



# SUSTAINABLE FIRE SERVICES

FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

April 2019 Special Election



## WHY A REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY (RFA)?

Fire and emergency medical services are some of the most important services we provide our residents. The City of Marysville and Fire District 12 are forwarding an RFA proposal to voters because:

- **Population growth is driving increased demand:** calls for service have grown nearly 60% since 2011
- **Service needs are changing:** calls for service have increased, straining our ability to serve aging and vulnerable populations
- **Current financial model isn't sustainable:** expenses are greater than revenues with reserves funding gaps
- **Governance structure isn't representative:** 80% of residents live within the city limits but city representation is 60%



## THE GOALS OF AN RFA INCLUDE:

- Maintaining quality fire and emergency medical services
- Providing stable and sustainable funding
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness of operations
- Promoting future growth within the organization
- Providing a representative governing board



## WHAT IS AN RFA?

A Regional Fire Authority (RFA) is a special purpose district and independent taxing authority that provides funding for fire and emergency medical services. An RFA can be made up of cities, fire districts, or a combination of the two. There are currently 12 RFAs in Washington state, almost all in western Washington.

Creation of an RFA is authorized by state law. Marysville and Fire District 12 residents would have to approve the creation and funding of an RFA.



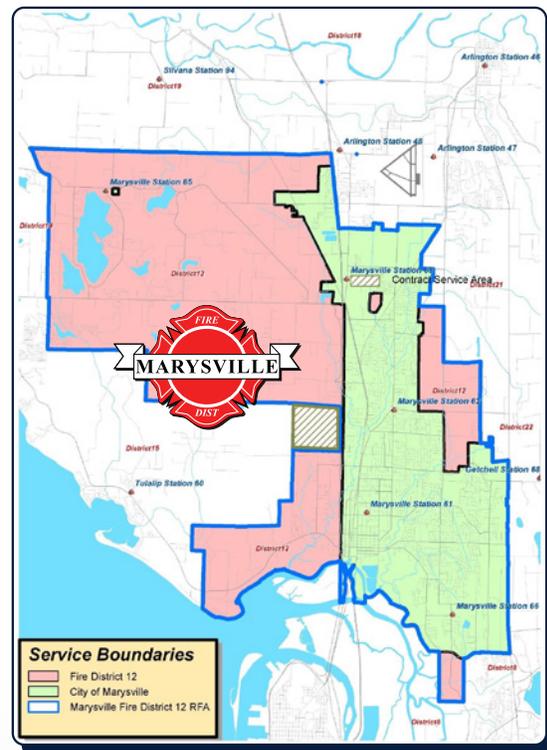
More information: [marysvillewa.gov/rfa](http://marysvillewa.gov/rfa)

# HOW WOULD AN RFA BE FUNDED?

Emergency medical services through the Marysville Fire District are currently funded by voter-approved levies in both the City of Marysville and Fire District 12. The City of Marysville pays for fire response through the city's general fund, while a voter-approved levy pays for fire response in Fire District 12.

An RFA would instead create a single dedicated funding source, with money collected going directly to the RFA versus passing through other jurisdictions.

If approved, the RFA levy will be \$1.45 per \$1,000 per assessed value. The owner of a \$300,000 home in the city limits will pay about \$249.00 more a year in tax or about \$20.75 more per month. The owner of a \$300,000 home in the District boundaries will pay about \$129.00 more a year in tax or about \$10.75 more per month. The levy would go into effect in 2020.



## TODAY: THE MARYSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

- Serves over 82,000 residents
- Covers about 56 square miles
- Responded to 14,158 call for service in 2018
- Operates under a contractual agreement and is governed by a seven-member board (4 Marysville City Councilmembers, 3 Fire District 12 Commissioners)

## HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHAT'S NEXT?

Marysville and FD 12 have been considering an RFA model for several years, exploring different options to best meet changing needs and a growing population. The first step was to form an RFA Planning Committee which is responsible for drafting a Regional Fire Authority plan.

### KEY MILESTONES:

- January 2018: RFA Planning Committee formed
- February 2018: Committee approved proposed RFA governance model
- May 2018: Committee recommends timing of potential RFA ballot measure for April 2019
- July 2018: Committee recommends a potential RFA be named the Marysville Fire District
- Late 2018/early 2019: Fire District 12 Board of Commissioners and Marysville City Council place RFA on the ballot
- April 2019: Voters will approve or reject formation of an RFA and its funding



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