Thurston County Voting Center
April 4 - April 24 (Election Day)
8am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm on Election Day.

You can:
• Register to vote - new residents must register in person by Monday April 16.
• Request a ballot.
• Update registration for future elections.
• Vote using the AutoMARK™ accessible voting machine.
• Drop off your ballot.

Contact us:
In person: 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg 1 Rm 118, Olympia, WA 98502
Phone: 360.786.5408  711 Washington Relay
Email: Elections@co.thurston.wa.us
Web: ThurstonVotes.org

If mailing your ballot, use a $.50 first class stamp. It must be postmarked by Election Day.

Get connected with the Auditor’s Office!
Find us online for important election information and updates all year long at ThurstonVotes.org

What is the AutoMARK™?
The AutoMARK™ is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, illiteracy, or limited mobility to vote independently and secretly.

Cast your vote with the AutoMARK™ at Olympics West Senior Living Community!
Monday April 16, 2018, 1 pm - 2 pm
929 Trosper Rd SW, Tumwater
City of Tumwater
Initiative No. 1
An Act Relating to the Regulation of Consumer Fireworks

Ballot Title
Tumwater Initiative No. 1 concerns the right to buy, possess and discharge consumer fireworks. This measure would permit the sale, possession and discharge of those fireworks allowed by state law (repealing Ordinance number O2016-034), restrict the number of permits issued to sell fireworks, set the dates of sale of fireworks from June 28 through July 4th, and allow the City Council to restrict (but not eliminate entirely) the hours of fireworks use during periods of extreme fire danger.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Explanatory Statement
This Initiative allows the sale, possession and use of consumer fireworks. It repeals the ban enacted by Ordinance No. O2016-034, on December 6, 2016 after passage of an advisory ballot measure supporting a ban on the sale, possession and discharge of consumer fireworks.

The Initiative amends the previously enacted Tumwater Municipal Code Chapter 8.30, which allowed the sale, possession and use of fireworks, by 1) allowing the retail sales of consumer fireworks to begin each year on June 28, three days earlier than previously allowed; 2) reducing the maximum allowable number of retail sales permits from one permit for each two thousand residents to one permit for each four thousand residents; and 3) eliminating the fire chief’s authority to temporarily restrict or prohibit the discharge of fireworks in the event of extreme fire danger and, instead, requiring the fire chief to notify the City Council when three specific thresholds are met after which the Council may restrict, but not eliminate entirely, the hours of use.

For Statement
Please join over 2,000 of your Tumwater neighbors who signed petitions to get Proposition 1 on the ballot and Vote Yes to overturn the misguided ban on state-approved fireworks on July 4th. Vote Yes to restore that long standing tradition of allowing Tumwater residents to safely celebrate the 4th of July with State-approved fireworks. It provides a safer, legal alternative to dangerous bottle-rockets and firecrackers.

With 4 tribal reservations within a short distance from our city limits, there won’t be any shortage of illegal fireworks being used in Tumwater every July 4th. Vote Yes to provide residents a legal alternative to illicit fireworks sales from outside the community.

Vote Yes to allow local non-profit community groups, like the Tumwater Lions Club which has raised funds through fireworks sales since 1961 to continue their charitable work in the Tumwater community. Vote Yes to keep private family backyard celebrations on the 4th of July legal in Tumwater. Let’s not criminalize family fireworks celebrations just because many people choose to bring illegal fireworks into Tumwater.

Vote Yes to preserve this cherished family tradition and save the joy it brings to children of all ages! Vote Yes to enable local non-profit and community groups like the Tumwater Lions Club, Search & Rescue and local youth sports teams to raise money for their programs. Vote Yes for the common-sense approach to keeping dangerous illegal fireworks out of Tumwater by providing a safer, legal alternative. Make the smart choice, please vote Yes!

Citizens for Legal Fireworks: Jack Whittenborn (360.407.8100, jackdavid@aol.com), Dave Nicandri, Karen Gower

Rebuttal of For Statement
Signatures were gathered using high pressure tactics by paid signature gatherers. “Safe” fireworks still cause numerous injuries and fires, threatening our peace and safety. Banning fireworks simplifies enforcement and encourages voluntary compliance. Violations are handled like traffic tickets; only reckless behavior is criminal. This is not about charitable work; it is about corporate profits. Nonprofit organizations in Olympia and Lacey found other funding sources. So will Tumwater groups. Protect your pets. Vote no!

Against Statement
Tumwater citizens voted to ban fireworks in 2016. That ban takes effect this year. This initiative, backed by the fireworks industry using paid signature gatherers, is an attempt to reverse that vote. It is costing taxpayers over $100,000 to revoke on an issue we already decided.

If passed, this initiative would prevent the city council and fire chief from banning fireworks even under extreme fire hazard conditions such as happened in 2015. We were fortunate that a major firestorm did not occur. Let’s not take that risk again.

The current ban does not apply to the public display of fireworks by licensed technicians. Our city will continue to sponsor a magnificent public fireworks show for all to celebrate the holiday. The ban also does not apply to small trick and novelty fireworks such as party poppers, snappers or toy paper caps.

Shocks and explosions from fireworks rock our community and disrespect the rights of fellow citizens to live in peace. Our brave veterans suffering from PTSD feel they have returned to the battlefield. Indiscriminate use of fireworks scares children and animals, damages property, litters our streets, pollutes our water, and causes fires and injuries. Nonprofit fundraisers will find other ways to raise money for their worthy causes. The brief excitement of detonating fireworks is not worth the significant cost to our community. Don’t be fooled by patriotic arguments. This is about corporate profits, pure and simple. To keep the ban, vote no.


Rebuttal of Against Statement
In 2016, Tumwater voters were presented with a misleading ballot where Yes meant no and no meant Yes. In this election Yes means Yes. The proposed ordinance specifically allows for extreme restrictions on fireworks due to drought conditions. We respect our veterans, many who feel they fought for the freedom to celebrate with fireworks. The valuable programs provided by the nonprofit groups cannot be replaced by other fundraisers. Protect your rights. Vote Yes.

For and Against Statements are the author’s opinions & have not been checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office.