##### Sample Ballot Language

**CITY OF *[City Name]*, *[City Name]*, AND *[City Name]*,**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**

**CREATION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY**

The Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to the [City Names] a Regional Fire Service Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority under chapter 52.26 RCW. If this measure is approved, it would approve the Plan to create a regional authority for fire protection and emergency services funded with fire benefit charges (not more than 60% of operating budget) and property taxes (not more than $1.50/$1,000 assessed

value). The maximum City property tax rate would be reduced by the tax rate collected by the Authority. Fire benefit charges would be authorized for 2008 through 2013, during which time the Authority’s maximum property tax would be reduced to $1.00/$1,000.

Should the Plan for a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be approved?

* YES
* NO

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

In recent years, many cities have seen decreasing revenues while simultaneously seeing increasing service demands, particularly police and fire services. State law provides some options that could help local governments fund these necessary services. One such option is a regional fire protection services authority, whereby several cities consolidate their fire departments to provide services more cost effectively. Regional fire protection services authorities are distinct municipal entities with operations overseen by a governing board made up of representatives of the participating entities. These authorities have separate funding sources; real property taxes and benefit charges. The participating jurisdictions, in turn, see a reduction of their taxing authority. However, because most jurisdictions fund their fire departments with more than just the property tax dollars that would go to a regional fire protection services authority, creating such an authority could free up funds to pay for police and other services.

The cities of [City Names] have joined together to develop a plan to be submitted to their voters. If approved, this would create a regional fire protection services authority with equal representation for each city, funded with fire benefit charges (up to 60% of operating budget) and/or property taxes (limited at $1.50/$1,000 assessed value). The rate limit on city property tax rates would be reduced by the tax rate collected by the authority. Fire benefit charges would be authorized for 2008 through 2013, during which time the rate limit on the authority’s property taxes would be reduced from $1.50/$1,000 down to $1.00/$1,000.

##### Sample Ballot Language

[Fire Agency 1]

[Fire Agency 2]

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**

**CREATION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY**

The Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to the Snohomish County Fire Protection Districts 14 and 18, a Regional Fire Service Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority under chapter 52.26 RCW. If this measure is approved, it would approve the Plan to create a regional authority for fire protection and emergency services funded with current taxing rates (not more than

$1.50/$1,000 assessed value). This Authority would begin on 1/1/08.

Should the Plan for a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be approved?

YES NO





**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

In recent years, many cities and Fire Districts have seen decreasing revenues while simultaneously seeing increasing service demands, particularly police and fire services. State law provides some options that could help local governments fund these necessary services. One such option is a regional fire protection services authority, whereby several cities consolidate their fire departments to provide services more cost effectively. Regional fire protection services authorities are distinct municipal entities with operations overseen by a governing board made up of representatives of the participating entities.

[Fire Agency Names] have joined together to develop a plan to be submitted to their voters. If approved, this would create a regional fire protection services authority with equal representation for each District funded with current property taxes (limited at $1.50/$1,000 assessed value) and revenues. This proposal uses only existing property taxes and revenues.

**Statement For Statement Against**

**Complete Text of Resolution**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 0 9 1 revised**

A RESOLUTION of *[Fire Agency Names]*, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of *[Fire Agency Names]*, at an election to be held on May 15, 20XX, of a proposition regarding the creation of the *[RFA Name]*coextensive with the boundaries of *[Fire Agency Names]* and the approval of a regional fire protection service authority plan; appointing persons to serve on the committees to draft the voter pamphlet statements for and against; and providing for other matters properly related thereto, with contingencies

WHEREAS, over the past few years, local municipalities have faced constraints that have resulted in decreasing tax revenues and increasing demand for services; and

WHEREAS, these constraints have increased the challenges facing fire districts in providing the municipal services upon which their citizens depend; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in the law have created opportunities that could help fire districts meet their needs of providing municipal services by consolidating among various participating municipalities the resources relegated to fire protection; and

WHEREAS, this consolidation of resources, through the establishment of a regional fire protection service authority, provides a way for the participating municipalities to maximize their abilities to provide and fire protection services and emergency medical services.

WHEREAS, in order to provide the most effective fire protection service for *[Fire Agency Names]* their Commissioners will create the establishment of a Regional Fire Protection Authority Planning Committee to evaluate Regional Fire Protection needs and the parameters of the Regional Fire Protection Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Fire Protection Authority Planning Committee (“RFA Committee”) developed its plan (“RFA Plan”) for the *[RFA Name]*, copies of which plan are on file with the District Secretary of both *[Fire Agency Names]*; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said plan and with chapter 52.26 RCW, it is appropriate to place before the voters of the proposed Regional Fire Protection Authority a proposition calling for the creation of the North County Fire and EMS Regional Fire Protection Authority and the approval of the Plan, all in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, the *[Fire Agency Names]* heretofore passed its initial Resolution No. , on , 20XX, based on the plan that included both fire districts 14 and 18.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSIONERS OF *[Fire Agency Names]* HEREBY RESOLVES as

follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSITION.

The Board of Commissioners for *[Fire Agency Names]*, hereby finds that it is in the best interests of the Fire Districts to submit to the qualified electors of the County, at the election to be held on May 15, 20XX, a proposition regarding the creation of the *[RFA Name[* (the “Authority”), pursuant to chapter 52.26 RCW, and the approval of the Plan for the Authority. If approved by the voters in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this proposition would: (1) create a regional fire protection service authority, as defined in RCW 52.26.020, whose boundaries are coextensive with *[Fire Agency Names]*; and (2) approve the RFA Plan prepared by the RFA Committee and available from the District Secretary of either *[Fire Agency Names]*. The governing body of the RFA shall have such rights to modify the details of the RFA Plan from time to time as provided by law and the provisions of the RFA Plan; PROVIDED, the Authority shall be formed with boundaries coextensive with those of the two participating Districts. No further action of the

Planning Committee shall be required to complete the amendments described herein.

Section 2. BALLOT TITLE AND PROPOSITION

The Director of Records and Elections of Snohomish County, Washington, and the County Auditor (together, the “County Auditors”), as ex officio supervisor of elections in each County, are each hereby requested to submit to the qualified electors of the City, at the election to be held on May 15, 20XX, a proposition in the following form, which has been prepared by the County Prosecutor Attorney pursuant to RCW (29A.36.071)?:

**PROPOSITION #1**

Districts 14 and 18

**CREATION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY**

The Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee has submitted to *[Fire Agency Names]*, a Regional Fire Service Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority under chapter 52.26 RCW. If this measure is approved, it would approve the Plan to create a regional authority for fire protection and emergency services funded with current taxing rates (not more than $1.50/$1,000 assessed value). This Authority would begin on 1/1/08.

Should the Plan for a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be approved?

YES ?

NO ?

For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW **29A.36.080?,** the Board of Commissioners, hereby designates the Fire Chief as the individual to whom the Director of Elections shall provide such notice.

Section 3. APPOINTMENT OF VOTER PAMPHLET COMMITTEES

The Board of Commissioners proposes and appoints the following persons to serve on the committees to draft the statements for and against the above described proposition as may be published in the applicable Voter's Pamphlet and/or other appropriate voter information:

Statement for:

* + - 1. , Citizen
			2. , Citizen
			3. , Citizen Statement Against:
1. , Citizen
2. , Citizen
3. , Citizen

(At this time, no citizens have expressed an interest in preparing a statement in opposition to the proposition.) Section 4. COPIES FILED WITH THE Snohomish COUNTY AUDITOR.

The Board of Commissioners, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than March 23, 20XX, to provide the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot at the May 15, 20XX election. All actions taken prior to the effective date of this resolution and in furtherance of this objective are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 5. IMPLEMENTATION.

The Boards and their designee is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation, including modifying the text of the RFA Plan and the text of the Ballot Measure and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto, to serve on the committees to

draft the statements for and against the above described proposition as may be published in the applicable Voter's Pamphlet and/or other appropriate voter information.

Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the Board of Commissioners this day of , 20XX.

*[Fire Agency Names]*

 \_, Commissioner

 , Commissioner

 , Commissioner