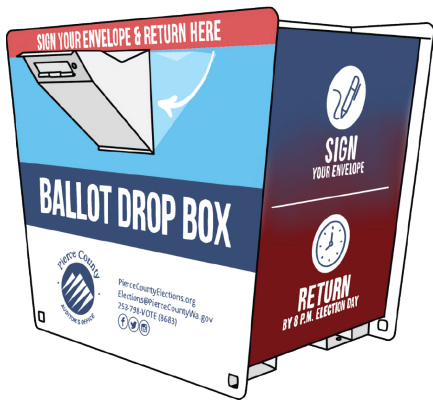


# SPECIAL ELECTION APRIL 25, 2023

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet published  
by the Pierce County Auditor's Office

## Drop Boxes Open 24/7 beginning April 7, 2023



**Using a Drop Box?**  
(No stamp required)  
Drop off ballot by 8 p.m.  
**April 25, 2023.**

**Mailing your ballot?**  
(No stamp required)  
Must be postmarked on  
or before **April 25, 2023.**



Scan to view drop box locations or visit  
[PierceCountyWA.gov/334](https://PierceCountyWA.gov/334)

## NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

### To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington state.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement for a felony.

### Three ways to register to vote and obtain a ballot:

- Online - [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov)
- By mail - Call us at (253) 798-VOTE (8683) and we will mail you a form.
- In person - Pierce County Election Center

### Registration Deadlines

- Online/Mail - April 17
- In person - April 25

# NEED HELP?


## Pierce County Election Center


2501 S 35th St. Suite C, Tacoma, WA 98409

Open Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

### Extended hours on Election Day

8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

 [PierceCountyElections.org](https://PierceCountyElections.org)

 **253-798-VOTE (8683)**

 [Elections@PierceCountyWA.gov](mailto:Elections@PierceCountyWA.gov)

   **Pierce County Auditor**

## VOTER SERVICES

- Register to vote.
- Update voter registration.
- Replacement ballots for lost, damaged, or mismarked ballots.
- Disability assistance - Large font, color contrast, and audible ballot options.
- Track your ballot or print a replacement ballot at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov).



## Ballot Title

The University Place City Council adopted Resolution 1005, authorizing a proposition funding eight additional patrol and traffic officers, and a specialist addressing homelessness, park safety and crime prevention. The proposition increases the City's current property tax levy from \$0.660672963 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$1.01 per \$1,000 in 2024. This levy would be used to compute limitations for subsequent levies. Taxpayers qualifying for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381 would be exempt from the increase. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

The City of University Place is seeking voter approval for a levy lid lift to provide funding for additional public safety staffing, including eight additional patrol and traffic officers, and a specialist to address homelessness, park safety and crime prevention.

The City currently receives about six cents for every dollar taxpayers pay in property tax, and the City dedicates all of it to public safety. State law generally limits the City's property tax revenue growth to 1% annually, even if property values increase by more than 1%. Because this additional revenue is less than the annual increase in the City's public safety costs, the City lacks funding to add staff to patrol neighborhoods or to address increases in property crimes and speeding.

This proposal increases the City's levy rate by approximately \$0.35 per \$1000 of assessed value for collection in 2024 and would be used to calculate the statutory limitation for future levy increases. For a home assessed at \$652,240 (the average assessed home value as determined by the Pierce County Assessor Treasurer), this levy would increase a homeowner's property tax by approximately \$19 per month. Low-income seniors and low-income disabled homeowners may qualify for an exemption from this increase.

## Statement For

### Why do we need this?

University Place only has two police officers on duty at any given time. For a city of 35,000 people, that is not enough. Our officers are entirely reactive in their policing, going from call-to-call their entire shift. This leaves them unable to perform security patrols or traffic enforcement. Any police call for service requiring two officers to respond, such as a traffic accident, leaves the rest of the city uncovered. Response times and property crime are increasing.

### What do we get for our money?

Proposition One will increase our coverage to three officers on duty, add a patrol sergeant, a dedicated traffic officer, and a community outreach officer. This will allow police officers to respond faster, conduct follow-up investigations, improve traffic safety, and address escalating crime.

### Is there another way?

There is no other way to make meaningful change in our public safety without this levy. Let's improve safety and peace of mind in our community.

Vote yes on Proposition One!

## Rebuttal

We have the fewest officers per citizen of any city in the state. Crime is increasing and our police can't meet the demand. Most of the city budget is restricted by law to the areas where it is spent – there is no way to squeeze the budget to make a difference. If we want to improve public safety, this levy is the only way. Let's invest in our community and vote yes on Proposition One!

**Committee Members:** Edward Wood, Javier Figueroa  
253-961-6194

## Statement Against

### Property Taxes are less than 20% of the total city Revenue Sources. They have money.

They chose to limit police funding primarily to property taxes. Other city revenue includes: Transportation Benefit District, 6% Utility Tax on sewer, garbage, gas, electric, cell phone, cable, internet and stormwater, Sales Tax. All put in place and increased without *your vote!*

### 2021 Financial Report: 'strong financial position for at least the next 10 to 15 years'.

They had about \$200,000 to fund these ballot measures and fliers to influence your vote. Enough to fund 1-2 traffic patrol officers who could likely generate enough additional revenue to fund themselves as well as at least one more patrol officer.

### 53% Increase? We need affordable housing. Housing costs matter. Business costs matter. Vote No!

\$19 per month is \$228 per year, a 53% increase over the current \$54.90 per month, which is \$430.93 per year. This would result in \$658.76 per year for the *average* homeowner. *That's real.* Burdening our residents and businesses. We need to protect our businesses.

### Our Average assessed values went up more than 20% in 2022.

In November the voters said *no!* Vote no *again* and be ready to say it again. Demand *responsible spending* vs higher taxes.

## Rebuttal

Peace of mind = affordable housing! Pierce County has the highest tax rates in the State. UP has the highest average tax rates in Pierce County. They're assuming they can fill these new positions. Police everywhere have been handcuffed, resulting in *many* leaving and those positions can't be filled. A 53% *permanent increase* in our city property taxes won't change this. Adjust the budget, prioritizing safety. Please vote *no again!*

**Committee Members:** Betsy Tainer, Dennis Flann  
(253) 564-7364, [UPCityVotes@gmail.com](mailto:UPCityVotes@gmail.com),  
[facebook.com/UniversityPlaceVoterResource](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityPlaceVoterResource)