

Info about the campaign:

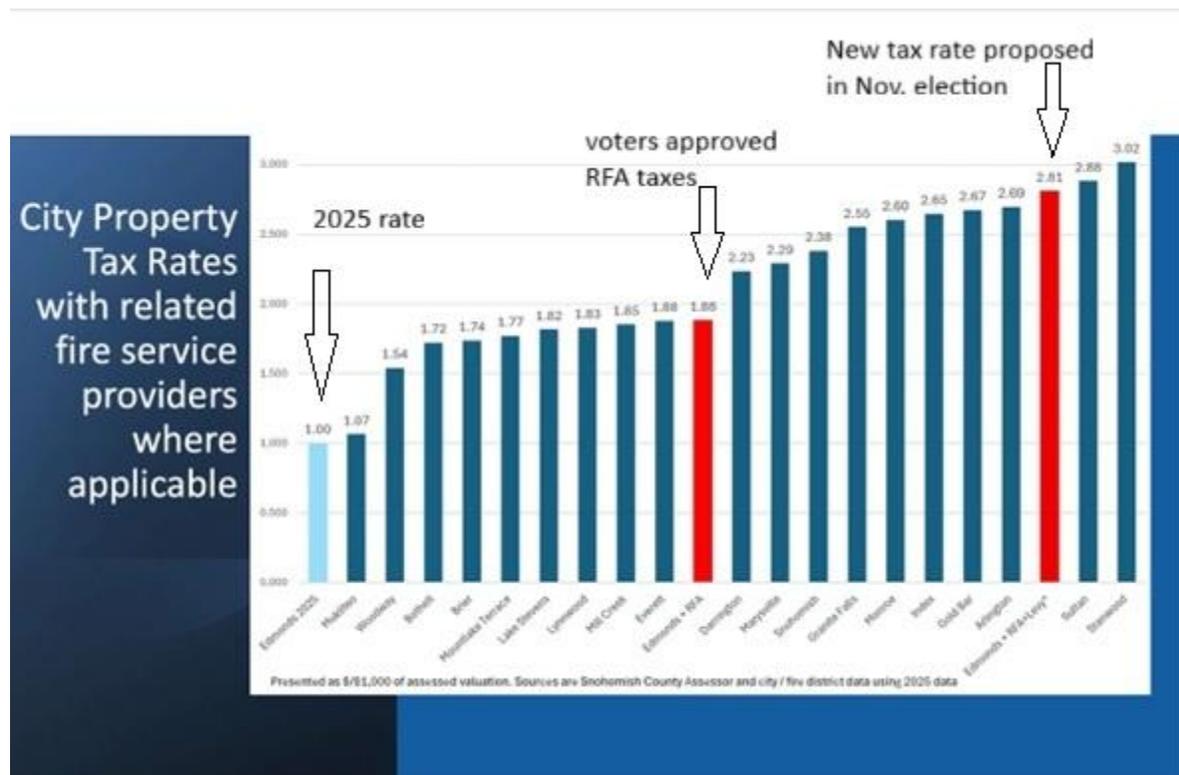
Keep Edmonds affordable is a registered political action committee (PAC) opposing the property tax increase called Proposition 1 in the general election in November. It must be approved by a majority of the voters.

The overarching concern is that the size of the tax increase will steadily push the middle class and working class out of town and create an Edmonds that is for the elite. We believe a healthy Edmonds has people of all income levels, backgrounds, and dreams living side by side.

How big is the proposed increase?

The City is asking voters to approve a 130% increase in the city's prop tax in 2026 compared to 2025. It isn't reasonable for property owners to absorb that size of an increase in one year, especially since they are also paying higher taxes for Fire and EMS services starting in 2026. (In the April 2025 special election, voters approved having the fire district levy new taxes on them to pay for Fire and EMS services.) Frankly – this size of an increase is unprecedented.

This slide from a recent Edmonds City Council meeting shows Edmonds residents' taxes are higher than all similar sized cities in the county after the RFA tax was approved (\$1.88 per \$1000 assessed value). The proposed new City property tax (\$2.81 per \$1000 assessed value) would make Edmonds taxes more expensive than all cities except Little Sultan and Stanwood.



What options does the city have if the vote fails?

The City has several levers to pull. The most significant one is to transfer money from their \$70M liquid investment fund to balance the 2026 budget. That can be done almost immediately. The adopted budget is balanced and assumes just a \$6M tax increase. Since passing that budget the City has identified another \$5M in new 2026 revenues from business taxes, increased fees, and higher traffic fines. It is also very crucial to grow the economic activity in Edmonds, not squash small businesses by taxing them more.

No bad things will happen in 2026 as the administration predicts when the tax levy fails. The City Council controls the budget, not the Mayor, and the Council is committed to keeping parks open, avoiding layoffs, and providing quality service to the people of Edmonds. The Community Survey done in 2024, which was a representative sample of the whole city's sentiments, show that people are very satisfied with life in Edmonds. That is expected to continue for a very long time into the future.

As Council member Chen said in an interview with the Northwest Civic Circle on Sept 12th, "We have Money". That is a reference to the large \$70M in liquid investments. He also described the funds that have excess money that can be transferred to the general fund. In addition, it is every City's practice to issue bonds to pay for large capital projects. Edmonds did that to raise money to rebuild Civic Field. They also did that in 2021 to pay for infrastructure improvements. In the 2026 – 2032 Capital Improvement Plan / Capital Facilities Plan there is a large project called PWF-05 to refurbish the Frances Anderson Center. Major improvements of this beloved historic building are being planned for in the capital program. There are grants available to build sidewalks on the routes to schools. There are grants available to purchase new park land and maintain the tree canopy (as the City did with the Mee property in 2024). In summary, the City has plenty of money – it's just not in the general fund today.

Summary:

The administration's plan is to grow the size of government by 40% - in one year. That's the score keeping when one adds up the general fund impact from: 1) city's savings on the fire services contract, 2) the proposed new property tax levy, 3) the \$5M from new taxes on businesses, higher fees, and higher traffic fines. That growth is absurd. No other government organization is attempting to grow that fast in one year. It is a plan that will push the working class and middle class out of town and transform Edmonds into a town for the elite. We have an affordability crisis in our region. The property tax levy makes things worse, not better. We're asking you to vote No on Prop 1 in November.

Keep Edmonds Affordable.