

COWLITZ COUNTY

2006 LOCAL VOTERS

PAMPHLET



Washington State General Election
November 7, 2006

Cowlitz County, Washington

Participating Jurisdictions: Cowlitz County, Cowlitz County Public Utility District,
City of Kelso, City of Castle Rock, Fire Protection District 3

Published by: Cowlitz County Auditor, KRISTINA K. SWANSON

PREAMBLE TO LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

Dear Voters:

I am pleased to bring you the Local Voters Pamphlet for the 2006 General Election. This pamphlet is designed to provide information about candidates seeking to represent you, your tax dollars, and general public safety in Cowlitz County. I encourage you to take some time to read through the candidate and issue statements in order to familiarize yourself with them. In addition, the entire text of all measures has been reproduced.

Many voters expressed anger and confusion over the 2006 Primary in Washington State, which discouraged voter participation across the state. While this low turnout is disheartening, it is also inspiring to see voters take the time to exercise their right to participate in a very important process. I want to extend a big thank you to those who cast a ballot in the 2006 Primary. Your participation elected Precinct Committee Officers and nominated major political party candidates to the General Election.

It is my hope that you will find the 2006 Cowlitz County Local Voters Pamphlet useful and informative. Ballots will be in the mail by October 20, 2006. The best way to have your voice heard in your community is to vote in the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Remember, Every Vote Counts!

Kristina K. Swanson
County Auditor

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OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL OR REPLACEMENT BALLOT

- Official Ballots will be mailed by Friday, October 20, 2006.
- Official Ballots will be available in the Elections Department beginning October 20, 2006.
- Replacement ballots: Contact the Elections Department if your ballot is damaged or lost. A replacement ballot may be mailed or picked up in person up through and including Election Day, November 7, 2006. Please allow one week, for delivery delays, prior to requesting a replacement ballot.
- **COWLITZ COUNTY IS ENTIRELY VOTE BY MAIL. To receive all official Election Mail in a timely manner; keep the Elections Department informed on changes to your name, address, military status, if you travel annually, or if you are away from home at college.**
- **Ballots are NOT FORWARDED.** The Elections Department can mail your ballot directly to you, while you are away from your place of residence, just be sure to notify the Elections Department of your current mailing address.

CONTACT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

IN PERSON OR BY MAIL:

207 North Fourth Avenue
Kelso, WA 98626

BY TELEPHONE:

360-577-3005

EMAIL:

elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections

DISABLED VOTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

AutoMARK ballot marking machines will be available Monday through Friday, during regular business hours, for the General Election, beginning Friday, October 20th, and Election Day until 8:00 p.m., at the Cowlitz County Auditor's Office.

These machines provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way.

VOTERS SHOULD BRING THEIR OFFICIAL BALLOTING MATERIALS WITH THEM TO CAST THEIR BALLOT.

Election Officials will be available to provide instructions. Contact the Elections Department for more information.

Note to Voters: The following Sample Ballot contains all candidates and measures certified to appear in the State General Election to be held on November 7, 2006. You will not be entitled to vote on all races and issues that appear on this Sample Ballot. When you receive your ballot only the contests and measures that apply to your precinct will be listed.

COWLITZ COUNTY - SAMPLE BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

MARKING YOUR BALLOT

1. Use only pencil or black pen.
 2. To vote — completely blacken the oval to the left of your selection. An oval blackened completely, directly to the left of a response, indicates the intent of a vote for that candidate or reply. **Do not make a check-mark or an "X" to vote.** An "X" over a blackened oval indicates you do not wish to have that selection counted.
 3. If you change your mind after voting your ballot, request a replacement ballot. Or, you may cross over the unwanted selection with an "X". Then, completely blacken the oval to the left of your new selection. Do not erase.
 4. Two or more ovals filled in for the same race/measure will invalidate your vote for that race/measure. Cross out the marked oval you did not wish to select using an "X".
 5. To obtain a replacement ballot, if your original ballot has been destroyed or lost, contact the Cowlitz County Elections Department, prior to 8:00 p.m., Election Day at: (360) 577-3005, or Elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us.
 6. Signatures or written comments on the ballot may invalidate your ballot. Mark only the ovals to the left of the selections you would like counted.
 7. Leaving an oval blank, or not voting on a race/measure, will not invalidate your ballot. All races/measures, with ovals clearly marked, will be counted.
 8. Only vote for the number allowed. Voting for more than the number of allowed selections, stated above each selection area, will be considered an over-vote and will not be counted in that race/measure.
 9. To vote for a candidate not listed in a race, write the name of the candidate and party affiliation, if applicable, on the blank line provided at the bottom of each race. Then, completely blacken the oval to the left of the write-in candidate.
- NOTICE: Attempting to vote when not entitled, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this oath is a felony, punishable by maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both. (RCW 29A.84.680)

POLITICAL PARTY OR OTHER DESIGNATION

D	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
R	REPUBLICAN PARTY
G	GREEN PARTY
L	LIBERTARIAN PARTY
P	PROGRESSIVE PARTY
I	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE
NP	NONPARTISAN

STATE

Proposed by Initiative Petition:
INITIATIVE TO THE PEOPLE 920

This measure would repeal Washington's state laws imposing tax, currently dedicated for the education legacy trust fund, on transfers of estates of persons dying on or after the effective date of this measure. Should this measure be enacted into law?

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

Proposed by Initiative Petition:
INITIATIVE TO THE PEOPLE 933

This measure would require compensation when government regulation damages the use or value of private property, would forbid regulations that prohibit existing legal uses of private property, and would provide exceptions or payments. Should this measure be enacted into law?

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

Proposed by Initiative Petition:
INITIATIVE TO THE PEOPLE 937

This measure would require certain electric utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet certain targets for energy conservation and use of renewable energy resources, as defined, including energy credits, or pay penalties. Should this measure be enacted into law?

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

Proposed to the People by the Legislature Amendment to the State Constitution:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4223

The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on increasing an exemption from the personal property tax. This amendment would authorize the legislature to increase the personal property tax exemption for taxable personal property owned by each "head of a family" from three thousand (\$3,000) to fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars. Should this constitutional amendment be:

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

COUNTY

**COWLITZ COUNTY
PROPOSITION NO. 1**

The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 06-119 concerning a proposition funding targeted criminal justice and drug abuse programs in Cowlitz County. This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize imposing a local sales and use tax equal to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) within Cowlitz County for a term of eight years, with proceeds shared by the county and the cities of Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock, Kalama and Woodland, to provide funds to make improvements in Criminal Justice, expand Drug Courts, and enhance Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention and Education programs, under the guidance of a Citizens Oversight Committee. Should this local sales tax be imposed?

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

FEDERAL

**U.S. SENATOR
Position No. 1
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Maria Cantwell D
 Mike McGavick R
 Bruce Guthrie L
 Robin Adair I
 Aaron Dixon G
 Write-in

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
3RD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT**

TWO Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

- Brian Baird D
 Michael Messmore R
 Write-in

STATE

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Position 1
18TH DISTRICT
TWO Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Jonathan Fant D
 Richard Curtis R
 Write-in

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Position 2
18TH DISTRICT
TWO Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Julie McCord D
 Ed Orcutt R
 Write-in

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Position 1
19TH DISTRICT
TWO Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Dean A. Takko D
 Tim Sutinen R
 Write-in

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Position 2
19TH DISTRICT
TWO Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Brian E. Blake D
 Keath Huff R
 Write-in

COUNTY

**COUNTY ASSESSOR
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)**

- Terry R. McLaughlin D
 Write-in

COUNTY AUDITOR

FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

- Kristina Kephart Swanson D
 Write-in

COUNTY CLERK

FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

- Roni A. Booth D
 Write-in

Note to Voters: The following Sample Ballot contains all candidates and measures certified to appear in the State General Election to be held on November 7, 2006. You will not be entitled to vote on all races and issues that appear on this Sample Ballot. When you receive your ballot only the contests and measures that apply to your precinct will be listed.

COWLITZ COUNTY - SAMPLE BALLOT...CONTINUED GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
District No. 3
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Axel Swanson D

Jeff Rasmussen R

Write-in

COUNTY CORONER
FOUR Year Full and Short Term
(Vote for ONE)

Timothy J. Davidson D

Write-in

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Sue Baur D

Write-in

COUNTY SHERIFF
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Bill Mahoney D

Write-in

COUNTY TREASURER
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Judy 'Lyons' Ainslie R

Write-in

NONPARTISAN

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER District No. 2
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Mark McCrady NP

John M. Searing NP

Write-in

JUDICIAL

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Position 2
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Susan Owens NP

Stephen Johnson NP

Write-in

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Position 8
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Gerry L. Alexander NP

Write-in

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Position 9
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Tom Chambers NP

Write-in

COURT OF APPEALS Division 2 District No. 3, Position No. 1
SIX Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Joel Penoyar NP

Write-in

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE Position 1
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

David R. Koss NP

Write-in

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE Position 2
FOUR Year Term
(Vote for ONE)

Edward J. Putka NP

Write-in

LOCAL

CITY OF KELSO PROPOSITION NO. 1 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Shall the Charter be amended requiring four of seven council members to be elected at large and assigned to geographic districts for liaison purposes to improve communication between City and government and Kelso citizens; requiring eligibility for said council positions to include residence within the respective district; providing for the filling of vacancies of said council positions; and, deleting the requirements that the Mayor appoint six council members for liaison purposes?

- YES AMENDMENTS
- NO AMENDMENTS

CITY OF CASTLE ROCK PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2006 for collection in 2007 of \$0.49 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$41,237 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

- LEVY YES
- LEVY NO

PROPOSITION NO. 1 COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 LEVY LID LIFT

The Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 2006-04-02 concerning a proposition authorizing the district to exceed the 101% statutory levy limit. This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize the district to exceed the 101% levy limitation on regular property taxes, so that in 2006 it can levy regular property taxes for collection in 2007 at the rate of \$1.35 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits, to restore property tax revenues as necessary to meet the maintenance and operation expenses of the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 2006-04-02. Should this proposition be:

- APPROVED
- REJECTED

USE ONLY PENCIL OR BLACK INK

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BALLOT

The Sample Ballot includes all measures and races presented within the county. Only races and measures you are entitled to vote upon will appear on your ballot.

COWLITZ COUNTY ASSESSOR

The County Assessor determines the valuation of all taxable property in the county. This office maintains legal descriptions and property records, prepares assessment rolls, and establishes levy amounts for each taxing district.

The County Assessor's office appraises property both by physical inspection and by market activity. Washington State Law mandates that property must be physically inspected at least once every six years, with annual review and updates based on sales analysis.

Appraisers are required to be accredited by the Washington State Department of Revenue by successfully completing appraisal courses and tests and thereafter completing 15 hours of continuous education every two years. The County Assessor is responsible for verifying that all of the county appraisers are qualified. This office also administers the special assessment and taxation programs including the Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons Exemption, Open Space Taxation Act, and Forest Land Assessment as provided by State law.

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TERRY R. MCLAUGHLIN
Democrat

Terry McLaughlin was appointed to the County Assessor position in January of 2005.

Born and raised in Kelso, Terry has lived in Kelso and Longview most of his life.

As Assessor, he brought assessment information onto the Internet and plans to include interactive mapping information in the future. With five years of prior experience as Geographic Information Manager (GIS), he plays an important role in transitioning to the new assessment software program, promoting more efficient and equitable assessment procedures.

An immediate challenge of the Assessor's office is to manage a smaller staff due to layoffs and successfully integrating new technology.

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR

ASSESSOR'S MISSION STATEMENT

The role of the Assessor is to estimate (appraise or assess) the value of all taxable property. It is our mission to serve the citizens of Cowlitz County by achieving accuracy, equity, and fairness in the estimation of value.

- To achieve accuracy, it is our responsibility to neither under-nor overestimate the value of property.
- To achieve equity, it is our responsibility to see that all properties are assessed in a similar manner.
- To achieve fairness, it is our responsibility to ensure that each owner's share of the total property tax is the same as his or her share of the total value of property.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Assessor's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/assessor

COWLITZ COUNTY AUDITOR

The County Auditor manages four departmental areas; Accounting, Recording, Licensing, and Elections. The County Auditor's office serves as the "check and balance" organization for the county and ensures that expenditures are limited to the approved annual budget. The Auditor and staff audit all claims chargeable to the county and those special purpose districts requesting those services and issue payments for all claims.

As Licensing agent for the Washington State Department of Licensing, the Auditor and staff process motor vehicle and vessel licenses, annual renewals, title applications and transfers.

As the Official Record Keeper for the county, the Auditor and staff record and maintain deeds, real estate contracts, liens, and other written instruments required by law to be recorded in the County. The Auditor's office also issues and maintains marriage licenses and records.

As the Chief Election Official, the Auditor and staff maintain voter registration records and conduct elections for Federal, State, County, Cities and local taxing districts.

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**KRISTINA KEPHART
SWANSON**
Democrat

Serving as Auditor for eight years, Kristina has demonstrated effective leadership through experience, integrity and innovation.

With 15 years in elections management, Kristina embraced election reform securing \$700,000 in federal grants to upgrade election technology, expand voter outreach programs and improve voter accessibility. In recognition of these efforts, she received the Carrie Chapman Catt award by the League of Women Voters.

Her greatest honors include traveling to the Philippines in 2001 as a United States delegate and participating in an international leadership summit in Tokyo, Japan in 2006.

Kristina and Eric, married 15 years, have two sons, Camden and Zachary.

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY AUDITOR

DID YOU KNOW?

- ... One vote beheaded England's King Charles I when 67 voted against and 68 voted yes.
- ... One vote decided that Americans speak English rather than German. (1776)
- ... One vote ratified the Alaska Purchase in 1867, paving the way for eventual annexation of America's largest state.
- ... One vote cast by members of a recently formed political party in a Munich beer hall on November 8, 1923, elected a leader -- an ex-soldier named Adolf Hitler.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Auditor's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/auditor

COWLITZ COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is the administrator of the Superior Court Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office is responsible for keeping the permanent records of all cases filed in Superior Court, assisting the public and legal community in the filing of their cases with Superior Court, keeping records of all proceedings held in court, marking and securing all exhibits entered in jury trials and court hearings, administering oaths, certifying court documents and affixing the seal of the court.

It is also the responsibility of the Clerk's Office to collect and disburse monies for restitution, court costs, fines, child support, trust accounts, garnishments and fees, plus, manage juries for both District and Superior Courts by summoning prospective jurors and processing all juror questionnaires.

The Clerk's Office also acts as one of the only two Passport Agents within Cowlitz County.

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RONI A. BOOTH
Democrat

Roni Booth was elected as Cowlitz County Clerk effective January 1, 2006. She has lived in Cowlitz County for over 30 years and has been with the Clerk's Office since 1987. Throughout the years, she has held almost every position in the office.

She has brought document imaging to a reality. Other goals are to establish the integration of the local criminal justice partners in electronic data exchange and collect the millions of dollars owed to victims.

She is committed to the service of the public and this community and has the experience it takes to be your County Clerk.

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY CLERK

CLERK'S MISSION STATEMENT

Protect the integrity and efficiently maintain the accuracy of the judicial records of the Cowlitz County Superior Court while serving the public, courts and legal community in a courteous, professional and expedient manner.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Clerk's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/clerk

COWLITZ COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Board of County Commissioners is the county's legislative body and chief administrator.

In its legislative role, the Board is responsible for adopting the annual budget and levying taxes. The Board is also responsible for the operations of budgets under the control of appointed department heads and adopting, amending, and repealing all ordinances.

As administrators, the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for management of county buildings, property, vehicles and equipment, approving contracts, policies affecting county employees, and setting budget policy.

In their quasi-judicial capacity, the commissioners hear appeals of decisions made by other county boards or commissions and determine approval for a variety of development proposals, such as shorelines and subdivisions.

The Commissioners serve on a variety of community-wide boards and commissions along with other public officials to help direct public policy. Commissioners are responsible for appointing members to serve on numerous boards.

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3



AXEL SWANSON
Democrat

Axel Swanson: A Genuine Commitment to Leadership

Axel Swanson has a proven record of accomplishment.

Axel Swanson served as a Marine reservist during September 11th, Afghanistan and Iraq. His dedication and integrity earned him many awards; including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Possessing both a Law and Masters Degree, having fought for us while working for the Washington State Attorney General's office and the Washington State Senate, Axel has the experience and skills we need to move Cowlitz County forward.

Please give Axel Swanson the opportunity to be our next County Commissioner.



JEFF RASMUSSEN
Republican

I have been honored to serve you these past eight years and respectfully ask for your vote. I have been a proven and effective leader, having served you as County Commissioner, County Freeholder and Longview Councilmember.

I will continue my longstanding fight for more law enforcement officers on the street. We need to continue to attract new jobs that protect our unique Cowlitz County quality of life. We should not settle on just becoming a bedroom community for Portland-Vancouver. Accomplishing these goals requires a leader you know. It requires someone who shares our values, someone you trust.
www.jeffrasmussen.net

COWLITZ COUNTY CORONER

The County Coroner investigates all sudden, violent, suspicious, and unusual deaths occurring in the county. The County Coroner's purpose is threefold: fully investigate each death and ascertain facts; to prevent similar deaths in the future; and to ensure that a death is not concealed, overlooked or ignored.

The County Coroner certifies and signs the death certificate, locates and notifies the next of kin, and inventories and releases personal property found on the deceased to the next of kin.

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TIMOTHY J. DAVIDSON
Democrat

Timothy J. Davidson is the qualified candidate for Cowlitz County Coroner, with the experience, knowledge, and compassion to assure the office's responsibilities are met.

Tim has 20 years of investigative experience, including six years within the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office as a Deputy Coroner, Autopsy Technician, Chief Deputy, and is the current Cowlitz County Coroner. Tim has the experience and knowledge needed for the office in which he holds.

Tim is a nationally certified Medicolegal Death Investigator, the first in the history of the county. He has advanced training/education in Forensic Investigations, Criminal Justice Administration, and Basic Forensic Pathology.

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY CORONER

DID YOU KNOW?

- # The Coroner is a medico/legal death investigator?
- # The Coroner is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?
- # There are four part-time Deputy Coroners, all trained in forensic investigations, and all nationally certified.
- # An average of 400 cases a year is referred to the Coroner.
- # Autopsies are done by contracted forensic pathologists and cost \$1,200 each.
- # No autopsies are done for most natural deaths.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/coroner

COWLITZ COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The County Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for prosecuting all criminal actions in the Superior, District and Juvenile courts. Besides the Criminal Division, three other departments supervised by the Prosecuting Attorney provide legal service to the county.

The Civil division serves as legal advisor to the County Commissioners and County Officials, representing them if legal action is brought against any county department or official.

The Support Enforcement division is responsible for enforcement of unpaid child support obligations.

The Victim-Witness staff assists victims of and witnesses to crimes committed throughout the county.

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SUE BAUR
Democrat

I have been privileged to serve as your Elected Prosecutor for the last six years. I have prosecuted criminals in this County for almost 20 years.

The numbers of felonies charged has gone up about seventy-five percent in the last 20 years, and violent crimes such as murder are much more frequent. I have focused on establishing an effective working relationship with law enforcement in order to combat those in our community who prey on others.

I wish to continue the fight to make this County a safe place to live and raise children.

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DID YOU KNOW?

- > The Prosecuting Attorney's office is responsible for prosecuting all criminal cases in Cowlitz County?
- > The Prosecuting Attorney's office is legal counsel to all elected officials and departments?
- > The Child Support Division establishes paternity and represents the State in child support modifications and contempt actions?
- > Approximately 30% of a deputy prosecutor's time is spent on truancy cases and hearings?
- > That deputy prosecutors are not only responsible for trials but they handle the appeals as well?
- > The Prosecuting Attorney's office represents the State when a defendant appeals his conviction or sentencing?

For more information on the Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/prosecutor

(The statements above are submitted by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.)

COWLITZ COUNTY SHERIFF

The County Sheriff, by statute, is the "Chief Executive Officer and Conservator of the Peace of the County." The major responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office are general law enforcement services in the unincorporated county, maintenance of order, crime prevention and investigations, traffic control, marine enforcement, serving civil process (papers), and emergency services including search and rescue.

The Sheriff's Office provides for security of the courts and works to coordinate mutual assistance between the federal, state, county, and city public safety offices and organizations.

The Sheriff's Office conducts public awareness programs, informing the public about resisting criminal victimization, drug abuse, alcohol dependency, and responding to local emergencies.

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BILL MAHONEY
Democrat

I have been honored to serve as your Sheriff for nearly eight years now. I am also privileged to work with some of the finest professional and volunteer public servants anywhere. While crime in most jurisdictions has been on the rise or holding fairly level, we have been successful in holding, even lowering our crime rates. But we have more work to do. With your help, and your vote, we will continue our efforts to continue lowering our crime rates, improving our service and making our communities safer. Check out our website at: www.mahoneyforsheriff.com

Thank you, Bill Mahoney

NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office is to work in partnership with the citizens of our communities to preserve the public peace, protect the rights of persons and property, prevent crime, and provide assistance to persons in urgent situations.

We will be courteous and professional in enforcing the laws of Cowlitz County, the State of Washington and the Constitution of the United States.

Working with our citizens, we will strive to provide a professional law enforcement presence to help increase the safety and security of citizens and improve the quality of life in Cowlitz County.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/sheriff

COWLITZ COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is the Chief Financial Agent for Cowlitz County, and is also the Ex-officio Treasurer of all taxing districts within the county and Ex-officio Tax Collector of incorporated cities. The County Treasurer's Office collects and distributes taxes from real estate, personal property, real estate excise, and local improvement districts.

As custodian for all monies for Cowlitz County and local government jurisdictions, the Treasurer receives and distributes all revenues from federal, state and local sources, maintains funds and accounts, reports cash transactions and services long-term debt.

Surplus monies not needed for immediate expenditure are invested by the Treasurer, according to the laws of the state and policies established by the county.

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JUDY 'LYONS' AINSLIE
Republican

Judy has been employed in the County Treasurer's Office for nearly 25 years where she served as Investment Officer and Accounting Department Supervisor for 12 years prior to being elected to the position of County Treasurer in 1998.

Judy has been a lifetime citizen of our local area. She is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, Altrusa of Longview-Kelso and serves on the Executive Board of United Way.

The County Treasurer tracks property taxes, indebtedness, collects county revenues, assists in budget, levy and debt decisions and reports regularly to the junior taxing districts.

NO DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FILED FOR COUNTY TREASURER

DID YOU KNOW?

The treasurer conducts bond sales for schools and other junior taxing districts, holds public auctions to sell surplus county property, issues mobile home moving permits and decals, and provides notary services relating to county business.

The tax collection section responds to questions in areas of property tax and assessment amounts, and excise tax on real estate and mobile home sales, as well as foreclosure action.

The accounting section responds to questions in areas of reporting to the junior taxing districts and a host of other related questions.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Treasurer's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/treasurer

(The statements above are submitted by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.)

COWLITZ COUNTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

The Cowlitz County District Court, a court of limited jurisdiction, hears civil, small claims, criminal, and traffic cases. The District Court hears traffic and misdemeanor criminal citations issued by Washington State Patrol, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources, and the Cowlitz County Humane Society. The court also conducts all court proceedings for the cities of Kelso, Longview, Castle Rock, Woodland, and Kalama.

The court also has jurisdiction to handle civil matters up to \$50,000, domestic violence, harassment orders and small claims.

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DAVID R. KOSS
Nonpartisan

I'm proud to be a member of this community, and a District Court judge since 1994.

Under our constitution, "justice shall in all cases be administered openly and without unnecessary delay." To me, this means three things. First, I seek justice in every case, by hearing both sides and following the law with fairness and equality. Second, I preside in open court. Third, I'm committed to being a good steward of the public's resources.

I often remind people they're accountable for their actions. I'm also accountable – to my oath, to the constitution, and to you. I'm grateful for your support.

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EDWARD J. PUTKA
Nonpartisan

The District Court is the judicial branch that citizens are most likely to encounter in their lifetime. Despite ever-increasing dockets, the Court depends heavily on city and county budgets with almost no help from the state. As such, it is important to operate in an efficient and fiscally sound manner. We take great pride in our Court being a state leader in both technology and finances. Within that framework, I am committed to serving each of you and guaranteeing that every user of our Court receives both a fair process and substantive justice.

For more information on the Cowlitz County District Court's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/districtcourt

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington (Cowlitz PUD) is a publicly-owned municipal corporation governed by a three-member Commission.

Cowlitz PUD provides electrical service within Cowlitz County and operates a domestic water distribution system in the Longview-Kelso urban/suburban area.

The Commissioners determine the operating policies, adopt the budget and establish rates. The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss and conduct the business of the PUD. The Commissioners also hire the utility's general manager, auditor and treasurer.

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2



MARK MCCRADY
Nonpartisan

The affordable electrical rates we currently pay are under assault from East-Coast special interests. We must have experienced leaders to protect our heritage of public power.

Mark McCrady has the experience that matters.

He served 12 years on the Longview City Council, including four years as mayor. When he left office, Longview's utility rates were among the lowest in the state. Mark has also developed the relationships with our state and federal elected officials needed to advocate for the ratepayers of Cowlitz County.

He and his wife of 25 years, Theresa, have two sons, Seth and Kyle.



JOHN M. SEARING
Nonpartisan

John Searing has 18 years of experience in representing you, the public owner of Cowlitz P.U.D. Let me help you with your P.U.D. problems & issues. Cowlitz P.U.D. is known to be one of the finest in the State of Washington. Together, we can go forward to maintain low electric rates and new electric resources. Let us go forward with new vision and energy.

Vote for John Searing, Cowlitz P.U.D. Commissioner District #2.

COWLITZ COUNTY MEASURES

**COWLITZ COUNTY
LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE**

Official Ballot Title: **COWLITZ COUNTY
PROPOSITION NO. 1**

The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 06-119 concerning a proposition funding targeted criminal justice and drug abuse programs in Cowlitz County. This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize imposing a local sales and use tax equal to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) within Cowlitz County for a term of eight years, with proceeds shared by the county and the cities of Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock, Kalama and Woodland, to provide funds to make improvements in Criminal Justice, expand Drug Courts, and enhance Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention and Education programs, under the guidance of a Citizens Oversight Committee. Should this local sales tax be imposed?

Explanatory Statement:

Proposition No. 1, if approved, authorizes adoption of an additional local sales and use tax within Cowlitz County at the rate of two-tenths of one percent for a limited term of eight years. The tax does not apply to sale of motor vehicles or to leases of motor vehicles for the first thirty-six months. All proceeds from the tax would be retained by and expended within Cowlitz County and the cities of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview and Woodland. The tax revenues are dedicated to funding improvements in Criminal Justice aimed at prosecuting drug related crimes, expanding Drug Courts, and enhancing Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention and Education programs. A Citizens Oversight Committee supported by such tax revenues will establish performance-based program measures, monitor success of tax-funded programs and recommend changes as needed. Approval of Proposition No. 1 requires an affirmative vote from a majority of the persons voting.

Complete Text of Resolution:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

In the Matter of Placing a Proposition on the)
2006 General Election Ballot Within Cowlitz County)
As Proposed by Citizens Solutions for a Safe and)
Drug Free Cowlitz County; Such Proposition)
Concerning the Imposition of a Two-Tenths)
of One Percent Sales and Use Tax as Authorized) Resolution No. _____
By RCW 82.14.450, Effective for Eight Years Only)
Unless Reauthorized by the Voters, the Revenues)
From Such Tax to be Used by Cowlitz County and the)
Cities Of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview and)
Woodland for Criminal Justice, Enhanced Drug and)
HOPE Court Programs, and Substance Abuse)
Treatment, Education and Prevention)

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in 2003 recognized that local governments face enormous challenges in the area of criminal justice and public health and provided a means by which a county could seek local revenues in order to better protect the health and safety of its residents and passed Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5659, codified as RCW 82.14.450; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 82.14.450, a county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to county voters at a primary or general election, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax. The rate of the tax under such statute shall not exceed three-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other tax authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The retail sale or use of motor vehicles, and the lease of motor vehicles for up to the first 36 months of the lease are exempt from the tax imposed under this section. One-third of all moneys received from this tax shall be used

COWLITZ COUNTY
LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

solely for criminal justice purposes, which, for the purpose of such tax is defined as additional police protection, mitigation of congested court systems, or relief of overcrowded jails or other local correctional facilities. Moneys received from such tax are retained entirely within Cowlitz County and shared between the county and the cities with 60% being retained by the county and 40% being distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county; and

WHEREAS, Cowlitz County and the cities of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview and Woodland within Cowlitz County need additional financial means to address the dramatic increase in drug abuse and drug-related crime in Cowlitz County and Cowlitz County and the cities within Cowlitz County do not have any other viable means of increasing revenue to meet these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Cowlitz County has received and reviewed the submittals of the Citizens Solutions for a Safe and Drug Free Cowlitz County Committee ("Citizens Solutions"), together with the input of the citizens of Cowlitz County at three public forums held county-wide; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is necessary for the public welfare and in the best interests of the citizens of Cowlitz County to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to fund the programs identified in the Safe Streets Initiative, namely, criminal justice, enhanced drug and HOPE courts, substance abuse treatment and substance abuse education and prevention. In order to achieve the goals of the Safe Streets Initiative, the Board of County Commissioners has further determined that it is necessary to place before the electorate of Cowlitz County the imposition of an additional two-tenths of one percent sales and use tax as authorized under RCW 82.14.450 for such specific enumerated purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Cowlitz County Auditor is hereby requested to place a proposition on the November 7, 2006 general election ballot in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

COWLITZ COUNTY

LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND
SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE

The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 06-_____ concerning a proposition funding targeted criminal justice and drug abuse programs in Cowlitz County. This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize imposing a local sales and use tax equal to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) within Cowlitz County for a term of eight years, with proceeds shared by the county and the cities of Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock, Kalama and Woodland, to provide funds to make improvements in Criminal Justice, expand Drug Courts, and enhance Substance Abuse Prevention and Education programs, under the guidance of a Citizens Oversight Committee. Should this local sales and use tax be imposed?

Yes []

No []

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners declares its intent to enter into an interlocal agreement with participating cities in the County as provided in the Safe Streets Initiative developed by Citizens Solutions for a Safe and Drug Free Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County intends to dedicate one hundred percent of the County's share of revenue generated by the proposed sales and use tax for improvements to Criminal Justice, expanded Drug Courts, and enhancement of Substance Abuse Treatment and Substance Abuse Education and Prevention programs as outlined in the Safe Streets Initiative. Accountability will be established through the formation and support of a Citizens Oversight Committee working in conjunction with the County and participating Cities pursuant to the provisions of the interlocal agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor, and the cities of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview and Woodland.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of September, 2006.

COWLITZ COUNTY
LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE...Continued

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Illicit drug related substance abuse and drug related crime are destroying our families, severely straining our Criminal Justice system, costing us money and reducing our quality of life.

Two-thirds of County jail inmates voluntarily admit to having used illegal drugs. The majority of foster care placements through Family Court involve one or more parents using illegal drugs. This proposal would cost about \$25 per person, per year, or two cents on each \$10 purchase. Food, medicines and motor vehicles sales are exempt by state statute.

Currently 84% of our sales tax revenue goes to Olympia and 16% stays local.

All of this revenue (100%) would stay local, with over half of the funds adding at least 7 new officers Countywide along with additional court personnel who will specialize in Drug Related offenses. Officers will be able to respond quickly to citizen complaints and tips to arrest, jail, and prosecute lawbreakers.

The balance of the funds would be used for education and prevention programs for children creating healthy choices for our youth, treatment opportunities, and oversight.

All revenue will be tracked separately and spending monitored by the Citizens Oversight Committee. They will also monitor program results and recommend changes as necessary.

This initiative is a result of Citizens group that realizes we must do something now!

This tax will automatically end in 8 years.

It's time to take back our County from illegal drug users and criminals.

Let's put in our Two Cents and vote yes now!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

Safe Streets Initiative offers a balanced approach to our community problem of substance abuse. Law Enforcement deals with current users; future users are reduced through education.

The 0.1% tax has been used effectively to offset losses to Criminal Justice Resources from state and federal budget cuts.

At least \$840,000 annually generated for Drug Courts, Hope Court, treatment, and education and prevention programs that have proven track records.

Be part of the solution — VOTE YES!

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Pat Palmer, Joann Crayne, and Don Lemmons

COWLITZ COUNTY
LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE...Continued

STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

In 2005, Cowlitz County commissioners implemented an additional 0.1 percent sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes. That equals over one million dollars in projected annual revenue. Let's make sure current efforts deter crime before throwing more money down the same hole.

As the economy improves, county revenues will increase. Let's not jeopardize our economic upswing by increasing the tax rate.

A Department of Revenue study shows that local sales tax increases actually reduce revenue by reducing local sales. Let's keep sales and jobs in Cowlitz County.

This initiative gives minimal emphasis to prevention and treatment programs. A true substance abuse initiative should make prevention and treatment the focal point of its goals.

Additional funds for improved law enforcement should come from avenues not specifically tied to substance abuse issues.

This initiative provides 100% funding from County funds. Fully funding a substance abuse initiative at the county level without providing for the receipt of funds from other sources may severely impact the county's ability to obtain funds from state and federal grants specifically designated for that purpose.

This initiative would require taxpayers to provide duplicate funding for substance abuse programs, because although county funds would go toward the local problem, citizens of the county would still have to pay for programs offered at the state and federal level.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Directing temporary funds toward the problem of drug related crime is counter-productive. Officers, whose jobs are created by these temporary funds, will have no motivation to eliminate the drug problem, since their jobs will be eliminated after a span of eight years unless the problem of drug related crime continues.

Law enforcement should not come in the form of a temporary pill disguised as a remedy.

Let's find a permanent solution.

Vote no!

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Opposing Resolution Prepared By:

Steve Dragich, Iva Oshaunesy, and Elizabeth (Beth) J. Webb

CITY OF KELSO CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Official Ballot Title:

**CITY OF KELSO
PROPOSITION NO. 1
CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Shall the Charter be amended requiring four of seven council members to be elected at large and assigned to geographic districts for liaison purposes to improve communication between City and government and Kelso citizens; requiring eligibility for said council positions to include residence within the respective district; providing for the filling of vacancies of said council positions; and, deleting the requirements that the Mayor appoint six council members for liaison purposes?

Explanatory Statement:

Proposed amendments to the Charter will assign certain council member positions to respective geographic districts for the purpose of improving communications between City government and Kelso citizens. The amendments will require eligibility for said positions to include residence within the respective district for at least one year prior to the election of that position; and, will provide for the filling of vacancies of said council position. The final change will delete the requirement that the Mayor appoint six council members to act as a liaison between City government and the Kelso citizens.

Complete Text of Resolution:

**CITY OF KELSO
WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 06-926**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO TO SUBMIT TO
THE VOTERS OF THE CITY AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2006
THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CITY OF KELSO CHARTER SHALL BE AMENDED
IN ALL OF THE PARTICULARS SET FORTH HEREIN.**

WHEREAS, the Kelso City Charter has been in effect for over six (6) years;
WHEREAS, it has been in excess of six (6) years since the issue of Charter Amendments has been on a ballot in Cowlitz County, Washington; and,
WHEREAS, since the adoption of the City Charter of March 3, 1993 certain members of the community have expressed a desire to have more direct access to the City Council through the election of Council Members within specified districts; and,
WHEREAS, certain information should be submitted for inclusion in the Local Voters Pamphlet related to this election;
NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. That the following propositions be placed on the ballot of the election to be held on November 7, 2006. (Said propositions are expressed by underlined language to be omitted and showing new language in italics), to wit:
a. Shall the title of the Kelso City Charter be amended to provide as follows:

Article I - Government

- 1.01 Incorporation
- 1.02 Powers of the City
- 1.03 Construction
- 1.04 Intergovernmental Relations
- 1.05 Form of Government

1.01 Incorporation. The municipal corporation now existing and known as Kelso shall remain and continue a body politic and corporate in name and in fact by the name of KELSO.

1.02 Powers of the City. The city shall have all the powers granted to charter code cities by the constitution and general laws of the state and all powers implied hereby, and shall exercise all municipal functions and have all municipal rights, privileges, and immunities except as prohibited by law or by this charter. The enumeration of particular powers by this charter shall not be deemed to be exclusive. The city shall directly or indirectly provide for police, fire and public safety services and for public works and improvements.

1.03 Construction. The powers of the city under this charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the city, and the specific mention of particular powers in the charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general power granted in this article.

1.04 Intergovernmental Relations. The city may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by contract or otherwise, with any governmental entity or agency.

1.05 Form of Government. The government provided by this Charter shall be the Council-Manager form.

CITY OF KELSO

CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

Article II - City Council

- 2.01 General Powers and Duties
- 2.02 Composition, Eligibility, Election and Terms
- 2.03 Mayor Section 2.04 Compensation, Expenses
- 2.05 Prohibitions
- 2.06 Vacancies, Forfeiture of Office, Filling of Vacancies
- 2.07 Judge of Qualifications
- 2.08 Independent Audit
- 2.09 Procedure
- 2.10 Action Requiring an Ordinance
- 2.11 Ordinances in General
- 2.12 Emergency Ordinance
- 2.13 Codes of Technical Regulations
- 2.14 Authentication and Recording, Codification, Printing

2.01 General Powers and Duties. All powers of the city shall be vested in the city council, except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, and the council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law.

2.02 Composition, Eligibility, Election and Terms.

(a) Composition. There shall be a city council composed of seven members to be elected at large. *Four council members shall be assigned to certain geographic districts for liaison purposes to improve communications between City government and Kelso citizens as follows: Position #1 shall be assigned to the "south district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River east to Interstate 5 and Allen Street south to the city limits. Position #3 shall be assigned to the "west district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River west to the City limits. Position #5 shall be assigned to the "east district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between Interstate 5 east to the city limits to the east, north and south. Position #6 shall be assigned to the "north district" which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River east to Interstate 5 and Allen Street North to the City Limits.* The mayor shall be elected as provided in Section 2.03.

(b) Eligibility. Only those registered voters of the city who shall have resided in the city for one year prior to the election shall be eligible to hold the office of council member. *For those council member positions elected from districts, only those registered voters who shall have resided in the respective district for one year prior to the election shall be eligible to hold the office of council member.*

(c) Election. The registered electors of the city shall elect a council of seven members, at large in the following manner. At the election approving this Charter, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall serve. In the event of a tie vote, the election shall be decided by lot. Such lot shall be conducted no later than the second Tuesday after certification of the election.

(d) Terms. Candidates for positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected for a four-year term. In order to stagger the terms of office, candidates for positions 4, 5, 6 and 7 shall be elected for a two- year term. After completion of this initial term, the term of office for positions 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be for four years.

2.03 Mayor. At its first meeting in January following their election to office, the city council shall elect from among its members officers of the city who shall have the titles of mayor and deputy mayor, each of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the council for two years or until removed from the office by a vote of no less than four members of the council. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council, represent the city in intergovernmental relationships, appoint with the advice and consent of the council the members of citizen advisory boards and commissions, present an annual state of the city message, and other duties specified by the council. The mayor shall be recognized as head of the city government for purposes of military law but shall have no administrative duties. It shall be the responsibility of the mayor to appoint the six remaining council members for liaison purposes to improve communications between City government and Kelso citizens to each of six geographical areas of the city as determined by and from time to time modified by the city council. The deputy mayor shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor.

2.04 Compensation; Expenses. The city council may determine the annual salary of the mayor and council members by ordinance, but no ordinance increasing such salary shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of council members elected at the next regular election. The mayor and council members shall be eligible for only authorized expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office.

2.05 Prohibitions.

(a) Holding Other Office. Except where authorized by law, no council member shall hold any other elected public office during the term for which the member was elected to the council. No council member shall hold any other City of Kelso office or City of Kelso employment during the term for which the member was elected to the council. No former council member shall hold any compensated appointive office or employment with the city until one year after the expiration of the term for which the member was elected to the council. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the council from selecting any current or former council member to represent the city on the appointive governing boards of other regional or intergovernmental agencies.

(b) Appointments and Removals. Neither the city council nor any of its members shall in any manner control or demand the appointment or removal of any city administrative officer or employee whom the city manager or any subordinate of the city manager is empowered to appoint, but the council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the city manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

(c) Interference with Administration. Except for the purpose of inquiries, the council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

2.06 Vacancies; Forfeiture of Office; Filling of Vacancies.

(a) Vacancies. The office of a council member shall become vacant upon the member's death, resignation, removal from office or forfeiture of office in any manner authorized by law; in addition, the office of a council member shall also become vacant if any council member fails to attend six scheduled regular and/or special meetings of the council during a calendar year unless on authorized City-related business, which shall be approved by a majority of the council. *In the event that a duly elected council member elected by a district no longer resides within that respective district, said council members may*

CITY OF KELSO CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

serve as a council member until the next election at which time the position shall be deemed vacant.

(b) Forfeiture of Office. A council member shall forfeit that office if the council member:

- (1) lacks at any time during the term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this charter or by law, or
- (2) violates any express prohibition of this charter, or
- (3) is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or
- (4) discloses matters discussed in any executive session, unless authorized by a majority vote of the council.

(c) Filling of Vacancies. A vacancy in the city council shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, at the next regular election following not less than 60 days upon the occurrence of the vacancy, but the council by a majority vote of all its remaining members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office.

2.07 Judge of Qualifications. The City Council shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members. The council shall have the power to set additional standards of conduct for its members beyond those specified in the charter and may provide for such penalties as it deems appropriate, including forfeiture of office. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand. Decisions made by the council under this section shall be subject to judicial review.

2.08 Independent Audit. The city council shall provide for an independent annual audit of all city accounts and may provide for more frequent audits as it deems necessary. Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the city government or any of its officers. The council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding three years, but the designation for any particular fiscal year shall be made no later than 30 days after the beginning of such fiscal year. If the State makes such an audit, the council may accept it as satisfying the requirements of this section.

2.09 Procedure.

(a) Meetings. The council shall meet regularly at least once in every month at such times and places as the council may prescribe by rule. Special meetings may be held on the call of the mayor or two or more members, provided notice of such meetings is given in accordance with State law. Except as allowed by state law, all meetings shall be public, with a portion of the meeting set aside for public comment.

(b) Rules and Journal. The city council shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for keeping a journal of its proceedings. This journal shall be a public record.

(c) Voting. Voting, except on procedural motions, shall be by roll call and the ayes and nays shall be recorded in the journal. Four members of the council shall constitute a quorum. No action of the council shall be valid or binding unless adopted by a majority of those present, except where a majority vote of the entire council is required by State law. Every Council member including the Mayor shall vote. Abstentions are not allowed except for conflict of interest, which shall be determined by the City Attorney.

2.10 Action Requiring an Ordinance. In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provision of this charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the city council shall be by ordinance which:

- (1) Adopt or amend an administrative code or establish, alter, or abolish any city department, office or agency;
- (2) Provide for a fine or other penalty or establish a rule or regulation for violation of which a fine or other penalty is imposed;
- (3) Levy taxes;
- (4) Grant, renew or extend a franchise;
- (5) Regulate the rate charged for its services by a public utility;
- (6) Authorize the borrowing of money;
- (7) Convey or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of any lands of the city;
- (8) Regulate land use and development; an
- (9) Amend or repeal any ordinance previously adopted.

Acts other than those referred to in the preceding sentence may be done either by ordinance or by resolution.

2.11 Ordinances in General.

(a) Form. Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. No ordinance shall contain more than one subject which shall be clearly expressed in its title. The enacting clause shall be "The City of Kelso hereby ordains . . .". Any ordinance which repeals or amends an existing ordinance or part of the city code shall set out in full the ordinance, sections or subsections to be repealed or amended, and shall indicate matters to be omitted by enclosing it in brackets or by strikeout type and shall indicate new matters by underscoring or by italics.

(b) Procedure. At First Reading, the title of such ordinance shall be read and upon request of any person present shall be read in full. Copies of all such proposed ordinances shall be kept available to the public at the office of the city clerk. Ordinances granting a franchise shall be published once each week for three consecutive weeks prior to finally passing such ordinance.

At the Second Reading, the title of such ordinance shall be read, or upon the request of any person present, the clerk shall read the proposed ordinance in full. All persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the proposed ordinance.

After such opportunity for public comment, the city council may pass such ordinance, with or without amendment. Passage of an ordinance requires at least a majority vote in its favor and the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and entered in the public journal of city council proceedings. Every ordinance or resolution passed by the city council shall be signed by the mayor and filed with the city clerk, who shall record the same. When an ordinance fails to pass and a motion is made to reconsider, the vote upon such motion shall not be acted upon before the next meeting of the city council.

(c) Effective Date. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, every adopted ordinance shall become effective 5 days after publication of the summary of the ordinance or at any later date specified therein. All ordinances shall be published promptly.

(d) "Publish" Defined. As used in this section, the term "publish" means to print in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city: (1) The summary of the ordinance thereof, and (2) the places where copies of it have been filed and the times when they are available for public inspection and purchase at a reasonable price.

CITY OF KELSO

CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

2.12 Emergency Ordinance. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the city council may adopt one or more emergency ordinances, but such ordinances may not levy taxes, grant, renew or extend a franchise, regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services or authorize the borrowing of money. An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least five members shall be required for adoption. After its adoption, a summary of the ordinance shall be published and printed as prescribed for other adopted ordinances. Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand repealed as of the 61st day following the date on which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency ordinances. An emergency ordinance shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify.

2.13 Codes of Technical Regulations. The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such an adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that:

- (1) The requirements of Section 2.12 for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of the code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinance, and
- (2) A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the city clerk.

Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the city clerk for distribution or for purchase at a reasonable price.

2.14 Authentication and Recording; Codification; Printing.

- (a) Authentication and Recording. The city clerk shall authenticate by signing and shall record in full in a properly indexed book kept for the purpose all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the city council.
- (b) Codification. Regularly the city council shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all city ordinances having the force and effect of law. The general codification shall be adopted by the council by ordinance and shall be published promptly in bound or loose-leaf form, together with this charter and any amendments thereto, pertinent provisions of the constitution and other laws of the State of Washington, and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as the Kelso City Code. Copies of the code shall be furnished to city officers, placed in libraries and public offices for free public reference and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price fixed by the council.
- (c) Printing of Ordinances. The city council shall cause each ordinance having the force and effect of law and each amendment to this charter to be printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter amendments shall be distributed or sold to the public at reasonable prices as fixed by the council. Following publication of the first Kelso City Code and at all times thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for integration therein. The council shall make such further arrangements as it deems desirable with respect to reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to the provisions of the constitution and other laws of the State of Washington, or the codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.

Article III - City Manager

- 3.01 City Manager - Appointment
- 3.02 City Manager - Removal
- 3.03 Acting City Manager
- 3.04 Powers and Duties of City Manager

3.01 City Manager - Appointment. The council shall appoint a chief administrative officer of the city who shall have the title of "city manager" and who shall serve at the pleasure of the council. The appointment shall require the affirmative vote of no less than four members of the council. The manager shall be chosen solely on the basis of demonstrated qualifications as an administrator with particular emphasis on training and actual experience as a professional municipal administrator. The manager need not be a resident of the state when appointed, but during the tenure of office, the manager shall reside within the city. No councilmember shall be eligible for appointment as manager within two years following the expiration of his/her latest term as councilmember.

3.02 City Manager - Removal. The council may remove the manager from office in accordance with the following procedure:

- (1) By first adopting by the affirmative vote of at least four of its members a preliminary resolution stating the reasons for the manager's removal. This resolution may also suspend the manager from duty. In either case, the manager shall continue to receive a salary until the final resolution of removal is adopted.
- (2) Within fifteen days the manager may file with the council a reply in writing and request a public hearing. This hearing shall be held not earlier than fifteen days nor later than thirty days after filing the request.
- (3) Not less than thirty days after the date of adoption of the preliminary resolution and after such public hearing, if any, the council by the affirmative vote of at least four of its members may adopt a final resolution of removal, at which time the manager shall be paid any balance of salary then due or accrued and an additional amount equal to two months' salary or as specified by an employment contract.

Section 3.03 Acting City Manager. In the event of the absence, suspension, or disability of the manager, or if a vacancy should occur in the office, the council may designate a qualified administrative officer of the city to perform the duties of the office until the manager shall return to duty or until the appointment of a successor.

3.04 Powers and Duties of City Manager. The manager shall be the head of the administrative branch of the city government. The manager shall be responsible to the council for the proper administration of all city affairs under the manager's jurisdiction. Subject to the personnel provisions of this Charter, the manager shall:

- (1) Give general direction to the programs and activities of all city departments and offices under the manager's jurisdiction. The manager shall update and maintain a city policy and procedures manual which shall assist employees in carrying out such programs and activities;
- (2) Serve as personnel officer of the city and administer the city personnel system, unless the council on the recommendation of the manager authorizes the appointment of a personnel officer to administer the system;

CITY OF KELSO

CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

- (3) Appoint, and when the best interests of the city require, remove officers and employees of the city unless otherwise provided by this Charter or by general laws. The manager may authorize the head of a department or office to appoint and remove subordinates in such department or office;
- (4) Prepare the annual budgets, including a five-year capital expense budget, and submit them to the council. Upon adoption of any budget by the council, the manager shall be responsible for its administration;
- (5) Prepare and submit to the council, at the close of each fiscal year, a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city for the preceding year;
- (6) Keep the council informed on the financial condition and present and future needs of the city, making such recommendations as deemed desirable;
- (7) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this charter or required by the council, not inconsistent with this Charter;
- (8) Be authorized to sign such documents as necessary to execute City business, subject to approval by a majority of the city council.

Article IV - Administration

- 4.01 General Provisions
- 4.02 Personnel System
- 4.03 Legal Officer
- 4.04 Planning
- 4.05 City Clerk

4.01 General Provisions.

- (a) Creation of Departments. The city council may establish city departments, offices or agencies in addition to those created by this charter and may prescribe the functions of all departments, offices and agencies, except that no function assigned by this charter to a particular department, office or agency may be discontinued or, unless this charter specifically so provides, assigned to any other.
- (b) Direction by City Manager. All departments, offices and agencies under the direction and supervision of the city manager shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the manager. With the consent of city council, the city manager may serve as the head of one or more such departments, offices or agencies or may appoint one person as the head of two or more of them.

4.02 Personnel System.

- (a) Merit Principle. All appointments and promotions of city officers and employees shall be made solely on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by a valid and reliable examination or other evidence of competence.
- (b) Merit System. Consistent with all applicable federal and state laws, the city council shall provide by ordinance for the establishment, regulation and maintenance of a merit system governing personnel policies necessary to effective administration of the employees of the city's departments, offices and agencies, including but not limited to classification and pay plans, examinations, force reduction, removals, working conditions, provisional and exempt appointments, in-service training, grievances and relationships with employee organizations.

4.03 Legal Officer. The manager, subject to the approval of the council, shall appoint or remove the city attorney who shall be an attorney admitted and qualified to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Washington. The city attorney shall:

- (1) Act as legal advisor to and counsel for the council and manager in matters relating to their official duties;
- (2) Represent the city in litigation in which the city is interested, unless the manager, with the approval of the council, otherwise provides;
- (3) Provide legal opinions on official matters when requested by the council or manager;
- (4) Draft and review for legal correctness, contracts, bonds, franchises, and other instruments to which the city is a party;
- (5) Draft ordinances as requested by city council;
- (6) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the administrative code or otherwise by general laws or ordinances.

4.04 Planning. There shall be a city planner who shall be appointed by the city manager to assist the mayor, city council, and the planning commission as a technical advisor regarding the city's comprehensive plan, zoning, and capital improvements; prepare reports and recommendations relative to annexation review and urban renewal plans and projects; and shall have such further powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by ordinance. The city planner shall have an educational background and practical experience commensurate with the responsibility of the position.

4.05 City Clerk. The city manager shall appoint an officer for the city who shall have the title of city clerk. The city clerk shall give notice of council meetings to its members and the public, keep a journal of its proceedings and perform such other duties as are assigned by this charter or by the council or the city manager, or by state law.

Article V - Financial Procedures

- 5.01 Fiscal Year
- 5.02 Budget
- 5.03 Budget Control
- 5.04 Accounting and Auditing
- 5.05 Fiscal Control
- 5.06 Fees and Collection
- 5.07 Purchases
- 5.08 Competitive Bidding
- 5.09 Bonds and Indebtedness
- 5.10 Sale of Bonds
- 5.11 Taxes and Indebtedness

CITY OF KELSO

CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

5.01 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the city of Kelso shall be set by ordinance not in conflict with general laws.

5.02 Budget. The annual budget shall be prepared and presented to the council by the manager and acted upon in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by general laws. The manager shall attach to each budget such supporting data and explanatory material relating to current operations, capital improvements, and other phases of the budget as may be deemed appropriate.

The manager shall annually prepare and present to the council a program of proposed capital projects for the five fiscal years next succeeding the budget year, with cost estimates relating thereto. This shall be known as the capital expense budget.

5.03 Budget Control. At the beginning of each quarterly period during the fiscal year, and more often if required by the council, the manager shall submit to the council data showing the relation between the estimated income and expenses and actual income and expenses to date. If it shall appear that the income is less than anticipated, the council may reduce or transfer appropriations, except amounts required to meet contractual obligations and for debt service, interest, and other fixed charges, to keep expenditures within cash income.

5.04 Accounting and Auditing. The manager shall be in charge of the administration of the financial affairs of the city and shall be responsible for maintaining proper books and records, for accounting, and for auditing all transactions affecting the city. Reserves for depreciation may be established in accordance with sound accounting practices.

5.05 Fiscal Control. The manager shall appoint a director of finance who shall supervise the receipt, custody, and disbursement of all city funds and perform such other duties as may be required by general laws, this Charter, the council, or the manager.

5.06 Fees and Collection. All fees and other moneys collected by any officer or employee shall belong to the city and shall be paid immediately to the finance director.

5.07 Purchases. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the manager shall be responsible for all city purchasing, but this authority may be delegated to a city purchasing officer.

5.08 Competitive Bidding. All contracts where the total contract is in excess of limits set by State law and all purchase of supplies, material, equipment, or nonprofessional services where the total cost exceeds the limits prescribed by State law shall be subject to sealed bids.

Bids shall be advertised by posting notice thereof in a public place in the city and by not less than one publication in the official newspaper of the city at least ten days prior to the date fixed for the opening of bids. All bids shall be sealed and shall be opened publicly at the time and place designated in the call for bids. The manager, or the manager's representative, shall analyze the bids and provide the council with a summary thereof. Except as hereinafter provided, the contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The council may reject any or all bids.

5.09 Bonds and Indebtedness. The creation of indebtedness and the issuance of all bonds, warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness shall be governed and controlled by general laws.

No contract shall be executed, the payment of which will be financed by the issuance of bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness, until the ordinance authorizing the issuance of such bonds or other evidences of indebtedness shall have taken effect. Any contract executed before such time shall be unenforceable.

5.10 Sale of Bonds. Subject to general laws, bonds, warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness may be sold at public or private sale in any manner and at any price the council deems the best interests of the city require.

5.11 Taxes and Indebtedness. The city shall have all the powers granted to, or not withheld from, charter code cities by the Constitution and laws of the state in the levying and collection of taxes and incurring of indebtedness.

Article VI - Elections

6.01 City Elections

6.02 Initiative and Referendum

6.01 City Elections. The regular city election shall be held at the time established by state law.

6.02 Initiative and Referendum. The powers of initiative and referendum are hereby reserved to the electors of the city. Laws of the State of Washington, as they currently exist or may hereafter be amended or superseded, shall govern the exercise of the powers of initiative and referendum under this charter.

Article VII - General Provisions

7.01 Conflicts of Interest

7.02 Activities Prohibited

7.01 Conflicts of Interest. The use of public office for private gain is prohibited. The city council shall implement this prohibition by ordinance. Regulations to this end shall include but not be limited to: acting in an official capacity on matters in which the official has a private financial interest clearly separate from that of the general public; the acceptance of gifts and other things of value; acting in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official; the use of confidential information; and appearances by city officials before other city agencies on behalf of private interests. This ordinance shall provide for reasonable public disclosure of finances by officials with major decision-making authority over monetary expenditures and contractual matters and, insofar as permissible under state law, shall provide for fines and imprisonment for violations.

7.02 Activities Prohibited.

CITY OF KELSO CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

Complete Text of Resolution, Continued:

- (1) No person shall be appointed to or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office because of marital status, race, gender, age, handicap, religion, country of origin or political affiliation.
- (2) No person shall willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report in regard to any test, certification or appointment under the provisions of this charter or the rules and regulations made thereunder, or in any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of such provisions, rules and regulations.
- (3) No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render or pay any money, service or other valuable thing to any person for or in connection with his or her test, appointment, proposed appointment, promotion or proposed promotion.
- (4) No person shall knowingly or willfully solicit or assist in soliciting any assessment, subscription or contribution for any political party or political purpose to be used in conjunction with any city election from any city employee.

Article VIII - Charter Amendment

8.01 Proposal of Amendment

8.01 Proposal of Amendment. Amendments to this Charter may be submitted to the registered electors by the council or by petition of the electorate in the manner provided by the constitution or laws of the state.

Article IX - Transition/Separability of Provisions

- 9.01 Officers and Employees
- 9.02 Departments, Offices and Agencies
- 9.03 Pending Matters
- 9.04 State and Municipal Laws
- 9.05 Time of Taking Full Effect
- 9.06 Separability.

9.01 Officers and Employees.

- (a) Rights and Privileges Preserved. Nothing in this charter except as otherwise specifically provided shall affect or impair the rights or privileges of persons who are city officers or employees at the time of its adoption.
- (b) Continuance of Office or Employment. Except as specifically provided by this charter, if at the time this charter takes full effect a city administrative officer or employee holds any office or position which is or can be abolished by or under this charter, he or she shall continue in such office or position until the taking effect of some specific provision under this charter directing that he or she vacate the office or position.
- (c) Personnel System. An employee holding a city position at the time this charter takes full effect, who was serving in that same or a comparable position at the time of its adoption, shall not be subject to competitive tests as a condition of continuance in the same position, but in all other respects shall be subject to the personnel system provided for in paragraph 4.02.

9.02 Departments, Offices and Agencies.

- (a) Transfer of Powers. If a city department, office or agency is abolished by this charter, the powers and duties given it by law shall be transferred to the city department, office or agency designated in this charter or if the charter makes no provision, designated by the city council.
- (b) Property and Records. All property, records and equipment of any department, office or agency existing when this charter is adopted shall be transferred to the department, office or agency assuming its powers and duties, but in the event that the powers or duties are to be discontinued or divided between units or in the event that any conflict arises regarding a transfer, such property, records or equipment shall be transferred to one or more departments, offices or agencies designated by the city council in accordance with this chapter.

9.03 Pending Matters. All rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts and legal administrative proceedings shall continue except as modified pursuant to the provisions of this charter and in each case shall be maintained, carried on or dealt with by the city department, office or agency appropriate under this charter.

9.04 State and Municipal Laws. All city ordinances, resolutions, orders, regulations and laws which are in force when this charter becomes fully effective are superseded to the extent that they are inconsistent with this charter .

9.05 Time of Taking Full Effect. The charter shall be in full effect for all purposes on and after the date and time of the first meeting of the newly elected city council.

9.06 Separability. If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2006.

CITY OF KELSO
CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Why should Kelso be divided into wards? North, South, East, and West with three at large council members.

1. Having representatives live in each ward to give us personal representation for our own area will give us easier access to our council.
2. Having council members live in each ward will allow that council member a better understanding of the ward he or she represents so they will know the needs of there ward better.
3. The people will be able to contact the wards council member to relate problems that occurs in the ward easier.
4. By dividing into wards the people of that ward will know the person they need to contact for problems or suggestions.
5. With three at large council members the council will be able to have them for other needs for the city as a whole, and for wards when they need extra help.
6. Wards will also be able to hold individual meetings.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

1. Charter allows all council members to live in one area. Only one area get representation.
2. Charter provides 6 with no clear appointment who does what.
3. Dividing Kelso into 4 defines areas each council member will cover.
4. The amendment allows more. Representative for the ward, and 3 at large representatives.
5. No change.
6. By having members in the area they learn more about the needs to make a more educated choice.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Kathy-Jean Hegwine, Bill Ammons, and Dan Myers

**CITY OF KELSO
CHARTER AMENDMENTS...Continued**

STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

Please vote "NO" to reject the proposed amendment.

The existing Kelso City Government was established by Charter in 1993 by an overwhelming vote of the people.

- 1) The Charter already provides for council representation in each neighborhood.
- 2) The Charter currently provides for six (6) liaison districts: five (5) geographic districts and one (1) representing the Kelso Business Community.
- 3) The amendment would make a larger area for each council person to cover.
- 4) The amendment would eliminate business representation, e.g., West Kelso, Industrial Area and Downtown.
- 5) Neither this amendment nor State Law allows council to perform administrative functions.
- 6) The amendment promises more responsive representation, however, what is likely to result is candidates may be chosen by their address, rather than their ability.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Existing system already provides for representation of all citizens by district.

Amendment would actually increase the coverage area of each council member, making it more difficult for each representative to provide quality coverage.

Numerous neighborhood meetings have been held for more than 25 years.

Since the establishment of the Charter in 1993, fewer than 50 people TOTAL have attended those meetings.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Opposing Resolution Prepared By:

Keith Lawrence, Darrell Frost, and Larry Peterson

**CITY OF CASTLE ROCK
LIBRARY LEVY**

Official Ballot Title:

**CITY OF CASTLE ROCK
PROPOSITION NO. 1**

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2006 for collection in 2007 of \$0.49 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$41,237 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

Explanatory Statement:

The levy is needed to fund the Castle Rock library. Costs of operation of the library have been minimized. There is, however, a budget deficit for next year's operation.

Complete Text of Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-14

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK HAS, BY RESOLUTION DETERMINED TO ASK QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON, TO FUND BY SPECIAL EXCESS LEVY THE FURNISHING OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK AND WILL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL EXCISE LEVY ON REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE HAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK DURING THE YEAR 2007.

WHEREAS, the expected revenues coming to the General Fund of the City of Castle Rock during the year 2007 are inadequate to absorb the expenses of furnishing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock without impairing the obligation of labor and other contracts, and at the same time provide the other essential services to the citizens which are supported by the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, no other funds are available to defray the costs and expenses of the operation and maintenance of the library; and

WHEREAS, to adequately fund the furnishing of library services during the year 2007, the monies will have to come from a source other than General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to raise the required funds by an excess levy if approved by the voters of the City of Castle Rock at the General Election to be held November 7, 2006, and, if passed, levied in 2006 for collection in 2007, now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. That the following proposition be placed on the ballot of the election to be held November 7, 2006, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2006 for collection in 2007 of \$0.49 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$41,237 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

Yes _____

No _____

2. The City Clerk-Treasurer is authorized and directed to present a duplicate original of this Resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor, as supervisor of elections, by no later than September 22, 2005, which is forty-five days prior to the November 7, 2006 State General Election; to request said officer to submit the above proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Castle Rock at an election to be called in conjunction with the November 7, 2006 General Election, and to take all actions and do all things necessary to cause the ballot proposition described above to be submitted properly to the qualified electors of the city at the November 7, 2006 General Election.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Castle Rock and signed by the Mayor on this 28th day of August, 2006.

**CITY OF CASTLE ROCK
LIBRARY LEVY...Continued**

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Castle Rock property owners are asked to approve a one-year levy of 49 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to fund a proposed library budget of \$41,237 for the year 2007. The levy would not impose an additional tax burden, but would replace an identical levy amount that funded the 2006 library budget.

The levy, which would again cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$49.00, would enable the library to remain open 36 hours a week. It includes staff wages and operating costs. Approval would provide continued free public Internet access and informational publications.

Castle Rock's library currently has over 18,000 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 STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Bud May and Marsha Quigley

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3
LEVY LID LIFT**

Official Ballot Title:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3
LEVY LID LIFT**

The Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 2006-04-02 concerning a proposition authorizing the district to exceed the 101% statutory levy limit. This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize the district to exceed the 101% levy limitation on regular property taxes, so that in 2006 it can levy for collection in 2007 the full \$1.35 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation authorized by law, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits, to restore property tax revenues as necessary to meet the maintenance and operation expenses of the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 2006-04-02. Should this proposition be:

Explanatory Statement:

Under Initiative No. 747, regular property taxes for taxing districts are generally limited to a maximum increase of 1% per year, excluding any increase resulting from new construction. When property assessments increase more than 1%, the limitation results in a reduced levy rate. For Fire District 3, the levy rate has dropped from \$1.00 to \$0.94 per thousand.

State law allows a levy increase to exceed the 1% limitation if approved by a majority of the voters. Proposition No. 1, if approved, will authorize District 3 to exceed the 1% limitation and levy property taxes for collection beginning in 2007 at a maximum rate of \$1.35 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. This will replace the current levy of \$0.94 and will increase the current levy on a \$100,000 home by \$41.00 per year to provide revenue to cover inflationary costs, maintain current service levels and needed staff growth.

Complete Text of Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO: 2006-04-02
Revised

A resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District Number 3, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at an election to be held on November 3, 2006 in conjunction with Cowlitz County Fire Protection District Number 3;

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners, it is essential and necessary for the protection of the public health, life and property, that necessary equipment and apparatus be acquired and public services be provided to adequately meet the safety needs of the district's community; and,

WHEREAS, the cost increase of operation has exceeded revenue, because of restrictions imposed by RCW 84.55.010;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District Number 3 submit a proposal to the qualified electors of said district requesting authorization to increase the regular property tax levy to \$1.35 per thousand assessed valuation, which is authorized under RCW 84.55.050.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District Number 3, this 11th Day of July, 2006.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3
LEVY LID LIFT...Continued**

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

November 7th, vote YES for Proposition 1. Doing so will allow Fire District 3 to maintain and improve its current level of service. The passage of Proposition 1 will increase property taxes by \$41.00 per year for a home valued at \$100,000. A \$41.00 increase means a world of difference in the effectiveness of the Fire District.

Currently, approximately 30 volunteers man Fire District 3. The volunteers serve roughly 2000 citizens within 48 square miles. Sometimes the volunteers must travel as much as 40 miles one way to serve over a million visitors to the Mount Saint Helens National Monument. Your YES vote would allow the District to establish a full-time position to respond to the increased needs of the growing community and surrounding area.

Fire Districts have limited funding resources and many small departments have to raise the "Lid" every 2 or 3 years to keep the property tax revenues current with the increase in services and inflation. New Construction and increased property values, while important to the community, cause levies to drop. Contrary to popular opinion, the Fire Department does NOT receive any more money for new homes and increased property values. If Proposition #1 fails, the District will only be allowed to levy an additional \$1,700 over last year. This amount will NOT allow the District to keep pace with inflation increases.

Voting YES on Proposition #1 will help Fire District 3 help you for years to come.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Sandy Baltazar

STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.