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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lake Stevens Fire Commissioners Approve Resolution for Merger**  
*Proposal Goes Before Voters During August 6 Primary Election*

LAKE STEVENS, WA – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Lake Stevens Fire approved a resolution asking voters to consider merging with Snohomish County Fire District 7. The proposal will be on the August 6 Primary Election Ballot.

“We are pleased to take this next step to formalize our partnership,” said Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien. “We will continue to share information with our communities as to how this will increase operational efficiencies and ultimately improve emergency services for the families and businesses we serve.”

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have held several public meetings and forums in the last year about a potential merger. The departments currently share firefighters, paramedics, fire marshal services, training programs, emergency medical services, and a community resource paramedic. They have been working towards integrating management and administrative teams to become more efficient as well.

Many fire districts have merged, or are looking at merging as a way to improve emergency services and be more efficient. Operating as one agency would allow better deployment of personnel to improve the emergency response for both fire districts. The combined financial strength of the districts also would improve their ability to fund capital needs, such as apparatus, equipment, and stations.

Both fire districts would continue to have local stations and professional firefighters. The community also would elect representation on a Board of Fire Commissioners.

Voters in Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have previously approved a combined levy rate of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to fund emergency services. (\$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for emergency medical service.) These levy rates cannot exceed \$2 per \$1,000 by state law if voters approve the merger.

More information can be found on the fire district’s website at [www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org). The fire district is planning additional public meetings about the merger closer to the election. In the meantime, Chief Kevin O’Brien is available to answer questions at (425) 212-3044 or [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org).

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*Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-trained emergency personnel responded to 6,126 calls in 2017, an 8.33% increase from the prior year. Our fire district is proud to be debt free, operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its independent audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at [www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org).*

**LAKE STEVENS**  
**FIRE**

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*“Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow”*

Fire Commissioners:  
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Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

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