



**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PROPOSITION 1 TO APPEAR ON THE
AUGUST 6, 2019 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT**

Proposition 1 will appear on the August 6, 2019 Primary Election Ballot for residents of both the City of Medical Lake and Spokane County Fire District No. 3 (SCFD3), and asks the following question:

Shall the City of Medical Lake be annexed to and become part of Spokane County Fire District No. 3

BACKGROUND: The City of Medical Lake is surrounded in area by SCFD3 and both departments provide mutual aid support to each other. The Medical Lake City Council passed an ordinance to place Proposition 1 on the August 6, 2019 Primary Election ballot. The Board of SCFD3 also approved the placement of Proposition 1 on the same ballot. For Proposition 1 to pass, both jurisdictions must approve the proposition by simple majority.

EXISTING FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

	MLFD	SCFD3
Size of Coverage Area	4 sq. miles	565 sq. miles
Unanswered Calls for Service in 2018	26%	0
Number of Full Time Firefighters	0	8
Number of Volunteer Firefighters	24	120
Number of Stations	1	10
2019 Budget	\$280,000	\$3,100,000

IF PROPOSITION 1 IS APPROVED, WHERE WILL SCFD3 RESPOND FROM FOR MEDICAL LAKE AND NORTH SCFD3 CALLS FOR SERVICE: SCFD3 will renovate the existing offices and fire bays now occupied by the MLFD located at Medical Lake City Hall to include a living quarter for full-time firefighters. During the construction phase, emergency services will respond from Station 33 in Four Lakes which is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Upon completion of the existing Medical Lake Fire Station a similar operating model to Station 33 will be implemented offering Medical Lake residents a 24/7 – 365 fire and medical response.

IF PROPOSITION 1 IS APPROVED, HOW WILL TAX RATES CHANGE: Residents of SCFD3 will see no change in their current fire levy rate, which will remain at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In 2020, Medical Lake residents will see no change in their current tax rate. Medical Lake residents currently pay \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation through an EMS levy that was renewed in 2018. Since SCFD3 cannot collect taxes from the annexation until January 1,

2021, the City has entered into an interim contract for fire services and EMS that will compensate SCFD3 the equivalent levy amount, to be paid from the City's general fund. Beginning January of 2021, Medical Lake residents will pay the same district fire levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The City's existing EMS levy would be rescinded and because of levy rate maximums set by state law that will result in a reduction in the property tax rate, the resulting net increase to Medical Lake residents would be \$0.74 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation over what was paid in 2020.

IF PROPOSITION 1 IS APPROVED, WHEN WILL THE CITY BECOME PART OF SCFD3:

If approved by both City residents and SCFD3, the annexation becomes effective almost immediately, with the official start date being the day the election is certified, which is usually within two weeks after the election. Medical Lake firefighters will have the opportunity to join and become part of SCFD3.

WHAT HAPPENS IF PROPOSITION 1 FAILS: If Proposition 1 fails, the interim contract for fire services and EMS with SCFD3 becomes null and void. Both agencies will maintain status quo regarding service levels while continuing to evaluate options for service improvements.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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