

2023 Fire Levy Rates

*\$1,000 of assessed property value (AV)



Fire District 1 - \$1.19*

Fire District 4 - \$0.63*

Fire District 5 - \$0.69*

Fire District 7 - \$0.91*

Fire District 8 - \$0.94*

Fire District 17 - \$0.81*

Fire District 21 - \$0.85*

Bellingham Fire Department - \$1.30*

South Whatcom Fire Authority - \$1.19*



Whatcom County Fire District #4

PO Box 286
Lynden, WA 98264
(360) 318-9933
www.wcfd4.com

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**Important communication from
your fire district. Please open!**





Whatcom County Fire District #4

PO Box 286

Lynden, WA 98264



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(360) 318-9933

Dear Neighbor,

If you are receiving this letter, you live or own property in Whatcom County Fire District 4. We have spent the past three months sharing with our community the challenges we are facing to provide emergency services.

In March, Whatcom 4 sent a letter to all households explaining the issues. Specifically, our fire levy rate does not collect enough revenue to fund its operations contract with North Whatcom Fire & Rescue or needed district capital projects. In the past, Fire District 21 has subsidized fire service for Whatcom 4 residents by \$500,000 per year.

NWFR has notified us that it cannot extend the contract again at the same rate at the risk of alienating its own taxpayers. The Whatcom 4 Board of Fire Commissioners held public meetings this spring with our community to determine the best way forward.

At its May meeting, the Board approved placing a fire levy lid lift on the August 1, 2023 primary election ballot. The lid lift would maintain 24-hour staffing at the Britton Loop Road fire station. It also would fund capital projects, such as re-siding the fire station and replacing emergency apparatus that is at the end of its usable life.

If approved by voters, the lid lift would change the fire levy rate from \$0.63 to \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The \$0.36 difference would cost the owner of a \$550,000 property an additional \$16.50 per month/\$198 per year. This revenue is necessary to keep our fire station on Britton Loop Road staffed 24 hours a day as well as complete the capital projects mentioned above that are needed to serve our community.

After looking at all options, NWFR continues to be the lowest cost provider for Whatcom 4 residents. The levy will maintain staffing levels, address our capital needs and financially stabilize our fire district.

We will hold question and answer sessions closer to when ballots are mailed in July. In the meantime, we welcome your comments at jvanderveen@nwfrs.com or 360-318-9933.

Thank you,



**Commissioner
Mark Lann**



**Commissioner
Steve Cooley,
Chair**



**Commissioner
Tim Johnson**