



NORTHSIDE FIRE DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Release Date: March 23, 2026

NORTHSIDE FIRE DISTRICT ASKS VOTERS TO CONSIDER A TEMPORARY LEVY

At a recent Board meeting, the Fire Commissioners of the Northside Fire District voted 3-0 to approve a Resolution to place a temporary levy for consideration by the voters of the district on the May 19th, 2026, ballot. Following two failed ballot measures in 2025 for a permanent levy, this is being proposed as a two-year temporary levy based on feedback from the community. The amount has not changed. It reflects the budget that will allow operations to continue at our current level of service and does not include increased staffing.

A temporary levy will give the Fire District some budget relief, allowing leadership to explore long-term plans, alternative funding, and other ways to maintain the current service levels. Recent sales of assets including land and fire engines from outlying stations have provided for some temporary budget relief; however, without financial relief or alternative programs that will bring in revenue, the current level of staffing is not sustainable.

Increased demand for services, old fire engines costing more to repair, a decline in volunteers, and inflation far exceeding the 3% annual increase allowed by statute without voter approval, have created an insurmountable challenge for the District and its leadership. Alternative plans are being explored.

The estimated cost to the taxpayer of the proposed levy is a tax of \$21.00 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value, per year, based on current conditions. The dollar amount estimated to be collected each year from the levy is \$689,112. If the proposed levy is approved, the tax per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value is expected to increase by \$21.00 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value, for a total of \$41.00 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value.

We encourage the public to remain engaged in the future of your fire district. Please consider attending a regular meeting of the Northside Fire Commissioners, on the third Wednesday of each month at 4PM (437 Cedar Ave., Ponderay), or any of the upcoming meetings and town halls to discuss the District needs. Check our Facebook page and website for location and times.