

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL SEEKS MEMBERS TO SERVE ON PRO AND CON STATEMENT WRITING COMMITTEES

BELLINGHAM, Washington, June 16, 2022 - The Whatcom County Council seeks members to serve on pro and con statement writing committees for the following:

Lift of the limit on regular property taxes under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purpose of funding for childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children

On June 7, 2022 the Whatcom County Council adopted an ordinance requesting the Whatcom County Auditor include on the ballot, in a special election to be held concurrently with the November 8, 2022 general election, a proposition to the qualified voters of the County to approve or reject a levy above the regular property tax limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for the funding of childcare and early childhood programs to improve kindergarten readiness and funding for support of homeless and otherwise vulnerable children. The proposed levy lid lift authorized by this proposition would permit the County to increase its regular property tax levy by \$0.19 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, resulting in a regular property tax levy of \$0.94 per \$1000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023 (calculated using the regular property tax rate in 2022, based on total assessed value in 2021), and to increase the levy thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW to allow for the uninterrupted continuation of the levy lid lift for a term of ten (10) years. The amount collected in 2023 and in the following 9 years will be approximately \$8,200,000.00 annually. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(5), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2032 for collection in 2033 and in later years shall be computed as if the proposition under this resolution had not been approved.

The proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION _____;

The Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance No. 22-_____ concerning funding to address the well-being of children. If approved, this proposition would authorize the County to increase property taxes to fund childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children. This measure would increase property taxes for ten consecutive years in the amount of \$0.19/\$1000 in assessed valuation (to a total rate of \$0.94/\$1000 in assessed valuation for collection in 2023) for collection in 2023-2032, subject to the limit factors in chapter 84.55 RCW and the exemptions in RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

Per RCW 29A.32.280, the County Council will formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure. The Council will appoint persons known to favor the measure to serve on the committee advocating approval and shall, whenever possible, appoint persons known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating rejection. Each committee shall have no more than three members; however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons. If the Council fails to make such appointments by the

prescribed deadline, the county auditor shall, whenever possible, make the appointments.

If you are interested in serving on the "pro" or "con" committee for the above proposal, please submit your name to the Whatcom County Council Office by Noon on July 19, 2022, to be considered for appointment. It is expected that the Council will appoint members at its July 26, 2022, evening meeting.

Names can be submitted by emailing the Council Office at council@co.whatcom.wa.us or calling 360.778.5010.