

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - Special Election April 22, 2014

Return your ballot early!

Mail your ballot and be sure it's postmarked by **April 22, 2014** to be counted.

Or, use a postage-free drop box.

Ballot Drop Boxes: Open April 4th - April 22nd

Browns Point/ Northeast Tacoma

NE Police Substation
4731 Norpoint Way NE
Tacoma, WA 98422

Fife

Fife City Hall
5411 23rd St E
Fife, WA 98424

Lakewood

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

Tacoma

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

Central District
902 S L St
Tacoma, WA 98405

Kandle Park
Police Substation
5140 N 26th St
Tacoma, WA 98407

Pierce County Annex
2401 S 35th St
Tacoma, WA 98409

Pierce County
Community Connections
3602 Pacific Ave
Tacoma, WA 98418

Tacoma Area Coalition of
Individuals with Disabilities
(TACID)
6315 S 19th St
Tacoma, WA 98466

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

University Place

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

**All drop boxes close at
8 p.m. on April 22, 2014.**

Voting Centers: Open April 22nd, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Pierce County Election Center

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

Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID)

6315 S 19th St
Tacoma, WA 98466

Services available:

- Accessible voting using touch screen equipment.
- Provisional ballots.
- Voting assistance from staff.
- Voter registration.
- Ballot drop off.

To vote on a touch screen, don't return your ballot and bring photo ID.

Questions?

Need a replacement ballot?

Pierce County Elections
piercecoutelections.org
pcelections@co.pierce.wa.us
253-798-VOTE (8683) or
800-446-4979

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

Need to register to vote?

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:

- Online -
piercecoutelections.org
- In person -
Pierce County Election Center.
- By mail -
Call to request a mail-in form.

Registration Deadline:

It's not too late to register **in person** for the April 22nd Special Election.

In person deadline is **April 14, 2014**.
New Washington voters only.



Published by the Pierce County Auditor's Office

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma Special Election - Proposition No. 1 Neighborhood Parks & Zoo Improvements and Safety Upgrades General Obligation Bonds - \$198,000,000

Ballot Title:

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma adopted Resolution No. RR15-14 concerning bonds for neighborhood parks and recreation facilities and safety improvements. If approved, this proposition will authorize the District to upgrade Point Defiance Park, Zoo & Aquarium, exhibits and critical animal-support systems; improve parks, security, deteriorating playgrounds, pools, sports playfields, family community centers; expand waterfront access; preserve cultural and historical landmarks; protect natural areas, lakes, creeks, trails; clean up arsenic-contaminated parks; issue \$198,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. RR15-14. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement:

Proposition 1 of Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma would make needed improvements to neighborhood parks, *preserve Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium*, protect cultural and historic landmarks, and improve safety and security district-wide. Proposition 1 would replace or renovate deteriorating children's playgrounds, playfields, and *family community centers including a new East-side center*; improve community pools and aquatic facilities; upgrade trails, restrooms, picnic areas and shelters. Proposition 1 would improve critical animal life-support systems at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, replace the *failing 51-year old North Pacific Aquarium*, and *renovate the Polar Bear and Rocky Shores exhibits* to meet national accreditation standards. Proposition 1 would preserve natural areas, protect lakes and creeks at Wapato Lake, Swan Creek, Titlow Park, and expand peninsula waterfront access. Proposition 1 would protect and enhance *Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, Seymour Botanical Conservatory, and Point Defiance Lodge*. Proposition 1 would make district-wide safety upgrades including security systems at parks, recreation centers and parking areas, and assist with *clean-up of polluted areas at Point Defiance and other affected parks*. Proposition 1 would authorize the issuance of \$198,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years and the levy of annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds. *[Full text of the District resolution is available at piercecountyelections.org]*

Statement For:

Parks Yes! Access for All - Preserve & Protect Parks for our Children and Grandchildren. Prop. 1 will preserve parks, recreation, aquatic, and family community centers and keep them safe and accessible for all to enjoy in every neighborhood. Clean, green, safe and secure - now and for generations to come. *Improve deteriorating playgrounds, playfields, restrooms, and picnic areas.*

Preserve Point Defiance Park, Zoo & Aquarium – Urgent Needs - Maintain National Zoo Accreditation. Prop. 1 will make critical improvements to animal life-support systems at the Zoo & Aquarium, meet safety standards, and maintain national accreditation. *Renovate 51 year-old North Pacific Aquarium and aging Polar Bear, Walrus and Marine-life exhibits.*

Protect Natural Areas, Waterfront Access, Historical & Cultural Landmarks – Safety, Health and Security. Prop. 1 will preserve open space, lakes, creeks, and trails and protect habitat. Enhance landmarks including Fort Nisqually and Seymour Conservatory, and Point Defiance Lodge. *Clean-up arsenic-polluted areas at Point Defiance Park and other affected parks.*

Parks Yes! Renew Our Commitment - Endorsers of Yes on Prop. 1 include: *Tahoma Audubon, Zoo Society, PTA Board, Black Collective, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Neighborhood Councils, Humane Society, Forterra, Nortac, Business and Pierce-County Labor, 27th and 28th District Democrats, Fort Nisqually, Seymour Conservatory, Metro Parks Foundations.*

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Fact: Prop. 1 costs the average homeowner \$8 per month. *Fact:* More than 60 specific local parks and safety improvements and upgrades to preserve Point Defiance Zoo. *Fact:* Safe, quality parks add to neighborhood values: \$1 parks & recreation investment = \$5 in local economic benefit. *Fact:* Last bond 2005 - projects completed *on time and on budget* (see website). *Specifics:* 2014 Projects developed with community – “Neighborhood Parks and Zoo Improvements & Safety Upgrades,” MetroParksTacoma.org/2014ParksZooBond.

Committee Members: *Kathleen Olson, Debbie Regala, and Willie Stewart, Neighbors for Parks, (253) 970-9177, NeighborsForParks.org*

Statement Against:

Whoa--Not So Much So Soon!

We have the highest taxes in the state. The \$80 million bond 8 years ago costs \$160 million with interest, proposed bond costs \$400 million. Over the next 20 years these bonds would require a payback of about \$28 million per year (\$350 per household, almost 1% of median family income).

Whoa--What Are We Getting And What Do They Cost?

During the last 8 years Metro Parks spent \$10 million per year on capital projects, proposed bond raises that to \$20 million. The last bond listed specific projects and allocations (yet the Board took \$6 million for Titlow Pool replacement for a “wild waves” at Kandle). Proposed bond has no specific project list nor moneys authorized: “The Board shall determine... money available as between Projects...exact location, extent, and specifications.” This Board could spend all the money on dog parks and golf courses. Nothing requires them to spend money on any specific project.

Vote No On An Expensive Blank Check!

We cannot afford this expensive blank check!

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Metro Parks has spent enough money on expansion and park improvements! Over 80% of Tacomans feel that parks are already safe, available, and in good shape. *Be wary* of proposals that promise you everything but don't tell you what they are actually going to cost (now and future). Metro Parks doesn't put a price tag on any of its promises. *Exorbitance No!* We can't afford extravagance for parks when we have so many other needs.

Committee Member: *Curtis Mehlhaff, (253) 759-1821*