

**THE NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD of
COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION 09122018-02
STATING SUPPORT FOR COUNTYWIDE PROPOSITION NO. 1**

WHEREAS, the North County Regional Fire Authority serves approximately 24,000 people in unincorporated Snohomish County. Our 56 dedicated firefighters daily work to provide high quality and speedy emergency services to our local community; and

WHEREAS, in order to be able to serve the public with outstanding, life-saving service, our Fire Authority's firefighters depend on reliable and instant 9-1-1 communications in order to be able to respond quickly to the scene of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, SERS, the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System, despite its best efforts has this year experienced a system failure and repeat breakdowns of its existing and outdated radio equipment. This outmoded, two-decade old, analogue radio system is reaching its expected end-of-life when replacement parts are no longer available; and

WHEREAS, emergency 9-1-1 radio service has become increasingly problematic and unreliable for conducting essential 9-1-1 first response communications; and

WHEREAS, 16 other counties in our state have already taken action to fund updating their 9-1-1 emergency communications equipment utilizing the only specific state authorized funding source specifically designated by law (RCW 82.14.420) to meet this emergency communications equipment funding needs; and

WHEREAS, as elected Fire Commissioners, we joined local government officials from around the county to urge Snohomish County government officials urgently provide voters with an opportunity this year to decide on whether to approve a proposed countywide sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent (0.10%); and

WHEREAS, greater efficiencies in 9-1-1 service will be realized beginning in 2019 with pending consolidation of our now countywide 9-1-1 local dispatch center with SERS to form one, unified emergency 9-1-1 communications agency to better meet the needs of public safety agencies and the people they serve, and

WHEREAS, after recommendations of this Board and other local agencies as well as those of Snohomish County's Executive and County Sheriff, the five-member Snohomish County Council unanimously voted on June 20, 2018 to authorize a countywide vote at the upcoming November 6 general election on this locally proposed sales tax funding measure; and

WHEREAS, this small and dedicated county sales tax increase is intended only to fund local emergency 9-1-1 communications equipment and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, as proposed Proposition No. 1 on the general election ballot would avoid adding to local property tax burdens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Commissioners of the North County Regional Fire Authority respectfully urge that voters consider the acute need for maintaining continual 9-1-1 emergency communications when deciding how to vote on Proposition No. 1. We believe having a reliable radio system to replace the existing failing countywide 911 emergency radio system is critical to maintaining life saving public safety services provided to the people of local area. Having considered this ballot proposition in an open public meeting, this Board of Fire Commissioners formally expresses our collective support of countywide Proposition No.1 as it appears on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot:

Snohomish County Proposition No. 1

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES SALES AND USE TAX

The Snohomish County Council passed Ordinance No. 18-037 concerning an emergency communication systems and facilities sales and use tax. This proposition would authorize the imposition of a countywide sales and use tax, in addition to any other taxes authorized by law, of one tenth of one percent (0.1% -- 10 cents for every \$100) to be used for emergency communication systems and facilities, as authorized by RCW 82.14.420. Should this proposition be:

Approved



Rejected



RESOLVED this _____ day of September, 2018, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

R. Case

Commissioner

Rosemary O'Neil

Commissioner

Jim Inerson

Commissioner

Ray Staley

Commissioner

Paul [unclear]

Commissioner

Katie Case

Board Secretary

9.12.18

Date

NOTE: Please forward a copy of your signed resolution when adopted to:
Rosemary O'Neil, SERS PIO, <roneil@sers800.org> ,
14900 40th Ave NE #102, Marysville, WA 98271, (360) 243-9649. THANK YOU.