

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

Special Election April 26, 2016



Voting Instructions:

Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot into the security sleeve
- Place the security sleeve inside the green return envelope and seal

Sign:

- Sign the voter declaration

Return:

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office - Election Division

Voting Center:

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham, WA
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Election Day, April 26, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm



Phone: 360-778-5102

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Fax: 360-778-5101

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor/

Services Available:

- Accessible voting using visual and audio technology
- Replacement ballots
- Voter registration

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

Returning Your Ballot:

By Mail:

First class postage required.

Ballots must be postmarked by April 26.

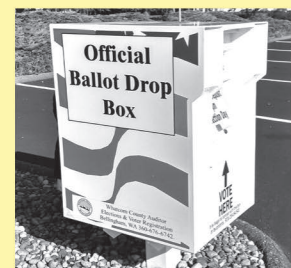
USPS recommends mailing by Monday, April 25.

By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open April 6; close at 8:00 pm on April 26.

Locations available:

- 311 Grand Avenue: Whatcom County Courthouse, in the south parking lot of the courthouse or inside at Suite 103
- 501 High Street: WWU Bookstore
- 210 36th Street: Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot
- Gate One: Sudden Valley, at Security Office turnaround



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South Whatcom Fire Authority Proposition No. 2016-1 General Obligation Bonds

Ballot Language:

The Governing Board of the South Whatcom Fire Authority, Whatcom County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 2016-02 concerning financing for the acquisition and equipping of new fire engines. If approved, this proposition would authorize the Authority to acquire and equip three new fire engines, to be financed by the issuance of not more than \$1,960,000.00 of general obligation bonds maturing within 10 1/2 years to be repaid by the annual levy of excess property taxes, all as provided in Resolution No. 2016-02. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement:

The Fire Authority seeks voter approval for bond financing to acquire and equip three new fire engines. Existing engines are 23 to 33 years old and the additional engines are needed to ensure reliable continued service. The amount of bonds necessary would not exceed \$1,960,000.

The Bonds will be repaid over 10.5 years with an additional property tax. The exact amount of the property tax will depend on the bond interest rate at the time of bond sale. Annually, it is estimated to cost approximately \$0.13/\$1,000, or \$39 annually for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

Statement For:

Vote "Yes" to protect response times with safe, reliable fire equipment! Our community has a long and proud tradition of volunteer firefighters/EMTs. Day or night we can count on these dedicated neighbors and friends to answer our call. Last year our responders answered 1,035 alarms. The service they provide is both excellent and cost-effective.

Our responders can only be as effective as the equipment we provide. Our community's five fire stations have seven fire engines – two of which are "reserve" engines and are well beyond their useful life. The other fire engines average 17 years old.

Fast response times rely on dependable equipment. It's time to buy three new fire engines to replace engines that are 23, 24, and 33 years old. These new engines will serve our community for the next twenty-five years. Three of our oldest and most unreliable engines will then be surplus.

Please vote "Yes" on South Whatcom Fire Authority Proposition 1. The cost is reasonable, and new engines are needed now. Let's support our responders and maintain our current service levels with safe and reliable equipment that we can all count on. Visit SWRFA.org for more information.

Statement For prepared by:

Citizens for South Whatcom Fire Authority; Frank Chmelik, John Huntley and Ron Swanson.

Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.