



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3342
509.625.6350

December 13, 2018

Vicky Dalton
Spokane County Auditor
County Courthouse
1116 W. Broadway
Spokane, WA 99260

RE: CITY OF SPOKANE RESOLUTION 2018-0103 PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN
REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY BEGINNING IN 2020 (BALLOT
PROPOSITION NO. 1)

During its regularly scheduled meeting held Monday, December 10, 2018, the Spokane City Council adopted Resolution 2018-0103 proposing an increase in the regular property tax levy beginning in 2020 in an amount exceeding the limitations of chapter 84.55 RCW to provide funding for police and fire personnel and crime reduction programs; exempting eligible senior citizens and persons with disabilities from such levy; providing for the submission of the proposition to the qualified electors of the City at a special election; requesting that the Spokane County Auditor hold a special election for the proposition on February 12, 2019; and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

Pursuant to Section 3 of Resolution 2018-0103, I am hereby delivering to you a certified copy of this resolution and the following proposition in substantially the following form:

CITY OF SPOKANE

PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY FOR HIRING OF POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL, FUNDING CRIME
REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND EXEMPTING ELIGIBLE SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM COLLECTION

THE CITY OF SPOKANE ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 0103, APPROVING A
PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS
OF STATE LAW BEGINNING IN 2020, ALLOCATED 100% TO POLICE AND FIRE
PERSONNEL AND CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMMING, ESTABLISHING THE

BASIS FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT LEVIES AND EXEMPTING ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONS UNDER RCW 84.36.381. THIS PROPOSITION AUTHORIZES A PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT COMMENCING IN 2020 FOR \$0.30 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION, FOR A LEVY RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$3.60, ALL AS PROVIDED IN THE RESOLUTION.

SHOULD THIS PROPOSITION BE:

APPROVED

REJECTED

Thank you for your services.

Sincerely,



Terri L. Pfister, MMC
Spokane City Clerk

c: Mike McLaughlin, Elections Manager



Agenda Sheet for City Council Meeting of:
12/10/2018

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Date Rec'd | 11/28/2018 |
| Clerk's File # | RES 2018-0103 |
| Renews # | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Submitting Dept | CITY COUNCIL | Cross Ref # | |
| Contact Name/Phone | BEN 6256269 | Project # | |
| Contact E-Mail | AMCDANIEL@SPOKANECITY.ORG | Bid # | |
| Agenda Item Type | Resolutions | Requisition # | |
| Agenda Item Name | 0320 PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY LID LIFT PROPOSITION RESOLUTION | | |

Agenda Wording

A resolution of the City of Spokane proposing an increase in the regular property tax levy in an amount exceeding the limitations of Chapter 84.55 RCW to provide funding for police and fire personnel;

Summary (Background)

The resolution proposes a special election on February 12, 2019 to submit to the voters a levy lid lift proposition to increase the regular property tax levy for 2020 by \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The increased revenue would be used to hire approximately thirty additional fire and twenty additional police personnel.

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|-----------------------------|----------------|----|------------------------------|
| <u>Fiscal Impact</u> | Grant related? | NO | <u>Budget Account</u> |
| | Public Works? | NO | |

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|--------|----|---|
| Select | \$ | # |

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <u>Approvals</u> | | <u>Council Notifications</u> | |
| <u>Dept Head</u> | MCDANIEL, ADAM | <u>Study Session</u> | December 6 |
| <u>Division Director</u> | | <u>Other</u> | |
| <u>Finance</u> | BUSTOS, KIM | <u>Distribution List</u> | |
| <u>Legal</u> | DALTON, PAT | | |
| <u>For the Mayor</u> | ORMSBY, MICHAEL | | |

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|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Additional Approvals</u> | |
| <u>Purchasing</u> | |
| <u>CITY COUNCIL</u> | MCDANIEL, ADAM |
| | |
| | |

ADOPTED BY
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL:
December 10, 2018
Jenni Ziegler
CITY CLERK



Continuation of Wording, Summary, Budget, and Distribution

Agenda Wording

providing for the submission of the measure to the qualified electors of the City at a special election; requesting that the Spokane County Auditor hold a special election for the measure on February 12, 2019; and providing for other matters properly relating thereto.

Summary (Background)

| Fiscal Impact | Budget Account |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Select \$ | # |
| Select \$ | # |

Distribution List

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RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 0103

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY BEGINNING IN 2020 IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING THE LIMITATIONS OF CHAPTER 84.55 RCW TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL AND CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMS; EXEMPTING ELIGIBLE SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM SUCH LEVY; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT A SPECIAL ELECTION; REQUESTING THAT THE SPOKANE COUNTY AUDITOR HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE PROPOSITION ON FEBRUARY 12, 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane, Washington ("City") is a first-class city duly organized and existing by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington and its city charter; and

WHEREAS, the City has authority to enact a regular annual property tax levy and such other levies as may be approved by the electorate of the City, subject to applicable limitations, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 84.55 RCW reflects a limitation that the annual rate of increase of the dollar amount of the regular property tax levy set by the City Council may not exceed the lesser of the rate of inflation or one percent (1%), all as further reflected in Chapter 84.55 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the highest priority of the City of Spokane is to ensure the public safety of its citizens and visitors;

WHEREAS, the Alternative Response Unit (ARU) program, first piloted in 2013, is a successful fire department operation that allows smaller vehicles to respond to less acute requests for service and allow for larger fire apparatus to remain ready for critical calls; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane's ARU program has served more than 31,000 incidents since 2013 and serves as a successful model duplicated around North America; and

WHEREAS, the SAFER grant has allowed the ARU program to be staffed 24/7 and place firefighters in critical areas of weakness in the field to provide the highest level of safety for the public and for firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the expiration of the City of Spokane's SAFER grant at the end of 2019 could result in the loss of up to 48 firefighters and significantly reduced ARU program; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Police Department Patrol Allocation, Beat Design, and Shift Scheduling Study found that the City's patrol officers spend more than 63% of their time reacting to calls instead of proactively performing community policing due to police staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, individuals suffering from mental health related issues make up a significant portion of Spokane Police Department calls for service in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, adding new officers to the Behavioral Health Unit would allow for sustained outreach individuals suffering from mental health related illnesses including follow-up after contact which reduces impacts on the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Police Department currently has the capacity to investigate only about 25% of workable felony property crime cases; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of officers dedicated to property crime will allow the Spokane Police Department to get more prolific criminals off the streets; and

WHEREAS, Spokane neighborhoods continue to struggle with chronic nuisance homes, retail theft, unauthorized camps, and drug houses that require more than a one-time police interaction; and

WHEREAS, increasing Neighborhood Resource Officers (NRO) will assist neighborhoods in addressing policing issues that require long-term solutions; and

WHEREAS, keeping downtown Spokane safe and inviting is critical to the economic growth of the city and is key to the quality of life we enjoy; and

WHEREAS, adding five additional Spokane Police Department officers downtown will reduce quality of life incidents and improve safety in our core; and

WHEREAS, adding additional Community Crime Solving Specialists approved by the Police Guild will improve customer service and reduce crime; and

WHEREAS, adding funding for evidence based crime reduction programs like expanded community court and other therapeutic courts, pre-trial supervision, monitoring and services for people charged with crimes, and re-entry services for people convicted of crimes will decrease crime within the City of Spokane, rehabilitate repeat offenders and reduce long term public safety costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is committed to ensuring public safety for its citizens and visitors by placing a levy on the ballot devoted to increasing public safety staffing and crime reduction programming levels in Spokane; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 permits an election to authorize a levy above the limit factor specified in Chapter 84.55 RCW upon majority approval by the voters, subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitation, said election to be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed excess levy is to be made; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires increased funding for police and fire personnel by submitting to the voters a proposition to increase the regular property tax levy in excess of the amount permitted by state law of \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2020 to raise approximately \$5,830,000.00 per year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 84 of the City Charter, the City Council of its motion may submit to popular vote for adoption or rejection at any election any proposed ordinance or measure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Spokane City Council that:

Section 1. The Spokane County Auditor is hereby requested pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and RCW 29A.04.330 to hold a special election on February 12, 2019, in conjunction with the scheduled special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the City of Spokane for the approval or rejection of a proposition to the qualified electors of the City asking whether the City shall levy regular property taxes in excess of the limitation established in RCW 84.55.010 to provide funding for police and fire personnel.

The proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters of the City for the approval or rejection is to authorize increasing the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, to a total regular property tax levy rate of approximately \$3.60 per \$1,000 if this proposition is approved, for collection beginning in 2020.

If this proposition is approved, the City Council will be authorized to adopt, in accordance with regular budget process, an increased regular property tax as described herein.

Section 2. For the purposes identified below, the City Council seeks voter approval under RCW 84.55.050 (2) for a levy lid lift, as follows:

(a) Purpose. The amounts collected from the levy lid lift authorized by the Proposition shall be used to fund the hiring of additional police and fire personnel and funding crime reduction programs.

(b) Levy Lid Lift Effective 2020. The Proposition authorizes an increase in the City's total levy rate for collection in 2020 under ch. 84.55 RCW of \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The total regular property tax rate produced is estimated to be approximately \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value if the Proposition passes, based on estimated 2020 assessed values. Persons exempt from regular property taxes under RCW 84.36.381 shall also be exempt from this levy lid lift.

(c) Permanent Single Year Levy Lid Lift. Pursuant to RCW 85.55.050(1), the dollar amount of the maximum authorized levy under ch. 84.55 RCW for collection in 2020 shall be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies in 2021 and each subsequent year thereafter, and such funds shall be limited to the purposes described in Section 2(a) above.

Section 3. The City Clerk of the City of Spokane is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution and the following proposition to the Spokane County Auditor, as ex officio Supervisor of Elections for the City, no later than December 14, 2018, in substantially the following form:

CITY OF SPOKANE

PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY FOR HIRING OF POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL, FUNDING CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND EXEMPTING ELIGIBLE SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM COLLECTION

THE CITY OF SPOKANE ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 0103, APPROVING A PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF STATE LAW BEGINNING IN 2020, ALLOCATED 100% TO POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL AND CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMMING, ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT LEVIES AND EXEMPTING ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONS UNDER RCW 84.36.381. THIS PROPOSITION AUTHORIZES A PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT COMMENCING IN 2020 FOR \$0.30 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION, FOR A LEVY RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$3.60, ALL AS PROVIDED IN THE RESOLUTION.

SHOULD THIS PROPOSITION BE:

APPROVED

REJECTED

Section 4. In the event the proposition specified in Section 3 above is approved by the qualified electors of the City as required by the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington, there shall be levied and collected annual excess property tax levies in the amount as authorized by said voter approval. Such tax levies will be in excess of the regular annual tax levies permitted by law without voter approval and shall establish the basis for all subsequent levies.

Section 5. The City hereby requests pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330 the Spokane County Auditor, as *ex officio*, Supervisor of Elections of the City, to call, conduct and hold within the City a special election on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection, the proposal set forth above.

Section 6. If any one or more of the provisions of this resolution shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, then such provision shall be null and void, and shall be deemed separable from the remaining provisions of this resolution, and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution.

Section 7. The City Clerk is hereby designated as the person to whom the County Auditor shall provide notice pursuant to RCW 29A.36.080.

Section 8. The City Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of the proposition as may be necessary to effectuate the intent of the resolution or upon recommendation of the Spokane County Auditor, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this resolution as approved by the City Council.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 10th day of December, 2018.



City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Assistant City Attorney

DATE: December 13, 2018
I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS IS A TRUE AND
ACCURATE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL WHICH
IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY
CLERK.



CITY CLERK
SEAL: CITY OF SPOKANE
COUNTY OF SPOKANE
STATE OF WA