



## Proposition No. 1

Submitted by the City of DuPont

### PROPOSITION ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TAX LEVY

Ballot Title: Shall the City of DuPont, Washington be authorized to impose a regular property tax levy of \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of six consecutive years for Emergency Medical Services?

Explanatory Statement: The city of DuPont maintains a fire department to protect its Citizens against fire and to provide emergency medical services. To better provide emergency medical services, the City needs to obtain, operate, and maintain emergency medical aid vehicles as well as the facilities staffed by properly trained firefighter/emergency medical technicians. The city also needs to obtain the consumable medical supplies and medical appliances that equip the EMS vehicles and facilities.

To provide adequate revenue to pay for these costs, the City proposes to levy for a period of six years beginning in 1999 with collection beginning in 2000 a general tax of fifty cents per one thousand of assessed value within the city of DuPont, specifically for EMS services.

The funds raised by the proposed levy shall be used only for the provision of emergency medical services, including personnel and training costs, and costs of equipment, supplies, vehicles and facilities necessary for the provision of emergency medical services.

#### Statement For:

DuPont has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years. Our residential population has exploded and a boom in commercial development is just around the corner. As a consequence, the demand on our fire department for emergency medical services (EMS) has increased dramatically and will continue to rise for years to come.

At present, the fire department provides only *forty hours per week* of full-time fire and EMS coverage. These services are delivered weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by three professional dual-role firefighter/emergency medical technicians (FF/EMT's), whose response time from the fire station averages 1.9 minutes. After-hours, weekend and holiday coverage is provided primarily through trained volunteers, whose response time from their homes averages 7.8 minutes.

Seventy-five percent of the fire department's emergency calls are medical in nature. However, most medical emergencies do not occur during normal business hours. If approved, this ballot measure will enable the fire department to hire three additional FF/EMT's, increasing EMS coverage by professional staff to *eighty-four hours per week* and significantly reducing response times during the additional hours. The fire department will also be able to purchase and equip and aid vehicle dedicated to EMS and provide the required medical training for professional staff and volunteers.

Additional staff could also mean savings for homeowners. Staffing levels can impact the fire department's "ISO" rating, the standard used to establish fire insurance premiums. By adding three FF/EMT's, the fire department could significantly improve service while reducing the cost of fire insurance.

Submitted by: David Prather

#### Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

*This space is available each election for citizens and/or committees opposing measures to publish a Statement Against. For information, contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office at (253) 798-7430.*