

Kittitas County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

Primary & Special Election

August 4, 2026



Ballots will be mailed July 14, 2026

Published by the Kittitas County Auditor's Office
8.4.26

Kittitas County Voters:

This Primary is a top-two primary. Races with 3 or more candidates will see the top two voter-getters advance to the General Election. Those races with only 1 or 2 candidates will also be advancing to the General Election.

Some voters will also have a local ballot measure to vote on. Only voters within the districts are eligible to vote on the measure. If you believe you are eligible but do not see the local measure on your ballot, please contact the elections division: 509.962.7503 or elections@co.kittitas.wa.us.

Districts with a local measure are listed here:



Not all candidates or measures within this pamphlet will appear on your ballot. Your ballot is specific to your precinct and districts.

? Who donates to campaigns?

View information on financial contributors for federal candidates:

Federal Election Commission

www.fec.gov

Toll Free 1 (800) 424-9530

View financial contributors for state and local candidates and measures:

Public Disclosure Commission

pdc@pdc.wa.gov

www.pdc.wa.gov

Toll Free 1 (877) 601-2828

What's in this edition:

Candidate Statements for:

- Local Elected County Partisan Offices
- Assessor
- Auditor
- Clerk
- Commissioner, District 3
- Coroner
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Sheriff
- Treasurer

Local Measures for:

- City of Cle Elum
- City of Roslyn
- Kittitas Valley Fire Rescue
- Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue

>Federal, Legislative, and Judicial office candidate statements can be found in the State Voters' Pamphlet, mailed directly from the Office of the Secretary of State.

Note: The office of Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) does not appear in the pamphlet. Most of you will not see the office on your ballot- a PCO race occurs when 2 or more candidates file, within the same Party and within the same Precinct.

Kittitas County Trivia - check your knowledge of local election history:

1. Who is the longest serving Elected Official in the county?
 - 1a. How many terms?
2. Which locally elected official went on to serve on the legislature?
3. How many registered voters were in Kittitas County during the Bicentennial year?
4. How many registered voters are in Kittitas County during this semiquincentennial year?

NEW for 2026!

We have a new Envelope Design.

Slow down and familiarize yourself with the new design- make sure you are signing the voter declaration in the correct area. Adding your phone number and/or email is optional, but providing it allows us to contact you if we need to. Your phone number and email are not public information.

Are you Registered to Vote? When and How to Register to Vote:

❖ Anytime:

You can register online: www.votewa.gov; by mail or in-person at: 205 W. 5th Ave, Suite 105, Ellensburg

❖ For this current election:

Online & Mail-in registrations must be received by 7/27/2026.

If you need to update your registration or submit a new registration between 7/28/2026 - 8/4/2026, you must appear in person at any County Auditor's Office.

Need a Replacement Ballot?

To obtain a replacement ballot, contact our office at:
(509) 962-7503;
email us at: elections@co.kittitas.wa.us;
visit www.votewa.gov to download a replacement ballot; or
come visit us in the office at:
205 W. 5th Ave, Suite 105, Ellensburg.



Your signature is required to make sure your ballot gets counted.

Returning Your Ballot

> By Drop Box:

Secure Ballot Drop Boxes are provided in a neighborhood near you:

Upper County:

Easton Fire Station.....180 Cabin Creek Rd
Ronald Fire Station.....Atlantic Ave & 1st St
Roslyn City Hall.....201 S. 1st St
South Cle Elum Town Hall.....523 Lincoln St
Upper District Court.....700 E. 1st St

Lower County:

Kittitas County Courthouse.....205 W. 5th Ave
at the end of main parking lot
and inside, adjacent to the Auditor's Office
CWU SURC.....1007 N Chestnut St
Kittitas City Hall.....207 Main St
Thorp Fire Station.....10700 Thorp HWY N

**Official Ballot Drop
Boxes are closed and
secured at 8:00pm
sharp on Election
Day, August 4th.**



> By USPS Mail:

If using the USPS:

- Mail as early as possible
- Ask that your ballot receive a hand-cancel date stamp.

COUNTY ASSESSOR



Mike
Hougardy

(Prefers GOP Party)

Contact:
(509) 201-7131
hougardy4assessor@gmail.com

Biography:

No information submitted

Statement:

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Kittitas County Assessor for the past nine years. I am dedicated to adhering to the statutes that govern this office and being a valuable member of our community. The Assessor's office prides itself on being transparent, customer service oriented, and equitable in our appraisals. I am thankful for the expertise and professionalism that the Assessor's office staff brings to this department. As your Assessor, I will continue to serve the people of Kittitas County to the best of my ability. I appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you another four years.

COUNTY AUDITOR



Bryan
Elliott

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact:
(509) 929-5060
bryan@bryanelliott.org
<https://bryanelliott.org/>

Biography:

Bryan Elliott is a lifelong Kittitas County resident, U.S. Army Veteran, and your County Auditor. He served five years on active duty, including a Middle East deployment, and continues his military service as an Operations Officer in the Washington Army National Guard. Before his election, Bryan honed his experience in the private sector as a business consultant, specializing in streamlining operations and financial oversight for retail organizations. Bryan and his wife, Sierra, are raising their two sons in Ellensburg, where he also serves on the Conference of Governments, Clymer Museum Board, and CWU Foundation Board.

Statement

Bryan Elliott believes citizens should expect results from their elected officials. Since taking office, he has positioned himself as a modernizer, working across departments and offices to elevate county services. Bryan brought enhanced transparency to elections by installing 24/7 live-view cameras in the Election Center. He secured strategic grant funding to harden physical and digital infrastructure, protecting your vote without asking local taxpayers for an extra dime.

Bryan and his staff have led the county through three consecutive years of timely audits with \$0 in questioned costs. He successfully overhauled the county's financial software, on time and on budget, and implemented credit card processing in the Recording Services division, giving thousands of residents convenient service.

As state mandates grow more complex and budgets tighten, Bryan is postured to adapt. He will continue to invest in election security while leveraging improved financial technology to give decision-makers the clarity needed to face budget challenges head-on.

Experience and results matter. Vote to re-elect Bryan Elliott for County Auditor.

COUNTY CLERK



Stephanie George

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact:
(509) 480-5073
stephaniegeorgeforclerk2026@gmail.com

Biography:

Elected Experience: First time candidate, but I was appointed Interim Kittitas County Clerk in October 18, 2022 to November 30, 2022
Other Professional Experience: Administrative Supervisor/Chief Deputy Clerk, Kittitas County (2022 – Present); Deputy Clerk, Kittitas County (2020 – 2022); Legal Assistant (2014 – 2020) in private firm, Kittitas County; Hotel General Manager and Front Desk Receptionist (2012 – 2014), former chain hotel, Kittitas County; Data Entry and Processing Assistant (2010-2011), WA State Archives – Central Region, Kittitas County
Community Service: Ellensburg Downtown Rotary Club

Statement:

As Chief Deputy Clerk, I have learned what it truly means to support others. Every day, people come to the Clerk's Office facing stressful, technical, or unfamiliar situations, often without knowing exactly what they need. Having worked on both sides of the counter, I understand how overwhelming those moments can feel. My role has been to listen, analyze problems, and guide people through the process with professionalism, empathy, and fairness while staying within the boundaries of the law and court procedure.

I have served as a support person to our County Clerk, Deputy Clerks, court staff, law enforcement, and the public. Through that experience, I have learned that public service is not just about solving problems – it is about meeting people where they are and helping them move forward. I believe that to lead well, you must first learn how to follow, listen, and serve others.

I am running for County Clerk because I believe in public service, accountability, and practical problem-solving. I focus on finding solutions, improving efficiency, and making the office responsive, organized, and accessible. Public service is more than a job title to me; it is a responsibility to serve our community professionalism, integrity, and care.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST. 3



Brett Wachsmith

(Prefers GOP Party)

Contact:
(509) 899-4229
brettwachsmith@yahoo.com

Biography:

Kittitas County Commissioner 2019- Present
Kittitas County Treasurer 2015 - 2018
MRSC Board President 2025
United States Army 2002 - 2008
Staff Accountant - Grebb, Johnson, Reed and Wachsmith 2007 - 2014
Ellensburg Rodeo Board 2016 - 2018
Attended Central Washington University

Statement:

Proudly serving as your County Commissioner, I bring a lifetime of service, leadership, and fiscal responsibility to our community. I honorably served in the U.S. Army Infantry and built a career grounded in finance and accountability. My wife, Nicole, and I are raising our two daughters in Kittitas County because we believe in the values and future of this community. As Commissioner, I have focused on improving mental health resources, supporting developmental disabilities, and expanding services for our veterans. I believe public office is about listening, serving others, and making thoughtful decisions that strengthen Kittitas County for future generations. I want to thank you for your trust, and I humbly ask for your vote.

COUNTY CORONER | 4 year short & full term



Cori McKean

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact
(509) 899-1368;
corimckean@live.com;
mckeanforcoroner.com

Biography:

Cori grew up on a small Ellensburg farm, where hard work and helping neighbors shaped her values. She still honors those roots by leading youth 4-H, volunteering at Fair, and staying active in Ellensburg Noon Rotary. After high school, she began 35+ years of service in Kittitas County. She and her husband, Michael, later welcomed their son, Tommy. Recruited by Coroner Nick Henderson, she moved from KITTCOM to the Coroner's Office in 2019. Cori learned the work from the ground up- earning certifications, supporting families, managing operations, training staff, securing grants, and helping the office achieve accreditation before becoming Coroner

Statement

Cori McKean stepped into the role of Coroner after the passing of Coroner Nicholas Henderson — an honor and responsibility she approached with deep respect. Known for her steady leadership and compassion, she serves as the final guardian of dignity, accuracy, and truth during families' most difficult moments. Though much of a coroner's work is unseen, its impact is lasting: offering clarity, protecting the truth, and guiding loved ones through profound loss.

Throughout her years in the office, Cori has worked alongside dedicated colleagues through complex and emotional situations. What stays with her most is not the technical work, but the people — families seeking answers, communities needing reassurance, and the quiet moments when compassion mattered most.

Her commitments reflect those values:

Thorough, respectful work
Support for families
Continuous learning
Transparency and trust

Every day, Cori strives to serve with professionalism, integrity, and humanity. Every life deserves respect. Every family deserves care. And every interaction is an opportunity to show compassion at its best.



Charlie Divine

(States No Party Preference)

Contact
(206) 501-1567
Charlieforcoroner@gmail.com
Choosecharlie.org

Biography:

My name is Charlie Divine, and I am honored to be a candidate for Coroner in Kittitas County. I currently serve as a Deputy Coroner and I am a WA State Certified Medicolegal Forensic Investigator. For the past four years, I have proudly served in the Coroner's Office. I have had the privilege of assisting families throughout our county, state, and country during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I am currently in the process of attaining my D-ABMDI Certification and I have also been a Nationally Certified Anesthesia Technician and a Nationally Certified EMT.

Statement:

I have worked with grieving families, attended training seminars, and mentored interns entering the field of medicolegal death investigation. These experiences have strengthened both my understanding of the responsibilities of this office and my dedication to the people we serve. With more than 25 years of experience in healthcare, I have developed a strong foundation built on compassion, empathy, and trust. My career includes serving as a Nationally Certified Anesthesia Technician at Harborview Medical Center and University of Washington Medical Center, where I worked as a key member of the anesthesia team in high-pressure medical environments that demanded professionalism, attention to detail, and teamwork. I lead with integrity, treating others with respect, and remaining calm and compassionate during difficult situations. I believe these qualities are essential for building a collaborative and unified Coroner's Office that serves the community with dignity and professionalism. If elected Coroner, my priorities will be to modernize investigations, improve the accountability of the office, and rebuild a team-centered culture. I believe that through training, thorough investigations, and transparency, we can restore confidence in the office. Thank you for considering my candidacy. It would be an honor to serve the people of Kittitas County as your Coroner.

COUNTY SHERIFF



Ben Kokjer

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact:
(509) 210-2808
electben4sheriff@gmail.com
www.electbenforsheriff.com

Biography:

Ben Kokjer is the Chief Deputy of Operations for the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office and a candidate for Kittitas County Sheriff. A Central Washington University Law & Justice graduate, he began serving as a reserve officer with the Ellensburg Police Department in 1999 and has worked for our Sheriff's Office for 21 years. Ben has served in patrol, investigations, specialty assignments, and now, since 2019, leads the day-to-day operations and countywide response. Ben and his wife, Tonieka, a public-school teacher, have raised three children in Kittitas County.

Statement:

Public safety starts with trust, and trust must be earned every day. I'm running for Kittitas County Sheriff to deliver professional law enforcement service, strong investigations, and consistent leadership as our community's needs evolve.

As Chief Deputy of Operations, I lead countywide patrol response, investigations, training, and supervision. As Sheriff, I will maintain reliable public safety response so when you call for help, a well trained, well equipped deputy shows up, wherever in the county you live. I will continue to work on practical strategies to mitigate traffic and other impacts of tourism and travel in and through our county. I will focus on effective crime fighting and thorough investigations, with timely follow up for victims and strong casework for prosecutors. I will hold offenders accountable while protecting constitutional rights and professional standards that sustain community trust. I will continue modern accountability tools, including body worn cameras and sound evidence practices. I will strengthen readiness for major incidents by improving coordination with local partners and continuing to advance Upper County emergency capability, including progress toward an Emergency Operations Center and a fully equipped West County Precinct.

Build on our History. Lead for the future. Vote for Ben.



Darryl Chepoda JR

(Prefers Independent Party)

Contact:
no information provided

Biography:

Darryl Chepoda Jr. is a proud fifth generation upper county resident. He currently ranches and farms in the area. Darryl's education and experience allows him to work in a diverse range of industries and technical environments. From federal/civil service consulting and contracting, to a retired fire chief, bush contractor, and black hat miner Darryl brings strong work ethic, problem solving skills, and personnel management expertise to any situation. Darryl's willingness to learn and continue his education is highly respected. In his free time often engages in the community and helps his neighbors. He also enjoys socializing, antiques and fishing.

Statement

Hello neighbors!

I am honored and grateful for an opportunity to possibly serve you as the next elected sheriff. There are many reasons, ideas and potential plans regarding how I believe the sheriff's office could better serve us. Full and open transparency, constitutional rights and community engagement are major issues I would like to address. Wildfire evacuation is also a major issue we need to re-focus on as well. I would like to consider looking into developing an app based program accessible for community information and outreach available by choice for all residents. If elected as your sheriff I will be available at any and all times needed to serve this community. While keeping this short, please reach out to me as I look forward to hearing from you.

God Bless,
Darryl Chepoda Jr.

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Jodi Hammond

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact
(509) 731-3606
hammond4kcpa@gmail.com
hammond4kcpa.com

Biography:

Nine years Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; no prior elected offices held or sought. Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - Appellate Committee, Training Committee, and regular instructor at state-wide prosecutor trainings; Central Washington University - adjunct law professor; Tutor/Mentor for law clerk (professional legal apprenticeship). Bachelor's of Arts, English; Bachelor's of Arts, Law & Justice (2002 CWU, Cum Laude); Juris Doctorate (2005 Arizona State University, Cum Laude). Ellensburg Morning Rotary; Ellensburg School District volunteer - classrooms, athletics, and theater; Valley Theater Company volunteer; Bright Beginnings (Head Start) former board member; Wellspring Christian Fellowship former board member; State Mock Trial judge

Statement:

Experienced; trusted; proven in the courtroom - Jodi Hammond is the advocate Kittitas County deserves. Jodi has dedicated her career to protecting the people of Kittitas County and standing up for victims of crime. With more than 20 years of prosecutorial experience, Jodi has handled thousands of cases ranging from misdemeanors to serious violent felonies, including homicide and sexual assault cases. She has earned the respect of law enforcement, colleagues, and victims throughout the county. She is a thoughtful, committed, and experienced attorney with exceptional legal abilities.

As Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor, Jodi leads with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. Her experience extends beyond the courtroom through more than nine years serving on the office management team: working closely with the civil division, participating in leadership and legal advisory meetings, and spearheading changes within the office to improve productivity and efficiency.

Jodi is endorsed by Greg Zempel, the current elected prosecutor, and supported by members of law enforcement because they trust her judgment, experience, and commitment to public safety. She is also a dedicated wife, mother, mentor, and community member who understands the importance of fairness, accountability, and service. Jodi Hammond will continue protecting Kittitas County with excellence, leadership, and integrity.



Aaron Reiman

(Prefers Independent Party)

Contact
(509) 475-3664
reiman4prosecutor@gmail.com
<https://reiman4prosecutor.com>

Biography:

Elected Experience: None. **Other Professional Experience:** U.S. Navy JAG 1999-2004; U.S. Coast Guard 2004-2020 (retired with rank of Commander (O-5)); Washington State Bar Association; Admitted to the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals 2001; Admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court 2011; Appointed Special U.S. Assistant Attorney in Puerto Rico and Oregon. Education: Law School: Gonzaga University; Master's: University of Oklahoma; Bachelor's: University of Washington; Additional Undergraduate Studies: University of Michigan. Community Service: Cle Elum Downtown clean up; Ellensburg downtown Rotary; American Legion; High School Robotics Judge; EHS Choir chaperone; Valley Musical Theater volunteer set builder; Boy Scouts Pack 489 officer.

Statement:

I am running as an Independent for Prosecutor because this critical position demands fair, effective, and accountable justice that protects our families, supports victims, and strengthens our communities, free from partisan politics.

I was born and raised in Washington and have called Ellensburg home since 2010. I bring 25 years of prosecutorial experience, having handled thousands of cases, and a rare perspective as a current Public Defender has sharpened my ability to pursue just outcomes effectively.

The Elected Prosecutor leads an office of attorneys and staff, whose work impacts every family in the county. My military service taught me that the best leaders develop their people. I will bring that same commitment to the Prosecutor's office by mentoring and training talented prosecutors, investing in staff, and building a team that delivers the highest quality public service.

As your Prosecutor, I will aggressively prosecute violent and repeat offenders; support victims and strengthen partnerships with law enforcement; balance accountability with smart prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism; and prioritize staff development, fiscal responsibility, and transparent operations.

I respectfully ask for your vote and am committed to serving Kittitas County with integrity and proven leadership, ensuring this office work for everyone.

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**Patricia
Todd**

(Prefers Republican Party)

For more information
(509) 899-8673
Patricia@ToddForProsecutor.com
ToddForProsecutor.com

Biography:

I am a proven leader with the experience to protect Kittitas County, reduce legal risk, and spend taxpayer dollars wisely. With 20 years experience in both civil and criminal litigation, I have the judgment and leadership required. Tough on crime and fair in applying the law, I will partner with law enforcement to prosecute offenders fully, while ensuring equal justice. I am a lifetime Washingtonian, Central Washington University educated in Economics/Public Policy, and earned my law degree from Gonzaga University. Currently married for 20 years, raising two children, and serving on the Kittitas County Fair Board and Ellensburg Downtown Rotary.

Statement:

I am running for Kittitas County Prosecutor to uphold the rule of law, protect public safety, and ensure every person is treated fairly and equally under the law.

As a Kittitas County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have served on both the criminal and civil teams. I have prosecuted felonies to hold offenders accountable, provided a voice to victims, and faithfully served the law. Currently, I have more cases than all the other criminal attorneys in the office combined. Our County also requires the highest quality civil representation to prevent costly litigation. I will protect the interests of our County to preserve and protect our resources.

I have leadership experience managing teams and budgets significantly larger than our Prosecutor's Office. I know how to lead with accountability, make sound decisions under pressure, and build strong teams. My candidacy includes the critical skills to strengthen in-house legal training and reducing spending on outside attorneys.

Kittitas County deserves a Prosecutor who will support law enforcement, protect victims, respect taxpayers, and apply the law fairly and consistently. I humbly ask for your vote so I can bring my well-rounded experience in civil litigation, criminal trials, and strategic leadership to the role of County Prosecutor.

INTERESTED IN OBSERVING THE ELECTION PROCESS?

Did you know that the entire voting process is transparent and open to the public? The Kittitas County Auditor's Office invites residents to watch democracy in action firsthand. Here is how you can participate and observe the safeguards built into our local systems.

WAYS TO OBSERVE:

In Person: View ballot processing live from the observer viewing area outside the Election Room in the courthouse basement.

Online Livestream: Watch operations remotely via our web streams available during the election period: <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/auditor/elections/current/election-live-feed.aspx>

Canvassing Board: Observe the public sessions reviewing challenged signatures, late postmarks, and final certification.

Contact the office to learn more about observer opportunities and the schedule for trainings.

Office Contact Info: elections@co.kittitas.wa.us
(509) 962-7503

COUNTY TREASURER



Amy Cziske

(Prefers Republican Party)

Contact
(509) 929-3832
amyfortreasurer@gmail.com

Biography:

Serving Kittitas County as your Treasurer since 2018, has been an honor. This community means everything to me. I am proud member of the Kittitas County CattleWomen, Kittitas County Fair Board, and League of Women Voters. As Treasurer I have also served in many state leadership positions including all officer positions of the Washington Association of County Officials and Vice President of the Washington State Association of County Treasurers. I am also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and Washington Public Treasurers Association. As Treasurer for the past eight years, I understand the needs of our community best.

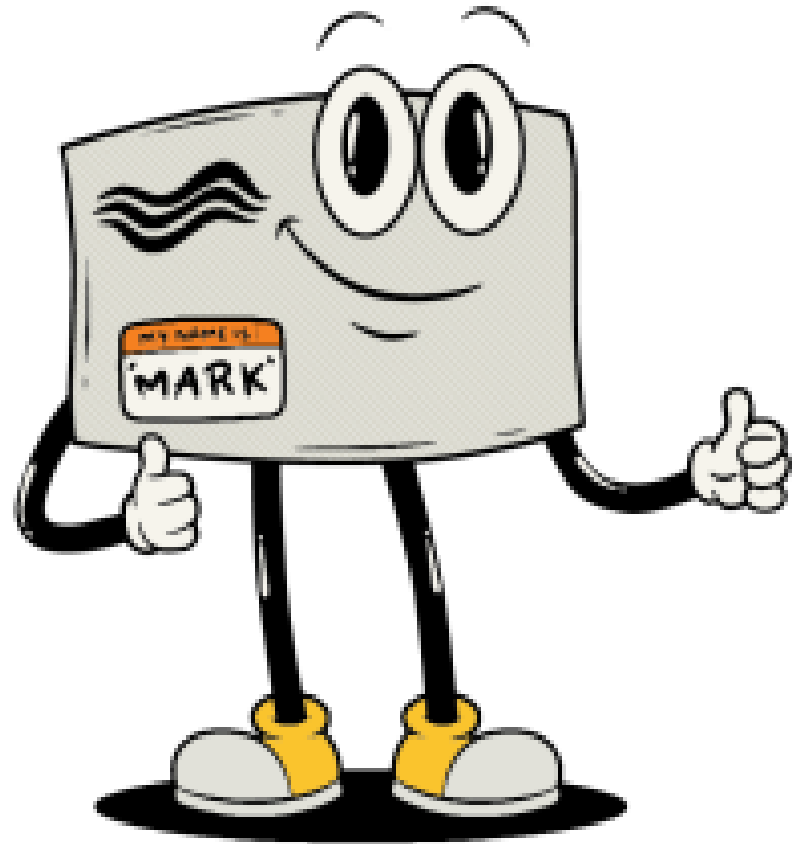
Statement:

I am honored to serve as your County Treasurer, having been elected in 2018.

Serving the people of Kittitas County has been a great honor. Over the past eight years, I have worked to protect public funds, maintain strong investment practices, and ensure property taxes are collected not only accurately, but efficiently. During my time in office, we have modernized procedures, strengthened internal controls, and remained careful stewards of your tax dollars.

I care deeply about doing this job well, and I am proud of the dedicated team I work alongside. Together, we are committed to providing responsive service to you, the taxpayers, and maintaining financial stability for our local taxing districts.

I am proud of my office's work and remain committed to managing public funds with integrity, transparency, and professionalism. I am running for one simple reason: I love serving the people of this county. Kittitas County has been my home since 1995. I know my experience, leadership, and commitment will continue to make a positive difference. Vote Amy Cziske!



CITY OF CLE ELUM | PROPOSITION NO. 1

Two Year Levy Lid Lift for Fire Department Operations and Improvements

Ballot Title

Providing for increased funding for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department's ongoing operations. This proposition would increase the City's regular property tax rate by \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value to a total authorized rate of \$1.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection starting in 2027 and for one year thereafter with a limit factor at 103%. Taxpayers who qualify for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381 are exempt from the increase.

Explanatory Statement

The City of Cle Elum seeks voter approval to increase its regular property tax levy to \$1.8653 per \$1,000 of assessed value to provide an additional funding source for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department.

State law limits the total property tax levy rate to a 1% annual increase each year. These revenues are not adequate to provide stable and continued funding for the fire department. Voter approval of Proposition 1 will fund continuing operations for the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department, including training, capital expenditures, and facility renovations.

Proposition 1 authorizes the increase of the City's levy rate by approximately \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value, for two years starting in 2027. The 2028 levy amount will be used as the basis to calculate future levies in succeeding years (limited by law to 1% per year). Low-income seniors and low-income disabled homeowners may qualify for exemption from the increase.

Statement For

Vote YES on Proposition 1

A YES vote helps support faster, more reliable emergency response for our community. When you call 911, you rely on competent, trained firefighters and dependable emergency medical response. You count on consistency, volunteers who show up day and night when emergencies happen. You value connection, firefighters who know our streets, neighborhoods, businesses, and families. The Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department is comprised of dedicated neighbors who answer the call around the clock. Proposition 1 helps maintain and strengthen those services as Cle Elum continues to grow. Funding supports training, emergency equipment, facility improvements, and volunteer stipend shifts that ensure staffing coverage and readiness during fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, wildfires, and other disasters.

This investment also supports prevention through public safety education, preparedness, and community outreach that help stop emergencies before they start. It provides transparency by showing exactly where funding goes and how it supports public safety.

A stronger fire department protects lives, homes, businesses, and can help with property values, and insurance ratings.

Qualifying seniors and disabled residents are exempt from the increase.

A YES vote on Proposition 1 is an investment in the safety and protection your family depends on every day.

Rebuttal of Statement For

Prop 1 does not advance fire protection, and it does not fix the real problem. It's a 2 year attempt at keeping minimal current services. We live in a high risk area. We need a lasting solution. There are expectations of improved service. This levy will not do that. A real solution will require more funds than \$.98/1000 "stop gap" funding. The proposal is not a plan without considering consolidation or higher levies.

Statement Against

Fire protection is a core city responsibility that historically was served by a volunteer department. Recently, increased regulations and requirements have resulted in a \$486,000 budget that includes 1.5 personnel. In an effort to maintain standards and equipment 2 levies of \$.50/1000 have augmented the department for the last ten years. The current levy is expiring this year and the requested replacement levy is \$.98/1000. While that is a substantial increase it is inadequate to meet the need. The City consultant recommended a \$1.20/1000 replacement to fully fund the department as it currently is. Without a plan for additional funding and/or regional consolidation this levy request may be a step back rather than forward for the department. It could require the department to spend its meager reserves to maintain an acceptable level of service to its constituents. If there is a need for even one additional staff the levy required would be \$1.33/1000. With the anticipated growth and the need for infrastructure, equipment, and engines, additional not traditional approaches and funding will be needed.

Looking to the future the cost of fire protection will grow as the city grows. Responders deserve our full support

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The opposition's points prove why Proposition 1 is essential.

Rising costs, stricter regulations, and community growth require stronger fire protection now. Proposition 1 provides responsible funding for training, equipment, and emergency readiness while allowing time to plan for future needs. Our volunteer firefighters are our neighbors who respond day and night. They deserve stable support, not uncertainty. Vote YES to protect lives, homes, businesses, and emergency response in Cle Elum.

CITY OF ROSLYN | PROPOSITION NO. 1

PUBLIC LIBRARY LEVY

Ballot Title

Statement For

Statement Against

The Roslyn City Council adopted Resolution No. 26-004, concerning sustainable funding for the City of Roslyn Public Library.

This proposition would help fund public library services for residents. It authorizes a maximum regular property tax rate for collection in 2027 of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (an approximately \$0.25 per \$1,000 increase).

The 2027 levy amount will be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW. Low-income seniors, disabled veterans and others with disabilities may be exempt from the increase under RCW 84.36.381.

Explanatory Statement

The City of Roslyn proposes a ballot measure to provide sustainable funding for public library services.

Approval of Proposition 1 would help fund the City of Roslyn Public Library. If approved, Proposition 1 would authorize an increase in the City's regular property tax levy by approximately \$0.25/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, to a total levy rate of \$1.50/\$1,000, as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

The approximately \$89,362 in additional levy funds would be deposited into the general fund and would be used for City of Roslyn Public Library services.

Approval of Proposition 1 would cost the owner of a median-valued \$500,000 Roslyn home about \$125.00 additional per year, or approximately \$10.42 per month. The levy amount collected in 2027 would be used to calculate subsequent levy limits. Seniors, disabled veterans, and others may be exempt, per Chapter 84.36 RCW.

The Roslyn Library Levy will create a permanent funding source keeping Roslyn's historic Public Library as an hospitable centerpiece for our community. The library has been housed in the Old City Hall for over 100 years.

The library, called Roslyn's living room, is always active: reading, chess, and Lego clubs, stitching circle, summer reading program, open mic writer's group, art in the library, and other programs. These help make our city inviting and vibrant. Thus far in 2026, there have been over 3,300 visits to the library.

The library's primary funding source is the city's general fund. The library is vulnerable to cuts when urgent public safety issues require additional funding, and when economic downturns like 2008 threaten the city budget.

The City is asking the people of Roslyn to support a 25 cents per \$1,000 levy. That's about \$125 per year for a house valued at \$500,000. These funds would be dedicated to the library and cannot be used for other city needs.

The city will continue to provide space in Old City Hall. The county provides funds so the library can serve our broader community. As well, The Friends of the Roslyn Library will continue to provide support

Rebuttal of Statement For

Proposition 1 creates a permanent tax increase without identified need. The language doesn't guarantee funding is dedicated to the library, only that it "helps fund" it. This bypasses the democratic budgeting process where officials must justify priorities transparently. Roslyn residents deserve a Council fully accountable to citizens before approving an arbitrary permanent tax increase. Please vote no.

The City is proposing to raise the property tax rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which would give Roslyn the highest municipal property tax rate in Kittitas County. The Library currently receives \$51,000 from the general fund, and Proposition 1 would increase that amount by about 74%. Supporters call this a modest change, but no explanation has been provided for why this level of funding is needed or how it was determined.

The City's explanatory statement lists the current levy rate as \$1.25, yet the resolution asks voters to approve \$1.50, creating uncertainty about what taxpayers are being asked to authorize. Although the measure is described as supporting the Library, the resolution directs all additional revenue to the general fund, which is not legally restricted to library use and could be spent on other purposes now or in the future.

Residents value the Roslyn Library and its community programs, but many traditional library services are now widely available online. Before adopting a permanent tax increase, Roslyn can review how to sustain essential services within existing resources. For these reasons, we encourage voters to carefully consider this measure and vote no.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

This levy would, for the first time, guarantee library funding, which would be similarly dedicated, restricted, and audited as are funds for water, sewer, and street repairs. This would pay for staffing and allow for extended hours. A librarian and volunteers are the heartbeat of the library. Online library resources cannot see preschoolers smile as they hear a story, help limited-income pensioners choose DVDs, welcome teenagers in from the rain, nor sponsor public events.

KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE RESCUE | PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY LID LIFT

Ballot Title	Explanatory Statement	Statement For
<p>The Board of Kittitas Valley Fire Rescue adopted Resolution No. 26-06 concerning a proposition to restore its regular property tax levy.</p> <p>This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2026 and collected in 2027. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, and emergency medical services, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The dollar amount of the 2026 levy collected in 2027 shall serve as the base for computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.</p> <p>Should this Proposition be:</p>	<p>Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue provides emergency fire protection and medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition authorizes the district to restore its regular real property tax levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2026 for collection in 2027 (the current levy is approximately \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and the district previously collected the \$1.50 rate in 2023).</p> <p>Your Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners has determined that this proposition is necessary to maintain an effective level of services, firefighter staffing, equipment and facilities in light of rising costs and increasing service demands. Approval of this measure will allow your fire district to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency medical services provided to its citizens.</p> <p>The dollar amount levied in 2026 for collection in 2027 shall serve as the fire district’s tax levy base and absent further voter approval, the tax levy will then be subject to the statutory one percent limit.</p> <p>Prepared by: Brian K. Snure Attorney for District</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <p><i>No volunteers came forward to submit a statement. To get involved in future committees, contact your local jurisdiction.</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <h3>Statement Against</h3> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>No volunteers came forward to submit a statement. To get involved in future committees, contact your local jurisdiction.</i></p> </div>

SNOQUALMIE PASS FIRE and RESCUE | PROPOSITION NO. 1 LEVY LID LIFT

Ballot Title

Explanatory Statement

Statement For

The Board of Commissioners of Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2026-01, concerning a proposition for providing for the re-authorization and continuation of a benefit charge.

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue is requesting that voters approve the continuation of the existing benefit charge for six years to replace the expiring benefit charge approved by the voters in 2020.

No volunteers came forward to submit a statement. To get involved in future committees, contact your local jurisdiction.

Shall Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each year for six consecutive years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

A benefit charge is not a property tax but is a user fee designed to allocate the cost of the services provided by the District in reasonable proportion to the measurable benefit a property receives. If the benefit charge is approved the District's statutory tax authority is reduced by \$.50 per thousand of assessed valuation.

Statement Against

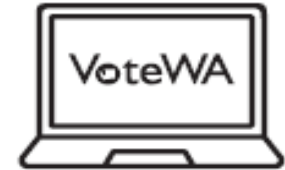
The Board of Commissioners has determined that a benefit charge established in conjunction with a lower level of property taxes provides the fairest, most stable, reliable and cost effective method for financing the operations of the District and maintaining a satisfactory level of services. Property owners have a right to a hearing and to petition for adjustments to the benefit charge each year.

No volunteers came forward to submit a statement. To get involved in future committees, contact your local jurisdiction.

Your Voting Information

Use **VoteWA.gov** to:

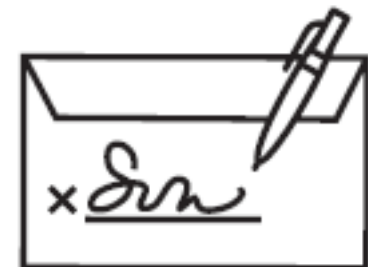
- Register to vote at 18 or sign up as a Future Voter as early as 16
- Check or update your voter registration information
- View a list of your elected officials
- Contact your county elections office
- View your personalized Voter Guide
- Print a replacement ballot
- Find an official ballot drop box
- Check the status of your ballot
- Sign up for text notifications



Sign in to **VoteWA.gov** to access your customized voting information.

Voter tip:

Remember to sign and date your ballot return envelope. Your signature is important, and we need it to accept your ballot.



Kititas County Trivia Answers:
 1. Greg Zempel
 1a. 8
 2. William (Bill) Hinkle
 3. 15,045
 4. 32,242

Why is my signature important?

Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials verify each and every signature.

If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the county elections office will contact you by mail **before results are certified**. They may call or email if you gave them this info.

If you registered to vote online or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver's license, permit or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

Voters can track and check their ballot status at **VoteWA.gov**.



¿Por qué es importante mi firma?

Su firma es necesaria para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada.

La firma en su sobre de devolución se compara con la firma en su registro de inscripción electoral. Los empleados electorales capacitados verifican todas y cada una de las firmas.

Si falta su firma o esta no coincide con su registro de inscripción electoral, la oficina electoral de su condado se comunicará con usted por correo **antes de que los resultados se certifiquen**. Es posible que le llamen o le envíen un correo electrónico si les proporcionó esta información.

Si se inscribió a votar en línea o a través del Departamento de Licencias, la firma que aparece en su licencia de conducir, permiso, o identificación del estado será la que esté en su registro de inscripción electoral.

Los votantes pueden seguir la trayectoria y verificar el estado de su boleta en **VoteWA.gov**.

