

# FIRE LEVY LID LIFT 2023

Camano Island Fire & Rescue is asking voters for a fire levy lid lift in the November general election to hire firefighters and paramedics and improve emergency services.



**Camano Island Fire & Rescue**

811 N Sunrise Blvd  
Camano Island, WA 98282  
[www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com)  
(360) 387-1512

## HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

We are not part of Island County government. We are a separate taxing district. Most of our funding comes from our fire levy, which pays for daily operations and our emergency medical service (EMS) program. The fire levy is capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

## WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

We are asking voters for a \$0.42 lid lift, which would raise the fire levy rate to \$1.25 per \$1,000 on the November 7, 2023 general election ballot. In 2017, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.35. Since then, the rate has dropped to \$0.83.

## WHAT WILL THE LID LIFT FUND?

- Up to six additional firefighter/EMT or firefighter/paramedic
- Another medic unit staffed by a second paramedic
- Renovation of the Mabana station to allow for 24-hour staffing

These improvements will reduce response times and improve service capacity districtwide.

## WHAT WILL THIS COST?\*

The owner of a home with assessed value of \$500,000 would pay an additional \$210/year or \$17.50/month.

## WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

Our call volumes have increased 28% since 2017 and overlapping calls are happening 20% of the time. We need adequate staffing to meet the emergency service level needs of our community. Sixty-six percent (66%) of all calls are for EMS. We have just one paramedic per shift to provide Advanced Life Support, which is the highest level of care possible outside a hospital. Additionally, transporting a patient to the hospital can take personnel and ambulance out of service for as long as five hours.

## WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Find more at [www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com). Fire Chief Levon Yengoyan welcomes your questions at [info@camanofire.com](mailto:info@camanofire.com) or 360-387-1512.

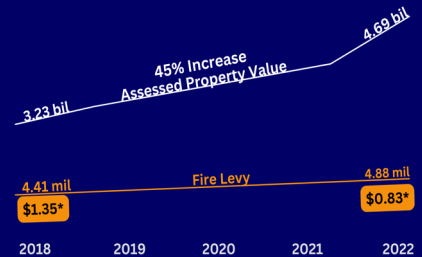
*\*Homeowners who are 61 years or older and others who meet income and eligibility requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption. Contact the Island County Assessor (360-679-7303) to see if you qualify.*

## WHY DID THE RATE DROP?

Each year we are allowed to collect a set amount of revenue. State law limits us to that amount plus one percent more per year.

Even if property values double, we can only collect one percent more.

This means the levy rate drops as property values rise to limit our budget to the same amount per year plus that one percent increase (or any other voter-approved increase).



\*Rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value