April 17, 2012 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters’ Pamphlet

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format, please contact King County Elections at 206-236-VOTE (8683).

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

How to register

• Register online with the Secretary of State, www.sos.wa.gov
• Download a registration form from the King County Elections website, and return it by mail or in person
• Register in person at the King County Elections office

Registration deadlines
While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the April 17, 2012, special election:

• March 19 – Deadline to register by mail or online, or to transfer or update voter registration.
• April 9 – Deadline to register in-person for people who are not currently registered in Washington.

You can register in-person at the Elections office in Renton or at our new Voter Registration Annex located at the King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave., Room 311 in Seattle.

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.

Accessible voting center

Accessible voting centers are available for voters who need assistance completing their ballot. Trained staff and specialized equipment is available to help voters with disabilities cast a private, independent ballot. Voters may also return ballots at this location during business hours.

King County Elections
919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057
March 30 - April 16
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
April 17
Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Voting begins as soon as you receive your ballot in the mail. Consider returning it early to be counted in election night results and to have time to resolve any issues with your signature.

Through the mail
You can vote and return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service or a first class stamp. Ballot drop boxes are open 24-hours a day beginning Thursday, March 29.

By law, ballots cannot be accepted at ballot drop box locations after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Crossroads Shopping Center
South entrance
15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue 98008
Federal Way City Hall
33325 8th Avenue S, Federal Way 98003
Issaquah City Hall
130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027
Regional Justice Center
401 4th Avenue N, Kent 98032
Near parking garage entrance
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March 30 - April 16
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More information inside
For more information call 206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections

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Registering to vote is easy

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You can vote and return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service as soon as you receive it. Ballots must be postmarked by April 17. This requires first class postage.

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King County Elections offers ballot drop boxes as an option for returning your ballot without using the U.S. Postal Service or a first class stamp. Ballot drop boxes are open 24-hours a day beginning Thursday, March 29.

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King County Administration Building
500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104

More information inside
Proposition No. 1
Fire and Emergency Medical Services Excess Levy

The Board of Commissioners of South King Fire & Rescue adopted Resolution No. 481 concerning an excess levy for maintenance and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District beginning with collection in 2013 and continuing for three years thereafter to be used for maintenance and operations and to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount for each of the four years would be $3,500,000 with an approximate rate in the first year of $0.29 per $1,000.00 of assessed valuation. Should this proposition be approved?

☐ YES
☐ NO

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

SKF&R has consistently offered higher quality fire and emergency services at a lower cost to taxpayers than most surrounding communities. However, those services are being threatened. In order to maintain our service, please VOTE YES for SKF&R's maintenance and operations levy.

The fire district has lost over 22% of its annual revenue since 2009 as property values have declined. This reduction has necessitated major cutbacks in service levels and personnel, longer emergency response times, and 23 departmental vacancies including front line firefighters. Those who remain have taken voluntary cuts in pay and benefits in order to maintain services. This levy will maintain current fire department services and personnel, and will restore an emergency aid unit in order to improve response times.

Our department understands the need to run a lean operation without sacrificing public safety. With the passing of this levy, our department's tax revenue will remain lower than most neighboring jurisdictions, while retaining the distinction of being the only fire district in the history of the State to have been awarded a Class 2 insurance rating. We couldn't have done this without YOU.

Thanks for voting YES in continued SUPPORT of our community's safety!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

SKF&R runs a lean operation without sacrificing public safety. This maintenance and operations levy balances the need to maintain services without sacrificing safety, while recognizing that many of our citizens are hurting financially.

While the opposition to this levy cites the need for more money to come into our department, it doesn't take into consideration current economic realities. We have clearly articulated a more measured and manageable approach. It's simply a matter of balance.

Statement submitted by: Wayne Corey, Amye Bronson-Doherty and Jon McIntosh • wayne@corey.cc

Explanatory statement

South King Fire and Rescue, serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines, is placing an excess levy proposition on the April 17th, 2012 ballot. This proposition will authorize the fire district to collect $3.5 million annually, or an approximate rate of $0.29 per $1,000 of assessed valuation, for a four year period covering 2013 through 2016.

The proposition is presented to allow voters the opportunity to maintain current fire department services and personnel. In addition, it will allow the district to re-staff an aid car for emergency responses, which has been closed due to decreased revenues the past few years.

The fire district has lost over 22% of its annual revenue since 2009 due to the nationwide recession and loss of property values, necessitating cutbacks in service levels and personnel, including elimination of public education programs, closure of one aid car and reducing another to part-time status, the layoff of four employees, and a total of 23 departmental vacancies including thirteen firefighters whose positions have been eliminated through attrition.

Approval of this proposition would allow the department to maintain the current level of services. Rejection of this proposition would lead to additional reductions in service levels, the layoff of additional fire department personnel including the possible layoff of firefighters, potential elimination of special services such as rescue teams, and similar cutbacks.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Allen D. Church - Fire Chief/Administrator
253-348-7258 • info@southkingfire.org

Statement in opposition

Does the district need additional funding from this Excess Levy? Yes. However, $3.5 million only covers the bare minimum, keeping firefighter numbers at skeleton-bare crews and administrative staffing at barebones capacity while training and buildings suffer.

Desperate stopgap actions are not the answer for unaddressed existing and forecast expenses. Elections costing an estimated $170,000, this administration is not showing leadership and financial responsibility when the district likely will be back again in each of the next three years asking for more money.

New elections are needed for the $4.7 million training center property now costing $900 per year in interest only payments with not one dime paying the principal and another costly election is required to fund construction of the training center.

Delayed again, the reasonable decision of a Service Benefit Charge (SBC) will require a third election.

The six year term of the SBC, fixed at 2010 revenues limits, allows for a reliable, flexible funding mechanism, much better serving this community and the district.

Vote for greater efficiency; Vote for improved operations; Vote for a fixed cap Service Benefit Charge.

Vote No for this temporary patch, VOTE NO on the Excess Levy.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Restoring one emergency aid unit will add only 9 employees to the payroll yet cost $2 million. Why?

Commissioner Bonds quietly bought training center property. But you’ll never see results without public vote. Essentially, over $4.7 million wasted.

Demand accountable, responsible leadership; not several expensive elections for temporary fixes. Demand a fixed cap Service Benefit Charge.

Vote NO Excess Levy

Statement submitted by: Jerry Galland • cuttinglight@comcast.net

Your signature verifies your vote

Sign and date the declaration on the back of your return envelope before returning it. Take your time and sign carefully.

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You’ve moved your furniture, your clothes, the kids and the dog. But what about your vote?

Did you know that when you move you need to update your address with King County Elections?

You can update your address online, by phone, or by visiting our office.
Auburn Transportation Benefit District

Proposition No. 1
General Obligation Bonds - $59,000,000

The Board of the Auburn Transportation Benefit District adopted Resolution No. 2012-2 concerning a proposition to fund District transportation improvements and projects. If approved, this proposition would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to pay the costs of the transportation improvements and projects identified in the City of Auburn six-year Transportation Improvement Plan in an amount not more than $59,000,000, each series of such bonds maturing within 25 years or less, and authorize the annual levy of excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2012-2. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes ☐ No ☐

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Explanatory statement

If approved, Prop. 1 would provide revenues for up to twenty-five years that would be specifically dedicated to Auburn’s many miles of high-traffic arterial roads, which must be rebuilt and maintained largely with limited local resources. Auburn has worked with citizens and businesses to identify and prioritize the City’s arterial roads for preservation projects. The City is prioritizing road preservation because a high quality street system that efficiently moves goods and people enhances our competitiveness and creates a tangible return on investments for businesses and residents. The City has prioritized high-traffic arterial roads in response to concerns that further deterioration of these roads will impact economic development and efficient flow of commuter traffic.

If approved, Prop 1 would dedicate excess property tax revenues to repay general obligation bond proceeds to rebuild and repair a list of citizen-selected arterial street improvement projects over a period of twenty-five years or less. The average $250,000 home would see a $4-$8 per month increase in years one to five ($36-$96 per year) and average monthly impacts of $8-$9 ($96-$113 per year) in years six to year fifteen. Thereafter, as the bonds mature and are paid off, the average annual impact to a homeowner steadily declines and is eventually retired.

The bond funds cannot be used for other projects. The resolution proposing the Proposition (Resolution No. 2012-2, adopted February 21, 2012), states that, if approved, “none of the Bond Proceeds shall be used for any purpose other than preservation purposes related to the Projects.”

Statement in favor

Auburn’s citizens know our high-traffic streets badly need repair. We cannot depend on anyone else to fix them – federal and state funds for street repair are very limited. The longer we wait, the more potholes develop and the more costly it becomes to fix them.

That’s why local citizens and businesses came together and asked the City of Auburn to Save Our Streets by developing an affordable street improvement program. Your YES vote will keep our local tax dollars in our community, make our busiest streets safer, help local businesses be more competitive, and create jobs.

Save our Streets will also protect your pocketbook. A citizen-led Arterial Task Force will select and prioritize the projects to maximize resources and minimize disruption. To keep costs down, bonds will be issued over a twenty-five year or less period. Monthly costs for the average homeowner start under $3, increase up to $9 and then decline to zero. Every dollar generated by this program must be dedicated to specific road improvements.

Our streets need fixing. This is an affordable and responsible way to do so. Please join us in Voting YES to Save Our Streets and Keep Auburn Moving!

Statement submitted by: Nancy Colson, Cyril Van Selus and Ed Vander Pol

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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For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Carolyn Robertson - Government Relations Manager
253-351-3306  crobertson@auburnwa.gov
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Official Local Voters’ Pamphlet

as requested by Auburn Transportation Benefit District

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In accordance with Federal law, King County also produces election materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. If you, or someone you know, needs language assistance, call King County Elections at 206-296-8683 and request a ballot and voting material in Chinese or Vietnamese.

Theo luật Liên bang, quận King cũng sẽ xuất bản tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Hoa và tiếng Việt. Nếu quí vị, hoặc người nào khác mà quí vị biết, cần trợ giúp ngôn ngữ, vui lòng gọi Hội đồng bầu cử quận King số 206-296-8683 để yêu cầu một lá phiếu và tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Việt.

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Phone: 206-296-VOTE (8683)

TTY Relay: 711

Email: elections@kingcounty.gov

Online: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Mail or in-person:
919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Voter Registration Annex:
King County Administration Building
500 4th Ave., Room 311
Seattle, WA 98104

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www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Please recycle your voters’ pamphlet

vote by mail

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More Information Inside