

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6303

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund improvements to fire facilities.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bellevue, Washington (the "City") previously approved a 2014 Fire Facilities Master Plan (the "Plan"), the goal of which is to ensure that the Bellevue Fire Department has safe, survivable, and appropriate facilities that will enable the Fire Department to maintain its current capacity for providing excellent fire and emergency medical response to the citizens of Bellevue and its neighboring communities as they grow and change; and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Fire Department has a long tradition of excellence, as evidenced by its performance in preventing, preparing for, and responding to emergencies, its strong public image, and its reputation among partners and peers in the region; and

WHEREAS, City policies place a priority on ensuring that the Bellevue Fire Department remain able to provide critical services to the community through continuous fire and emergency operations during earthquakes, power outages, and other emergency events; and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Fire Department has 10 facilities to maintain with unique and special conditions, and must operate these facilities 24 hours per day; and

WHEREAS, the City originally approached its fire station location and configuration systematically through a strategic plan developed in the late 1970s, a time when the City's population was approximately 79,000 people and the major growth areas and population were oriented east to west; and

WHEREAS, since the late 1970s, the City's population has grown to 133,992 people, the Bellevue Fire Department's service area (which includes the contract cities of Beaux Arts, Hunts Point, Medina, Newcastle and Yarrow Point) covers over 150,000 people, and the orientation of the City has changed to north/south; and

WHEREAS, downtown Bellevue has become the City's fastest-growing neighborhood, and the neighborhood's rapid growth has created additional pressure on nearby fire stations; and

WHEREAS, in light of these changes, the City initiated an evaluation of current fire station locations, current and projected changes in development and population, as well as an assessment of the adequacy and stability of all fire facilities; and

WHEREAS, this evaluation work, which was performed by Schreiber Starling & Lane Architects, determined that the Fire Department could improve efficiency by centralizing storage of spare apparatus and equipment through the purchase or construction of a facility to serve as a logistics center; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation work by Schreiber Starling & Lane Architects also identified several CIP funding needs, the top three of which received partial funding in the 2015-2021 CIP; and

WHEREAS, despite the progress in the 2015-2021 CIP budget, there remains over \$100,000,000 in projects identified in the Plan that are not funded; and

WHEREAS, the City's current regular property tax levy is below the rate per \$1,000 of assessed value permitted by statute; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the voters of a City to permit the levy of taxes in excess of the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 pursuant to a "levy lid lift"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the issue of whether to fund the Plan with the proceeds of a levy lid lift should be placed before the voters of the City pursuant to this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, to fund a portion of the facility improvements set forth in the Plan and identified in Section 1 hereof (the "Fire Improvements"), the City Council proposes to present a ballot proposition to the City's voters to increase the City's regular property tax levy by up to 12.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2017 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW for each of the 19 succeeding years for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the issue of whether to fund certain neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion improvements with the proceeds of a separate levy lid lift also should be placed before the voters of the City pursuant to Ordinance No. 6304; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to continue to "bank capacity" under RCW 84.55.092, and therefore the proposition, if this is the only proposition approved, would authorize the City to increase its regular property tax levy to an aggregate rate of \$1.255 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, permitting the City to thereafter reduce its tax levy below this authorized level and bank the amount of the reduction; and

WHEREAS, if both the levy lid lift described in this Ordinance and the neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion levy lid lift described in Ordinance No. 6304 are approved by the voters, the City would be authorized to increase its regular property tax levy to a total aggregate rate of \$1.405 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, the conditions here and above set forth require the holding of a special election in the City; now, therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby finds that the best interests of Bellevue's residents require the City to undertake the Fire Improvements contained in the Plan and identified below, at the time and in the order and in the manner deemed most necessary and advisable by the Council.

1. Seismic retrofits to fire stations. Upgrade facilities to ensure that every fire station in Bellevue meets seismic standards to withstand a major earthquake and provide first response in any emergency.
2. Build a new downtown fire station. Construct a fire station to serve Bellevue's fastest growing residential neighborhood.
3. Upgrade existing fire stations. Remodeling, expanding, or replacing fire stations in Bellevue and aligning facilities so as to better serve Bellevue communities.
4. Logistics Center space. Obtain warehouse space to consolidate reserve apparatus and equipment and to provide centralized location for repair of specialized equipment.

The cost of all necessary appraisals, negotiation, closing, architectural, engineering, financial, legal and other consulting services, inspection and testing, administrative and relocation expenses and other costs incurred in connection with the foregoing Fire Improvements shall be deemed a part of the costs of such Fire Improvements.

The City Council reserves the right to determine the exact project descriptions and specifications for the Fire Improvements as well as the timing, order and manner of completing the Fire Improvements, as well as the right to delegate these decisions from time to time to the appropriate City staff. By ordinance of the City, the Council may alter, make substitutions to and amend the description of any Fire Improvement as it determines is in the best interests of the City and consistent with the general descriptions provided herein. By ordinance, the City Council shall determine the application of moneys available for the Fire Improvements set forth above, including the final funding amount for each, so as to accomplish, as nearly as may be, all of the Fire Improvements described.

If the City Council, by ordinance, shall determine that it has become impractical to acquire, construct or equip all or any portion of the Fire Improvements by reason of changed conditions, incompatible development, costs substantially in excess of the amount of tax levies and other City funds estimated to be available, or acquisition by a superior governmental authority, the City shall not be required to acquire, construct or equip such portions. If all of the Fire Improvements have been constructed or

acquired or duly provided for, or found to be impractical, the City may apply the levy proceeds (including earnings thereon) or any portion thereof to other Fire Department purposes as the Council, by ordinance and in its discretion, shall determine.

Section 2. It is hereby found that the best interests of the inhabitants of the City require the submission to the qualified electors of the City of a proposition whether the City shall levy regular property taxes above the limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for approval or rejection at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, a proposition to increase the City's regular property tax levy by up to 12.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (to a total rate not to exceed \$1.255 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation if only this proposition is approved) for collection in 2017 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW for each of the 19 succeeding years for the capital purposes described herein. The Director of Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, is hereby requested to assume jurisdiction of and to call and conduct said special election to be held within the City and to submit to the qualified electors of the City the proposition hereinafter set forth.

The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, not later than the primary election date (August 2, 2016), to certify the proposition to the King County Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division in the following form:

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PROPOSITION NO. _____

LEVY FOR FIRE FACILITIES

The Bellevue City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6303 concerning a proposition to fund improvements to fire facilities. To seismically retrofit fire stations, build a new Downtown fire station, realign and upgrade existing fire facilities to better serve the community, and obtain logistics center warehouse space, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.125 to a total authorized rate of \$1.255 (if only this proposition passes) per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2017 and for 19 years thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?

REJECTED?

Section 3. The City Attorney and City Clerk are hereby authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as may be recommended by the King County Director of Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Ordinance as approved by the City Council.

1537-ORD
7/21/2016

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five days after publication.

Passed by the City Council this 25th day of July, 2016 and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of July, 2016.

(SEAL)

John Stokes, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Lori M. Riordan, City Attorney

Robert A. Hyde, Deputy City Attorney

Attest:

Kyle Stannert, City Clerk

Published: _____

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Bellevue, Washington (the "City"), and keeper of the records of the City Council (the "Council"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached ordinance is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 6303 of the Council (the "Ordinance"), duly passed at a regular meeting thereof held on the ____ day of July, 2016.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Council voted in the proper manner for the adoption of said Ordinance; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of said Ordinance have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

Dated this _____ day of July, 2016.

Kyle Stannert, City Clerk

CITY OF BELLEVUE

OFFICIAL BALLOT

LEVY FOR FIRE FACILITIES

November 8, 2016

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS: To vote in favor of the following proposition, place a cross (X) in the square opposite the word "APPROVED?"; to vote against the following proposition, place a cross (X) in the square opposite the word "REJECTED?."

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PROPOSITION NO. _____

LEVY FOR FIRE FACILITIES

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APPROVED?

REJECTED?

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

CITY OF BELLEVUE
LEVY FOR FIRE FACILITIES

November 8, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, a special election will be held in the above-named city for the submission to the qualified electors of said city of the following proposition:

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PROPOSITION NO. _____

LEVY FOR FIRE FACILITIES

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APPROVED?

REJECTED?

The polling places for all precincts wholly or partially within the district shall be as follows:

Precincts

Polling Places

Said polling places shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Director
King County Records,
Elections and Licensing
Services Division