

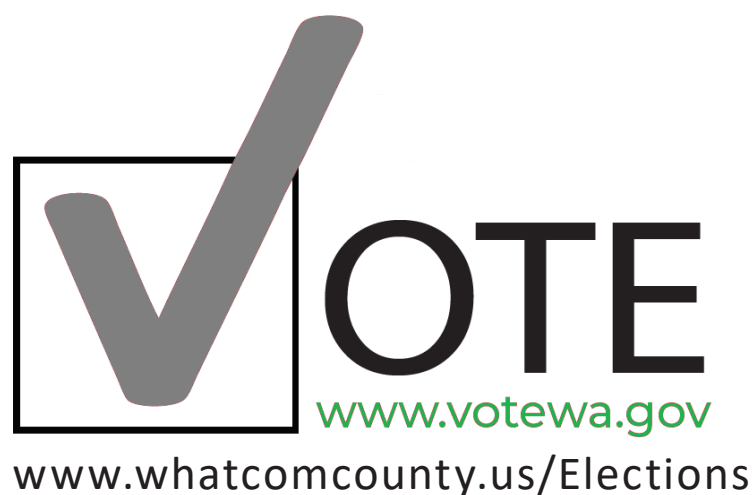
Whatcom County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

General Election Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Attention voters!

The Official Ballot Drop Box at Whatcom Community College has moved!

You can now drive up to deposit your ballot! Visit the new location at 620 W. Kellogg Road, in the parking lot of the Auxiliary Services Building. See page 4 for details.



Ballots are mailed October 19.
If your ballot hasn't arrived by

October 26

contact the Election Division.



Diana Bradrick
Whatcom County Auditor
311 Grand Avenue #103
Bellingham, WA 98225

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Dear Voter,

When I ran for office in 2019 one of the things I talked about was transparency in the office. Since becoming Auditor in 2020, I have made efforts to improve voters' view into the elections process. Transparent policies and procedures is critical to help voters have confidence in our elections. It is my goal to provide information as well as opportunities for voters to see election activities "up close and personal" so you understand everything we do to ensure fair and accurate elections.

One of the ways we have improved our transparency is by posting more information on our website regarding election procedures. Current topics include Observer Resources and Election Laws & Security with plans to expand the information available.

Voters also have numerous opportunities to observe elections activities. Although the opportunity to be an observer is not new, many individuals have told us they believed that option was only available to Democratic or Republican party representatives. In fact, any member of the public may be an observer. Opportunities for observing include:

- o The Logic and Accuracy Test
October 18, 2022
- o Ballot Processing and Signature Verification
October 19 – November 28
- o Post-Election Hand Count Audit
November 10, 2022
- o Post-Election Risk Limiting Audit
November 18, 2022
- o Canvassing Board Challenged Signature Review Meeting
November 28, 2022
- o Canvassing Board Election Certification Meeting
November 29, 2022

If you wish to observe ballot processing, be aware that not all processes will be taking place at all hours. Webcams were installed in 2020 to increase options for observing election activities. Before visiting us in person, you may wish to view what's happening in the Election Center remotely first. You can go to www.whatcomcounty.us/3490/Live-Webcams or page 19 of this Voter's Pamphlet explains the various views of the webcams.

If you do wish to observe and haven't been through Observer Training, we encourage you to participate the next time we have a training session. The Observer Resources page of our website has a recording of the last session and the schedule for future training will be posted there as well. There is also an Observer Guide with information about ballot processing in Whatcom County.

In July, we held a series of open house small group tours of the Election Center. Those tours allowed participants to see procedures and equipment up close and gave us an opportunity to address any questions. We will be scheduling tours again next July during the Primary.

We invite you to watch us on the webcams, come in to observe, or email any questions you may have. We want voters to have confidence in your elections office and the state elections process. Most importantly, we want you to vote!

Sincerely,

Diana Bradrick
Whatcom County Auditor



Whatcom County Auditor's Office
Election Division

Services include voter registration, ballot replacement, and accessible voting using visual or audio technology. Contact us for more information.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm*
*Open until 8:00 pm on November 8

In Person: 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham

Phone: (360) 778-5102

Fax: (360) 778-5101

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections



Pre Election

Logic and Accuracy Test



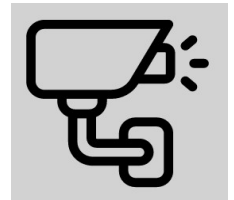
- The test must verify that the system will correctly count the votes cast for candidates and measures appearing on the ballot per RCW 29A.12.130
- This test is done before every election and is conducted prior to any ballots being scanned into the tabulation system.
- Test ballots from all precincts and of every ballot style are used during the test.
- Independent observers and the Office of the Secretary of State verify the test results.



During the Election

Video Surveillance and Live Streaming

- All ballot processing occurs in the Election Center. The Election Center is secured with prox locks that require two election staff badges to open and all entry doors have 24 hour a day video surveillance.
- Five live webcams with nonstop streaming allow the public to watch the work being performed during the ballot processing period.



Secure Tabulation System



- All tabulation equipment is on a closed network and is never connected to the internet.
- Once ballots have been processed and scanned they are secured in tamper-evident bags.

Post Election Day

Random Batch Audit (Hand Count)

- On the Thursday after election day, a representative from each political party randomly selects batches that are hand counted to ensure, once again, that the tabulation equipment is reading and counting votes accurately.
- Hand count totals are compared with the vote totals from the tabulation equipment to ensure they match.



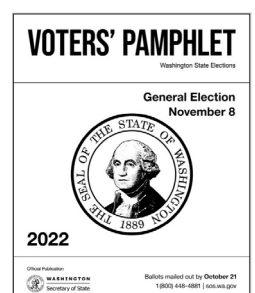
Risk Limiting Audit

- This is a post-election audit in which a random sample of voted ballots is examined in teams of two.
- A formula lays out the required number of ballots to be audited to reach statistical confidence in the election results.



Washington Secretary of State's Office
Voters' Pamphlet

A voters' pamphlet containing information on state ballot measures and candidate statements for federal and state level positions will be mailed out by the Washington Secretary of State's Office and should arrive at residences between October 8 - October 14.





Washington Votes by Mail Every Election!

- If you are registered to vote in Washington, there is no need to request a ballot. Active voters will be mailed a ballot before each election. Log in and view your registration at VoteWA.gov.
- Voting by mail is accessible, convenient, and gives you time to learn about the candidates and ballot measures.
- ALL signatures are verified before the ballot is counted.
- Results are neither known nor reported before 8:00 pm on election day.

To Register to Vote, You Must Be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A Washington State resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law.
- At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.



How to Register to Vote:



ONLINE: Go to VoteWA.gov on or before **Monday, October 31** if you have a current Washington State Driver License or I.D. card.



PAPER FORM: Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration Form. **Forms must be received in the Auditor's Office by October 31.** Registration forms are available at city halls, libraries, online, or by contacting the Whatcom County Auditor's Office.



IN PERSON: Come into the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division, by **8:00 pm on Election Day, November 8.**

Registration Deadlines:



Voter registration and address changes online or by mail **must be received by October 31.**

Starting November 1, visit our office in person to register to vote or update your current registration by 8:00 pm election day.



Student Engagement Hubs

Public universities now offer Student Engagement Hubs to ensure that students never miss an election just because they're away from home.

Western Washington University Student Engagement Hub

Tuesday November 8

Hours:

8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Location:

Viking Union
516 High Street, Bellingham

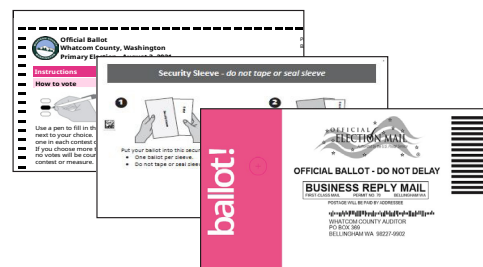


Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)

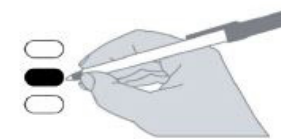
An accessible voting unit (AVU) is equipped with visual and audio technology. Voters requiring reasonable accommodation or assistance may vote on the AVU in the Auditor's Office starting October 19 through November 8.



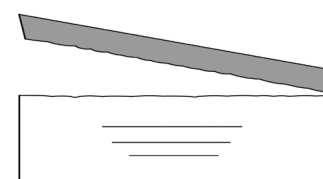
1. The ballot packet for the November 8 General Election will be mailed to you on October 19. The packet will include your official ballot, a security sleeve, and a postage-paid return envelope.



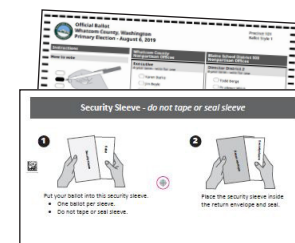
2. To vote the ballot, fill in the oval next to your choice with a blue or black pen. Vote for only one in each contest or measure.



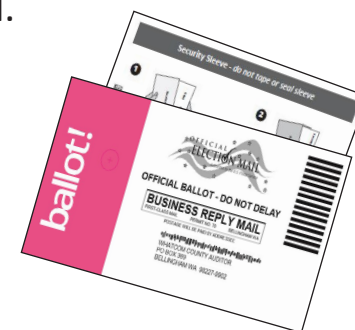
3. Remove the stub at the top of your ballot. *If you forget to remove the stub, your ballot will still be counted.*



4. Place your voted ballot into the security sleeve. *If you forget the security sleeve, your ballot will still be counted.*



5. Put the ballot/security sleeve into the return envelope and seal.

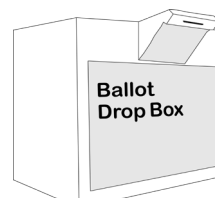


6. Sign and date your return envelope that has your name printed on it. **Your signature on the return envelope is required for your ballot to be counted.**

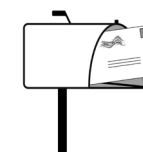
Sign and date below



7. Return your ballot to the Whatcom County Auditor's Office by ballot drop box or mail. See page 20 for more information on returning your ballot.



Or



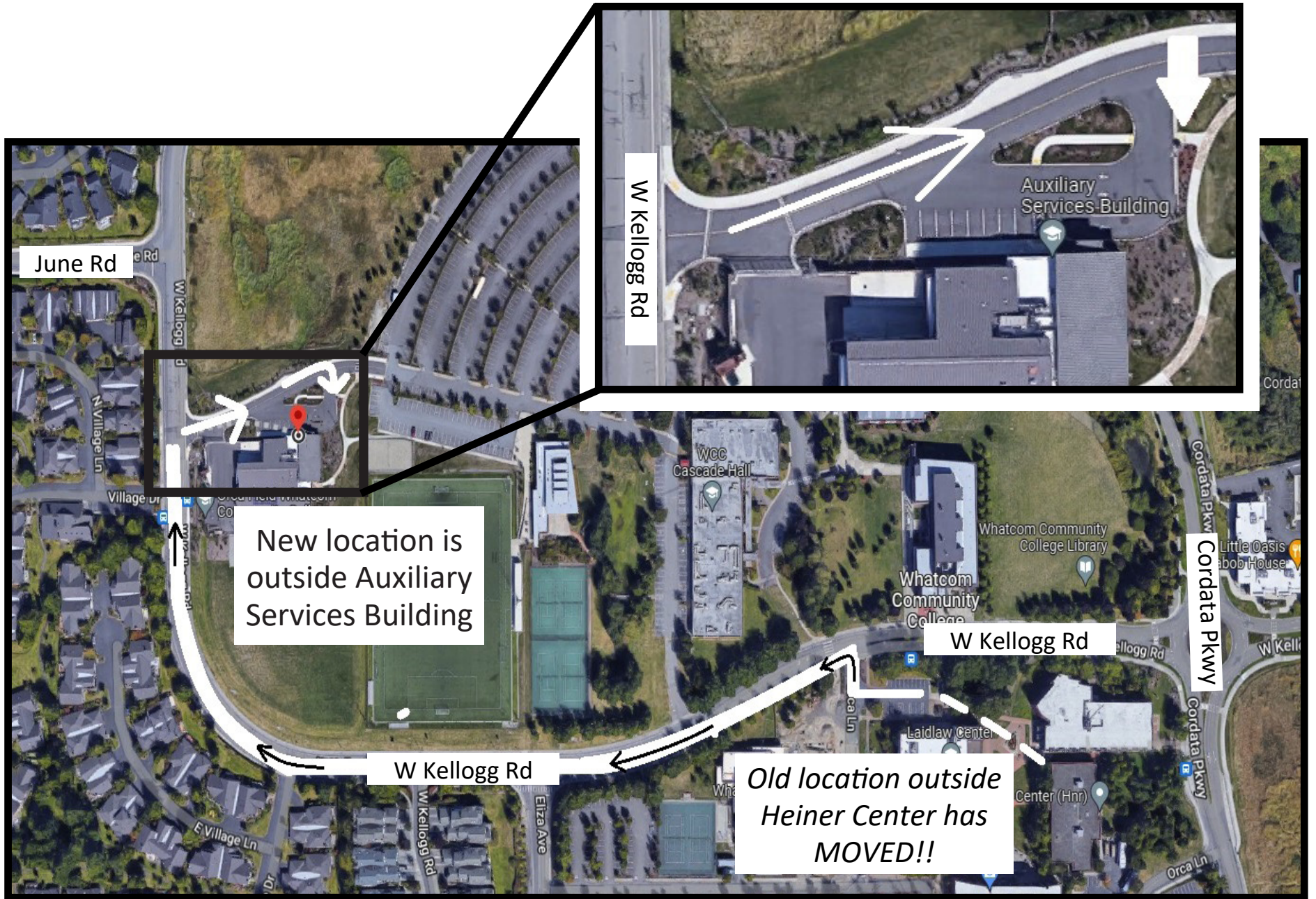
Or

Ballot must be in the drop box by 8:00 pm, November 8

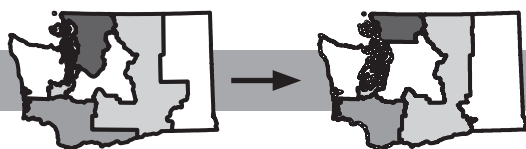
Ballot must be postmarked by November 8



The Whatcom Community College official ballot drop box moved to a new location. You can now drive up to the box and deposit your ballot! Visit the **new location** at 620 W Kellogg Road, in the parking lot outside the Auxiliary Services Building (ASB).



See page 20 for all official ballot drop box locations in Whatcom County



Your District May Have Changed

Every 10 years, following the U.S. Census, district boundaries are redrawn in a process called redistricting. Districts involved include legislative, congressional, and county council.

Redistricting ensures that each district has about the same number of people, which means equal representation in government.

As a result of redistricting, you may have been assigned to a new legislative, congressional, or county council district.

If your districts changed, you will vote on different legislative or congressional races, beginning this year.

For more information about the new legislative or congressional boundaries, visit www.redistricting.wa.gov.

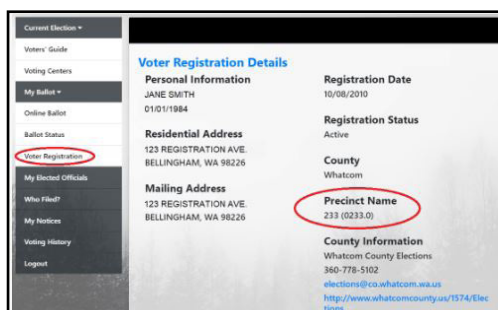
For more information about the new county council boundaries, visit the Precincts and Maps page of our website: www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections.



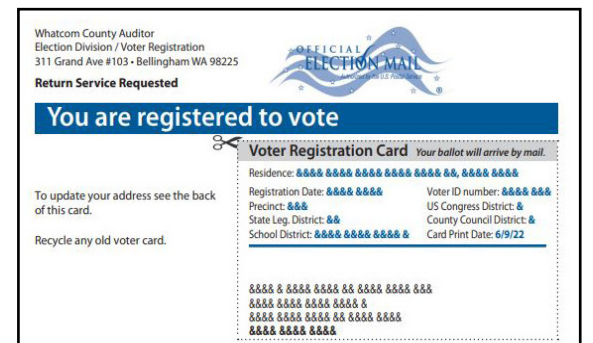
Precinct Changes

Whatcom County has adopted new precinct boundaries. The county council reviewed the proposal at the April 12, 2022 council meeting and voted in favor of adopting the new precinct boundaries. The new precinct lines went into effect before the 2022 Primary Election. Visit our website (Precincts and Maps tab) to view the new Whatcom County precinct map, or view an individual precinct map.

Voters can view their precinct and districts by logging into the voter portal at VoteWA.gov.



New voter cards were mailed to registered voters that had a precinct change at the end of April.





READ: Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

What is a Sample Ballot?

A Sample Ballot shows all the contests in the election. Not all contests will be on your ballot.

To view a list of districts in which you are eligible to vote, visit VoteWA.gov

Candidate statements in this pamphlet will be printed in the order they appear on this Sample Ballot.

Table with 4 columns: State Measures, Advisory Votes, Whatcom County, and Federal - Partisan Offices. Includes details for Proposition 2022-5, Proposition 2022-6, and U.S. Senator candidates.

Table with 4 columns: State of Washington - Partisan Offices, Legislative District 40, Legislative District 42, and Whatcom County - Partisan Office. Lists candidates for Secretary of State, State Representatives, Prosecuting Attorney, and State Judicial positions.

Vote for only one in each contest. You are not required to vote for every contest. Your vote will be counted for the contests you do vote on.

Table with 4 columns: City of Lynden, Nooksack Valley School District 506, and Whatcom County Judicial - Nonpartisan Offices. Includes details for Proposition 2022-4, Proposition 2022-7, and District Court Judge positions.



Participating Jurisdictions

The districts included in the November 8 General Election are as follows:

- U.S. Senator
• Congressional District 2
• State of Washington
• Legislative Districts 40 & 42
• Whatcom County
• Public Utility District No. 1
• City of Lynden
• Nooksack Valley School District 506



Partisan Office Notice

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.



Whatcom County - Prosecuting Attorney - Partisan Office - 4 Year Term



Eric Richey

(Prefers Democratic Party)

Elected Experience: Elected as your Prosecutor in 2018 and I've worked for the people of Whatcom County for four years. Vice President of Association of Students at WWU, 1987-88.

Other Professional Experience: In my 29 years of prosecuting crime, I have handled thousands of criminal cases, including rape, murder, felony assault, and animal

abuse.

Education: BA, Western Washington University; JD, University of Oregon.

Community Service: Chuckanut Health Foundation, Brigid Collins, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), Rotary Club, Whatcom Humane Society, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Assistant Coach for Youth Soccer.

Statement: Four years ago you elected me to be the first new Prosecutor in a generation. My focus has been justice for victims, protection from serious crimes in our community, transparent communication with the public and innovative

ideas to hold offenders accountable, while also reducing incarceration and recidivism.

I brought LEAD, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, to Whatcom County. LEAD works with law enforcement to divert low-level offenders into treatment, working with people who commit multiple low-level crimes due to drug use, mental illness, extreme poverty. Early results are promising. Justice is at the center of our work and that includes racial justice. In 2020 I worked with community members to found the Racial Equity Commission.

I'm proud of the work my office does in the community. These next four years give us an opportunity to do better at collecting and sharing data and pushing for treatment. I share your concern with rising levels of property crime and will work with law enforcement to tackle crime while also solving the root problems.

I'm a lifelong Washingtonian. Bellingham has been my home for 34 years with my wife Quenby and our two children.

For More Information:
(360) 961-6491

Whatcom County - District Court Judge Position 1 - Nonpartisan Office - Short and Full 4 Year Term



Angela Anderson

Legal/Judicial Experience: Whatcom County District Court Judge, 2021-present; Anderson Legal PLLC, 2019-2021; City of Lynden Municipal Court Public Defender 2019-2021; Whatcom County Public Defender's Office 2006-2019

Other Professional Experience: Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force; Legal and Justice System Subcommittee; Whatcom County Health Department

Opiate Abuse Prevention Community Coalition

Education: Bachelor's Degree from Truman State University, Summa Cum Laude; Juris Doctorate from Washington & Lee University, School of Law

Community Service: Whatcom County Amateur Hockey Association, Vice President; Whatcom Community College's Criminal Justice Program Advisory Committee, Vice President. Pickford Film Center, Former Board Member.

Statement: As Whatcom County's first female District Court Judge I am proud to serve my community. My record reflects my commitment to fairness and justice. Since my appointment by County Council in 2021, I have protected our

citizens' rights, ensured that victims are heard and supported, and worked to provide all individuals access to justice.

My accomplishments on the bench include the creation of Family Justice Court. This specialized court holds domestic violence offenders accountable while ensuring that they also receive access to treatment and community resources. I also preside over Whatcom County's Mental Health Court. Mental Health Court connects defendants with serious mental health challenges to services such as counseling and housing. Additionally, District Court is developing a 24/7 Sobriety Program for accused impaired drivers who require a high-level of monitoring to protect the community.

Ranked "exceptionally well qualified" by both the Whatcom County Bar Association and Washington Women Lawyers, Whatcom Chapter, I spent my legal career fighting to ensure that the constitutional rights of citizens were upheld. On the bench I shall continue to bring a thoughtful and respectful approach to decision making while ensuring all parties are treated with dignity.

For More Information:
(360) 483-5200
retainjudgeanderson@gmail.com

Whatcom County - District Court Judge Position 2 - Nonpartisan Office - 4 Year Term



Jonathan Rands

Legal/Judicial Experience: Highly respected trial lawyer with 20 years' experience in the District and Municipal Courts of our 4-county area; tried 250+ cases to verdict; exceptional knowledge of these courts; the only candidate with years of Pro Tem Judicial experience

Other Professional Experience: President, Washington Foundation for Criminal Justice – 2017-2019; frequent legal lecturer on state and national level

Education: J.D., Seattle University; B.A., Simon Fraser University; certification in scientific and forensic issues coming before the District Court

Community Service: As a small business owner, he is a reliable contributor to many community organizations including Humane Society, Boys & Girls Club, St. Joseph Hospital, Hospice Foundation, and Max Higbee.

Statement: Jonathan Rands was the winner of our Primary Election. He is the *only* candidate endorsed by both the 42nd District Democrats and the Whatcom County Republicans. In a non-partisan judicial race, bi-partisan support is important.

Jonathan has distinguished himself in the courtroom defending

Constitutional rights and is respected for his lengthy experience, relentless work ethic, and integrity. Representing *people*, not government, he has earned a reputation for his commitment to both access to justice and the rule of law. He believes in balancing restorative justice with accountability and that a judge should provide people with tools to facilitate their success. He is the only candidate with years of judicial experience.

Jonathan Rands has the necessary community connections and judicial support to bring a Community Court and Resource Center to Whatcom County thereby reducing recidivism and relieving burdens on police, first responders, and local businesses.

Jonathan Rands' bi-partisan endorsements show that he will be impartial and fair to all. Other endorsements include over 100 lawyers and 40+ judges who respect his knowledge and experience; Bellingham/Whatcom County Firefighters (IAFF 106); NW WA Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO); Machinists Union (IAM 751); Lummi Indian Business Council; WWU Young Democrats. See all endorsements at www.randsforjudge.org.

For More Information:
(425) 466-0619
randsforjudge@gmail.com
www.randsforjudge.org



Gordon M. Jenkins

Legal/Judicial Experience: As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Whatcom County, Gordon prosecutes a wide range of serious felonies. Before joining the prosecutor's office, Gordon was a criminal defense attorney, primarily representing low-income public defense clients. Gordon brings unmatched experience on both sides of the courtroom.

Other Professional Experience: Gordon also represents the State in the Whatcom County Drug Court, collaborating with defense attorneys and mental health professionals.

Education: B.A., University of Richmond; J.D., Washington & Lee University School of Law

Community Service: Volunteer Judge, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Statement: Gordon Jenkins has spent his career working in the criminal justice system, on both sides of the courtroom. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, he works tirelessly for the people of Whatcom County, prosecuting serious felonies

of all kinds. As a defense attorney, he zealously represented low-income and indigent clients.

Gordon's balanced experience, dedication, and reputation for integrity make him the perfect candidate for District Court Judge. As judge, Gordon can be counted on to uphold the law, public safety, and the rights of all citizens. He will ensure that each case is heard fully and fairly, and that each person is treated with respect and fairness.

Gordon is honored to have the support of community leaders from across Whatcom County, including County Executive Satpal Sidhu (D), County Prosecutor Eric Richey (D), Representative Sharon Shewmake (D), Sheriff Bill Elfo (R), and former Prosecutor Dave McEachran (R). Gordon is also the only candidate endorsed by sitting members of the Whatcom County Superior Court, including Judges Evan Jones and David Freeman. They trust Gordon's unmatched experience and record of delivering justice. Vote for balanced experience on the Whatcom County bench. *Vote Gordon Jenkins!*

For More Information:
(360) 536-2941
info@jenkinsfordistrictjudge.org
www.jenkinsfordistrictjudge.org



Public Utility District No. 1 - Commissioner District 3 - Nonpartisan Office - 6 Year Term



Jaime Arnett

Elected Experience: Blaine City Council

Other Professional Experience: Executive Director for Animals as Natural Therapy, providing animal-assisted mental and behavioral health services. Former Administrative Executive for Boundary Fish Company in Blaine. Housing advocate for Habitat for Humanity, Whatcom County.

Education: BA, Western Washington University; Blaine High School

Community Service: Board Member and Religious Education leader, Free Church Unitarian; former Little League coach; former Blaine Farmers Market organizer; youth mentor; helped bring bullying awareness/leadership workshops to local school districts; focus group participant to address homelessness and affordable housing.

Statement: Whatcom County needs Internet For All now. The PUD is uniquely positioned to provide high speed internet to all of Whatcom County. Replacing slow and unreliable internet access gives rural families a fighting chance to compete in today's economy. Internet access is now a utility; without it, rural

communities lack vital educational services to youth and community members and much needed tele-medicine appointments. PUDs were created to bring electricity to small towns and farms. Modern internet has similarly become a necessity for today's life and learning.

I care deeply about protecting and providing clean water for families, fish, and farms. Growing up in a fishing family and working professionally in the industry, I understand the importance of a healthy and flourishing Nooksack River. Operating a farm, I understand the importance of water availability to agriculture. I vow to make decisions for the benefit of all in our community.

As PUD Commissioner, I will seek: 1) clean energy solutions to grow our economy; 2) universal high-speed broadband at affordable prices; 3) a more transparent PUD that communicates more effectively with the public.

I'm ready to get to work. Please vote Jaime Arnett, PUD Commissioner, District 3.

For More Information:
(360) 325-5954
jaimeforpud@gmail.com
www.jaimearnett.com



Eric Davidson

Elected Experience: Currently serving as Blaine City Council-member, elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021

Other Professional Experience: Registered Nurse; Former Fiscal Manager at WWU overseeing a \$10 million budget; US Air Force, Retired Major, Two deployments to Iraq as Director of Operations managing patient care, movement & evacuation, hospital operations and budget; former business owner

Education: Bachelors of Science Business Finance, CSU, Stanislaus; Associate of Science Nursing, Whatcom Community College Nursing School

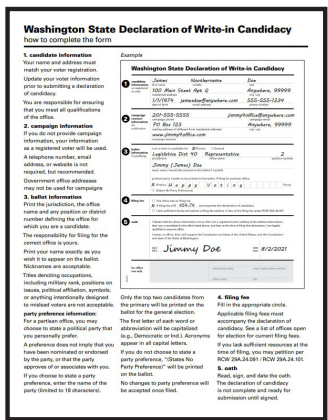
Community Service: Former Chairman of Blaine Public Works Committee; Member Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) Board of Directors; Member Blaine Finance Committee; Chairperson Blaine Tourism Committee; Economic Development Member; Founding President Lettered Street Neighborhood Association

Statement: I feel honored to live in Whatcom County, and to serve on the Blaine City Council and Public Works Committee. My experience has allowed

me to understand the challenges facing Whatcom County, and I would be proud to serve as Public Utilities Commissioner. As a member of the Blaine City Council, I have helped secure over \$7.5 million of outside funds for Blaine sewer projects. I have also obtained capital for multi-million wastewater projects, worked closely with developments and businesses to ensure meeting the needs of city utilities, supported multiple programs for energy conservation and championed affordable utilities for families. Whatcom County has many valuable resources we need to protect to ensure a great quality of life today and for future generations. As the population and needs of the county continues to grow, I want to bring my experience, hard work and vision to the rest of Whatcom County as Public Utilities Commissioner. My goal is to safeguard our high quality of life by ensuring we have clean, affordable, accessible utilities to all the citizens of Whatcom County as we move towards the future. Please cast your vote for experience and elect Eric Davidson for Public Utilities Commissioner. Thank you.

For More Information:
(360) 303-2636
ericj davidson@yahoo.com

This is the end of Candidate Statements. Candidate Statements for Federal or State level positions will be provided in a separate voters' pamphlet mailed by the Washington Secretary of State's Office.



Write-In Voting

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Candidacy to have votes tallied. Write-in candidates have until 8:00 pm on election day to file their Declaration of Write-in Candidacy.

To cast a vote for a declared write-in candidate, fill in the oval next to the write-in line on the ballot and write the name of the qualified candidate on the line provided.



More Contact Information

Contact Information for Major Political Parties in Whatcom County:

Democratic Headquarters
1220 Bay Street, Suite B-27
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: (360) 647-7661

Republican Headquarters
7072 Portal Way, Suite 104C
Ferndale, WA 98248
Phone: (360) 734-5215

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

Secretary of State - State Elections Division

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov
Phone: 360-902-4180 or 800-448-4881

A special thanks to Election Tools for the use of the icons in this pamphlet (electiontools.org)



**Whatcom County
Proposition 2022-5
Children's Initiative Levy Lid Lift**

Language on the Ballot

The Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2022-045 concerning funding to address the well-being of children. If approved, this proposition would authorize the County to increase property taxes to fund early learning programs, childcare, and support for homeless or otherwise vulnerable children. This measure would increase the regular property tax levy for ten consecutive years by \$0.19/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023-2032 (for a total rate of \$0.94/\$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023), generating approximately \$8,200,000 annually, subject to limit factors in RCW 84.55 and exemptions in RCW 84.36.381.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes/No

Statement For:

Every Whatcom County child deserves to be safe, healthy, with the opportunity to thrive. Research shows that 90% of a child's brain develops by age five. This critical time lays the foundation for the years that follow. Today fewer than half of Whatcom's children enter kindergarten ready to learn. Proposition 5 increases early learning opportunities so children can succeed.

High quality, affordable childcare throughout Whatcom County. Today there are about 5,000 fewer childcare spots than needed and when parents can't find childcare, businesses struggle to find workers. Proposition 5 helps childcare businesses expand where and how families need them, so parents can get back to work, knowing their children are safe and well-cared for.

Vulnerable, at-risk, and homeless children need more support - mental and behavioral health services and stable housing. Proposition 5 will fund targeted help for prenatal and new families facing economic hardship. This helps parents participate in their children's well-being, which is key to their success.

Vote yes for Whatcom Kids! Evidence-based, independent audits, lasting results, transparent and accountable to the public. Every dollar stays in Whatcom County. Endorsements: Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and more!

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Healthy Children's Fund helps the most vulnerable children and families in Whatcom County by investing in prevention and creating more opportunities for our 10,000+ children five and under to get the support they need. Voting Yes supports our economy - getting families back to work, and helps build a safer and healthier community long term. It has tough fiscal accountability: money is used effectively and as promised - independent audits, full disclosure. Our kids can't wait.

Statement For & Rebuttal prepared by:

Emily O'Conner, Guy Occhiogrosso, and Mike Hammes

Explanatory Statement

This proposition would authorize Whatcom County to levy an additional regular property tax at the rate of \$0.19 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within Whatcom County to fund increased early childhood programs and affordable childcare to improve kindergarten readiness and increased access to support for homeless and otherwise vulnerable children. The levy would be authorized for a ten-year period, with collection beginning in 2023. Levy funds would be deposited in a separate fund ("Healthy Children's Fund") which would be subject to an independent performance audit every other year to evaluate progress and recommend improvements or adjustments.

Statement Against:

Current inflation affects everyone. The cost of food, energy, transportation, and housing is increasing at an alarming rate. Property owners also have vulnerable children, who are falling through the cracks, unable to utilize available services because their income is just above the threshold. This Levy increases the burden on these families who are struggling financially.

Why are we sacrificing 1 vulnerable family to help another? This will increase homelessness, which puts more innocent children at-risk. This Levy will also eliminate choice if childcare for vulnerable families.

In addition to this levy being poor timing for our community, this Department, like many others locally, has no accountability, oversight and lacks clear outcome goals. If the \$29.8 million that is spent annually to support Child and Family Well-Being cannot make any meaningful improvement then why would we think that increasing taxpayer funding of these poorly managed programs would improve outcomes? When has a government led program ever been successful?

This vote will allow the county to sidestep laws that limit property tax increases. Let's end tax increases and keep our families and elders in their homes by holding Whatcom County government accountable in using the \$29,800,000 they have now effectively.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Vote no! Protect innocent children! Everyone will have increased cost of housing from this tax levy. Parents will have less time to spend with their children, children will be less safe at home, less food, less money for childcare, more stress upon families, and more innocent children will experience homelessness.

Statement Against & Rebuttal prepared by:

Laurie Williams and John Marshall

Complete Text:**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-045**

PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF WHATCOM COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO LIFT THE LIMIT ON REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES UNDER CHAPTER 84.55 RCW FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE, EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS, AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

WHEREAS, studies show that 90% of the human brain is developed before the age of 5. This period before kindergarten is the critical window for children to learn the basic skills to have a successful life and be ready to learn in school, such as attention, motivation, coordination, and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 10,000 children under the age of 5 in Whatcom County, and up to 5,000 lack access to early learning because there are not enough spaces available. This childcare gap is worse in rural areas of the county; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children who go to high-quality preschool are more likely to read proficiently by the third grade, and

more likely to graduate and go on to post-high school education such as college, technical school, or training programs that lead to good jobs as adults; and

WHEREAS, recent data shows that only 46% of students in Whatcom County, and only 25% of children of color, enter kindergarten fully ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, research shows that, for every dollar invested in early childhood programs, between \$7 and \$13 are saved in benefits to the community, including higher graduation rates, lower incarceration rates, and lower healthcare costs. Whatcom County currently spends only 2% of its budget on programs related to families, but spends much more responding to situations involving severe mental illness and homelessness, and on incarceration; and

WHEREAS, over 85% of Whatcom County businesses report staffing

The complete text for this ballot measure is continued on the next page.





Whatcom County Proposition 2022-5 Children's Initiative Levy Lid Lift

challenges from lack of childcare access; and

WHEREAS, increased wages would help attract, train, and keep high quality educators and providers for children in Whatcom County. Child care workers are essential, but their salaries have not kept up with the cost of living. Most earn minimum wage; less than \$30,000 a year on average; and

WHEREAS, chapter 84.55 RCW generally limits the dollar amount of regular property taxes that a county may levy in any year, but RCW 84.55.050 allows a county to levy taxes exceeding such limit by majority approval of the voters, allows a county to include in the ballot proposition a limit on the purpose for which the additional taxes levied will be used and allows the proposition to provide for the expiration of the additional taxing authority; and

WHEREAS, The Whatcom County Council finds that the best interests of the citizens of Whatcom County require the submission of a proposition to the qualified voters of the County, in a special election to be held concurrently with the general election on November 8, 2022, to approve or reject a levy above the regular property tax limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for the funding of childcare and early childhood programs to improve kindergarten readiness and funding for support of homeless and otherwise vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed levy lid lift authorized by this proposition would permit the County to increase its regular property tax levy by \$0.19 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, resulting in a regular property tax levy of \$0.94 per \$1000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023 (calculated using the regular property tax rate in 2022, based on total assessed value in 2021), and to increase the levy thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW to allow for the uninterrupted continuation of the levy lid lift for a term of ten (10) years. The amount collected in 2023 and in the following 9 years will be approximately \$8,200,000.00 annually; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to exempt those individuals that qualify for property tax exemptions under RCW 84.36.381; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(5), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2032 for collection in 2033 and in later years shall be computed as if the proposition under this resolution had not been approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

SECTION 1 LEVY SUBMITTAL: To provide necessary funding for the purposes identified in Section 3 of this ordinance, the County Council shall submit to the qualified electors of the County a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW which would allow the County, commencing in 2023 and thereafter continuing for an additional 9 years, to collect additional property taxes in the amount of \$0.19 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, for a total regular property tax of \$0.94 per \$1000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023. This proposed additional levy is within the limitations set by RCW 84.52.043.

SECTION 2 DEPOSIT OF LEVY PROCEEDS: All levy proceeds shall be deposited into a fund, to be known as the Healthy Children's Fund, which shall be created by ordinance, and these funds and proceeds thereon shall be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in Section 3.

SECTION 3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES:

A. The Healthy Children's Fund shall be used exclusively for the following:

1. **Increasing Affordable, High-Quality, Professional, and Accessible Early Learning and Child Care Opportunities.** Young children of all backgrounds will have increased access to affordable, high-quality, professional, and accessible early learning and child care experiences that meet the unique needs of families across Whatcom County.

a. Funding in this area must address each of the following priorities:

Affordable: Decrease the cost of early learning and child care experiences for both families and providers.

High-Quality: Increase the quality of early learning and child

care experiences.

Professional: Attract and retain quality early childhood educators.

Accessible: Expand early learning and child care services that meet the varied needs of families and children. Geographic locations, ages of children, special needs, and a broad range of child care scheduling needs (including emergency child care opportunities) will all be considered in the development.

2. **Helping vulnerable children of all backgrounds, including homeless and at-risk children.** Vulnerable children of all backgrounds will have increased access to the support they need, either directly or through support for their families, including mental and behavioral health services and housing stability programs. For the purposes of this ordinance, 'vulnerable children' are defined as any children at greater risk of experiencing physical or emotional harm and/or experiencing poor outcomes because of one or more factors in their lives, including but not limited to homeless and foster children.

a. Funding in this area must address each of the following priorities:

Expand Mental and Behavioral Health: Expand mental health services for vulnerable children and their families.

Prevent and reduce homelessness of vulnerable children: Reduce the instances of vulnerable children experiencing homelessness, through diversion and other preventative services and reduce the trauma associated with homelessness by supporting interim housing services and trauma-focused system reform directed at vulnerable children and their families.

Support Vulnerable Children's Parents: Expand supports and services for families who have or are expecting children deemed to be vulnerable.

b. Services funded under this section shall not include those that are already funded through the Continuum of Care system for homelessness that is part of the federal and state-mandated Coordinated Entry System.

3. **Help all children be ready for kindergarten.** Improvements to child care and early learning programs under this measure must be designed to advance the goal that children of all backgrounds in Whatcom County should enter kindergarten prepared and ready to learn.

4. **Independent Performance Audits and Oversight:** Ensure that taxpayer money is well spent achieving the goals adopted by the County Council in this ordinance and endorsed by the voters through passage of the levy.

B. Funding requirements and limitations:

1. The County shall ensure that the Healthy Children's Fund is used exclusively to sustain an increase in overall public expenditures for eligible services as set forth in this ordinance. Money in the Healthy Children's Fund shall not be used in lieu of federal, state, county, city or school district funding already committed for the purpose of providing outlined services.
2. All service providers, vendors and subcontractors of the Healthy Children's Fund shall be selected by fund administrators in compliance with County purchasing procedures. All service providers shall have and adhere to robust anti-discrimination and child protection policies. All contracts for service resulting from The Healthy Children's Fund should state the contract's objective, whether from this ordinance or the Community Health Improvement Plan.
3. Reimbursements to the County for administrative costs, evaluation, and overhead shall be limited to nine percent of levy proceeds, with up to three percent used for auditing and evaluation.
4. The Healthy Children's Fund may maintain reserve funds. It is intended that substantially all levy proceeds will be used for the

The complete text for this ballot measure is continued on the next page.





**Whatcom County
Proposition 2022-5
Children's Initiative Levy Lid Lift**

purposes set forth in this ordinance within the ten-year levy period, and reserves maintained after the ninth year of the levy must be supported by a formal statement justifying the need for the reserve.

SECTION 4 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

1. The Department of Health shall serve as the fund administrator to develop an implementation plan and oversee the implementation of the Healthy Children's Fund. However, should the County later create a new department or entity that is a more appropriate fund administrator, the County Executive, with the concurrence of the County Council, may transfer the role of fund administrator to that new department or entity.
2. The Fund Administrator shall develop an implementation plan that identifies the specific strategies and projects to be funded and the outcomes to be achieved with the use of levy proceeds.
3. This implementation plan shall, to the maximum extent possible, be developed in collaboration with the Child and Family Well-being Taskforce, an existing community board established by the Whatcom County Council, and shall be approved by the County Council and transmitted to the County Executive by March 31, 2023, and every 2 years thereafter to be included as part of the budget submitted to the Council.
4. The Implementation Plan, including the spending plan, shall be open to and shared with the public. Before submitting to the County Executive, the Fund Administrator shall seek input from relevant advisory groups, including the Child and Family Well-Being Taskforce. The implementation plan should also include the following information:
 - a) Details of fund allocations across eligible expenditures and strategies, including as a percentage of the fund revenue;
 - b) Working criteria for fund allocation to guide the granting and/or contracting process for non-administrative expenses;
 - c) An overview of the granting/contracting process that includes opportunities for community members to provide input in to fund allocation decisions; and;
 - d) Opportunities for leveraging the fund and bringing in external resources to the county.
5. The initial 2-year Implementation Plan shall allocate no less than 55% and no more than 68% of levy revenue and proceeds to improving early learning and care through the strategies outlined in paragraph 3.A.1 and shall allocate no less than 20% and no more than 36% of levy revenue and proceeds to supporting vulnerable children through the strategies outlined in paragraph 3.A.2.
6. In subsequent years of the fund, adjustments can be made to the allocations by the County Council based on the information reflected in the independent audit, recommendations by the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, the emergent needs of our community, and changes in state and federal funding availability.

SECTION 5 INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE AUDITS AND OVERSIGHT:

1. Every other year, a qualified independent auditor shall conduct a performance audit of the Healthy Children's Fund. The auditor shall be selected in compliance with County purchasing procedures. The auditor shall develop the audit process in consultation with the Child and Family Well-Being Taskforce, which shall also provide feedback on the draft audit before its submission to the County Council. The audit shall:
 - a) Collect and review data and evaluate progress towards achieving the goals and strategies adopted in section 3;
 - b) Collect and report on feedback from stakeholders, including users and providers;
 - c) Include qualitative and quantitative sources; and
 - d) Include recommendations for improvements or adjustments.
2. The Child and Family Well-Being Taskforce, with the support of the Fund Administrator, will write and deliver an annual report to the public and the County Council. This shall include progress made toward agreed upon goals, outcomes, and metrics. Fund Administrators shall use this report, and recommendations from the Evaluation, to make improvements in fund administration.

SECTION 6 CALL FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION: In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, the Whatcom County Council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the general election on November 8, 2022, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The Whatcom County Auditor shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The Clerk of the Council shall certify that proposition to the County Auditor in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION XX:

The Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2022-045 concerning funding to address the well-being of children. If approved, this proposition would authorize the County to increase property taxes to fund childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children. This measure would increase property taxes for ten consecutive years in the amount of \$0.19/\$1000 in assessed valuation (to a total rate of \$0.94/\$1000 in assessed valuation for collection in 2023) For collection in 2023-2032, subject to the limit factors in chapter 84.55 RCW and the exemptions in RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
 No

SECTION 7 CORRECTIONS: The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of this proposition as may be required that do not change its substantive meaning and are consistent with the intent of this ordinance.

SECTION 8 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT: The Prosecuting Attorney shall prepare an Explanatory Statement based on this ordinance for use in the Voters' Pamphlet.

SECTION 9 SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

ADOPTED this 7th day of June, 2022

Whatcom County Council: Todd Donovan, Council Chair. Attest:
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council. Whatcom County Executive
Approved as to Form: Karen Frakes, Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

ADDENDUM A: Children's Initiative Levy Lid Lift Ballot Title, as amended by Karen Frakes, as allowed under Section 7 or Ordinance 2022-045

Whatcom County, Washington

Proposition No. _

Children's Initiative Levy Lid Lift

The Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2022-045 concerning funding to address the well-being of children. If approved, this proposition would authorize the County to increase property taxes to fund early learning programs, childcare, and support for homeless or otherwise vulnerable children. This measure would increase the regular property tax levy for ten consecutive years by \$0.19/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023-2032 (for a total rate of \$0.94/\$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023), generating approximately \$8,200,000 annually, subject to limit factors in RCW 84.55 and exemptions in RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes ___

No ___



Whatcom County Proposition 2022-6 Regular Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Language on the Ballot

The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance 2022-055 concerning the renewed funding for the countywide Emergency Medical Services system. Will Whatcom County be authorized to continue to impose a regular property tax levy of \$0.295 or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of the six consecutive years, with collection beginning in 2023, for the continued provision of emergency medical services?

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

This proposition would authorize Whatcom County to renew the additional regular property tax levy approved by the voters in 2016 to fund the countywide provision of emergency medical services (EMS), including related personnel costs, training, equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures. To provide stable funding for EMS at the current level and sustain the system into the future, the renewed levy would be imposed at the same rate of \$0.295 or less per \$1000.00 of assessed valuation as the existing EMS levy on all taxable property within Whatcom County and would continue for six consecutive years, beginning in 2023.

Statement For:

To continue providing the level of Emergency Services Whatcom County has come to expect, this EMS levy is essential. This renewal of the existing levy is crucial to maintain staffing growth to cover the ever-rising requirements on the already stressed EMS system. Over the past 6 years the EMS system has seen an increased demand of 24.3% in responses. The continued rise of expectations has overtaxed the system resulting in a decline of available resources.

This EMS levy will help alleviate that stress, providing additional funding which goes to local fire departments both ALS and BLS, who are struggling to cover rising demands of the growing population. The ever-rising EMS response requests mixed with overhead costs have maxed out current funding.

Whatcom County has one of the lowest levy rates comparatively. This EMS levy will cost Whatcom County residents an additional \$48 per year based on a \$500K home evaluation. Approval of this levy will ensure no matter where you live in the county you will continue having highly trained responders at your door when your family needs them.

Vote yes for EMS so we can continue to serve you with the highest standard of care!

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Reserve money would fund all five ALS units only for one year, \$2.5 million each, but leave no money in reserve fund as required by EOB and County Council. \$5 million allocated to fire districts was result of unanticipated GEMT revenue. Fifth medic unit in service this fall, delayed by covid and multiple retirements of paramedics. EMS levy requesting .295/\$1000 evaluation to keep up with county growth and inflation.

Statement For & Rebuttal prepared by:

RobRoy Graham

Statement Against:

The EMS Levy doesn't need a 50% increase. There's enough reserve money to run the system for years without losing services. This tax increase funds promotions and more administration, not the 5th medic unit we were promised and have paid for already.

Demanding a 50% tax increase, when many families are struggling and housing is unaffordable, isn't good government. Our County Executive admitted they could ask for less money, but insisted on more. Paramedics deserve support, but the current EMS Levy ballooned costs \$4 million (40+%) in administration and bureaucracy without adding ANY new paramedic ambulance services. The Levy generates \$3+ million in surplus every year, building a massive \$20+ million reserve in only five years. EMS reserves are so high, that County Council gifted \$5 million to fire districts, but we never got our 5th medic unit.

The current annual surpluses could even fund our 5th medic unit without raising taxes. Nobody will lose ambulance service by rejecting this unnecessary tax increase. Voting No shocks the bureaucracy and EMS system back into a healthy rhythm, so it can come back effective and efficient for a vote next year.

This tax increase won't save more lives, it just grows bureaucracy!

Rebuttal of Statement For:

More money won't solve poor management and ineffective planning. Current funding isn't maxed out, EMS has had \$3 to 6 million in surplus every year! This new Levy creates a system where Bellingham, Ferndale, Blaine and Geneva/Sudden Valley subsidize Non-Emergency ambulances for a few small rural fire districts. Voting No will require politicians implement the lean management systems they promised. Our current \$20+ million of reserves ensures continuity of EMS while fixing the system.

Statement Against & Rebuttal prepared by:

Todd Lagastee and Laurie Williams

Complete Text:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-055

PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY A PROPOSITION RENEWING THE LEVY OF A REGULAR PROPERTY TAX EACH YEAR FOR SIX YEARS, COLLECTION BEGINNING IN 2023, AT A RATE OF \$.295 OR LESS PER \$1000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, IN THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 8, 2022

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a complex, coordinated response and Emergency Medical Care system, that requires people and agencies to perform an essential role as part of a coordinated, tiered, and seamless system of integrated emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, fire districts, departments and agencies provide first responder services and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service and the Bellingham Fire Department and Whatcom Fire District #7 provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County's EMS system has evolved over 48 years, and has transitioned into a tiered level of services supported by the countywide EMS Levy; and

WHEREAS, the countywide Emergency Medical System serves all of Whatcom County including Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Blaine, Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas; and

WHEREAS, the EMS system responds to a broad range of people who will benefit from responders reflecting the diverse communities of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services are essential and necessary for the protection and health and life of Whatcom County residents, and stable funding through the countywide Levy is a practical solution to continue providing EMS services at the current level as described in the 2023 to 2028 EMS Levy Strategic Plan in order to sustain the system into the future and to meet increased demands for service.

WHEREAS, the EMS system also includes regional support programs and services that provide administration, medical oversight and direction, citizen and emergency personnel training, planning, public education, and other support programs and services; and

The complete text for this ballot measure is continued on the next page.





**Whatcom County
Proposition 2022-6
Regular Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services**

WHEREAS, investing in programs and services to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, including training and dedicated personnel to improve and track progress on recruitment and retention, hiring practices, and a workplace culture of inclusion may enhance EMS service delivery and better assist those in need; and

WHEREAS, The EMS Levy Planning Committee confirmed by the Emergency Medical Services Oversight Board (EOB) recommended a funding strategy and levy rate that will support and sustain the countywide EMS system; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature, through RCW 84.52.069, has recognized the needs and concerns described above, and has provided the mechanism for achieving a stable funding source for the provision of such Emergency Medical Services through a voter approved levy, and

WHEREAS, supporting the EMS Levy, as a primary funding mechanism for countywide EMS, is key to advancing Whatcom County's diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities; and

WHEREAS, The EMS Levy Planning Committee and EMS Oversight Board recommends the continuation/renewal of the countywide EMS Levy to provide a stable funding source that will sustain the system for the next 6 years; and

WHEREAS, in order to assure the continued provision of services, it is both necessary and appropriate to renew the regular property tax levy of \$.295 or less per \$1000 of assessed valuation as provided for in this ordinance;

WHEREAS, if the voters approve the proposed renewal of the EMS levy, for the tax year 2023, the property tax levy rate would be set at \$0.295 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 2024 tax year and for the remaining tax years of the levy, the County Council would have the opportunity to review and potentially reduce the EMS property tax levy in its annual EMS property tax levy ordinance, if the Council determines that EMS needs can be fully met with a lower levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF WHATCOM COUNTY DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Approval of cities over 50,000 population. Pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, approval to place this county-wide levy proposal on the ballot has been obtained from the legislative body of the City of Bellingham through Resolutions 2022-15. The City of Bellingham is presently the only city in Whatcom County having a population over 50,000.

Section 2. Deposit of levy proceeds and eligible expenditures. All levy proceeds shall be deposited into the County Emergency Medical Services Fund. If approved by the qualified electors of the County, all levy proceeds authorized in the ordinance shall be used only for the provision of emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical services, and as may otherwise be provided under RCW 84.52.043. Where permissible by law, personnel costs and training should also include essential diversity, equity and inclusion components of recruitment, hiring, retention, and training of personnel.

Section 3. Type of Levy. Pursuant to the authorization in RCW 84.52.069, this levy is a regular property tax levy on all taxable property located in Whatcom County and is in addition to the statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043.

Section 4. Levy Rate. The proposed levy rate submitted to the voters shall be \$.295 or less per \$1000 of assessed valuation each year, for six consecutive years, beginning in 2023. The collections of the taxes will begin in 2023. Taxes will be based on the previous year's assessment.

Section 5. Ratification by the Electorate. The proposal for this levy shall be submitted to and approved by the voters in accordance with RCW 84.52.069.

Section 6. Call for Election. A ballot measure for a proposition authorizing the levy described herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of Whatcom County at the general election to be held on November 8, 2022. The Whatcom County Auditor is hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to cause notices of this ordinance and such election in accordance with the state constitution and general law and

to submit to the registered voters of the County, at the special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. Furthermore, the County Executive is hereby authorized and requested to initiate the appropriate action necessary to ensure a proposition in substantially the following form shall be submitted to the voters of Whatcom County:

Whatcom County, Washington
Proposition _____ : Regular Property Tax
Levy for Emergency Medical Services

The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance 2022- 055 concerning the renewed funding for the countywide Emergency Medical Services system. Will Whatcom County be authorized to continue to impose a regular property tax levy of \$0.295 or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of the six consecutive years, with collection beginning in 2023, for the continued provision of emergency medical services?

Yes ___

No ___

Section 7. Authorization for Interlocal Agreements. The County Executive is hereby authorized and requested to negotiate interlocal agreements: 1) with the City of Bellingham and Fire District #7 for EMS services consistent with the recommendations of the EMS Levy Planning Committee and the EMS Oversight Board; 2) and Whatcom County Fire Districts where levy collections provide fire agencies with limited BLS funding consistent with RCW 84.52.069 relating to the provision of emergency medical services over the length of time the levy is imposed.

Section 8. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 2022

Whatcom County Council: Todd Donovan, Council Chair. Attest:
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council. Whatcom County Executive
Approved as to Form: Karen Frakes, Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON,
APPROVING A COUNTY WIDE BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR A LEVY
TO FUND A COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM FOR THE
PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028,
PURSUANT TO RCW 84.52.069**

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Whatcom County electorate approved a six-year county-wide levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services ("EMS") (the "2016 EMS Levy"); and

WHEREAS, the 2016 EMS Levy expires on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the expiration of the 2016 EMS Levy, the Whatcom County Emergency Medical System Oversight Board ("EOB") convened an EMS Levy Planning Committee on March 10th, 2021, with the mission "to recommend a funding strategy and mechanism that will support a countywide emergency medical system"; and

WHEREAS, the EMS Levy Planning Committee has produced the 2023-2028 Levy Plan that has been endorsed by the EOB; and

WHEREAS, among other findings and recommendations, the 2023-2028 Levy Plan recommends submission to the Whatcom County electorate of a ballot proposition for the continuation of county-wide regular property tax levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years for the purpose of continuing to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2022, the Whatcom County Council adopted

*The complete text for this
ballot measure is continued on
the next page.*





Whatcom County Proposition 2022-6 Regular Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Ordinance 2022-055, providing for submission to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition renewing the levy of a regular property tax each year for six years, collection beginning in 2023, at a rate of \$0.295 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to continue to provide emergency medical services, in the general election to be held November 3, 2022; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 requires the approval of the legislative authority of a majority of at least seventy-five percent of all cities exceeding a population of fifty thousand within the county to put an EMS Levy on the ballot.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

Section 1. The City of Bellingham supports the Whatcom County EMS Levy Planning Committee recommendations prepared and submitted to the EMS Oversight Board in May 2022 and supports placement of a ballot proposition on the ballot in the 2022 general election, as set forth in Whatcom County Ordinance 2022-055.

Section 2. The City of Bellingham hereby approves, pursuant to RCW

84.52.069, submission to the voters of a ballot proposition described in Whatcom County Ordinance 2022-055 for the continuation of countywide regular property tax levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years, commencing January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2028, to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide emergency medical services.

PASSED by the Council this 1st day of August, 2022.

Hannah Stone, Council President

APPROVED by me this 2 day of August, 2022.

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor

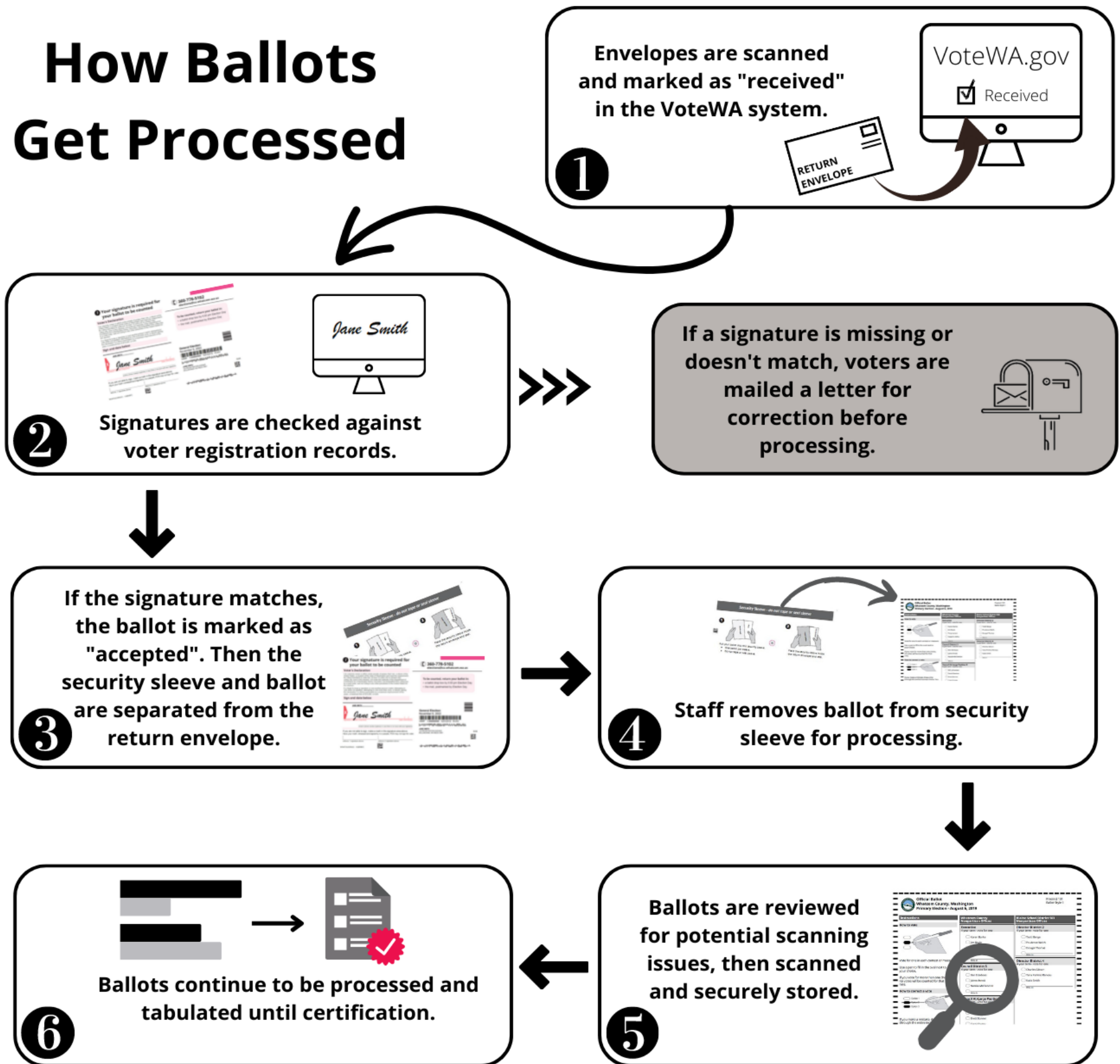
ATTEST:

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney

How Ballots Get Processed





**City of Lynden
Proposition 2022-4
Renewal of Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements**

Language on the Ballot

The City Council as the Board of the Lynden Transportation Benefit District, Lynden, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 1049 concerning a sales and use tax to fund certain transportation improvements. This proposition would renew the authorization of a sales and use tax of two tenths of one percent (0.002) to be collected from all taxable retail sales within the Transportation Benefit District in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455 for a term of ten years, or until such District is dissolved, whichever is earlier, for the purpose of paying or financing costs of necessary transportation improvement projects listed and identified in the City of Lynden Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Pursuant to Resolution No. 1049 of the Lynden City Council acting as Board of the Lynden Transportation Benefit District, voter approval will fund certain transportation improvements by renewing authorization of a sales and use tax of two tenths of one percent to be collected from all taxable retail sales within the Transportation Benefit District in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455 for a term of ten years, or until such District is dissolved, whichever is earlier, for the purpose of paying or financing costs of necessary transportation improvement projects identified in the City of Lynden Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

Statement For:

Maintenance, improvements, and construction of streets are a critical part of Lynden, and the Transportation Benefit District, or TBD tax, currently plays a significant role. The past ten years of revenue has benefited our community with minimal individual impact. The most significant benefit of this taxing method is the City collects funds from all who shop in Lynden, regardless of if they call Lynden home, are visitors to the community, or those who do not traditionally pay a fuel tax but do use our streets in some form, thus contributing to Lynden's infrastructure maintenance costs.

Over the past ten years the City has leveraged TBD funds with State and Federal monies in the community at intersections at Front and Fifth and Front and Seventh; connections at 17th from Village Drive to Main and Foxtail connecting Bradley Meadows to Eastwood; and upgrades on Parkview and Line, using funds for projects which include maintenance, improvements and construction, increasing the life-span of our city streets, lowering the demand for increased annual expenditures, and improving our transportation grid.

Voting for the continuation of this tax is a vote to continue to maintain, improve and leverage dollars for Lynden now and in the future.

Statement For prepared by:

Gary Vis, Kevin Pawlowski, and Charles Norell

Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Statement Against prepared by:

No committee formed

Complete Text:**RESOLUTION NO. 1049**

A RESOLUTION OF THE LYNDEN CITY COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LYNDEN, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, TO RENEW AND IMPOSE A TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (.002) SALES AND USE TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING SOME OR ALL OF THE COSTS OF PROJECTS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE ADOPTED TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden ("City") adopted Ordinance No. 1423 on July 16, 2012, establishing the Lynden Transportation Benefit District ("TBD") pursuant to Chapter 36.73 Revised Code of Washington (RCW). And by City Ordinance No. 1524 completed the assumption of powers for the City Council to serve as the governing board of the TBD ("TBD Board"); and

WHEREAS, since the TBD was established, the City has used the collected TBD revenue to contribute to numerous street construction project within Lynden including improvement to the follow streets:

- a. Line Road (street and pedestrian improvements)
- b. 7th Street and alley
- c. 5th Street and alley
- d. Riverview Road
- e. 17th Street (sidewalk Improvements south of Front St.)
- f. Parkview Drive
- g. 17th Street (extension to Main Street)
- h. Foxtail Street (eliminated gap between Eastwood and Bradley Meadows)
- i. Benson Road (sidewalk extension to North Park St.)

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2022, after giving proper notice, the City

conducted a public hearing in accordance with RCW 36.73.050; and

WHEREAS, with voter approval, the TBD may renew and continue to impose a sales and use tax upon the occurrence of any taxable activity within the boundaries of the TBD to fund transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City annually updates and adopts, following a Public Hearing, a Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan ("STIP") which identifies projects that constitute transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, projects from the STIP that may be funded by the TBD include the maintenance, preservation, and construction of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, acting as the TBD Board, now desires to continue to fund and implement certain transportation improvements ("TBD Projects"), through a two-tenths of one percent (.002) sales and use tax in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455, consistent with Chapter 36.73 RCW, upon voter approval thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL ACTING AS THE BOARD OF THE LYNDEN TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT, LYNDEN, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings; Description of the TBD Projects.

The City Council hereby finds that the best interests of the Lynden community to renew and continue the imposition of a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.002) pursuant to RCW 36.73.040(3)

*The complete text for this
ballot measure is continued on
the next page.*





City of Lynden
Proposition 2022-4
Renewal of Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements

(a), RCW 82.14.0455 and ESSB 5974 for the purpose of providing funds necessary to finance transportation projects. While the City Council is granted greater authority under ESSB 5974, it finds that is in the best interest of the community to renew at the same two-tenths of one percent (0.002) level.

The STIP identifies projects that constitute transportation improvements. Transportation improvements that may be funded by TBD tax receipts, include street preservation overlays, street reconstruction, traffic safety improvements, sidewalk/pedestrian repairs or construction, bike lanes, bridge and culvert repairs, and other transportation projects deemed appropriate and approved by the Board.

The cost of all necessary design, engineering, financial, legal, and other consulting services, inspection and testing, administrative and relocation expenses and other costs incurred in connection with the foregoing transportation projects shall be deemed a part of the cost of the TBD Projects.

The City Council shall determine the application of moneys available for TBD Projects. In the event that the proceeds of sales and use taxes authorized herein, plus any other money of the TBD legally available therefore, are insufficient to accomplish all of the TBD Projects, the TBD Board shall use the available funds to pay the cost of those portions of the TBD Projects deemed by the TBD Board most necessary and in the best interests of the inhabitants of the TBD. The City Council also reserves the discretion to use TBD funds as a match for other sources of funding for TBD Projects and to partially fund TBD Projects.

The City Council as the TBD Board shall determine the exact locations and specifications for TBD Projects and the timing, order, and manner of implementing or completing the TBD Projects. The TBD Board may alter, make substitutions to, and amend the TBD Project descriptions as it determines is in the best interests of the public and the TBD District consistent with the general descriptions provided above and in accordance with the material change policy adopted by the TBD Board, and the notice, hearing and other procedures described in Chapter 36.73 RCW, including RCW 36.73.050(2)(b), as necessary.

If the City Council, acting as the TBD Board, shall determine that it has become impractical to acquire, construct, or implement all or any portion of the TBD Projects by reason of changed conditions, incompatible development, costs substantially in excess of the amount of sales and use tax proceeds estimated to be available, or acquisition by a superior governmental authority, the TBD Board shall not be required to acquire, construct, or implement such portions of a TBD Project. If all of the TBD Projects have been acquired, constructed, implemented or duly provided for, or found to be impractical, the TBD Board may either dissolve the TBD in accordance with RCW 36.73 or apply the sales and use tax proceeds (including earnings thereon) or any portion thereof to other transportation improvements then identified in the STIP in accordance with the material change policy adopted by the TBD Board and the notice, hearing and other procedures described in Chapter 36.73 RCW, including RCW 36.73.050(2)(b), as necessary.

Section 2. Proposition

It is hereby found and declared to be in the best interests of the residents within the TBD to submit to the qualified electors of the TBD the proposition to continue to impose a sales and use tax within the limitations established in RCW 82.14.0455 for ratification or rejection at an election to be held on November 8, 2022. For the purpose of providing funds necessary to pay or finance local Transportation Projects, the Whatcom County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Whatcom County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct such special election to be held within the TBD for approval or rejection, a proposition to impose a sales and use tax in the amount of two-tenths of one percent (.002)of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax), or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). The tax is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under Chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the boundaries of the TBD, for a period of ten years, or until the TBD is dissolved, whichever comes first.

Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, the TBD may use proceeds of such sales and use tax for the purpose of paying or financing costs of the TBD Projects in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 36.73 RCW. The City Clerk, serving as Secretary of the TBD Board (Lynden City Council), is hereby authorized and directed to certify said proposition to said official in the following form:

LYNDEN TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON

RENEWAL OF SALES AND USE TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council as the Board of the Lynden Transportation Benefit District, Lynden, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 1049 concerning a sales and use tax to fund certain transportation improvements. This proposition would renew the authorization of a sales and use tax of two tenths of one percent (0.002) to be collected from all taxable retail sales within the Transportation Benefit District in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455 for a term of ten years, or until such District is dissolved, whichever is earlier, for the purpose of paying or financing costs of necessary transportation improvement projects listed and identified in the City of Lynden Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes?

No?

Section 3. Corrections

The City Clerk, serving as the Secretary of the TBD is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 4. Severability.

If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases has been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

PASSED by the Lynden City Council, Lynden, Washington, at a regular open meeting thereof held this 20 day of June, 2022

This resolution shall be in full force and effect on June 20, 2022.

PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 AGAINST, THIS 20 DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

Mayor Scott Korthuis

ATTEST:

Pamela D. Brown, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert Carmichael, City Attorney



**Nooksack Valley School District 506
Proposition 2022-7
Dissolution and Reapportionment of Directors' Districts**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District 506, Whatcom County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 11 concerning the dissolution and reapportionment of its directors' districts. This proposition would authorize the district to dissolve its five existing directors' districts and reapportion the district into three directors' districts and with two directors at large to better facilitate citizen participation as board members.

Should this proposition be:

Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2022-7 would allow Nooksack Valley School District 506, Whatcom County, Washington, to dissolve its five existing director districts and reappropriate the districts into three director districts based on geographical location and two directors at large within the district. This change will not have a financial impact on the residents of the Nooksack Valley School District 506.

Statement For:

Simply put this resolution, if approved, will consolidate the current five school board member districts into three board member districts with two at large board members.

The resolution would create more opportunity for community members to run for open school board seats. Under the current district parameters, a resident who lives in the Everson district area could only run for the school board position in that board member area. If approved, an Everson district area resident could run for the Everson seat or either of two at-large seats. Instead of being limited to running for the one seat in the district area a resident lives in, an individual could run for either at large board member seat, which are not confined to where a person resides.

We continue to live in a dynamic and changing environment with an increased community desire for input in school policy. Community members want to be heard and have a chance to influence change. This resolution opens the door for increased participation for interested individuals.

Statement For prepared by:

Anne Isenhardt

Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Statement Against prepared by:

No committee formed

Complete Text:

**NOOKSACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT# 506
RESOLUTION NO. 11
2021-2022**

REAPPORTION OF DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Nooksack Valley School District No. 506 Board of Directors to adequately represent all of the geographic areas for the district, and

WHEREAS, with population changes it is becoming more difficult to find qualified candidates for school director office under the current five director district system, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.343 RCW permits a school district to dissolve its existing directors' districts and reapportion the district into no fewer than three directors' districts and with no more than two directors at large;

WHEREAS, the Nooksack Valley School District wishes to dissolve its five existing directors' districts and reapportion the district into three directors' districts and with two directors at large;

NOW, THEREFORE. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District No. 506, Whatcom County, Washington submit the following proposition to the voters of said district for their approval or rejection at a special election held November 8, 2022.

PROPOSITION NO. _____

**NOOKSACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT DISSOLUTION AND
REAPPORTIONMENT OF DIRECTORS' DISTRICTS**

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District No. 506, Whatcom County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 11 concerning the dissolution and reapportionment of its directors' districts. This proposition would authorize the

district to dissolve its five existing directors' districts and reapportion the district into three directors' districts and with two directors at large to better facilitate citizen participation as board members. Should this proposition be:

Approved Rejected

The Secretary of Nooksack Valley School District Board of Directors is hereby directed to immediately transmit to the Superintendent of Northwest Educational Service District No. 189 (ESD Superintendent) a copy of this Resolution, duly signed and attested. The ESD Superintendent is hereby requested to take all procedural steps necessary and/or required by law to effectuate a special election to submit this proposition to the voters of the entire school district.

This Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Nooksack Valley School District Board of Directors on the 16th day of June, 2022, the undersigned directors being present and voting.

NOOKSACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 506
Board of Directors

Stephen Jones

Mark Olson

Jason Heutink

Halli Kimball

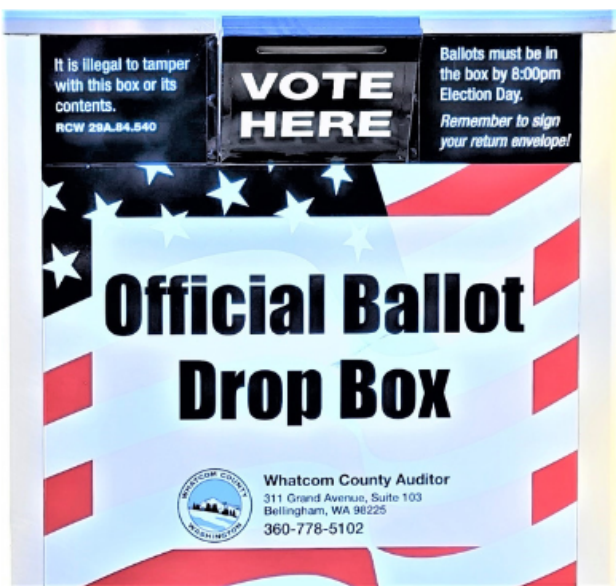
ATTEST

Secretary to the Board



At VoteWA.gov you can:

- Track your ballot status
- Print a replacement ballot
- Print your correction letter if you need to fix any issues with your signature
- Update your name or address
- View an online voters' guide to read candidate statements and ballot measure information
- Locate a ballot drop box
- See who the elected officials are for your precinct



Open starting October 19 and close at 8:00 pm on November 8.



Securely locked and closed with tamper-evident seals.



Ballots are collected from drop boxes frequently.



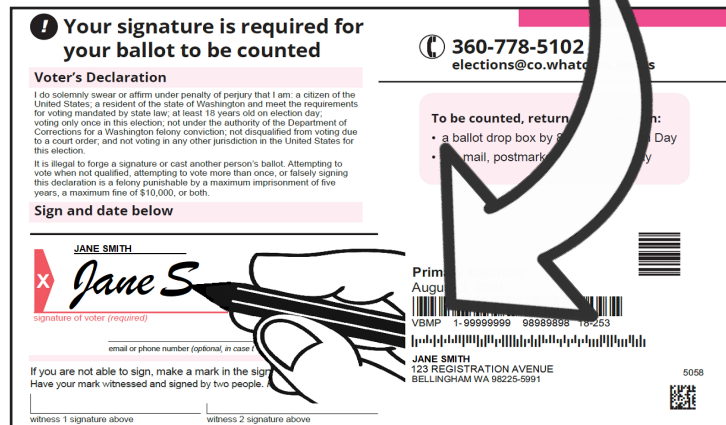
Teams of two people transport ballots directly to the Election Center in sealed containers.



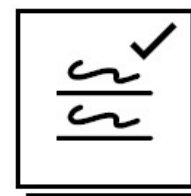
Return your ballot in an official ballot drop box before 8:00 pm on November 8.

Signing the Return Envelope So Your Ballot Gets Counted

- Sign and date the voter declaration on the return envelope that has *your* name printed on it.



- We compare the signature on your ballot envelope with the signature on your voter registration. Your signature does not need to be in cursive or even legible, it just needs to match the signature in your voter registration. This is how we know *you* voted the ballot. Every signature is reviewed and verified!



- *How do we get your signature?*

If you register or update using a paper registration form, we capture your signature from the form.

If you register or update through the Department of Motor Vehicles, we capture the signature from your Washington State Driver License or I.D. card.



- Do *not* sign for another registered voter.
- A Power of Attorney does not have authority to sign for the voter. If a voter is unable to sign, they should make a mark on the signature line and have their mark witnessed by two people. The two witnesses need to sign on the lines provided.

- Our office can have more than one signature on file for you. If you want to provide another signature, please contact us with that request (*Signature Update Request*).



- Track your ballot status at www.VoteWA.gov!
If your ballot gets challenged for signature issues, we will mail you a letter on how to correct the challenge. This letter can be returned up until November 28 at 4:30 pm.

- If you have any questions about signature challenges or how to fix them, you should call or email the Election Division.

- Reference WAC 434-250-120 for more information.



Top 4 Reasons a Ballot Cannot Be Counted

- Someone other than the voter has signed the return envelope.
- Signature on the return envelope doesn't match the signature we have on file.
- Ballot received with a late postmark, or late to an official ballot drop box.
- Return envelope is not signed.

Helpful Information

Do not let someone else sign for you

Sign and date the voter declaration on the return envelope that has your name printed on it. We compare the signature on your ballot envelope with the signature on your voter registration. This is how we know you voted the ballot. Every signature is reviewed and verified!

Update your signature on file

Keeping your signature up-to-date is important. Your signature on file is not only used to accept your ballot but it is also used to verify your signature on petitions. Our office can have more than one signature on file for you. If you want to provide another signature, please contact us with that request.

Sign and return the signature correction letter

If you received a signature correction letter, make sure you sign the letter the same way you signed your ballot. The signature correction letter can be mailed, emailed, or faxed and must be received by the Auditor's Office before 4:30 pm on November 28.

! Your signature is required for your ballot to be counted

360-778-5102
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Voter's Declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am: a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state of Washington and meet the requirements for voting mandated by state law; at least 18 years old on election day; voting only once in this election; not under the authority of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction; not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and not voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States for this election.

It is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot. Attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

Sign and date below

JANE SMITH

Jane S

signature of voter (required)

Primary Election: August 3, 2021

VBMP 1-99999999 98989898 18-253

JANE SMITH
123 REGISTRATION AVENUE
BELLINGHAM WA 98225-5991

Signature is required on the return envelope

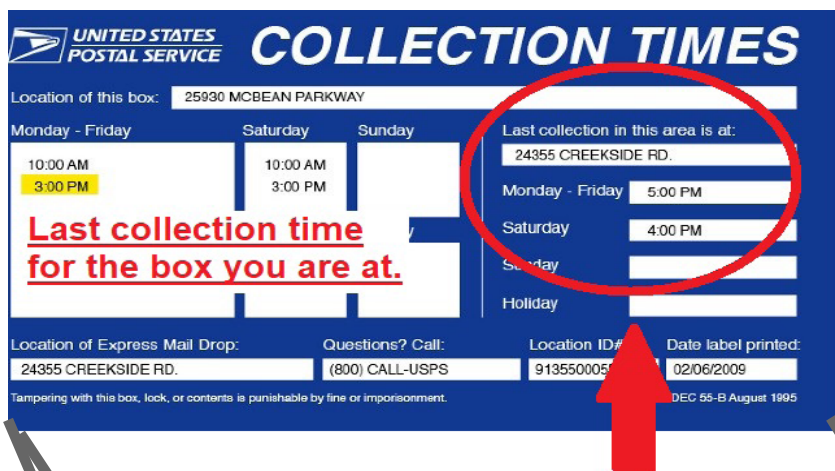
Return Your Ballot on Time

Place it in an official ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on November 8

All ballot drop boxes close at exactly 8:00 pm.

Check the collection times on the USPS mail box

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than November 8. If you deposit your ballot past the last collection time, your ballot will be late.



If you miss the last collection at your box, there might be a box nearby with a later last collection time.





My (spouse, roommate) signed my ballot envelope. What should I do?

If someone has mistakenly signed your return envelope, draw a line through the incorrect signature and sign your name directly above the correction.

I forgot to put my ballot in the included security sleeve!

Your ballot will count as long as you have signed the return envelope. The security sleeve is not required.

I reopened my ballot envelope and sealed it shut with tape. Will my vote still count?

Yes! As long as the signature on your return envelope matches your registration signature, your vote will count.

I received two ballots, does that mean I get to vote twice?

Sorry, you don't get to vote twice! If you have recently moved or changed your address, multiple ballots may be mailed to you. Each ballot envelope has a unique barcode, which prevents voting multiple times. Once a ballot has been received, all other ballots are suspended.

I got a letter saying my signature did not match the signature on file with your election office. Is my ballot not going to count?

All signatures are verified by staff trained by the Washington State Patrol. Staff are trained to look for signature similarities and patterns. However, signatures often change and your signature may no longer match what is currently on file. If you received a signature challenge letter, please sign the letter and promptly return it to our office via mail or email as soon as possible. Your ballot will be counted as soon as we receive your signed letter. Your updated signature letter will also be scanned and your new signature will be added to our database.

I lost/misplaced/damaged my original ballot. How do I get another one?

You have options to receive a replacement ballot – you may:

- Print one online at VoteWA.gov (log in and select Online Ballot)
- Call or email our office to request (as time allows)
- Visit us in person



Whatcom County Auditor's Office
Election Division

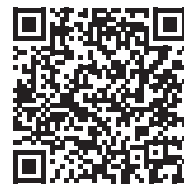
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm*
*Open until 8:00 pm on November 8

In Person: 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham

Phone: (360) 778-5102

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections



Live Webcams

Watch what is happening in the Election Center from home! Scan the QR code to go directly to our website (www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections).

1. Assembling and Mailing the Ballot Packet: Your ballot packet is assembled and mailed by October 19, 2022. Ballot packets include a ballot, security sleeve, return envelope and informational insert. Additional mailings of ballots are sent weekly for any recently added or updated registrants. *Ballot packets for Military and Overseas voters were mailed on September 23.*

2. Voting your Ballot: Your ballot packet should arrive by October 26. You have until election day to vote and return your ballot. Return your ballot in: ballot drop box by 8:00 pm November 8, or in the mail postmarked by November 8.



3. Collecting and Sorting Returned Ballots: Ballots are collected from ballot drop boxes and the Post Office daily. The mail sorting machine takes a picture of the signature on the return envelope, to be used during signature verification. It also scans the barcode on the return envelope, which will mark the ballot as being Received.

Viewable at
Auditor's
Office

4. Checking the Signature on the Return Envelope: All signatures are checked before the ballot can be counted. We compare the signature on the Return Envelope with the signature(s) we have on file for each voter. Ballots with a matching signature are Accepted, ballot envelopes with a signature issue are Challenged/Rejected. If the signature does not match, or is unsigned, the voter will be mailed a letter to correct the issue, and will also be contacted by phone after Election Day.



5. Opening the Ballots: Ballots are put into groups for processing. First, the security sleeve containing the ballot is removed from the return envelope (ballots returned without a security sleeve are counted). Secondly, ballots are removed from the security sleeve and inspected. Workers are inspecting the ballot to ensure the votes marked will be read by the scanning equipment. Ballots needing additional adjudication/review are flagged.



6. Scanning the Ballot: The ballots are scanned. Images are stored on a secure and closed system (no internet access). Once scanned, the ballots are kept in a sealed, tamper-evident bag.



7. Reviewing the Ballot: After scanning, the electronic images are viewed. Reviewers are adjudicating ballots by reviewing overvotes (more than one choice marked), undervotes (no choices marked), and write-ins. Workers use the Washington State Voter Intent Manual to ensure decisions are made consistently. Any unresolved ballots are reviewed by the Canvassing Board.

8. Reporting Results: Results of the election are unknown until after 8:00 pm November 8. Tabulation occurs at 8:00 pm election night, and results are posted to our website soon after. Results are regularly updated after election day as long as there are ballots to be counted. The general election will be certified on November 29, 2022.



Steps with an icon are viewable online.

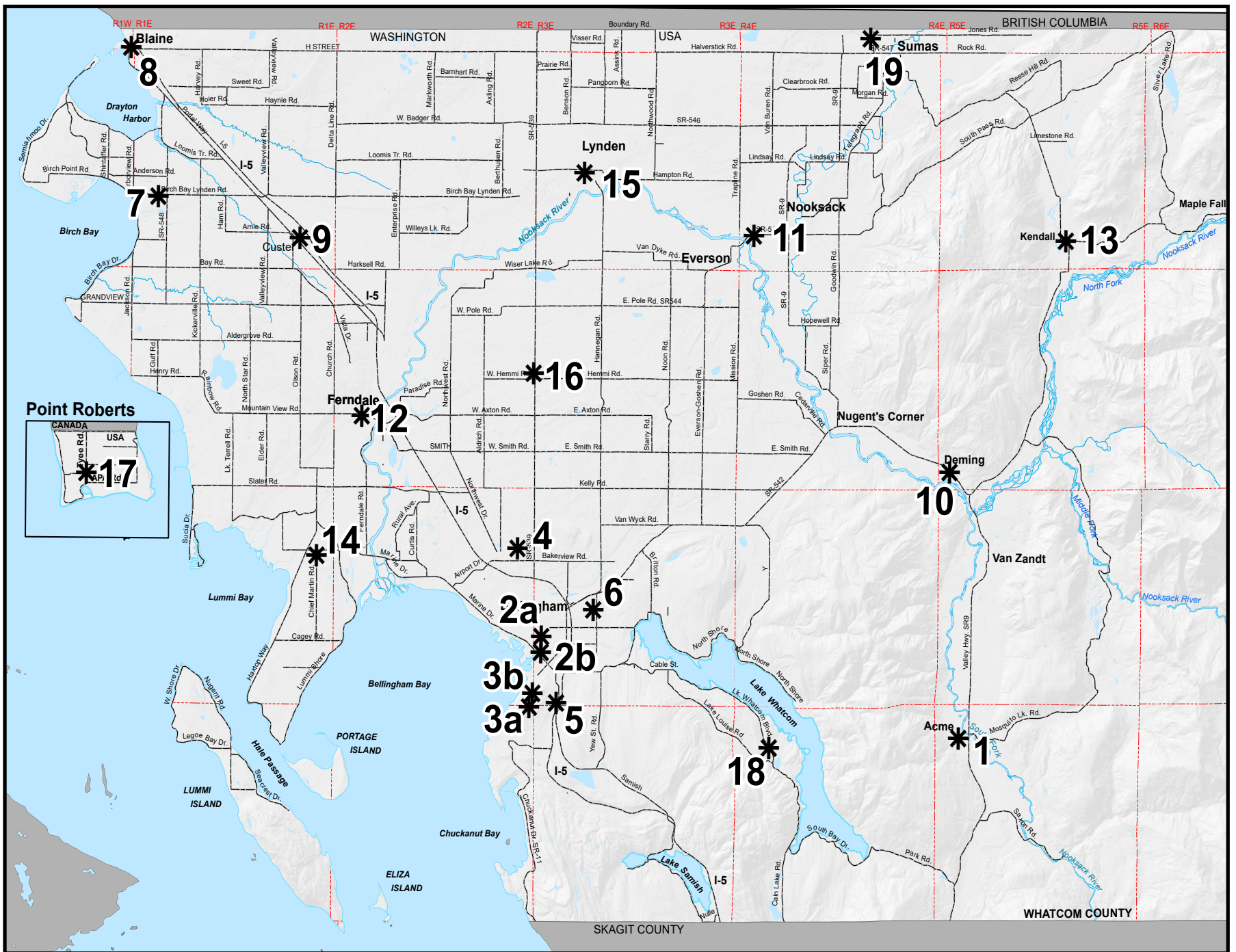


By Drop Box

Boxes open October 19
Boxes close November 8 at 8:00 pm

**WCC
New
Location**

Map #	City	Ballot Drop Box Location	Address
1	Acme	Acme Elementary School parking lot	5200 Turkington Road
2a	Bellingham	Inside the Whatcom County Courthouse (in rotunda)	311 Grand Avenue
2b	Bellingham	In south parking lot of the Courthouse (enter from Grand Avenue)	247 Grand Avenue
3a	Bellingham	WWU - on campus outside Wade King Student Recreation Center	1880 Bill McDonald Parkway
3b	Bellingham	WWU - on campus outside Bond Hall in Red Square	516 High Street
3c	Bellingham	WWU - on November 8 only , on campus inside the Viking Union	516 High Street
4	Bellingham	Outside Whatcom Community College ASB building, in parking lot	620 W. Kellogg Road
5	Bellingham	Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot	210 36th Street
6	Bellingham	In theatre parking lot, between Scotty Browns and WaFd Bank	3055 Woburn Street
7	Birch Bay	North Whatcom Fire & Rescue parking lot	4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road
8	Blaine	Blaine Library parking lot	610 3rd Street
9	Custer	Outside Custer Elementary School	7660 Custer School Road
10	Deming	Deming Library parking lot	5044 Mt. Baker Highway
11	Everson	WECU parking lot	106 E. Main Street
12	Ferndale	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main Street
13	Kendall	North Fork Library at Kendall parking lot	7506 Kendall Road
14	Lummi	Lummi Nation Administration Building, outside main entrance	2665 Kwina Road
15	Lynden	Behind the Lynden Library	216 4th Street
16	Meridian	Laurel Grange parking lot	6172 Guide Meridian
17	Point Roberts	Inside the International Marketplace: <i>Only available during store hours</i>	480 Tye Drive
18	Sudden Valley	Outside in the security office turnaround at Gate One	2020 Lake Whatcom Blvd
19	Sumas	Behind the Post Office in parking lot	534 Railroad Avenue



By Mail

No stamp needed

Ballots must be postmarked by November 8

USPS recommends mailing by Tuesday, November 1