

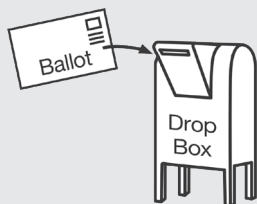
Skagit County Local Voters' Pamphlet

April 25, 2023 Special Election

This election:

City of Anacortes - Proposition No. 1 - Public Safety Staffing

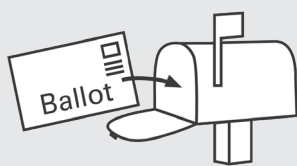
Hospital District No. 1 - Proposition No. 1 - Levy Lid Lift for Health Care Services



Return your ballot at a drop box.

Drop boxes are open until 8:00 pm sharp on April 25.

Boxes open for this election are listed on your ballot wrap.



Return your ballot by mail.

No Stamp Needed!

We strongly recommend returning your ballot as early as possible.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by April 25.

Register to vote or update your information

Online

You can register to vote online at VoteWA.gov -- all you need is a Washington State Driver's License or ID and a few minutes. You can register or update your information online by April 17 for this election.




Mail

Download and print a registration form at sos.wa.gov/elections and mail it to Skagit County Elections. It must be received by April 17 for this Special election.

In person

You can register in person up until 8:00pm on April 25, Election Day.

Skagit County Elections
700 S. 2nd St, Room 201
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

 skagitcounty.net/elections
 360-416-1702
 sselections@co.skagit.wa.us

City of Anacortes

Proposition No. 1

Public Safety Staffing

The Anacortes City Council adopted Resolution 3103 concerning funding to improve public safety service levels and response times. This proposition would provide funding for five additional police officers and eight additional firefighter/medics by establishing a maximum regular property tax levy of \$1.34335/\$1000 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024 (an estimated increase of approximately \$0.36240/\$1000). The 2024 levy amount will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Argument For

Police, fire, and emergency medical service are the most important functions of city government—yet our departments have long been understaffed, and the need has reached critical levels.

While our population has grown 15% over the last decade, Fire/EMS calls are up 60%, with no corresponding increase in staffing. In 2022, 275 times no firefighter/medics were available to respond to a call, and 899 times only two firefighter/medics were available to respond to a call.

Similarly, 911 calls to police have increased in the last 10 years with no additional patrol officers during that period, which has driven down police capacity to work other crimes by 30%. Although Anacortes typically has no gun incidents, in 2022, there were three incidents where a gun was fired.

During some times of day, we only have 2 police officers on patrol for the entire city. But many individual 911 calls require at least 4 police officers to safely respond, including for detailed reporting of domestic violence situations, de-escalation, or apprehension of suspects.

This measure adds 8 firefighter/medics, which would provide an additional fire/medic response unit, and 5 police officers, to ensure better coverage 24 hours a day. This measure is endorsed by every City Councilmember, community leaders, and many of your friends and neighbors. Let's continue to pride ourselves on Anacortes being a safe and healthy community by ending our public safety staffing shortage. *Let's stand behind our first responders.*

Committee: Yes for Public Safety
 Committee Spokesperson: Kathy Pittis
 Contact: 360-420-4446; yes4safetyanacortes@gmail.com;
 www.yes4saftey.com
 Committee Members: Steve Berentson, Laurie Gere

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments

Explanatory Statement

Written by City of Anacortes

A proposition to authorize the City to levy regular property taxes in excess of state law limits for public safety staffing.

State law allows the City to ask the voters if they support a one-time permanent increase in property tax revenue above the 1% annual limit set by Chapter 84.55 RCW to support public safety staffing. The City Council unanimously adopted a resolution placing this proposition on the April special election ballot.

If approved by a majority of voters, this proposition will establish a maximum regular property tax levy of \$1.34335 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, which is an increase of \$0.36240 per \$1000 of assessed value. A homeowner with a home value of \$650,000 would pay \$234 more per year, or \$19.50 per month.

Funds generated by this proposition will be used to hire five additional police officers and eight additional firefighter/medics.

Need for police officers has grown with Anacortes's expanding population and increasing caseloads.

Additionally, new state law requirements have increased the average time required to respond to each call. Five additional officers will bring police staffing into alignment with industry standards and allow responders to take the time they need to safely deescalate and resolve emergencies. The department will also be able to schedule more patrol time for crime prevention and traffic enforcement. Since 2013, the Anacortes Fire Department call volume has increased by 60%, from 2694 to 4317 annual calls in 2022. The rate of calls often means the department is responding to multiple calls at the same time. Eight additional firefighter/medics will allow the City to staff a second unit full time at Fire Station 1, which will allow quicker response times to emergencies and ensure units are available to respond to multiple calls at once.

Argument Against

No information submitted.

Hospital District 1

Proposition No. 1

Levy Lid Lift for Health Care Services

The Commission of Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 1, Skagit County, Washington (Skagit Regional Health) adopted Resolution No. 4279 concerning the district's regular property tax levy. If approved, this proposition would provide additional funds for hospital and other health care services including primary care, specialty care, surgical care, emergency care, and urgent care services. It authorizes a maximum regular property levy rate for collection in 2024 of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The 2024 levy amount will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for levies in subsequent years.

Should this proposal be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Written by Hospital District 1

Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 1 (the “District”) operates Skagit Regional Health and provides hospital and other health care services to the residents of the District.

Under state law, public hospital districts are authorized to levy regular property taxes at a rate of up to 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for purposes of operating and maintaining the hospital and other health care facilities and services of the public hospital district. Because the District does not currently levy a regular property tax levy to support its operations, the District is required to request voter approval to begin levying a tax.

The District’s board has determined that it is necessary and in the best interest of the residents of the District to request approval of a regular property tax levy at the rate of 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed value beginning in 2024. The levy will provide funds to support the delivery of health care services to the District’s residents, including primary care services, specialty care services, urgent care services, emergency medical services, and other health care services.

Based on the current assessed value of the property within the district, the proposed levy would result in an estimated levy amount of \$16.65 per month or \$200 per year for property with an assessed value of \$400,000. The 2024 levy amount will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for the District’s levies in subsequent years.

Argument For

Skagit Regional Health is a public, non-profit, community owned health care system that has provided consistent, quality health care services to the people of Public Hospital District No. 1 since 1958. The elected Board of Commissioners, representing the constituents of the district, voted unanimously to place this first-ever property tax levy to the community to stabilize the future of local health care.

Our community needs access to local health care

The community depends on the nurses, doctors and staff of Skagit Regional Health to be accessible 24/7 with state-of-the-art care from primary care and urgent care to surgical services and emergency care. Support for this measure will maintain access to local care.

Our team provides quality care in challenging times

The past three years have been extremely challenging in health care as the system faces a pandemic, staffing challenges and increased supply costs. Still, the local team of skilled, compassionate health care workers at Skagit Regional Health have continued to provide quality care to the people of our community. Support for this measure will stabilize the future of local health care.

Support your local health care team, so the team can support the community

We all need health care. We are a community that cares about our families, neighbors and all who live, work or visit. Recent events, including the pandemic, have significantly challenged our local health care system. Vote yes to keep our health care system strong.

Committee Spokesperson: Larry Otos
 Contact: ProLocalCare@gmail.com
 Committee Members: Ramy Hanna,
 Zachary Barborinas

Argument Against

No information submitted.



Your signature matters



Under Washington State law, the signature on your ballot return envelope must match the signature from your voter registration record in order for your ballot to be counted. That means we check every single signature on every single return envelope in every single election. Each election, ballots are returned either unsigned or with a signature that doesn't quite match. Don't let that be you.

Here are a few tips to help make sure your signature passes the check and your ballot gets counted:

- If you register online, we pull your signature from the Dept. of Licensing, so check the signature on your drivers license or state ID and try to match that as closely as you can.
- Your signature does not need to be written in cursive or nicely or even legibly, it just needs to match the one that we already have on file. If you have a chicken scratch signature, that's okay! Just make sure you scratch it out the same way each time you vote.
- If you have no idea what signature you might have used or it's been a while and your signature has changed, you can always update your signature simply by returning a paper voter registration form. Returning a paper registration form will add your updated signature to your file.

If there is an issue with your signature not matching or if you just plain forgot to sign, we will send you a letter and, if we have your number, we'll reach out by phone as well. To make sure your ballot is counted, you'll need to fill out and return a simple form before 4:30 pm on Monday, August 15.



How to return your forms to Skagit County Elections:

- **Email:**
Take a clear photo or scan and send to sselections@co.skagit.wa.us. This is the fastest way to return forms to us. A clear photo is the key to success here!
- **Mail:**
Send to PO Box 1306 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
- **In person:**
Return it to our office by the deadline on your letter
700 S. 2nd St, Room 201
- **Fax:**
360-416-1699



If you have questions about signature challenges or how to fix yours, please call us at 360-416-1702.