



King County Fire District #40

Dedicated to the Community We Serve



WWW.FD40.COM

SUMMER 2023

Upcoming Events:

- **July 13**
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **August 1**
Primary Election Ballots Due
- **August 10**
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **August 23**
First Day of School (Kent)
- **August 30**
First Day of School (Renton)
- **September 4**
Labor Day
- **September 14**
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **September 22**
Fall Equinox
- **October 9**
Indigenous Peoples/ Columbus Day
- **October 12**
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **October 31**
Halloween
- **November 11**
Veterans' Day

Fire District 40 Board Meetings are held:

Meeting Date/Time:
2nd Thursdays @6:00pm

Location:
Renton Station 13
18002 108th Ave SE
Renton, WA 98055
& Zoom:
ID: 886 4934 4889
PW: 245066

Our Two-Part Funding System



Most people believe that fire services are funded exclusively through property taxes and as home values rise the funding for those services continues to rise as well.

However, even though home values have risen significantly in recent years, Fire District 40's property tax revenue growth has been capped at 1% year-over-year by law. This means that no matter how much home values rise, the revenue generated by property taxes can never exceed 1% above the previous year. Inflation and the cost of services have exceeded 1% every year, which creates unique challenges for the District.

Fire District 40 relies on a two-part funding system that includes the value-based property tax levy in combination with a benefit charge. Under State Law, fire districts that collect benefit

charges under Chapter 52.18 of the revised code of Washington (RCW) have reduced taxing authority. A fire district's property tax rate is reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and the benefit charges can constitute no more than 60% of the annual operating budget. These two funding mechanisms cover the cost of everything from the maintenance of the fire station to purchasing safer, state-of-the-art apparatus and maintaining services that help protect life and property.

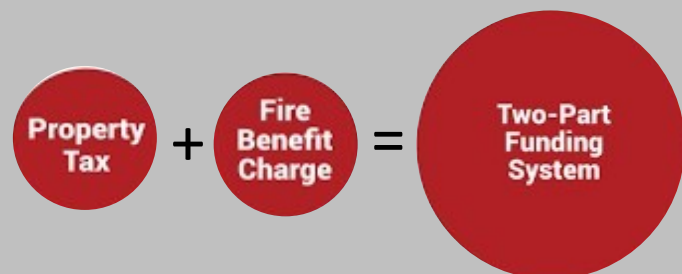
The benefit charge is a consistent funding source that is calculated for each parcel using factors such as the size of structural improvements, occupancy type, and associated hazards. The benefit charge portion of the District's funding has gradually increased to offset the rising cost of emergency

services and the limited growth of property tax collections.

Benefit charge collections currently fund 42% of the overall operating budget. In 2023, the 1% limitation on property taxes has reduced the tax levy rate to \$0.676 per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. As property tax collections shrink, the benefit charge must be increased to provide the level of funding required to maintain emergency services.

Therefore, the Board of Commissioners is asking voters to restore its property tax to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The restoration of the property rate to \$1.00 per thousand will allow for a reduction of benefit charge collections by approximately 35%.

Remember to vote on August 1st





If you can't call 911 during an emergency, you have the option to text.

While texting is an option, residents should still call if they can. The current system only accepts messages in English. It can't receive photos, videos or emojis.



To sign up for a class, call 425-276-9500
or visit: <https://rentonrfa.com/cpr>

Cedar River Water & Sewer	425-255-6370
Century Link	800-491-0118
Comcast Cable (XFINITY)	888-266-2278
Fairwood Library	425-226-0522
King County Fire District 40 (office)	425-255-0931
King County Sheriff's Office	206-296-3311
Metro (Hazardous Waste)	206-684-1233
Pacific Security (Fairwood Greens)	206-573-4114
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Puget Sound Energy (Gas & Electricity)	800-321-4123
Puget Sound Energy (Street Lights)	888-225-5773
Republic Services/Allied Waste	206-682-0735
Renton Regional Fire Authority (office)	425-276-9500
Waste Management	800-592-9995



King County Fire District 40
14810 SE Petrovitsky Road
Renton, WA 98058

Be Safe in the Water

Summer is a beautiful time of the year but statistically speaking it is also the most dangerous. Safeguard yourself and your family with these water safety tips:

- ◆ **Know The Water**—Water that is warm on the surface may be much colder below. Use caution when swimming and always supervise young children playing in or near the water. Waterways may look calm enough, but always be aware of your surrounding.
- ◆ **Know Your Limits**—Swimming in open water (lakes, Rivers, ponds, Puget Sound, and the ocean) is harder than in a pool. People tire faster and can get into trouble more quickly. Stay sober when on or in the water. Alcohol and other drugs increase the effects of weather temperature and wave action.
- ◆ **Wear a Life Jacket That Fits You**—Even the best water enthusiasts can misjudge changing water conditions when boating or swimming in open water. Be prepared at all times by wearing a life jacket—you never know when you may be tossed into the water.

