

SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 17, 2023 From: Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien (360) 794-7666 | kevin.obrien@srfr.org

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Asks Voters to Maintain Seven-Member Board *Ballot measure to appear on February special election ballot*

Monroe, Wash. – Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) is asking voters to consider maintaining a seven-member Board of Fire Commissioners. The ballot measure will appear on the February 14, 2023, special election ballot.

Fire commissioners are elected by the community to make policy decisions and manage the business affairs for the fire district. SRFR is the second largest fire agency in Snohomish County serving approximately 160,000 people and growing.

"Most fire agencies our size have a seven- or nine-member Board of Fire Commissioners," Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien said. "A seven-member board is appropriate for our population and provides better representation for the number of residents and businesses we serve."

South County Fire to the west, North County Fire and EMS to the north, and at least three agencies in King County similar in size to SRFR have seven to nine board members.

SRFR is the result of two mergers of fire districts serving the cities of Monroe and Lake Stevens into another that served unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. The mergers were approved by voters to improve efficiencies and better serve residents and businesses.

The ballot measure will be on the February 14, 2023, special election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to voters on or before January 27 and must be postmarked or dropped in a ballot box by 8 p.m. on February 14 to count.

Learn more at a question-and-answer session on Tuesday, January 31, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The link to the meeting can be found at www.srfr.org.

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Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves 160,000 residents in the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 emergency calls a year with highly trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs. More information about SRFR can be found at <u>www.srfr.org</u>.