

JOINT RESOLUTION
CITY OF CAMAS RESOLUTION NO. 24-018
CITY OF WASHOUGAL RESOLUTION NO. _____

A **JOINT RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, providing for the submission to qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal, at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, of a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a plan to form a Regional Fire Protection Authority to be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority within the boundaries of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal, effective September 1, 2025.

RECITALS

- A. The ability and demands to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency medical service agencies has increased and progressed with community needs and special service demands. Providing an effective fire protection and emergency medical service system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector.
- B. There are efficiencies that can be gained by regional fire protection and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control.
- C. The City of Camas ("Camas") and the City of Washougal, ("Washougal") have had a long-standing cooperative partnership, striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services to their citizens within the confines of available resources. This cooperative partnership began in the 1970s with the provision of a regional ambulance service and culminated with an interlocal agreement in 2014, which provided for a consolidation of services as the Camas Washougal Fire Department, with Camas providing services to Washougal. While this cooperative relationship has served the public well for many years, as a result of the needs of a growing community and demands for enhanced fire and EMS services, Camas and Washougal have determined that it is in the public

interest to place a measure before the voters that if approved would result in the formation of a Regional Fire Authority (RFA).

- D. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.030 and 52.26.040 the cities of Camas and Washougal formed an RFA Planning Committee to evaluate the feasibility of creating a new and separate regional fire authority to provide the fire protection and emergency services within the boundaries of Camas and Washougal. The members of the Planning Committee included three City Council members from Camas and three City Council members from Washougal. Over a period of several months, the Planning Committee met and created a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan ("Plan") providing for the governance, design, financing, and development of fire protection and emergency services.
- E. The Planning Committee held its final meeting on October 16, 2024, and recommended approval of the Plan to the Camas City Council and Washougal City Council. The Camas City Council and Washougal City Council met in joint work session on November 6, 2024, to review the recommended Plan. By adoption of this Joint Resolution, the Plan is formally adopted and certified to the ballot pursuant to RCW 52.26.060 by both the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. Copies of the Plan are available from the administrative offices of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal.
- F. Authority to form a RFA is authorized by Chapter 52.26 RCW. Chapter 52.26 RCW requires that in order to form an RFA, the Plan must be approved by the voters of the area affected by the Plan. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within the proposed service boundaries of the RFA at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, a proposition calling for the creation of a RFA which shall be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority to be funded by a \$1.05 per \$1,000 assessed value property tax levy and the approval of the Plan, all in accordance with state law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

CAMAS, WASHINGTON, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHOUGAL WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION

SECTION 1. - **Adoption of Plan for the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority.** The City Council of the City of Camas and the City Council of the City of Washougal hereby formally adopt the 2025 Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan. A true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 2. - **Findings of Camas City Council and Washougal City Council.** The City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, hereby adopt each of the recitals above as findings and further find that it is in the best interest of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal at a special election to be held on April 22, 2025, a proposition to adopt the Plan that creates a RFA which shall be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority, which if approved will be funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.05 per thousand of assessed value. If approved by a majority of the total persons voting on the ballot measure within the boundaries of the authority in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, effective September 1, 2025, this proposition would create a RFA as provided in Chapter 52.26 RCW with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal.

SECTION 3. - **Proposition for Voter Submittal.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Camas and the City of Washougal for their approval or rejection, at a special election on April 22, 2025, the question of whether or not the RFA known as the **Camas-Washougal Fire Authority** should be created in accordance with the Plan and funded with the real property tax levies referenced above. The City Council of the City of Camas and the City Council of the City of Washougal hereby request that the auditor of Clark County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, call such election and submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. ____

The City Council of the City of Camas and the City Council of the City of Washougal have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Regional Fire Authority Service Plan ("Plan") concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Protection Authority ("RFA").

This proposition would approve the Plan and create a Regional Fire Authority to be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority, effective September 1, 2025, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. The RFA would be funded by property tax (\$1.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

Shall the registered voters residing within the cities of Camas and Washougal approve the formation of a regional fire authority (RFA) and approve the RFA Plan proposed by the cities of Camas and Washougal?

Yes _____
No _____

SECTION 4. Without further action of the Camas City Council and the Washougal City Council the ballot proposition language set forth in Section 3 above may be revised to correct scrivener's errors and to conform with statutory requirements.

SECTION 5. - Pro and Con Committee Appointments. The Camas City Council and the Washougal City Council hereby assign to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

SECTION 6. - Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

SECTION 7. - Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

SECTION 8. - Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

SECTION 9. - Triplicate Originals. Three originals of this Resolution are signed by the

City of Camas and the City of Washougal.

PASSED at a regular or special open public meeting by the City Council of the City of Camas, Washington, this **2nd** day of **December, 2024**.

PASSED at a regular or special open public meeting by the City Council of the City of Washougal, Washington, this **2nd** day of **December, 2024**.

EXHIBIT A

2025 Regional Fire Authority Plan

City of Camas, Washington

City of Washougal, Washington

Mayor

Mayor

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

City Attorney