



# CITY OF WASHOUGAL PROPOSITION 10—FACT SHEET



## REPLACEMENT LEVY LID LIFT TO SUPPORT FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### Proposal:

On the General Election Ballot Proposition 10 will ask voters to replace the expiring ten cents (\$.10) per \$1,000 of assessed valuation Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift.

### History/Background:

State law provides that voters can approve an increase in the property tax levy for cities to support various services provided to the community - by increasing the limit on a city's property tax levy via a mechanism called a "levy lid lift." Since 2006 Washougal has utilized such a lid lift mechanism via voter approval of a (\$.10) per \$1,000 of assessed valuation Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift to support Fire/EMS service levels. The most recent Fire/EMS levy lid lift expires at the end of 2020.

### What will the Replacement Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift be used for?

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department has provided fire and emergency medical services and ambulance transport services for decades. Fire/EMS levy lift funds are restricted to providing Fire/EMS services and will be used to continue the provision of these services in our community.

### How long will the new rate be in place?

The proposition would authorize the City to assess the Fire/EMS levy lid lift for six years (2021 – 2026).

### Why is the City seeking a replacement Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift?

The Fire/EMS levy lid lift is a dedicated source of funding used for the provision of fire and emergency medical services in Washougal. The Camas-Washougal Fire Department experienced a 66% increase in Fire/EMS calls between 2010 and 2019. Replacing the expiring Fire/EMS levy lid lift provides dedicated funding to maintain Washougal's current level of fire and emergency medical services. Proposition 10 will continue this stable funding source for these essential lifesaving services for the years 2021 - 2026.

### How will the Replacement Fire/ EMS Levy Lid Lift affect my tax rate?

The combination of the current expiring Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift and the Replacement Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift is estimated to add an additional cost of \$12 annually for a home valued at \$400K, or \$1.00/month. For the years 2022 – 2026, the levy amount will increase by a maximum of 1% per year and the levy rate is projected to decrease slightly due to anticipated increases in assessed value in the City.

### What if the Replacement EMS Levy fails?

Without the replacement of the Fire/EMS Levy Lid Lift, Washougal will need to shift other existing general fund revenues to be able to maintain current Fire/EMS service levels. This shift could impact service levels in police, parks, streets and other public services. The city would attempt to mitigate the impact of the funding shortfall but the level of service in one or more of these areas (and potentially Fire/EMS) would likely be impacted.

### Emergency Apparatus Responses

