

Cowlitz County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

November 7, 2017 General Election



(360) 577-3005 | www.vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Your ballot will arrive by October 25, 2017

Introduction

Dear Cowlitz County Voter,

It has been said that “all politics is local” and this year’s General Election is all about local government. This 2017 General Election Local Voters’ Pamphlet has been designed to provide information about each candidate and measure that you will vote on. You will be choosing your city councilmembers, school board directors, port commissioners, and local tax measures.

The August primary’s turnout of 20% was historically low. That means that 80% of registered voters chose not to participate in the candidate selection process. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

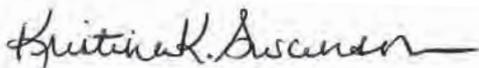
The right to vote is one of the most important rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Historically, we are privileged to have the opportunity to choose our public servants and decide how our money is spent. This right has been secured and preserved by men and women willing to sacrifice their lives; it is not to be taken lightly or for granted.

The General Election is November 7, 2017. Ballots will be mailed to Cowlitz County voters on October 20. If your name, address, or signature has changed since you last voted, you may update your information at www.myvote.wa.gov or contact our office at (360) 577-3005.

For those of you who would like to see results on election night, results will be published on the Elections website at www.vote.wa.gov/cowlitz as soon as they are available. The Elections Office will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. election night, with staff available to assist voters and answer questions.

Your vote will affect how your local community is governed. Your vote is your voice; let it be heard.

Sincerely,



Kristina K. Swanson

Participating jurisdictions – Port of Kalama; Port of Longview; Port of Woodland; City of Castle Rock; City of Kalama; City of Kelso; City of Longview; City of Woodland; Longview School District No. 122; Toutle Lake School District No. 130; Castle Rock School District No. 401; Kalama School District No. 402; Woodland School District No. 404; Kelso School District No. 458; Fire Protection District No. 1; Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue; Fire Protection District No. 3; Fire Protection District No. 5; Fire Protection District No. 6; Fire Protection District No. 7; Emergency Medical Service District No. 1; Cemetery District 2; Cemetery District 4; Cemetery District 5; Cemetery District 6; Cemetery District 7; Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District; Woodland Swimming Pool and Recreation District; and Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District.

Cover photo provided by – Tom Gunn, Reprographics Printing and Digital Services

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Accessible voting

Using the eSlate

Cowlitz County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an accessible voting unit.

The eSlate will be available Monday through Friday, during regular business hours for the General Election, beginning Friday, October 20, 2017 through Election Day, November 7, 2017.

The eSlate is a machine that allows voters with disabilities, including those who are blind, mobility impaired or lack upper-body dexterity, to vote privately and independently.



This photograph shows a close-up of the e-Slate.

Ballot drop box locations

***Use a postage free ballot drop box to ensure your ballot is received on time.
7 convenient locations to choose from!***

Longview - Broadway St, East of the Longview Post Office boxes

Castle Rock - 137 Cowlitz St West, in front of the Castle Rock Library

Longview - Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St, near the Longview Post Office boxes

Kalama - North 1st St, near the Kalama Post Office box

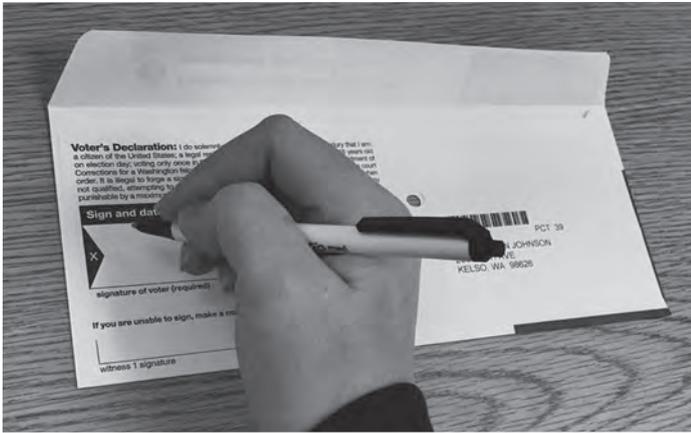
Kelso - Bridge Market Lane, between LJ's Furness Drug and the Allen St bridge

Ryderwood - 208 Morse St, next to the Ryderwood Library

Woodland - City parking lot at Davidson and 2nd St, near the City's utility payment drop box

*Ballot drop boxes are open 24 hours a day starting October 20, 2017 and close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Night, November 7, 2017.

Remember to sign



Remember to sign your envelope.

- Sign in the signature box next to the black X.
- Do not sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else mark and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters should call us to learn about their options for voting while they are out of town.
- Ballot drop boxes are available if you don't want your signature to go through the mail.



Candidate and measure statements are printed exactly as submitted.

Cowlitz County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

A reminder to vote

Registering to vote

Registering takes just a few minutes, and you can do it by mail, online, or in person. A Washington State driver's license or ID is required to register online. If you have moved within the same county, you can complete a new form or contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone.

Who is eligible to vote?

The requirements for registering to vote are simple. You must be a United States citizen, 18 years old or older by Election Day, and live within the county 30 days prior to the election.

How to vote

Washington State voters will receive their ballots by mail. If you are registered to vote in Cowlitz County, we will mail you a ballot for every election in which you are entitled to participate.

Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement by contacting Elections.

Phone: (360) 577-3005
 Email: elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us
 Address: 207 N 4th Ave Rm 107, Kelso
 Website: www.vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Did you know?

Ballots will be mailed October 20, 2017. If you don't receive your ballot by October 25, please contact the Elections Office.

Ballots will be forwarded by the post office if you have a current forwarding order.

If you have moved, please contact us to update your address.

No postage is required if you deposit your ballot in a ballot drop box. Ballot boxes are opened 18 days prior to the election and remain open 24 hours a day until Election Day, when they are promptly closed and locked at 8:00 p.m.

You can plan ahead and receive and/or return a ballot if you are out of the area at election time. Contact the Elections Office for available options.

Mailing your voted ballot on Election Day does not guarantee it will be postmarked in time to be counted. The post office recommends mailing your voted ballot the Friday prior to Election Day. Ballots with a late postmark will not be counted.

It is okay if you forget to place your ballot in the secrecy sleeve. The secrecy sleeve is an extra privacy measure, but it is not required for your ballot to be counted.



Election workers check every signature on each envelope against the signature on file for each voter. It is a felony to sign someone else's ballot on his or her behalf.

You must sign your ballot envelope for your vote to count. If you are unable to sign, you may make a mark and have two witnesses sign.

If your signature is missing or does not match the signature we have on file for you, you will receive a letter from the Elections Office. This letter tells you the reason your ballot is being challenged, and gives you the opportunity to sign and resolve the problem. Once we receive your completed form, your ballot will be processed.

Are you registered?

If you aren't, there may still be time!

Washington State residents who are not already registered to vote in Washington may register in-person at the Elections Office no later than Monday, October 30.

Note: To significantly reduce taxpayer costs, only a single version of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in Cowlitz County. It is county wide and not tailored to any particular district.



Troy
Stariha

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Troy Stariha has served as a Commissioner for the Port of Kalama since 2010. He also is currently serving as Chair on the Executive Committee for the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments and as Vice President of the Washington Public Ports Association Executive Committee. A long-time Kalama resident, he graduated from Kalama High School in 1989. Troy has worked at Kalama Auto Supply and Repair for 28 years and he purchased the business in 2003. Being a small business owner within his community helps him to understand the area's desires and future needs on a personal level. His focus on economic development helps the port successfully create a balance of quality of life and family-wage jobs in the region. Environmental responsibility is an important aspect that is followed by the Port of Kalama by both the commissioners and the administrative team. Having raised a family in Kalama, Troy understands the importance of creating and maintaining a high quality of jobs so that our children will be able to return here to live, work, and enjoy what Kalama has to offer. The Port of Kalama is an integral part of the community and Troy is proud to serve as a Commissioner.

Contact

(360) 957-7136; troyster71@gmail.com



**Douglas
Averett**

(Nonpartisan)

When I complete the remainder of the term I was appointed to, I will have over 2 years of experience as a Port Commissioner. Combine that with 28 years as part of administrative staff and it is apparent that i have a very good idea of how the Port works.

I want to continue the work I started as Commissioner and it is very important that we concentrate on revitalizing our existing infrastructure, while not ignoring the future which is essentially Barlow Point.

We are growing every year both financially and volume of cargo handled, and it is my goal to eventually eliminate taxes by increasing our net revenue.

Willow Grove Park will eventually be the premier park in Cowlitz County as we continue to upgrade the facilities there.

These are exciting times for the Port of Longview and I would love the opportunity to be part of this excitement! I have the experience, drive, and determination to make the Port even more of an economic engine than it already is. Thanks for reading this and please vote for me Doug Averett for Port of Longview Commissioner District #2.

Contact

(360) 430-1369; averettdoug@gmail.com



**Kent J.
Preston**

(Nonpartisan)

To my fellow citizens of Cowlitz County, most of us have been overlooked for far too long. The Port has produced record profits used to enrich a few at the expense of the rest of us. We have a very lucrative port in a rural area and the citizens of this county should be benefitting. Despite all the talk about how profitable the port of Longview has become and all the economic opportunities that it's provided, I would challenge that most citizens of the county have not benefitted. Port salaries have skyrocketed and expenses have risen exponentially. I believe we need new vision, with someone who isn't influenced by relationships and connections at the port. Please join me in ushering in a new era at the port, where regular citizens can start to see some benefit.

Contact

(360) 353-8154; electpreston2017@gmail.com

**Paul D.****Cline**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

As the upswing in the economy continues, the Port of Woodland and the Woodland area are in position to be a part of this progress. Access to I-5, rail, and the Columbia River present transportation opportunities conducive to industry success. At the Port, projects are moving forward that will bring in new business and allow current businesses to grow. It is exciting to be a part of what's happening now and I look forward to serving as a Port Commissioner for the next six years.

Contact

(360) 608-0315; clinepaul69@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Arthur
Lee
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 274-8508; dataman56@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Leon (Lee)
Kessler
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 274-0830; leonkessler75@gmail.com



**Paul
Simonsen**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Education and Qualifications: I am a 32-year resident of Castle Rock and have been involved for much of that time, 41 years with the Mt St. Helens M/C and promoted 26 Grand National Motorcycle races here in this community. Was employed by Washington State Department of Transportation for 38 years and retired as a Operation Maintenance Superintendent. Spent 4 years in the United States Coast Guard during Viet Nam . I believe I am qualified to be part of the City Council because I have a proven track record of building the coalitions necessary to make concrete things happen based on a shared vision. I am very interested in our parks, schools (education), our retail and housing base, and our financial stability. I have lived in Castle Rock since 1985 . Now I want to use my experience and energy to represent and serve our community as a councilmember. There is still much left to do to put Castle Rock on the best path for its future and so I am asking for your support and vote so that we can continue to make Castle Rock a great place to live, work and play.

Please support me.

Contact

(360) 274-4346; blueboy50@comcast.net

No photo
submitted

Rosemary Brinson
Siipola
(Nonpartisan)

I am running for Mayor of Kalama and I want your vote. I am currently on the City Council, Position No. 4 and was elected to that seat in November 2015. Kalama is entering a time of growth and change. Successfully navigating these changes requires cooperation, collaboration, vision and leadership. My work, civic, and family life have prepared me for these challenges. I look forward to serving you with the energy, compassion and experience necessary to be your Mayor of the City of Kalama. Thank you.

Contact

(360) 431-1363; rosemaryformayor@gmail.com;
www.rosemaryformayor.com



Mike
Reuter
(Nonpartisan)

Seventeen years ago I moved to the Northwest. For seven years I traveled extensively in Washington for my job in search of a place to call home. I finally found Kalama - exactly what I was looking for: a small community with a large heart.

I have involved myself with Kalama and the community from the moment I moved here eleven years ago. I know most of the business owners and their employees because I patronize the local economy.

My qualifications for this position are as follows:

Chairman of the Kalama Parks and Recreation. Vice-chairman of the Kalama Housing Authority. Planning Commissioner for the City of Kalama. I have attended multiple City Council and the Port of Kalama meetings. I have served as a People's Warden for St. Stephens Church and a member of the vestry. Former member of the Lions Club.

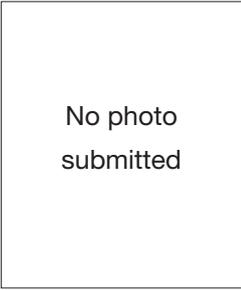
I have also volunteered with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

These are the changes I am proposing to accomplish in Kalama:

Flooding issues: We need a short term and long term strategy for the city's flooding problem that has been a persistent issue now and in the past.

Contact

(360) 218-9727; Mike-4-mayor@comcast.net



Mike
Truesdell
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(360) 673-4117; truesdells01@hotmail.com



Sandra
**Macias-
Hughes**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Have you ever been part of a group or community and wondered what if? I have, that's why I worked with the Stone Forest Community, the Developer, the Kalama Police Department and the Kalama Public Works to develop and implement the first Kalama Neighborhood Watch Program of the National Sheriff Association. We listened, learned, educated and now neighbors are helping neighbors through the Neighborhood Watch Program and the program is expanding to the second development phase.

My passion has always been to listen, learn, then work collaboratively with others to achieve the goal. This was my hallmark of my twenty-eight-year career in Healthcare Management. I've managed a diverse group of thirty-five employees, both technical, non-technical, and supervisory staff. Managed a budget with over five thousand items valued at over two million dollars successfully.

Now, I want to become Councilman #2 to bring that same passion to the Kalama City Council; to listen to the residents, learn what we need to do to support, maintain and manage growth of our town.

Four years ago, we chose to live in Kalama. Now I hope you will choose me to work for you. Your vote is appreciated.

Contact

(360) 261-9983; maciashughes@gmail.com;
www.sandramaciashughes.com



Dan
Vannelli

(Nonpartisan)

Dan Vannelli
Business owner, community member.

I am running for Kelso City Council because I believe in Kelso. Kelso should be a growing community with beautiful safe parks, great schools and excellent community events all year long. Children can learn, play and grow into educated, positive upstanding adults with a future. We have well trained and supported Police, Fire, and Medical response teams. Businesses are doing well and employment levels are high. These are some of the things the city council and community work together to make happen. I think we can do more. This is what I am running for Kelso City Council. With fresh council members working with established members we can have a wide range of ideas and solutions to the issues.

Contact

(360) 431-8107; Dan@vannelliforkelso.com



Jeffrey A.
McAllister

(Nonpartisan)

As a Candidate for Kelso City Council, I am running on the Idea that we can make the City a better place in the world for our Children, and live up to the motto *City of Friendly People*. I heartily support the Kelso Public Library, and currently serve on the Library Board, as well as work with the Friends of the Library. I also serve on the City of Kelso Planning Commission. I was a member of the South Kelso Neighborhood Association, even though I live in North Kelso, because all of Kelso is Important. I still work as a Volunteer with the South Kelso Community Health Advocates, With a goal of a Healthier Community throughout.

Contact

(360) 355-7660; Jeff_mcallister@aol.com



**Michael
Karnofski**

(Nonpartisan)

As a life long resident of Kelso I have a commitment to improving Kelso, whether it is coaching youth sports, assisting with scholarship reviews, working on community events or serving on community boards. I am committed to jobs, supporting and working on projects like the airport, Anchor Point and the property at Exit 36. There is more to improving Kelso than jobs. People want to live in a city that offers a place they can be proud to live, raise their children and have friends and family visit.

Kelso has some outstanding assets: Tam O'Shanter Park, the Coweeman River Trail and the improvements that have been made in West Kelso. There are some underutilized assets: downtown Kelso, the 3 Rivers Mall, the Cowlitz River trail and both the Coweeman and Cowlitz rivers. Imagine a downtown where there are multiple activities, riverfronts that people can kayak and canoe, a full mall. These are the activities that I have experience working for, as chair of the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, and member of the Kelso and County Park and Recreation Boards. Working together we can improve Kelso, because "We are Kelso".

Contact

(360) 423-0792; mikeakarnofski@gmail.com



**Lisa (Knight)
Alexander**

(Nonpartisan)

As a lifelong resident of the City of Kelso I am asking for your vote for Kelso City Council Position 2. I am an active member of our community. From volunteering for many years at Kelso Highlander Festival, to helping start and maintain a safe and free Halloween downtown. I have helped to organize food drives for our local VFW and CAP and a toy drive for the Salvation Army Christmas Center. I have participated in park clean ups as well.

If elected I want to work with local agencies to help make a safer community for our children and grandchildren to grow up in. We need to bring more businesses to Kelso and give them reasons to stay. We need to talk to the businesses that are in Kelso and discuss the positive and negative aspects of being a business in Kelso so we can work on improvements that will make businesses want to be in Kelso. We need to fix the issues that the county has forced upon us.

This is our community. Kelso is our home. I want to be your voice. Together we can make our city one we can be proud of again.

Contact

(360) 261-0064; lisa4kelso@gmail.com



**Kimberly
Lefebvre**

(Nonpartisan)

Hi, I'm Kimberly Lefebvre, lifelong resident of Kelso, I am married and I have two daughters and two grandchildren. Being on the Kelso City Council has been one of the biggest and best accomplishments of my life. Being a lifelong Kelso resident has given me a passion for our community and a love for our area. I have lived in South West Kelso my whole life, all 51 years, I raised my daughters here and we've always supported all aspects of Kelso. I believe this is one of the best communities in the world and being able to further the growth of our area is amazing. I look forward to continuing on as your Kelso City Council Member.

Contact

(360) 431-8808; tokidast@gmail.com



**Gary Edward
Archer**

(Nonpartisan)

My name is Gary Archer and yes I am running for city council again for the following reasons

Now that L.O is out of the way the city needs to start getting Kelso up and running again

Start fixing streets and find different ways to fund them

Pay more attention to the I-5 freeway and all the traffic that goes with it

Get away from things like plastic bags and fireworks that are very hard to police and time consuming

I was asked to run for the Kelso City Council again by several different people because they are starting to see things going back to the way things were a few years back. We need to go forward and not get caught in a time warp

All I am asking for is a chance to do this.

Thank you

Gary Archer

Contact

(360) 749-2747; archer50@comcast.net



**MaryAlice L.
Wallis**

(Nonpartisan)

Proven Community Leader and Longview Native since 1972, MaryAlice Wallis is seeking election for Longview City Council Position #5. MaryAlice offers a fresh perspective for keeping Longview a quality place to work, reside and raise families. Her team-player attitude, educated ideas and thoughtful contributions, are a winning combination. She is ready to serve the citizens of Longview by advocating for more quality jobs to boost the economy, keeping neighborhoods safe and helping to ensure that city-funded programs are efficient and cost effective.

While raising and educating her four children at home over the past 24 years, MaryAlice gained respect for a community-friendly public library and park system. She currently serves as Director of the Community Festival of Nativities, presided four years over the Women's organization in church and remains active in local Women's clubs. She served two years as District Financial Director over Friends of Scouting for BSA, six-years as founder and facilitator of SWW Families for Home-Based Education Conference and is the published author of three books.

MaryAlice have been married to her husband David for 30 years and is a graduate of Western Washington University with a degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Committed to Lead with Integrity-

Contact

(360) 430-2517; maryalice4longviewcc@gmail.com;
www.facebook.com/maryalice4longviewcc/



**Megan
Richie**

(Nonpartisan)

This November, I ask the citizens of Longview for the opportunity to serve as one of your City Councilmembers. Over the last several years I have been actively involved in local politics, working with at-risk youth, and advocating for those with cannot. I am a retired small family business owner from the healthcare profession. I believe Longview is a place of quality *and* equality for all its citizens. As your councilmember, I will work hard to create paths to sustainable family businesses, I was a single mom raising my kids when I ran my office for 17 years so I understand the importance of supporting local businesses. I also understand that our small businesses rely on our industrial relationship and I want to uphold our citizen's shared vision of success. I will continue to be an active voice in protecting and upholding the beauty of our city. We need to continue to address the need for safe, affordable housing and work with those who are most at risk. Let us take action together and work towards leading our community to a quality of place where we and our future generations can be proud to call Longview home.

Contact

(253) 205-4444; missmeganrichie@gmail.com;
fb.me/meganrichieforlongviewcc



**Dianne
Quast**

(Nonpartisan)

The job of the Longview City Council is to provide leadership and vision to move the City of Longview forward as a thriving community.

21st century economic development is vital for the future of Longview. We should build on our strong infrastructure to encourage sustainable commercial and industrial businesses leveraging our incredible beauty and natural resources.

I am a leader with vision, skills and experience necessary to bring people together to not solve problems and move our community forward. My background as a pastor and in executive management has given me a deep understanding of strategic planning, problem solving and goal setting that will benefit the City. My diverse experience in community development and housing will be an asset to the city council and to the people of Longview.

As chair of the City of Longview Parks and Recreation advisory board, I also bring a unique understanding of the important role that Longview's natural beauty plays in economic development and quality of place.

A vote for Dianne Quast is a vote for vision and experience working for us.

Contact

(360) 430-8441; DianneQuast4Longview@gmail.com



**Chet
Makinster**

(Nonpartisan)

As your current City Councilman, I have had the privilege of serving you for the last 2 terms, during which I gained a better understanding of the issues we face.

Born and raised in this community, I have seen the positives and negatives that Longview has experienced. I genuinely believe that we are at the cusp of seeing a positive future for Longview and our full potential.

Having served on numerous boards and committees, has given me insight on bringing new businesses and industries to our community

My number one priority is bringing family wage jobs to Longview. Our citizens and the city needs', will also benefit from the growth of a healthy tax base. These taxes give us the capital to fund more police and firefighters, maintain and fix our infrastructure, give our community a better chance of prospering and allow current businesses to grow while creating new opportunities for economic growth. New jobs will also help address issues that affect us all; homelessness, property crimes and drug use. When Re-elected, I will listen to all constituent's concerns and make common sense decisions in the best interest for Longview's citizens. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 7.

Contact

(360) 430-7533; chet.makinster@gmail.com



**Steve
Moon**

(Nonpartisan)

As a lifelong resident of Longview, Steve has always felt it was important to give back to our city and community.

Ten years ago, as an active and concerned citizen, Steve attended meetings and workshops so he could better understand the issues we were facing in Longview. For the past five years, Steve has had the honor to serve you as a member of the city council.

Steve's dedication to the city has given him the drive, clarity, and the motivation to provide leadership for Longview as we move into the future.

Steve knows the importance of having a long-term vision for Longview while being able to address today's issues.

Steve understands that a well-maintained infrastructure is necessary to attract new economic opportunities. Steve knows we need continued support for police and fire to keep our city safe. In addition, Steve knows we need to address our growth with smart and sensible planning.

Steve and his wife Erin, a local schoolteacher, stay busy with their three daughters, supporting all their activities and playing with their three dogs.

Steve needs your support. Please vote for Steve Moon for Longview City Council position 7.

Contact

(360) 560-0059; electstevemoon@hotmail.com



**Amber
Rosewood**

(Nonpartisan)

I'm running for this position because I believe in service and feel passionate about the issues that face our city. I was born and raised in Longview. This is where I went to school, where I work, and where I have chosen to raise my son. I possess not only the life experience, but the drive, dedication and skills necessary to collaborate with councilmembers, and the community, to address our complex problems.

Citizens of Longview have higher rates of food insecurity, poor health outcomes, substance use disorders, violence within families, mental illness and homelessness than many of our neighbors across the state. I believe we can do better.

As your councilmember, I will prioritize health, well-being and equity during the development, implementation and evaluation of city planning, policies and programs. I will coordinate my efforts with the strengths of other councilmembers because a well rounded elected body, comprised of members with varied backgrounds and skills is essential to our overall success. Together, we can improve the conditions in which we learn, work and live in, creating a brighter and sustainable future for Longview.

Contact

(360) 200-9636; friendsofamberrosewood@gmail.com



Jennifer
Heffernan

(Nonpartisan)

I believe in transparent government.

Before council agreed to videotape meetings, I offered my own cellphone to record and post live meetings on Facebook. Open discussion and accountability is essential.

I believe in fiscally responsible government.

I do not vote to approve any spending unless I am convinced it is absolutely necessary. I respect that every dollar the city receives is the result of your hard work.

I believe in representative government.

I have often been the only “yes” or the only “no” vote because everybody deserves to have a voice. I will never please everyone all of the time, but I have tried to be the kind of councilperson I would want to represent me.

I believe elected officials should be accessible and responsive.

I have an established social media presence, hosted meetings with citizens, and made myself available by encouraging voters to contact me anytime. I welcome citizen comments, both positive and negative. That is the essence of public service.

I believe the vision for Woodland’s future should come from the people.

Growth and change are inevitable, but they also must be thoughtfully managed so that tradition and community are not lost to progress. Development should bring improvement.

Contact

(541) 622-2449; heffernanjd@gmail.com



Janice
Graham

(Nonpartisan)

My name is Janice Graham, I have lived in Woodland for 48 years and have raised three children. I’ve owned a business in Woodland and have been involved in numerous community groups. It has been and it still is very important to me to be active within our community. At this time I would like to be a Woodland city council person, to be a part of our growth, and betterment of our community. The future is in our hands. Thank you for your support.

Contact

(360) 225-8450; graham571@comcast.net



**DeeAnna (Bob Motep)
Holland**

(Nonpartisan)

After attending every council meeting for the last few years I have learned quite a bit as to how our city government functions and I refuse to believe that this is the best we can do for our town and residents.

Our crime rate continues to rise while the Woodland Police Department remains understaffed and poorly funded. Our homeless population increases while council approves zoning for towering luxury condominiums in downtown. Our roads remain congested at peak hours while transportation funds are earmarked for paving the way to a new park & sports complex. At the 2017 Council Retreat, majority vote was to begin planning for a new City Hall. That, to me, indicates a clear disconnect between government *wants* and resident *needs*.

Some of you have gotten to know me online via the Voice of Woodland, as a volunteer and board member at the Woodland Action Center or remember me growing up here. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 26 years, our sons are grown and I am committed to our community. I truly believe that together, we can effect positive changes for Woodland and for all the folks that call this amazing town home.

Contact

(360) 225-8688; bobmotep@aol.com



**Carol
Rounds**

(Nonpartisan)

I moved to Woodland in 1974 and later my three children graduated from Woodland High School. In 1977 I started work with the local bank and worked my way up to operations officer and then branch manager for 26 years until retiring.

I am running for this council position to help improve the quality of life for all Woodland citizens. I plan to do this by helping to enact legislation that would make Woodland a more business friendly place. I believe that this would help create more family wage jobs, and thus create more tax revenue without increasing taxes. Woodland has access to the interstate highway, rail, water with the Port and even air; so if we just made Woodland business friendly the sky is the limit.

I work well with people and have a common sense approach. My business and community service with Woodland Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, CAP, United Way & YMCA adds to my qualifications for being on the Woodland City Council.

Contact

(360) 903-0737; ecrounds@yahoo.com



**Dave
Plaza**

(Nonpartisan)

My name is Dave Plaza and my family and I have lived in Woodland since 2005. I have raised four children here.

As a former police officer and Marine Corps veteran, I know what it means and takes to serve.

I intend on helping make Woodland an even better place than it is now. I will work hard to make our community a place of safer neighborhoods, growing businesses, community involvement with government access and transparency that is critical to our success and growth. The role of government is to serve it's citizens-not the other way around.

Woodland is growing and we need to work together to find ways to accept that growth while maintaining the small town atmosphere we all love. We need to find new ways to generate revenue to increase our services' quality without immediately raising taxes on citizens like has been done in the past. We need to welcome revenue and job creating opportunities-not chase them away.

It will take all of us working together, having honest communication and problem solving as a team to get our great city moving in the right direction. Together we can do that.

Contact

(360) 270-1287; daveplaza2017@gmail.com



**Nate
Cook**

(Nonpartisan)

I am seeking election to the Woodland City Council as I believe that my leadership skills, as well as my legislative, planning, business, and political experiences, would greatly serve the council and the community. With councilwoman McCall's decision to not seek re-election, the council will need a strong, experienced, and fiscally conservative individual in order to bring an important balance to the council chambers.

Although I am still fairly new to the woodland area, I bring a unique perspective already having city council experience. I have served for five years on city council in the City of Toledo Wa. before moving to Woodland and acted at every turn with the best interests of the citizens I represented in mind. Two of those years were as mayor pro-tem, and I was the first ever on that council to earn the Associations of Washington City's Certificate of Municipal Leadership. I understand what's necessary to find common ground and forge solutions together.

I believe there are workable solutions that will change the fiscal direction of our City, and I will do what is necessary to be done in order to put the city back on a path towards fiscal responsibility.

Go Beavers!

Contact

(360) 353-0312; 18wheeldlowrider@gmail.com



**Benjamin
Fredricks**

(Nonpartisan)

My family is proud to live in this amazing and close-knit community, one that has a rich history and also so much opportunity and potential ahead. I will continue to support policies that will improve public safety and effective long term transportation solutions for our city. I am also committed to securing a strong business economy and a viable downtown core while ensuring carefully managed growth that preserves Woodland's small town character. I've made sure that we are good stewards of your tax dollars, while seizing opportunities to enhance the vitality of our community. As your councilmember, you can count on me to be accessible, effective, and committed to the future of Woodland. Nine years ago I promised to work hard, apply common sense, and make independent decisions with integrity. I've worked hard to earn your trust. It would be an honor to continue to serve you on the City Council and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Contact

(360) 225-6064; council06@gmail.com



**Jeremy
Heffernan**

(Nonpartisan)

I've lived in Woodland for fifteen years. I'm a husband, father of six, and a US Army veteran. I chose Woodland because of its environmental beauty, proximity to I-5, and affordability compared to surrounding communities. I want to keep it affordable. I am running because I believe you, the voter, have largely been ignored. There is an attitude in government that those in charge know what is best for you and you don't. I have more respect for you than that. Whether you come to a council meeting or contact me directly, I will greet you positively and your concerns will be listened to without a dismissive attitude. *The vision for Woodland's future should come from its citizens.*

Government should pay for necessities before luxuries. Why did the city increase the administrative budget by over 300% then ask the voters for additional money to pay for essentials like roads and law enforcement? My priorities are protecting property and liberty while maintaining infrastructure and roads in a fiscally responsible manner. Raising a large family on a modest income requires financial discipline and prioritizing. I will take the same approach with your money.

Thank you for exercising your right to vote.

Contact

(541) 622-3135; jmheffernan2013@gmail.com



**C.J.
Nickerson**

(Nonpartisan)

The Longview School District has made significant progress over the past three years. The Board hired a Superintendent who is a dynamic educational leader and a good fit for our community. Graduation rates have improved and staff morale is high. Our Board adopted the “Design for Excellence”, which provides vision, direction and focus for our future. I am proud to have been a part of this progress.

Since elected to the Board in 2013, I have kept my pledge to base my decisions on what is in the best interest of our students. As Board President for the past two years, I strived to keep us focused on improving student achievement and monitoring the fiscal responsibilities of our District. Being retired has enabled me to devote significant time to this work.

My entire career has been dedicated to education. I am pleased with the progress we have made. However, as societal changes occur we must continue to prepare all students to be successful after high school, including those who do not intend to pursue a college degree.

I ask for your vote because I believe that my experience and dedication will help move our district forward.

Thank you.

Contact

(360) 636-2888; cjnck7@gmail.com



**Joseph
Hobson**

(Nonpartisan)

My hope is to become a greater advocate for Longview Public Schools. I believe that public education will continue to serve as the cornerstone to our democracy, playing a more significant role in the development of a well-informed citizenry.

At the Federal level, there is presently a push to direct more public money to private vouchers and charter schools. Public schools cannot afford to lose these vital resources.

My family and I have been grateful residents of Longview for 27 years. We have been blessed.

I earned a masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Seattle University in 2006.

I am currently an actively working member of, VA Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 26, and have been for 38 years. From my experience, I would like to see students learn life long skills in having more vocational education in middle and high schools in Longview. Longview schools could partner with local trade unions and area companies in helping to train students for future “living-wage” careers.

We need a community based, “whole-system” approach to public education. The detrimental effects of poverty and mental health issues, barriers to learning, must be addressed and removed.

Contact

(360) 430-8447; razorclams@gmail.com



**Phil
Jurmu**
(Nonpartisan)

I am interested in serving the Longview School District as a director on the school board. My experience in public safety leadership, in community volunteerism and advocacy for greater understanding of diverse opinions has prepared me for this position.

I continue to serve the Longview School District on the Facility Advisory Committee, where the committee has grappled with the declining condition of existing schools, need for updated educational spaces and the costs of continuing maintenance. The recommendation for a significant bond issue has now been approved by the school board and the implementation of a construction plan and final decisions will be a subject that I will be able to contribute immediately.

District funding is also a key area of importance for the school district. The State Legislature's attempt to satisfy voter supported initiatives is another area of critical concern. I believe it is the role of the school board to partner with staff in advocating for the needs of the district through relationship development with State legislators to collaboratively work on solutions.

I believe that it's critically important to actively listen, share ideas and collaboratively develop initiatives and solutions for the future of the Longview School District.

Contact
(360) 957-1341; jurmup@hotmail.com



**Norma
McKittrick**
(Nonpartisan)

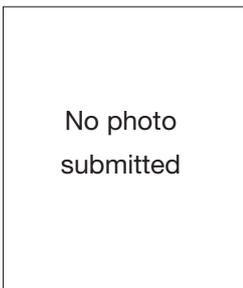
As a parent of a Mark Morris Graduate (2017) and member of this community I would like to volunteer my time to support the Longview School District. I have never held a public office but I'm willing to listen, learn and provide prospective as a parent and a professional. I commit to working with students, parents, teachers, board members, staff and vendors to provide the best education system we can.

Professionally I have worked in the Credit Union industry since 2001. I'm proud to be part of a movement that lives the People Helping People philosophy every day. Credit Unions are a not for profit organization and give back to communities they serve. As a Credit Union professional I have volunteered in this community and at our schools. Additionally I have managed employees, vendor contracts, system upgrades, training, member service and would like to translate those skills into supporting our school district.

Without any prior experience serving on a board I hope to bring fresh perspective while gaining experience and knowledge about our school systems.

Contact
(360) 353-3455; normalmck78@gmail.com

Toutle Lake School District No. 130 | Director District 5 | 4-year term

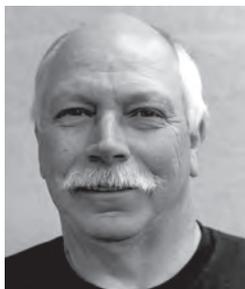


**William D.
Kessler**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(360) 431-5096; billk@vigilant.org



Vilas E.
Sundberg

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 274-9919; vilas1@comcast.net

Castle Rock School District No. 401 | Director District 2 | 4-year term

No photo
submitted

Matthew
Everett

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(503) 739-2836; everettcastle@comcast.net

Castle Rock School District No. 401 | Director District At Large | 4-year term

No photo
submitted

Andy
Ogden

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 751-0915; ajogden81@gmail.com



**Susan (Sue)
Dennis-
Langham**
(Nonpartisan)

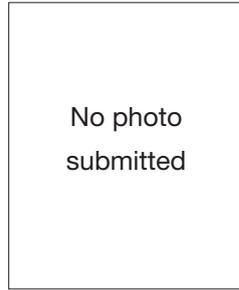
I am running for School Board Director because I have the experience, passion and community involvement to make a difference for our kids. I want to help parents, the community and the school provide opportunities for students to have a future here in Kalama as well as elsewhere.

I have lived in Kalama for ten years. I serve on the Planning Commission and Envision Kalama, and have served on the Park and Recreation Board and the Kalama Housing Authority Board. I served on the interview team for Chief of Police candidates in 2013 and 2017. I also worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, working with foster children. I belong to P.E.O., *Philanthropic Educational Organization*, providing scholarships for girls in need.

I graduated from Arizona State University with a teaching degree and received my Master's Degree and Principal Certification from Lewis and Clark University in Portland. My Principal Internship was in Kelso at Catlin School.

During my career, I served as a teacher in Kelso for nine years, and as a principal for fourteen years, first in a small school in Pendleton, Oregon, and later in a large district in Vancouver, Washington. I successfully worked with students, teachers, and parents.

Contact
(360) 270-8879; masdl2011@gmail.com



**Bruce
Rader**
(Nonpartisan)

I have been on the Kalama School Board for over 21 years. "What's best for the kids" is my mantra. I believe I have the knowledge, experience and abilities to help lead our district into the future. We have upcoming facility and district needs that will require out of the box thinking as well as a strong background and understanding of the education system. During my tenure on the board I have acquired a firm understanding of those things. It is our responsibility to provide for the education of the youth in our community, to prepare them for their future. It takes the efforts of many different people, parents, teachers, administrators and the community as a whole to provide the right setting for our students to have a proper learning environment. I know my experience on the school board has put me in a unique position to help with planning for the growth that we will face in the upcoming years. I feel community input is important in making decisions that affect our kids and school. The school is the center piece of our community. I ask for your vote to build upon the good work we have done.

Contact
(360) 957-4805; brader@kalama.com



**Amber
Buck**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(360) 931-1582; mrsamberbuck@gmail.com



**Matthew
Donald**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

I am a Woodland graduate and life-long community member and I would be honored to continue to serve the community as a School Board Member. I currently work with the Department of Energy in the electric industry as a federal contractor and have completed four years of college with an emphasis in education. I firmly believe we are “educating for excellence” in the Woodland School system and that we have some of the best teachers in the country. These are exciting times for Woodland Schools and I will serve the community with integrity and sound judgment. I will always consider your concerns, while making the best decisions possible. I also believe that I bring a valuable perspective to the Board.

Contact

(360) 931-2381; matthew.donald@hotmail.com

No photo
submitted

**Steven
Madsen**

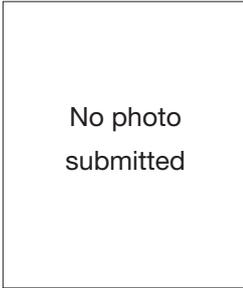
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 957-4578; sb.madsen@hotmail.com



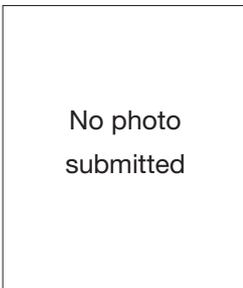
**Leah
Moore**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 430-5004; leahdmoore@gmail.com



**Karen
Grafton**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Occupation: Parent/Clinic Manager/PTO Leader

As a parent of three children who attend Rose Valley Elementary and Coweeman Middle School, I am very passionate about Kelso schools. The Kelso School District will continue to provide the best education for all students by supporting and retaining our dedicated teachers and staff members. I will continue to proactively solicit feedback from parents, community members, teachers, and administrators before making decisions. With a bachelor degree in Business and Accounting from Portland State University, over 20 years in healthcare management, and prior board experience with the Lower Columbia Mental Health Board and the Lower Columbia CAP Board, I bring a unique perspective to the school board leadership team. I pledge my dedication to Kelso's students, parents, and community members. Thank you for providing me with this renewed opportunity to serve in this capacity. I appreciate your support.

Contact

(360) 909-8139; tkgrifton@msn.com



Howard E.
Sharples

(Nonpartisan)

Mr. Sharples recently retired from the Kelso School District where he taught English Language Arts. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English at California State University, Sacramento and a Masters in Education at the University of Portland. Nominated to fill an unexpected vacancy on the school board earlier this year, Mr. Sharples is currently serving as the legislative representative. He is proud of his service to his students and to the district and he hopes he can continue to contribute to Kelso schools as a member of the school board.

Contact

(360) 636-4421; hsharples4849@hotmail.com



Allen
Warner

(Nonpartisan)

I appreciate the work the school board has done. I am grateful my children can attend quality schools, but we can do even better.

I am not a teacher, but I have worked in the education system since 2001. Since then there have been intense efforts to reform schools nationwide, without many results. I have heard what teachers have to say and I have seen their struggles. It is time to push for a better approach.

The strength of our education system is in the minds and hearts of our teachers. All they want to do is teach kids, but we burden them with paperwork, tests and trainings. Instead, let's ask them how we can help them succeed.

You can't succeed in business by ignoring what the workers on the factory floor are telling you. You can't win a war by ignoring the soldiers on the front lines. And we cannot succeed in education by blaming teachers and ignoring them nationwide.

As a district, we cannot change the laws schools have to follow. We can't increase the budget much. What we can do is change our approach. Let's start by listening to teachers and including them from the beginning.

Contact

(360) 353-5666; omniglot24@yahoo.com

No photo
submitted

**Jim
Kellar**
(Nonpartisan)

My 27 years as fire commissioner for Fire District 1 have provided the experience and knowledge that I feel are vital assets for me to continue serving the fire district into the future.

Contact

(360) 225-7224; 39jama@gmail.com



**Dean
Boon**
(Nonpartisan)

Dean Boon has lived in Cowlitz County for 39 years. Having grown up on a dairy farm in Woodland, he understands the meaning and value of hard work and doing what it takes to get a job done. Dean is also a 15 year veteran of the Cowlitz County District 1 Fire Department. He began with District 1 as a firefighter and now serves as an Emergency Response Vehicle Operator where he often mentors and trains new recruits.

If elected to serve as a Commissioner, Dean's focus will be directed in several areas. Public safety will be one area of focus. He will work to obtain grants to purchase updated equipment and needed departmental improvements. This will increase the safety of the volunteers who serve the community enabling them to work more efficiently, responding as called to serve emergency needs.

Education is also a top priority for Dean. He will focus on creating opportunities for additional training for department members as well as community events to educate the public on various topics. As the needs of our growing community change, Dean is ready to respond with fresh ideas and energy.

Contact

(360) 772-3246; farmall.boon@gmail.com



**Scott
Neves**

(Nonpartisan)

It has been my honor to serve the citizens of Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue as a Fire Commissioner for the past six years. I have devoted my life to public service. My goals continue to be maintaining emergency service levels and support future personnel and equipment needs.

My experience includes 25 years volunteer firefighter, fire officer, chief officer, and EMT with Cowlitz 2 (retired April 2011), over 30 years in local law enforcement, 5 years private ambulance service, College level instructor, and disaster relief work including 2 trips to Haiti.

I am a member of the Castle Rock Police Association and Lions Club. I have extensive training in emergency services. I have received the Chief's Medal, 11 Lifesaving Awards, 2016 National Grange Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and numerous other awards.

I am a lifelong resident of Cowlitz County and enjoy an active family life with my wife and 4 children. Find "Vote Scott Neves" on www.facebook.com.

Contact

(360) 957-3659; neves512@gmail.com



**Curtis (Jacen Freeman)
Hart**

(Nonpartisan)

Let's talk about self-ownership and liberty for a moment. Well first off let's get this out of the way . . . Vote for yourself or vote for the other guy. Because I'm certainly not the best person to make these types of decisions. How's that for some choice? Well look at your ballot and look at how many seats go uncontested every single year. Hardly anybody gets involved, yet most complain and say they get to "because they voted." That's not enough anymore people, yall need to get more involved than just voting once or twice a year.

We should strive to live in a society based on voluntary exchange and have maximum individual liberty, which is living one's life free from outside force or influence as long as one is not infringing on the life, liberty, or property of another person. Taxation is theft. The state shouldn't be using their monopoly on the use of force to achieve political and social goals. I believe in absolute free speech for everybody. I believe we need to take secession all the way down to the individual so we can all Be Happy and Free, Quia Libertas.

Contact

(360) 957-5310; curtishart@lpwa.org



**Dan
Belding**

(Nonpartisan)

I, Dan Belding, have lived in the Silverlake/Toutle area for over fifty years. I have thirty three years of Fire Service experience in the industrial and volunteer field. I have a Fire Science Degree and am still a Volunteer Fireman/EMT with the Toutle Fire Department.

When I became a Fire Commissioner thirty years ago, the Toutle Fire Department had limited resources. With team work and commitment, the Department has grown considerably and now offers a wide assortment of resources.

I firmly believe that it is the commitment of people working together that keeps the Toutle (Silverlake) Fire Department serving the needs of our community. Our responsibilities as Fire Commissioners are to manage and budget the affairs of the District.

The number one priority is the safety of our Fire Personnel and that we provide the equipment and training to keep them out of harm's way.

Contact

(360) 751-7482; danbelding@centurylink.net



**Chris
Sweet**

(Nonpartisan)

My name is Chris Sweet and I have been a part of the Toutle community for over 30 years. I attended school here and so have my two children. I have been active in the community with coaching and supporting the local athletic teams. As an elected official for Fire District #3, I would ensure that your tax dollars are spent appropriately and with the best interest and safety of the taxpayers, their families, and also our responders.

I have been involved in emergency services for the past 20 years; 10 years as a volunteer with Cowlitz County Fire District #3 as well as professionally with other public and private emergency service organizations throughout our county.

I believe that the experience and knowledge that I have gained makes me an excellent choice for the position of Fire Commissioner Position #1 for Cowlitz County Fire District #3. Thank you for your support.

Contact

(360) 957-1215; chris.sweet711@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

**Terry
Sinkler**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

I have been a volunteer firefighter for Fire District 5 since 1992, fire commissioner for the past 6 years and I am a business owner.

I am proud to continue to serve the community as a firefighter, and with your vote continue as fire commissioner.

Thank you for your support.

Contact

(360) 957-4224; sinklerterry@gmail.com

Fire Protection District 5 | Commissioner Position 2 | 4-year unexpired term



**Graham
Lasee**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(206) 355-7692; grahamlasee@hotmail.com

No photo
submitted

Jeffery
Gann
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 957-7460; gann5L4@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Neil
Agren
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 957-2666; nagren@msn.com



Michael
Rietman

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Incumbent Fire Commissioner with Fire District #7 for 13 years

35 years volunteer Fire Service; 17 years in Indiana and 18 years with Fire District #7 and 18 years Medical Response with Fire District #7

Retired with 24 years service from Amoco where he was a Mechanical Shops Supervisor

He and his wife Cheryl have lived in the Yale Valley for 19 years.

Contact

(360) 231-4146; rietman@tds.net

No photo
submitted

Frances
Northcut
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 225-7929; kfnorthcut@gmail.com

Cemetery District 4 | Commissioner Position 2 | 2-year unexpired term

No photo
submitted

John L.
Alden
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

I have been a commissioner for several years and live next door to the cemetery. The current commissioners have worked hard to maintain an outside contractor that keeps the grounds in good condition and keep the information available to those who need help locating a loved one. I look forward to continue serving our community as a cemetery commissioner for the Stockport Cemetery.

Contact

(360) 749-7420; jalden01@msn.com



Joanna
Boatman

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

With your help I would like to remain on the cemetery board and continue to serve our community Thank you Joanna

Contact

(360) 673-1770; jo3656@kalama.com

Cemetery District 5 | Commissioner Position 3 | 4-year unexpired term

No photo
submitted

Loranne Sue
Warila

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 673-4006; swarila@kalama.com

Cemetery District 6 | Commissioner Position 2 | 6-year term

No photo
submitted

Bill
Spencer

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 577-4127; bspencer@lancelarkin.com



Francis
Naglich

(Nonpartisan)

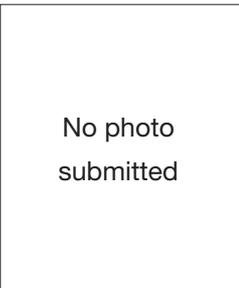
Unopposed

The Stella Cemetery is a historical cemetery which preserves the era of the late 1800's - early 1900's in Western Cowlitz County. Descendents of those buried in the cemetery still live in our community today. The role of commissioner is to see that the cemetery is maintained to preserve its historical value and the integrity of this final resting place for those who lived in that era.

Contact

(360) 431-3990; Francis@eco-land.com

Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District | Commissioner Position 1 | 6-year term



Monte
Roden

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 577-1081; monte48@comcast.net



Sharyn
Crosby
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 225-8607; Crosbyds@comcast.net



Rachael
Stuart
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(360) 225-6785; stew102@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Bruce
Hulett
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(360) 713-3580; bruce@woodlandinsurance.com

No photo
submitted

Shannon
Tracy
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(503) 819-4324; sweetestblessings@msn.com

City of Castle Rock

Proposition 1

The Castle Rock City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-07 concerning a proposition to fund public library services by special excess levy. The proposition authorizes the City of Castle Rock, Washington, to levy an excess property tax in the year of 2017 for collection in 2018 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$62,505. The excess levy would fund maintenance and operations of the library.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement

The effect of the proposed measure, if approved by the voters, is to levy an excess property tax in the year 2017 for collection in 2018 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$62,505.

*See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz*

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

Castle Rock property owners are asked to approve a one-year levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to fund the Castle Rock Library for the year 2019. This levy would not impose an additional tax burden, but would replace the levy amount that funded the 2018 library budget.

The levy, which would again cost the owner of a \$150,000 home \$75, would enable the library to remain open 38 hours a week. It includes staff wages and operating costs. Approval would provide continued free public Internet access and informational publications such as the archived *Advocates* and E-books.

Castle Rock's library has over 21,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, videos, books on tape, and reference materials. Adults may take advantage of the opportunity for recreational and informational reading. No additional fee is required for City tax payers to hold a library card and anyone outside the city limits can obtain one for a nominal fee.

Children learning reading skills in school may hone those skills at the library and by participating in the summer reading program. Students can also use the library as a study resource and job seekers can access job opportunities on the Internet for free.

Not only is Castle Rock's library vital to the community, but healthy libraries are important to new businesses when they consider moving into the area. Studies have shown that library access helps to educate voters, encourages employment, and discourages crime and substance abuse.

We urge voters to approve this levy.

Rebuttal of argument against

None submitted.

Written by

Russ Barnes, (360) 274-8894, mannlicher47@hotmail.com;
Marsha Quigley, (360) 274-4508, mlqtlq@msn.com

Argument Against

None submitted.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.

City of Kalama

Proposition 1

General Obligation Bonds for Police and Public Safety Facilities

The City Council of the City of Kalama, Washington, adopted Ordinance No. 1387 concerning a proposition for police and public safety facilities. If approved, this proposition authorizes the City to design, construct, develop, improve and equip police and public safety facilities; issue \$2,200,000 of general obligation bonds with a maximum of 30 years to pay a portion of the costs of the project; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, as provided in Ordinance No. 1387.

Should this proposition be approved:

Yes

No

*See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz*

Explanatory Statement

The City of Kalama, Washington (the “City”) requests voters to approve a police and public safety facilities bond issue to construct new police and public safety facilities for the Kalama Police Department. The previous police headquarters were flooded in 2015 and since such time the Department has been temporarily operating out of the Kalama Community Building until a new police facility is built. The City has identified a potential site on City-owned property for the new facilities to be constructed. Bond proceeds will be used, together with other available funds, to design, construct, improve and equip new police and public safety facilities, including related training, storage, administration, briefing, workstation, and jail holding facilities. Without voter approval, the City does not have funding to pay for the projects.

The bonds would mature within 30 years or less and would be payable from annual excess property taxes. The cost would be approximately \$0.59 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value, costing the typical homeowner (of a \$250,000 home) approximately \$12.26 per month or \$147.07 per year. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold. Homeowners who are 61 years or older, disabled, and who meet low-income requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption.

For questions, contact City Administrator Adam Smee at (360)673-3265, or Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster at (360)673-4561.

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

Shall the City of Kalama issue \$2,200,000 bond to finance the building of a new police station?

The flood of December 2015 damaged Kalama's already temporary police station beyond repair. The department has since operated out of the community building which does not meet safety, operational, or security requirements.

Approval of this bond measure authorizes the City to issue up to \$2,200,000 of general obligation bonds. The money will build, equip and furnish a new police station on land already owned by the City of Kalama, providing safety and security for both Kalama police and citizens at the lowest cost. Bonds will be repaid by property taxes. The City estimates the bonds will cost property owners \$0.59 per every \$1000 of assessed property value, or \$147.50 annually for a property appraised at \$250,000.

We urge a yes vote for this fiscally responsible plan that provides for your City's current and rapidly growing public safety needs.

Rebuttal of argument against

After studying multiple geographic possibilities, our Mayor and City Council proposed building a police station on city owned property that is well placed, eliminating land cost. Architects' preliminary plans helped establish pricing for a fully operational facility in order to seek bond approval, shortening the bid/build cycle and further reducing costs. This facility will meet Kalama's projected needs over the next 20-30 years. Further exploration adds expense and delays for our much-needed police station.

Written by

Dan Roberts, (360) 673-3602, forkalamapolice@gmail.com;
 Dan O'Hall, (360) 673-6367, d-ohall@scattercreek.com;
 Lynn Hughes, (360) 673-5454, lynn54@gmail.com

Argument Against

Vote *no* because our city council did not conduct town hall *meetings*, allowing community to review and provide input on alternatives for placement of the police station. *Location, location, location.*

Over 2 years of working on this, only one location and one \$75,000 professional architectural plan was done. There are many properties, open land and buildings, but there are few parks and city owned properties.

Town hall meetings would have identified available lots and buildings and the pros and cons of each. We have a new city hall, with an unused second floor and basement. *Any* future use of this space will require taxpayer money to properly improve. Its location provides easy access for Kalama residents, local businesses, I5, North and South, and outlying port businesses. Professional studies would provide us the true expense involved for these improvements.

Our police facility should meet the needs of our community now and in the near future, with ability to properly expand with taxpayer growth. Go to city hall and review the present plans. Realize we are facing large property tax, water and sewer increases now and in the future. *And* our water infrastructure needs replacing- expensive.

Don't go forward with the bond now, we need to regroup, get the community involved so all options are fully explored and understood by the community. When you personally make a large purchase, you review all options and make an informed decision. This needs to be done with this issue- you are paying for it.

Rebuttal of argument for

Addressing lowest cost; National construction *average* for a police station the size proposed is *median* cost \$600,000.00 *high* cost \$800,000.00. The proposed cost is \$2,150,000.00 and this is *not* low cost. Is city owned Maruhn Park a cost effective construction site?

We do need a safe facility for our officers, but we need to step back and consider other options as this proposal is too costly. Bring us a viable proposal!

Written by

Marrene Jenkins, (360) 673-3440, mej8840@yahoo.com;
 Kathi Pilcher, kpilch@mrpaint@hughes.net;
 Janet Swihart, janetswihart@yahoo.com

City of Woodland

Proposition 1

Levy lid Lift for Law Enforcement Personnel and Equipment

The Woodland City Council adopted Resolution No. 689 to fund law enforcement. If approved, this proposition will fund the hire of two officers and a sergeant and their equipment. This proposition authorizes a 2018 regular property tax rate increase of \$0.7789/\$1,000, for a total estimated levy rate of \$2.8415/\$1,000 assessed value. The 2018 levy amount shall be used to calculate future levy limits.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the Woodland City Council adopted Resolution No. 689 to authorize an increase in the City's regular property levy in an amount exceeding the 1% levy lid. The lid lift is classified as a one-year permanent increase. The exclusive purpose of the lid lift is to fund and equip over multiple years two additional police officer positions and a police sergeant position.

If approved, the 2018 regular property tax rate would increase \$0.7789 per \$1000 of assessed value. The estimated total regular property tax rate would be \$2.8415 per \$1000 of assessed value.

*See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz*

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

Staffing for the Woodland Police Department has remained unchanged since 2007! Since 2010, calls for service have increased nearly 100% as the city's population has increased 20%. The crime rate has increased over 42% in just the last 2 years. These factors have contributed to the cancelling of at least six emergency calls for service in 2016 alone.

From July 2015 to July 2017, overtime expenditures have totaled over \$350,000. The safety and health of officers are at risk. They are expected to carry a heavier workload than officers 10 years ago.

The recently formed citizen's advisory committee reported "that these staffing deficits contribute to longer response times, and problems with dealing with more serious drug, property, and violent crime in the city." They also reported that Woodland's high crime rate "is due in large part to out of area criminals picking Woodland homes and businesses as easier targets than similar entities in Vancouver or Portland."

The citizens want jobs and business to come to Woodland. *Do you think Woodland will be able to attract business if reducing crime and public safety is not a priority?*

The city council has failed to address this critical staffing shortage. WPD is stretched to its breaking point. They will be incapable of providing adequate services without additional personnel in the very near future. It is up to the citizens of Woodland to support the police. Demand public safety be a priority for the future health of Woodland.

Rebuttal of argument against

If the police are currently trying to protect and serve a city 20% larger with the same size staff as a decade ago, how much worse will things get if the voters vote no and that vote is interpreted by the council as not caring about police staffing or improving public safety? A no vote will not change the budgeting priorities of the city council.

Written by

Jeremy Heffernan, (541) 622-3135,
jmheffernan2018@gmail.com

Argument Against

This resolution intends to raise all our property taxes under the guise that it's necessary in order to provide for more Police Officers to keep us safe. Please do not be so gullible. The City of Woodland currently operates a revenue stream in excess of \$19,000,000.00. Apparently, our City Council cannot, for the life of them, figure out how to manipulate that budget to provide for additional officers for our town. How is that even possible? This against argument is not against those brave officers who literally put their lives on the line each and every day, just to do their job. No, this argument is against the archaic system of threatening our community members to have these same brave officers assume the role of scary men or women with guns, to come take you from your homes and throw you in a cage if you decide that you don't want our overlords stealing anymore of your hard-earned money. Are we so backward that we cannot come together as a community to fund the items or programs that some wish to have as a community? No? We must revert to threats of violence to pay for things? Now this committee has not performed a deep dive into the budget, but when we are spending \$1,138,874.00 on our public employees "Personnel Benefits", and they are asking for more of our money for "Police", something's fishy, and it's not Kokanee. Taxation is theft.

Rebuttal of argument for

The argument that because we have grown in population, we must increase our taxes is ridiculous! With an increase in population, you also have an increase of revenue coming in. Shorting the police officers on their budget to pay for needless items like a new city hall and perks for public employees, and then guilt tripping the public to steal more of our money is disgusting deceptive fear-mongering at its worst. Please vote no.

Written by

Chris Gillins, (360) 518-5347,
libertariansagainst689@gmail.com

Transportation Benefit District

Proposition 1

Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements

The Board of the Transportation Benefit District, Woodland, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 2017-001 to fund transportation improvements through a sales tax. This proposition authorizes a tax no greater than two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) on all taxable retail sales within the District for ten years pursuant to RCW 82.14.0455. Tax proceeds will fund projects identified in the Transportation Improvement Programs adopted by the City of Woodland beginning with the 2017-2022 TIP Plan.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz*

Explanatory Statement

The Woodland City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1363 creating a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) pursuant to Chapter 36.73 of the Revised Code of Washington. The purpose of a TBD is to fund transportation projects.

The Woodland Transportation Benefit District adopted Resolution 2017-001 requesting approval of an increase of the tax on retail sales within the District.

If approved by voters, the measure will allow for a two-tenths of one percent [0.2%] increase in the local sales tax for ten years. The funds collected are intended for resurfacing of streets and for projects identified in the City's 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan.

Statements "for" and "against" this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

As Woodland moves forward with working on solutions for traffic congestion, especially at intersections that we are working with other levels of government, it is critical to demonstrate that we have done all we can as a city prior to looking for State and Federal dollars, and to have a dedicated account with matching funds to meet the requirements of some of these grants.

If approved, this ballot would establish a .2% sales (2/10ths of 1%) tax within the boundaries of the Woodland city limits. Woodland's sales tax rate is currently 7.9% and would rise to 8.1%, equal to Kelso and lower than Longview and Vancouver's 8.4% rate.

The sales tax will spread the costs among all user groups, including all travelers that use our roads while passing through. *The sales tax will not apply to the cost of groceries, prescriptions, gasoline, rent or mortgage payments.*

This tax is anticipated to generate \$2.7M over 10 years. This funding would be used exclusively for capital projects, pavement overlays, chip seal, and sidewalk/curb repairs.

We have huge, big-dollar capital projects such as the Scott Avenue crossing and solving Exit 21's congestion on the horizon. Let's work together to plan funding solutions for these projects, while we invite the commuters that use our roads and services to help our residents pay for them.

Rebuttal of argument against

Facts:

Commuters and travelers will contribute a high percentage of this funding through purchases along the I-5 corridor. This is a unique opportunity for Woodland residents to benefit from all who shop and visit Woodland.

Revenue raised through this tax is required by law to be dedicated to road repair, maintenance and improvement of your streets and sidewalks.

Opponents are offering no other solutions for infrastructure funding.

Don't be fooled by misinformation again. Vote yes.

Written by

Marilee McCall, (360) 823-8607,
Woodlandtbd2017@gmail.com;
Andrew Loud, andrewcloud@yahoo.com;
Al Swindell, alswindell@gmail.com

Argument Against

This proposition was on the General Election ballot last year and the voters voted it down. Choosing to put it right back on the ballot this year is a blatant disregard for the will of the people, which creates public frustration. People ask, "Why vote if the vote of the people is ignored?"

The facts remain the same. The cost for projects in Woodland's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2018-2023 total more than the amount this tax would raise over the next ten years. This tax alone cannot fund all the projects in the plan. The hope is that obtaining state grants may be more likely if Woodland voters approve this sales tax. If this hope does not become reality, additional fees and taxes will be needed from voters to complete projects.

This proposition promises additional funding for transportation. However, general fund money currently being used to pay for roads could be shifted to fund something else. This idea was publicly promoted last year by the mayor even though the Voters' Pamphlet and an informational flyer sent out with the water bill made no mention of it. It is possible a future council could decide to use this general fund money to pay for something other than roads.

Voters are left wondering if this sales tax will be additional funding for roads or a replacement for revenue lost if funds are shifted. In other words, this sales tax may not be a significant revenue gain for transportation projects.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.

Written by

Jeremy Heffernan, (541) 622-3135,
jmheffernan2013@gmail.com;
Tel Jensen, tel@pikkufarm.org

Longview School District No. 122

Proposition 1

General Obligations Bonds

The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 757 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to replace Mint Valley, Northlake and Olympic Elementary Schools; make District-wide safety and security improvements at all school facilities; remodel Broadway Learning Center housing the Head Start program and the District's special education preschool program; to issue \$121,600,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a 21 year maximum term; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #757.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 1 will allow the Longview School District to address critical facility needs. This proposition will pay for the replacement of Mint Valley Elementary School, Northlake Elementary School, and Olympic Elementary School. It will also include the remodeling of Broadway Learning Center, which houses the Head Start program and the District's special education preschool program. Safety and security projects at all District schools would also be made, including but not limited to video surveillance systems, panic alarm systems, access control systems, main entry door systems, radio communications, and exterior and interior light improvements.

If approved, the District expects to receive approximately \$4,670,000 in State matching funds to complete these projects. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies. Based on current projections of assessed valuations, the levy rate is estimated to be \$0.96 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, costing the typical homeowner of a \$200,000 median home \$16.00 per month (\$192.00/year). Tax exemptions may be available to homeowners, age 61 or older, and disabled persons that meet certain income requirements. For information, call the Cowlitz County Assessor at (360) 577-3010.

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

None submitted.

Rebuttal of argument against

None submitted.

Argument Against

The Longview School District did a study which assumes no student growth so for \$121 million we have a plan which adds little additional class space. In addition the spending is in locations where we would not expect future population growth.

Portables should be considered a short term solution for overcrowding which should have included a board approved plan to expand the school at the location where the portables were placed. It appears the board plan was to purchase portables then later hit the voters with a bond to rebuild the whole school which is what we have for all three schools at the same time.

At present we pay Longview schools in the form of a property tax about \$4.60 per \$1000 of assessed value. If this bond is approved the tax will increase to about \$5.50 or a 21% increase. In today's tight housing market landlords will be able to pass their increased property tax cost on to their tenants.

This plan fixes a lot of problems caused by poor planning and poor leadership in years past. It assumes we taxpayers will throw new money at schools when we have population growth or other changes that cause an increased need for more classroom space. This appears to be an expensive shot at immediate needs not a part of a long term problem solving program.

Vote no on the Longview school bond and demand a proposal that is a part of a defined long term plan.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.

Written by

Bill Hallanger, (360) 749-0000, wllhallanger@kalama.com

Castle Rock School District No. 401

Proposition 1

Advisory Vote on Site of Middle School Campus

The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2017-72 concerning an advisory vote on middle school site. Prior to presenting a proposition to the voters of the District for bond financing of a new Middle School Campus and other capital improvements within the District, the Board is seeking the views of the community on the preferred site of the Middle School Campus. Should the new Middle School Campus be located:

- Adjacent to the current High School Campus
- Adjacent to the current Elementary School Campus

*See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz*

Argument For

None submitted.

Explanatory Statement

The Board of Directors of the Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2017-72 concerning an advisory vote of the qualified electors of the District to determine the site of a new Middle School Campus. The Board has found that the District is in need of a new Middle School Campus, in order to provide the students of the District with adequate, proper and safe educational facilities and in 2018 will present a proposition to the voters of the District for bond financing of that new Middle School Campus, as well as other capital improvements within the District. The Board is considering the siting of the Middle School Project as a separate Campus adjacent to the current Elementary School Campus or adjacent to the current High School Campus. The Board is seeking the views of the community on the preferred site of the Middle School Campus and wishes to present these two options to the voters prior to submitting a formal ballot proposition for the Bonds in 2018.

Argument Against

None submitted.

Emergency Medical Service District 1

Proposition 1

Emergency Medical Program Excess Levy

The Board of County Commissioners of Cowlitz County, Washington adopted Resolution No. 17-054 referring to the voters the proposition described herein. This proposition allows the electors of Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 to authorize a one-year excess levy to be made in 2017 for collection in 2018 in the total amount of \$267,214, at an approximate tax rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, with the proceeds of such excess levy to be used for maintenance, operation and staff salaries necessary to provide emergency medical and paramedic services for an estimated three (3) year period.

Should this tax levy be approved?

Tax Levy Yes

Tax Levy No

Explanatory Statement

Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 provides emergency medical and paramedic services to its citizens. The District has determined monies which will be available for 2017-2019 will be insufficient to provide medical and paramedic services, and meet the other general expenses of the District. The proposed ballot measure, if passed, would authorize for collection in 2018 a total amount of \$267,214, at an approximate rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This levy is necessary for Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 to continue to provide emergency medical services and paramedic response at the current level to the residents and businesses of Cowlitz County for an estimated three (3) year period. The proceeds of the levy will be used to pay the costs of personnel, training, equipment and supplies needed to provide emergency medical and paramedic services.

See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

Keep your North Country EMS ambulances, vote YES!

This is not a new tax. Your support will renew the 2014 excess levy for another 3 years. This levy is a full 1/3 of NCEMS' operating budget and provides the necessary funding to continue operating two ambulances 24/7.

Community support through tax levies is the only way our rural community can have 2 ambulances available 24/7. NCEMS utilizes a combination of volunteer, part-time and fulltime paramedics and EMTs to staff your ambulances. For every one fulltime employee at NCEMS there are six volunteers.

For North Country EMS taxing district residents there are no out-of-pocket costs for utilizing your ambulance service which costs between \$950 and \$1250 for a hospital transport. Your out-of-pocket expenses are credited by the property taxes you pay as a homeowner or renter. Visitors to our community always receive a full bill for any hospital transport provided.

As your ambulance provider, the mission of North Country EMS is, "To safeguard life through effective, efficient and innovative Medical Care and Rescue services that will enhance the quality of life and health of those we serve." Help keep NCEMS' 41 years of being here for our community going.

NCEMS takes pride in being transparent and responsible stewards of the funds entrusted to them by tax payers. This levy requires a 60 percent voter approval. It is critical that we maintain our current ambulance staffing, and that everyone votes yes!

Rebuttal of argument against

None submitted.

Written by

Jerry Olson, (360) 695-1385, wcrolsons@tds.net;

Tom McDowell, tndcmds@gmail.com;

Lori Homola, lhomola@tds.net

Argument Against

None submitted.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.

Woodland Swimming Pool and Recreation District

Proposition 1

General Obligation Bonds for Swimming Pool and Community Center Facilities

The Board of Commissioners of the Woodland Swimming Pool and Recreation District adopted Resolution No. 2017-01 concerning a proposition for park and recreation facilities. If approved, this proposition authorizes the acquisition, design, development, construction and equipping of a swimming pool and community center, including related parking and the acquisition of real property, to serve inhabitants in the District and surrounding areas; issue \$7,990,000 of general obligation bonds with a maximum term of 20 years to pay a portion of the costs of the project; and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 2017-01.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

The Woodland Swimming Pool and Recreation District requests voters to approve a bond issue to construct a swimming pool and community center to serve residents of the District and surrounding areas. The Woodland area does not currently have a community swimming pool to serve its residents. The District has identified land in Woodland for the construction of a swimming pool and related facilities to fill this need. Bond proceeds will be used, together with other available funds, to acquire, construct, design, develop and equip a swimming pool and recreation facilities, including a fitness center, multipurpose rooms and related parking. Bond proceeds are expected to finance approximately 49% of total project costs, with the remaining funds expected to come from public grants and private sources. Bond issuance and completion of the project may be contingent on the availability of such additional funds. The bonds would mature within 20 years from the date of issuance and would be paid by annual excess property taxes. The cost would be approximately \$0.38 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value costing the typical homeowner (of a \$250,000 home) approximately \$7.92 per month or \$95.00 per year. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold. Homeowners who are 61 years or older, disabled and who meet low-income requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption.

See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

The Woodland community has a wonderful opportunity to realize a long standing effort to bring a pool and recreational facility to our city with this bond. We the undersigned, fully support the minimal investment this bond seeks to construct this exceptional facility for promoting healthy living. The time is now. Our reasons we support the pool:

Health and Safety

There are minimal opportunities for fitness exercise locally. Swimming is an excellent exercise without undue stress on the body. This facility's programs will provide variety of exercise options for individuals of all ages at a reduced membership rate. Equally important, swimming ability and water safety education are essential to a community surrounded by water.

Time

It's been a long process of discussion, debate, and research in pursuit of this pool and recreation facility. Over time, many have contributed their efforts and donations to reach this "shovel ready" stage. Now, *we are all* in position to realize that dream and accomplish what we started. Help put the pool in the ground with your vote yes! It is *time*!

Community

The facility offers more than swimming and exercise. With location near Horseshoe Lake Park and facilities for groups and socializing, it will become a community focal point, supporting local businesses and attracting others. By voting yes for this bond, you can support the effort to build this facility. What a great way to support the community in which we live. The cost is minimal and rewards are immeasurable. Vote yes!

Rebuttal of argument against

None submitted.

Written by

John Shoup, (360) 841-2800, shoupj@woodlandschools.org

Argument Against

None submitted.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.

Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District

Proposition 1

Shall that portion of the City of Woodland lying within Cowlitz County be annexed to the Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District and thereby receive mosquito control services as currently provided throughout all other portions of Cowlitz County as specified in Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District Board resolution 2017-02?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

The City of Woodland approved resolution No. 672 consenting to the annexation of the City of Woodland into the Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District. The Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District approved resolution 2017-02 approving a proposition regarding the annexation of that portion of the City of Woodland that lies within Cowlitz County. If approved, this proposition would annex that portion of the City of Woodland that lies within Cowlitz County by the Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District and thereby receive services of that district.

See complete resolution text at:
vote.wa.gov/cowlitz

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on the next page.

Argument For

Many Woodlander's do not have a significant mosquito infestation problem. It is not a city wide problem. For some of us it is a big problem that is getting worse year by year. We live near uncontrolled mosquito breeding areas like the railroad ditch and holding ponds with standing stagnant water.

By law the city is powerless to control mosquito populations from increasing; only State certified mosquito experts organized in districts by county can do this work. We need to vote because funding for the control districts is tied to property taxes and property taxes have to be raised by a vote. (That is the story I heard and expect a small increase in your yearly property tax if it passes. I was told twenty bucks or less.)

Mosquitos can and do transmit diseases, everybody knows that. Currently it is rare for someone to get a life threatening mosquito borne illness in our area. I live very close to the middle school and have a very big mosquito problem. I have read that children are vulnerable to greater complications from the typically mild illnesses that exist in our area.

Face it, there are potentially dangerous threats to public health associated with uncontrolled mosquito breeding. Clearly this is a public health issue. Seems odd that public health issues can be decided by the self-serving whims of the voting public in our State. This is important, let's get it done.

Rebuttal of argument against

None submitted.

Written by

Frank Occhipinti, (360) 442-6388, fdocchipinti@gmail.com

Argument Against

None submitted.

Rebuttal of argument for

None submitted.