



MASON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 6
PO Box 39
Union, WA 98592

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Postal Patron
Union, WA 98592

November 2, 2021

Fire Levy Lid Lift Facts

OUR HISTORY:

The Union Fire Department was formed in 1962. Our dedicated volunteer workforce has been delivering high quality emergency services for 59 years! The Union Fire Department is proud of our emergency services program and the services we deliver to the community of Union.

PANDEMIC'S RISK TO OUR COMMUNITY:

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world as we know it. It is a fact that the COVID-19 variants will be with us for some time. A large portion of Union's population demographic is considered "High Risk" by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC, through their age criteria, identifies the community of Union as an at risk community for spread of the COVID-19 disease.

PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON OUR VOLUNTEER WORKFORCE:

Our Volunteer Firefighter/EMT's are first class and remain fiercely dedicated to providing high quality emergency services to the community of Union. All of our volunteers have families and careers outside of the fire department. Our volunteers leave their families to respond on hundreds of emergencies after midnight and then with little to no sleep go to work come the morning. It was already hard to be a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT. Covid -19 has made it far worse due to the increased responses and the fear of contracting the disease.

OUR PRIMARILY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER STAFFING MODEL HAS SERVED OUR COMMUNITY WELL.
COVID-19 HAS FORCED US TO RETHINK OUR STAFFING MODEL FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE.

Mason County Fire Protection District No. 6

Proudly serving Union, WA for the past 59 years

PLAN:

- Increase the Fire Levy .17 cents to \$1.50 per thousand of your homes tax assessment.
 - With tax payer approval we will hire two fulltime employee's (\$40,000 yr. with benefits).
 - The cost of the increase to a home taxed at \$400k is \$5.66 a month.
-

BENEFITS:

- Two new fulltime employees will ease the burden on our overworked volunteer workforce and ensure the Union Fire Department does not see a reduction in service due to a reduction in our volunteer workforce.
 - The Union Fire Department will continue to deliver high quality emergency services to the community of Union.
 - With a fortified hybrid staffing model (volunteer & fulltime) the Union Fire Department will no longer have the workforce issues discussed earlier.
-

We understand that there is never a perfect time to ask for a fire levy increase. Our three elected Fire Commissioners and the Fire Chief want our valued citizens to know we truly believe this is needed, and it will allow us to provide the best emergency services to you and your family. We are in unprecedented times and are continually planning with your family's best interest in mind and evaluating to ensure we deliver on our promises.

THE TWO FULLTIME EMPLOYEE'S WILL EASE THE PRESSURE ON A DEDICATED; BUT OVERWORKED VOLUNTEER STAFF!