

Mason County Fire District #4
Fire Levy Lid-Lift Information and Facts

What is on my August Primary Election Ballot?

Mason County Fire District 4, is placing a fire levy-lid lift proposition on the August 2, 2022 primary election ballot. This proposition restores the Districts regular property tax levy rate from \$0.97 for maintenance and operations back to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Why is my fire district asking for a lid lift?

Mason County Fire District 4 funds all its daily operations and capital needs through this regular operating levy for fire and emergency services and its EMS Levy. This means the District pays for apparatus, equipment, and all personnel (Career & Volunteer) through its operating budget. *With the increase of assessed value and the tax collection limit capped at 1% of the previous years' tax collection, the tax collection rate steadily decreases.* Since our last levy lid lift the tax collection rate has fallen to \$0.97 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This creates an imbalance in costs for services versus sustained tax revenue for the fire district, therefor, restoration of our tax collection rate will create that sustained balance.

Have Voters Approved this before?

Yes, the last voter approved levy lid lift was in **2011**. Since then the levy tax collection rate has fallen to \$.097 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation.

How much will the lid lift cost?

The .53-cent lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home \$265 in the first year of collection. This equates to \$22.08 per month.

What does the lid lift pay for?

The fire levy pays for daily operations, such as emergency personnel, equipment, apparatus, facilities and repair and maintenance. It supports both full-time career, part-time and volunteer firefighters that provide fire and emergency services 24 hours a day. Moreover, our tax collection rate since our last voter approved measure has steadily decreased resulting in an imbalance of expenditure and revenues. With this levy we will be able to maintain the current staffing level for emergency response while maintaining a sustainable budget in order to continue to provide emergency services.

Can the Fire Levy ever go above \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation?

No. By state law, the fire levy cannot exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.

Does the fire district get more taxes because of increasing property value?

The Fire district is affected by a tax limiter per year by state law regardless of how much a home appreciates in value. This levy lid lift has a single year restoration back to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation and 1% limiter for the subsequent years of the levy. In other words, the district can only collect a maximum of 1% above the previous year's collection rate regardless of how much your home increases in value. Increase in home value, decreases the amount the fire district collects.