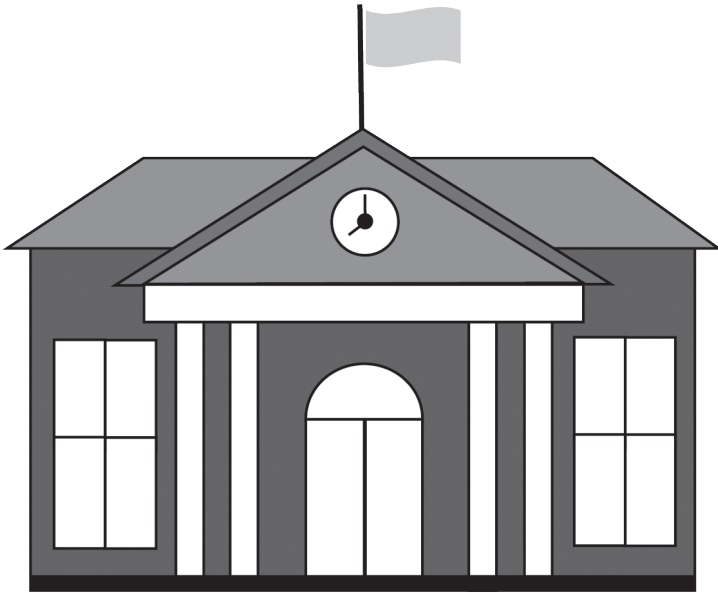


Snohomish County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet April 26, 2022 Special Election

City of Mill Creek

Edition 4



Snohomish County Elections

A Division of the Auditor's Office

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 505
Everett, WA 98201-4046

(425) 388-3444 | elections@snoco.org | www.snoco.org/elections

Registration and Accessible Voting Services

Accessible voting equipment is available to assist voters in independently casting a private, secure ballot.



Voters may change their address or update an existing registration by mail or online (VoteWA.gov) until April 18.

Voters may change their address, update an existing registration, pick up a replacement ballot, get a voters' pamphlet, vote on accessible voting equipment, and register to vote in person through 8 p.m. Election Day, April 26, at the locations and during the hours listed below:

| Locations | Days/Hours |
|---|---|
| Snohomish County Auditor's Office 1st Floor – Admin West 3000 Rockefeller Ave Everett | Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Election Day, April 26 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. |
| Wyndham Garden Hotel 16710 Smokey Point Blvd Arlington | Monday, April 25 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Election Day, April 26 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. |

Information on ballot measures can also be found in the online Voters' Guide at VoteWA.gov



For TDD service, please call 711.

Avoid lines and wait times on Election Day – return your ballot early, either through the mail or a ballot drop box!

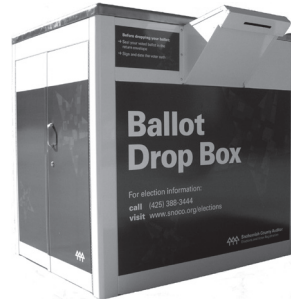
Are you registered to vote? Is your address correct?

Log into your voter portal at VoteWA.gov to:

- Register to vote
- Update your address
- Locate drop boxes and accessible voting locations
- Track your ballot
- Get a replacement ballot
- Learn about candidates and measures
- Find your elected officials

VoteWA

Ballot Drop Boxes - Open Now



Only the boxes below are open for the April Special Election.

Boxes are available 24/7 until 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 26, 2022.

No postage needed.

Visit snoco.org/elections or VoteWA.gov for maps and directions.

Everett (Courthouse Campus)

Rockefeller Ave & Wall St

Everett (McCollum Park)

600 128th St SE

Gold Bar (Gateway Park)

5th and Orchard

Granite Falls (near library)

815 E Galena St

Lakewood (parking lot east of middle school)

16800 16th Dr NE

Marysville (behind City Hall)

1049 State Ave

Marysville (Grove Elementary School)

6510 Grove St

Mill Creek (in post office turnaround)

159th PI SE and Mill Creek Blvd

Monroe (near library)

1070 Village Way

Silvana (near Peace Lutheran Church)

1717 Ole Larson Rd

Smokey Point (near Lowe's)

3300 169th PI NE

Stanwood (near library)

9701 271st St NW

Startup (near event center)

14315 366th Ave SE

Sultan (near library/City Hall)

319 Main St

Tulalip (near youth center)

6722 Totem Beach Rd

Stay Connected to Election News

Sign up for email and/or text message notifications from Snohomish County Elections at:

snohomishcountywa.gov/signup

More information inside



**City of Mill Creek
Proposition No. 1**

Mill Creek Seeks Voter Approval to Annex into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority

Shall the City of Mill Creek be annexed into and be a part of the South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority, effective August 1, 2022, per Mill Creek City Council Resolution No. 2022-631?

Yes
No

Explanatory Statement

Mill Creek Resolution No. 2022-631 seeks voter approval to annex the City into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority ("South County Fire"). The City's contract with its current fire and emergency medical service (EMS) provider is ending and cannot be renewed without substantial cost increases. All options maintaining service levels will cost more. City Council determined the lowest cost solution that maintains fire/EMS service levels is annexation into South County Fire.

South County Fire serves Lynnwood, Edmonds, Brier, and Mountlake Terrace and borders the City. South County Fire often responds to emergencies in Mill Creek.

If annexation is approved, the City will reduce its property tax collections by the amount of its 2022 fire/EMS contract fees, and the City's EMS levy will not be renewed. If annexation is not approved, the City must raise taxes to pay for fire/EMS contract services or substantially cut other City services.

If annexation is approved, five-person firefighters/paramedic crews will continue operating from the Mill Creek fire station. Mill Creek residents will be eligible to vote for and serve as Fire Commissioners on South County Fire's governing board that decides property taxes and fees for services.

More information is available at www.cityofmillcreek.com/fire

Argument in Favor**Why Annexation into South County Fire (SCF)?**

- Our current contract with Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) is expiring; costs to renew with SRFR are more than doubling
- Annexation into South County Fire is the most cost effective alternative for Fire and EMS services going forward

What will it cost me?

- The proposed annexation will result in a cost of \$882.73 per year for an average Mill Creek home with an ASSESSED value (not market value) of \$602,000 and 2,000 sq ft.
- Equates to \$1.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value

What were the alternatives considered?

- Continuing with SRFR would have increased costs to \$1,113.70/year for an average Mill Creek home of \$602,000 assessed value
- Equates to \$1.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value

What if the Proposition does not pass?

- The City will begin another Fire Service procurement analysis process to find and initiate a new service contract - all available and evaluated options are forecast to exceed the cost of Annexation

What happens to our Fire Station 76 and the firefighters and paramedics working there?

- We will maintain the same fire station and staffing level (five-person firefighter/paramedic crews)
- SCF and SRFR have committed to keep all current employees and services

Who supports the Annexation?

- Annexation passed with a unanimous vote of the Mill Creek City Council

Annexation maintains service levels at the lowest cost and is the best choice for today and for the future

Argument prepared by: Sean Paddock and Tannis Golebiewski

Response from Committee Against

Annexing into SCF will mean a 72% increase in your taxes for fire service, and you get no improvements for that \$3.1 million increase.

The City usually guards your taxes carefully, but now the City wants to end its responsibility for providing your fire service. You can keep the City as your advocate by voting no and asking the City to find a less expensive option.

Please Vote No on Proposition 1.

Argument prepared by: Jim Kenny

Argument Against**Vote No on Proposition 1.**

Annexing into South County Fire (SCF) will mean a 72% increase in your taxes for fire service, from \$4.3 million in 2022 to \$7.4 million in 2023. This 72% tax increase will not improve your fire service, because your current provider, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR), gives the same quality of service as SCF.

The \$7.4 million you pay may be understated. The City says that SCF will not raise taxes more than about 1% in 2023 and 2024, but only the SCF board of commissioners will decide on those taxes in the Fall of 2022. SCF's general fund budget has a projected deficit in 2023 of \$6.8 million, with additional deficits of \$8.8 million in 2024 and \$10.8 million in 2025. SCF won't go bankrupt, but it will have to raise taxes more than 1% to cover those deficits.

SCF also wants you to help pay for its upcoming \$217 million capital facilities bond to renovate and build fire stations.

The City and SCF have not been transparent about SCF's budget deficits and upcoming capital bond. If you want to join SCF, you will have to pay those additional tax increases.

Voting no allows time for the City to negotiate with SRFR, which is offering the least expensive contractual option in 2023 at \$5.6 million. SRFR is willing to talk. The firefighters of SRFR have loyally served you, and their dedication deserves consideration.

Please Vote No on Proposition 1.

Argument prepared by: Jim Kenny

Response from Committee in Favor

SRFR's price increase forced the city to explore alternatives. City staff has done extensive and transparent evaluations; all options available included a substantial cost increase. Annexation to SCF is the lowest cost option, looking at both current costs and the long-term fundamentals of each agency. Proposals, contracts and deliberations are public record (www.cityofmillcreek.com/fire).

Vote Yes to Proposition No. 1 - keep costs and taxes down and prevent further uncertainty in City finances.

Argument prepared by: Sean Paddock and Tannis Golebiewski

Additional Instructions

Follow these simple steps to ensure your vote counts:

1. Vote early!

Ensure your vote will be counted as part of Election Night results.

2. Read all of the instructions.

Before you mark your ballot, read the instructions on the ballot, on the envelopes and on the inserts. Following instructions avoids delays in counting your ballot.

3. Remove and toss the stub at the top of the ballot.

The stub is used to ensure you receive the correct ballot type – it is not used for any tracking purpose. Don't remove any other parts of the ballot.

4. Place your ballot in the white secrecy sleeve.

The ballot will stick out on one side. It's ok. The secrecy sleeve is not required.

5. Put the secrecy sleeve into your return envelope.

6. Sign and date your envelope.

Don't sign for anyone else - all signatures are verified. A Power of Attorney cannot sign on a voter's behalf.

7. Return your ballot through the mail or a ballot drop box.

No postage is required for either option.

If you mail your ballot, it must be postmarked by Election Day, April 26. Check the last pick-up time on the box to ensure it will be collected on or before April 26.

Ballot drop boxes are open 24/7 until 8 p.m. Election Night, April 26. See inside for list of open boxes.

8. Visit www.snoco.org/elections to learn more.

Contact Snohomish County Elections if your ballot is damaged, lost or spoiled at 425-388-3444 or elections@snoco.org.