



WILLIAM SHORE MEMORIAL POOL PARK DISTRICT ELECTION INFORMATION



1. **What is the current financial situation with the pool?**

In 2008, the City spent just over \$540,000 to operate and maintain the William Shore Memorial Pool. During that time period, the pool generated approximately \$190,000 in revenue, leaving the City with a \$350,000 funding shortfall. This gap was covered by the City's General Fund, which also supports other activities such as police, fire, and community development functions of the City. This funding shortfall has been steadily increasing over the past several years. Due to limited funding resources in the 2009 Budget, the City was able to only finance operations through March 31. The *Save the Pool Committee* is currently raising funds to continue operations for the next 60 to 90 days.

2. **What is a metropolitan park district, what will be its boundaries, who will get to vote on the measure, and when will the election be held?**

A metropolitan park district (MPD) is a special purpose district, and a type of municipal corporation. MPDs have authority to manage, control, improve, maintain, and acquire parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. In this case, the MPD is intended to take over the operation of the William Shore Memorial Pool.

The boundaries of this MPD will encompass the Port Angeles city limits and Port Angeles School District No. 121. Registered voters within this area will participate in a special election on May 19, 2009.

3. **Why hold an election now rather than in November when the next regular election is held?**

The 2009 City Budget includes funding for operation of the swimming pool only through the end of March. The *Save the Pool Committee* is currently raising funds so that the pool can continue to operate until June 2009. The election is being held in May because there is no funding available to continue the pool operations until November.

4. **What is the estimated cost to me as a homeowner if this measure passes?**

The ballot will state that the levy rate will be approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV). For the owner of a \$200,000 house, this equates to a payment of approximately \$30 per year.

5. **Who will be exempt from paying the MPD levy?**

Some exemptions or reductions might apply depending on the status of the property owner. In this case, the MPD would levy a regular property tax, not an excess levy. Property tax relief programs -- such as the Senior / Disabled Exemption and Deferral Programs -- will apply to the MPD property tax to the same extent such programs apply to other regular property tax levies. More information on this subject can be obtained from the Clallam County Assessor's office.

6. **Who exactly will "be in charge" of the pool if this measure passes?**

The MPD will be governed by a board of commissioners. The MPD commissioners will be the members of the City Council and the County Commissioners. The operation of the pool, including hiring of operations and administrative staff, will be the responsibility and under the direction of the Commissioners, with input from a pool advisory board.

7. Will the board members be paid, if so, how much?

No. The MPD Commissioners will not receive compensation.

8. What happens to the property that the pool is located on? Will it be sold or leased to the MPD?

The exact method of transferring operation and control of the pool to the MPD has not yet been determined. Regardless of the method ultimately selected, the property will revert to the City in the event the MPD ever ceases to operate a swimming pool on the property.

9. Will the pool keep the same programs, hours of operation and user fees if this measure passes?

It is anticipated that the MPD Commissioners, with recommendations from a pool advisory board, will establish programs and hours of operation similar to those currently in effect. Also, it is anticipated that fees will be uniform for all users, regardless of residence.

10. Will the City or the MPD be responsible for insurance and liability claims?

The MPD will be responsible for insurance and liability claims.

11. Can other facilities be incorporated into this district at a later time? If so, what would be the process for inclusion?

The intent of the MPD is to provide only for the operation of the William Shore Memorial Pool. The MPD could add other facilities at a later time. This would require separate legal action by the MPD Commissioners and an agreement with the facility owner. Should added facilities require increased funding, above the authorized amount for the MPD, an election and voter approval would be required.

12. If the MPD is formed and later proves not successful, how would it be disbanded?

State law allows the commissioners of a MPD to dissolve the district if: (1) the City and County, through their governing officials, petition for such dissolution, or (2) ten percent of the voters petition the governing officials for such a vote.

13. What happens to the pool if this measure fails?

If the measure is not approved by local voters, then the pool is expected to close no later than June 15, 2009 because there will be no funds to continue operations. A final decision on what then happens to the pool facility will be made by the City Council at a later date.

14. Who can I contact for more information?

For more information about this fact sheet contact either:
Kent Myers, City Manager at citymanager@cityofpa.us or 360-417-4630.
Jim Jones, County Administrator at jjones@co.clallam.wa.us or 360-417-2233.

For information regarding the pool itself, or for a tour of the facility, contact Pool Manager, Jayna Lafferty at 360-417-4595 or jlafferty@cityofpa.us.

