

## Returning Your Ballot

### Ballot Drop Boxes

Open ballot drop boxes are listed on your ballot. All ballot drop boxes close promptly at 8:00pm on Election Day, April 25th.

### Mail

Ballots returned by postal mail must be post marked no later than Election Day, April 25th to be counted. No postage is required to return your ballot via US Postal Service. We recommend mailing your ballot no later than April 21st.

## Voter Information

If you need a ballot, have questions about your ballot, your address has changed or you need to register to vote:

**Visit:** 411 N 5th St. - 2nd Floor  
Shelton, WA 98584

**Phone:** (360) 427-9670 ext. 470

**Email:** [elections@masoncountywa.gov](mailto:elections@masoncountywa.gov)

**Online:** [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)

After April 17th, to register to vote or update your address for this election, you must do it in person at the Vote Center.

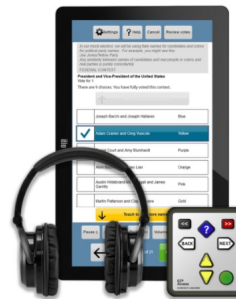
## Accessibility Information

Come to the Mason County Auditor's Office Elections Department Vote Center to vote. The Accessible Voting Unit is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, or limited mobility to vote independently and with privacy.

Accessible voting is available starting 18 days before Election Day.  
Monday - Friday 9:00am-4:00pm  
Election Day 9:00am-8:00pm

To use the Accessible Voting Unit or for more information, visit or contact our office.

Mason County Auditor's Office  
Elections Department - Vote Center  
411 N 5th St. - 2nd Floor  
Shelton, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670 ext. 470



# Mason County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet



April 25, 2023

## Special Election

### Fire Protection District No. 11 Merger of Fire Protection District No. 11 into Fire Protection District No. 5

Mason County Auditor's Office  
Elections Department - Vote Center  
411 N 5th St. - 2nd Floor  
Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext. 470  
[elections@masoncountywa.gov](mailto:elections@masoncountywa.gov)  
[www.masoncountywaelections.gov](http://www.masoncountywaelections.gov)

Voter Center Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm  
Election Day 9:00am-8:00pm

## Fire Protection District No. 11 Merger of Fire Protection District No. 11 into Fire Protection District No. 5

The Board of Commissioners for Mason County Fire Protection District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 23-03, concerning the merger of Fire District No. 11 into Mason County Fire Protection District No. 5. This proposition would merge Mason County Fire District No. 11 into Mason County Fire District No. 5 (dba Central Mason Fire & EMS), effective June 1, 2023 creating one fire protection district to provide fire and emergency medical services for the areas currently served by the two districts.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

### **Attention:**

This voters' pamphlet is for information purposes only.

Please vote your official ballot.

### **Statement Disclaimer:**

Statements are the opinions of the author. Election staff does not make corrections or verify statements for truth or fact.

## Explanatory Statement

This proposition will authorize the merger of Mason County Fire Protection District No. 11 into Mason County Fire Protection District No. 5 dba Central Mason Fire & EMS. Both fire districts currently provide fire protection and emergency medical services within their boundaries and have a history of working cooperatively. The Commissioners of both fire districts have determined that a merger of the two organizations into a single fire department is in the best interest of the District's residents.

If a majority of the registered voters of District 11 vote for merger, then the merger will be effective June 1, 2023. If merger is approved, District No. 11 will be dissolved and the boundaries of Mason County Fire Protection District No. 5 will expand to include all areas currently in District 11. The existing commissioners of both Districts will govern the merged district until the number of commissioners is reduced according to law.

### **Prepared by:**

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## Statement For

No Statement For was submitted

## Statement Against

If this proposition is approved, then Mason County Fire District 11 will become a part of Central Mason Fire & EMS (CMFE). CMFE serves a large rural area plus the city of Shelton. This merger will result in the loss of one FD11 commissioner at the end of his term, as only two commissioners will be allowed to move on with the merger. FD11 personnel state that the commissioners of CMFE are at-large positions with no commissioner districts. This means in the future there may not be any commissioners elected from the existing FD11 area to serve on the board, as a result local control may be lost.

FD11 personnel state that the city of Shelton has been annexing FD11 service area, which they claim will someday include the Port of Shelton (airport area) resulting in reducing the tax base even further.

The merger will result in an increase in the levy rate of approximately \$0.36/1000 of assessed value. This will bring the FD11 area up to the CMFE levy rate of approximately \$1.43/1000 of assessed property value. Without the merger they would most likely need to run a levy, which may require a levy lid lift, to be able to keep up with increased costs. The question is whether we approve the proposition and allow FD11 to merge with the larger CMFE, or to reject the proposition and keep FD11 a small, community-based fire district with local control. Either choice will result in increased levy rates.

### **Prepared by:**

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