Thurston County Official
Local Voters’ Pamphlet
November 3, 2020 General Election

BALLOTS BEGIN ARRIVING OCTOBER 10-16!

VOTING CENTER AT SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE!
DETAILS ON PAGE 78!
Replacement Ballots
If you lost, damaged, or did not receive your ballot, replacement ballots are available. To get a replacement ballot:

By email: elections@co.thurston.wa.us
Online: VoteWA.gov
By phone: 360.786.5408
711 Washington Relay
In person: South Puget Sound Community College Mottman Campus
2011 Mottman Rd SW, Olympia
October 14 to November 3

Due to COVID-19, some services may have changed. Please contact us or visit ThurstonVotes.org for in person hours and locations.

If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advanced to the General Election.

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

The election for President and Vice President is different. Candidates for President and Vice President are the official nominees of their political party.

Notice to Voters:
Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. We do not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.

Important Election Dates:

Military & Overseas ballots mailed: September 18, 2020

Voters' Pamphlets mailed: October 5, 2020

Ballots mailed: October 8, 2020

Ballots available: October 14, 2020

Last day to file a write-in candidacy with no filing fee: October 15, 2020

Last day to register to vote or update your current registration by any means (other than in person). The information must be received by an election official by this day: October 26, 2020

You may register to vote or update your current registration in person only up to 8 p.m. on Election Day at a county Auditor’s Office or Voting Center: November 3, 2020

County Certification: November 24, 2020

Secretary of State Certification: December 3, 2020
Dear voters,

We have been through a lot this year. And no matter who you are, this upcoming election will mean a lot. We expect this election to have the highest voter turnout of any in recent memory. Some election administrators are predicting turnout as high as 90 percent. The August primary had the highest turnout of any primary since the 1960s.

While I am heartened by what high voter turnout means for our democracy, I know the Auditor’s Office has a lot of work ahead to pull off a flawless election. And I know my staff is up to the job.

You can help. Here are a few things you can do:

**Check your voter registration status.** If you have moved, sign onto VoteWA.gov and update your address.

**Please vote early!** Ballots will be mailed on October 8. By returning your ballot as soon as possible, you avoid any delays in the mail. There is normally a tidal wave of ballots around election day. If more people turned in their ballots early, it would help us a great deal.

**Use a drop box!** We have 29 drop boxes across Thurston County, the highest number per capita of any county in Washington State. Drop boxes are a safe and convenient way to make sure your ballot gets back to us on time.

**Please be patient.** Physical distancing requirements because of the COVID-19 pandemic mean that we will be processing ballots slower than usual this year. The deadline to certify the election is three weeks after election day. To keep our staff safe, we will be using much of that time to count all the votes.

Also, we will again be at South Puget Sound Community College’s (SPSCC) Mottman Campus offering Voter Services during the general election. So, if you need a replacement ballot or to register to vote after October 26, go to SPSCC, not the Thurston County Courthouse! You can get a replacement ballot and register to vote using our drive-thru Voting Center. This model will not only protect the health of our election workers, but yours as well. Please help us spread the word.

**Check your ballot status.** Once you’ve returned your ballot, you can check your ballot status at VoteWA.gov to verify your ballot return envelope has been received by elections. If you return your ballot close to election day, it will take a few days to make it through the system.

Lastly, if you have any questions, contact us. Our partners at the Department of Homeland Security have told us there is already a lot of misinformation about elections being spread around. If you see misinformation, let us know. If it’s on a social media platform, we will work with Facebook, Twitter etc. to get it taken down. You can trust the Auditor’s Office to give you accurate information. Call us at 360.786.5408 or go to our website (thurstonvotes.org) if you have questions.

Democracy works best when everyone can participate. Your Auditor’s Office is working long hours to ensure your vote will be counted and that your voice is heard.

Respectfully,

Mary Hall
Thurston County Auditor
Carolina Mejia
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Elected Experience
No information submitted.

Other Professional Experience
I have a strong background in law and finance that will guide my approach to complex issues. Since 2015, I have been a Judicial Assistant for Superior Court. Beforehand, I worked as a Law Clerk/Office Manager in a law firm.

Education
I graduated from Christian Brothers University, where I obtained a B.A. in Business Administration with a minor in Pre-Law.

Community Service
I am currently the Treasurer of the Latino Caucus, a member of Thurston County Democrats and Thurston County Women Democrats. I support and advocate for organizations such as: CIELO, One America, and FESS.

Statement
Residents of Thurston County deserve affordable housing, better protections for our environment, and stronger fiscal responsibility for their hard-earned tax dollars. While the price of housing continues to increase, we see residents and their families leave due to the inability to obtain affordable housing.

Protecting the environment is essential to healthy living and allows us to maintain the natural beauty and charm of our county. Together we will ensure water sources, state parks and wetlands are protected, while allowing a balanced growth in our communities. We can combat the effects of climate change by reducing our carbon footprint and limiting our greenhouse gas emissions.

Taxpayers deserve accountability and transparency regarding what is being funded and deficit spending. Reviewing the budget with departments will assist with accountability and ensuring that budget adjustments are made to address critical needs within each department. By making budget adjustments we should consider the cost effectiveness of each critical need to assist in determining priorities.

The issues affecting our county are complex and they need to be addressed holistically and approached with long-term solutions in mind. These solutions may be challenging, however with support and determination, they can be achieved. I humbly ask for your vote.

Contact
PO BOX 5
Olympia, WA 98507
360.481.3241 info@carolinaforthurston.com
www.carolinaforthurston.com

C Davis
(Prefers Republican Party)

Elected Experience
Neighborhood Association Treasurer.

Other Professional Experience
23 years in Information Technology, Owner of two stores, Landlord, Musician/band leader, Surveyor, Small business owner/entrepreneur.

Education
BA, Mathematics, The Evergreen State College.

Community Service
One on one mentoring, Mathematics Tutor at C.I.E.L.O., Volunteer at Timberland Regional Library, Confirmation Teacher at Church.

Statement
Over 27 years, I have watched crime skyrocket, fueled by drug abuse and enabled by weak leaders. I have seen taxes and fees rise to an unsustainable level such that senior citizens, the disabled and the struggling young can no longer afford keep or buy a home.

I’m against building a new courthouse! It will cause a massive tax burden on working people and is unnecessary. We must fix the existing courthouse and maintain it properly. We must also balance the budget, with spending cuts and growth that will expand the tax base without increasing taxes.

I will streamline building permits. Making permits easier and faster to obtain will create more affordable housing, allowing better rural development and create jobs. I will prioritize property rights. Remove excessive regulations, which make property unusable. De-list the pocket gopher, it’s not endangered. End this pocket gopher nonsense.

To preserve the Environment we must eliminate homeless camps. They destroy our pristine wetlands, woods, and salmon habitat. Camps are a source of crime and disease. Using the Marysville model, we will send camp residents to jobs, labor based drug treatment or into the legal system. I will fund more sheriffs and corrections officers.

Contact
2103 Harrison Ave NW PMB 2-164
Olympia, WA 98502
ElectCDavis@gmail.com
www.ElectCDavis.com
Register in person until 8 p.m. on Election Day. But why wait? Skip the line. Update your registration today.

Log on to VoteWa.gov to get started.

You can register to vote at the drive-thru voting center until 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you have questions or need assistance, contact the Auditor’s Office at:

• 360.786.5408
• elections@co.thurston.wa.us
• Drive-thru Voting Center
  South Puget Sound
  Community College
  Mottman Campus starting
  October 14
  (see pages 78-79 for more information).

#BeReadyThurston
ThurstonVotes.org

Election security is important.

Did you know:

• All ballots are handled in teams of two?
• The ballot processing center and the voting center are monitored by video cameras 24/7?
• Election workers are trained by WA State Patrol to identify fraudulent signatures?

How else are we keeping elections safe? Find out. Visit us at ThurstonVotes.org

TCAuditor
@TCAuditor
#BeReadyThurston

Thurston County Elections
Use a drop box!

Drop boxes are the best way to ensure your ballot will get to us on time! Drop boxes are securely locked and emptied by teams of two trained elections officials.

Boxes are open 24/7 beginning October 8 and close promptly at 8 p.m. on November 3, Election Day.

Drop boxes are the most direct and secure way to return your ballot!

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Lacey Area
Lacey Fire 3, Station 34........................ 8407 Steilacoom Rd SE
Lacey Fire 3, Station 35........................ 3701 Willamette Dr NE
Lacey City Hall ........................................ 420 College St SE
Lacey Post Office ...................................... 5815 Lacey Blvd SE
Martin Village ....................................... 5600 Martin Way E
Woodland Retirement & Assisted Living....... 4532 Intelco Lp SE

Olympia Area
Church of the Good Shepherd....................... 1601 North St SE
Crain’s Office Supply ................................ 1006 4th Ave E
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church ......................... 1515 Harrison Ave NW
Haggen NW Fresh ..................................... 1313 Cooper Point Rd SW
Olympia City Hall ...................................... 601 4th Ave E
The Evergreen State College ....................... 2700 McCann Plaza Dr NW
Thurston County Courthouse ....................... 2000 Lakeridge Dr SW
South Puget Sound Community College .......... 2011 Mottman Rd SW

Tumwater Area
McLane Black Lake Fire, Station 95 ........... 5911 Black Lake Blvd SW
Tumwater Timberland Library ..................... 7023 New Market St SW
Tumwater School Administration .................. 621 Linwood Ave SW

South County Area
Bucoda ...................................................... 103 S Main St
Tenino School District Administration ........... 301 Old Hwy 99 N

Southeast County
Lackamas Elementary .............................. 16240 Bald Hill Rd SE, Yelm
Nisqually Tribal Admin Bldg ....................... 4820 She Nah Num Dr SE
Rainier City Hall ....................................... 102 Rochester St W
Yelm School Administration ....................... 110 1st St N

Southwest County
Grand Mound Center ............................... 19949 Old Hwy 99 SW, Rochester
Littlerock Fire 11 ...................................... 10828 Littlerock Rd SW, Olympia
Rochester Fire 1, Station 3 ......................... 18346 Albany St SW

Steamboat Island
Griffin Fire 13, Station 1 ......................... 3707 Steamboat Lp NW

North County
South Bay Fire 8, Station 81 ....................... 3506 Shincke Rd NE
South Bay Fire 8, Station 83 ....................... 5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE

See the map at ThurstonVotes.org
Find the closest one to you today!
5 Tips to Ensure Your Ballot is Counted

1. **Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.** If it’s Election Day and you haven’t mailed your ballot, **put it in one of our 29 drop boxes!**

2. **You must return your ballot in the declaration envelope.** If you only return the security sleeve, we have no signed declaration and your ballot won’t be counted.

3. **Sign your voter’s declaration on the outside of the envelope.** If you don’t sign, we will send you a form. If you don’t return the signed form, we can’t count your ballot.

4. **Make note of how you signed when you registered and sign that way on your return envelope.** This is what we use to verify your signature. If your signature has changed, contact us. **Don’t sign someone else’s voter’s declaration** or have anyone else sign for you, even a family member. **We will challenge the signature.** If we challenge your signature, we send a form asking you to sign a voter’s declaration and return it to us. If the letter matches the signature on the return envelope, we can count it.

5. **Power of attorney cannot be used to sign someone else’s ballot.** If you can’t sign, **make any mark on the signature line and have two witnesses sign.**

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**Cybersecurity @ Home**

- **Use unique and complex passwords**
  - If thieves compromise your accounts, they will often use the same information to access others.

- **Update software**
  - Software updates provide the latest security updates.

- **Never use public wifi to shop or access finances**
  - The mall or the airport are not the best places to provide sensitive information.

- **Don’t be lulled into a false sense of security**
  - Software or other protective measures are not fool-proof.

- **Slow down and think before clicking.**
Elected Experience
Currently Thurston County Commissioner and was elected as Thurston County Sheriff for 20 years.

Other Professional Experience
Served 37 years in law enforcement. Served in US Army from 1965-68 and remains a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Education
Graduate of Yelm HS. Attended Blackhawk Technical College, University of Wisconsin and University of Virginia. Graduated from the National FBI Academy.

Community Service
An inaugural board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County and TOGETHER!, remains an active participant of Yelm and Rainier Dollars for Scholars and Yelm Lions. Served as past president for Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Statement
Now more than ever, we need less partisan politics and more common sense to address the complex issues facing our community, businesses and families. My family has been an active part of Thurston County for seven generations, and we believe in the future of this community.

Working on behalf of the citizens of Thurston County, I want to continue progress towards reducing regulatory road blocks for small businesses and home builders and improved access to county services for the public. I was the only county commissioner to vote against new property taxes and the proposed $400 million courthouse in downtown Olympia.

Since this voter’s pamphlet was required to be written in May, it would have been irresponsible to project what lies ahead as we begin to recover from this pandemic. One thing is for sure, we need a balance between economic growth and the health and welfare of our citizens.

I am honored to serve you, and it will take your support to keep me in office representing your voice. Let’s ensure this is the best place to live and work for generations to come. I ask for your vote and support. Thank you!

Contact
15739 Topaz Drive SE
Yelm, WA 98597
360.791.0901  gary@votegaryedwards.com
www.votegaryedwards.com

Elected Experience
Elected to Lacey City Council in 2013, re-elected in 2017. Council Committees: Transportation, Utilities, Community Relations & Public Affairs. Represents the City on the regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Lacey South Sound Chamber.

Other Professional Experience
Former Top-Secret Clearance, US military, work in nuclear facilities. POST (Police Officer Safety Training) certified.

Education

Community Service

Statement

Innovation. I’ve made a career of supporting entrepreneurs, and I want to bring that same spirit to county government. From better and more effective service from key departments to whole new ways of thinking on public policy, we must constantly innovate, or be left behind. I say let’s move forward.

Inclusion. 2020 has already proven that we’re all in this together. All races. All genders. One community, one shared future. County government will benefit from a focus on diversity and inclusion.

Infrastructure. This is the primary function of government, and what fuels the local economy. Invest wisely, and we all share in the return. From transportation to flood mitigation, our investments will impact generations to come. Let’s invest wisely.

I place the health and safety of our community above all else. Thurston County needs leadership committed to our working families and local businesses as we rebuild from the devastating effects of the current crisis. It’s time for a change.

Contact
7701 Whitney Ave NE
Lacey, WA 98516
www.SteadmanForThurstonCounty.com
Chris Stearns  
(States No Party Preference)

**Elected Experience**
Thurston Public Utility District Commissioner, 2009-2020

**Other Professional Experience**
- Fisheries Biologist - NW Indian Fisheries Commission, and Chehalis & Squaxin Island Tribes
- Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife - Forage Fish Program, Marine Resources Division
- WDFW - Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory & Assessment Program
- House Legislative Session Aide Intern, 22nd Legislative District Manager - Family owned organic dryland grain farm business, Butte, ND.

**Education**
- Western Washington University - Geology Graduate Program
- Harvard University – Geology & Hydrology Studies
- The Evergreen State College - B.S., Natural Sciences

**Community Service**
- Cooper Point Neighborhood Association, Board Member
- Thurston Conservation District Associate, Board Member
- Thurston County Groundwater Advisory, Community Member

**Statement**
As your Commissioner, I am continuing my commitment to providing safe, reliable, affordable water service to residents and businesses while promoting fiscal responsibility and protecting sustainable water supplies.

Having lived here for 44 years, I care about the people and the environment, and our access to healthy groundwater supplies, a vital resource, that must be protected for the benefit of all Thurston County residents!

Thurston PUD has saved money and increased energy efficiency by upgrading the infrastructure and shrinking our carbon footprint. During my two terms, this community owned nonprofit utility has grown to serving nearly 10,000 customers. I believe future growth and development will be built on group water systems rather than single exempt wells. The public realizes what is at stake with the mismanagement of our water resources. The warning signs are already present, higher perched aquifers have been reaching depletion in late summer. A coordinated approach is needed to best maintain sustainable intact groundwater.

It is apparent to me that fiber optic broadband is a necessary utility. It is used for employment, education, entertainment, and emergency response! When ready, and fiscally able, our PUD can expand to successfully provide wholesale fiber to homes and businesses.

**Contact**
PO Box 1003  
Olympia, WA 98507  
360.866.4421  
chris.stearns1889@gmail.com
Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.

**Park & Vote (Lot A)**
Ballot drop box located here.
Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office.

Dr. Nels Hanson Way S
Crosby Loop
Mottman Road SW

Guide to Drive-Thru Voter Services

1. All voters enter the Mottman Campus from Crosby Boulevard (up the hill from 7-11). Then, proceed along Crosby Loop to Voter Services (1) where Elections staff will take your order.

2. When instructed by staff, proceed along the loop to ballot delivery (2).

3. From there, you may proceed to the park & vote lot (3) where a drop box is available. Then, exit onto Mottman Road.

Arrows Show Traffic Flow

Accessible Voter Services Only

Voters who need accessibility services proceed to the accessible voting lot.

Hours of Operation
October 14 – October 30
Daily (Mon-Fri)
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 31
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday, November 2
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Mottman Campus
2011 Mottman Rd SW
Olympia, WA 98512

SPSCC
South Puget Sound Community College

Mottman Campus
2011 Mottman Rd SW
Olympia, WA 98512
Fire Protection District No. 3 (Lacey)
Proposition No. 1
Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Lacey Fire Protection District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 876-07-20 concerning a proposition to restore the District’s regular property tax levy. This proposition would, if approved, restore the 2021 regular property tax levy to $1.50/$1,000 assessed value and set the limit factor by which the levy may increase in 2022 through 2026 at 106%. New revenues would be used for limited fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services purposes, including maintenance, operation and replacement costs. The maximum permitted levy amount for 2026 would be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved
Rejected

For Committee Contact:
LFD.3 Citizens for Public Safety
360.915.9299
judylw@comcast.net

Against Committee Contact:
No information received

Explanatory Statement

Proposition I will restore the District’s regular property tax levy to the maximum statutory rate of $ 1.50 per $1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2021 and set the limit factor for calculating annual levy rates at up to 106% for the next five years (2022-2026). The 2026 levy amount will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits. The voters previously restored the District’s regular property tax levy rate to $1.50 in 2014. Because of the statutory 1 % limitation on property tax increases, the District’s current levy rate in 2020 is under $1.43. Population growth, demands for emergency response, and increasing operating costs are challenges to District service delivery. The District’s current levy rate is inadequate to support continuing levels of service. Approval would allow the District to maintain adequate levels of emergency fire protection and prevention and emergency medical services; repair or replace fleet vehicles; and support an operational reserve account as recommended by the State Auditor. The full amount authorized may not be levied if the District receives adequate funds from other sources.

Explanatory Statement prepared by P. Stephen DiJulio -Foster Garvey P.C., special counsel to the District.

Argument For
Why Approve Proposition 1?
Seconds count when you call for help. No matter the time of day or day of the week, the responders of Fire District 3 (FD3) must be prepared to answer your call in a professional, compassionate, and timely manner. This takes continuous training, up-to date equipment, and adequate facilities. And all this takes adequate funding. The citizens of Fire District 3 are fortunate to have an excellent staff of professional and volunteer responders ready and able to answer your call. Response times are tracked and available for public review on the District’s website because seconds count.

Innovative changes are necessary to address the increase in the number (about 15,000 in 2019) and type of calls for service. The majority are medical emergencies. Staffing an aid car for high call volume areas, seeking grants to support new programs, working on fall prevention and “Hands-only CPR” training, and continuing fire prevention programs must continue. FD3 is constantly looking for ways to ensure and maintain lifesaving response times.

When voters approved a similar measure in 2014, it allowed FD3 to keep all 4 fire stations staffed; improve the volunteer station on Yelm Highway; and increase collaboration with partners to ensure the safety of citizens.

Prop 1 is not a new tax. Approval restores the previously authorized tax level. Your approval is needed to ensure adequate support for lifesaving responses. Please join us and approve prop 1. Thank you for voting.

For statement submitted by: LFD.3 Citizens for Public Safety
Dave Ribacchi, Barbara Sovde, and Judy Wilson

Jurisdiction statements are printed as submitted and not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office.
Come Visit Us at South Puget Sound Community College Mottman Campus!

2011 Mottman Rd SW
Olympia, WA 98512

Hours of Operation

Daily (Mon. - Fri.).............................8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 31 ......................10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday, November 2 ........................8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3 ....................8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The Elections Office has temporarily relocated from Building 1 of the Thurston County Courthouse to South Puget Sound Community College Mottman Campus. The location allows us to serve the voters of Thurston County while maintaining social distancing guidelines and best practices. See the map on pages 78-79.

Questions? Contact us!
360.786.5408 711 Washington Relay
elections@co.thurston.wa.us

Accessible Voting

Accessible Voting is available with The ExpressVote™. The ExpressVote™ is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, or limited mobility to vote independently and with privacy.

Voters are welcome to visit us at the SPSCC Mottman Campus or call us to set up an appointment at 360.786.5408 711 Washington Relay.