

RESOLUTION NO. 1563

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION CONCERNING ANNEXATION INTO THE SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, SCF and its predecessor, Snohomish County Fire District No. 1, have provided fire and EMS rescue services to the City of Edmonds through an Interlocal Agreement since January 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2023, SCF notified the City of its intent to terminate the Interlocal Agreement for Fire and Emergency Medical Services effective December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2024, Fitch and Associates submitted their final report, entitled "City of Edmonds Emergency Services Analysis" providing comparisons of fire and EMS services options for the city to consider and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2024, following a public hearing of options on May 7, 2024 the city council adopted Resolution 1547, stating their preferred alternative for fire and emergency medical services was joining the RFA via annexation, and authorizing the mayor to pursue next steps regarding this alternative; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2024, the city council adopted Resolution 1549, expressing the intent of the city to pursue annexation to SCF; and

WHEREAS, the City is a fire protection jurisdiction as defined in RCW 52.26.020(3); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 52.26 RCW authorizes two or more fire protection jurisdictions to participate in a regional fire services authority commonly known as a regional fire authority or "RFA"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds ("the City") and the South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Authority ("SCF") share a contiguous border; and

WHEREAS, RCW 52.26.300 sets forth the procedure for elections concerning the annexation of a city into a regional fire protection service authority; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2024, the Governing Board of SCF adopted Resolution No. 12172024-31, amending its Regional Fire Authority ("RFA") Plan to provide for the annexation of the City of Edmonds subject to the approval by the voters of the City of Edmonds pursuant to RCW 52.26.300(3); and

WHEREAS, the City and SCF believe that the public health and safety of the citizens they serve will benefit from City annexation into SCF; and

Section 4. The City Clerk is authorized to file any necessary documents with the Snohomish County Auditor to fulfill the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

RESOLVED this 7th day of January, 2025.

CITY OF EDMONDS


MAYOR, MIKE ROSEN

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:	January 2, 2025
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:	January 7, 2025
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WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the stable funding source provided by annexation will allow SCF to be able to continue to deliver the current level of fire/EMS services over the long term to City taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2024, the Edmonds City Council adopted a motion to approve the updated RFA Plan Amendment (Edmonds Annexation) and Pre-Annexation Agreement and direct the City Attorney to draft a resolution placing the RFA Annexation on the April 22, 2025 ballot; and

WHEREAS, notification of intent to annex is being transmitted to the Snohomish County Auditor; NOW THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.300, the City of Edmonds requests that the Snohomish County Auditor place a proposition on the special election ballot to be held on April 22, 2025, for the voters in the City of Edmonds to approve or reject the annexation of the City of Edmonds to be part of the SCF effective June 1, 2025, substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction:	City of Edmonds
Proposition Number:	Proposition 1
Short Title:	Edmonds Seeks Voter Approval to Annex into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority
Ballot Title:	Shall the City of Edmonds be annexed into and be a part of the South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority, effective June 1, 2025, per Edmonds City Council Resolution No. #####?

Yes _____

No _____

Section 2. A local voters' pamphlet is requested and language for the explanatory statement is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

Section 3. The City Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the formatting and/or wording of the ballot measure and/or the explanatory statement as may be recommended or required by the Snohomish County Auditor, as long as the intent of the measure remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution as approved by the City Council. The City Attorney is further authorized to update the resolution number in the ballot title and the URL in the explanatory statement.

Exhibit 1

Explanatory Statement

This proposition seeks approval to annex the City of Edmonds into South County Fire (“SCF”), which currently provides Edmonds with fire/EMS services by contract. This contract terminates December 31, 2025. Annexation provides a known stable funding source, allowing SCF to continue delivering the current level of fire/EMS services within Edmonds. Alternatively, contracting for services in 2026 would cost similar to SCF’s revenue from Edmonds property owners if annexation is approved, but without the funding source.

If approved:

- City’s regular property tax levy will not be reduced;
- City’s EMS levy will be eliminated;
- SCF’s property tax levy and fire benefit charges will be paid directly to SCF by Edmonds property owners, providing a known stable funding source for fire/EMS services;

If not approved:

- City would not have a known stable funding source to contract for fire/EMS in 2026 and beyond;
- No changes to property taxes or fire benefit charges would result from this election;
- City would need to raise taxes and/or implement drastic reductions in City operations to pay for the fire/EMS contract;
- City’s ability to maintain current level of service is jeopardized.

More information: [www.edmondswa.gov/\[url pending\]](http://www.edmondswa.gov/[url pending])