

**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma**  
**POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM RENOVATIONS IMPROVEMENTS**  
**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$35,000,000**

**Official Ballot Title:**

Shall the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium renovate facilities and add an animal hospital, additional animal exhibits, visitor safety, comfort, and revenue facilities, and finance such improvements from general obligation bonds in the principal amount not to exceed \$35,000,000, maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and shall annual property taxes in excess of regular tax levies be authorized to repay such bonds as provided in Resolution R9-99 of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma?

**Explanatory Statement:**

This Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium bond measure would allow the Metropolitan Park District to levy property taxes sufficient to pay up to \$35,000,000 in general obligation bonds. **Proceeds will only be used by Point Defiance Zoo** to renovate and add animal exhibits, as well as make improvements required for the Zoo to keep its national accreditation.

A modern, on-site animal hospital is a primary feature included in the package in order to meet national standards. Visitor attractions planned for bond funding include the replacement or expansion of certain existing animal exhibits, addition of tigers, gibbons, kangaroos and other species not currently at the Zoo, a facility for seasonal exhibits such as koalas, hands-on learning and play areas and adventure trails for children and youth. Bond funding will address improvements to pathways, lighting and other facilities necessary for visitor comfort and safety. All of the projects should be completed by the year 2006.

This levy is estimated to average 24.5 cents/\$1,000 of assessed valuation annually from 2000 to 2015 when final maturity is expected. The owner of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay an average of \$24.50 annually with the passage of this proposition.

**Statement For:**

**Please vote yes on the bond measure to save Point Defiance Zoo.**

Without capital funds to pay for desperately needed repairs and upgrades, our Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will almost certainly have to close. Voting yes is a vote to keep Tacoma's Zoo open. **Voting no, or not voting at all, puts our zoo at risk .**

Our Zoo's needs have been neglected much too long. Over 10 years have passed since our Zoo has had funding to do significant renovations or upgrades. As a result, our Zoo lost treasured animal exhibits like its tigers and couldn't afford to replace them with any new ones. Our Zoo is on a downward spiral that must be reversed.

Fewer animals mean lower attendance. Fewer visitors mean less money for our Zoo. Fewer dollars mean little maintenance, improvements, opportunity for new animals and modernization of animal care. But history shows the improvements that will be made with passage of this bond will increase attendance, tourism, and income.

Our Zoo is worth saving. It remains one of this community's most cherished assets. Tacomans take great pride in their zoo, and a vital, thriving Zoo is important to this economy. Visitors to Point Defiance Zoo pump over \$21 million a year into our local economy. Mt. Rainier is the only year-round attraction in Pierce County that draws more visitors.

**Please vote yes to save our Zoo** , our precious community asset and economic force, for future generations by voting **yes** on March 9.

Thank you.

**Statement prepared by : John Thompson, Barbara Bichsel and Tom Dixon**

**Statement Against:**

**Will the Zoo and Aquarium survive if it doesn't get \$30 million to expand?**

Will a new \$11 million Asia exhibit, a \$5 million "kids go wild" (replacing the animal farm), a \$5 million new entrance, or a \$2 million new lawn and stage assure survival? **The zoo only needs \$5 million to renovate its existing facilities and hospital.**

**Will the Park District survive the additional \$2 million operating costs for expanding the Zoo?** This year's \$700,000 zoo deficit forced the district to lay off 15 employees (including park police) and eliminate another 14 positions (but the zoo expanded). **Laying off another 50 would reduce the non-enterprise district employees by half.**

**Is the Zoo doing a good job handling its finances?** The Park District no longer manages the zoo, the Zoo Society does. Last year only about \$300,000 of the \$2 million collected by the Society went directly to the Zoo. However, **\$1 million in revenue was lost by providing free admission to Society members.**

**Tacoma taxes are already the highest in the state. We can't afford to expand the Zoo at the expense of the Park District** (who are 10% of zoo visitors). **Vote "No" on the bond issue.**

**Statement prepared by : Curtis Mehlhaff, James Peterson and Gordon Peterson**

The above statements were written by the jurisdiction committees, which are solely responsible for the contents therein.

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**Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by Peninsula School District No. 401  
SCHOOL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVIES**

**Official Ballot Title:**

Shall the following taxes for the purpose of maintenance and operation of Peninsula School District No. 401 and the replacement of school buses, be levied upon all taxable property within the District in excess of all regular property tax levies:		
Collection Year	Estimated Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Amount
2000	\$2.59	\$10,990,000
2001	\$2.52	\$11,100,000
2002	\$2.47	\$11,286,000
as specified in Resolution No. 99-01?		

**Explanatory Statement:**

The Peninsula School District is requesting renewal of local support for the Maintenance and Operation Levy, which expired in 1998. The amount requested is \$10,990,000 for collection in 2000; \$11,100,000 for collection in 2001; and 11,286,000 for collection in 2002. The estimated cost per \$1,000 of assessed value is \$2.59 for 2000; \$2.52 for 2001; and \$2.47 for 2002.

The Peninsula School District maintains a commitment to educational improvement. Approval of the requested levy will restore the teaching and non-certificated positions and instructional programs supported by 1997 and 1998 local levy funding. Classroom instructional materials and increased funding for reduction of class size are included in this request. Additionally, facility repairs will be continued, maintenance improved and school buses replaced.

Local levy funding supports educational, maintenance, facility and equipment replacement programs not adequately funded by the State. This Maintenance and Operations levy will provide approximately 16% of the District's operating budget. The remaining fund sources of District operations are State (77%), federal (4%), and local fees, foundation grants, etc. (3%).

**Statement For:**

**Vote Yes for Students: Smaller Class Size, More Textbooks, Safe Buses!  
Support the Levy!**

Peninsula schools deserve and need your support on March 9th. Washington State does not fully fund your schools, therefore, we must make up approximately 16% of necessary funding to maintain quality education and local control.

Your yes vote will make the difference and is crucial to the future of Peninsula School District. According to the Independent Washington Research Council, over the past three years, **92% of the school districts in Washington have spent more per student than Peninsula has at \$5,908.** Being financially accountable to you is a priority, while providing quality learning for our children.

The majority of this levy goes directly to schools and classrooms, accounting for 74% of the levy dollars. In addition, 21% of the levy funds building maintenance and 5% funds new buses. The drastic cuts this year have schools struggling to maintain necessary programs and services. Should the levy not pass this year, further cuts will more than double for next year.

This levy will not be collected until the year 2000 and will decrease each year from \$2.59 per thousand of assessed valuation in 2000 to \$2.52 in 2001 and \$2.47 in 2002. **These rates are the lowest in Pierce County.** Remember that this levy will simply replace the levy that you passed in 1996.

Your **Yes vote on March 9** assures a quality education that prepares our children for the future and enhances the quality of our community.

**Statement prepared by : Barbara Trotter and Jonni Graybeal, Citizens for Peninsula Schools**

**Statement Against:**

Levy rhetoric. What's true? **Is over \$7500 per student not enough?** Does the district and board forthrightly present their case? Let's dispel several myths.

ALIGN=CENTER; **Myth #1: Our Levy Rate Is Lower Than Most Pierce County School Districts**

Each district has a maximum levy amount it can ask for. Based on that amount and the value of taxable property, the levy rate per thousand is set. Our rate is lower because our property values are higher. The rate is not lower because the district and board are charitable. **They would ask for more if they could .**

ALIGN=CENTER; **Myth #2: A Levy is the Only Way to Get the Money They Say Is Needed**

If levy supporters voluntarily sent money for their portion of the levy, would levy elections be necessary? **How many supporters sent money after the failures last year?** Do supporters truly believe in the levy if they have to be forced to pay?

ALIGN=CENTER **Myth #3: You Are Greedy, Mean, Selfish and Don't Like Children If You Vote No**

Look at your property tax statement. The 45-50% that goes to schools has no levy money in it. **Even without a levy your property tax supports education .** If the levy passes, property taxes will rise approximately 23%. To calculate the amount, divide the value of your home by 1000 and multiply by \$2.59.

ALIGN=CENTER **Myth #4: They Have to Cut Extra Curricular Activities and Close Sports Fields**

These are always the first threatened cuts because they cause such emotional reactions. **Parents could pay extra-curricular fees with money saved from a levy failure .** We the taxpayers paid for the sports fields. The district should ask the groups who use the fields to help with the upkeep and not issue a closure ultimatum.

**If you don't vote it will not help defeat the levy. You must vote no.**

**Statement prepared by : Jim Hagman and Barry D'ambrosio**

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**Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by Pierce County**

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**Official Ballot Title:**

Shall the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 12 be increased from three members to five members?

**Explanatory Statement:**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 12 has unanimously passed a resolution determining that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of fire commissioners from three to five. They have requested an election to authorize increasing the number of commissioners in the district from three to five. For approval, such a ballot proposition requires a simple majority of the resident electors casting ballots on the measure.

**Statement For:**

I have lived in the same place near Wilkeson since 1967. Since that time we have seen our population explode and along with that the increased demand for fire services. Now I understand we have a budget of over \$400,000 that three commissioners must manage. I also know from reading RCW 42.30.20 (3) and RCW 42.30.070 that it is unlawful for two commissioners to do anything about district business without holding a public meeting.

It would appear that we would all benefit by increasing the number of commissioners to five. Here are some of my reasons for asking for the increase:

1. The large budget requires more time for study. Sub-committees could be legally appointed to study issues and make more effective budget recommendations.
2. There would be more representation from the public.
3. In case of illness or death of a commissioner, business could still be carried on.
4. There would be less chance of an action being called null and void because of unintentional violation of the above mentioned RCW's.

In summary, I am requesting the district expand to five commissioners for a more efficient and effective district management system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

**Statement prepared by :**

LeRoy E. Johnson

**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.*

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