

**RCW 52.18.050 Voter approval of benefit charges required—**

**Election—Ballot.** (1) (a) The initial imposition of a benefit charge authorized by this chapter must be approved by not less than sixty percent of the voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special election called by the district for that purpose.

(b) An election held for the initial imposition of a benefit charge must be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the first charge is to be assessed.

(c) A benefit charge approved at an election expires in six or fewer years as authorized by the voters unless subsequently reapproved by the voters.

(2) Ballot measures calling for the initial imposition of a benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to vote "No," and the ballot question must be as follows:

"Shall . . . . . county fire protection district  
No. . . . . be authorized to impose benefit charges each  
year for . . . . . (insert number of years not to exceed six)  
years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its  
operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an  
additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

YES

NO

(3) (a) The continued imposition of a benefit charge authorized by this chapter may be approved for six consecutive years, ten consecutive years, or permanently.

A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a benefit charge for six consecutive years or ten consecutive years must be approved by a majority of the voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special election called by the district for that purpose.

A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a benefit charge as a permanent benefit charge must be approved by not less than sixty percent of the voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special election called by the district for that purpose.

(b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in the following form:

"Shall . . . . . county fire protection district  
No. . . . . be authorized to continue voter-authorized  
benefit charges. . . . . (insert "each year for six  
consecutive years," "each year for ten consecutive years,"  
or "permanently"), not to exceed an amount equal to sixty  
percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from  
imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

YES

NO

[2020 c 99 § 1; 2017 c 196 § 4; 2013 c 49 § 1; 1998 c 16 § 2; 1990 c 294 § 5; 1989 c 27 § 1; 1987 c 325 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 5.]

**Effective date—2017 c 196 §§ 1-9, 11, 13, and 14:** See note following RCW 52.26.220.