



Proposition No. 1

Submitted by the City of Bonney Lake



Official Ballot Title:

City of Bonney Lake Proposition No. 1 concerns a proposed change in the form of city government. This Proposition would effect the abandonment of the current mayor-council form of city government, where the City has seven elected council members and an elected mayor who oversees city administration, and the adoption of a new council-manager form of city government, where the City would have seven elected council members and a city manager in charge of city administration, selected by the council. A mayor would be chosen by the council from among its members. Should this Proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement:

This Proposition would effect the abandonment of the current mayor-council form of city government, where the City has seven elected council members and an elected mayor who oversees city administration, and the adoption of a new council-manager form of city government, where the City would have seven elected council members and a city manager in charge of city administration, selected by the council. A mayor would be chosen by the council from among its members, to preside at council meetings and serve as the head of the city for ceremonial purposes. If this Proposition is approved, the change in form of government would become effective upon the election of a new council at the next general election.

Statement For: State & National Government Trends

Most cities larger than 8,000 population select Council/Manager form of government. It combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with professional experience in public administration and finance for the ever-growing complexity of running a multi-million dollar budget. In an article dated Nov 14, 2000 the Mayor stated the city needs professional management.

Support Responsive and Efficient Government

A City manager will run the city as a business reporting to a board of directors, the Council. Qualities needed to win an election are not the same qualities needed to manage a city. Would you prefer a politician handling your money, or a trained professional?

Strengthen Balance of Power

The Council/Manager form concentrates political power in the entire governing body rather than one elected official, removing any abuse of power by one individual.

Ensure Government Stability

Manager provides continuity, longevity and stable environment for city staff even through elected official changes. Vote Yes to bring peace, harmony and efficiency to our city government.

Statement prepared by: Roger Kramer

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Changing the form of government will not remove citizen's ability to vote for Mayor. The Mayor can be elected as Council Position 1.

Citizens will not lose accountability due to lost veto. The Mayor has used veto once in four years, and that was overturned by super-majority vote of the council.

Current system often pits the Mayor against the Council. This government may not be broken, but Council-Manager form will work much smoother.

Statement prepared by: Roger Kramer

Statement Against: Don't Change What is Working

The strong Mayor form of government has built in checks and balances between the Council and the Mayor and is confrontational by design. The Mayor must reside in the city; answers to the electorate, not the Council, and has veto power. City Managers only have the power of suggestion to the Council. The more you set government at odds with itself, the more you protect it's citizens freedoms.

City Managers cost too much; local elected Mayors can handle the job for less. Elected Mayors provide excellent management for very little pay. City Managers follow direction from the Council and can be removed by a majority vote. The Council-Manager form is too much like a business corporation therefore not suitable for managing community needs. Citizens may be confused about who is in charge.

The system works now and has for many years.

Statement prepared by: Hugh Gardner

Rebuttal of Statement For:

A City Manager will not help de-politicize City Council business. The City Manager is accountable to the Council and thus will be a part of Council politics. Keeping the position of mayor, leaves accountability to the citizens first, not the Council. Supposed continuous direction will not be achieved.

The opposition claims the Mayor stated the city needs professional management. The city had professional management until the council pulled funding for the city administrator position.

Statement prepared by: Hugh Gardner



Proposition No. 1
Submitted by the City of Tacoma
CITY PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC SERVICES FACILITIES BONDS - \$32,000,000



Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of Tacoma, Washington, adopted Substitute Ordinance No. 26799, concerning a proposition to finance construction and improvements of City facilities. If approved, this proposition will authorize the City to construct, equip, and improve public safety and public service facilities including a police headquarters and vehicle maintenance facility, and fire station, issue up to \$32,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 25 years to pay for such project, and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Substitute Ordinance No. 26799. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Statement For:

Meeting Tacoma’s public safety needs means police and fire should have facilities that enable them to do the best job possible to protect our community. That’s what Prop 1 does.

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, your “yes” vote will:

A New Police Headquarters

Provide \$29 million for *a new police headquarters centrally located at the old Costco site, replacing the cramped and outdated facility that police work at today.* This also funds co-location of a vehicle fleet and street maintenance facility in the old Costco building – providing a more efficient use of our tax dollars.

A New Fire Station

Provide \$3 million for *a new fire station in the growing port/industrial area that will relieve station-to-station back-up and emergency response risks throughout Tacoma.*

Prop 1 reflects our desire to live in a safe and secure city. **Vote “yes” for Prop 1.**

Statement prepared by: *Kevin Phelps, Marilee Jones Scarbrough, and Bob Sheehan, Building Tacoma Together*

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 1 builds a new centrally-located police headquarters, co-locates the City’s vehicle fleet and street maintenance facility in the old Costco, and builds a new fire station in the growing port/industrial area.

Prop 1 maintains our commitment to public safety and makes efficient use of our tax dollars.

Vote yes on Prop 1!

Statement prepared by: *Kevin Phelps, Marilee Jones Scarbrough, and Bob Sheehan, Building Tacoma Together*



Explanatory Statement: The City of Tacoma requests voters to approve a Capital Facilities Improvement Bond issue to construct a police headquarters, fire station, vehicle, and street maintenance facilities, and other related facilities.

A police headquarters, vehicle, and street maintenance facilities will be co-located. The facilities will improve public safety and increase efficiency. The new fire station will replace an obsolete station. Dependent on location, the station could house an engine, fireboat, water tender, or reserve vehicle. Bond proceeds will construct, equip, and improve these facilities and other related facilities.

Without voter approval, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the projects. Therefore, the needed construction and improvements would not be possible.

The bonds would mature within 25 years after the date of issue. They would be paid by annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes. City tax rates will increase, but there is not projected to be an increase in the overall property tax rate from year 2000 levels because of reductions in other jurisdictions taxes.

Exemptions from taxes for the bonds may be available to homeowners who are 61 years of age or older, are disabled, and who meet income requirements set by state law.

Statement Against:

Washington State has the 9th highest per capita tax burden in America. Tacoma’s property tax rate is the highest in Washington.

Why?

One reason is that the Tacoma City Council rigs bond elections.

How?

One way is to illegally and/or unethically manipulate/rig the information that is supposed to be made available to the voters. This is what the Tacoma City Council is trying to do with this “Copco proposal”.

How?

The Tacoma City Council by law is supposed to choose three member committees to write con statements for the voter’s pamphlet. (RCW 29.81A.080)

However, the Tacoma City Council has a history of refusing to appoint committees to write opposition statements to the City Council’s various tax schemes in the Voters’ Pamphlet.

On March 27, 2001, the Tacoma City Council voted to split this \$60 million bond into four bonds and refused to appoint an opposition committee. This gave the citizens of Tacoma less than 48 hours to research and write statements against these proposals.

Statement prepared by: *Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers*

Rebuttal of Statement For:

A \$29 million “Police Palace” with a big parking lot for taxpayer funded “take-home” cop cars?
No!

Firefighters Union President Pat McElligott says, “...*I have a concern right now that we’re floating a bond under public safety that we don’t need under the firefighters issues. ...I think that there needs to be more time taken on this. ...we’re now being used as a pawn to help try and sell this municipal bond.*” 3/27/2001

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Statement prepared by: *Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers*

Proposition No. 2
Submitted by the City of Tacoma
CITY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT BONDS - \$16,000,000



Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of Tacoma, Washington, adopted Substitute Ordinance No. 26799, concerning a proposition to finance construction and improvements of City facilities. If approved, this proposition will authorize the City to acquire, construct, equip, and improve neighborhood and business district streets, and other improvements, issue up to \$16,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 25 years to pay for such project, and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Substitute Ordinance No. 26799. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Statement For:

Tacoma’s neighborhoods and the people who build them together, block by block, make our city an extraordinary place to live. Our community’s natural beauty adds to our quality of life. Local jobs are created in vibrant neighborhood business districts that enrich our community.

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 2 will provide:

Neighborhood Improvements

\$8 million for eight neighborhood councils for street, sidewalks, street lighting, neighborhood facilities and parks improvements – giving neighborhood groups control over how this money is invested.

Neighborhood Business District Upgrades

\$4 million for 12 neighborhood business districts for street lighting, traffic control, pedestrian amenities and other district-related improvements.

Quality of Life Improvements

\$4 million to preserve local shorelines and streams, provide urban reforestation, improve public access to waterways, complete the Dickman Mill park site, and replace the Old Town Dock.

Vote “yes” for Prop 2!

Statement prepared by: *Nancy Davis, Bill Evans, and Ron Michael, Building Tacoma Together*

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 2 reaffirms our support for Tacoma’s neighborhoods, our local business districts and our quality of life.

Neighborhood councils get to choose how improvements are made in each neighborhood. Business districts get needed basic improvements, reflecting their role as community centers that bring people together. Waterway access and waterfront improvements enhance Tacoma’s natural beauty, adding to our quality of life.

Vote yes on Prop 2!

Statement prepared by: *Nancy Davis, Bill Evans, and Ron Michael, Building Tacoma Together*



Explanatory Statement: The City of Tacoma requests voters to approve a Capital Facilities Improvement Bond issue to improve neighborhood and business districts, rights-of-way, and other public places.

The neighborhood and business district improvements would include Neighborhood Council projects, Business District projects, and Waterfront access and improvement projects and other related projects, including street, sidewalk, public plaza and other right-of-way improvements.

Without voter approval, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the intended improvements. Therefore, the needed construction and improvements would not be possible.

The bonds would mature within 25 years after the date of issue. They would be paid by annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes. City tax rates will increase, but there is not projected to be an increase in the overall property tax rate from year 2000 levels because of reductions in other jurisdictions taxes.

Without voter approval, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the intended improvements. Therefore, the needed construction and improvements would not be possible.

Statement Against:

Tacoma’s budget is so tight that we can’t afford to keep up what we have. Metro Parks has repeatedly asked the city not to fund any further neighborhood projects because neither they, nor the city, have the funds to keep them up. It makes no sense to build new facilities (like swimming pools) if we can’t keep them open. If you can’t assure the public that you have the money to maintain what we have, why are you asking us to spend more money on facilities that we can’t maintain? This is simply a waste of money.

Statement prepared by: *Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers*

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Neighborhood Improvements?

The “Neighborhood Council Program” *is simply another extra layer of taxpayer funded bureaucracy.*

Think about it! “Streets, sidewalks, street lighting...”etc. are projects that can be and are covered by the Public Works Department.

Dickman Mill Park?

Here they come again! Since March 9, 1999, Tacoma voters have passed a **\$35 million parks bond** and a county wide *permanent sales tax for parks* that will raise over **\$90 million in the next ten years.**

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Statement prepared by: *Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers*

Proposition No. 3
Submitted by the City of Tacoma
CITY RECREATION FACILITY BONDS - \$7,000,000



Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of Tacoma, Washington, adopted Substitute Ordinance No. 26799, concerning a proposition to finance construction and improvements of City facilities. If approved, this proposition will authorize the City to acquire, construct, equip, and improve public recreation facilities including Cheney Stadium, Pantages Theater, and other facilities, issue up to \$7,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 25 years to pay for such project, and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Substitute Ordinance No. 26799. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Statement For:

Cheney Stadium and the Pantages Theater have created special, timeless memories in our own minds and hearts. Games with our parents, children, and grandchildren. Foul balls. Hot dogs. McGwire before he hit 70 homers. Being a hometown fan.

A matinee or evening at the Pantages with family and friends, enjoying talented local, regional and nationally recognized performing artists and organizations. School buses from throughout the City bringing children to the Pantages, teaching them about the performing arts.

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 3 invests:

Cheney Stadium

\$5 million for Cheney's first major renovation since 1961: new grandstand seats, clubhouse facilities and outfield fence, and roof structure, restroom and exterior improvements.

The Pantages

\$2 million to remodel and expand lobby areas, restrooms, classrooms and reception areas, rehearsal hall and theater signage to accommodate audiences and a variety of arts organizations.

Vote "yes" on Prop 3!

Statement prepared by: Stan Naccarato, Griselda 'Babe' Lehrer, and Mike Crowley, Building Tacoma Together

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

From bad calls to curtain calls, Cheney and the Pantages have created decades of priceless memories for people throughout Tacoma. For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 3 makes long-overdue and necessary improvements to both venues.

These aren't extravagant additions – just smart investments to maintain and improve Cheney and the Pantages so our children and grandchildren can enjoy both for generations to come.

Vote yes on Prop 3!

Statement prepared by: Stan Naccarato, Griselda 'Babe' Lehrer, and Mike Crowley, Building Tacoma Together



Explanatory Statement: The City of Tacoma requests voters to approve a Capital Facilities Improvement Bond issue to construct, repair, and make improvements to public recreation facilities, including repair, rehabilitation, construction, seismic, and other improvements to Cheney Stadium, Pantages Theater, and other public recreational and arts facilities and related improvements.

The improvements to Cheney Stadium include new clubhouse facilities, new roof, press box, outfield fence, grandstand seating and restroom enhancements. The improvements to the Pantages Theater will remodel and expand lobby areas, classrooms, restrooms, reception areas, the rehearsal hall, and theater signage.

Without voter approval, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the intended improvements. Therefore, the needed construction and improvements would not be possible.

The bonds would mature within 25 years after the date of issue. They would be paid by annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes. City tax rates will increase, but there is not projected to be an increase in the overall property tax rate from year 2000 levels because of reductions in other jurisdictions taxes.

Exemptions from taxes for the bonds may be available to homeowners who are 61 years of age or older, are disabled, and who meet income requirements set by state law.

Statement Against:

Does Tacoma have any guarantee that Cheney stadium is going to be used? We have seen only too frequently how cities are held hostage by sports franchises, only to lose the team because the city wouldn't give the team a free ride. **Tacoma needs to make the users pay for the facilities.** We are not so wealthy that the public can subsidize professional sports. You already are paying for a Mariner's stadium and a Seahawk's stadium with your taxes.

Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Hello! Reality Calling!

Prop #4 is about affordable housing, not Prop #3. **Oops!**

Prop #3 is about giving **\$7 million to Cheney Stadium and Pantages Theater.**

March 28, 2001, Tacoma City Councilmember Larry Dahl voted to place these four bond proposals on the ballot.

March 30, 2001, Less than 48 hours later, **he turns in a supporting statement for the voters' pamphlet for the wrong ballot prop.**

Is this any way to decide whether to use taxpayer dollars to subsidize professional sports teams/Pantages?

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Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers

Proposition No. 4
Submitted by the City of Tacoma
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FACILITY BONDS - \$5,000,000



Official Ballot Title: The City Council of the City of Tacoma, Washington, adopted Substitute Ordinance No. 26799, concerning a proposition to finance construction and improvements of City facilities. If approved, this proposition will authorize the City to acquire, construct, equip, and improve affordable housing, issue up to \$5,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 25 years to pay for such project, and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Substitute Ordinance No. 26799. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Statement For:

Among Tacoma’s common strengths is our desire to help others in need in a way that respects people’s pride and dignity.

It’s no secret that housing costs – from making rent payments to purchasing and maintaining safe and secure housing – is more difficult than ever. **Tacoma’s effort to provide affordable housing needs our help and support today.**

For the same overall property tax rate as last year, Prop 4 will provide \$5 million for *needed housing assistance to lower-income families and individuals* such as *rental housing for seniors and people with disabilities*. This funding will leverage financial support from other sources to create additional money to meet Tacoma’s critical affordable housing needs.

Today’s affordable housing needs are real. Cities around us have failed to act soon enough. Let’s not make the same mistake. **Vote “yes” for Prop 4.**

Statement prepared by: Sandy Burgess, Larry Dahl, and Denny Hunthausen, Building Tacoma Together

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Prop 4 provides critical funding that enables Tacoma to address its affordable housing crisis today at the same overall property tax rate as last year.

From senior citizens on fixed incomes and people with disabilities to young families in need, Prop 4 helps lower-income people get into an affordable, safe and warm place to live. Your support will make a difference right now.

Vote yes for Prop 4!

Statement prepared by: Sandy Burgess, Larry Dahl, and Denny Hunthausen, Building Tacoma Together



Explanatory Statement: The City of Tacoma requests voters to approve a Capital Facilities Improvement Bond issue to construct affordable housing.

The City will use its bond proceeds combined with other public or private entities to develop housing projects for low-income individuals and families as described in RCW 35.21.685. The City’s interest in the projects may take many forms so long as long-term affordability is assured. The City’s interest in the projects will entitle the City to impose long-term affordability requirements on the projects.

Without voter approval, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the intended improvements. Therefore, the needed construction and improvements would not be possible.

The bonds would mature within 25 years after the date of issue. They would be paid by annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes. City tax rates will increase, but there is not projected to be an increase in the overall property tax rate from year 2000 levels because of reductions in other jurisdictions taxes.

Exemptions from taxes for the bonds may be available to homeowners who are 61 years of age or older, are disabled, and who meet income requirements set by state law.

Statement Against:

Who could possibly be against money for affordable housing? Approximately half of Tacoma citizens earn wages below the poverty level. How are they going to be able to afford higher rents to pay for the property taxes that will be raised by this proposition. Do we really think that giving subsidies to the builders for “affordable rental housing” ever gets into the pockets of those that need the cheaper housing. **We all can get affordable housing by lowering the property taxes.** Tacoma has the highest property taxes in the state.

Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Hello! Reality Calling!

Prop #4 is not about Cheney Stadium, it’s about affordable housing. **Oops!**

March 28, 2001, Tacoma City Councilmember Larry Dahl voted to place these four bond proposals on the ballot. **March 30, 2001,** less than 48 hours later, **he turns in a supporting statement for the voters’ pamphlet for the wrong ballot prop.**

We say, affordable housing, yes, glass art museums, no.

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Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Ralph Baldwin, and Curt Mehlhaff, The Taxes Rangers



Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Puyallup School District No. 3
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2001 - \$89,900,000



Official Ballot Title: The Board of Directors of Puyallup School District adopted Resolution No. 32-2000-01 concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements. This proposition authorizes the District to pay the costs of acquiring and installing capital improvements, including technology, to its facilities, to acquire real property for new schools, to build a new junior high and elementary school; to make other facility improvements; to issue \$89,900,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years; and to levy annual excess property tax levies to pay and retire such bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 32-2000-01. Shall this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: Puyallup School District No. 3 seeks voter approval of a bond issue in the amount of not to exceed \$89,900,000 to pay the cost of constructing, installing and equipping a new junior high school and a new elementary school. The bond proceeds will also pay the costs of certain capital improvements to modernize Meeker, Wildwood Park, Fruitland, and Spinning Elementary Schools; Ferrucci, Kalles, and Aylene Junior High Schools’ athletic fields. The bonds will mature within a maximum term of 20 years and will be repaid from annual tax levies in excess of regular tax levies. The estimated annual levy rate for each property owner will be approximately \$6.73 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. As a result, annual taxes to repay the bonds on a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$673.00 annually. Passage of the bond issue will also facilitate the receipt of approximately \$16,400,000 of state financing assistance by the District. The state financing assistance will be used to modernize Kalles and Aylene Junior High Schools, Rogers and Puyallup High Schools and to construct new classrooms at Aylene Junior High School. The state financing assistance will also be used for technology improvements.

Statement For:

The Puyallup School District is submitting to voters a bond election that identifies a need for new school construction, additional classrooms and modernization at existing schools, purchase of future school sites, and other school projects.

The bond election is based on a plan developed by the Citizens Facility Advisory and Technology Advisory Committees. These committees made it clear that while building new schools and modernizing existing schools is a high priority, funding of the plan integrates a stable, level tax rate which taxpayers can anticipate over the long term. It also includes a well-planned election timeline providing accountability to the interests of all taxpayers.

The funding plan includes all current local school tax obligations and assumes the passage of future maintenance and operations levies. This package will offer voters a projected flat tax rate of \$6.73 per \$1,000 assessed valuation over the next 12 years.

Vote yes on May 15.

Statement Against:

No statement was submitted against this issue.

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

Statement prepared by: Greg Heath, Sally Knab, and Bill Gilbertson