

Kitsap 911 Public Authority

Resolution 2021-002

Requesting the Board of County Commissioners Place a Proposition on the November 2, 2021 Ballot to Increase the Sales and Use Tax for Emergency Communications Systems and Facilities to 2/10^{ths} of 1 percent.

WHEREAS, the Kitsap 911 Public Authority, a public corporation organized under RCW 35.21.730, is the countywide 9-1-1 answering point and emergency services dispatch center for all fire services, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and animal rescue; and

WHEREAS, the public safety agencies in Kitsap County including: Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bainbridge Island Police Department, Bremerton Fire Department, Bremerton Police Department, Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Kitsap Humane Society Animal Rescue and Enforcement, Port Gamble Police Department and Department of Natural Resources, Port Orchard Police Department, Poulsbo Fire Department, Poulsbo Police Department, South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, and Suquamish Police Department, all rely on Kitsap 911's radio system as the primary means for transmitting mission-critical communications between emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap 911's emergency communications systems are absolutely essential for the safety of Kitsap County residents, visitors and first responders; and

WHEREAS, the existing radio communication system and infrastructure is failing to provide reliable emergency communications in all areas of Kitsap County and cannot accommodate the volume of radio traffic required during emergencies putting the public, first responders and property at risk; and

WHEREAS, other portions of the Kitsap 911 infrastructure are technically obsolete, no longer supported by the manufacturer or are approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, existing funding mechanisms for Kitsap 911 are not adequate to support capital improvements required to provide reliable emergency communications in Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, the legislature amended RCW 82.14.420 to increase the maximum sales and use tax for emergency communications systems and facilities to two-tenths of one percent, provided that a proposition must be submitted to the voters to increase the tax rate; and

WHEREAS, under the Washington State Law, the Ordinance and Kitsap 911's Charter, the Board of County Commissioners remain the taxing authority for the sales and use tax for emergency communications systems and facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is the Board's intent that these revenues will be used to fund the radio system replacement and thereafter to create a committed Capital Improvement/Equipment Replacement Reserve, and to fund such capital improvements, equipment replacement and operating costs as the Board may authorize.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Kitsap 911 Board of Directors as follows:

Section 1. Ballot Measure. The Kitsap 911 Board of Directors incorporates by reference the recitals set forth above and requests the Board of County Commissioners place a proposition on the November 2021 ballot to increase the sales and use tax for emergency communications systems and facilities authorized under RCW 82.14.420 to two-tenths of one percent.

Section 2. Election Costs. Kitsap 911 will pay the portion of the election costs required to place this proposition on the ballot.

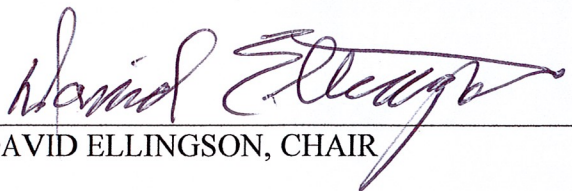
Section 3. Executive Committee Authority. The Kitsap 911 Executive Committee is authorized to take all necessary steps to ensure the proposition is placed on the ballot.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Resolution or any provision of any document incorporated by reference shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision, if such remainder conforms to the requirements of applicable law and the fundamental purpose of this agreement, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

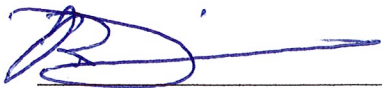
MOVED AND PASSED at a regular meeting of the Kitsap 911 Board of Directors on May 4, 2021 of which all Directors were notified, and a quorum was present.

KITSAP 911 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DAVID ELLINGSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:



Richard A. Kirton, Executive Director