City Fire Station & Fire Apparatus Levy

On the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot, Mercer Island voters will have an opportunity to vote on a measure to fund the replacement of Fire Station 92 and a Fire Rescue Truck.

Fire Station 92

Fire Station 92, located at the south end of the Island, has been identified as being seismically unsound and unlikely to withstand a major earthquake.

The station opened in 1962 to serve a volunteer fire department. It was not built to house a 24 hour/7 day a week professional firefighter operation. The existing fire station does not meet current operational standards or building codes.

The proposed levy would fund replacement of the existing station with a safe, up to date station that will serve the operational needs of the Fire Department now and for years to come.

The City has taken a number of steps to reduce the size and cost of the proposed new fire station. Over 1,600 square feet were cut from the preliminary fire station design and the City Council has limited the size of the new fire station to less than 8,000 square feet.

If approved by the voters, the new fire station is targeted to be complete in January 2015.

DID YOU KNOW?

• Fire Station 92 is one of two fire stations serving Mercer Island.
• Fire Station 92 responds to fire and medical aid calls for the entire Island in coordination with Fire Station 91.
• Fire Station 92 provides primary response to Mercer Island fire and medical aid calls south of SE 44th Street.
• Mercer Island firefighters respond to over 2,300 calls annually.

Fire Rescue Truck

The fire department’s existing fire rescue truck has reached the end of its useful life and is due to be replaced. The proposed levy would provide funds to replace the rescue truck, which carries specialized equipment that is not carried on fire engines or aid cars.

If approved by voters, a new rescue truck will be purchased in 2013.

The specialized equipment the rescue truck transports is used in:
• water rescues
• dive services
• motor vehicle accidents
• confined space rescues
• trench rescues
• structural collapse rescues
• high-angle rescues

For additional information go to: www.mercergov.org/firestation or contact Deputy City Manager Noel Treat at (206) 275-7661 or noel.treat@mercergov.org
City Fire Station & Fire Apparatus Levy

Costs & Property Tax Impact

Generally, the City of Mercer Island can increase the amount of regular property taxes it collects by only 1% each year without voter approval. This limit is called the "levy lid." Under this limit, in 2012, Mercer Island can collect regular property taxes at a rate of approximately $1.33 per $1,000 of assessed valuation without voter approval.

With voter approval, this proposition would authorize the City of Mercer Island to collect an additional $.086 per $1,000 of assessed value in regular property tax. This will raise approximately $662,000 over the levy lid for each of nine years (2013-2021) and equates to approximately $60 each year on a $700,000 home. To estimate the amount your specific property tax would increase, multiply your total actual assessed value by $.000086.

Both the fire station and the fire rescue truck will be funded with debt that will be paid off with the levy proceeds over a 9-year period. The table below summarizes the average annual levy amount and the estimated levy rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Average Annual Levy*</th>
<th>2013 Estimated Levy Rate**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Fire Station</td>
<td>$4,803,000</td>
<td>$608,000</td>
<td>$.079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Rescue Truck</td>
<td>$415,000</td>
<td>$.054</td>
<td>$.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$5,218,000</td>
<td>$662,000</td>
<td>$.086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The average annual levy amount is over a 9-year period.
** The 2013 estimated levy rate is per $1,000 assessed valuation and is conservatively calculated assuming a 5% decrease in the Island’s total assessed valuation at the end of 2012.

The estimated annual property tax impact on the current median ($700,000) and average ($995,000) assessed values of a single family home on Mercer Island is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levy Lid Lift Breakdown</th>
<th>Annual Property Tax Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>700K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fire Station</td>
<td>$55.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Rescue Truck</td>
<td>$4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60.20</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

General Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PROPOSITION NO. 1
NINE YEAR LEVY LID LIFT FOR
CITY FIRE STATION AND FIRE APPARATUS

The City Council of the City of Mercer Island adopted Ordinance No. 12-04 concerning property taxes for a fire station and fire apparatus. This proposition increases the City’s regular property tax levy by up to $.086/$1,000 (averaging approximately $662,000/year) to a total maximum rate of $1.517/$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2013, and increases the levy as permitted in RCW 84.55 for eight years thereafter, to pay, or pay debt service on approximately $5.2 million of bonds and obligations issued to finance costs of constructing, equipping, and acquiring a fire station and fire apparatus.

Should this proposition be:

Approved . . . . . . . . □
Rejected . . . . . . . . □