE THE VOTERS BY MAPLE VALLEY FIRE & LIFE SAFETY (KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 43) AS PROPOSITION 1, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT TO IMPOSE FIRE BENEFIT CHARGES FOR EACH OF THE NEXT SIX YEARS IN LIEU OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES.*

WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555 generally prohibits an elective official from using any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced prohibition does not apply to action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a resolution to support or oppose a ballot proposition, so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, one such condition is that any required notice of the meeting must include the title and number of the ballot proposition; and

WHEREAS, another such condition is that members of the legislative body and members of the public must be afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view; and

WHEREAS, notice of the July 17, 2017 special meeting complied with the first condition; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing held during the special meeting on July 17, 2017 was conducted in such a manner as to provide an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of opposing views, thereby complying with the second condition; and

WHEREAS, Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety is placing a benefit charge proposition on the August 1, 2017 ballot, pursuant to chapter 52.18 RCW, which allows the imposition of benefit charges to fund and maintain fire district operations; and

WHEREAS, a benefit charge is not a tax and is not based on property valuation, but on the cost of providing service; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the benefit charge, in effect for six years commencing in 2018, will be based on square footage and fire flows for all types of property, utilizing a consistent, industry-accepted formula; and

WHEREAS, historically, the District has used regular tax levies and excess levies to provide sufficient revenue to maintain services; and

WHEREAS, during that time the average tax rates have been approximately \$1.69 per thousand of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, if the benefit charge is approved, the property tax rate will be capped at \$1.00 per thousand; and

WHEREAS, the benefit charge will provide the necessary revenue to maintain services, but on a more predictable, fair and logical basis than a property tax; and

WHEREAS, benefit charges may not exceed 60% of the District's operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the District adopted Resolution R-2017-002 to place the benefit charge proposition before the voters on August 1, 2017 as Proposition 1; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1 reads as follows:

Shall Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety (King County Fire Protection District No. 43) be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for six years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The city council of the City of Maple Valley hereby [insert either "supports" or "opposes"] Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety (King County Fire Protection District No. 43) Proposition No. 1.

RESOLVED THIS 17TH DAY OF JULY 2017.

CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY

Mayor, Sean P. Kelly

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Shaunna Lee-Rice

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO. R-17-1164

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Patricia Taraday, City Attorney