

# Voters' Pamphlet

## Dates and deadlines

**February 6** - Deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates online and by mail. **February 14** - 8:00 PM deadline for in-person voter registration and voter updates.

## Getting registered to vote

### To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington State.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day. Not
- currently serving a Department of Corrections sentence in total confinement.

### Three ways to register and obtain a ballot:

- By Mail
- Online - VoteWA.gov
- Call us at 509-775-5225 ext. 1139 or email us at [delections@co.ferry.wa.us](mailto:delections@co.ferry.wa.us) and we will assist you.
- In person - Ferry County Elections Office 350 E Delaware Ave Stop 2, Republic WA 99166

### Participating Jurisdiction:

- Ferry/Okanogan Fire Protection District #14

## Questions?

Ferry County Elections Office Online:  
[www.ferrycountyauditor.com](http://www.ferrycountyauditor.com)  
Email: [delections@co.ferry.wa.us](mailto:delections@co.ferry.wa.us)  
Phone: 509-775-5225 ext. 1139



Published by the Ferry County Elections Office

## Returning your ballot

### By mail

Postage is prepaid - no stamp is needed. Ballots must be postmarked on or before election day, February 14, 2023 in order to be counted.

### In a ballot drop box

Ballot Drop Boxes are available January 13 through 8:00 p.m. Election Day - February 14, 2023:

- Danville Outpost – 19097 N HWY 21
- Curlew Fire Station – 30 Customs Rd
- Ferry County Courthouse - 350 E Delaware Ave

## Voter Service Center

Voters may drop off ballots, get replacement ballots, use an Accessible Voting Unit or receive other assistance as needed at the Voter Service Center:

### Ferry County Elections Office

350 E Delaware Ave Stop 2 Republic WA 99166  
Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Election Day, February 14: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## FAQ's

What is an explanatory statement?

*An explanatory statement is prepared by the district's attorney; it outlines the effect the ballot measure would have if it is passed by the voters.*

How are committees in favor of or in opposition to a measure formed?

*Districts that choose to participate in the local voters' pamphlet are responsible for appointing committee members who agree to write the statements. The statements are a way to persuade voters to vote for or against a measure. The Elections Office does not check statements for factual or grammatical accuracy.*

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov).

Levy

**Ballot Title**

Will Ferry/Okanogan Fire Protection District #14 be authorized to impose a property tax levy in the amount of Fifty Cents (\$0.50) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of the assessed valuation of property in each year for six (6) consecutive years for the provision of Emergency Medical Care and Ambulance Services, to be levied for the District in 2023 for collection in 2024 and subsequent years through 2029?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Explanatory Statement**

The elected Board of Commissioners of Ferry/Okanogan Fire Protection District #14 (Curlew Fire & Ambulance) has determined: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to our citizens can no longer be afforded by annual fire taxes. To continue Emergency Medical Services additional funding must be obtained. Once approved by the voters of this District, this levy will authorize a six-year EMS property tax at a rate not to exceed \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Approval of the levy will provide funding for emergency medical care and ambulance services, including related equipment, supplies, vehicles, structures, maintenance, operations, and training. When approved, the EMS tax on a \$100,000 assessed valuation residence would not exceed \$50.00 each year, or approximately \$4.17 per month for the emergency medical services.

**Statement For**

Ferry/Okanogan Fire Protection District #14 has provided Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to citizens of our District for approximately 30 years using the annual fire tax budget. This is no longer affordable. Over those 30 years, and thousands of emergency responses, the District has never come forward with a request for additional funding. We have reached a point where the District can no longer continue to provide this level of service without an EMS levy. We have 30 years of used vehicles and equipment, seeking federal and state grants, and billing insurance companies as allowed by law. Meanwhile, our emergency responses have increased, straining an already struggling system. Our vehicles and equipment are depreciating needing replacement. Our newest ambulance is 24 years old. The cost of repairs is high. When an ambulance is out of service for repairs, it is not available to assist our patients. Currently operational needs exceed the District's existing budget. Our EMS staff are dedicated volunteers. Their certified training takes hundreds of hours. When an emergency 911 call is placed those volunteers leave their homes, families, or workplaces to respond. They also donate time to staff the ambulance at football games, basketball games, fun runs, Barrel Derby Days, the music festival, Little Guys Wrestling, and more. The time has come that we need the help of our community. This \$0.50 per \$1,000.00 assessed valuation EMS levy will truly be a lifesaver for our families, our communities, our District. *Yes for Curlew EMS!*

**Statement Against**

Levying a property tax against land owners unfairly targets a small minority of property owners, many of whom are multi-generational farmers and ranchers to raise the majority of funds. Property value has increased dramatically in Ferry County over the last decade, which has resulted in all time high property taxes. This tax will burden families that are already struggling. Property value does not equate to wealth. This tax places an inequitable burden on those families that rely on their land to make a living. This levy is based on property value, not existing property tax. There is no exemption based on agricultural use. A more realistic tax would be based on a percentage of earned income. A levy of this sort would be better served elsewhere, such as drug education, school or road maintenance.

**Rebuttal of Statement Against**

The levy is uniformly fair. A property that has an assessed value of \$100,000.00 pays the same *percentage* as a property that is valued at \$600,000.00. The current tax system allows for a reduction in property taxes for agricultural use. Washington State law does not allow for tax based upon income, i.e., income tax. The school and road department have support from taxes. Drug education is provided by existing social services in Ferry County.