

Official Thurston County

LOCAL VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Special Election, February 13, 2018



Thurston County Elections
City of Olympia
Olympia School District
Yelm Community Schools

Thurston County Voter:

Whether you feel that voting is a privilege, a right, a responsibility, a civic duty, or something else entirely; your local library can help you prepare for the February 13, 2018 Special Election.

Your local library is so much more than books, we are:

- A community resource where you can find unbiased, useful, and easily accessible information on current topics, research your candidates, and learn about ballot measures.
- Your go-to place whether you need to use a computer to register to vote online, pick up a mail-in application, or get directions to the Thurston County Courthouse where you can register in person.
- A source for your state and local voting guides, a place to make arrangements for accessible voting, and we can direct you to the nearest ballot drop box as well.

We strive to provide useful resources that cover timely information so your voice can be heard. In this, and every election, we encourage you to make your vote count.

Cheryl Heywood

Library Director
Timberland Regional Library

Timberland Regional Library District provides for the entertainment, information, and lifelong learning needs of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county residents at 27 community public libraries and six library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes, timber tax, fundraising efforts of TRL Friends of the Library, and generous donations by individual supporters. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's programs may contact the library one week in advance. All Timberland Programs are free and open to the public. For more information visit TRL.org

Thurston County Voting Center

January 24, 2018 - February 13, 2018 (Election Day)
8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm on Election Day.

You can:

- Register to vote - new residents must register in person by February 5, 2018.
- 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

Email: Elections@co.thurston.wa.us

Web: ThurstonVotes.org

If mailing your ballot, use a \$.50 stamp. It must be postmarked by 8pm on Election Day.

Get connected with the Auditor's Office!

Find us online for important election information and updates all year long at ThurstonVotes.org



Thurston County
Auditor's Office



@TCAuditor



@ThurstonAuditor

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Drop boxes are open 24 hours a day and close promptly at 8pm on Election Day. It's free! **No stamp required.**

Olympia

McLane Black Lake Fire 95	5911 Black Lake Blvd SW
Haggen NW Fresh	1313 Cooper Pt Rd SW
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	1515 Harrison Ave NW
Crains Office Supply	1006 4th Ave E
South Bay Fire 8/83	5112 Boston Harbor Rd NE
South Bay Fire 8/81	3506 Shincke Rd NE
Church of the Good Shepherd	1601 North St SE
Thurston County Courthouse	2000 Lakeridge Dr SW
The Evergreen State College	2700 McCann Plaza Dr NW
Olympia City Hall	601 4th Ave E

Lacey

Lacey City Hall	420 College St SE
Lacey Post Office	5815 Lacey Blvd SE
Woodland Retirement Center	4532 Intelco Loop SE

Tumwater

Tumwater Timberland Library	7023 New Market St SW
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Yelm

Yelm Schools Administration	110 1st St N
Lackamas Elementary	16240 Bald Hill Rd SE

Rainier

Rainier City Hall	102 Rochester St W
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Tenino

Tenino School Administration	301 Old Highway 99 N
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Bucoda

Across from Liberty Market	103 S Main St
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City of Olympia

Proposition No. 1, Sales and Use Tax Increase for the City of Olympia Home Fund

Only voters residing in the City of Olympia may vote on this measure.

Ballot Title

The City Council of the City of Olympia adopted Resolution No. M-1912 concerning a sales and use tax increase pursuant to RCW 82.14.530. If approved, this proposition would authorize the City to impose an additional sales and use tax of 0.1%, as permitted by state law. The City's proceeds shall be used for the Olympia Home Fund to construct affordable and supportive housing and housing-related purposes, including mental and behavioral health-related facilities, and for costs for operations, maintenance, delivery, and evaluation of mental health programs and services, or housing-related services, as allowed by RCW 82.14.530.

Should the proposition be:

- Approved
 Rejected

For Statement

Homelessness is a growing problem in Olympia that afflicts families with children, people with disabilities, people with untreated mental illness and addiction, the elderly, and young people. Homelessness also undermines the vitality of Olympia's downtown, drives up costs for emergency services, and creates environmental problems in unsanctioned encampments.

A one-tenth of one percent increase in the sales tax will generate over \$2 million per year to create a Home Fund that can create safe, affordable homes for Olympia's most vulnerable people. For taxpayers, this means adding one penny to a ten dollar purchase.

The Home Fund will be separate from the city's general fund, and available only to create homes, shelter, and services that help people get off the street and out of the woods. A citizen advisory committee will review annual applications for this funding, and the City Council will make final decisions on what is funded. City funds will leverage county, state and federal funding sources, which are more likely to award significant funding to projects that are supported by the City's financial commitment. All of the homes funded by this levy must commit to serving previously homeless, low-income people for a minimum of 30 years.

At a time when rents are rising rapidly and income inequality is increasing, the need for action is urgent. Please vote yes to prevent the growth of homelessness, and to reduce the suffering of children and adults who struggle against cold, rain, and continuing trauma.

Citizens for Olympia's Home Fund, Phil Owen
(phil@walkthurston.org, 360.259.2005), Jill Severn, Cheryl Selby

Rebuttal of Statement For

The definition of insanity is doing more of the same and expecting different results. Throwing more money at a problem will not make that problem go away.

We want to reduce homelessness in our community. This additional new regressive tax will not achieve this result. Much of your tax dollars will be squandered on overhead, salary and other expenses and won't help solve the problem. We can do better. Vote no in February.

Explanatory Statement

Proposition 1 authorizes the City to raise funds by increasing the sales and use tax not to exceed one-tenth of one percent. Pursuant to RCW 82.14.530, the increased tax shall be used for housing and housing-related services, including mental and behavioral health programs and facilities. Monies collected shall be used for constructing affordable housing, providing housing-related services, or constructing mental and behavioral health-related facilities, or funding operations and maintenance costs of such facilities.

Population groups eligible for assistance include persons with mental illness, veterans, senior citizens, homeless or at risk of being homeless, families with children, unaccompanied homeless youth or young adults, persons with disabilities, or domestic violence survivors, all of whom must qualify with income that is at or below sixty percent of the median income in Thurston County.

A portion of monies collected must be used for the operation, delivery, or evaluation of mental and behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing-related services. It is estimated that the sales and use tax increase may generate \$2,300,000 per year for these purposes.

Against Statement

There is a long and repetitive history in the City of Olympia promising to "solve" a problem with higher taxes. Mysteriously the problems are never "solved." Typically the problem gets worse, and the tax dollars get diverted over time into other uses. This proposed tax is no different. There are many good reasons to vote no. Here are just a few:

First, *this tax does not expire* (no sunset clause). Advocates maintain the money will help solve or address the "homeless" problem, but in fact it will only increase the cost of living (or shopping) in Olympia and the homeless crisis will not improve.

Secondly, there is *no guarantee that these funds will be used as promised*. No elected official can guarantee this. At best, this tax will allow the city to divert funding from current social service programs. At worst, these additional funds will become an insider subsidy for the politically connected organizations to spend your tax dollars. Very few will be "helped" along the way, but the only guarantee is your tax dollars will subsidize politically connected organizations. Advocates refuse to measure success by reducing the number of homeless in the city.

Finally, there is *no guarantee these funds will be spent in Olympia*. The Olympian has reported that these funds could be used outside Olympia. If Olympians are paying these taxes, these taxes should be spent in Olympia. This tax will not solve the Homeless crisis, but it will increase the cost of living in Olympia.

People Against Wasteful Spending and Taxes, Glen Morgan
(glenmorgan89@gmail.com, 360.791.6556), Robert Hill

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The Home Fund is a key element of a broader strategy to reduce homelessness and is not a stand-alone solution. The Home Fund will benefit the most vulnerable population experiencing homelessness.

This funding will not be part of the city's general fund. State law limits its use to low-income housing and mental health services. Some housing may be built outside the Olympia city limits if it is less costly.

Olympia School District No. 111

Proposition No. 1, Technology and Capital Projects Replacement Levy

Only voters residing in Olympia School District may vote on this measure.

Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Olympia School District passed Resolution No. 564 concerning a proposition to finance technology and capital projects. This proposition would authorize the District to modernize District facilities by acquiring, developing and implementing computer technology systems, and facilities for operations and instruction and capital administrative expenses, and other capital project expenditures to improve safety, by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, all as provided in Resolution No. 564 on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2019	\$0.87	\$8,178,296
2020	\$0.87	\$8,575,771
2021	\$0.85	\$8,895,271
2022	\$0.89	\$9,776,618

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
 No

For Statement

Yes! Renew Our Commitment — Help Every Child Succeed

Your support of this levy is a vote to continue providing students with a quality education. A yes vote prepares students for success now and into the future as they move into college and careers and become responsible global digital citizens.

Yes! Not a New Tax — Replacement of an Expiring Levy

Proposition 1 is not a new tax. It replaces an *expiring* four-year technology and capital projects levy approved by voters in 2014 and adds safety and technology resources.

Yes! Supports College and Career Readiness and Safe Schools

The money bridges the gap between what Washington state funds and what it actually costs to educate students with current technology and provide a safe learning environment. Proposition 1 funds more student computers; expands assistive technology for students with special needs; installs up-to-date classroom display systems, document cameras and video conferencing systems; trains staff; develops more digital online curriculum; adds a student identification card system on school buses; and installs a new paging and intercom system in schools districtwide.

Yes! Quality Schools = Strong Communities

Please vote yes to renew this four-year levy and ensure continued support for Olympia students. We can be proud of Olympia's continued strong graduation rates, high performing students, committed staff, clean financial audits, and graduates who successfully go on to achieve in post-secondary educational opportunities. Nearly 10,000 Olympia School District students need your yes vote!

Olympia Citizens for Schools: Joe Ingoglia
(olympiacitizensforschools@gmail.com), Cheryl Selby,
Eileen Thomson

Explanatory Statement

Passage of this proposition would authorize Olympia School District No. 111 to continue a four-year technology and capital projects levy to support increased student access to technology, preparing students for college and careers now and into the future, and fund safety projects districtwide. This proposed replacement levy is not a new tax; it would re-authorize the District's existing technology and capital projects levy, which expires in 2018.

Passage would allow the levy of \$8,178,296 for collection in 2019, the levy of \$8,575,771 for collection in 2020, the levy of \$8,895,271 for collection in 2021, and the levy of \$9,776,618 for collection in 2022 to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District. If authorized by voters, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.87 (2019 collection); \$0.87 (2020 collection); \$0.85 (2021 collection); and \$0.89 (2022 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the replacement levy.

Against Statement

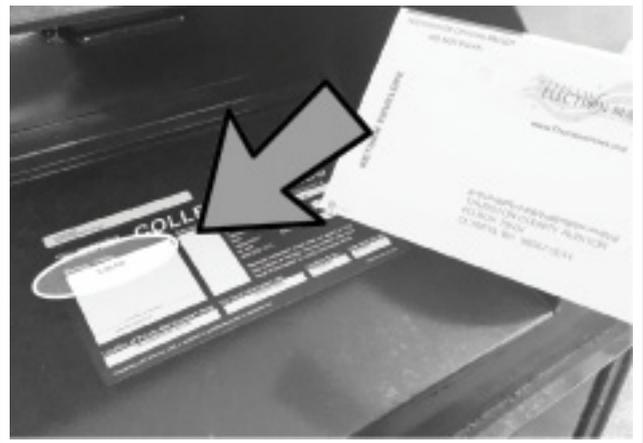
No against committee was formed.

Check your mailbox's pickup time!

Mailing your ballot on Election Day?

Make sure it gets postmarked on time!

- Check your mailbox's pickup time!
- If the last pickup time has passed, you'll need to find another mailbox.
- Or, drop your ballot in a ballot drop box!



Yelm Community Schools

Proposition No. 1, Bonds to Rebuild and Renovate Schools and Improve Safety

Only voters residing in Yelm Community Schools district may vote on this measure.

Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Yelm Community Schools adopted Resolution No. 03-17-18, concerning financing to relieve overcrowding and improve infrastructure and safety. This proposition would authorize the District to: rebuild Yelm Middle School and Southworth Elementary School on existing property; renovate and expand Prairie Elementary School; remove 34 portable classrooms from these schools; make District-wide safety and security improvements, which may include control entry/access, security cameras, lighting and fencing; issue no more than \$76,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 03-17-18.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
 Rejected

For Statement

The Current Situation

Yelm Community Schools currently serves 5,800 students, with projected enrollment growth in 2022 of 6,300 students. As enrollment continues to rise, we must assure that student learning is not negatively impacted by aging facilities, outdated technology, security resources or overcrowded classrooms. Yelm Middle School- built in 1966 and remodeled in 1983 to serve 480 students, now serves 690 students. Southworth Elementary, built in 1972, serves 215 more students than capacity and has 6 lunch periods. Prairie Elementary, built in 1984 for 400 students, now serves 450 students in open pod classrooms with no doors or secure hallways, making security updates a priority.

The Ask

Please vote *Yes* to pass a \$76M bond which would *rebuild* both Southworth and Yelm Middle School and *remodel* Prairie thus removing 34 of the 91 portables district-wide. This measure *includes funds for safety improvements at all schools*. The last voter approved bond measure was in 2003. With construction prices continuing to climb, the time to address our current building needs *is now*.

Taxpayer Considerations

Individual home owner tax rate depends on assessed home value (per thousand), which differs for everyone. Due to 2017 legislative changes, voters will see an initial increase in the state school tax portion of their property tax, but *local school taxes will likely decrease in 2019*. Communities that invest in schools, are investing back into the people and infrastructure that makes their community a *home*. We owe it to present and future YCS kids to vote *Yes!*

Citizens for the Support of Yelm Schools: Sandra Manwiller (citizens4yelmschools@gmail.com, 360.790.6554), Tracie Choate, Nicole Rutledge

Explanatory Statement

Approval of the bond measure will provide funds for Yelm Community Schools to alleviate overcrowding and improve safety. Since the last bond in 2003, the district has grown by over 1,300 students. The district is projected to grow by an additional 424 students over the next five years. By rebuilding Yelm Middle School to serve 720 students and Southworth Elementary for 550 students, additional classrooms will address the anticipated growth. Two story construction will remove 26 portable classrooms which are 20-40 years old and are costly to maintain. Prairie Elementary will be renovated and expanded. Eight portable classrooms will be removed, and safety improvements include adding doors to all classrooms. The remaining six campuses will receive safety and security improvements based on the needs of each campus. Further information is available on the district's website at www.ycs.wednet.edu/bond. Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are disabled, senior citizens, and/or who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call Thurston County – (360) 867-2200 or Pierce County – (253) 798-2169.

Against Statement

No against committee was formed.

Your vote can move mountains!

