

# Introduction To Local Measures

This page contains the only local measures certified to appear on the August 16, 2011 Primary Election ballot. For any measure in the Local Voters' Pamphlet, the legislative authority of the jurisdiction placing the measure on the ballot is required to formally appoint committees to prepare statements advocating the approval or rejection of the measure. If the jurisdiction is

unable to make such appointments, the Thurston County Auditor, whenever possible, advertises for such appointments.

The Auditor's Office encourages you to thoroughly review all statements and seek additional information from the jurisdictions, the appointed citizens' committees, and the local and regional media.

## City of Tumwater - Proposition No. 1 - Fire and Public Safety Levy Lid Lift

Only voters residing within the city limits of Tumwater will vote on this measure.

### Ballot Title:

The City Council has adopted Ordinance O2011-005 concerning a levy lid lift for public safety funding. If approved, this proposition would authorize an increased regular property tax levy in 2012-2017 for public safety purposes, including firefighters, police officers, public safety facilities and equipment. The 2012 levy rate would be \$2.945736/\$1,000 of assessed value, estimated to raise \$1,443,500 in 2012. The levy limits for 2013-2017 would be adjusted for inflation, measured by the consumer price index. The 2017 levy would be used to calculate future levy limits and future increases would be limited as provided by statute.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved  
 Rejected

### Explanatory Statement:

Proposition 1 authorizes the city to raise funds specifically for public safety purposes through an increase in the regular property tax levy. With the funding, the City plans to hire additional firefighters and police officers to improve response times and public safety, purchase replacement fire engines, expand and renovate the existing police facility, and provide for other related public safety equipment and facilities.

The proposed change in the regular property tax levy will result in a total levy rate not to exceed \$2.945736 per thousand, which is an estimated increase of 66.7 cents per thousand over the current levy rate. The proposed change is estimated to increase the amount to be collected on a \$231,000 home in 2012 by approximately \$155 (\$12.92/month) over the amount collected under the 2011 levy. It is projected to generate \$1,443,500 in 2012 to pay for improved public safety in Tumwater. The proposed levy increase will be adjusted for inflation and will continue to produce revenues for public safety purposes in future years.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: Karen Kirkpatrick, Tumwater City Attorney

Please Note: "For" and "Against" statements are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.

### Statement For:

Rapid response to a fire, medical or police emergency is vitally important to saving lives, homes and businesses.

#### Proposition 1 will substantially improve public safety in Tumwater:

Current fire and emergency medical services fail to meet the 7 minute response time 42% of the time. At night often there are only 2 police officers on duty delaying responses and leading to unsafe situations for everyone during hazardous calls like domestic violence and similar assaults. Proposition 1 will improve night time police staffing and help begin staffing the north end fire station on Linwood Avenue which will reduce fire and medical response times.

#### Staffing has not kept up with growth:

No firefighters have been added since 1999 and no new police officers since 2000 while the population of Tumwater has more than doubled coupled with significant commercial growth. This levy will enable the addition of 3 new fire fighters, 2 patrol officers and 1 school resource officer for prevention and education programs in our schools.

#### Equipment and Facilities are out of date:

Proposition 1 will provide for the expansion of the police department which has not been updated since opening in 1987. The facility is substandard putting crime victims, police, and prisoners at risk. This levy will make the police work space safer and more efficient. In addition current reserve fire trucks are over 20 years old. This measure establishes a long term financing program for the replacement of fire trucks.

#### We urge you to vote approve on proposition 1.

Statement prepared by: Tumwater Citizens for Public Safety Committee: Ralph Osgood, Former Tumwater Mayor and committee chair; Shawn Myers, Thurston County Treasurer and committee treasurer; and Donovan Cathey, Vice President of the Tumwater Fire Fighters Union Local 2409. For more information please go to our web site at [www.TumwaterPublicSafety.com](http://www.TumwaterPublicSafety.com).

### Rebuttal of the Statement For:

Taxpayers should ask Tumwater elected officials why they did not hire any police or fire fighters in 11 years, while the population was doubling. Perhaps the answer is an increase in crime and reported fires is not an issue.

The proponents' statements don't promise any measurable improvement in response time.

Tumwater citizens should realize this proposition adds \$10,000,000 to their tax bills in the next six years, and costs jobs. Vote NO on this Proposition.

### Statement Against:

Tumwater is one of the safest and best fire and police protected cities in the state. This is due in large part to its citizens that are a major factor in determining its public safety.

This is the worst time in years to increase property taxes. The economy remains in a recession, that may worsen. State government faced a \$5 billion deficit by cutting programs.

The housing market continues to falter. Home values are at their lowest level in years, but property taxes continue to rise. Property taxes also are absorbed in rents people pay. Citizens can not afford additional taxes, especially when many can not afford to keep their homes.

Seniors have not had an increase in Social Security benefits in two years. Future increases will pay for increased Medicare Part B costs. Most retired state employees and teachers will not get a cost of living increase. State workers face further cuts in pay, higher health benefit costs, and layoffs. Many people take part-time jobs, or pay cuts, to remain employed. Others fear reductions in pay, or job losses.

This property tax levy will last six years. The city's regular property tax limit is increased by inflation, regardless how high it is, and how low assessed values drop. The first year special levy will cost an additional property tax of \$155 on a \$230,000 home.

Vote NO on this property tax increase!

Statement prepared by: Bill Pilkey, CFP, Economist and Steve Baxter

### Rebuttal of the Statement Against:

Tumwater's police officers and fire fighters are among the best. However, they're only as good as their training, equipment and facilities. Crime victims are being interviewed next to offenders in the too small police station. Emergency responders can't meet minimum response times. These are unacceptable for our community.

A 20 member citizen's advisory committee representing Tumwater businesses, homeowners, renters, and seniors studied this issue and agreed; public safety must be a priority.

Approve proposition 1.