

Special Election - Proposition No. 1 Pool, Community Center and Parks Bonds

See complete resolution text at
PierceCountyElections.org

Ballot Title

The City Council of the City of Fircrest adopted Ordinance No. 1631 concerning a proposition for financing pool, community center and parks construction, renovation and improvements. If approved, this proposition would authorize the City to issue bonds to rebuild the City's pool, including bathhouse, and community center, and make improvements to the ballfields, turf, lighting and facilities of Fircrest Park, and irrigation and facilities of Whittier Park. It would authorize issuance of \$13,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 25 years, and authorize the annual levy of excess property taxes to pay such bonds, as provided in Ordinance No. 1631. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Approval of the bond measure will provide funds for the City of Fircrest to rebuild the pool and community center and make infrastructure improvements to Fircrest and Whittier Parks. The City population has doubled since the complex was built in 1960-62; the pool is leaking thousands of gallons of water and the community center needs extensive repairs. The bonds provide up to \$13,500,000 in funding to rebuild the pool (including bathhouse), community center (including gymnasium, kitchen and meeting spaces), and park projects (including turf, ballfields and restroom improvements). Another \$4,500,000 will come from City reserves, a State Capital Budget grant, and private philanthropy. The City continues to seek grants and private donations to offset the levy. The bonds will be repaid from property taxes over a period of up to 25 years. The City estimates an additional tax rate of \$0.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value (\$272 a year for a \$400,000 home). Due to reduced local school levy rates of \$2.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2019, the overall property tax levy rate is estimated to decline. Exemptions from taxes may be available. To determine if you qualify, call the Pierce County Assessor at 253-798-2169.

Statement For

The pool and center are the "Heart of Fircrest" and improve our quality of life. In the early 1960s, when Fircrest was half the population it is today, the people of this city built a recreational gathering spot that has served generations of children, families, and seniors.

However, the leaking pool must close and the community center needs expensive repairs! Nearly 60 years later, the pool is about to close permanently. And architects, city staff, and a steering committee of Fircrest residents concluded it's more efficient to replace the community center than make costly repairs to the gym, non-ADA-compliant bathrooms, etc.

We already have \$2.5 million in grants and donations, with plans to seek more. After years of studies, surveys, and community conversations, our city has an affordable plan to restore the "Heart of Fircrest." The median home, valued at \$390,000, will pay an estimated \$22 a month; and less if we exceed our grants and donations goal. Plus, local school levies are going down.

Vote yes to increase community property values and expand recreational opportunities for all ages! After 60 years, it's time to build facilities that serve the next generations. Vote yes so we don't miss a summer swim season!

Rebuttal of Statement Against

Repairing the 59-year-old community center costs almost as much as replacing it, and that's only a temporary solution that actually costs you more in the long run. Property taxes are going down overall, and exemptions are available for low-income seniors and disabled residents. Vote yes on this affordable plan to upgrade the "Heart of Fircrest" and give residents of all ages the pool and community center they will enjoy for generations.

Committee Members: John Cheesman, Willie Stewart, and Jennifer Streun, HeartOfFircrest@gmail.com, www.HeartOfFircrest.org
Citizens for Preserving the Heart of Fircrest

Statement Against

Fircrest needs a new pool and bathhouse, but we cannot afford a new recreation center. Separating needs from wants is something Fircrest residents do every day, but while the \$8 million pool replacement has strong community support—plus millions in grants and donations—an *additional* \$10 million recreation center is not a true need. It is too expensive for our small city. And by combining the two projects, and asking citizens to finance \$13.5 million over 23 years, we risk delaying our much-needed pool.

Our fixed-income and elderly residents could be priced out of their homes. It's important to ask ourselves not whether our personal finances can handle this huge legacy financial burden; rather, we should ask if our fixed-income neighbors can continue living in Fircrest. Some say a new recreation center will enhance the appeal of our city—and that property values will rise accordingly. This second point matters little to our long-term residents, who love Fircrest dearly and want nothing more than to remain in the place they call home.

Rebuttal of Statement For

All donations to-date are for our needed pool replacement—not for an extravagant new recreation center. In fact, most Fircrest homes predate the existing rec center; remodeling is more responsible than rebuilding. Bonding for 25 years hardly represents *paying it forward*; it saddles our children with debt. The tax due will increase each year commensurate with growing property values. Meanwhile, eliminating limits on local school levies is being debated in Olympia.

Committee Member: Brian Rybolt, rybolt@comcast.net
Keep Fircrest Affordable

Special Election - April 23, 2019

BALLOT DROP BOXES

OPEN 24/7 APRIL 5 - APRIL 23, 8 PM

FIRCREST

Fircrest City Hall
115 Ramsdell St

SUMMIT

Summit Library
5107 112th St E

PARKLAND/SPANAWAY

Parkland/Spanaway Library
13718 Pacific Ave S

TACOMA

72nd Street Transit
Center
1319 E 72nd St

Roy Y Park and Ride
SR 507 & Pacific Ave S

Pierce County Annex
2401 S 35th St

PUYALLUP/SOUTH HILL

Puyallup Library
324 South Meridian

Skookum Archers
11209 Shaw Rd E

South Hill Library
15420 Meridian E

The City of Fircrest and Central Pierce Fire & Rescue are participating in this election.

VOTING CENTER

OPEN APRIL 23, 7 AM - 8 PM

PIERCE COUNTY ELECTION CENTER

2501 S 35th St, Ste C, Tacoma

Services available:

- Marking tool for ballot — Large font, color contrast, and audible ballot options available.
- Replacement ballots — Lost, damaged, or miss-marked ballot replacements provided.
- Ballot drop off — In addition to our ballot drop boxes, the voting center has a secure ballot drop box available.
- Provisional ballots.
- Helpful election workers to assist you.

Using a Drop Box?

(No stamp required)

Drop off ballot by 8 PM
April 23, 2019.



Mailing your ballot?

(No stamp required)

Must be postmarked
by April 23, 2019.

We recommend mailing
no later than
April 19, 2019.



QUESTIONS?

NEED A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?

PierceCountyElections.org

pcelections@piercecountywa.gov

(253) 798-VOTE (8683) or (800) 446-4979

NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

Registration deadline:

In person deadline (new Washington voters only)
is **April 15, 2019**.

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 - PierceCountyElections.org
- In person - Pierce County Election Center.
- By mail - Call (253) 798-VOTE (8683) to request a form.



Official Local Voters' Pamphlet published
by the Pierce County Auditor's Office