

August 7, 2019

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Lake Stevens Fire, I want to say thank you to our community for approving the merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7. The proposal secured an 80 percent yes vote, which exceeded our expectations.

We understand that change can be difficult even in the best of times. I want to assure you that our local stations will remain open and our firefighters will continue to serve the Lake Stevens area. We simply will be able to improve service with access to more emergency personnel, including those with advanced training and skills to serve you better.

Long-term, the merger is important to control costs. As we consolidate, we can reduce duplication in administrative positions and facilities, as well. Our ability to finance projects improves as one agency, as well, which is more cost-effective for taxpayers.

We will report back over the next several months as the merger unfolds. Your input and feedback on this journey are important to its success. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief  
Lake Stevens Fire