

City of Bremerton Proposition No. 1

Property Tax Limit Increase

Official Ballot Title

The City Council of the City of Bremerton approved Resolution No. 3032 concerning an increase in the City's regular property tax levy. This proposition provides funding for maintenance and operations of parks facilities; implementation of a community improvement program; improving and constructing sidewalks; and renovation, improvement and development of neighborhood parks. This proposition authorizes the City to increase its regular property tax levy for collection in 2008 to \$2.12 per thousand dollars of assessed value and increase the levy as allowed by chapter RCW 84.55 for each of the five succeeding years to fund these programs. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes
No

Explanatory Statement (Prepared by the Attorney for the City of Bremerton, as prescribed by law.)

The City Council of the City of Bremerton approved Resolution No. 3032 adopting a six-year neighborhood revitalization plan and providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City a proposition authorizing an increase in the regular property tax levy to fund specified City programs in this plan. This proposition, if approved, would provide funding for maintenance and operations of current and future parks and recreation facilities of the City; implement a community improvement program in City neighborhoods; improve and construct sidewalks and renovate, improve, and develop neighborhood parks. To fund these programs this proposition authorizes the City to increase its regular property tax levy for collection in 2008 from the estimated levy rate as limited by RCW 84.55.010 of \$1.9311 to \$2.12 per thousand dollars of assessed value and increase the levy each year thereafter as allowed by RCW 84.55 for each of the five succeeding years. This proposed levy rate is estimated to be \$0.1889 per thousand dollars of assessed value higher than would otherwise be imposed under the limitations established by RCW 84.55.010 providing an estimated additional annual sum of \$565,000 for a period of six years to fund these programs.

Statement For the Measure

With the help and support of Bremerton citizens, the City's revitalization success in downtown Bremerton can be extended to bring it home to our neighborhoods. A new six-year plan is proposed – "Neighborhoods Now" which focuses on creating and maintaining safe, healthy, and active neighborhoods within the City.

Need for funding. While the City of Bremerton has recently experienced positive financial results (allowing restoration of the financial health of the City after years of negative financial results) - projections indicate future revenue growth will just keep pace with inflation and growth related cost impacts in providing City services at current levels. New initiatives (such as Neighborhoods Now) require additional funding beyond current revenue sources.

What will it cost? The City of Bremerton is asking for an estimated additional \$3,390,000 over the next six years to fund improvements of neighborhood parks, build and repair sidewalks, implement a proactive community improvement program, and upgrade the maintenance budget for our parks. If Proposition No. 1 is approved, the new levy rate for 2008 will cost the owner of a median valued home in Bremerton (\$190,765 per the Kitsap County Assessor) approximately \$3.00 more per month.

Vote YES on Proposition No. 1 to bring revitalization to our "Neighborhoods Now."

Statement prepared by: Committee to Support Proposition No. 1: Scott Bosch, CEO Harrison Medical Center, Chairman; and Bette Hyde, Superintendent Bremerton School District. Further questions may be addressed via email: neighborhoodsnow@hotmail.com

Statement Against the Measure

No Statement against the measure was submitted.