



# Northshore Fire Department Public Survey

Northshore Fire Department (NFD) is considering having another fire department operate the NFD under a contract for services. This means the Northshore firefighters and other employees would become employees of the other department. It is expected that this will provide some operational and economic efficiencies. For more information review the Northshore Fire Department website at <https://www.northshorefire.com/contract-for-services/>.

**YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US. Please submit your responses by October 4th.**

**We would like your input to the following questions:**

105

Responses

09:08

Average time to complete

Active

Status

1. Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your level of satisfaction with the current services you receive from the Northshore Fire Department?

[More Details](#)

● Very Satisfied	82
● Satisfied	15
● Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	6
● Dissatisfied	1
● Very Dissatisfied	0



4. The Northshore Board of Commissioners is considering a contract for services model which requests a larger organization to manage firefighting and emergency services. The Board would still exist and control the level of services. This is different than a merger where two entities join and the two Boards would be combined.

How important is it to you to maintain local control by keeping the Northshore Fire Department (King County Fire District 16) Board?

[More Details](#)

Very important	71
Somewhat important	21
Not very important	3
Not important at all	4



5. Larger organizations improve services, increase opportunities for career advancement for firefighters and leaders, improve the ability to hire firefighters and leaders, and produce efficiencies in administration, and potential cost savings. This is called regionalization and is happening throughout the Puget Sound.

How important is it to you to have the Northshore Fire Department join a larger organization?

[More Details](#)

Very important	13
Somewhat important	22
Not very important	28
Not important at all	37

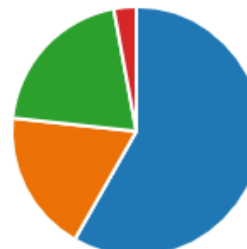


6. A contract for services provides the same or better response service from our local fire stations but provides administrative support services from a central location. This model reduces administrative costs without reducing local response capability.

How important is it to you to retain administrative functions in the Northshore Fire District?

[More Details](#)

Very Important	60
Somewhat Important	19
Not very important	21
Don't know	3



7. We expect to get improved services at a lower cost if we contract for services with a larger agency.

What is your preference for level of services and cost of services?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Less services at a lower cost.	0
● The same level of services at a...	47
● Same or better services at a lo...	35
● Higher level of services at a hi...	16



8. When fire departments contract for services, they are required by state law to bargain the impacts of the change in working conditions with the labor group. This process is to ensure the fair treatment of the firefighter labor group.

How important is it to you that the firefighter labor groups support the potential contract for services arrangement?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Very important	86
● Somewhat important	5
● Not very important	2
● Not important at all	8



9. Current fire service is provided from local fire stations and augmented by mutual aid agreements with surrounding agencies to ensure reliable response capability. This system will remain in place even with the contract for services model. State law allows for non-contiguous borders. This is used by Fire Departments around the State.

How important is it to you to combine with a fire department that shares borders?

[More Details](#)

● More important to be adjacent	87
● Not important to be adjacent	8
● Don't know	2
● No opinion	2



10. See the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more information at [https://www.northshorefire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FAQ\\_9-14-21.pdf](https://www.northshorefire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FAQ_9-14-21.pdf).

Please add comments and questions if you would like:

1. I want my fire department to stay local. I'm hearing that contracts are being considered from Shoreline and Issaquah.....keep my department local. The polls to have Woodinville be in charge of my department was not local, how do even consider issaquah????? Keep my department local, not the term you are using "local control" that seems confusing. If local control means my fire department stays here or to neighboring Shoreline than I am in favor.
2. Why would you contract for services with a fire department that is based in Issaquah! Partnering with Shoreline makes much more sense, on so many levels.
3. The layout of LFP is unusual and my concern is the ability of staff to find addresses quickly in an emergency if the Northshore entity goes away.
4. If you're considering joining shoreline, let, Kenmore and Woodinville it makes sense for the admin to be located in Kenmore or LFP as that location is central to the coverage area. I've heard it is being considered to be moved to Issaquah. That makes no sense at all. Issaquah should partner with Redmond.
5. It's hard to answer question 5 as I feel it forces me to answer whether or not I think joining a larger department is important or not. There's no answer that says, stay the way we are. While I believe regionalization CAN be beneficial, the citizens of Kenmore & LFP, said no to Woodinville, and now the only options are Eastside Fire & Rescue or Shoreline? Why would anyone vote for a department so far away? After watching several Commissioner meetings, it seems like there is so much disarray, and disfunction within the current Board of Commissioners, why not put a pin in this until the nearly 60% of the board will be able to work together for the next 6 months or even year and make an educated decision? We have one Commissioner who is not allowed to vote, a Commissioner who will only be in his position for a few months more and another Commissioner who is barely able to grasp what a fire district is, or what is best and will only be on the Board for a few months altogether - how is this in the best interest of the community or the firefighters? If there is no pause button on moving forward with a contract, then I only see that Shoreline is the answer, regardless of what each proposal says.
6. Please slow down this process! The merger election was over 5 months ago and the board clearly had no Plan B should the merger fail and has been dragging its heels in developing a path forward. And now, suddenly, it's urgent? Take your time and proceed responsibly. Even more importantly, wait until David Maehren is gone to finalize anything.
7. We voted no on a merger. We will vote your sorry ass out of office if you push for a contract for service! Leave NS Fire alone. It has worked perfectly for years. We are in good financial standing and don't need to make a change!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
8. I'll rely most heavily on the Union's opinion on this matter.
9. It makes a lot of sense to contract with Shoreline rather than Issaquah since Northshore firefighters already work with Shoreline firefighters. Please contract with the agency preferred by the Northshore firefighters union.
10. I thought LFP voted to keep things as they are with the fire department
11. Please do not contract for services with Issaquah. It's too far away and there is no shared experience thus far. If you must contract with another local fire department please make it Shoreline. The fire fighters support this and have already worked with Shoreline and know they share values and processes. I trust my local fire fighters to know what's best. Please trust them as well.
12. Can you elaborate on this bullet point from your FAQ's? Specifically about the levy lid lifts? "The budget needs to be determined before the levy rate, fire benefit charge, and levy lid lifts can be determined. The deadline for this is November 1, 2021."

13. Please do not commit Northshore Fire Department to long term contract for services before newly elected commissioners starting their term in 2022 have opportunity to assess the alternatives. Would like to see current Board of Commissioner set budget and benefit charge for 2022 using baseline of keeping current direct employment of Firefighters and just replacing services previously performed by Woodinville Fire and Bothell Fire. Disagree with answer 6 in FAQ. Believe 80% disapproval of merger with Bothell Fire also implies dissatisfaction of Northshore Fire Board of Commissioners that developed merger proposal.
14. I live in a condominium in Kenmore Washington. I believe am a caretaker to members of my family and myself and the boundary does not end there. It extends to the residents in our building, the environment and our Kenmore community. Our Northshore Fire department(16), is stellar and a caretaker in Kenmore of all. I grew up in Shoreline until 1955-1976, then Bothell for 14 years, and lived currently in Kenmore for the past 25 years. Kenmore was always the north end of the Lake Washington for all of my 75 years alive.. I was at the Kenmore Council meeting(9/13/2021) It was clear that we have a problem. The majority of the population existing in Kenmore, have ended up here from immigration from Seattle to Lake City, to Shoreline(LFP), NOT Woodinville, NOT Bellevue. Our current feet on the ground "Northshore Fire department 16" know the streets, alleys, bridges, paths, the businesses and neighborhoods old and new. But Importantly, most of all they know the people. I want to retain the Northshore Fire department #16 as it is now, with their own power to decide who they partner with. Question #7 I as a resident and home owner in Kenmore, and observe every day the heavy industry, the air harbor, the marina's, all on the shoreline of Kenmore. In addition I support Northshore Fire department 16 receiving necessary equipment and staff to combat any fire that may occur at or near our shoreline, in the private Berthing Channel in Lake Washington, on the shorelines Kenmore. I support the future ability and inventory to have access to to combat any fires with whatever is necessary to fight any fire on land or shoreline from the waters of Lake Washington. Fire boats I love, honor, and support Northshore Fire Department #16
15. I do not support a contract for services with Eastside. It does not make me feel safer that the HQ for my fire service is so far away. It is important to me that our aid is local. I do not think it is beneficial to spread across the region. I do not want to cut costs at the expense of our firefighters' needs and desires. I support their position that this is not ideal and isn't being done fairly or appropriately after Prop 1 was defeated less than 6 months ago.
16. As a Kenmore resident it is so important to keep our fire support local. I support the contract for services with Shoreline, not the Eastside.
17. I have not been impressed with this Board in advocating on behalf of our LFP and Kenmore residents and it is concerning that the fire fighters themselves have opposed the actions of this board at every turn. If this board is determined to merge, I would strongly advocate for a merger with Shoreline as we are neighboring communities. Let's remember that this is about people and communities and not just numbers and money.
18. Please support our firefighters and our community by signing a Contract for Services with Shoreline.
19. Why is this survey such a right-wing push poll? #9 is an egregious example. I've just said in 6 different ways that I'd like to conserve this FD, why force me to answer in a way I don't want to? This is shameful.
20. At the time Kenmore's new fire station was being built, I remember hearing a Fire Commissioner state that the facility was large enough to be a training center for other fire departments in the region. Now it seems the commissioners can't wait to make it just a satellite building that houses firefighters, with no other function. Why was so much money put into this building, if this is its fate.
21. We voted no on the merger just months ago..we do not want to combine our firefighting service with Woodinville alone or even further away due to the distance. We Prefer our own Administration in Kenmore by giving the opportunity to promote within our department. If not able, then sharing administration with a city, Shoreline, that shares a border, closer, shares standards and that know our area, terrain and city well, with same

level of service. This is again being rushed and pushed by 2 fire commissioners. It is extremely important to keep the firefighters and Union local, as well as maintain local control!

22. Please hold off on this decision until after the first of the year.
23. Listen to your fire department!
24. I am confused why you are dead set on ruining a well functioning system of local service. Please STOP and take care of us as a local District, the way we set it up!
25. I don't understand question 4
26. Shoreline seems to be the best option.
27. I support contracting services with Shoreline Fire. In reviewing the proposals of each fire department Shoreline is the only option. I do not support the proposal of Eastside Fire. We should not be looking to reduce service. The voters have already shown this board they want to support our firefighters and have no interest in looking east for services.
28. I support keeping the fire department local or contracting with shoreline. I DO NOT support contracting with Eastside Fire.
29. I am concerned that the firefighters, spouses and close family members are packing the boards of fire commissioners and depriving us of civilian oversight of our fire departments.
30. Shoreline is the only department that makes sense!
31. I heard from multiple people you are trying to have our fire department be absorb by east side fire (which is in issaquah) when Shoreline wants to merge with us and is right next door. I thought we just voted that we have no interest in joining a fire department that is not next to us and a few months later you guys are trying it again but further away? I just don't see any benefit to that, only loss of local control. I also heard that this time it is not even going to go to a vote? The people that have talked to me about this and myself feel betrayed by our fire department. It feels like you asked our opinion and you didn't like what we had to say but you guys turn around and find a loop hole to not have us vote on it this time just so you can do what you want. What is so bad about Shoreline? I know they have tried in the past to become one department with us with no luck? I have had them at my house a few times over the years both their fire trucks and medic trucks to help my wife and I out with our health issues and they are always very professional and helpful when we need them. (They also go out of their way to bring us to the hospital, where I have had our fire department call a different ambulance when they were already at our house in one). I have never once had an east side truck at my house. Everyone that I've talked to has expressed a lot of anger towards our fire department on how this is being handled, we ask that you please slow this down so everyone can make an informed decision. If you're unable to do that at least put it to a public vote like last time so we can all have a say in how our fire department will run. Questions I would like answered 1) What benefit would joining east side have when I have to call 911 to my home in Lake Forest Park 2) Would east side change how many trucks/response vehicles that are in Northshore, so we don't have to keep getting help from Shoreline when I call 911? 3) What is wrong with Shoreline and why do we keep telling them no? 4) Will the public be able to vote on this like we were able to when Northshore tried to do this with Woodinville, why/why not? 5) Will the money I pay in taxes being going to eastside where I would never see any benefit from them?
32. Can we please leave our fire department intact? It starts to look like the elected officials don't want to do what they are explicitly told by their constituents.
33. Either go with Shoreline or just hit the pause button for a few months until the new Fire Commission comes in. I echo the sentiments that this urgency to act immediately feels manufactured.

34. Do not merge, combine, or contract with other departments for services. I voted against prop 1 because it was a bad idea. I will happily continue to pay my fair share of service and admin costs via local firefighter levies. The system is not broken, so don't try to fix it.
35. A contract for service with a department we have minimal interaction with regularly makes zero sense. Shoreline and Northshore are neighboring departments that interact on a daily basis. Keep our department local!
36. Why is labor opposing the Eastside Fire contract proposal?
37. As a 45 year Kenmore resident, I want to continue Shoreline Fire Department for our Paramedic Services. These are the people my neighbors know and trust (I live near Arrowhead School). I support our Northshore Firefighters in wanting to be with a close0by department. Eastside Fire is on the other side of the county, an hour away from our Kenmore vibe. They have absolutely no connection to us. Why would they even want to be involved with a district so far away? This makes no sense when we have Shoreline right next door.
38. I am a Kenmore resident and voted no to join Woodinville. It is frustrating the commissioner's no longer represent the people nor the firefighters of their district. It is criminal the lengths they are going through against our wishes in trying to join ESFR. They need to look to Shoreline for services and allow the public to vote. ELLIS and MAEHREN passed on Shorelines proposal at the start without truly comparing the benefits between Shoreline and Woodinville. Bias and off the book's conversations and promises were made. Greg A. should have never been the Chief. Let the residents have a say along with the firefighters we trust. I no longer have faith in the commission's elected. They need to go!
39. Didn't we just vote against something similar? Did the commissioners get the message?
40. Don't mess with what works now!!
41. It's important for fire coverage and administrative functions to be as close geographically as possible.
42. Why will we still need a separate district with our own local board? Why not get absorbed by Shoreline District?
43. To the Board, Thank you for considering regionalization of fire services. Fire fighters (and their union reps) are very good at manipulating the political system for their own personal gain and union power; the endorsements and campaigning that we see in the community is gross for lack of a better term. I support the fire fighters, but don't believe that they should be influencing business decisions or politics, putting the union's deep pockets up against individual candidate budgets or other financially constrained efforts (I recognize that you likely benefitted from this in your own campaign and don't fault you, sadly it appears that is how you get elected). I know that either labor contract is very generous and will treat fire fighters fairly and urge you to make the best decision for the community. Thank you for your service on the Board! Also, this survey can only be found via the [Keepnorthshorefirelocal.com](http://Keepnorthshorefirelocal.com) (can't find it on NSFD's website), so I would expect the results to be skewed.
44. It makes absolutely NO SENSE to contract for services with an entity as far away as Issaquah! Think it through-- especially in the case of a local disaster, delays in ramping up needed services would be highly likely; or in a regional catastrophe, ie earthquake, access to additional services would likely be prevented physical access due to road damages, downed power lines, downed bridges, etc. We NEED to stay as local as possible!!!!
45. Commissioners Webster, Maehren, and Curtis should resign for not representing the voters who live in the district. See email sent today.
46. Seems best to keep fire departments with common borders together in management as they also support one and other in crisis.
47. Please keep fire services local in Shoreline
48. I would prefer having Shoreline Fire Department provide the contract services for Northshore.

49. It is very important to me that our fire department is local. Consolidation for efficiencies should only be made with other local or physically adjacent departments. As a local resident and voter this is my priority.
50. This "survey" is a shameful push-poll. How dare you flout the overwhelming vote of the public. An \*avalanche\* of a rejection. Honestly, I cannot understand why this is moving forward other than sour grapes by commissioners who don't care for democracy. This has been nothing but bad faith, start to finish. I'm not opposed to consolidation, but as a resident of Lake Forest Park, I have no interest in a de facto merger with Eastside Fire. Shoreline is closer and we form a contiguous area, which is not the case with Eastside.
51. I SUPPORT THE SHORELINE PROPOSAL!!
52. Why the haste in pushing this proposal through? Granted this is not a merger; however, did not the community demonstrate with its vote Spring 2021 that a merger was not desired? Why is this proposal so similar? IF you must make a decision in the very near future, chose Shoreline's proposal.
53. Favor contracting with Shoreline, not Eastside F & R.
54. This latest attempt to contract with an agency located a considerable distance away in Issaquah is just the sequel to the Board's attempt with Prop 1 last April, which the fire unions opposed and local residents voted resoundingly against. We don't support this attempt either, so put this whole thing to rest already. We support the firefighters' choice for a contract with Shoreline Fire instead. Keep it local.
55. I don't understand what is lacking in the present organizational structure. If our fire service ain't broke, why are we trying to fix it?
56. Keep Northshore Fire local. I support only the contract with Shoreline if there must be a merger.