

Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2

2016 EMS Levy

informational mailing



Photo: Upper Kittitas County Medic One Paramedic Chris Lawson

On **February 9**, a special election will be held for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy. Voters will be asked if they support a 'yes' vote for a permanent EMS levy.

Why are we voting on this levy now?

The current EMS levy will expire on December 31, 2016. The replacement levy will take effect on January 1, 2017.

How much is the levy?

The replacement levy rate is the same as the current EMS levy at 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A house valued at \$200,000 will pay \$50 a year in property taxes.

What is the levy for?

The levy is for the operation of Medic One ambulance services including staff, ambulances, supplies, and facilities in Upper Kittitas County. User fees pay for less than half of the cost to operate the ambulance service; the rest is covered by the EMS levy.

What is a permanent levy?

A permanent levy is just as it sounds - it's a permanent capability to levy up to 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation during the hospital district's annual budget process. This removes funding uncertainty and provides stability in operations.

Kittitas County

Public Hospital District No. 2

2016 EMS Levy

What EMS services are provided by the hospital district?

The hospital district provides one full-time ambulance staffed 24 hours a day and a second ambulance staffed 12 hours a day. Both are staffed with a paramedic and an EMT.

Do residents pay less for ambulance services?

Residents pay about \$150 less for Medic One services than non-residents because of the property taxes they pay.

Where can I learn more?

Email kcphd2emslevy@gmail.com or contact any member of the EMS Levy Committee:

Lloyd Olson (co-chair) • Louie Osmonovich (co-chair)
Caren Reed (treasurer) • Gail Berndt • Cheryl Ficele
Toni Fields • Cole Gravel • Charlene Kaulzarich
Cheryl Maras • Greg Maras • Patti Nicholson
Dorothy Olson • Richelle Risdon • Richard Seay