

**ORDINANCE NO. XXXX**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SNOQUALMIE, WASHINGTON PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2024, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LIFT THE LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN RCW 84.55.010, USING A SINGLE-YEAR PERMANENT LEVY LID LIFT, TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH MAINTAINING THE SERVICE LEVELS OF PUBLIC SAFETY, STREETS, AND PARKS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Property tax is the main revenue source for the City’s General Operating Fund and increases are capped at one percent (1%) annually by Chapter 84.55.010 of the Revised Code of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, inflation in the Seattle area has been substantially higher than one percent (1%); and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide funds to pay the costs of public safety, including operations affecting 911 emergency response times, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians for Basic Life Support; street maintenance and safety improvements; and preservation of parks, trails and natural areas within the City of Snoqualmie, Washington (the “City”), it is deemed advisable that the City impose taxes within the limits permitted to cities; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the voters of a city to authorize an increase above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions here and above set forth require the holding of a special election in the City;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Snoqualmie as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The City Council hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the above recitals as findings in support of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Levy of Additional Regular Property Taxes. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the City require the submission to the qualified electors of the City of the proposition whether the City shall levy regular property taxes above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for their ratification or rejection at an election to be held on August 6, 2024 for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs associated with public safety, including operations affecting 911 emergency response times, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians for Basic Life Support; street maintenance; and the preservation of parks, trails and natural areas within the City. The Director of King County Elections, as ex officio supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct such an election to be held within the City on such day and to submit to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection a proposition to increase the City's regular property tax levy by up to \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (to a total rate not to exceed \$1.93 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) for collection beginning on January 1, 2025, as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. The 2025 levy amount will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, not later than May 3, 2024, to certify a proposition to the Director of King County Elections in substantially the following form:

## **CITY OF SNOQUALMIE**

## **PROPOSITION 1**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS, STREETS AND PARKS MAINTENANCE LEVY**

The City of Snoqualmie, Washington adopted Ordinance No. **XXXX** concerning public safety, the maintenance of streets, and the preservation of parks. This proposition would fund public safety, including operations affecting 911 emergency response times, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians for Basic Life Support; street maintenance including asphalt repair and the sweeping of streets; and park and trail preservation including landscape maintenance and the repair of park facilities, protecting and sustaining service levels which have been impacted by inflation. It increases the City's property tax rate by up to \$0.11/\$1,000 to a total maximum rate of \$1.93/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025 and annually thereafter. Should this proposition be approved?

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect five days after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Section 5. Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such finding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other section of this ordinance.

Section 6. Corrections by the City Clerk or Code Reviser. Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and Code Reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this

ordinance, including the correction of clerical errors; references to other local, state or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations, or ordinance numbering and section/subsection numbering.

**PASSED** by the Council of the City of Snoqualmie, Washington at a regular meeting thereof and

**APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Snoqualmie on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

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Katherine Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Deana Dean, City Clerk

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David Linehan, Interim City Attorney