

Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Pierce County
ANNEXATION OF THE TOWN OF WILKESON TO
THE PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Ballot Title: Shall the Town of Wilkeson be annexed to and be part of the Pierce County Rural Library District?

Explanatory Statement: The Pierce County Council has adopted Resolution R2003-12. This Resolution calls for a special election on March 11, 2003, for the purpose of submitting to the affected voters the determination of whether or not the Town of Wilkeson shall join and be annexed to the Pierce County Rural Library District. This process was initiated when the Wilkeson Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 2003.01 declaring its intent that the town be annexed to the Rural Library District. The Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Rural Library District declared its concurrence in the annexation by adoption of Resolution No. 2003-04. Only those persons who are registered to vote in the Town of Wilkeson for at least 30 days prior to the election are entitled to vote on the annexation proposition. The proposition will pass if a simple majority of the votes cast are in favor of the annexation. If the proposition is approved, the annexation will become effective as of the date that the Pierce County Canvassing Board certifies election results.

Statement For:

No statement was submitted for this issue.

*This space is available each election
for citizens and/or committees supporting measures
to publish a "Statement For." For information, contact the
Pierce County Auditor's Office at (253) 798-7430.*

Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

*This space is available each election
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to publish a "Statement Against." For information, contact the
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Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Eatonville School District No. 404
FACILITY IMPROVEMENT
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$24,000,000

Ballot Title: The Board of Directors of Eatonville School District #404 adopted Resolution #471 concerning a proposition for bonds. The proposition authorizes the District to remodel and make improvements to the District high, middle and elementary schools, bring all schools up to fire, safety, earthquake, Americans with Disabilities Act and building code compliance; to issue \$24,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution #471. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the issuance of \$24,000,000 of bonds by Eatonville School District No. 404 (the “District”) to provide funding to remodel and make improvements to the District high, middle and elementary schools and bring all schools up to fire, safety, earthquake, Americans with Disabilities Act and building code compliance. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of 20 years. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold, but levies are expected to average approximately \$2.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the term of the bonds.

Statement For:

Yes, now is the time to provide our children safe and healthy schools. Dozens of fellow community members have developed commonsense solutions to extend the life of our schools for decades and help students compete for 21st century careers.

Eatonville High School: Last renovated 25 years ago, EHS needs the most attention. Add or upgrade: library, student commons, career counseling, restrooms, auditorium, pool, cafeteria, science and general classrooms. Renovate: communications, heating, ventilation, electrical and water systems.

Eatonville Middle School: EMS will gain general and science classrooms, restrooms, expanded lunchroom and physical education instructional space to support learning and reduce overcrowding.

Eatonville and Weyerhaeuser Elementary Schools: Move offices to the front of the buildings to improve security. Enhance kindergarten and special education teaching space. Add classrooms to reduce overcrowding.

Columbia Crest School: Interior modifications, renovate restrooms and make ADA compliant, add covered walkway and replace play shed.

Bring all schools to current earthquake, fire and safety standards.

Together we can do this for the kids.

Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

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Special Election - Proposition No. 1

Submitted by East Gig Harbor Water District

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$150,000

Ballot Title: The Board of Commissioners of East Gig Harbor Water District passed Resolution No. 16-2002 concerning a proposition to finance and acquire a water system. This proposition authorizes the District to acquire a water supply and distribution system by acquiring and upgrading facilities of a private water system, issue not to exceed \$150,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 15 years to pay part of the cost of this project, and repay and retire such bonds by levying property taxes annually in excess of regular tax levies on all taxable property within the District, as provided in Resolution No. 16-2002. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: This proposition would authorize the East Gig Harbor Water District to issue general obligation bonds in the principal amount of \$150,000 to provide funds to pay for the costs of an eminent domain (condemnation) lawsuit that will establish the price of the existing private water system, and, with any remaining funds, to pay for all or some of the costs of acquiring and upgrading the water system.

The bonds would mature within a maximum term of 15 years, and be paid by annual property tax levies made throughout the District in excess of regular property tax levies, at an estimated average of \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, or an estimated \$69 annually for a home valued at \$300,000.

Statement For:

We support this levy because it is necessary in order to complete the purchase of the current privately owned water system. The only way to remedy current and chronic problems, including low pressure and insufficient fire flow, is through public ownership of our water supply.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

No one likes to see taxes go up. However, in this situation, the alternative, having the water company remain privately owned, is not acceptable. The current owner refuses to negotiate a fair price for the company, and while improvements have often been promised, water users know they'll never be made. If we want adequate fire flow, consistent pressure, and clean, safe water, the only solution is public ownership of the water supply.

Committee Members Include: Gretchen Russell, Linda McCowen, and Bob Thorpe

Statement Against:

We are opposed to this levy assessment because we were not warned that an additional levy might be necessary.

The fact that the owner of the water system was able to run up the Water District's legal expenses is not an adequate justification for increasing our taxes once again.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

"Although current water charges in this district seem inappropriately high, the citizens of the district apparently must shoulder additional substantial legal costs if we're to acquire the system. This levy means more taxes. When we finally own the system a new dollar remedy will likely be needed to make needed improvements. That means a third round of more taxes or another increase in water charges. When does it end?"

Committee Members Include: Jac Baker, Margit Gorton, and Tim McVicker