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# Official Local Voters' Pamphlet For Franklin County



**Your ballot will be mailed by January 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
No postage is needed when returning your ballot by mail.

**2026**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



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

Español al otro lado

# February 10, 2026, Special Election

## 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](http://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, Franklin County Auditor

## Ballot Box Locations

Ballot boxes are available by January 23, 2026, through February 10, 2026, Election Day.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> <b>FC Auditor's Office</b><br/>1016 N 4th Ave Ste A206,<br/>Pasco</p> <p><b>3</b> <b>Courthouse Parking Lot</b><br/>1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco</p> <p><b>5</b> <b>Fire Protection District 3</b><br/>2108 N Road 84, Pasco</p> <p><b>7</b> <b>Mesa City Hall</b><br/>103 Franklin St, Mesa</p> | <p><b>2</b> <b>HAPO Center (TRAC)</b><br/>6600 Burden Blvd, Pasco</p> <p><b>4</b> <b>Election Center</b><br/>116 N 3rd Ave, Pasco</p> <p><b>6</b> <b>Connell PUD Shop</b><br/>619 W Clark St, Connell</p> <p><b>8</b> <b>Fire Protection District 2</b><br/>115 N Violet Ave, Kahlotus</p> |
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Statements printed are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Elections Department.

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### Who donates to campaigns?

For a list of people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit:

### Public Disclosure Commission

[www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)  
 Toll Free (877) 601-2828

### Reminder

This pamphlet contains all Franklin County measures that are on the February 10, 2026 Special Election ballots. Your ballot will contain only the measures that you are eligible to vote on based on your residential address.

## Elections Department Contact Information

**Voter registration, replacement ballot requests, and accessible voting:** 1016 N 4th Ave, Suite A206  
 Pasco, WA 99301  
 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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

**Contact Us:** Phone: (509) 545-3538  
 Email: [elections@franklincountywa.gov](mailto:elections@franklincountywa.gov)  
 Website: [www.franklincountywa.gov/elections](http://www.franklincountywa.gov/elections)

## Elections and Voter Registration

### Qualifications

To register to vote in the State of Washington, you must be:  
A citizen of the United States; a resident of Washington State; at least 18 years old, if you are 16 or 17, you can sign up as a Future Voter and be automatically registered to vote when you qualify; not disqualified from voting due to a court order; not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction; not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

### Future Voter

If you are 16 or 17, become a Future Voter! 16 and 17 year olds can use the voter registration form to sign up as Future Voters and be automatically registered to vote when they qualify.

Every January, on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, high school students, 16 and older, are given the opportunity to complete a voter registration form in class.

### How do I register to vote?

- **Online:** Visit [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)
- **By mail:** Request a paper form be mailed to you by calling (509) 545-3538 or print your own at [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections).
- **In person:** Visit the Elections Department located at 1016 N 4th Ave. Ste A206, in Pasco, or any voting center in the state.

### Registration deadlines

**February 2:** Deadline to receive new voter registrations and updates by mail or online.

**February 10:** Deadline to receive new voter registrations and updates in-person before 8:00 p.m.

### Keep your registration current

We are constantly working to keep our voter rolls up to date with the help of the Department of Licensing, the Post Office, local obituaries and the Department of Health, but you can also help by following these simple steps:

- **Update your address** whenever it changes. Changes can be made through [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov), email, phone or mail before February 2. Changes in person can be made at an election's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, February 10.
- **Set up a mailing address.** Snowbirds and college students can call or email our office to set up a seasonal or temporary mailing address.
- **Return to sender!** If you receive a ballot for a person who does not live at your address, write "Does not live here" on the unopened envelope and **put it back in the mail.** Do not drop it in a ballot drop box.  
  
If you receive mail for a recently deceased voter, write "Deceased" on the unopened envelope and **put it back in the mail.** We will research and follow up.

### Access your ballot online

Visit [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) to print your ballot online. You have the option of marking your ballot online and printing it or printing a blank ballot and filling it out by hand.

Once you have marked your ballot, sign the declaration sheet.

Package your ballot following the instructions printed with the ballot packet. You may return the ballot as you normally would by dropping it in the mail or in an official ballot drop box.

## Voting Tips

### Fill out your ballot

Use a pen, preferably blue or black ink, to fill in the oval next to your choice(s).

Skip any contest(s) 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 you're 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 on page 2 of this pamphlet, in [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov), and on your ballot return envelope. Drop boxes close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, February 10.

**If returning by mail,** your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, February 10. No postage necessary. The USPS recommends that you mail your ballot a week before Election Day to ensure an on-time postmark. A late postmark could disqualify your ballot.

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

**Check the status of your ballot at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)** to see if it has been received by the Franklin County Elections Office.

Election staff will contact you if:

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

### View election results online

After 8:00 p.m. on election night, tallied results from each county are posted at [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections). Results are updated as counties report and are unofficial until certification.

## 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 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Election Day from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

## 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 are responsible for verifying each and every signature.

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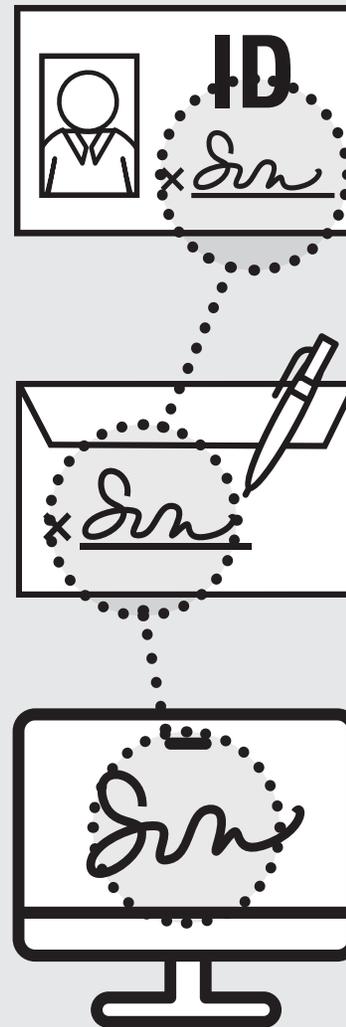
If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the county elections office will contact you by mail **before results are certified**. They may call or email if you gave them this info.

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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.

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

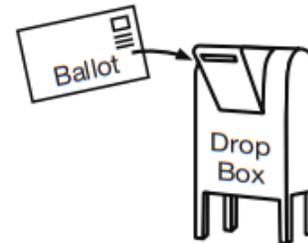


# How is my Ballot Counted?

1

## Your county receives your ballot

Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or return your ballot by mail — postage paid — but make sure it's postmarked by Election Day! Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail it back at least one week before Election Day.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

2

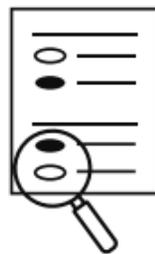
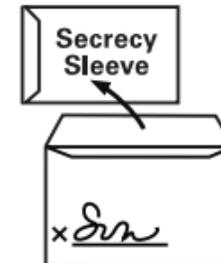
## Your signature is verified

Your signature is important and we need it to accept your ballot. The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. If the signature matches, your ballot is accepted and you are credited for voting to ensure **only one** ballot is counted for you.

3

## Envelopes and sleeves are separated

The return envelope is opened and the secrecy sleeve containing your ballot is removed. They are separated to ensure the secrecy of your vote.



4

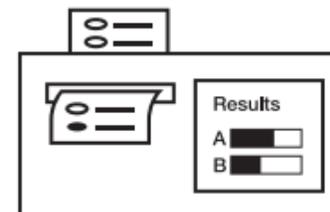
## Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

The ballot is removed from the secrecy sleeve and election staff verify that it can be successfully scanned. Each voting system is certified and tested before every election.

5

## Your ballot is counted

After 8 p.m. on Election Day all scanned ballots are tallied. Ballots will be scanned and tallied over the next several days until all the votes are counted. Every county conducts a post-election audit.



# Kahlotus School District No. 56

## Submitted by Kahlotus School District No. 56

### Proposition No. 1 Replacement Of Expiring Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Kahlotus School District #56 adopted Resolution #26-02, proposing replacement of the expiring educational funding levy. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State:

<u>Levy Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy</u>	
	<u>Rate/\$1,000</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>
2027	\$ 1.47	\$ 140,000
2028	\$ 1.43	\$ 140,000

Should the proposition be approved?

- Levy Yes  
 Levy No

### Argument For

Following the news release to recruit a committee for the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

### Argument Against

Following the news release to recruit a committee against the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

### Rebuttal of Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument For

No statement submitted.

## Explanatory Statement

This Proposition would allow Kahlotus School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire after calendar year 2026. The proposed two-year replacement of expiring educational programs and operation levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$140,000 in 2027 and \$140,000 in 2028. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be approximately \$1.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Taxes collected by the proposed levy will provide approximately 3% of the District's General Fund budget.

# North Franklin School District No. J51-162

## North Franklin School District No. J51-162

### Proposition No. 1 Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of North Franklin School District No. J51-162 adopted Resolution No. 550, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$1.56	\$2,700,000
2028	\$1.57	\$2,800,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 550. Should this proposition be approved?

- Levy Yes  
 Levy No

### Argument For

Following the news release to recruit a committee for the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

### Argument Against

Following the news release to recruit a committee against the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

### Rebuttal of Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument For

No statement submitted.

## Explanatory Statement

This proposition would allow North Franklin School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operation levy. The proposed levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$2,700,000 in 2027 and \$2,800,000 in 2028. The levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$1.56 in 2027 and \$1.57 in 2028. The proposed levy, together with State levy equalization money that is contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 10% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor.

# Othello School District No. 147-163-55

## Othello School District No. 147-163-55

### Proposition No. 1 Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Othello School District No. 147-163-55 adopted Resolution No. 26-002, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would fund operations, including athletics, guidance counselors, custodial, maintenance, technology, security, certified staff contract costs, curriculum, community events and early learning, and authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$1.50	\$4,185,335
2028	\$1.50	\$4,603,868
2029	\$1.50	\$5,064,255
2030	\$1.50	\$5,570,680

all as provided in Resolution No. 26-002. Should this proposition be approved?

- Levy Yes  
 Levy No

### Explanatory Statement

This proposition authorizes Othello School District to replace the educational programs and operation levy expiring at the end of 2026. The replacement levy will continue funding educational programs and operations, including athletics, guidance counselors, custodial, maintenance, technology, security, certified staff contract costs, curriculum, community events and early learning. The proposed replacement levy, together with State levy equalization money contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 11% of the District's General Fund budget. Further information at: [www.othelloschools.org](http://www.othelloschools.org).

The proposed replacement levy would authorize collection of up to \$4,185,335 in 2027, \$4,603,868 in 2028, \$5,064,255 in 2029, and \$5,570,680 in 2030. The levy rate required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available, contact your county assessor.

### Argument For

Vote Yes to protect funding for Student Educational Programs, Activities and Athletics.

This replacement levy is not new. It maintains the current educational programs to support our students' learnings. In addition to activities and athletics, levy monies pay salaries for certificated specialists in music, library, art, reading, counseling, etc. These offerings help our students discern their future goals, and provide them a variety of educational opportunities to achieve those goals.

We know that students perform better academically when they are connected to school in areas beyond the classroom. For that reason OHS, and MMS staff work hard channeling students into an activity of interest. Currently nearly 40 % of our secondary students participate in activities outside the classroom. Examples of secondary activities include FFA, drama, music competitions, FBLA, chess club, and athletics.

With levy monies our students and teachers at the elementary level are supported in reading and math by paraprofessionals who work with small groups to improve learning outcomes. Instructional coaches help teachers break down difficult concepts for students. Support personnel help our students learn to the best of their abilities.

Receiving the maximum state funding for our school district depends on the passage of this-our replacement levy. Without its passage, the state cuts its support to our district and the above educational programs, personnel, and activities must be whittled down and in some cases eliminated. For this reason, and for all those explained above, please join me in voting *For* Othello School District's Replacement Levy.

**Written By:** Kristi Spohr  
**Contact:** [kspohr@q.com](mailto:kspohr@q.com)

### Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument For

No statement submitted.

# Pasco School District No. 1

## Pasco School District No. 1

### Proposition No. 1 Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Pasco School District No. 1 adopted Resolution No. 1061, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for essential educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$2.17	\$35,500,000
2028	\$2.17	\$37,150,000
2029	\$2.17	\$39,375,000
2030	\$2.17	\$41,740,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 1061. Should this proposition be approved?

- Levy Yes  
 Levy No

### Explanatory Statement

This proposition authorizes Pasco School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operation levy. This levy will continue funding current educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State, including technology, curriculum, athletics, extracurricular activities, music, counselors, nurses, transportation and student safety. Further information is available at [www.psd1.org](http://www.psd1.org). The proposed replacement levy, together with State levy equalization money that is contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 10% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, contact the Franklin County Assessor 509.545.3506.

# Pasco School District No. 1

## Argument For

*Vote Yes for the Pasco School Levy — Keep Pasco Strong!* Voting Yes on the Pasco School District *replacement levy* keeps our schools strong. This levy simply replaces the one that is expiring and continues the community support that helps our students succeed.

Why your Yes vote matters: Student programs that inspire learning and build community such as *Theater, Choir, Athletics, Music, Transportation, after school activities* and more. The levy helps fund important school staff like *nurses, counselors, coaches, and School Resource Officers*. The levy makes up about *10% of our school district's budget*. Passing it brings in about *\$14.1 million* annually in state "Levy Equalization Dollars," which will help bring more dollars into Pasco Schools.

If it doesn't pass: Pasco loses the *\$14.1 million* from the state. We also lose *\$35.5 million* in local funding. Students would lose essential programs and support like athletics and arts.

At just 10% of the total school budget, this levy is a modest ask of taxpayers. The annual total tax is set in balance with conservative assessed value projections to maintain level taxes each year—this replacement levy is student serving and taxpayer sensitive. Someone once supported *your* education—now it's your turn to support the next generation. Vote Yes for our kids. Vote Yes for strong schools. Vote Yes for a thriving Pasco. Vote from January 23rd to Feb 10<sup>th</sup>

**Written By:** Amy Phillips & Ana Armijo

**Contact:** Amy Phillips (253) 224-2431; amyleephillips@gmail.com

## Argument Against

*Vote No on Pasco School District Proposition No. 1: A Tax Hike You Can't Afford*

The Pasco School District Proposition No. 1 Levy asks for a 40.63% increase in property taxes by 2030. This is not just a small adjustment; it's a major tax hike. In 2025, the M&O Levy taxes were \$29,680,002.89. If approved, this levy would increase taxes to \$41,740,000 by 2030—a 40.63% rise. Between 2025 and 2027, the tax burden would jump by 19.61%. Then, from 2028 to 2030, taxes will continue to rise by 4.65% to 6.01% annually.

This increase far exceeds the current inflation rate of 3%, and if your property value declines, your tax rates will still go up to meet the levy's total amount of \$153,765,000.00.

While we support our schools, this tax hike is too much for families and local businesses to bear. The proposed levy adds to the new state-mandated sales tax increases, and it also funds some of the highest teacher salaries in the country and inflated transportation costs driven by state gas taxes—further burdening homeowners, renters, and local businesses.

Before taxes become unaffordable, we urge you to vote *No* and demand smarter spending and real accountability.

**Written By:** Behr Turner, Nicholas Cooper, & Gene Bonderman

**Contact:** Behr Turner (509) 895-1423; behr\_turner@yahoo.com

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

The Con statement oversimplifies how school levies work. As new properties are built, more owners share the tax, keeping the burden manageable. This replacement levy is just 10% of the district's budget and is more *conservative* than before. Passing it brings in around \$14 million annually in state matching funds, preserving vital programs and staff for students. Don't be misled—this levy is a responsible, student-focused investment that keeps Pasco schools and our community strong.

## Rebuttal of Argument For

When the Pasco School District plans to increase this replacement levy's tax dollars by more than 40% from 2025 to 2030, it is important to vote *No*. This increase implies that the tax burden for the remaining 90% of the district's budget will also rise by more than 40%. Please download Franklin County's *2024 Assessment for 2025 Tax Collections* and educate yourself about the property taxes impacting your mortgage, rent, business, and/or employer.

# Washtucna School District No. 109-43

## Washtucna School District No. 109-43

### Proposition No. 1

#### Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Washtucna School District No. 109-43 adopted Resolution No. 2025-01, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$1.43	\$150,000
2028	\$1.43	\$150,000
2029	\$1.43	\$150,000
2030	\$1.43	\$150,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2025-01 and subject to legal limits on levy rates and amounts at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

- Levy Yes  
 Levy No

### Argument For

No statement submitted.

### Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument Against

No statement submitted.

### Rebuttal of Argument For

No statement submitted.

## Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Washtucna School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2026. This replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including, but not limited to, nurses, counselors, safety, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Further information is available at [www.tucna.wednet.edu](http://www.tucna.wednet.edu).

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$150,000 in the years 2027 through 2030. The levy rate required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$1.43 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact your county assessor.

# City of Pasco

**City of Pasco****Proposition No. 1****Annexation into the Mid-Columbia Library District**

Shall the City of Pasco be Annexed to and be a Part of the Mid-Columbia Library District?

Yes

No

**Explanatory Statement**

If approved by the voters, this proposition would annex the City of Pasco to the Mid-Columbia Library District.

Upon annexation, all City taxpayers will be subject to the real property tax levy that can be authorized by the Library District. The maximum real property tax levy that can be authorized by the City will be reduced by the amount of real property tax levied by the Library District.

The Mid-Columbia Library District would be solely responsible for providing library services within the City. Annexation will have no effect on library services and will result in a continuation of current services.

**Argument For**

Following the news release to recruit a committee for the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

**Argument Against**

Following the news release to recruit a committee against the ballot measure, no volunteers came forward to write a statement.

**Rebuttal of Argument Against**

No statement submitted.

**Rebuttal of Argument For**

No statement submitted.