JOINT RESOLUTION

Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1

 Resolution No. 1-2025-02-12

Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2025-02-12

Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7

RESOLUTION No. 7-2025-02-12

A JOINT RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3, and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 providing for the submission to qualified electors of District 1, 3 and 7 at the April 22, 2025 election of a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a plan to form a regional fire protection service authority within the boundaries of Districts, 1, 3 and 7, effective May 1, 2025 and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

**RECITALS**

A. 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. Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1 (“District 1”), Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 (“District 3”) and Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 (“District 7”) have a long history of a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of their citizens.

D. On December 11, 2024, the Boards of Commissioners of each District formed a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility of forming a regional fire authority and to draft a regional fire authority plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 52.26 RCW.

E. The Planning Committee met and prepared a Plan to create regional fire authority named “Walla Walla North County Fire” and to govern and finance its operation. The Walla Walla North County Fire Plan is being formally approved and adopted by each entity pursuant to this Joint Resolution “the Plan.” A copy of the Plan is listed under supporting documents under the meeting informationand incorporated by this reference. Copies are also available from the administrative offices of Districts 1, 3 and 7.

F. The authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority is established by Chapter 52.26 RCW and requires that the voters in the area affected by the Plan must approve the Plan and establish the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority.

G. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within Districts 1, 3 and 7 (the proposed service boundaries of Walla Walla North County Fire) at an election to be held on April 22, 2025, a proposition calling for the approval of the Plan and the creation of Walla Walla North County Fire, to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed $1.20 per thousand of assessed valuation.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

**RESOLUTION**

***SECTION 1****. – Adoption of the Regional Fire Authority Plan for Walla Walla North County Fire.* The Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 hereby formally adopt the Regional Fire Authority Plan for Walla Walla North County Fire, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference.

***SECTION 2****. – Findings of Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7.* The Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 hereby find that it is in the best interests of District 1, District 3 and District 7 to submit to the qualified electors of Districts 1, 3 and 7 at the election to be held on April 22, 2025 a proposition to approve the Plan and to create Walla Walla North County Fire as a Regional Fire Authority. The Plan authorizes the RFA to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed $1.20 per thousand.

If approved by a simple majority of the voters within the boundaries of the proposed Authority voting on the ballot proposition in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this proposition would create a regional fire protection service authority as provided in chapter 52.26 RCW called “Walla Walla North County Fire,” with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7, effective May 1, 2025, initially funded as set forth in this Section 2.

***SECTION 3***. - *Proposition for Voter Submittal*. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 for their ratification or rejection, at the April 22, 2025 election the question of whether or not Walla Walla North County Fire should be created in accordance with the Walla Walla North County Fire Plan. The Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 hereby requests the Auditor of Walla Walla County, as *ex-officio* Supervisor of Elections, to call such election and to submit to the voters of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title, pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, as follows:

**WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

**WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3**

**WALLA WALLA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7**

**PROPOSITION 1**

Walla Walla County Fire Protection Districts No. 1, 3 and 7 have adopted a Joint Resolution approving a Regional Fire Authority Plan creating Walla Walla North County Fire (“Plan”) concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Authority.

This proposition would approve the Plan and create Walla Walla North County Fire as a regional fire authority, effective May 1, 2025 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services funded by a property tax not to exceed $1.20 per thousand of assessed value to be levied beginning in 2025 and collected in 2026, in place of the existing fire District tax levies.

Should the Plan to create Walla Walla North County Fire be approved?

YES [ ]

NO [ ]

***SECTION 4***. – *Authorize Continued Acts of Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee*. The Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 hereby authorize the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee to continue operating on an as needed basis until the effective date of Walla Walla North County Fire. 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 Walla Walla North County Fire governing board is established pursuant to the Plan on May 1, 2025.

***SECTION 5*.** – *Voter Approval Requirement.* Pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

***SECTION 6*.** – *Voters Pamphlet.*The Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7 find and declare that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters’ pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the Districts. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

***SECTION 7***. - *Designation of Individuals to Receive Notices re: Ballot Title.* For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board of Commissioners of Districts 1, 3 and 7 hereby designates the Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

***SECTION 8***.- *Implementation*. The Fire Chief 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 “ Regional Fire Authority Plan for Walla Walla North County Fire” and the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution. No substantive modifications, to the ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions of any document shall be made without the approval of the Boards of Commissioners of each District.

***SECTION 9*.** *Copies Filed with the County Auditors*. The Fire Chief or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than February 21, 2025, to provide to the County Auditors certified copies of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters of the proposed Walla Walla County Regional Fire Authority at the April 22, 2025 election.

***SECTION 10*** – *Severability.* If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution or the Plan is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution or the Plan.

***SECTION 11***. - *Ratification*. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

***SECTION 12***. - *Effective Date*. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 1, Walla Walla County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025, the below commissioners being present and voting.

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SECRETARY

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 3, Walla Walla County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025, the below commissioners being present and voting.

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SECRETARY

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 7, Walla Walla County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025, the below commissioners being present and voting.

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SECRETARY