

# Proposition 1

Renewing the sales and use option for public safety



On April 25, 2017 voters will have the option to approve Spokane County's Proposition 1. Proposition 1 continues the existing 1/10th of 1% of local sales and use tax that keeps Spokane County's emergency communication systems and services functional.

If Proposition 1 passes, Spokane County law and fire agencies will maintain the emergency communications system that integrates 911, Police, Fire, EMS staff, and Crime Check, as well as enhance the system's technology and capabilities.

## If approved this April, Proposition 1 will:



### Operate

Keep current emergency communications systems functioning and reliable. Continue **operations for Crime Check**, which handled 247,000 calls in 2016. That's an average of **676 calls each day**. Crime Check serves as an additional way to reach public safety 24/7 and provides an overflow system for 911 during high-need situations.



### Maintain

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) computer system for Police, Sheriff and Fire/EMS agencies which shortens dispatch times and provides first responders with detailed information before they arrive on the scene.  
22 radio sites that keep emergency agencies connected.



### Improve

**Implement an updated ALERT Spokane**, our region's citizen emergency notification system. The current system is outdated and not capable of notifying large numbers of citizens quickly during an emergency.

**Integrate computer aided dispatch (CAD)** for Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS.

**Expand the County's radio channel capacity** to accommodate high-use times such as extreme weather or regional emergencies.

Enhance a **modernized 911 system**, including the future capability to send photos or video to accompany an emergency call.

**Replace emergency communication equipment** that has reached the end of its useful life.

Upgrade Computer software for our **Integrated Police, Sheriff and Fire/EMS radio** communication system.

## In 2008, voters approved the 1/10th of 1% of sales and use tax.

Since then, Spokane County has built an updated and reliable emergency communication system. When people call for assistance, the system seamlessly collects imperative information, sends help and coordinates first responder resources to ensure residents get the emergency services they need.

### With this funding, Spokane County has:

- Integrated Police/Sheriff, Fire and EMS radio communication systems
- Reinstated Crime Check (answering 46% of all public safety phone calls)
- Established ALERT Spokane, our region's citizen emergency's notification system
- Built towers and structures to expand coverage and bandwidth for communications



### How will this plan be funded?

Registered voters will **receive a ballot in the mail before April 10**. If voters renew this proposition, Spokane County will continue to receive 1/10th of 1% of local sales tax to fund the County's Public Safety Communication System. For every ten-dollar retail purchase, Spokane County would continue to receive one cent in sales tax. **This is not a new tax.** An average Spokane County household would see an impact of approximately **\$1 a month, or \$12 a year.**



### If Proposition 1 is not funded

**Funding from the 1/10th of 1% of sales tax will expire in September, 2018.**

The current emergency communication **system will not be maintained** at its current, reliable level. This puts the County's system in the same predicament it was in 2008. A strained system means diminished connectivity and coordination between law, fire and EMS, with reduced reliability and coverage.

**Crime Check services will be threatened.** Crime Check handles over **240,000** calls each year including property crime, medical needs and even emergency calls. Crime Check also leaves 911 available to handle the most pressing emergencies. 65% of Crime Check's budget is paid for with the 1/10th of 1% sales and use tax.

**Citizens served by these agencies will benefit:** Spokane County 911 • Spokane County Sheriff's Office • Spokane Police Department • Spokane Valley Police Department • Liberty Lake PD • Airway Heights PD • Eastern Washington University PD • Cheney PD • Washington State Patrol • Spokane International Airport Police and Fire Department • Spokane Fire Department • Spokane Valley Fire Department • Spokane Fire Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 • Airway Heights Fire Department • Cheney Fire Department • Medical Lake Fire Department



# Proposition 1

**Renewing** the sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities

**On April 25, 2017**, registered voters will have the option to approve or reject **Spokane County's Proposition 1**, which renews the existing **1/10th of 1%** of local sales and use tax that helps **operate, maintain, and improve** Emergency Communication Systems and services in Spokane County.

## **IF APPROVED, PROPOSITION 1 WILL:**



### **OPERATE**

Operate Emergency Communications System and Crime Check. Crime Check serves as an additional way to reach public safety 24/7 and provides an overflow system to 911.



### **IMPROVE**

Improve the 911 system, which will soon allow callers to send photos and/or video with their 911 calls. ALERT Spokane, our region's citizen emergency notification system, will also be upgraded.



### **MAINTAIN**

Maintain and replace public safety communication devices that have reached the end of their useful life and fund software upgrades for the system.



### **INTEGRATE**

Integrate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) between Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS for faster response times.

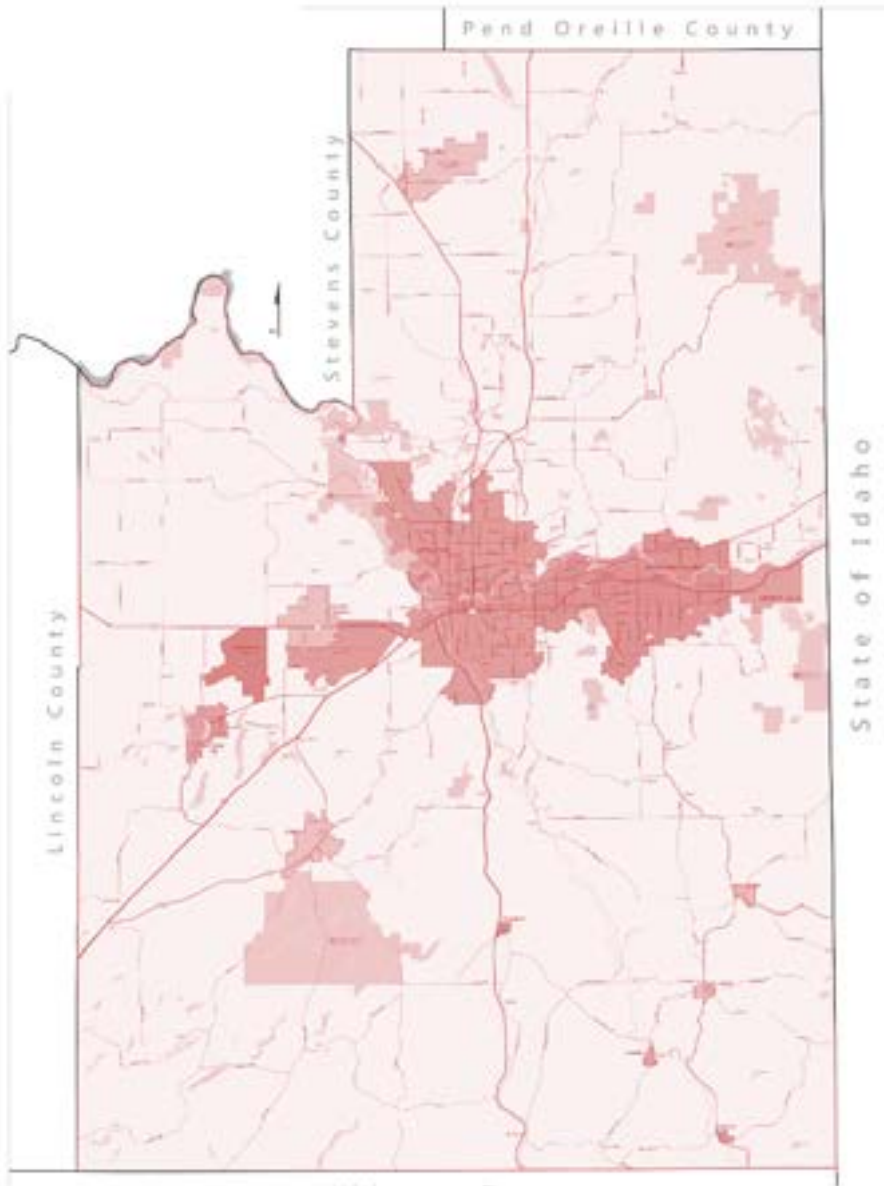
If not funded, the existing 1/10th of 1% sales tax will expire September 30, 2018. Connectivity, reliability, and coverage between law, fire, and EMS will be diminished. **Funding for Crime Check will be severely reduced.**

**To learn more about Proposition 1,  
please visit [www.prop1spokane.org](http://www.prop1spokane.org)**

# Proposition 1

# Spokane County Emergency Communications System

*Vote by mail April 25, 2017*



## Who is impacted?

All cities, towns and unincorporated areas of Spokane County will benefit by the support this measure provides to Fire/EMS/Law responders in their area.

\$12

a household  
per year



1/10th of 1% of sales and use tax  
\$10 purchase = \$0.01

## Our current emergency system



# Equipment



- 4,000 public safety radios utilized across 60 agencies
- Mobile data computers



# Systems and infrastructure



- Integrated radio communications system
- Crime Check
- ALERT Spokane
- Computer-Aided Dispatch system (CAD)



# Facilities



- 22 communications tower sites and structures
- Backup Communications Center



# Crime Check



- 240,000+ calls in 2016
- Serves as an overflow for 911, leaving 911 open for our most pressing emergencies
- Property crime, medical needs and even emergency calls
- 65% of all Crime Check operations are funded by the current 1/10th of 1%.



# If approved



Operate



Maintain



Improve

# Operate



- Continue Emergency Communications System operations
- Continue Crime Check operations



# Maintain



- Connected and coordinated law enforcement and fire/EMS radio communications system



# Improve



- New ALERT Spokane system – faster, larger capacity
- Integrate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) for Police, Sheriff, Fire/EMS
- Expand radio channel capacity
- Enhance our 911 system
- Maintain and update equipment and systems
- Computer software upgrades
- Replace emergency communication equipment as needed



# Timeline

**Summer**

Alert Spokane

**2018**

**Next Generation 911**

The remaining maintenance and improvement projects will **occur over the next decade** throughout Spokane County.

# If rejected



A strained emergency communications system



Diminished connectivity between agencies



Threatened Crime Check services



# **Mail in ballot by April 25**

**We have a reliable system today,  
thanks to our voters.**