

Pierce County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

Special Election | February 8, 2011

More drop boxes!

New locations

See page 3

What's on the ballot

- Pierce Transit
- Peninsula School District No. 401
- Fire District No. 2 (Lakewood)



Published by the Pierce County Auditor's Office
piercecountywa.org/elections
253-798-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-446-4979

Message from the Auditor

Dear Pierce County Voter:

All Districts in this Special Election have chosen a Vote-By-Mail format. Polls will not be open. In situations like these, it's good to have other options for voters! The Auditor's Office will have 22 ballot drop-off locations open across the County for this February Special Election. It's a nice mix of ballot drop boxes and staffed express booths.

Terrific news! We installed eight new drop boxes this year. The boxes are very secure, have large capacity and offer 24/7 voter convenience. The boxes are opened as soon as ballots are mailed. For voters who want to save a stamp, or have concerns about the security of their mail, drop boxes are VERY popular. Over 17,000 voters used a drop box in the last election!

In addition to the ballot drop boxes, we will have eight staffed express booths. This is fewer than normal. It's getting harder and harder to keep the express booth program going. Six of the booths have been taken out of circulation. Built in the late 90's, the boxes are showing serious wear and tear. They are beginning to need significant repairs. Also, the expense of staffing the booths is getting harder to justify during these tough economic times. And finally, between elections these booths have to be hauled and stored. Storage costs more than you think!

Whether you drop it off, or hand it in, we're ready to count your vote. Thank you for taking the time to vote in this Special Election.



Julie Anderson
Pierce County Auditor

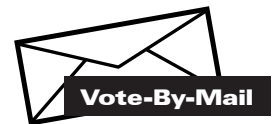
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This pamphlet contains all the issues on the ballot for this election. Your ballot will contain only the issues that you are eligible to vote on.

Don't wait to mail your ballot!

Ballots will be mailed January 21, 2011. You should receive your ballot by January 28, 2011. If you don't receive your ballot, call (253) 798-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-446-4979.



Your ballot must be postmarked by February 8, 2011 to be counted. If you mail your ballot on Election Day, check the mail pick-up time to ensure it will be postmarked on time.

You can drop off your ballot or mail your ballot anytime after you have voted it.

Save a stamp, use a drop box!

Open now through February 8, 2011

Bonney Lake

NEW!

Bonney Lake South
Park and Ride
184th Ave E and Sky Island Dr E
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor Fire Station
6711 Kimball Dr
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Lakewood

NEW!

Lakewood (SR512)
Park and Ride
10417 South Tacoma Way
Lakewood, WA 98499

Parkland/Spanaway

Parkland/Spanaway Library
13718 Pacific Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98444



Puyallup

NEW!

South Hill Library
15420 Meridian E
Puyallup, WA 98375

Spanaway

NEW!

Roy Y Park and Ride
SR 507 and Pacific Ave S
Spanaway, WA 98387

Steilacoom

NEW!

Steilacoom Library
2950 Steilacoom Blvd
Steilacoom, WA 98388

Tacoma

NEW!

72nd Street Transit Center
1319 E 72nd St
Tacoma, WA 98404

Pierce County Annex

2401 S 35th St
Tacoma, WA 98409

Sound View Medical Plaza

3611 South D St
Tacoma, WA 98418

Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities

6315 S 19th St
Tacoma, WA 98466

All drop sites close at 8:00 p.m. on February 8, 2011.
Maps and photos available online:
piercecountywa.org/elections



NEW!

Tacoma Dome Park and Ride
610 Puyallup Ave E
Tacoma, WA 98421

County-City Building

930 Tacoma Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98402
2nd Floor Lobby
*Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday*

University Place

NEW!

University Place
Fire Department
3631 Drexler Dr W
University Place, WA 98466

Pierce Transit - Proposition No. 1 - Sales and Use Tax Increase

Ballot Title The Board of Commissioners of the Pierce County Public Transportation Benefit Area (commonly known as Pierce Transit) adopted Resolution No. 10-013 concerning a proposition to increase the sales and use tax. This proposition would authorize Pierce Transit to impose an additional three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) sales and use tax, for a total sales and use tax of nine-tenths of one percent (0.9%), to provide funds to preserve transit service levels, implement local and express bus services and provide SHUTTLE services for people with disabilities, vanpools and associated capital improvements, all as authorized by Resolution No. 10-013. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement If approved by voters, this sales and use tax will provide funding to preserve transportation options for the public, including: local and express bus routes, services for people with disabilities, commuter vanpools, and partnerships with schools to move students and businesses to transport employees. Proposition 1 ensures continuation of special event service, including transportation to the Puyallup Fair and Fourth of July Freedom Fair, and it also ensures the continuation of Saturday and Sunday service at current frequencies and hours.

Local sales and use tax account for 70% of the budget for operations. This proposition will authorize Pierce Transit to replace funds lost due to the decline in sales tax revenue resulting from the economic recession through a sales and use tax adjustment of three-tenths of one percent (0.3%), or 3 cents on a ten dollar purchase.

This proposition would provide direct support for Pierce County-oriented bus services.

Statement For *Protect transit services in every Pierce County community!* While every other transit provider in the region has asked for and received voter assistance, Pierce Transit focused on cutting costs *first*. The result: nearly \$90 million saved using layoffs, service reductions and increased efficiency.

Despite Savings, Pierce Transit will cut service 35% without Proposition 1. Savings alone cannot meet countywide transit needs. Your vote is critical. Proposition 1 is a small investment that saves bus service—only 3 pennies on every 10 dollars spent. Your vote protects critical, countywide transit from a 35% cut. At stake is transportation that gets students to school and provides health care access to seniors and people with disabilities. Thousands of commuters rely on Pierce Transit every day—reducing traffic congestion and pollution. Even if you don't ride the bus, you benefit from Pierce Transit.

Pierce County agrees: Cuts are unacceptable, unavoidable without your help. Join community leaders; Tacoma /Pierce County Chamber of Commerce; Tacoma School District; Pierce County Labor Council; League of Women Voters; and Tahoma Audubon Society by supporting Proposition 1!

Committee Members: Terry Lee and Bill Baarsma, Save Our Buses - Approve Prop 1, www.approveprop1.com

Rebuttal of Statement Against Pierce County voters have consistently supported *local services*-- from parks to transit-- following statewide repeal of taxes and fees. Prop 1 keeps Pierce County dollars in *our communities*: mobility for seniors and students, congestion relief for *all* commuters. Pierce Transit is the *only* regional transit provider to cut costs and improve efficiency before requesting voter support, including layoffs and wage freezes. That's why business leaders, Republicans and taxpayer watchdogs support Proposition 1. Please vote Yes.

Committee Members: Terry Lee and Bill Baarsma, Save Our Buses - Approve Prop 1, www.approveprop1.com

Statement Against Vote "No" on Prop-1. A temporary problem doesn't justify a permanent tax increase. *Do we really need to raise taxes again?* We've been here before. Voters approved a transit tax increase in 2002. It didn't solve Pierce Transit's problems then, and it won't solve them now.

It's the wrong time for tax hikes! During a punishing recession, *Pierce Transit is asking for a 50% tax increase, while local families struggle* with unemployment and rising costs for basic necessities.

Better management, not tax-hikes, is the solution The mostly-empty buses we see daily demonstrate Pierce Transit needs to better match its services with public demand.

Pierce Transit should return to the drawing board. *It wants to permanently raise taxes* on struggling families to solve temporary shortfalls, yet *its employees already earn more* than their private-sector counterparts.

Vote "No" on Prop-1 Any sales tax increases will slow economic recovery. Pierce Transit needs to do the responsible thing and bring voters a plan that *improves* current services at current tax levels, showing us it can cut waste, and operate *efficiently*.

Committee Members: Pete Chamberlain, Eric Kuester, and Todd Maynard, No on Prop 1 - Pierce Transit, www.PierceTransitFacts.com

Rebuttal of Statement For Give Pierce Transit *another tax increase?* Taxes hikes for struggling families aren't the answer to budget shortfalls. Pierce Transit is "top-heavy" and has failed to protect us from unsustainable, out-of-control labor agreements. Projected service cuts of 35% are fictional "*back-of-the-napkin numbers*". While taxpayers experience pay-cuts and lay-offs, transit workers are compensated extravagantly and guaranteed *automatic 4% annual wage increases!* Better management is what's needed. We're already taxed enough. Vote "*No*" to stop the growing waste.

Committee Members: Pete Chamberlain, Eric Kuester, and Todd Maynard, No on Prop 1 - Pierce Transit, www.PierceTransitFacts.com

Peninsula School District No. 401

Proposition No. 1

General Obligation Bonds - \$78,000,000

Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Peninsula School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 10-07 concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements. This proposition authorizes the District to upgrade, construct and equip facilities of the District; address educational program needs, safety improvements and asset preservation projects; purchase land for a new elementary school; issue \$78,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 30 years; and levy excess property taxes annually to repay such bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 10-07. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of proposition No. 1 will authorize Peninsula School District to borrow \$78,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 10-07 approving this proposition, the bonds will pay to upgrade, renovate and equip facilities of the District and to address educational program needs, safety improvements and asset preservation projects, and purchase land for a new elementary school. The bonds would be repaid over a period not to exceed 30 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.

Statement For

Quality Education Starts with Safe, Secure and Quality Facilities: Peninsula School District (PSD) has exceptionally-skilled, passionate teachers, staff, administration and school board. Our school facilities, however, are not in great condition. We deserve facilities that match the level of excellence of those who work to educate our children.

Community Facilities Require Community Investment: Our entire community will benefit significantly from this Bond. PSD offers access/use to school facilities by more than 140 community organizations, so funding these capital improvements will be an investment in our community.

Why Now: Benefits of approving a Bond *now:* historically low municipal bond market, favorable construction climate, boost our local economy, and current property tax rates and assessed valuations are low.

Your "Yes" Vote Will Have Lasting Positive Impact: Without bond funds, our school facilities will either receive no attention or PSD will have to siphon General Fund monies to "duct tape" the facility problems. This Bond will help provide our children with a quality educational environment by upgrading severely outdated classrooms and improving health, safety and technology programs.

Committee Members: Jill Johnson and Michael Wilson,
Citizens for Peninsula Schools, SupportGreatSchools.com

Statement Against

No statement
was submitted
against this issue.

Fire Protection District No. 2 (Lakewood Fire Department)

Proposition No. 1

Authorizing Merger of Fire Protection Districts

Ballot Title

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 (Lakewood Fire Department) adopted Resolution No. 120710-019 concerning a merger of District No. 2 with Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 3 (University Place Fire Department). If approved, Proposition No. 1 would result in a merger of District No. 2 into District No. 3, thereby creating one fire protection district under the name Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 3 (West Pierce Fire & Rescue). Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 (Lakewood Fire Department) has passed a resolution calling for an election to merge that fire district into Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 3 (University Place Fire Department), which will create "West Pierce Fire & Rescue". The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 3 has accepted the petition to merge and both Boards support this proposition. For several months already, the two districts have been operating cooperatively and successfully under an administrative agreement, providing increased efficiencies.

If a majority of the registered voters of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 vote for merger, then the merger will be effective upon certification of the election results and adoption of concurrent resolutions by both boards of fire commissioners. The merger will maintain the delivery of current services and will serve to increase efficiencies by eliminating redundant positions, equipment and programs. If merger is approved, Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 2 will be dissolved and its assets transferred to the new entity. Outstanding voter-approved bonds will remain the obligation of the property owners who approved such bonds.

Statement For

After a full year of study, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Lakewood Fire District 2 and the University Place Fire Department unanimously voted to merge the two fire districts. Like many other fire department mergers that have occurred in Pierce County, this merger will create a more efficient and effective regional fire service provider, which will be known as '*West Pierce Fire & Rescue*'. This merged agency will continue to provide the same high level of customer service citizens have come to expect, while at the same time continuing to find ways to become more efficient and effective by eliminating redundant positions, equipment and programs. During these trying economic times, the merger of these two viable, high performing fire districts will create the most efficient use of the citizens' tax dollars.

Please support Lakewood Fire District 2 by voting Yes on this important measure.

Committee Members: Layne Bladow, 253-596-9533, and Bart Dalton, Citizens for Lakewood Fire Protection

Statement Against

No statement was submitted against this issue.

Not registered to vote?

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

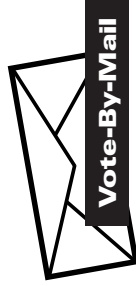
- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

How to register to vote for this election:

- Register in person at Pierce County Elections Division, 2501 S 35th St, Suite C, Tacoma, WA 98409.

In person deadline (New Washington voters only)
January 31, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Each District has requested this election be conducted entirely by mail. Polling places won't be open.



If you would like to Vote-By-Mail for all elections contact us to sign up:

- pcelections@co.pierce.wa.us
- piercecountyw.wa.org/elections
- Call the Elections Division at 253-798-VOTE (8683) or 800-446-4979.



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February 8, 2011 Special Election

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