

# Register to vote

## Requirements

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington state
- At least 18 years old by election day
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order
- Not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction

## How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov).
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or at the King County Elections Annex.

## Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines before each election. The deadlines for the April 24, 2018 Special Election are:

- **March 26** – Deadline for online and mail-in voter registration, address change and other updates.
- **April 16** – Deadline for people not currently registered in Washington State (in-person only).

## Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

April 24, 2018 Special Election

# King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by the City of Kent and Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority



## Contact information

**Phone:** 206-296-VOTE (8683)  
1-800-325-6165  
TTY Relay: 711

**Email:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)

**Online:** [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections)

### Mail or in-person:

King County Elections, 919 SW Grady Way,  
Renton, WA 98057

King County Elections is open Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Elections Annex, King County Administration Building,  
500 4th Ave., Room 440, Seattle, WA 98104

The Elections Annex is open Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Contact us to receive this pamphlet in an alternate format.

Contact us to receive your voting materials in Chinese, Korean, Spanish or Vietnamese.

如需獲取您的中文投票資訊，請聯絡金郡選舉部。

Comuníquese con nosotros para recibir sus materiales de votación en Español.

한국어로 투표 자료를 받으시려면 저희에게 연락하세요.

Xin vui lòng liên lạc với Sở Bầu cử Quận King để nhận tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Việt.

### In this edition

- Accessible voting options
- Ballot drop boxes
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- Register to vote



**Proposition A  
2% Utility Tax Increase for Police and Criminal Justice Services**

In order to fund additional police officers and criminal justice services in Kent, Proposition A would authorize the city to levy a 2% utility tax increase, from 6% to 8%, on the total gross revenues of companies providing electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services in the city. The additional revenue will establish police officer staffing levels consistent with comparable jurisdictions, and fund other criminal justice services impacted by additional officers.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

**Statement in favor**

Submitted by: Linda L. Sagare, rita ann Schwarting, Bailey Stober  
206-718-0693

Our police department is currently understaffed, overworked and stretching its resources to meet the needs of our growing community. Our officers are working 16 hour shifts with mandatory overtime to keep up with our City's growth. Over 2 million dollars a year has been spent on overtime; this is not the right solution to the problem.

Our police officers are fundamental to a safe and thriving community. To retain residents, attract new businesses and continue to grow, we must ensure that our community is safe. By *voting Yes* to approve this measure you will only slightly increase utility taxes (cable, gas, electric) which will be applied to homeowners, renters and businesses evenly. Approving this measure will ensure we hire more than 20 police officers and add additional criminal justice services to one of the best police departments in Washington.

As national tragedies, acts of violence and property crimes rise, ensuring our citizen's safety is vitally important. Our police department should have the staff and tools necessary to fight crime and keep Kent a great community.

*Vote Yes* to support our hard working police department, protecting our City, growing our economy and keeping Kent safe.

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

Proposition A enables our Police Department to hire more officers and fund other criminal justice services impacted by hiring the additional officers.

Kent has experienced a large decrease in sales tax revenues due to Washington's streamlined sales tax legislation.

The proposed 2% increase to utility providers will be used exclusively to pay for the additional officers and staff.

Feeling safe in our city is a priority. Join us in voting *Yes* on Proposition A

**Explanatory statement**

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Kimberley A. Komoto  
City Clerk  
253-856-5725  
[kkomoto@kentwa.gov](mailto:kkomoto@kentwa.gov)

The city of Kent currently employs fewer police officers per 1000 residents when compared to similarly situated Washington cities. Impacts from continued growth, which include violent crimes and property crimes, as well as quality of life issues, make it necessary to increase the number of police officers patrolling the streets and investigating crime. Due to a legislative change in the manner in which goods are taxed, the city has been unable to adequately fund the additional police officers needed.

The city currently imposes a 6% utility tax on private electricity, gas, telephone, and cable television utilities. If approved by the voters, Proposition A will increase that tax on these utilities by 2%, raising the total utility tax on these services to 8%. This 2% utility tax increase will be devoted exclusively to fund additional police and criminal justice services. It will allow the city to add more than 20 police officers to patrol city streets and investigate crimes, and will fund other areas of the criminal justice system, such as the jail, court system, prosecutors, and public defenders, which are impacted by the addition of police officers.

The Kent City Council has determined that in order to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, it is in the best interest of the city to seek voter approval of this 2% utility tax increase for the sole purpose of maintaining and enhancing police and criminal justice services in Kent.

**Statement in opposition**

Submitted by: Eric Bernard, Karen Bernard, Edward Worcester, [http://nofirebenefitchargescheme.typepad.com/no\\_fire\\_benefit\\_charge\\_sc/](http://nofirebenefitchargescheme.typepad.com/no_fire_benefit_charge_sc/)

Kent's Police Department can be funded thru the city's regular budget, not through unrelated taxes on Utilities you rely upon daily.

In 2010, Kent's elected leaders disposed of the Kent Fire Department to "save money" by sponsoring the Kent Regional Fire Authority, thinking several million dollars would be freed up to fund the Police Department.

Where'd the money go?

Every year Kent pays \$3 million to the RFA. When past-mayor Cooke wanted a pay raise she compared compensation of local mayors. Why didn't she and the council compare fire costs paid by local cities?

Fact: Auburn and Renton pay a fraction of Kent's fire cost!

Kent's elected leaders ok'd the RFA "money savings plan", then double taxed us, exploiting a \$10 million property tax loophole - Google 'Kent banked capacity', see for yourself.

Kent's mayor and council need to fully fund our Police Department - with tax revenue the city already collects!

Now they want to increase tax on *Your* Utilities by 30%!

Utility taxes are intended to benefit Public Works and Infrastructure.

Kent Taxpayers should not bear the burden of Kent's financial mismanagement year after year - especially with unrelated taxes.

Hold onto your wallets, reject Kent's Prop A.

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

Cooke signed away \$50mil in real estate to RFA.

Reporter: 2018 Kent Property Taxes to Jump 15.4%

Kent Puget Sound RFA Prop 1: 58% Property Tax & FBC increase Kent & Covington!

Kent is spending \$2mil for Police overtime, hire new officers with that money.

Make better fiscal decisions with current tax revenue collected.

Kent elected leaders need to balance Public Safety cost: *Less* Puget Sound RFA, *more* Kent Police Department.

Vote *No* Prop A

## Proposition No. 1

The Board of Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority adopted Resolution No. 132 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund Puget Sound Fire operations.

This proposition authorizes Puget Sound Fire to restore its regular property tax levy to a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2018 and collected in 2019. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services, maintain staffing, replace apparatus, equipment and facilities and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2018 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

## Statement in favor

Submitted by: Jennifer Harjehausen,  
Cris McCartin, Sam Sullivan  
[jennharje@gmail.com](mailto:jennharje@gmail.com)

Voting Yes on Ballot Proposition #1 will be a vote to ensure continued sustainable funding for the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority. *Proposition #1* simply resets the property tax to \$1.00 per thousand which has decreased over the past six years. With the adjustment in the property tax will come a decrease in the Benefit Charge for all residences. It is a fair, efficient and equitable way to provide sustainable fire and emergency medical services. This funding system works for us now and will continue into the future.

Due to state law the property tax portion of the two part funding system cannot be over 60% of the operating budget. In the next budget cycle the department could go over that threshold and limit the funding for the fire department. It is time to make the adjustment now with an offset to the benefit charge.

Saving lives, homes and businesses is not something to take for granted. We trust that our fire department will be there when seconds count. Now it is our chance to be there for them. Please vote Yes for continued funding and support of the very service that might save *Your* life or home one day!

## Rebuttal of statement in opposition

A Yes vote for Proposition No. 1 will continue to assure that we have sustainable and equitable funding for our fire department. We have a governance board of elected officials that ensure we follow state and federal laws. We have strict spending policies that assure all purchases are in the best interests of taxpayers. We are audited each year by the Washington State Auditors office and receive a clean bill of health.

## Explanatory statement

For questions about this measure, contact:

Greg Markley  
Battalion Chief  
253-740-5100  
[gmarkley@pugetsoundfire.org](mailto:gmarkley@pugetsoundfire.org)

The Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority (Puget Sound Fire) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the cities of Covington, Kent, SeaTac and Fire District 37. This proposition will authorize Puget Sound Fire to restore its regular real property tax levy rate (which is currently approximately \$.77 per thousand of assessed valuation) to the 2011 levy rate of \$1.00 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

Puget Sound Fire has a two-part funding system including this property tax in combination with a benefit charge. The benefit charge is a service fee based on the square footage of your structure and the amount of resources needed to extinguish a fire. Due to voter approved limits, property tax collections cannot exceed a 1% increase per year. As a result of this limitation, the benefit charge portion of our funding has gradually increased. If this measure is approved, it would restore the \$1.00 per thousand property tax and decrease reliance on the benefit charge. With the restoration of the property tax to \$1.00 per thousand the department will be able to lower and recalculate the benefit charge and apply that reduction to all parcels in the fire authority based on size and use.

This is a rebalancing of the two-part funding system so that the department can continue to maintain and improve fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the Puget Sound Fire response area.

## Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Eric Bernard,  
Karen Bernard, [http://nofirebenefitchargescheme.typepad.com/no\\_fire\\_benefit\\_charge\\_sc/](http://nofirebenefitchargescheme.typepad.com/no_fire_benefit_charge_sc/)

Kent's RFA wants to increase your fire cost 58% *More:* Increase *Your* property tax 23% and FBC 35%!

\$203 increase by RFA on median Kent home!

State Auditor found RFA increased FBC 53% since 2011. Ask SAO for H15-445 Audit: RFA credit card charges increased \$75,000 to whopper \$300,000.

Audit: expenses charged on RFA card, summer events, birthday parties, selfie stick, cd burner, online diet pills, AirBnB, huge food expenses, personal charges!

On top of tax and FBC, RFA charges Kent KOA \$50 per camping space! *Are Your* deck and driveway next?

*Your* three car drive way: \$150.00?! *Your* deck: \$50?! *All* improvements at risk!

Google 'RCW 52.18', see yourself.

Audit: RFA repeatedly violated state bid law: \$ 1.4mil fire trucks!

Google 'Kent RFA resolution waive competitive bid', see yourself.

RFA governing board approved each bid waiver, FBC increase, credit card slush fund.

Three RFA governing board members sponsored by RFA: RFA pays their election costs + salaries of \$114 a day, whether on clock 1 min or 1 hour.

FD37 exists only on paper, RFA pays all FD37 expenses, RFA claims FD37 commissioners "govern" the RFA!

*No* Puget Sound RFA Prop 1

Google '*No* fire benefit charge scheme'

## Rebuttal of statement in favor

2018 and the RFA still isn't properly assessing FBC!

Audit: RFA hasn't charged FBC on entire neighborhoods! Lots of home owners continue enjoy to huge tax breaks while the rest of us Kent taxpayers are overcharged! Ask SAO for H15-445, see yourself.

RFA failed to deliver on lowering taxpayer fire insurance costs by improving district insurance rating.

The RFA "governing" board has failed to protect the interests of Kent & Covington taxpayers.

*No* Prop 1

# Ballot drop boxes

Return your ballot without a stamp at a ballot drop box. Ballot drop boxes are open 24 hours a day beginning April 5 and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 24.

- Auburn Library, 1102 Auburn Way S, Auburn, 98002
- Covington Library, 27100 164th Avenue SE, Covington, 98042
- \* Highline College (entrance across from 27th Ave S), 2400 S 240th St, Des Moines, 98198
- \* Duvall Police Department/Depot Park, 26225 NE Burhen Way, Duvall, 98019
- Kentridge High School, 12430 SE 208th St, Kent, 98031
- Regional Justice Center (near parking garage entrance), 401 4th Ave N, Kent, 98032
- Hobart Food Market, 20250 276th Ave SE, Maple Valley, 98038
- \* Tahoma School District Building, 25720 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Rd SE, Maple Valley, 98038
- Fairwood Library, 17009 140th Ave SE, Renton, 98058
- \* King County Elections, 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, 98057
- \* Renton Public Health Center, 3201 NE 7th St, Renton, 98056
- Valley View Library, 17850 Military Rd S, SeaTac, 98188
- King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave, Seattle 98104

\* Drive-up ballot drop boxes

**Ballot drop boxes close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 24.**

# Mail your ballot

You can vote and return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service as soon as you receive it.

**Mailed ballots require first class postage and must be postmarked by April 24.**

# Accessible voting options

Voting by mail is a convenient option for most people. There are other options available.

## Online Ballot Marking Program

- Any registered voter can use the online ballot marking program.
- Voters with disabilities can mark their choices on the ballot online. The online ballot marking program has been designed specifically to enable blind and vision-impaired voters to cast a private ballot.
- If a voter's ballot is damaged or lost, voters may mark their ballot on a computer, print it out, and return it by fax, standard mail, or email before the 8 p.m. election day deadline.

## Accessible Voting Centers

Accessible voting centers are available for voters who need assistance completing their ballot. Trained staff and specialized equipment are available to help voters with disabilities cast a private, independent ballot. Mail ballots can also be dropped off at any accessible voting center, when open.

### King County Elections

919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

### Elections Annex

King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave, Room 440, Seattle 98104

- Weekdays, April 4 - 23, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Election day, April 24, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## Other accessible voting options

If one of the above options doesn't work for you, please contact our office for further assistance:

**Phone:** 206-296-VOTE (8683)  
1-800-325-6165  
TTY Relay: 711

**Email:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)



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