

Franklin County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

November 5, 2024 General Election



Published by the Franklin County Auditor's Office
(509) 545-3538 | www.franklincountywa.gov/elections

Message from the Auditor

Dear Voter,

This pamphlet is a great resource. Please use it as a beginning point in your search for the information you will need to make an informed vote.

If you need additional information, please call us at (509) 545-3538. The Franklin County Auditor's Office is available to answer your questions and assist with your election needs. We work hard to provide secure, accountable and transparent elections.

Please vote and return your ballot as soon as possible. If you are unable to mail your ballot a week before Election Day, it is recommended that you take the ballot inside the Post Office and ask staff to hand-cancel the ballot before placing it in a mailbox or that you use one of our ballot drop boxes to deliver it directly to Franklin County Elections. Check your ballot status at www.votewa.gov.

We all bring different experiences and perspectives to our communities. When we vote individually, the collective outcome carries a mandate for action. Your vote matters, it is an effective and powerful way for citizens to shape our government.

Vote it, Sign it, Send it.



Matt Beaton

Matt Beaton, Franklin County Auditor



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Auditor's Office does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.

November 5, 2024 General Election

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Franklin County Elections Contact Information

Voter registration, replacement ballots and accessible voting: 1016 N 4th Ave, Suite A206
Pasco, WA 99301
Monday through Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm
open until 8pm on Election Day.

Ballot processing: 116 N 3rd Ave
Pasco, WA 99301

Contact Us: Phone:
(509) 545-3538

Email:
elections@franklincountywa.gov

www.franklincountywa.gov/elections

ELECTIONS ARE SECURE AND ACCURATE

Tabulation equipment is certified by the Washington Secretary of State and the Federal Election Assistance Commission. The system is never connected to the internet.

Logic and Accuracy

- Before each election, a public logic and accuracy test is conducted to ensure that voting equipment is ready for use and properly prepared to count ballots.
- The logic and accuracy test is verified by independent observers and the Office of Secretary of State.

Post-Election Audit

- Post-election day audits are conducted prior to the certification of each election.
- The office to be audited is selected by political party and nonpartisan observers.
- Batches to be audited are randomly selected.
- The audit compares the vote totals from the tabulation system to a hand count of physical ballots.

Accessible Voting

Franklin County voters who are unable to vote their ballot in the standard way have the option to vote independently using an accessible voting unit (AVU). The AVU is a large, touch-screen monitor that can display the ballot in a larger font or provide an audio ballot for persons with visual or cognitive disabilities.

Beginning 18 days before each election, the AVU is available from 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, and on Election Day from 8:30am to 8:00pm at the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

Register to Vote

Online: Visit VoteWA.gov; online registrations must be received **by Monday, October 28**.

By mail: Request a paper form be mailed to you by calling (509) 545-3538 or print your own at sos.wa.gov/elections. Mail-in registrations must be received **by Monday, October 28**.

In person: Visit the Franklin County Elections Department at 1016 N 4th Ave. in Pasco or any voting center in the state **by 8pm on November 5** to register in person.

Replacement Ballots

To request a ballot or a replacement ballot, please visit VoteWA.gov or contact our office at (509) 545-3538 or elections@franklincountywa.gov.

Returning Your Ballot

Fill out your ballot

Use any colored pen, preferably blue or black, to fill in the oval next to your choices.

Skip any contests you don't want to vote in. You are not required to vote every race on your ballot.

Sign your envelope

Don't forget to sign your ballot return envelope. Your signature must match the signature on your voter registration record. Your ballot cannot move forward in the process without a valid signature.

Return your ballot early

Whether returning your ballot by mail or in a drop box, don't wait until Election Day. Vote your ballot early!

If using a ballot drop box, there are 8 locations throughout the county where you can drop off your ballot. A list of ballot boxes is listed below. Drop boxes close promptly at 8pm on Election Day, November 5.

If returning by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, November 5. No postage necessary. A late postmark could disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.

If you cannot personally return your ballot, let only people you trust deliver it for you.

Check the status of your ballot on VoteWA.gov to see if it has been received by the Franklin County Elections Department.

Election staff will contact you if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature does not match the signature on your voter registration record

View election results online

After 8 p.m. on election night, tallied results from each county are posted at sos.wa.gov/elections. Results are updated as counties report and are unofficial until certification.

Ballot Box Locations

Ballot boxes are available by October 18, 2024 through November 5, 2024, Election Day.

- 1 FC Auditor's Office**
1016 N 4th Ave Ste A206, Pasco
- 3 Courthouse Parking Lot**
1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco
- 5 Fire Protection District 3**
2108 N Road 84, Pasco
- 7 Mesa City Hall**
103 Franklin St, Mesa

- 2 HAPO Center (TRAC)**
6600 Burden Blvd, Pasco
- 4 Election Center**
116 N 3rd Ave, Pasco
- 6 Connell PUD Shop**
619 W Clark St, Connell
- 8 Fire Protection District 2**
115 N Violet Ave, Kahlotus

Franklin County**Proposition No. 1****Sales And Use Tax For Maintenance and Operation of Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities**

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2024-180 concerning a sales and use tax to fund emergency communications systems.

The proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) without an expiration date; and a second sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) that expires after 36 months to be collected from all taxable sales within the County, starting January 1st, 2025, for the purpose of providing funds for the costs associated with the design, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, remodeling and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

This Proposition would allow Franklin County to replace the County's out of date emergency communications systems and facilities utilized by first responders. The proposed tax rate is 0.2% starting January 1st, 2025 with one-half expiring after 36 months. Taxes collected by the proposed measure will be two cents per \$10.00 purchase for 36 months and then it will be one cent per \$10.00 purchase thereafter. Taxes collected must be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

Argument For

For over 20 years, Franklin County has worked to enhance its Public Safety Communications. Despite efforts by County, City, and Port of Pasco staff to build a reliable system through grants and donations, the current infrastructure—composed of outdated and piecemeal components—is now unreliable and poses a critical risk to public safety.

The proposed emergency 911 communications sales tax increase is crucial for addressing this urgent need. It will fund the new infrastructure and technology required for effective emergency services. Modernizing our communication systems will reduce response times; improve coordination during emergencies, and save lives. The tax will cover new radios and equipment, which now cost over \$5,000 each, along with substantial ongoing subscription and maintenance fees. This support is vital for both small agencies like Franklin County Fire District #2 and larger departments like Pasco Fire Department, which face overwhelming costs that strain their budgets.

Public education on this issue is essential, as many don't fully grasp how our safety relies on the swift actions of police, fire, and medical services. Our first responders are critical in emergencies, and supporting this tax is more than a financial contribution—it's a commitment to upholding high standards of public safety.

By voting "yes," Franklin County residents will ensure that first responders have the necessary resources to protect and serve effectively. This investment is crucial for the safety, security, and health of our community. Emergency 911 communications are a lifeline we can't afford to lose; it's time to fund them properly.

Written by

Mike Miller

Contact: (509) 430-9617; mmiller@moonsecurity.com

Argument Against

No information submitted

Rebuttal of Argument Against

No information submitted

Rebuttal of Argument For

No information submitted



Stephen Bauman
(Prefers Republican Party)

Elected Experience
No information submitted

Other Professional Experience
No information submitted

Education
No information submitted

Community Service
No information submitted

Statement
With over 25 years of experience in business and public service, I have a track record of leadership. I serve as your appointed District One commissioner. My vision for Franklin County is of a community thriving through responsible growth, fiscal accountability, and an enhanced quality of life.

I am committed to fostering a business-friendly environment, improving infrastructure, addressing concerns related to public safety, and managing the county’s budget responsibly. I will work to ensure every expenditure is allocated efficiently and benefits our community. Government policy should be made in open forums that respect the voices of its citizens.

As a husband and father, I understand the importance of family values. My wife and I chose to raise our children here because we value our community. I am dedicated to preserving the values that make our community strong. I serve in leadership roles on various boards in our community including Lourdes Hospital which serves the most vulnerable. I care deeply about our community and the success of the next generation.

Franklin County deserves a commissioner committed to its prosperity and well-being. I would be honored to continue to serve in this role for all of Franklin County.

Contact
(509) 845-7199; steve.b.bauman@gmail.com



Caleb Atkins
(Prefers Republican Party)

Elected Experience
No information submitted

Other Professional Experience
As a dedicated Mathematics Educator of three years, I have delivered comprehensive curricula for a range of mathematical subjects, including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 to various groups of students. I have guided students to achieve academic excellence.

Education
Bachelors of Mathematics at WWU

Community Service
As a young lad, I was heavily involved with Pathfinders, a local youth group who involves themselves with positive improvement in the community, instilling a sense of civic duty to serve.

Statement
I was born in Bellingham, Washington, and moved to the Tri-Cities in 2003 at the age of seven. I spent the majority of those years living in Franklin County down by the river over on Road 34. Over the years, I have been heavily engaged with politics and political theory, and now I seek the office of County Commissioner District One. I see that now is as good a time as ever for power to be placed back into the hands of the community. I seek to restore the proper Constitutional role of local governance and the power within.

As commissioner, I will stand up to the gross and economically illiterate agenda that plagues our state. Additionally, I’m running to protect the next generation from the anti-American ideology that incentivizes victimhood rather than initiative. We must educate the public and directly oppose the mob on the utility of individual rights as being a safeguard predations upon liberty. The Franklin County Commissioners must use their points of leverage to pursue pro-Western and anti-conflict theory policies which foster economic growth, stability, and good living.

I live by the saying “shooters shoot, winners score, but losers never try”.

Thank you for your vote!

Contact
(509) 221-9183; atkins4first@gmail.com



Rocky
Mullen

(Prefers Republican Party)

Elected Experience

County Commissioner District 2, County Commissioner Chair 2024, Chair Pro Tem 2020, 21, 22. Precinct Committee Officer Republican Party

Other Professional Experience

Business owner with over 35 years of leadership management experience working and negotiating with National and International Corporations, US Military Contracts, Motion Picture Industry.

Education

Eastern Washington University, World Wide College of Auctioneering

Community Service

Volunteering auctioneering services for local fundraising and charity events. Board of Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, Visit Tri-Cities, SEWA Aging Long Term Care, BF Health Dept. (chair 2023), Emergency Management, BF Transit, TriDec, Pasco Chamber (liaison), Metro Task Force, Tri City Regional Chamber, Good Roads of BFWW, and Disability Board.

Statement

I am a lifelong resident of Franklin County, Local business owner, Real estate investor, and Cattle Rancher. I was born and raised in Pasco, growing up on the family farm which has been in operation since 1945. It has been an honor to be a representative for the people of Franklin County these past 3 years as your County Commissioner.

I support the one stop mental health recovery center. The community of Franklin County has raised over six million dollars to go to this much needed facility in just the past 2 years. Together we can make this happen!

I am committed to representing our community in a positive and professional manner. I am a commissioner for the people and will work diligently for a balanced budget to ensure that spending is closely monitored, eliminating waste or misuse of county funds.

I believe in our constitutional rights and the traditional values that this great nation was founded on. These rights are to be protected at all costs.

As a business owner, I realize the importance of small businesses in our community and the need for limiting government regulations to stop over taxation.

I appreciate your Vote!

Contact

(509) 528-8132; Rocky_Mullen@aol.com

No photo
submitted

Blanche
Barajas

(Prefers Independent Party)

Statement

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 588-1731; electblanchebarajas@gmail.com



**Pedro
Torres**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

For over a decade I have worked as a successful small business owner in Pasco as the owner of Movement Athletics. Previously, I was the Director of Environmental Services at Pacific Hospital in Long Beach, CA.

Education

B.A. from Washington State University (Hospitality Business Management)

Community Service

Pasco Homeless Shelter—I organizes, gathers and distributes donations to homeless families during Christmas. Pasco Downtown Clean Up—I have organized a quarterly clean-up of downtown. Pasco Cinco-de-Mayo Festival—I have facilitated a community run and youth events. I have done Mission work in Honduras and India to establish potable drinking water in villages and support schools.

Statement

As your PUD Commissioner, I will offer a fresh perspective, community connection, and practical experience. My commitment to maintaining stable power and low rates will be unwavering, especially in the face of rising costs.

I was born and raised in Pasco. I am deeply connected with our community and know its needs. My ownership and operation of a small business since 2011 has equipped me with comprehensive knowledge in managing an organization and effectively developing and sticking to a budget.

Anyone who runs a small business knows customer service is key. Franklin PUD's current low customer service ratings are unacceptable to me. As your future commissioner, I will make a customer-centric approach a core focus.

My vision for the PUD also includes ensuring long-term energy security and reducing reliance on federal agencies.

Electing me as your PUD Commissioner means entrusting someone who not only comprehends the intricacies of our District but is also committed to its prosperity. I ask for your vote to help ensure a future where reliable power and affordable rates remain a cornerstone of our community's well-being.

Contact

(509) 591-7107; pedro.torres.district3@gmail.com



**Stu
Nelson**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

With two decades of dedicated service to the ratepayers of Franklin County District 3, I have had the privilege of serving you. I ask for the opportunity to serve again.

In my time as a member of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners we have been committed to maintaining low rates, implementing smart meters and currently under construction a new substation. These efforts reflect a focus on modernizing the utility infrastructure while insuring affordability and reliability for our customers.

I have served on the Board of Trustees for Northwest Public Power Association and the Participants Review Board for Energy Northwest. I represent Franklin PUD at the Public Power Council, and Washington Public Utility Districts Association.

I was awarded the Amigo of the Year Award for 23/24 from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I have been a business owner in Franklin County, I have served on the City of Pasco Planning Commission and have been involved in this community and serving the residents for many years.

I believe we have an experienced cohesive Board that works well together and towards the common goal of serving our ratepayers in a time when energy needs and technology are rapidly evolving.

Thank you.

Contact

(509) 366-7190; commishsn@gmail.com

Franklin County Fire Protection District No. 1**Proposition No. 1****Authorization for a single-year permanent levy lid lift.**

Franklin County Fire Protection District No. 1 Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2024-0610 to increase the current level of property taxes to adequately fund District operations including emergency medical services.

This proposition would authorize the District to use a property tax levy rate of \$0.95 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for assessment in 2024 and collection in 2025. The dollar amount of the levy collected in 2025 shall be used to calculate the levy limit in subsequent years. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement

If enacted, this proposition authorizes the district to increase the tax levy rate to \$0.95 per \$1000 of assessed value for assessment in 2024 and collection in 2025. The district would be authorized to use the amount of the levy collected in 2025 as a base for subsequent levy limitations provided in RCW 84.55. This enables the district to continue maintaining and adequately funding district operations, including emergency medical services (ambulance).

Argument For

Franklin County Fire Protection District 1 is asking voters to approve a levy Lid Lift of \$0.95 per \$1000 assessed value. Currently the levy is \$0.38 per \$1000 assessed value. FCFD1 has not asked for a Lid Lift, ever.

The current lid was set with the passage of the 1% limit in 2001. The fire district was limited to a 23% increase over 23 years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an inflation of 86% in those same 23 years. Costs of apparatus and equipment used for firefighting increased more than 20% in the last 5 years. The FCFD1 has limited spending and utilized grants to alleviate cost burdens for some equipment and apparatus replacement. Always at the expense of volunteer time.

Consecutive years FCFD1 has utilized savings funds intended for apparatus replacement and emergency expenses to cover operating expenses. Inability to fund apparatus replacement or operating expenses could be detrimental to homeowners' insurance coverage. Resulting in insurance increases or even uninsurable areas. Likewise, improvements in the district could result in improved insurance ratings and lower costs.

The district has reached a critical point where funds are projected to deplete. It's time for the community to show support to those who answer the call for hazards and emergencies in our community. This increase is necessary to ensure the Fire District has the tools, training, and resources when it matters most. The Fire District is governed by the FCFD1 Fire Commissioners and *not the county*. Please vote yes.

Written by: Friends of Fire District #1

Stacy Kniveton, Lori Mercer, Kathy Loeber

Contact: Stacy Kniveton (509) 430-5640

Argument Against

No information submitted

Rebuttal of Argument Against

No information submitted

Rebuttal of Argument For

No information submitted