

## The City of Mount Vernon provides valued community services.

Having police show up at your door when your safety is compromised, having the fire department take you to the hospital and protect your property from fire damage, and having open spaces that are safe, well-maintained and provide recreational opportunities for all ages are services our residents have come to expect and value.

## Existing service levels are threatened by a projected \$6 million shortfall in 2026 and beyond.

State law requires the City to pass a balanced budget each year. Any funding gaps must be fixed by either increasing revenue or decreasing costs and services. **Over the past five years (2020-2024) the consumer prices index, which measures inflation, has increased an average of 5% each year while over that same time frame General Fund revenues have averaged 1% less than in 2020.** For years, the City has absorbed inflation costs by using the general fund reserves to balance the budget, but these reserves are now at levels that threaten the City's financial policies and bond ratings. To avoid service cuts this year, the City has already reduced discretionary spending to just over 5%, allowed only essential travel and training (such as public safety training), instituted hiring freezes, and more.

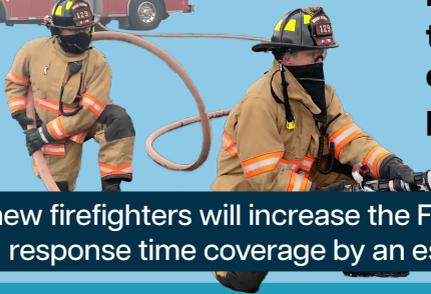
**It doesn't have to be this way. With increased funding, the City could have proactive policing, an enhanced critical fire response, and safe and vibrant park spaces.**

6 new firefighters will increase the Fire Department's 4-minute response time coverage by an estimated 33% citywide.



**MORE OFFICERS  
= MORE  
EMPHASIS  
PATROLS.**  
Emphasis patrols in 2025 resulted in 120 proactive cases and 71 arrests.

**LEARN  
MORE!**

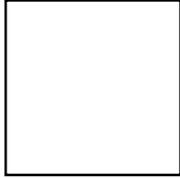


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LEVY FOR BASIC  
**PUBLIC SAFETY,  
ESSENTIAL SERVICES,  
AND IMPROVEMENTS**  
[WWW.MOUNTVERNONWA.GOV/LEVYIDLIFT](http://WWW.MOUNTVERNONWA.GOV/LEVYIDLIFT)

This fact sheet is published and paid for by the City of Mount Vernon, WA





# THE LEVY FOR BASIC PUBLIC SAFETY, ESSENTIAL SERVICES, & IMPROVEMENTS IS A LONG-TERM, LOW-COST SOLUTION

PLEASE VOTE!  
BALLOTS DUE  
**NOVEMBER 4th**

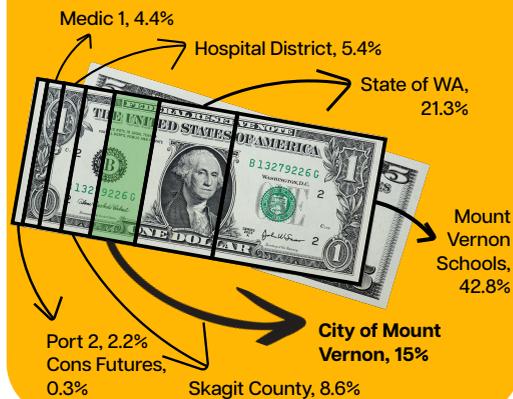


Scan the QR Code to Learn More!

## What is a levy lid lift?

A permanent single-year levy lid lift allows a taxing district to exceed the statutory 1% increase limit one time by asking voters for approval. This new total becomes the base for future annual increases, which are limited to 1% per year unless another voter-approved lid lift occurs.

In 2025, only 15% of a typical owner's property tax bill comes to the City to support essential services.



## Levy Quick Facts

### Funds Proactive Policing

Adds 6 new police officers (one per year for six years), and the required uniforms, equipment, and vehicles.

### Enhances Critical Fire Services

Adds 6 additional firefighters/EMTs, replaces a fire engine, cardiac defibrillators, Self-Contained-Breathing-Apparatuses, and an ambulance.

### Maintains and Improves Parks and Recreation Services

Creates a dedicated funding source to secure the *Supervised Playground* program, community events, and helps address a backlog of deferred parks maintenance and capital projects like replacing old playgrounds, ball field improvements, repaving asphalt surfaces and trails, etc.

### Long-term, Low-cost Solution

For a median home valued at \$550,000, the increase would be about **\$1 per day for improved Public Safety and Parks.**