

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEVY REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES IN AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 84.55 RCW FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BEGINNING IN 2026; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT TITLE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest Park is committed to providing essential public safety services, including police protection, 911 dispatch, jail services, criminal justice services such as prosecution and public defense, and mental health crisis response alternatives (together “Public Safety Services”); and

WHEREAS, residents of Lake Forest Park prioritized police and public safety services as their top priority for City spending; and

WHEREAS, the City’s regular property tax levy rate is currently \$0.71367 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; which is \$2.65746 per \$1000 of assessed value *less* than what is statutorily authorized; and

WHEREAS, chapter 84.55 RCW limits the amount of the City’s regular property tax levy to a 1% increase per year (“Levy Lid”), which was \$34,500 in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing Public Safety Services has increased significantly over the past four years (See attachment A.) from the 2023–2024 biennium to the adopted 2025–2026 budget, driven by rising costs for police, equipment for their safety, 911 dispatch services; jail services; prosecution; public defense; and mental health and crisis intervention programs in addition to a 24% increase in inflation over those same four years; and

WHEREAS, the City cut over \$455,000 in proposed spending in the 2025–2026 budget and is operating without sufficient staff to perform necessary city functions; and

WHEREAS, the City has diligently pursued contracts beneficial to the City for jail and 911 dispatch services, but providers for these services have fixed costs out of the City’s control; and

WHEREAS, the City has allocated traffic safety camera revenue to public safety expenses to the extent allowed by state statute; and

WHEREAS, the City relied on approximately \$880,000 in one-time funding to balance the 2025–2026 biennial budget, which is not sustainable long-term without a revenue enhancement or a reduction in services; and

WHEREAS, maintaining Public Safety Services requires the expenditure of permanent and regular (i.e., sustainable) revenue in excess of the current Levy Lid; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the Levy Lid (a “Levy Lid Lift”) if the increased levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at a general election held within the taxing district; and

WHEREAS, approval of a Levy Lid Lift ballot proposition would help maintain current levels of Public Safety Services;

WHEREAS, to fund Public Safety Services as described in this resolution and continue that funding for a period of six years, the City Council finds that it is in the City’s best interest to present a ballot proposition to the City’s voters to increase the City’s regular property tax levy above the highest allowable levy lid lift of 1% limitation; and

WHEREAS, when the Levy Lid Lift expires in six years, the Levy will decrease to what it would have been if the Levy Lid Lift never existed and the City had only taken the annual 1% increase; and

WHEREAS, the Levy Lid Lift proposed would authorize an increase of approximately \$1.4 million in the City’s regular property tax levy by an increase of approximately \$0.28 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, to a maximum rate of \$0.99367/\$1,000, in 2026, as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW; and increase the annual levy in the amount of the rate of inflation (Seattle region CPI-U) for 2027-2031; and until said Levy Lid Lift expires.

WHEREAS, the approximately \$1.4 million in additional levy funds will only be used to pay for Public Safety Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park, as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations. The City Council (the “City Council”) of City of Lake Forest Park, Washington (the “City”), takes note of the foregoing recitals and incorporates them into this resolution as findings and determinations of the City Council.

Section 2. Ballot Proposition Authorized. The City Council hereby finds that the best interests of the residents of Lake Forest Park requires the submission to the

qualified voters of the City, at the general election to be held on November 4, 2025, of a proposition authorizing a multi-year Levy Lid Lift to support Public Safety Services.

Section 3. Levy Rate and Duration. If approved by a majority of voters, the City shall be authorized to temporarily levy an additional regular property tax in the amount of **\$0.28 per \$1,000** of assessed valuation for levy in 2025 and collection in 2026.

This levy shall be:

- Collected annually for six (6) consecutive years, from 2026 through 2031;
- Increased each year in January by the annual percentage growth in the June-to-June Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

Section 4. Use of Levy Proceeds. The additional revenue generated by this levy shall be used exclusively for Public Safety Services, including but not limited to:

- Police staffing, training, and safety equipment
- 911 dispatch
- Emergency management services
- Jail services
- Prosecution and public defense costs
- Crisis intervention and mental health diversion programs

Section 5. Exemption for Low-Income Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons. As provided under RCW 84.36.381, low-income senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other disabled persons who qualify shall be exempt from the Levy Lid Lift authorized by this resolution to the extent allowed by law. It is the intent of the City to ensure that this levy does not impose an undue burden on vulnerable residents living on fixed incomes.

Section 6. Calling of Election. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as *ex officio* Supervisor of Elections (the "Director of Elections"), is requested to call and conduct a special election, in the manner provided by law, to be held in the City on November 4, 2025 (the "**General Election**"), for the purpose of submitting to the City's voters, for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy in 2025 for collection in 2026 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW and to use the dollar amount of such levy for the purpose of computing the limitations for the City's subsequent five levies under chapter 84.55 RCW adjusted by the rate of inflation (Seattle region CPI-U).

Section 7. Form of Ballot Title. Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, the City Attorney of the City has prepared the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

City of Lake Forest Park
Proposition No. 1
Public Safety Services Levy Lid Lift

The City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park adopted Resolution No. 25-2021 to fund Public Safety Services.

This proposition would fund Public Safety Services per the Resolution including police services, safety equipment, 911 dispatch, emergency management services, jail services, and mental health crisis response by temporarily setting the maximum total regular levy rate at **\$0.99367/\$1000** for collection in 2026, with annual increases for five years based on inflation (Seattle region CPI-U). Qualifying low-income seniors, disabled veterans, and other disabled persons are exempt under RCW 84.36.381.

Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Section 8. Authorization to Deliver Resolution to Director of Elections and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The chief administrative officer of the City (the “City Administrator”) or his designee is authorized and directed to: (a) present a certified copy of this resolution to the Director of Elections no later than August 5, 2025 and (b) perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to submit to the City’s voters at the General Election, for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy in 2025 for collection in 2026 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW and to use the dollar amount of such levy for the purpose of computing the limitations for the City’s subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW for the succeeding five years.

Section 9. Notices Relating to Ballot Title. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot title required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates (a) the City Administrator (Phillip Hill), telephone: 206-368-5440; email: phill@cityofflp.com; and (b) the City Attorney (Kim Adams Pratt), telephone: 425-201-5111; email: Kim@MadronaLaw.com. The City Administrator is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, as determined necessary.

Section 10. General Authorization and Ratification of Prior Acts. This resolution may be executed by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of the City, and attested by the City Clerk in tangible medium, manual, facsimile or electronic form under any security procedure or platform, and notwithstanding any other City ordinance, resolution, rule, policy or procedure, or in any other manner evidencing its adoption. The Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, Finance Director of the City, and other appropriate officers of the City are individually authorized and directed to take such actions and to create, accept, execute, send, use and rely upon such documents, records and signatures (including in tangible medium, manual, facsimile or electronic form, under any security procedure or platform,

and notwithstanding any other City ordinance, resolution, rule, policy or procedure) as in their judgment may be necessary or desirable to effectuate the provisions of this resolution. All actions taken prior to the effective date of this resolution in furtherance of and not inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are ratified and confirmed in all respects.

Section 11. Severability. If a court of competent jurisdiction, all appeals having been exhausted or all appeal periods having run, holds any provision of this resolution invalid or unenforceable, then the offending provision is null and void, is separate and severable from the remaining provisions of this resolution and in no way affects the validity of the other provisions of this resolution or of the levy or collection of the regular property taxes as so authorized herein.

Section 12. Effective Date. This resolution takes effect upon its adoption.

Section 13. Corrections. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this resolution, including the correction of scrivener's errors, references, ordinance or resolution numbering, and ballot title formatting as required by King County Elections.

PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE of the members of the Lake Forest Park City Council this ___ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVED:

Tom French
Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Mathew McLean
City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.: