



On Your Ballot:
FIRE LEVY

West Mason Fire



www.westmasonfire.org

About the Fire Levy

West Mason Fire is asking to restore its regular property tax levy for maintenance and operations to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

This is the rate the district was at prior to the 2018 merger and the base amount necessary to maintain sufficient operations.



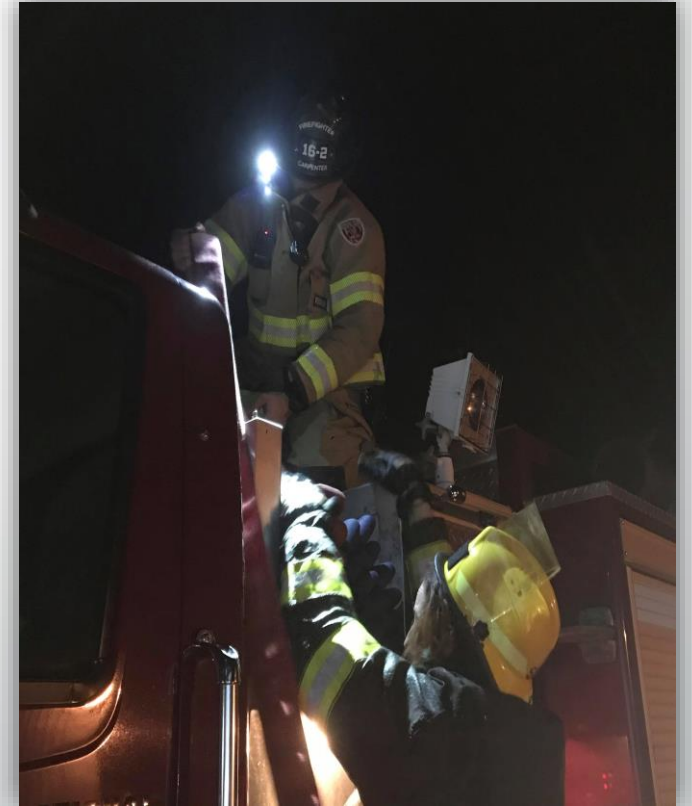
VOTE


The general property tax levy is the primary source of revenue for all aspects of fire district maintenance and operations.

We understand the value of tax payer support and place an emphasis on fiscal responsibility. We expand the reach of the tax-payer dollar by supplementing tax-based revenue through service contracts, grants, and private donations.



- Prior to the 2018 merger, Fire District 16 (now West Mason Fire) had a tax levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Over time, inflation reduced the rate to approximately \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Prior to the merger, Fire District 9 had a tax levy rate and an EMS levy that combined were approximately \$1.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This was reduced prior to the merger due to the expiration of their EMS levy.
- When communicating plans for the merger, the districts requested voter approval with a proposed levy rate of \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- At the time of the merger, the two district's regular tax levy rates were averaged, resulting in a rate of \$.98 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.



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- Now that the merger has been finalized, West Mason Fire is requesting to *restore* the proposed and regular property tax levy rate of \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
 - This is the minimum amount required to sustain maintenance and operations at a level that meets the needs of the community we serve.

Combined with the request to approve a \$.50 EMS Levy, restoring the regular property tax rate to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation also supports:



Adequate
STAFFING



Improved
RESONSE
capability



Improved
SAFETY



Updated
TRAINING



Modernized
EQUIPMENT



Current
STANDARDS



Public
EDUCATION

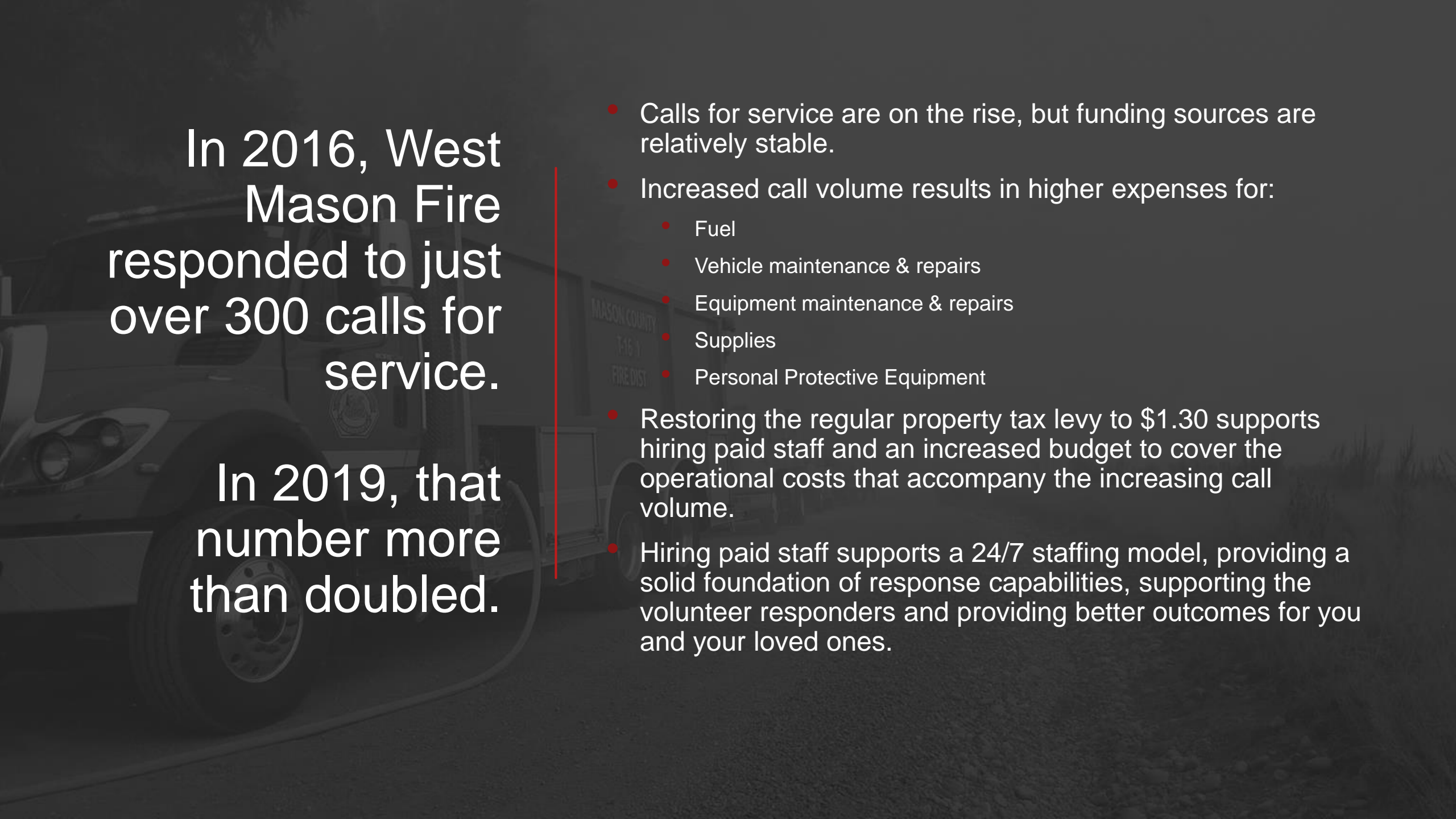


Support
VOLUNTEERS

Currently, West
Mason Fire is
staffed by
volunteers.
Hiring permanent
staff will improve
the current
staffing model.

Why do we need permanent staff?

- Fire Service Volunteers have declined across the nation (NFPA, 2017).
- West Mason Fire has a team of 23 dedicated, trained volunteers, but work, family, and other commitments limit the time they can dedicate to the district.
- Hiring regular staff will:
 - Improve response capabilities by bolstering the volunteer staffing model
 - Provide additional leadership and oversight to the volunteer responders
 - Support the fire chief in providing leadership, training, and daily operational needs
 - Support the volunteers by providing consistency in completing daily responsibilities
- Volunteer's are a priceless resource to the district. Hiring permanent staff will contribute to a positive culture that encourages and supports volunteerism.



In 2016, West
Mason Fire
responded to just
over 300 calls for
service.

In 2019, that
number more
than doubled.

- Calls for service are on the rise, but funding sources are relatively stable.
- Increased call volume results in higher expenses for:
 - Fuel
 - Vehicle maintenance & repairs
 - Equipment maintenance & repairs
 - Supplies
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Restoring the regular property tax levy to \$1.30 supports hiring paid staff and an increased budget to cover the operational costs that accompany the increasing call volume.
- Hiring paid staff supports a 24/7 staffing model, providing a solid foundation of response capabilities, supporting the volunteer responders and providing better outcomes for you and your loved ones.

Responder health and safety are important.

Your responders need adequate PPE for their health and safety, performance, and to meet regulations.

Each responder needs adequate Personal Protective Equipment which need to be replaced as regulations change, it expires, or is damaged beyond repair.

Structural Firefighter	Wildland Firefighter	EMT and All Volunteers
Bunker gear jacket and pants	Wildland attire: Shirt & Pants	Class "B" Uniform
Structural Helmet	Wildland Helmet	T-shirt
Boots	Wildland Boots	Sweatshirt
Gloves	Gloves	Radio/pager
Flash Hood	Eye Protection	Disposable PPE (i.e. gloves, masks)
Air mask	Rescue Shelter	
Air Pack	Gear pack	

Total:
About
\$12K per
responder



West Mason Fire
is proud to
provide your
responders with
high-quality
training.

- Providing your responders with high quality training will give your family better outcomes in your time of need.
- High-quality training is the foundation of West Mason Fire's volunteer recruitment and retention program.
- Volunteers receive valuable certifications through training designed specifically to meet the needs of volunteers.
- This high-level training ensures responders are prepared to safely mitigate emergency scenes with best-possible outcomes.
- Volunteers with a rural district are required to achieve and maintain the same levels of training and certification as paid responders with large city departments.

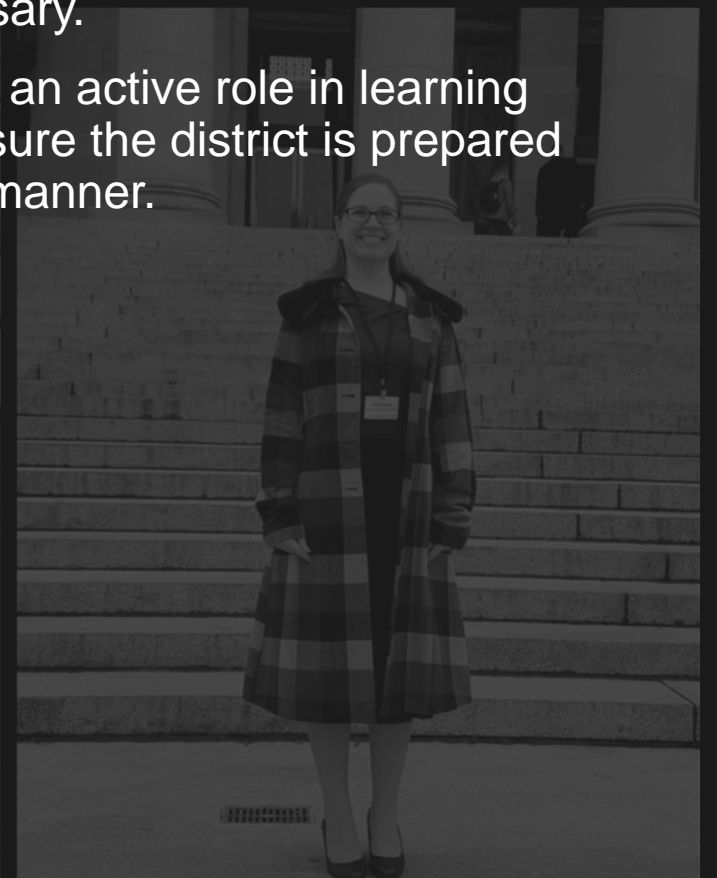
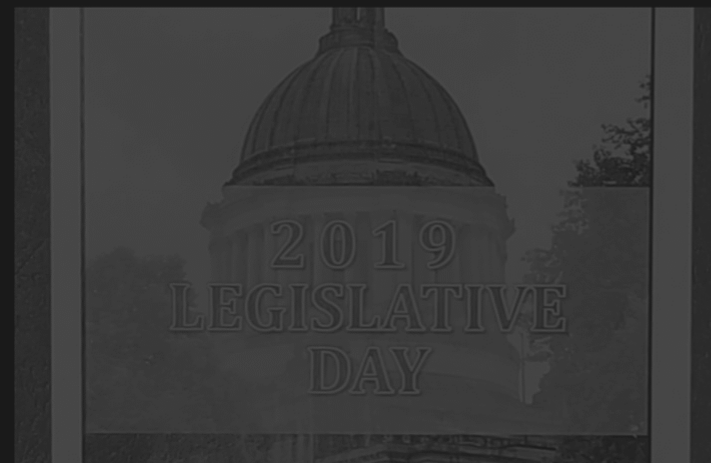
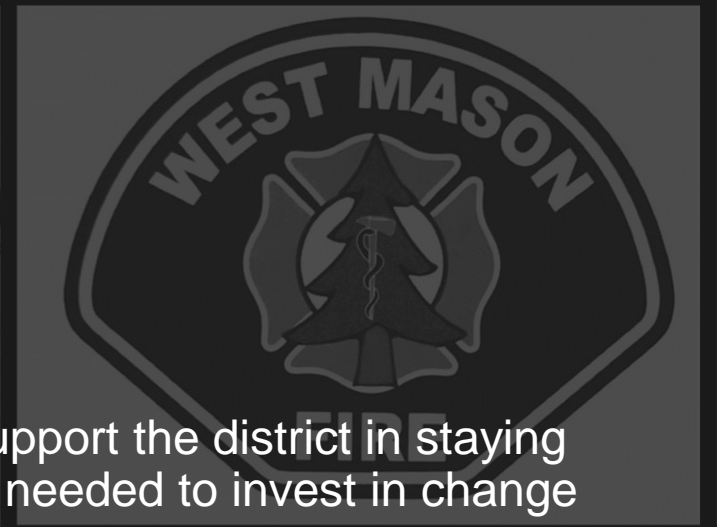
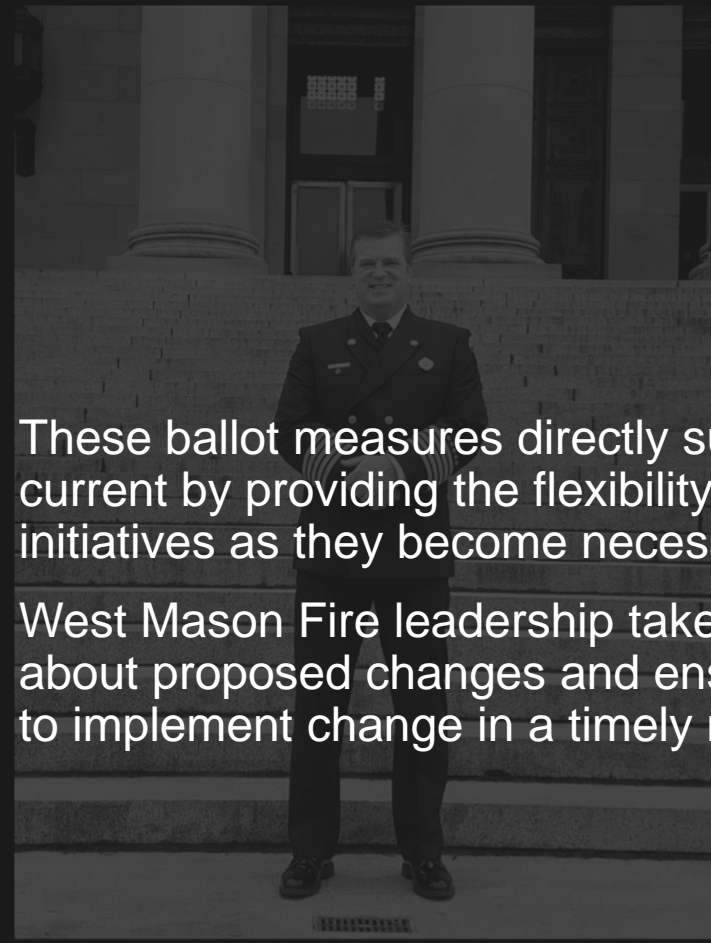


Replacing
outdated
equipment
improves
outcomes and
keeps responders
safe.

- Your responders don't need the latest and greatest equipment, but they do need equipment that meets current response and safety guidelines.
- Equipment such as the air packs used in a structure fire or hazardous materials incident have expiration dates and are costly to replace.
- Hoses, nozzles, and ladders need to be replaced as they become worn or damaged from use.
- Some equipment replacement can be supported through grants, but most require matching funds from the district.

Fire industry standards, laws, and regulations are consistently updated.

- These ballot measures directly support the district in staying current by providing the flexibility needed to invest in change initiatives as they become necessary.
- West Mason Fire leadership take an active role in learning about proposed changes and ensure the district is prepared to implement change in a timely manner.





We want to prevent emergencies!

- The best way to respond to an emergency is to prevent it from happening.
- These ballot measures FUND public education programs that can be tailored to meet our community's specific needs.
- West Mason Fire aims to provide the community with free educational opportunities for life and property conservation classes such as:
 - First aid and CPR
 - Wildfire Prevention
 - Home/family fire response plans
 - And more, based on community preferences and needs.



**Your
Volunteers
are a
PRICELESS
resource.**

- Your volunteers are your most valuable resource.
- With the current staffing model, all of your responders are volunteers with the exception of the Fire Chief.
- Many of the volunteers have full-time careers outside the district in non-fire related fields. They selflessly balance volunteering with their career and family commitments.
- These ballot measures support the volunteers by providing additional leadership and oversight, training opportunities, consistency in response and daily tasks such as rig checks and facilities maintenance, and ensuring they have what they need to be safe and successful when responding to an emergency.



Ballot Language:

Fire Protection District No. 16
Proposition Authorizing Property Tax Levy
Proposition No. 1

The Board of Commissioners of Mason County Fire Protection District No. 16 adopted Resolution No. 2020-002. This is concerning a proposition to restore its regular property tax levy for maintenance and operations to the amount prior to the merger of Fire District 16 and 9. It will not exceed \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to be levied in 2020 for collection in 2021. The maximum allowable levy in 2020 shall serve as the base for computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW:

Should the proposition be approved?

Levy ... Yes

Levy ... No



VOTE

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

For more information visit
<https://www.westmasonfire.org/on-the-ballot>.

If you have additional questions, please email us at
info@mcf16.com.