



Spokane County Fire District #9

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

June 23, 2026

Administration

Conference Room

3801 East Farwell Road

Mead, WA 99021

509-466-4602

Board Members

Jim Bennett

Position No. 3

(2026-2032)

Brian Mather

Position No. 2

(2022-2028)

Greg Anderson

Position No. 1

(2024-2030)

AGENDA

6:15 P.M. Call to Order
 Brian Mather, Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Agenda Approval (additions/deletions)
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes (June 9, 2026)
 - b. Voucher Approval
5. Fire Chief Report
6. Old Business
 - a. n/a
7. New Business
 - a. Resolution 26-8 Lid Lift—1st Reading
 - b. Resolution 26-9 Bond—1st Reading
8. Executive Session
 - a. n/a

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 25, 2026	Station 96 Open House 6-8pm
July 1, 2026	Ambulance Celebration 10:00am @ Station 92

Board Meeting Access Via Zoom:

Please login with your First & Last Name

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84781072271?pwd=L0xxUkRjdTFMSmRhLzBRMllwZStQZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 8107 2271

Passcode: 711512

or dial: 1 253 205 0468

RESOLUTION NO. 26-8
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. NINE, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026 OF A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY CHAPTER 84.55 OF THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON, RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THE LEVY RATE OF \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD, AND THEN ALLOWING SPECIFIC INCREASES FOR EACH OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, IN PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT APPLICABLE TO ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT, IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION IMPOSED BY RCW 84.55 AND PROVIDING THAT THE LEVY DOLLAR AMOUNT IN THE SIXTH YEAR SHALL SERVE AS THE BASE FOR COMPUTING THE LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE YEARS' LEVIES.

Background:

1. **WHEREAS**, it is the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District.
2. **WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, providing staffing and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$.65 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation.
3. **WHEREAS**, the District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases.
4. **WHEREAS**, the District believes that adopting a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period of up to 6% is a method used by many fire departments in Washington State.
5. **WHEREAS**, the District has no record of ever previously levying to a rate of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation of taxable property.
6. **WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to maintain and increase the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the District, it is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to acquire and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide adequate revenue to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2026 and collect beginning in 2027, pursuant to RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing fire protection and emergency services as described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2026, the District has determined that the growth factor for the five succeeding years shall be up to 6%. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2026-2031.

Section 4. The dollar amount of the final levy (collected in 2032) shall serve as the District's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 3, 2026, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by up to 6% in the successive five years. The Board of Fire Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Spokane County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9

Proposition #: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Ballot Title: The Board of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9 adopted Resolution No. 26-8 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation to be levied in 2026 and allows annual levy revenue increases of up to 6% per year for the next five years (but not to exceed the \$1.50 rate limit). The dollar amount of the final levy shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be?

Approved _____

Rejected _____

Section 6. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(1), the ballot measure shall require approval of a simple majority of voters.

Section 7. The Board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 8. For purposes of receiving notice of matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the District and legal counsel as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The District Fire Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 10. The District Secretary is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 4, 2026, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 3, 2026 election.

Section 11. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 12. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 14th day of July 2026, the following Board Members being present and voting:

**SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT NO. 9**

Chairperson

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

District Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Eric Quinn, Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION NO. 26-9

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington, providing for the form of the ballot proposition and specifying certain other details concerning submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held on November 3, 2026, of a proposition for the issuance of its unlimited tax general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$70,000,000, or so much thereof as may be issued under the laws governing the indebtedness of fire protection districts for the purpose of providing funds to construct, acquire, renovate and make certain capital improvements to District facilities.

WHEREAS, Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington (the “District”), provides fire prevention, fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the District’s aging fire stations are outdated and are no longer adequate to meet the evolving public safety needs of the community throughout the District’s 125-square-mile service area, and are in need of structural rehabilitation and improvement; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of its consultants, the District has prepared its 2026 Capital Facilities Plan (the “Capital Facilities Plan”) providing an assessment of the physical and operational conditions of the District’s existing facilities, current and future capital needs, improvement plans, and estimated costs; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate growing demand for modern fire and emergency medical services, wildfire response, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response; to enhance firefighter health, safety, and wellness; and to support the District’s expanding operations, it is necessary for the District to renovate and improve four existing fire stations, replace and construct a fire station, construct a new training and classroom building with a public meeting room, renovate and expand the District’s maintenance and logistics building, and complete other capital improvements and acquisitions, including the acquisition of land (together, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District (the “Board”) finds it in the best interest of the public that it proceed with the Project; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide part of the funds for the Project, the Board deems it necessary and advisable that the District issue and sell its unlimited tax general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$70,000,000 (the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington (including RCW 52.16.080 and RCW 84.52.056) provide that the question of whether or not such Bonds may be issued and sold for such purposes and taxes levied to pay such Bonds must be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 9, SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The Board hereby finds and declares that the best interest of the inhabitants of the District require the District to carry out the plans hereinafter provided at the time or times and in the order deemed most necessary and advisable by the Board. Terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given in the recitals, which are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Capital Improvements. The District hereby authorizes the acquisition, improvement, rehabilitation, construction, and/or addition of the following capital projects, including the acquisition of land (together, the "Project"):

- Renovate and improve four fire stations;
- Construct a fire station to replace an inadequate and outdated fire station;
- Construct a training and classroom building with public meeting space;
- Renovate, expand and improve the District's maintenance and logistics building; and
- Make other capital improvements and acquisitions identified in the Capital Facilities Plan.

Costs of the Project, which are estimated to be more than \$70,000,000 will be paid from proceeds of the Bonds authorized herein, other available funds of the District, and other sources if and when such funds are available. The District shall complete the Project at the time, in the order and in the manner deemed most necessary and advisable by the Board.

The cost of all necessary appraisals, negotiation, property acquisition, closing, architectural, engineering, project management, financial, legal and other consulting services, inspection and testing, demolition, administrative and relocation expenses, permitting, mitigation, construction, and other costs incurred in connection with the foregoing capital improvements shall be deemed a part of the capital costs of such Project. Such Project shall be complete with all necessary real property, equipment, furniture and appurtenances.

If available funds are sufficient from the proceeds of Bonds authorized for the above purposes, and state or local circumstances require, the District shall use such funds to pay the principal of or interest on the Bonds or acquire, construct, equip and make other capital improvements to the facilities of the District, all as the Board may determine, after holding a public hearing thereon. The District shall determine the application of available moneys for the Project so as to accomplish, as nearly as may be, the entire Project described or provided for in this section. The District shall determine the exact extent and specifications for construction of structures or other improvements.

If the Board shall determine that it has become impractical to accomplish the Project or portions thereof by reason of state or local circumstances, including changed conditions, incompatible development or costs substantially in excess of those estimated, the District shall not be required to accomplish such portion of the Project and may apply the Bond proceeds or any portion thereof to other portions of the Project, to other capital improvements, or to payment of principal of or interest on the Bonds, as the Board may determine after holding a public hearing.

In the event that the proceeds of the sale of the Bonds, plus any other moneys of the District legally available, are insufficient to accomplish the Project provided by this section, the District shall use the available funds for paying the cost of those portions of the Project for which the Bonds were approved deemed by the Board most necessary and in the best interest of the District.

Section 3. Authorization of Bonds. For the purpose of providing part of the funds necessary to pay the cost of the Project described in Section 2 hereof and/or to reimburse the District for such costs to the extent that District funds have been used for such purposes, together with incidental costs and costs related to the sale and issuance of the Bonds, the District shall issue and sell its unlimited tax general obligation bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$70,000,000. The balance of the cost of such Project shall be paid out of any money which the District now has or may later have on hand which are legally available for such purposes. None of the Bond proceeds shall be used for the replacement of equipment or for other than a capital purpose. Such Bonds shall be issued in an amount not exceeding the amount approved by the qualified electors of the District as required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington (the "State") or exceeding the amount permitted by the Constitution and laws of the State.

Section 4. Details of Bonds. The Bonds provided for in Section 3 hereof shall be sold and issued in such amounts and at such time or times as deemed necessary and advisable by this Board and as permitted by law, shall bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law at the time the Bonds are sold, and shall mature in such amounts and at such times within a maximum term of 20 years from date of issue, but may mature at an earlier date or dates, as authorized by this Board and as provided by law. Said Bonds shall be general obligations of the District and, unless paid from other sources, both principal thereof and interest thereon shall be payable out of annual tax levies to be made upon all the taxable property within the District without limitation as to rate or amount and in excess of any constitutional or statutory tax limitations. The exact date, form, terms, series, and maturities of said Bonds shall be as hereafter fixed by resolution of the Board. After voter approval of the bond proposition and in anticipation of the issuance of such Bonds, the District may issue short term obligations as authorized and provided by chapter 39.50 RCW. The proceeds of the Bonds may be used to redeem and retire such short term obligations or to reimburse the District for expenditures previously made for such Project.

Section 5. Bond Election. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the District requires the submission to the qualified electors of the District of the proposition of whether the District shall issue the Bonds at a special election to be held on November 3, 2026. The Spokane County Auditor, as *ex officio* Supervisor of Elections in Spokane County, is hereby requested to call and conduct the special election to be held within the District and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition set forth below.

The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify the proposition to said officials in the following form:

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 9

PROPOSITION NO. 2

FIRE STATION AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$70,000,000

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 26-9 concerning bonds to improve, construct and acquire public safety facilities. To meet increased demand for fire, emergency medical, wildfire and rescue response services, and enhance firefighter health and safety, this proposition authorizes the District to renovate, modernize and construct fire stations and facilities and replace a fire station, construct a training/classroom building, and make capital improvements; issue \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 26-9.

Should Proposition No. 2 be:

APPROVED?.....

REJECTED?.....

For the purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates (a) the Fire Chief and (b) Bond Counsel to the District as the designated representatives of the District to whom such notice should be provided. The Fire Chief is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Spokane County Auditor.

The Secretary of the Board is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Upon the adoption and approval of this resolution, the proper officials of the District, including members of the Board, the Fire Chief and Bond Counsel to the District, are authorized and directed to undertake all action necessary and to execute all certificates and documents and to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Section 6. Voter's Pamphlet; Committee Appointments. The Board hereby authorizes the District's participation in the local voters' pamphlet for the November 3, 2026 election and requests that Spokane County Auditor prepare and publish a voter's pamphlet for this proposition. The pamphlet shall include, if applicable, an explanatory statement and statements in favor of and

in opposition to the ballot title. The preparation of the explanatory statement, the appointment of pro/con committees and the preparation of statements in favor of and in opposition to the ballot title shall be in accordance with chapter 29A.32 RCW and the rules and guidelines of Spokane County, as applicable. The District understands and agrees that it will be required to pay its proportionate share of the expenses of the voters' pamphlet.

The Board hereby assigns the responsibility and authorizes the Fire Chief to appoint members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 7. Severability. In the event that any provision of this resolution shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or invalidate any other provision of this resolution or the Bonds, but they shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid provision had not been contained herein; provided, however, that any provision which shall for any reason be held by reason of its extent to be invalid shall be deemed to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

Section 8. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington at a regular meeting held this 14th day of July, 2026.

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT NO. 9, SPOKANE COUNTY,
WASHINGTON

Chair and Fire Commissioner

Fire Commissioner

Fire Commissioner

ATTEST

Secretary, Board of Fire Commissioners

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners (the “Board”) of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 9, Spokane County, Washington, and keeper of the records of the Board, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 26-9 of the Board (the “Resolution”), duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 14th day of July, 2026.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Board voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of the Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of July, 2026.

Secretary, Board of Fire Commissioners