



## Combined User Committee

**To:** Board of County Commissioners, Lewis County

**From:** Combined User Committee, Lewis County 911 Communications

**Re:** Support of 911 Sales and Use Tax Ballot Measure

We the undersigned, as users of the dispatch services of Lewis County 911 Communications, write to you today in support of a ballot measure for a 911 Sales and Use tax as defined by Washington RCW 82.14.420. As defined in the RCW, "Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section must be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities."

As the users of dispatch services, we rely on the 911 center to provide high-quality dispatch services, using technologies that are current and supported. While the basic dispatch needs, such as computer aided dispatch, phone systems and dispatch radios, are currently maintained at acceptable levels, the ability to fund replacement in the future is uncertain. Additionally, the option to assess and implement new technologies that would aid the dispatchers and the field responders is severely limited by the current funding model.

The current funding model relies solely on fees gathered from user agencies; these agencies themselves are faced with financial burdens that hamper their own operations. Furthermore, it is not in the best interest in the long-term for 911 to be reliant on user agency funding. As a necessary and vital public service, 911 should be independently funded to ensure ongoing stable operations, unencumbered by the fortunes of its user agencies.

A 911 sales and use tax would have the following immediate impacts on Lewis County 911 Communications:

- Provide the dispatch center with an independent funding source and reduce reliance on user agencies
- Stabilize funding for existing operations, including maintenance and support of current systems and equitable compensation for 911 dispatchers
- Allow for implementation of new technologies that would help 911 provide more efficient and faster responses to the public
- Provide funding for a dispatch center in a safe and secure location, with adequate facilities to support both small and large emergencies

- Ensure that the people of Lewis County will receive the best 911 services possible

It is ultimately the will of the people of Lewis County to support this initiative; we ask only that the Board of County Commissioners for Lewis County support presenting the option to the public.

Signed in Support by the following:

|                                                       |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Signature: _____                                      | Signature: _____                    |
| Name: <u>Dennis Doy</u>                               | Name: _____                         |
| Title: _____                                          | Title: _____                        |
| Title: <u>LCFD 17</u><br><u>Fire Commissioner #17</u> | Title: <u>Fire Commissioner #17</u> |
| Agency/Jurisdiction: _____                            | Agency/Jurisdiction: _____          |
| Agency/Jurisdiction: <u>LCFD 17</u>                   | Agency/Jurisdiction: <u>LCFD 17</u> |
| Signature: _____                                      | Signature: _____                    |
| Name: _____                                           | Name: _____                         |
| Title: _____                                          | Title: _____                        |
| Agency/Jurisdiction: _____                            | Agency/Jurisdiction: _____          |