

# BENTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 26, 2019

Contact: Chief Lonnie Click (509) 737-0911 ext. 111 [lonnie@bentonone.org](mailto:lonnie@bentonone.org)

### **Meetings Scheduled for Renewal of Funding on Ballot**

KENNEWICK, WASH. — Benton County Fire District #1 is holding two public meetings to answer questions about the renewal of its fire levy and bond on the ballot this August. They will be held in conjunction with regular Board of Fire Commissioners meetings at 5:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

- Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at Station 120 (30004 S. Finley Road, Kennewick, WA 99337)
- Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at Station 140 (7704 S. Bermuda Road, Kennewick, WA 99338)

“A question I get asked frequently is ‘Why we don’t receive funding from the Public Safety Sales Tax fund?’” said Fire Chief Lonnie Click. “Fire districts are simply not eligible.”

Levies and bonds are the main resources for Benton #1 to provide an emergency response. Benton #1 is a junior taxing district, independent of Benton County. It is not eligible for funding from Benton County’s Public Safety Sales Tax fund.

Benton #1 funds daily operations through a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV), which voters renew every six years. Voters are being asked to renew the levy for another six years. The rate cannot exceed \$1.50/\$1,000.

Capital projects – such as stations and apparatus replacements – are funded through voter-approved bonds. In the last two years, the fire district paid off two such bonds averaging 11 cents per \$1,000 of AV. The fire district also is asking citizens for a replacement bond to continue funding facility renovations and apparatus replacements. This bond would last for 20 years and be an estimated 10-cents per \$1,000 of AV – one cent less than the bonds it is replacing.

More information about the replacement levy and bond can be found on Benton #1’s website [www.bentonone.org](http://www.bentonone.org). Also, Chief Click is available to answer questions at 509-737-0911 ext. 5 or [lonnie@bentonone.org](mailto:lonnie@bentonone.org).

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*Benton County Fire District #1 is a combination fire department with approximately 90 volunteer, part-time and full-time firefighters serving 18,600 people over 320 square miles. In 2018 it responded to 1,519 calls for structural and wildland fire suppression, emergency medical service, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response. The fire district operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all financial and accountability audits with the state. More information about the fire district can be found at [www.bentonone.org](http://www.bentonone.org).*