



RESOLUTION NO. 8296

A Resolution relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City a special election to be held in conjunction with the state primary election on August 4, 2026, of a proposition authorizing the City to levy regular emergency medical services property taxes in excess of the limitations of Chapter 84.55 RCW for emergency medical services; setting forth the text of the ballot proposition, directing the proper City officials to take necessary actions; and providing for other related matters

WHEREAS,

1. Pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, the qualified electors of the City of Everett, on February 29, 2000, authorized a permanent emergency medical services property tax levy of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) assessed valuation to provide emergency medical care and services.
2. Because, after the first levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069, chapter 84.55 RCW limits the yearly growth of regular property tax levies to no more than 101% (excluding new construction), the City in 2009 was only allowed to collect an amount equal to an approximate levy rate of thirty-two cents (\$0.32) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation.
3. In 2010, the qualified electors of the City of Everett, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, approved a levy exceeding the one percent (1%) limit factor to restore the City's emergency medical services property tax levy capacity to its previously approved rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation in order to maintain emergency medical services.
4. Because of the one percent limit established by chapter 84.55 RCW, in 2018 the City was allowed to collect only an amount equal to an approximate levy rate of 40.17 cents (\$0.4017) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation.
5. In 2018, the qualified electors of the City of Everett, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, approved a levy exceeding the one percent (1%) limit factor to restore the City's emergency medical services property tax levy capacity to its previously approved rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation in order to maintain emergency medical services.
6. Because of the one percent limit established by chapter 84.55 RCW, in 2026 the City was allowed to collect only an amount equal to an approximate levy rate of thirty-six cents (\$0.36) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation.
7. The City Council has determined that it is essential and necessary for the public health, safety, and general welfare to restore the City's emergency medical services property tax levy capacity to its previously approved rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation to raise additional funds to support and maintain emergency medical services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EVERETT CITY COUNCIL THAT:

Sec. 1. Findings. The findings expressed in the recitals to this Resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference.

Sec. 2. Levy Lid Lift Ballot Measure.

(a) **Calling of Election.** The City of Everett City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City to submit to the qualified voters of the City, at a special election to be held in conjunction with the state primary election on August 4, 2026, a ballot proposition authorizing the City to levy emergency medical services property taxes, as authorized by RCW 84.52.069, in excess of the limitation established in Chapter 84.55 RCW and up to the previously authorized rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand (\$1,000) assessed valuation to be levied for collection in each of 2027 and 2028, which would be the base for calculating the highest lawful levy amount in subsequent years under Chapter 84.55 RCW.

(b) **Use of Proceeds.** The proceeds thereby raised will be used exclusively to pay the costs of furnishing emergency medical care and services, including paramedic services, related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care and services.

(c) **Exemption for Qualifying Low-Income Senior Citizens, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities.** In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(4)(e), the exemptions available to persons who qualify through the State's property tax exemption program for low-income senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities authorized by RCW 84.36.381 will apply to the incremental amount authorized by voters under this proposition.

Sec. 3. Ballot Proposition. The Auditor of Snohomish County, Washington (the "County Elections Official"), as *ex officio* supervisor of elections within the City, is hereby requested to call and conduct a special election in the City, in the manner provided by law, to be held on the date identified in Section 2, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the City, a proposition in substantially the form as provided below:

PROPOSITION # 1

Emergency Medical Services Levy Lid Lift

The Everett City Council has adopted Resolution No. ____ concerning restoring the City's emergency medical services (EMS) levy.

If approved, this proposition would restore Everett's previously authorized EMS levy to a rate of \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed value in each year for 2027 and 2028 to pay for emergency medical care and services, including paramedic services and related expenses described in the Resolution, by authorizing an increase above the maximum levy otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW. Subsequent levy limits would be based on the 2028 levy. Qualifying seniors, veterans, and others would be exempt (ch. 84.36 RCW).

Should this proposition be:

Approved? _____

Rejected?.._____

Sec. 4. Notices Relating to Ballot Proposition. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition as may be required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates: (a) Angela Ely, Council Executive Assistant (aely@everettwa.gov); and (b) the City Attorney as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided.

Sec. 5. Effect of Election. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, if a simple majority of the qualified electors voting on the proposition vote in favor of approving, and adoption, thereof, the proposition shall be deemed approved and shall be adopted. Thereafter, the City Council shall have the necessary authority to levy, in the manner provided by law, an emergency medical services property tax levy up to the amount of fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) assessed valuation in each of the years 2027 and 2028, The 2028 levy amount shall be the base for determining the limits thereafter under chapter 84.55 RCW. If less than a majority of the qualified voters approve the proposition, then it shall be deemed rejected by the qualified voters, and the City Council shall not have authority to increase the emergency medical services property tax levy amount above the limits established in Chapter 84.55 RCW. The ballot proposition is a levy lid lift and seeks authority to increase the existing emergency services levy by an amount greater than would otherwise be permitted by the levy lid (chapter 84.55 RCW). The City's underlying authority to levy the existing, and previously approved, emergency medical services property tax levy itself shall in no way be affected by either the approval or rejection of the proposition.

Sec. 6. Authorization to Deliver Resolution and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The City Clerk (or the City Clerk's designee) is authorized and directed, no later than May 1, 2026, to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Elections Official and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described herein should appear on the ballot at the special election identified in Section 2 of this Resolution.

Sec. 7. Local Voters' Pamphlet. The City authorizes participation in the County local voters' pamphlet to provide information on this ballot proposition. Committees to prepare arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the measure shall be appointed in accordance with RCW 29A.32.280, either by motion of the City Council or otherwise in accordance with the procedures of the County Elections Office. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons, and the committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot proposition and the committee advocating disapproval shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot proposition.

Sec. 8. Severability; Construction. If any provision of this Resolution shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions, or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized herein.

Sec. 9. Corrections. The City Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of the proposition as may be required by the County Elections Official to place the proposition on the August 4, 2026, special election ballot, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution as approved by the City Council.

Sec. 10. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval in accordance with law.

Scott G. Bader

Councilmember introducing resolution

Passed and approved this 22nd day of April 2026.

Paul Meyer

Council Vice President











Resolution No. 8296

Final Audit Report

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