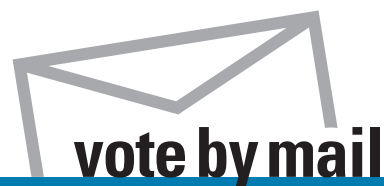


April 27, 2010 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet



Published by:



King County
Elections

For more information call 206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections



A letter from Director of Elections, Sherril Huff

Dear King County Voter,

I recently completed my U.S. Census form, something that happens every ten years. Census information is used for many things including directing how elections departments across the country communicate with voters.

One of the most frequent questions we are asked by King County voters is, "Why are some ballots and so much of the elections information I receive printed in Chinese?" Federal legislation was enacted in 1975 that requires counties to provide language assistance to voters if more than 10,000 or five percent of voting age citizens are members of a minority group who do not "speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process." The last census you participated in, back in 2000, determined that King County Elections must produce information in Chinese. The 2010 census is likely to result in additional language translation requirements.

With over one million registered voters (and growing) we are responsible for meeting the needs of many different people. In addition to those who require language assistance, we provide services for military and overseas voters and voters with disabilities. All voters can help us conduct successful elections by keeping their addresses, phone numbers and signatures up to date, by carefully following the directions on your ballot, and by reading your entire ballot from top to bottom and front to back. We take great care to ensure accuracy and comply with federal mandates as we prepare for an election. We depend on you to help us make each vote count!

Sincerely,

Sherril Huff
Sherril Huff

Who's having an election?

District	Participating in voters' pamphlet	Voters' pamphlet edition
City of Kent/King County Fire District No. 37	yes	1
City of Black Diamond	yes	1
Skykomish School District No. 404	yes	1

*For a special election, districts are required to submit a resolution requesting that King County Elections publish a voters' pamphlet. Districts are not required to participate in the voters' pamphlet.



Why we might call you

Many voters miss or incorrectly sign the oath on their return envelope. Make sure that Elections has your current signature and take your time when signing the oath.

King County Elections compares the signature on your returned ballot packet against your registered signatures on file. If you forgot to sign the voters' oath or the signatures don't match, Election officials will attempt to contact you both by mail and by phone, as is required by state law, in time to count your ballot before the current election is certified.

To update your signature for future elections, you must return a new registration form complete with your updated signature.

Ballot drop boxes + accessible voting options

Attention: Elections has reduced the number of ballot drop boxes as well as the operational hours of accessible voting centers.

Ballot drop boxes

You can return your voted ballot at one of our drop box locations. Ballot drop boxes will be open on Thursday, April 8 and **close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 27.**

King County Elections

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

King County Administration Building

500 4th Ave, Seattle 98104

Ballots may also be returned at accessible voting centers at the dates and times listed to the right.

Accessible voting centers

Voters with disabilities can cast a private and independent ballot at the following locations, dates and times.

King County Elections

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

Weekdays, April 7 - April 26:

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue 98009

Seattle, Union Station

401 S Jackson St, Seattle 98104

Monday, April 26: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Voter information

Registering to vote is easy

If you meet the following qualifications you can register to vote online, by mail or in person

To register to vote you must be:

- a citizen of the United States;
- a legal resident of Washington State;
- at least 18 years old by election day.

King County votes by mail

If you do not receive your mail ballot or lose your ballot, please notify King County Elections.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. For the April 27, 2010, special election, you must register by mail or online no later than Monday, March 29. If you are not already registered to vote in Washington State, you may register in person at the King County Elections office by Monday, April 19, for the April 27, 2010, special election.

Keep your voter registration current

You can use the online or mail-in voter registration form to let King County Elections know when you move or change your name. You must re-register or transfer your registration at least 29 days before the election to be eligible to vote in your new precinct.

For more information, King County Elections can be reached at the following:

Voter hotline: 206-296-VOTE (8683)
1-800-325-6165
TTY: Relay: 711

Online: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

E-mail: elections@kingcounty.gov

In-person: King County Elections
9010 East Marginal Way S
Tukwila, WA 98108

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

Reading your voters' pamphlet

Why are there measures in the voters' pamphlet that are not on my ballot?

Your ballot is correct. The measures on your ballot are the measures for which you are eligible to vote and reflect the districts in which you reside. This edition of the voters' pamphlet includes all districts participating in the election.

What is an explanatory statement?

An explanatory statement is prepared by each district's attorney stating the effect of the ballot measure if passed into law.

How are committees in favor of or in opposition to a measure formed?

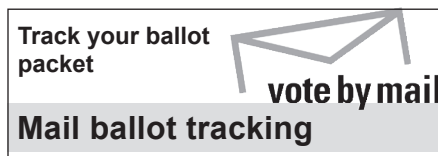
Districts choosing to participate in a voters' pamphlet are responsible for appointing committee members who agree to write statements.

The statements are a way to persuade voters to vote for or against the measure.

King County Elections is not responsible for the content of the statements.

Tracking your ballot online

Voters who are eligible to vote in an election can now track their ballot at several points. Visit the ballot tracker link at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.



- Track point #1: Your ballot packet was assembled and delivered to the U.S.P.S. by Elections.
- Track point #2: King County received your returned ballot packet.
- Track point #3: Your signature was verified and you will be credited with voting.

Your personal voter pamphlet

A screenshot of a web form titled "Your Voter Guide". The form has a dark header with the title in white. Below the header, there is a sub-header: "Find your registration status and view your sample ballot". The form contains three input fields: "First name" and "Last name" (each with a text box), and "Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)" (with a text box). At the bottom left, there is a "Submit" button. At the bottom right, there is a link that says "Search by address".

www.kingcounty.gov/elections

- View your voter registration information.
- See which districts you are eligible to vote in for this election.
- Read the ballot measures you are eligible to vote on for this election.
- Read the explanatory statement and statements in favor of and in opposition to a measure for those districts that chose to participate in the voters' pamphlet.
- Read the full text of a ballot measure resolution submitted by the district.

Proposed Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority Proposition No. 1

The City of Kent and King County Fire Protection District No. 37 have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority Plan ("Plan") to create the Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority ("Authority") with an effective date of July 1, 2010.

If approved, this proposition would create the Authority, in accordance with the Plan, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the City and the District. The Authority will be funded by a six-year fire benefit charge (not to exceed 60% of the operating budget) and a property tax (not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value). This funding would replace the District's existing property tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, and would reduce Kent's property tax capacity by the tax rate collected by the Authority.

Should the Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be approved?

YES

NO

Statement in favor

Voting YES on Ballot Proposition #1 will be a vote for every taxpayer's dream: a fair, efficient and equitable way to provide sustainable fire and emergency medical services. Combining the existing partnership of the Kent Fire Department and Fire District 37 into a single operating entity, a Regional Fire Authority (RFA), creates permanent savings. Transforming two governmental systems into a single one, coupled with a Citizen's Advisory Committee, is a simpler system that will be responsive and accountable to residents and business owners.

The RFA concept is already well-proven, having been created in the Auburn and Federal Way areas. It will reduce unequal property taxes and make up the difference with a Benefit Charge that is absolutely fair to all users. Businesses were part of the planning process and, even though they may pay a higher rate under the RFA, understand that it makes sense and support it. Other governmental organizations, currently exempt, will now pay their fair share as well!

Saving lives, homes and businesses is not something to take for granted. We have trusted our Fire Department in the past. Vote YES for the future and support the service that might save YOUR life or home some day!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Why should business have a free ride on the backs of homeowners? Businesses will pay more under the RFA. They support it because they know our Fire Department needs help.

Vote yes and homeowners likely will pay less in overall cost in 2011 than was paid in 2009 and get lower insurance costs to boot! Pay only your fair share and quit supporting other high cost users like apartments and industries handling toxic materials!

Statement submitted by: Wayne Snoey

Explanatory statement

If voters approve Proposition 1, the Kent Fire Department and King County Fire District 37 will merge into one organization, the Kent Regional Fire Authority "RFA" effective July 1, 2010. The RFA will operate under a single governing board with a uniform and stable funding mechanism to maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services in Kent, Covington and Fire District 37.

The governing board will consist of three elected Kent City Council members and three elected commissioners of Fire District 37 who also represent the citizens of Covington.

The RFA will be funded by a fire benefit charge and a property tax. The fire benefit charge allocates the cost of the services provided by the RFA in reasonable proportion to the measurable benefit a property receives. The benefit charge will be based on a standard formula that considers the square footage and use of buildings, fire flows and allows for adjustments for sprinklers and senior citizen discounts. A property tax of \$1.00 per thousand of assessed valuation will provide the additional required funding. These funding sources will replace Fire District 37's current property tax rate of \$1.50 per thousand and will reduce the City of Kent's property tax capacity by up to \$1.00 per thousand.

The Kent City Council and the Fire District 37 Board determined that the RFA will allow the entities to consolidate resources and more efficiently deliver fire protection and emergency medical services to the citizens of Kent, Covington and Fire District 37.

Statement in opposition

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 1, THE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY (RFA) IT WILL RAISE YOUR TAXES!

The RFA is an independent taxing authority designed to bypass current property tax levy limits and substantially increase taxes with the **Fire Benefit Charges (Fees)**. Even in a bad economy. The Fire Benefit Charge is an adjustable rate fee as opposed to the current fixed tax rate.

Increasing fees (Fire Benefit Charges) on businesses in a bad economy is not good thinking. **Citizens will ultimately pay increased business costs in the form of higher prices and lost jobs.**

The new fees will also be charged to government facilities (ShoWare Center and Regional Justice Center) and 1,628 certain tax exempt buildings.

Fees are not tax deductible.

Apartment buildings will be charged higher fees and rents will go up. Homeowners who vote yes are signing a blank check for six years. A potential **57% increase** in the Fire Benefit Charge could be imposed by a simple majority vote (4 of 6 fire commissioners).

It's time for the fire fighters, administrators, fire commissioners', cities and chiefs to do the right thing and reduce costs.

The citizens will be the ones who bear the burden of the RFA taxes.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Citizens of Kent and District 37 will give away (no compensation) physical ownership and control of their fire stations and equipment to the Regional Fire Authority.

The RFA will take those assets and provide the same service at much higher cost to the communities.

The RFA is designed to generate huge amounts of fees and taxes, not efficiencies!

VOTE NO! This is your only chance to stop a very complicated tax increase strategy.

Statement submitted by: Leroy Stevenson 253-630-7676

City of Black Diamond

Proposition No. 1

Public Safety Levy

The City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 10-936 concerning this proposition to fund police, fire and emergency services. If approved, this proposition shall authorize a regular property tax rate of \$2.57 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2011 to fund public safety services including police, fire and emergency services. The 2011 levy amount shall be used to calculate subsequent levy limitations in succeeding years. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED

REJECTED

Statement in favor

The RENEWAL of this levy will ensure Black Diamond residents remain safe through police and fire protection. This is NOT a new tax, but the renewal of a retiring levy.

Currently, residents benefit from:

- Police and fire protection 24 hours/7 days per week
- Rapid response time – 5 to 10 minutes for high priority calls within the city
- Police Marine Patrol on Lake Sawyer
- Personal relationships with police officers through DARE and K-9 programs
- A safe community to raise children

If it Passes the City will continue operating its police department, consisting of 9 commissioned officers (down from 12 in 2009 due to the economy) and honor its contract with Mountain View Fire & Rescue for fire services.

If it Fails the City will lose approximately \$450,000 from its annual Public Safety budget, resulting in the loss of 4 or 5 additional officers: loss of 24/7 coverage; slowed response times; police officers will work alone; the marine patrol on Lake Sawyer will stop; and “extra” programs will be cut. With reduced police presence and protection, Black Diamond will be ripe for increased crime.

Vote Yes! Protect our families by protecting our police and fire services.

Statement submitted by: Johna Thomson, Tina McGann and Renee Brealey

Explanatory statement

The City of Black Diamond is proposing this measure to provide continued funding for public safety services including police, fire and emergency services. The City's current voter approved levy for public safety services will expire in December of 2010. This proposition will provide funding for public safety services after the existing levy expires.

If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize a total City regular property tax levy rate of \$2.57 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2011. The sole purpose of the levy will be to provide funding for police, fire and emergency services. This levy rate will be used for the purpose of computing the legal limitations for subsequent levies, which will be capped under existing law to increase by no more than 1% per year.

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

Skykomish School District No. 404

Proposition No. 1 Maintenance and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Skykomish School District No. 404 adopted Resolution No. 08-2009, concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would allow the District to meet its education goals by levying the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund maintenance and operation expense.

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy Amount
2011	\$2.02	\$276,725
2012	\$2.09	\$289,178
2013	\$2.16	\$302,191
2014	\$2.22	\$315,789

Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Statement in favor

A recent ruling by King County Superior Court, Judge John Erlick confirmed that Washington State has not upheld its responsibility to adequately fund basic education. He ruled, "**State funding is not ample, it is not stable, and it is not dependable.**" As a result, school districts statewide must ask for the support of its local citizens.

The Skykomish School District is requesting local support for a **replacement** Maintenance & Operation Levy of one expiring the end of 2010. This levy is a **continuation** of an existing tax that is significantly less than our neighboring districts. This levy is vital to the continued existence of our district. Failure to pass this levy will likely lead to dissolution of the district, busing of our children to Sultan and making us subject to Sultan tax rates.

By voting YES, you are making a commitment that all Skykomish students get the education they deserve.

Help maintain strong healthy schools that reflect the great community in which we live. Children come to school eager to learn. Let's give them the best possible chance by voting YES for Skykomish's Maintenance & Operations Levy. Let's work together to keep our school, jobs, taxes and kids in Skykomish.

Statement submitted by: Wm. Atkinson

Explanatory statement

The Skykomish School District wishes to replace an existing levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2010. The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$276,725 in 2011; \$289,178 in 2012; \$302,191 in 2013 and \$315,789 for collection in 2014. The levy tax rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2011; \$2.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2012; \$2.16 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2013 and \$2.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2014. The tax rate of approximately \$2.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value projected for the first year of collection in 2011 would equate to \$404 (or \$33.67 per month) for a \$200,000 home.

The District has developed its commitment to educational excellence in its Strategic Plan. This levy proposal is based upon goals which were established through community participation and designation of needs by the District. Taxes collected will be deposited in the District's General Fund to support the District's strategic goals and help pay for necessary educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the state. Furthermore, these collections will allow the District to meet goals in student assessment, facilities planning, communication to the community, operations and fiscal planning.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments at 206-296-3920.

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

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Edition 1

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683) .

King County produces all election materials in both English and Chinese. If you, or someone you know, needs language assistance, call King County Elections and request a ballot and voting material in Chinese.

為符合聯邦法律，此資料有中文版本。