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**Clark County Elections Office**

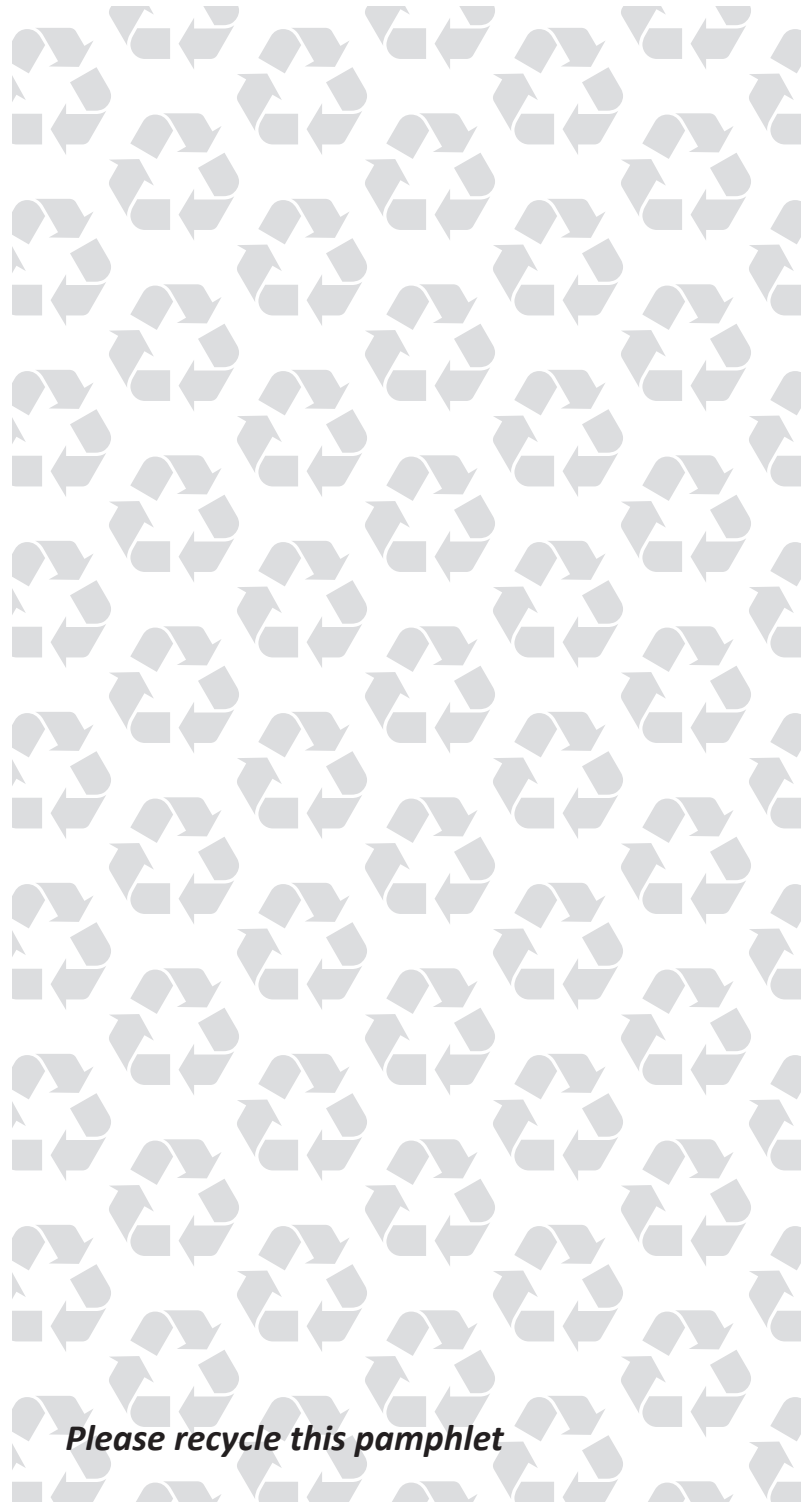
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Clark County Official Local

**Voters’ Pamphlet**

**April 22, 2025 Special Election**

Battle Ground School District Edition



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Published by the  
Clark County Auditor’s Office

# Battle Ground School District No. 119

## Proposition No. 9

### Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Battle Ground School District No. 119 adopted Resolution No. A-25, concerning a proposition to continue funding student educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District for expenses not funded by the State (including student safety, instructional/support staff, small classes, curriculum, nursing, mental health support, special education, busing, sports, and arts):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$1.95	\$38,300,000
2027	\$1.95	\$40,400,000
2028	\$1.95	\$42,600,000
2029	\$1.95	\$44,975,000

all as provided in Resolution No. A-25. Should this proposition be approved?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Battle Ground School District to replace the existing educational programs and operations levy that expires at the end of 2025. The levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including student safety, instructional/support staff, small classes, curriculum, nursing, mental health support, special education, busing, sports, and arts. Further information is available on the District's website: <https://www.battlegroundps.org/>. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call the Clark County Assessor 564-397-2391.

#### STATEMENT FOR

For the current school year, Battle Ground Public Schools tightened its belt and cut \$6.2 million in expenses. It was able to do this without laying off staff. Battle Ground's administrative costs remain far below the state average. The district received a clean financial audit last year.

This levy asks for only what is needed. With 12,700 students, Battle Ground is in the top 10% of largest WA school districts. Programs and services require staff and cost money. The number of staff members reflects student needs, which have increased since the pandemic. With the expiring levy, the district added an online school, enhanced support for students' mental health needs and increased security in schools. Battle Ground managed to do this despite having the lowest tax rate of any K-12 school district in Southwest Washington.

The current education and operations levy expires at the end of 2025. If you own a \$600K home, you would pay an estimated \$14-\$17 more per month if the new levy is approved. Due to new construction, it may be less. But even if your property value goes up, the district cannot collect a penny more than the amount on your ballot.

Generations of Battle Ground Public Schools alumni have made our community great. If we want to live in an area that continues to reflect that legacy, we must invest in public schools. Please join me in voting *yes* on Prop 9. Yes for children and the future of our community.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Most of the expiring levy went to personnel because staff positions were added in response to growing student needs since the pandemic. This includes staff for safety, mental health, special education, health conditions and the new online school. Student headcount is not flat. In December 2024, the district had over 1,000 more students than in December 2020. Operating costs have increased 30%-84%. This levy request is still below the maximum allowed.

#### Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Terry Dotson, Chair of Battle Ground Citizens for Better Schools  
votebgschools@gmail.com  
votebgschools.org

#### STATEMENT AGAINST

This is a new levy because it's asking for a *Lot* more money than the one expiring. Specifically, the expiring 4 year levy will have collected \$115,700,000. The new levy would collect \$166,275,000. That's an increase of \$50,757,000 or 43.7%. The 2026 to 2030 inflation rate is projected at 2.4% per year. If we take 2.4 x 4 that is 9.6%. So this levy increase is 4.55 times higher than the projected inflation rate.

82% of the 2024/25 levy collection (\$25,500,000) went to personnel while 17.7% (\$5,500,000) went to maintenance and operating costs (MSOC). How much of this new levy money could go to teachers when they negotiate their new contract in 2026?

Student headcount has been flat for the past 4 years. Testing scores are poor. Specifically 50% are failing English; 61.7% are failing Math and 55% are failing Science. Locally we spend over \$17,700 per student per year which is about 40% higher than private schools. Our spend per student is roughly double what it was 10 years ago. More money has done nothing to solve the educational crisis.

Property taxes are through the roof. Wage growth trails costs. Retirees are under water. Everywhere you turn your costs (groceries and gas) are overwhelming. What can you afford? Should you say *No* and demand a top to bottom re-examination of K-12 education? Your vote is your voice. Finally, HB 1356 would raise the local levy cap. Other taxes are being proposed. For more information visit: <https://swweduction.org/category/battle-ground/>

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The new 4 year levy is a 43% increase over the prior 4 years (\$50,575,000 *more*) with inflation projected at less than 10% over the next 4 years. They are asking for \$166,275,000. They cut \$6.2 million but they also took \$9.8 million out of the reserve fund so they were \$16 million short. Doubling the spend per student in the last 10 years has done nothing. Can you afford this?

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander, Chair  
swweduction@gmail.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: [clark.wa.gov/elections/april-22-2025-special-election](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/april-22-2025-special-election)

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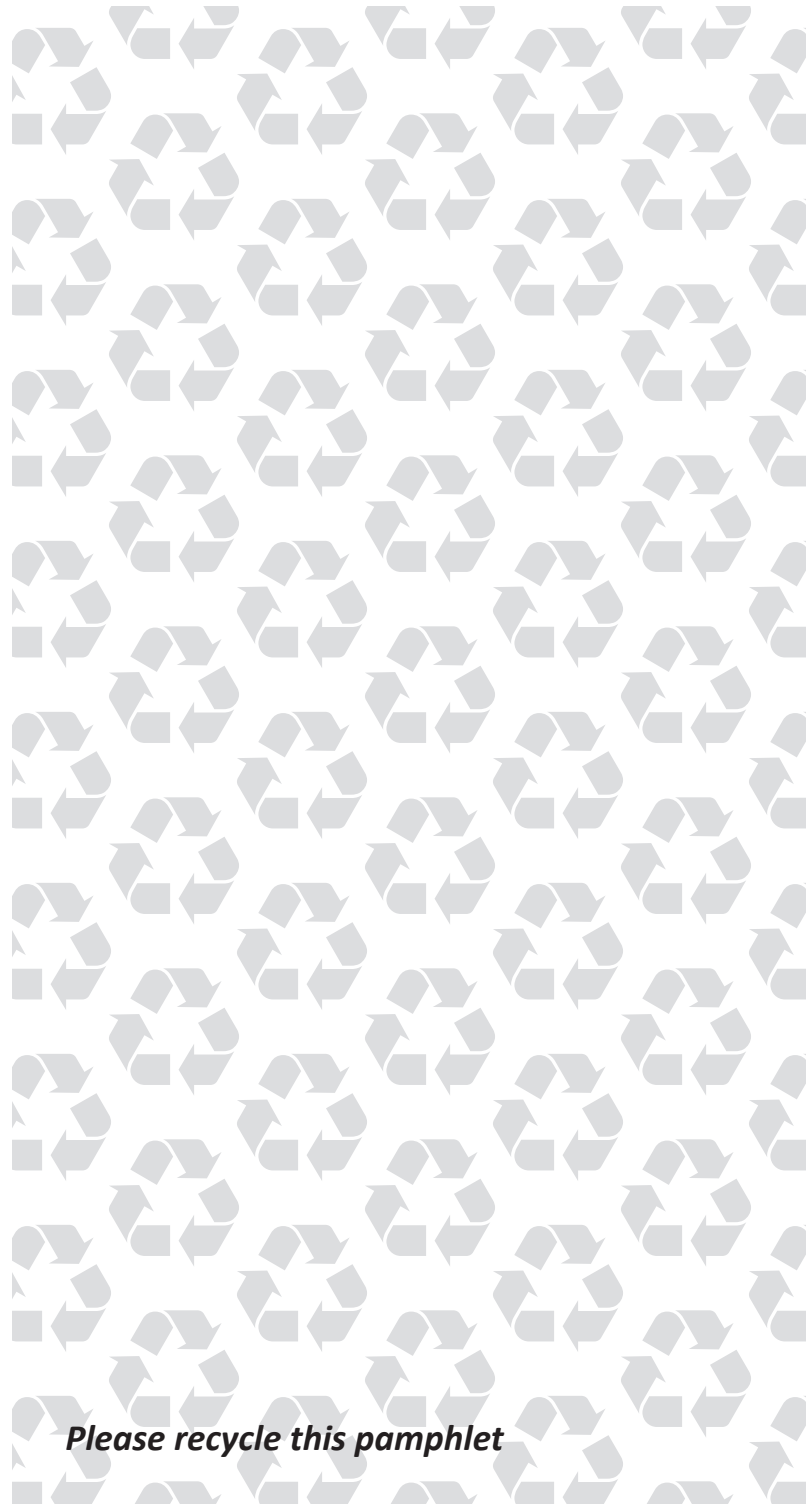
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Clark County Official Local

# Voters' Pamphlet

**April 22, 2025 Special Election**

Hockinson School District Edition



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# Hockinson School District No. 98

## Proposition No. 10

### Capital Levy for Safety, Security and Infrastructure Improvements

The Board of Directors of Hockinson School District No. 98 adopted Resolution No. 24-25-03, concerning a proposition to fund safety, security and infrastructure improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, upon all taxable property within the District, to fund secure entries, automatic door locks and emergency communication systems; improve traffic flow and campus security at Hockinson Heights Elementary; upgrade facilities districtwide:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$0.66	\$1,875,000
2027	\$0.66	\$1,950,000
2028	\$0.67	\$2,050,000
2029	\$0.68	\$2,175,000
2030	\$0.69	\$2,285,000
2031	\$0.69	\$2,400,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 24-25-03. Should this proposition be approved?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes a six-year capital levy for Hockinson Heights Elementary School campus safety improvements, to include 1.) reducing and securing school building entry points, 2.) installing automatic lockdown capabilities, 3.) modifying and updating school facilities and infrastructure, and 4.) improving campus security equipment, and also includes emergency notification systems at all Hockinson schools. Further information is available at [www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org). Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor at 564-397-2391.

#### STATEMENT FOR

The Hockinson community has invested in its schools for 155 years. Today, we must ensure that our schools remain safe places for our children to learn and grow. The School Safety & Security Capital Levy is a necessary step toward strengthening school safety without raising taxes.

Recently, our community shared ideas about the future of school facilities. Concerns were raised about cost and tackling too many projects at once. This capital levy reflects that input. It is a more focused plan that prioritizes the most urgent safety needs at Hockinson Heights Elementary School - a campus of over 1,000 children and staff.

If approved, this levy will fund equipment to automatically lock down buildings in an emergency as well as secure access points and update campus security systems to improve campus security. Emergency messaging systems will also be installed at all three schools to strengthen communication during crises. These improvements are essential to ensuring our students and staff are safe every day.

This levy is not a tax increase. As an existing bond rate decreases in 2026, this levy would take its place, ensuring that Hockinson's school tax rates remain stable and among the lowest in Clark County. Delaying these upgrades puts students at greater risk. Previous generations invested in our schools and now it's our turn to do the same. By supporting this levy we can make our schools safer while respecting the financial realities of our neighbors. Let's come together to improve school security and protect Hockinson's kids!

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Our community values education, student safety, and fiscal responsibility. Proposition 10 checks these boxes. It will help to update and secure HSD's oldest campus that has the largest Pre-K to Grade 5 elementary enrollment in the state. At the same time, this proposition keeps total tax rates stable and, in 2026, HSD will have one of the lowest total school tax rates in Clark County. Protect our kids: Vote Yes! More information at [YesHockinson.org](http://YesHockinson.org).

#### Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Scott Fish, Chair  
[hockinsonlevy@gmail.com](mailto:hockinsonlevy@gmail.com)  
[YesHockinson.org](http://YesHockinson.org)  
Megan McChesney  
Natalie Hessel

#### STATEMENT AGAINST

We support safety and security upgrades for Hockinson Heights Elementary School. The very open and accessible late-20th century design is unsafe in the 21st century. We do have concerns, however, about this \$12.7M capital levy.

1. *There are more economical ways to do this.*

HSD paid \$25K to run the failed February bond measure, and they (we) will pay \$28-42K to run this April levy measure. A bond attempt last November would have cost only \$3,700. February is historically the lowest month for voter turnout, so HSD is paying exorbitant sums to get lower voter turnout. \$53-67K for these two special elections is a huge waste of money—and runs counter to HSD's stated aim of increasing community involvement. And could the expense of the longhouse portable be covered by impact fees? HVAC and roof maintenance are standard maintenance—could they be covered by grants or other funding?

2. *HSD simply can't keep asking for more and more money.*

A 2026 levy vote is almost certain. And there's another bond attempt coming when the current middle school bond is paid off—maybe sooner. But the average HSD homeowner will pay \$4,500 for schools in 2025, and about \$7,500 in total property taxes—and that number keeps rising.

*HSD won't tell you . . .*

about how much they're spending on special elections, other ways of funding these improvements, upcoming tax increases, etc. For more information, please follow *Hockinson Citizens for Responsible HSD Spending* on Facebook.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

We appreciate the need for better security at our schools, and this more focused plan. *This* isn't a tax increase, but property taxes are up 11% over last year. We were going to get a small break in school taxes, but if this passes, we won't. We need to stop wasting money on special elections, get substantial community input *before* proposing taxes, and budget and spend wisely, including budgeting for standard maintenance items.

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Connie Keen, Chair  
[HSDResponsibleSpending@gmail.com](mailto:HSDResponsibleSpending@gmail.com)  
Facebook: *Hockinson Citizens for Responsible HSD Spending*  
Carolyn Schultz-Rathbun  
Randall Schultz-Rathbun

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: [clark.wa.gov/elections/april-22-2025-special-election](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/april-22-2025-special-election)

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**Complete Text of Measure  
City of Camas Resolution No. 24-018  
City of Washougal Resolution No. 1246**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, providing for the submission to qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal, at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, of a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a plan to form a Regional Fire Protection Authority to be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority within the boundaries of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal, effective September 1, 2025.

**RECITALS**

- A. The ability and demands to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency medical service agencies has increased and progressed with community needs and special service demands. Providing an effective fire protection and emergency medical service system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector.
- B. There are efficiencies that can be gained by regional fire protection and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control.
- C. The City of Camas (“Camas”) and the City of Washougal, (“Washougal”) have had a long-standing cooperative partnership, striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services to their citizens within the confines of available resources. This cooperative partnership began in the 1970s with the provision of a regional ambulance service and culminated with an interlocal agreement in 2014, which provided for a consolidation of services as the Camas Washougal Fire Department, with Camas providing services to Washougal. While this cooperative relationship has served the public well for many years, as a result of the needs of a growing community and demands for enhanced fire and EMS services, Camas and Washougal have determined that it is in the public interest to place a measure before the voters that if approved would result in the formation of a Regional Fire Authority (RFA).
- D. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.030 and 52.26.040 the cities of Camas and Washougal formed an RFA Planning Committee to evaluate the feasibility of creating a new and separate regional fire authority to provide the fire protection and emergency services within the boundaries of Camas and Washougal. The members of the Planning Committee included three City Council members from Camas and three City Council members from Washougal. Over a period of several months, the Planning Committee met and created a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan (“Plan”) providing for the governance, design, financing, and development of fire protection and emergency services.

E. The Planning Committee held its final meeting on October 16, 2024, and recommended approval of the Plan to the Camas City Council and Washougal City Council. The Camas City Council and Washougal City Council met in joint work session on November 6, 2024, to review the recommended Plan. By adoption of this Joint Resolution, the Plan is formally adopted and certified to the ballot pursuant to RCW 52.26.060 by both the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. Copies of the Plan are available from the administrative offices of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal.

F. Authority to form a RFA is authorized by Chapter 52.26 RCW. Chapter 52.26 RCW requires that in order to form an RFA, the Plan must be approved by the voters of the area affected by the Plan. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within the proposed service boundaries of the RFA at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, a proposition calling for the creation of a RFA which shall be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority to be funded by a \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed value property tax levy and the approval of the Plan, all in accordance with state law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS, WASHINGTON, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHOUGAL WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION**

**SECTION 1.** - Adoption of Plan for the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority. The City Council of the City of Camas and the City Council of the City of Washougal hereby formally adopt the 2025 Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan. A true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.

**SECTION 2.** - Findings of Camas City Council and Washougal City Council. The City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, hereby adopt each of the recitals above as findings and further find that it is in the best interest of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, a proposition to adopt the Plan that creates a RFA which shall be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority, which if approved will be funded by a property tax not to exceed \$.05 per thousand of assessed value. If approved by a majority of the total persons voting on the ballot measure within the boundaries of the authority in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, effective September 1, 2025, this proposition would create a RFA as provided in Chapter 52.26 RCW with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal.

**SECTION 3.** - Proposition for Voter Submittal. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal for their approval or rejection, at a special election on April 22, 2025, the question of whether or not the RFA known as the **Camas-Washougal Fire Authority** should be created in accordance with the Plan and funded with the real property tax levies referenced above. The City Council of the City of Camas

and the City Council of the City of Washougal hereby request that the auditor of Clark County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, call such election and submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

CITY OF CAMAS, WASHINGTON  
CITY OF WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON  
PROPOSITION NO. 1  
CREATION OF CAMAS-WASHOUGAL REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY

The City Councils of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal have adopted Joint Resolution No. 24-018; 1246 approving the Regional Fire Authority Protection Service Plan (“Plan”) concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (“RFA”) under RCW 52.26.

This proposition would approve the Plan and create an RFA to be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority, effective September 1, 2025, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. The RFA would be funded by property tax (\$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

Shall the registered voters residing within the cities of Camas and Washougal approve the formation of a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFA), thereby approving the RFA Plan proposed by the cities of Camas and Washougal?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

**SECTION 4.** Without further action of the Camas City Council and the Washougal City Council the ballot proposition language set forth in Section 3 above may be revised to correct scrivener’s errors and to conform with statutory requirements.

**SECTION 5.** - Pro and Con Committee Appointments. The Camas City Council and the Washougal City Council hereby assign to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters’ approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters’ rejection of the proposition.

**SECTION 6.** - Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

**SECTION 7.** - Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**SECTION 8.** - Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

**SECTION 9.** - Triplicate Originals. Three originals of this Resolution are signed by the City of Camas and the City of Washougal.

**PASSED** at a regular or special open public meeting by the City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, this **2nd** day of **December, 2024.**

**PASSED** at a regular or special open public meeting by the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, this **2nd** day of **December, 2024.**

Clark County Official Local  
**Voters’  
Pamphlet**

**April 22, 2025 Special Election**  
Cities of Camas and Washougal



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# Cities of Camas and Washougal

## Proposition No. 1

### Creation of Camas-Washougal Regional Fire Protection Service Authority

The City Councils of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal have adopted Joint Resolution No. 24-018; 1246 approving the Regional Fire Authority Protection Service Plan (“Plan”) concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (“RFA”) under RCW 52.26.

This proposition would approve the Plan and create an RFA to be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority, effective September 1, 2025, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. The RFA would be funded by property tax (\$1.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

Shall the registered voters residing within the cities of Camas and Washougal approve the formation of a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFA), thereby approving the RFA Plan proposed by the cities of Camas and Washougal?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Camas and Washougal have jointly approved a plan to merge the CWFD into a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority which is allowed under RCW 52.26 to consolidate services with the intent to provide enhanced service delivery. If approved, the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority (“CWFA”) will be effective September 1, 2025, operate under a 6-member governing board initially filled by Council members of both cities, and be funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.05/\$1,000 of assessed value to be collected in 2026. The CWFA property tax will replace a portion of both cities’ existing lawful property tax levies.

#### STATEMENT FOR

Camas and Washougal residents, your first responders, city councils and community leaders urge you to vote on creating an independent Regional Fire Authority (RFA). Together, we can safeguard the future of fire and emergency medical services (EMS) for you and your loved ones. Three reasons why the RFA makes sense:

*More Lives Saved, Faster.*

The RFA allows first responders to *immediately* begin search and rescue at a fire without first waiting for the second engine to arrive. It also allows for *faster* treatment of medical emergencies of your friends and family. Because the RFA reduces the number of fire engines needed on some calls, first responders are free to handle *simultaneous* emergencies. As our community continues growing, this is *happening more often*.

*Lower Costs & Fair and Equal Tax Rates.*

If approved, there will be *no out-of-pocket ambulance costs* for residents and potentially *reduced insurance premiums* for homeowners. Camas and Washougal residents will begin *paying the same rate* of \$1.05 per \$1,000 of assessed home value, *one of the lowest rates in the entire state!*

*First Responders Receive Every Dollar.*

Unlike the current interlocal agreement, where the cities collect and disperse funds, *every dollar* given to the RFA stays with the RFA. This *stabilizes funding* for emergency services while *improving financial transparency and accountability*. If rejected, both cities must fund emergency services *separately which is more expensive* for taxpayers. Visit [engagecamas.com](http://engagecamas.com) and [cityofwashougal.us](http://cityofwashougal.us) for more info, then *vote yes* to stretch your taxpayer dollars and save more lives!

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

*Opponents’ Assumptions Are Wrong!* The RFA costs \$19 average per month additional, *not* \$2,158 annually. City councilors govern it – *delivering local control, improved service, transparency, no ambulance costs, one of the lowest rates in the state!* The levy rate is set at \$1.05, state law *limits* annual increases to 1%. The interlocal agreement *expires* in 2026. The RFA is the *most affordable replacement option*, with widespread community support. *Duplicating services is more expensive! Vote Yes!*

#### Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Zach Goodman, Chair  
[zbgood23@yahoo.com](mailto:zbgood23@yahoo.com)

Ellen Burton

Michael Wolfe

#### STATEMENT AGAINST

The proposed RFA is a solution in search of a problem. Our Fire and EMS services under the Camas-Washougal Fire Department rank among Washington’s best, with recent city surveys showing 87% resident satisfaction and 90% approval of emergency response times. This proven success makes the RFA a costly and unnecessary venture – reflecting an annual taxpayer bill of \$2158 for an *average* household with an assessed value of \$731,772.

Entering into an RFA would force Camas & Washougal to transfer our fire stations and equipment without compensation to another governing body yet require us to pay market value plus improvements to reclaim them – the RFA owns the assets, while Camas Washougal residents own the debt. Both the Cities and the RFA would have the authority to continue raising your property taxes, impact fees and service fees, creating dual taxing districts that compound our financial burden.

The RFA’s funding structure relies heavily on property tax levies and service fees that will fluctuate yearly. When these revenue sources fall short – as they do – RFAs typically demand additional funding, creating a cycle of less predictable costs with decreasing local oversight. Camas and Washougal residents already pay the highest property tax rate in Clark County, plus recent increases in sales tax, business license fees, utility taxes, and transportation district assessments.

Both cities’ handling of recent fire station bonds raise serious concerns about transparency and governance. Let’s keep our critical services under local control without additional taxes. Vote *No* on the RFA.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

This isn’t about safety—our fire service already saves lives. It’s about adding *another tax* that will increase your existing fire taxes by 18% in year one, with no certainty about future increases. We support firefighters, but there’s no need to change the model. Ambulance service isn’t free - your EMS levy already covers it. RFAs introduce another taxing authority with unpredictable costs. The math doesn’t add up. Vote *No* on unnecessary taxation.

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Gary Perman, Chair  
360-835-2205  
[gary@permantech.com](mailto:gary@permantech.com)

Brian Wiklem

Helen Gerde

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#### Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you can do so by mail or online at **[VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)**.

You may also complete a new voter registration form. Contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone for more information.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 4 pm Monday, April 14, 2025.

#### Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

#### Clark County Elections Office

**Phone** 564-397-2345

**Relay** 711 or 877-833-6341

**Email** [elections@clark.wa.gov](mailto:elections@clark.wa.gov)

**Mailing address** PO Box 8815  
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

**Street address** 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver