

City of University Place

Special Election – Proposition No. 1
Submitted by the City of University Place
LEVY LID LIFT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of University Place passed Ordinance No. 476 concerning voter approval of a levy lid lift for capital improvements. If approved, this proposition would provide funds for constructing and maintaining capital improvements (such as sidewalks, streetlights, and purchase, conservation, and development of parks and trails). If approved, this proposition would authorize a maximum City regular property tax levy of \$1.60/\$1,000 assessed value for collection in 2007 (about 24.3¢ above the 2006 rate), all as provided in the ordinance. The 2007 levy would be used to compute the levy lid on future levies. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement: Proposition No. 1 would provide funding for construction and maintenance of capital improvements, including but not limited to sidewalks, streetlights, and for the purchase, conservation and development and maintenance of parks and trails. The "levy lid" (ch. 84.55 RCW) limits annual property taxes to 101% of the City's previous highest levy amount, plus certain adjustments (e.g., new construction), unless voters approve a proposition for a greater increase. This proposition would authorize an increase of about \$0.243/\$1,000 over the 2006 levy rate, which was \$1.357/\$1,000 assessed value. If approved, the levy rate for collection in 2007 would be no greater than \$1.60/\$1,000 assessed value. The estimate of \$1.60/\$1,000 is based on 2006 assessed values. The 2007 levy would be used to compute the levy lid on future property tax levies.

Statement For:

University Place is a great place to live, work, attend school and raise our families. Since incorporation, our city has made dramatic improvements to its look and safety. For a variety of reasons the funding sources that brought us many capital improvements including safer streets, street lights, sidewalks, parks, and land acquisition for conservation and public use has been dramatically reduced. This proposition will enable our community to continue a measured approach to build upon our previous successes. The Capital Strategies Task Force comprised of U.P. citizens, in concert with a consultant's survey of U.P. residents, found that the majority of our community wants to continue making improvements for sidewalks, street lights, park and trail land acquisition. Do we want to continue building on a future for a safer community for about \$158 a year on a home assessed at \$310,000. If so, please support your community and this proposition.

Committee Members: Ed Smith and Janette Parent

Statement Against:

It is always easy to ask for more...more money for capital improvements, more money for operating funds, more money for libraries, more money for schools, more money for fire districts. The harsh reality is that government spending has continued to grow. Overall spending (\$50 million in 9 years) in University Place has gone up 27.3% in the past five years. Proposition 1 will increase University Place taxes by 46.8%, local school taxes will increase approximately 29.6%, library taxes will increase 48.6% if approved, fire district taxes are up 35.3% over the past 5 years. The voters have spoken repeatedly in the initiative process that they expect government officials to live within their means - Not simply raise taxes. Your no vote counts, a simple majority will approve this tax hike. Proposition 1 will simply sanction higher government spending, something we can ill afford.

Vote No on Proposition 1.

Committee Members: Dennis Flann and Christopher Getchell

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

U.P. voters do respond to logical and clearly defined initiatives. Prop 1 clearly spells out an approach to continue safety improvements for sidewalks, street lights, trail and park land acquisition at a cost of about \$13.00 per month for a house assessed at \$310,000. U.P. has received over \$20 million in federal grants. Many grants require some local matching money – your \$13.00 a month may be the seed money for much larger funding.

Committee Members: Ed Smith and Janette Parent

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Are you being told the whole truth? Is University Place a place you can afford to live and then retire in? Fixed incomes are in everyone's future, controlling taxation *now* benefits everyone later. The Capital Strategies task force advised the City Council to *wait on tax increases* and let Town Center mature. It is not just \$158, it is \$496 per year total on a \$310,000 house if Proposition 1 passes. **Please Vote No.**

Committee Members: Dennis Flann and Christopher Getchell