



Skagit County Fire Protection District No. 5 Property Tax Levy — November 3, 2026 General Election

Informational Fact Sheet — Paid for by Fire Protection District No. 5

OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ONLY — NOT A CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT

i This fact sheet is produced and distributed by Fire Protection District No. 5 to inform district residents about a ballot proposition that will appear on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. It is intended to present factual information only. It does not advocate for or against the proposition. Residents are encouraged to consider this information and reach their own conclusion. The Skagit County Voters' Pamphlet will include formal arguments for and against the measure.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Skagit County Fire Protection District No. 5 has placed a property tax levy proposition on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. If approved by voters, the levy would increase the district's regular property tax rate to fund apparatus replacement, facility maintenance, and rising operating costs for the fire district.

\$0.3363

Current levy rate
per \$1,000 assessed value

\$0.78

Proposed levy rate
per \$1,000 assessed value

\$0.8090

Average rate of comparable
Skagit County fire districts

\$1.22B

Current district assessed
valuation (2026)

\$576,673

Annual gap vs. comparable
district average revenue

About the District

The district serves the Edison, Allen, and Samish Island areas of Skagit County, covering the rural and agricultural area generally north of Josh Wilson and Pulver Roads, west of I-5 and Hobson Road, south of the Whatcom County line, and north of Biscuit Ridge to Samish Island. It operates under a Board of three elected Fire Commissioners and responds to medical incidents, structure fires, vehicle accidents, wildland fire, and other emergency calls. The department is currently composed of all volunteers.

Since 2000, district property valuations have grown from \$218.5 million to \$1.22 billion. Over that same period, tax revenue has grown from \$208,253 to \$410,498. Because the state limits annual levy increases to 1% without voter approval, revenue growth has not kept pace with rising costs. Adjusted for inflation, the district's purchasing power has declined since 2000.

The district's current levy rate of \$0.3363 per \$1,000 of assessed value is the lowest among comparable Skagit County fire districts. The county average for comparable districts is \$0.8090 per \$1,000. The district collects approximately \$576,673 less per year than that average.

What the Levy would Fund

If approved by voters, increased levy revenue would be used to address the following district needs:

Fire apparatus replacement. The district operates aging engines, tankers, and support vehicles. Fire apparatus has a defined service life; units beyond that life present safety and reliability risks to volunteer crews.

Facility and infrastructure maintenance. Station buildings, equipment storage, and supporting infrastructure require ongoing maintenance and repair to remain operational.

Rising operating costs. Fuel, vehicle maintenance, communications, and other operational expenses have increased significantly and are expected to continue rising.

Community property insurance rates. Insurance companies use fire protection ratings to set homeowner and property insurance premiums. A district's rating is based on the quality and condition of its apparatus, equipment, and response capability. Failure to replace aging apparatus or maintain operational readiness can result in a downgraded rating, which directly raises insurance premiums paid by property owners throughout the district.

How District 5 Compares

District	Assessed Value	Levy Rate/\$1,000	Annual Revenue
FD 13	\$983M	\$1.1114	\$1,092,790
FD 14	\$906M	\$1.0734	\$972,103
FD 6	\$1.59B	\$0.9919	\$1,573,231
FD 3	\$1.22B	\$0.7956	\$973,367
FD 9	\$957M	\$0.7755	\$740,369
FD 2	\$1.03B	\$0.5787	\$594,589
FD 5 (this district)	\$1.22B	\$0.3363	\$410,498
<i>County average (of comparable districts)</i>		<i>\$0.8878</i>	<i>\$991,075</i>

Source: Fire District 5 Financial Analysis Report, January 2026.

Fire District 13 is near La Conner, 14 is Alger, 6 surrounds the City of Burlington, 3 is Cedardale / Conway, 9 is Big Lake, and 2 is the McLean Rd. area.

Estimated Cost to Property Owners

\$234/yr Estimated annual cost \$300,000 home	\$390/yr Estimated annual cost \$500,000 home	\$6.50/mo Estimated monthly cost per \$100K assessed value
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Proposed levy rate: \$0.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Assessed value is set by the Skagit County Assessor and may differ from market value. These figures represent the total levy at the proposed rate; the net increase above the current rate of \$0.3363 per \$1,000 is approximately \$133/year for a \$300,000 home and \$222/year for a \$500,000 home.

How A Levy Measure Works

1 BOARD RESOLUTION The Board of Fire Commissioners adopts a resolution and submits it to Skagit County Elections to place the measure on the ballot.	2 VOTER DECISION Registered voters within the district boundaries decide by ballot. The measure requires approval by a simple majority of votes cast.	3 COLLECTION BEGINS If approved, the new levy rate applies to property taxes collected in 2027. The rate may increase up to the authorized limit factor in subsequent years.
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Where to Learn More / How to Participate

Voters' Pamphlet. The Skagit County Voters' Pamphlet will include formal arguments for and against this measure, prepared by community members. The pamphlet is mailed to all registered voters before the election and will be available online at skagitcounty.net.

Contact the District. Questions about the district's operations, finances, or this ballot measure can be directed to the Board of Fire Commissioners via the contact page at skagitfire5.org.

Skagit County Elections. For questions about voter registration, ballot return, or the election process, contact Skagit County Elections at 360-416-1702 or sselections@co.skagit.wa.us.

Skagit County Fire Protection District

No. 5

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<https://skagitfire5.org>

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