

**CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
CITY OF TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

**CITY OF OLYMPIA RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY OF TUMWATER RESOLUTION NO. R2022-014**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AND THE CITY OF TUMWATER, WASHINGTON, TO FORM A REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY AND TO APPROVE A PLAN RELATED THERETO, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITIES OF OLYMPIA AND TUMWATER, AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 25, 2023, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 52.26 OF THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON, OF A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO APPROVE OR REJECT CREATION OF A REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY AND A PLAN RELATED THERETO, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITIES OF OLYMPIA AND TUMWATER, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, TO BE FUNDED BY A PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND A NEW SIX-YEAR BENEFIT CHARGE**

**WHEREAS**, the ability to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency medical service agencies has not kept up or progressed with community needs, special service demands, and growing populations in the cities of Olympia and Tumwater (collectively the “Cities”); and

**WHEREAS**, a collaborative partnership and shared responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector is better able to provide for an effective fire protection and emergency medical system than the Cities acting separately can provide; and

**WHEREAS**, the delivery of core emergency services and timely development of significant projects can best be achieved through the use of stable funding options provided for by state law for regional fire protection and emergency medical services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia (“Olympia”) and the City of Tumwater (“Tumwater”) have had a cooperative partnership, striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services to their residents within the confines of available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 19, 2021, Olympia and Tumwater entered into an interlocal agreement to study whether to form a regional fire authority. Subsequently, the Cities formed the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee (hereafter “Planning Committee”) to review the creation of a regional fire authority and associated service delivery and financing plan to provide fire protection and emergency medical services within the boundaries of the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater. The members of the Planning Committee include three City of Olympia Councilmembers and three City of Tumwater Councilmembers. Also invited to the Planning Committee as *ex officio* non-voting members were Olympia Interim Fire Chief Todd Carson and Tumwater Fire Chief Brian Hurley, and union representatives of International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 468, Steven Busz, and International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 2409, James Osberg. The Planning Committee first

met on August 16, 2021, and recommended the creation of the “Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority,” (hereafter “the Authority” or “Authority”) and the adoption of an operations and finance plan to govern and finance the Authority’s operation (hereafter the “Plan”). On November 14, 2022, the Planning Committee conducted a public hearing on creation of the Authority and the Plan. Following the public hearing, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Planning Committee moved to recommend the formation of the Authority and its Plan to the Olympia City Council and Tumwater City Council. Copies of the Plan are available from the administrative offices of the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater City Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities are authorized to form a regional fire protection service authority by Chapter 52.26 RCW, which requires that in order to create a regional fire protection service authority, the formation of the Authority and its 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 regional fire authority, a ballot proposition for approval or rejection of the formation of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority, to be funded by existing property tax levy and a new six-year benefit charge, and the approval or rejection of the Plan for its governance, operation, and financing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL AND THE TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL DO HEREBY JOINTLY RESOLVE** as follows:

1. Adoption of the Plan and the formation of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority. The City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, hereby formally adopt the Plan and the formation of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority (hereafter “Authority”), a true and correct copy of which Plan is attached as Exhibit A to this Joint Resolution and incorporated by this reference.
2. Findings of the City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington. The City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, hereby find that it is in the best interest of the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater to submit to the qualified electors of the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater at a special election to be held on April 25, 2023, a proposition to approve or reject formation of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority and the Plan, which if approved will be funded by property tax not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value during such time as a benefit charge is collected, and not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value if the benefit charge is not being collected, and a six-year benefit charge not to exceed 60% of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority’s operating budget. The dollar amount the Authority will levy in the first year in which the Authority imposes regular property taxes is \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The estimated highest lawful levy for the City of Olympia, less the Authority’s \$1.00 is \$8,172,083.06, and \$4,272,155.00 for the City of Tumwater. There is no change of amount of property tax levied to property owners. The Authority will impose a benefit charge of \$10,500,000.00 across the Authority’s jurisdiction. If approved by 60% of the voters within the boundaries of the Authority as provided in Chapter 52.26 RCW, the Authority will be called the “Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority,” with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater, effective September 25, 2023.
3. Submittal of Proposition to Voters. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater for their approval or rejection, at a special election on April 25, 2023, the question of whether or not the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority should be formed and

funded by existing property tax levy and a six-year benefit charge, and approval of the Plan related thereto. The City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, hereby request the Auditor of Thurston County, as *ex-officio* supervisor of elections to call such election and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**

The City of Olympia and City of Tumwater adopted a Joint Resolution concerning formation of a regional fire authority and its Plan.

If approved, this proposition would form the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority and adopt the Plan to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. The Authority will be funded by property tax (not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value) and a six-year benefit charge (not to exceed 60% of the Authority's operating budget). This funding would reduce Olympia's and Tumwater's property tax capacity by the tax rate collected by the Authority.

Should this proposition to form the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority and its Plan be approved?

- ☐ YES  
☐ NO

For the purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council of the City of Olympia, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, hereby designate Mark Barber, Olympia City Attorney, as the person to whom such notice shall be provided.

4. Authorize Continued Acts of the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee. The City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, hereby authorize the Planning Committee described in the recitals of this resolution to continue operating on an as needed basis until the effective date of the Authority. The Planning Committee, for the purposes of RCW 52.26.230, shall conduct a public hearing on the benefit charge and file a report of the hearing with the county treasurer consistent with the requirements of RCW 52.26.230. The Planning Committee shall function as the governing board for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of Chapter 52.26 RCW until such time as a new governing board is established on September 25, 2023, pursuant to the Plan.
5. Pro and Con Committee Appointments. The City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, and the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, hereby assign to the Planning Committee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to advocate voters' rejection of the proposition, as required by law.
6. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Joint Resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

7. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Joint Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.
8. Effective Date. This Joint Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and passage.
9. Triplicate Originals. Three originals of this Joint Resolution are to be signed by the City of Olympia and the City of Tumwater.

**ADOPTED AND PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,** at an open public meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of December 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL SELBY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
OLYMPIA CITY CLERK

**ADOPTED AND PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER, WASHINGTON,** at an open public meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of December 2022.

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DEBBIE SULLIVAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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TUMWATER CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Mark Barber, Olympia City Attorney

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Karen Kirkpatrick, Tumwater City Attorney