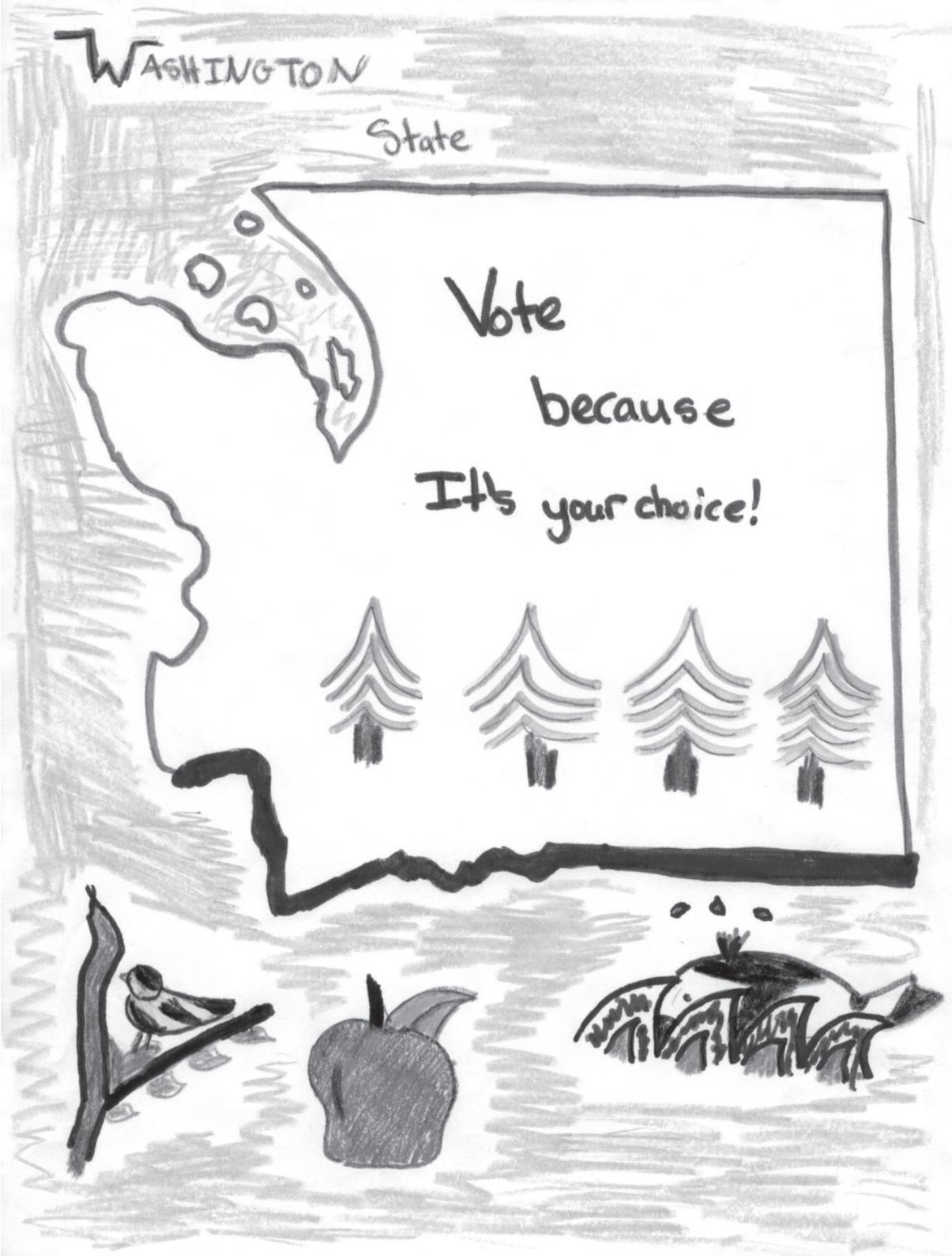


COWLITZ COUNTY

OFFICIAL LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

November 3, 2009 General Election



PREAMBLE TO LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

Dear Cowlitz County Voter:

This 2009 General Election Local Voters Pamphlet is designed to provide you with information about the races and measures that will appear on your ballot. In this election, there are statewide measures as well as local races and resolutions.

Local races and issues dominate the ballot. Voters will be selecting city council members; school district directors; port, fire district and cemetery district commissioners; and more. Voters in the cities of Kelso and Longview will decide whether or not to study the pros and cons of merging the two cities. Voters in the city of Woodland will vote on whether the city should abandon its current council/mayor form of government and adopt the council/manager form of government. The decisions made by voters in this election are important and will impact their lives for many years.

I would like to emphasize the availability of our accessible voting devices, known as AutoMARKs. These devices allow voters with special needs to vote secretly and independently. Please contact the Elections Department at 360-577-3005 if you or someone you know would like to vote on the AutoMARK.

General Election ballots will be mailed on October 16 and should begin arriving in your home soon after. Let your voice be heard! Vote in the November 3, 2009 General Election.

Kristina K. Swanson
Cowlitz County Auditor

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Participating Jurisdictions:

Port of Kalama, Port of Longview, Port of Woodland, City of Castle Rock, City of Kalama, City of Kelso, City of Longview, City of Woodland, Longview School District, Toutle Lake School District, Castle Rock School District, Kalama School District, Woodland School District, Kelso School District, Fire Protection District No. 1, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue, Fire Protection District No. 3, Fire Protection District No. 4, Fire Protection District No. 5, Fire Protection District No. 6, Fire Protection District No. 7, Cemetery District No. 1, Cemetery District No. 2, Cemetery District No. 3, Cemetery District No. 4, Cemetery District No. 5, Cemetery District No. 6, Cemetery District No. 7, Beacon Hill Sewer District, and Lexington Flood Control Zone District.

Congratulations to Mollie Kissinger of Kelso whose artwork is displayed on the cover of this pamphlet. Mollie is a student at Butler Acres Elementary School.

OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL OR REPLACEMENT BALLOT

COWLITZ COUNTY IS ENTIRELY VOTE BY MAIL. Official Ballots will be available in the Elections Department beginning October 14, 2009. Official Ballots will be mailed Friday, October 16, 2009.

Replacement Ballots. Contact the Elections Department if your ballot is damaged or lost. A replacement ballot may be mailed or picked up in person through Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Please allow one week for delivery delays if you are requesting a replacement ballot to be mailed to you.

KEEP YOUR VOTER INFORMATION CURRENT. To receive your ballot in a timely manner, please keep the Elections Department informed of any changes to your name, physical address, and mailing address.

Away from home? If you are a student, away at college, in the military, or you will be away from home during an election, notify the Elections Department and we will mail your ballot to your temporary address.

Ballots are NOT FORWARDED. Ballots are mailed to the address on record and are not forwarded. Notify the Elections Department of any address changes at least 30 days prior to an election.

CONTACT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

IN PERSON OR BY MAIL:

207 Fourth Avenue North
Room 107
Kelso, WA 98626

BY TELEPHONE:

(360) 577-3005

EMAIL:

elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections

Voting in Washington State

Registration Deadlines

Keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must register to vote at least **29 days** before an election if you register by mail, online, or through the Motor Voter program. If you move within the state of Washington, you must change your address **29 days** prior to an election. You may register **in person** at the Cowlitz County Elections Department up to **8 days** before an election if you are not currently registered to vote in Washington State.

How to Register to Vote

You can register to vote online at www.vote.wa.gov or at the Cowlitz County Elections Department.

CURBSIDE BALLOT DROP BOXES

Six (6) curbside ballot drop boxes are available beginning October 14, 2009, 20 days prior to the General Election. The drop boxes are available 24 hours per day and close promptly at 8:00 pm on Election Day. **No postage is required for ballots deposited in the curbside ballot drop boxes.**

Curbside ballot drop boxes are located at:

Longview, Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St, near the Longview Post Office boxes;

Longview, on Broadway St, north of the Longview Post Office boxes;

Kelso, 3rd Ave, between Allen and Academy, near the Kelso Post Office boxes;

Woodland, city parking lot, Davidson and 2nd St, near the Utility Payment Drop box;

Castle Rock, Cowlitz St and 1st Ave SW, near Hattie's; and

Kalama, North 1st St, near the Kalama Post Office boxes.

The curbside ballot drop boxes provide another convenient way to return your ballot.

DISABLED VOTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

AutoMARK ballot marking machines will be available Monday through Thursday, during regular business hours for the General Election, beginning Wednesday, October 14, 2009, through Election Day, November 3, 2009 at 8:00 pm, at the Cowlitz County Elections Department.

These machines provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way.

VOTERS SHOULD BRING THEIR OFFICIAL BALLOTING MATERIALS RECEIVED IN THE MAIL WITH THEM TO CAST THEIR BALLOT.



Election Officials will be available to provide instructions and assistance as needed.

Cowlitz County - Sample Ballot

General Election November 3, 2009

INSTRUCTIONS

How to Mark Your Ballot

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your selection.

- Use a black ink pen or #2 pencil.
- More than one vote for a candidate or ballot measure will be an overvote, and no votes for that candidate or ballot measure will be counted.

How to Correct Your Ballot

- Do not erase.
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the entire selection. You then have the option of making another choice.

If your original ballot is destroyed or lost, you may request a replacement ballot by contacting the Cowlitz County Elections Department at: (360) 577-3005.

To vote for a person not on the ballot, write the name of the candidate on the line provided for that office, then completely fill in the oval next to the line.

Return Your Ballot

By Mail: Return your ballot by placing a first class stamp on the return envelope and dropping it in the mail. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day, November 3, 2009.

In Person: Return your ballot in person, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ELECTION DAY ONLY, at: 207 North 4th Ave., Room 107, Kelso, WA 98626.

By Ballot Drop Box: Six curbside ballot drop boxes will be available 24 hours per day prior to the General Election, beginning October 14 through November 3, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. Curbside ballot drop boxes REQUIRE NO POSTAGE and are located at:

- Longview, Broadway St., east of the Longview Post Office boxes.
- Longview, Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St., near the Longview Post Office boxes.
- Kelso, 3rd Ave., between Allen and Academy, near the Kelso Post Office boxes.
- Woodland, city parking lot, Davidson and 2nd St., near the Utility Payment Drop Box.
- Castle Rock, Cowlitz St. and 1st Ave. SW, near Hattie's Restaurant.
- Kalama, North 1st St., near the Kalama Post Office boxes.

Assistance Available for Voters with Disabilities

AutoMARK ballot marking machines will be available for the General Election, beginning October 14 at the Cowlitz County Elections Department. These machines provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way. Voters should bring their balloting materials with them.

STATE	COUNTY Nonpartisan Offices	LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices
<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed by Initiative Petition Initiative Measure No. 1033</p> <p>Initiative Measure No. 1033 concerns state, county and city revenue. This measure would limit growth of certain state, county and city revenue to annual inflation and population growth, not including voter-approved revenue increases. Revenue collected above the limit would reduce property tax levies. Should this measure be enacted into law?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Port of Kalama Commissioner District 1 SIX Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Randy Sweet <input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Port of Longview Commissioner District 1 SIX Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Darold D. Dietz <input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Port of Woodland Commissioner District 1 SIX Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dale M. Boon <input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Port of Woodland Commissioner District 3 TWO Year Unexpired Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Emmett J. Erion <input type="radio"/> Paul Cline <input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Castle Rock Council Position 1 FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ray Teter <input type="radio"/> Howard Mason <input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">City of Castle Rock Council Position 2 FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Glenn Pingree <input type="radio"/> Buck Savage <input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">City of Kalama Mayor FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Pete Poulsen <input type="radio"/> _____</p>

Note: The Sample Ballot includes all measures and races presented within the county. Only races and measures you are entitled to vote upon will appear on your Official Ballot.

Cowlitz County - Sample Ballot

General Election November 3, 2009

LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices Continued

City of Kalama
Council Position 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Adam Smee

City of Kalama
Council Position 2
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Dominic F. Ciancibelli

City of Kelso
Council Position 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Rick Roberson

City of Kelso
Council Position 2
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Todd McDaniel

City of Kelso
Council Position 3
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

John Karnofski

City of Kelso
Council Position 6
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Rick Von Rock
 Gary Schimmel

Proposition No. 1 Advisory Vote on Merger Study

The City Council of the City of Kelso adopted Resolution No. 09-1000 and the City Council of the City of Longview adopted Resolution No. 1935 concerning the question whether the two cities should study the financial and logistical feasibility of merging the two cities. This proposition is only to decide whether or not to study the pros and cons of merging the two cities, including a final recommendation by May 3, 2010 that will incorporate the estimated costs. The proposition is not to approve any actual merger of the cities. A merger would mean combining the two governments and physical boundaries to become one city.

Should this proposition be:

Approved
 Rejected

City of Longview
Council Position 5
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Mike Wallin
 Mary Jane Melink

City of Longview
Council Position 6
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Steve Moon
 Chet Makinster

City of Longview
Council Position 7
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Ray Baker
 Dennis Weber

City of Woodland
Council Position 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

John "JJ" Burke

City of Woodland
Council Position 2
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Darwin K. Rounds
 Al Ryder
 Suzanne Taylor Moore
 Al Swindell

City of Woodland
Council Position 3
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Marilee McCall

City of Woodland
Council Position 5
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Susan Humbyrd

City of Woodland
Council Position 6
FOUR Year Short & Full Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Benjamin Fredricks

City of Woodland
Council Position 7
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Thomas Mattison

Cowlitz County - Sample Ballot

General Election November 3, 2009

LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices Continued

Proposition No. 1
CITY OF WOODLAND
Adoption of the Council-City Manager
Form of Government

The Woodland City Council adopted Resolution 575, a proposition to change Woodland's form of government from the Mayor-Council form to the Council-City Manager form. If this ballot proposition is approved, the executive authority of the City would be exercised by a manager who is appointed by the City Council and would no longer be exercised by a popularly elected mayor.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Approved
 Rejected

Longview School District #122
Director Position 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Jerry Stinger

Longview School District #122
Director Position 2
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Ted D. Thomas

Toutle Lake School District #130
Director District 5
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Gary Evitt

Castle Rock School District #401
Director District 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Vilas Sundberg

Castle Rock School District #401
Director District 2
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Harold D. Erdelbrock

Castle Rock School District #401
Director District 3
TWO Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Skot A. Jones

Kalama School District #402
Director District 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Bruce Rader

Kalama School District #402
Director District 4
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Shannon Barnett

Woodland School District #404
Director District 3
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Tina M. Cayton

Woodland School District #404
Director District 4
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Bill Woodard

Woodland School District #404
Director District 5
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Patricia J. Stepp
 Steven B. Madsen

Kelso School District #458
Director Position 1
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Patty Wood

Kelso School District #458
Director Position 2
FOUR Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Joan Gisler Tolby
 Jeff Hart

Kelso School District #458
Director Position 4
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Calvin T. Miller
 Amanda M. Pink

Fire Protection District No. 1
Commissioner Position 2
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- David W. Pietz

Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Bill Hallanger

Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue
Commissioner Position 4
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Keith L. Merritt

Fire Protection District No. 3
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

- Butch Brenaman

Cowlitz County - Sample Ballot
General Election November 3, 2009

LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices
Continued

Fire Protection District No. 5
Commissioner Position 2
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Frank Kockritz

Fire Protection District No. 6
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Monte W. Martinsen

Fire Protection District No. 7
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Don G. Stuart

Cemetery District No. 1
Commissioner Position 1
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Richard Miller

Cemetery District No. 2
Commissioner Position 1
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Shirley M. Wertman

Cemetery District No. 3
Commissioner Position 1
SIX Year Short and Full Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Linda Clark

Cemetery District No. 6
Commissioner Position 2
TWO Year Unexpired Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Bill Spencer

Cemetery District No. 7
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Marvin L. Snider

Beacon Hill Sewer District
Commissioner Position 3
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Dean Takko

Lexington Flood Control Zone District
Supervisor Position 1
SIX Year Term
Vote for 1 (ONE)

Donald L. MacDonald

Port District Commissioners

The port districts of Cowlitz County were established for acquisition, operation, development, and regulation of commercial air, water, and rail transportation. The commission also oversees harbor and industrial improvements, including terminal facilities, facilitating trade promotion, tourism enhancement, industrial development, and establishing foreign trade zones.

Port districts are empowered to levy taxes and special local improvement assessments to create incidental park and recreation facilities, adopt and enforce regulations relating to moorage and toll facilities, and to cooperate with counties and cities in applying general police and traffic regulations to port properties and operations. The commissioners set objectives, policies and overall port direction through comprehensive plans.

Port of Kalama, Commissioner District 1



Randy Sweet, Non-Partisan

Randy Sweet brings experience, drive and foresight for a positive impact on Kalama.

A successful businessman, longtime community member, and a Port Commissioner for the past four years, Randy knows that a well-run port benefits our entire community.

Randy is committed to seeking out and developing opportunities that will encourage solid growth in our industrial base, create jobs, and support the waterfront recreational uses at the Port of Kalama.

Vote Randy Sweet for Port of Kalama Commissioner District 1.

Port of Longview, Commissioner District 1

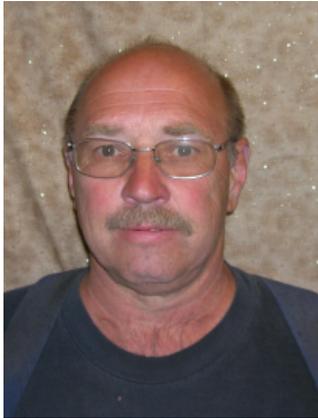


Darold D. Dietz, Non-Partisan

A vote for Darold Dietz is a vote to retain the incumbent with years of experience working on the waterfront, which helps him to serve the people of the Port District by bringing jobs to our area through diversity and efficiency. A new \$200 million export grain terminal will bring many badly needed jobs to our area. Our expansion of our wind energy business helped us accomplish a record year in 2008. Our diversity has made the Port of Longview an economic bright spot in our area, providing many jobs on and off the port.

Ports, continued

Port of Woodland, Commissioner District 1



Dale M. Boon, Non-Partisan

I'm Dale Boon, married to Janet, and have four grown children, employed as the Diking District Supervisor. I have been a Port Commissioner for 12 years.

During that time the Port has made some major staff changes and a new appointed Commissioner.

Business wise, our tax rate has decreased 50%, from .45 to .23, primarily due to increased income from Port clients, where we have added 10 businesses that employ 200+ people, and \$535,000 annually. Currently 68% of our income is derived from lease revenue.

I look forward to representing my district again for another term. Thanks for the support!

Port of Woodland, Commissioner District 3



Emmett J. Erion, Non-Partisan

I've been a Woodland resident for 57 of my 63 years, and have 21 years of previous experience serving on the Port of Woodland. I was also Cowlitz County Road Supervisor for 20 years.

The most important issue I see facing Woodland is traffic congestion. While attracting industry to Woodland is the primary goal, we must give consideration to how additional traffic flow will impact the existing problems. The Port must work closely with the City of Woodland to plan ahead for positive growth.

I hope to have the opportunity to again serve the people of Woodland.



Paul Cline, Non-Partisan

Woodland/Yale is one of the most beautiful and diverse areas in Washington. From the Columbia River, the farmlands on the bottoms, the industrialized Woodland proper, and finally up the Lewis River boasting of many recreational opportunities, our district provides quality family and business oriented possibilities. I would love to continue to serve as a Port Commissioner, to continue the progress that has already been established, and continue to move forward in partnership that will help identify the community and continue to create the quality of life we have all come to associate with the Woodland/Yale community.

Cities

City of Castle Rock, Council Position 1



Ray Teter, Non-Partisan

As a city councilman, Ray Teter will work to make Castle Rock a better community for everyone. He grew up in Castle Rock and is now raising his own family in town. Ray has a degree in Business Administration from Washington State University and currently works as an accountant at Ragan and Brown CPA's. As a councilman, his goals for Castle Rock are to promote economic growth and improve the city's infrastructure. With Ray's knowledge of accounting, he will be a valuable asset in setting the city's budget. Ray is motivated and eager to serve the citizens of Castle Rock.



Howard Mason, Non-Partisan

Howard Mason 64.
 Born and raised in Castle Rock.
 Graduated Castle Rock High School 1963.
 Served three years in United States Navy, Vietnam veteran.
 Elected two terms to Castle Rock school board.
 Served two years as Castle Rock Little League President.
 Elected two terms to Castle Rock City Council.
 Presently retired after working forty years for Weyerhaeuser.
 Married, wife's name Jeannette. Children five. Grandchildren fourteen.
 My agenda is to represent and help the people of the city to the best of my ability. I now have the time to be a better Council member than I was before.

Cities, continued

City of Castle Rock, Council Position 2



Glenn Pingree, Non-Partisan

My name is Glenn Pingree and I have lived in the Castle Rock and surrounding area for more than 40 years. I was an elected councilman in 2002 and was one of the instrumental forces behind our River Trail, North Cowlitz Recreation, and the Lions Park restrooms. I received the support of our Police Dept, Fire Department and Educational Personnel as well as the Citizens and businesses of Castle Rock. I will appreciate your continued support.



Buck Savage, Non-Partisan

My name is Halley Savage, more commonly known as Buck Savage. I worked for Reynolds Metals Company for 25 years as a Millwright and retired 11 years ago. I am an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoy the great outdoors and being close to the Cowlitz River.

I am running for a position on the Castle Rock City Council because I want to be a part of the city's growth and well-being.

Cities, continued

City of Kalama, Mayor



Pete Poulsen, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

City of Kalama, Council Position 1

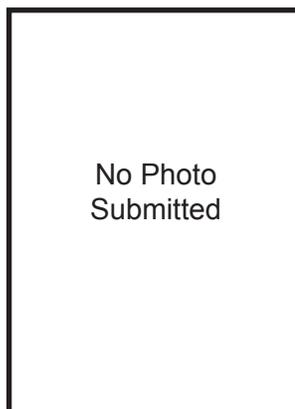


Adam Smee, Non-Partisan

Education: B.S. Animal Science Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA
M.B.A. Washington State University

I have lived in Kalama for the last decade with my wife and children. I am a local small business owner, and am pleased to call Kalama home. I look forward to serving another term as your representative on the City Council.

City of Kalama, Council Position 2



Dominic F. Ciancibelli, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Cities, continued

City of Kelso, Council Position 1, South District



Rick Roberson, Non-Partisan

My family became a part of the Kelso heritage when my Great Grandmother and her four children arrived by sternwheeler at the turn of the century. She developed a pride in her new home town that she shared with all of her descendents and Kelso Pride became a part of all of our childhoods.

I hope to broaden that Kelso Pride for all of our present and future citizens. By continually seeking to improve our livability in the community as we can afford it and looking for those commercial opportunities that may help accelerate those improvements. We deserve it!

City of Kelso, Council Position 2



Todd McDaniel, Non-Partisan

As an 8-year veteran on City Council, Todd McDaniel has the experience and knowledge Kelso needs for the future and is looking forward to serving citizens for another term. He will continue to help manage a fiscally responsible budget, improve public safety and promote youth programs.

Mr. McDaniel has lived in the community for 40 years. A Bachelors Degree (Washington State University), being a local law enforcement officer, coach and former president of both Kelso Youth Football and Kelso Youth Baseball and 2 years on the Kelso Planning Commission equip him to effectively represent you.

City of Kelso, Council Position 3, West District

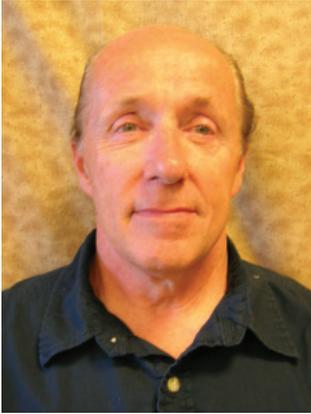


John Karnofski, Non-Partisan

Kelso native John Karnofski is seeking his second term on the city council. A steady voice of reason, John looks forward to continuing to give back to the city where he was raised. During John's time on the council, the downtown area has grown more vibrant and appealing to businesses with the relocation of the WorkSource office and the addition of the new Red Canoe branch. John's goals for his second term are to see approval of the long-awaited skate park and assist in developing the land south of Tennant Way to bring new businesses and jobs to Kelso.

Cities, continued

City of Kelso, Council Position 6, North District



Rick Von Rock, Non-Partisan

Kelso has provided me and my family a safe and great place to live. I have lived in Kelso for over forty years; I have raised my family here and have retired here.

Now I feel I have the time, energy, and willingness to give something back to Kelso for what it has provided for my family.

If anyone has anything they would like to know about me, please come by the Kelso City Council meetings. They are the first and third Tuesday evenings of every month at 7:00 pm at the Kelso City Hall on Allen Street in Kelso.



Gary Schimmel, Non-Partisan

I promise to support what is in the best interest of Kelso families by encouraging policies that promote private business development, thereby giving families a means to live, work and play in our fine city.

I have been a Kelso resident actively working with Kelso families through youth sports programs and working in Kelso School District. My recent appointment by the City of Kelso to the Planning Commission has provided me with additional insight into the needs of our city.

I ask for your support in electing me to the Kelso City Council so that I can continue serving you.

Cities, continued

City of Longview, Council Position 5



Mike Wallin, Non-Partisan

Mike is a REALTOR® with a passion for his community.

Mike is a Lion and an Eagle, has volunteered as a CASA, and is an Ethnic Support Council board member. He served on Longview's Historic Preservation Commission, Salary Commission and on the Highland's Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Steering Committee.

Mike's priorities are to promote a higher quality of life; advocate for business and labor and promote the creation of well paying jobs. Mike wants improved traffic flow, traffic and pedestrian safety and light synchronization. Mike is an advocate of more jobs, less taxes, and a higher quality of life.



Mary Jane Melink, Non-Partisan

I am seeking re-election. My time on council has been remarkable for me, and exciting for the city.

Many accomplishments have been realized including: reduction in crime, focus on revitalization in the Highlands, a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan, decisions on a high quality, and reliable water source and successful partnerships.

Our community currently faces economic challenges. More than ever, Longview needs an experienced leader. I ask tough questions and work to find the best solutions to city challenges. I have the education, commitment, community

knowledge, and experience to help guide Longview.

Mary Jane Melink – Balanced, Experienced, Leadership.

Cities, continued

City of Longview, Council Position 6



Steve Moon, Non-Partisan

Steve Moon is a lifelong citizen of Longview and recognizes the struggles that his neighbors are facing during this recession. He understands that a viable tax structure and a well-maintained infrastructure are necessary to attract family wage employers. Steve is concerned about the gaps involving our public safety, including our police and fire protection. Working within the budget, he will ensure that the citizens of Longview are cared for and heard. Steve and his wife are raising their three children and know the importance of a safe, livable city. He appreciates your vote.



Chet Makinster, Non-Partisan

My belief is that public safety, infrastructure and economic development are like a three-legged stool. One supports the others for strength and stability. I bring years of experience serving as a Longview City Council member, business owner, member of boards and committees and a life-long community member. I do my homework on city issues and can make tough decisions. We have the same common goals; making our city a low-crime, clean and productive community for us and future generations through efficient and responsible uses of our tax dollars. Together we can make this happen. I would appreciate your vote.

Cities, continued

City of Longview, Council Position 7



Ray Baker, Non-Partisan

I am requesting your support and vote for Longview City Council, Position number 7. As a community we are facing issues ranging from employment, education, environment, crime, utilities, infrastructure, finance, and much more. We have had experienced persons serve on the council, but what has that experience led us to? My commitment is to listen, and respect each citizen's viewpoints and make no decisions without first considering the integrity or impact upon those who make Longview home. This is our city, our future, your vote. Please be a Baker Backer. Thank you for your consideration.



Dennis Weber, Non-Partisan

Strong leadership – When then-Mayor Weber called for action, we sent a clear message. The white supremacists left but targeted him on their website.

Merge law enforcement agencies - Criminals respect no political boundaries. Neither should we when it comes to fighting crime.

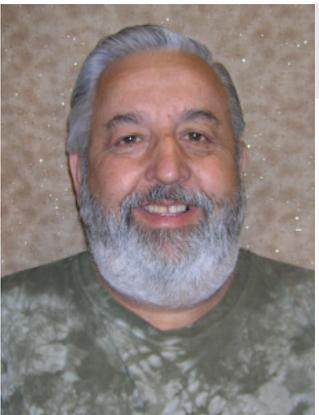
Utility Rate Equity- Our seniors face unfair utility rates as they try to remain in their own homes.

A Greener Longview- Let's expand our street tree program, replace asphalt median strips, and the like.

Infrastructure Improvements- We must push for common-sense solutions to traffic congestion and inadequate rail service.

Vote for Dennis Weber.

City of Woodland, Council Position 1



John "JJ" Burke, Non-Partisan

I would like to thank you for the support that you have given me in the past, and the encouragement to continue on. This is *not* the time to keep raising taxes and I will do my best not to. With the unemployment rates rising, we need to work harder to attract businesses which will bring jobs and tax revenue into our community. Wal-mart alone is estimated to bring in ¾ of a million dollars a year. Woodland is growing so fast, and we need to look at a new building to fit our police and fire department needs.

Cities, continued

City of Woodland, Council Position 2



Darwin K. Rounds, Non-Partisan

I have served on the planning commission for 8 years as both a planning commission member and as chairperson. I am currently serving on the Woodland City Council and have been for the past 3 plus years, now I am seeking another term which brings me to ask for your vote. I would like to say “thanks” to all those who have supported me in the past and “thank you” to those who will support me in the future. Regardless of your voting choice, stay in touch with your city council members...you are who makes the difference.

No Photo
Submitted

Al Ryder, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.



Suzanne Taylor Moore, Non-Partisan

To support our fire and police department and stress their worth in our community. To help the citizens understand the value of fairness, rights of a decent education, build proper schools. Teach others why certain taxes are necessary if our town is to *bloom* like flowers and not just grow like weeds. *We must each* be actively involved and participate not just in the *fun* activities: but in decency, safety, and fairness in order to grow a community. To help all of Woodland become safer.



Al Swindell, Non-Partisan

My decision to run for City Council came after attending many council meetings and a great desire to serve. I grew up in the North Clark County area around Ridgefield. I can appreciate the history and the pride of the people of Woodland.

I believe I can offer my many years of experience to help solve Woodland’s rapid growth as well as helping keep the small town atmosphere.

I am currently President of the Friends of the Woodland Library and I am also on the Horseshoe Lake Management Committee.

Vote for Al Swindell for City Council position 2

(The statements above are submitted by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.)

Cities, continued

City of Woodland, Council Position 3



Marilee McCall, Non-Partisan

I have served since October 2006 as your councilmember, and since January as your Mayor Pro-Tem. My priorities have remained constant:
Responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
Coordination with surrounding municipalities and service providers to build collaboration for efficiencies in services.
Long range planning for Woodland and our surrounding area with vision to provide for future generations.
Conservation of our environmental landscape and recreational opportunities.
Preservation and enhancement of our historic downtown.
I request your continued support and I respectfully ask for your vote so that I may continue in your service. Thank you.

City of Woodland, Council Position 5



Susan Humbyrd, Non-Partisan

It has been a privilege to serve Woodland since being appointed to the council in January of 2007. I have been active in many different programs and committees that focus on planned economic development, sustainable growth, and building a strong future for our city. I will continue to work passionately toward these goals while keeping in mind Woodland's history and maintaining our small-town feel that we cherish. I look forward to continuing my role as councilwoman.

Cities, continued

City of Woodland, Council Position 6



Benjamin Fredricks, Non-Partisan

It has been a great pleasure to serve as a member of the Woodland City Council. My goal is to continue working toward improving the accessibility, sustainability, and accountability of city government. Transportation, public safety, and responsible growth are the key issues that determine the future of Woodland. My background in fiscal planning, business management, negotiations and conflict resolution give me the skills necessary to begin to resolve the major obstacles before us, and to set the course for immediate and future success. I ask for the opportunity to continue to serve Woodland. Thank you for your vote.

City of Woodland, Council Position 7



Thomas Mattison, Non-Partisan

My name is Thomas Mattison and I'm announcing my intention to run for council for the City of Woodland, Position #7. Many good things have occurred and I want to continue the growth management for all the citizens. By working together we can make Woodland the envy of the entire county. Hard work and common sense will prevail in these tough economic times. So please lend your trust in me to do the best for all of Woodland.

Cowlitz County School District Directors

Cowlitz County is divided into six separate school districts, each governed by a five-member board of directors. A board's responsibilities include budget, policy development, classroom instruction, planning and communications.

While school board directors delegate authority for day-to-day functions to the professional staff, they may never delegate ultimate responsibility.

Voters within a school district elect board members in a non-partisan general election. In some districts, candidates must reside in the director sub-district for which they are seeking office. All candidates are elected by the entire school district for their non-salaried four-year terms.

Longview School District, Director Position 1



Jerry Stinger, Non-Partisan

The economic downturn has been difficult and our community has been profoundly affected. Reduced state funding coupled with a reduction in Longview's student enrollment has placed our LSD in perilous times, but in spite of this, I'm optimistic; I know the fabric of the community is strong, proud, and resilient. We're fighters, we find a way. I'm asking for your vote to allow me to continue to serve on the Longview School Board. I believe in our community's future and in our kids. Working together we will come out the other side stronger, wiser, and better. Thank you.

Longview School District, Director Position 2



Ted D. Thomas, Non-Partisan

Informed, experienced and committed to improving educational opportunities for our children, Ted Thomas is a vocal advocate for public schools. Seeking innovative funding solutions while maintaining a focus on improvement, Ted is a strong supporter of maximizing our current resources and high academic standards.

"I appreciate greatly the trust that our community places in our schools. We must create a positive learning environment where all students are challenged and all students achieve. Now more than ever, we must continue in our pursuit of educational excellence and accountability to you – the community."

Vote 'Yes' Schools – Vote Ted Thomas for School Board.

School District Directors, continued

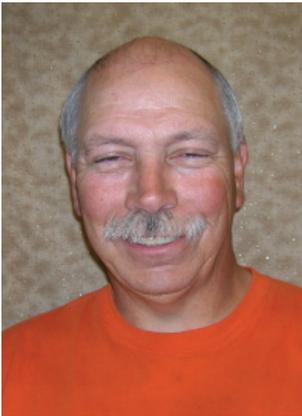
Toutle Lake School District, Director District 5



Gary Evitt, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Castle Rock School District, Director District 1



Vilas Sundberg, Non-Partisan

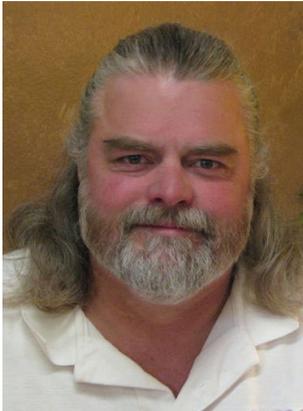
I am committed to preserving and enhancing public education for all. I believe it is our responsibility to provide for the education of the children of our community.

I hope to continue being a voice for evaluation of educational programs and to support parent involvement. We need to be receptive to new ideas of instruction and class size reduction. Be watchful of our budget as we achieve academic success. I will work to insure the responsible use of your tax dollars.

I will continue to strive for providing our kids the education they need in today's changing world.

School District Directors, continued

Castle Rock School District, Director District 2



Harold D. Erdelbrock, Non-Partisan

Castle Rock Schools should provide the tools our children will need for entrance into college, vocational training or straight into the work force. Our district through its leadership should be a benchmark of educational excellence.

Appointed to this position in January 2009 I will continue to provide strong ethical and fiscal over-sight if elected. With this experience and 8 years on the board of Three Rivers Christian School, I understand the role a board member plays and have successfully provided over-sight to resolution many financial, academic, facilities, employee and student issues.

Thank you for your vote.

Castle Rock School District, Director District 3



Skot A. Jones, Non-Partisan

I have grown up in Castle Rock and have lived here a good portion of my life, and some of my fondest childhood memories took place at school. Since then I went on to attain an Associates degree from L.C.C., and then a Bachelors degree from W.S.U., what made these things possible was what I learned while attending school in Castle Rock. I feel that we owe it to our children to make sure that they have the environment that allows them to reach for their dreams, and if elected I will do what I can to help.

Kalama School District, Director District 1



Bruce Rader, Non-Partisan

I believe strongly that it is our responsibility to provide for the education of the youth of our community preparing them for their and our future. Having served on the Kalama School Board more than 14 years, I have found that responsibility to be both challenging and attainable. It takes the efforts of many different people, parents, teachers, administration and the community as a whole to provide the right setting for students to have a proper learning environment. "What is best for our children" is always the criteria I use when working toward that goal.

School District Directors, continued

Kalama School District, Director District 4



Shannon Barnett, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Woodland School District, Director District 3



Tina M. Cayton, Non-Partisan

It has been my pleasure and great experience to serve on the Woodland School Board. As a board member I will continue to contribute to the growth, education and professional development of our students.

Thank you,
Tina Cayton

Woodland School District, Director District 4



Bill Woodard, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

(The statements above are submitted by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.)

School District Directors, continued

Woodland School District, Director District 5



Patricia J. Stepp, Non-Partisan

The quality of education that my three children received attending Woodland schools enabled them to pursue their dreams and to find their respective vocations. I am running for the Woodland School Board in an effort to assure that this generation of students has equal opportunities to succeed in life. Budget restraints need not weaken scholastic excellence. As a lifelong volunteer, I believe my experience on diverse boards has taught me how one person's worth can be used to bring about positive change. I look forward to this challenge. I ask for your vote on November 3rd.



Steven B. Madsen, Non-Partisan

Representing the Yale Valley on the Woodland School Board, I have been able to work with my fellow Directors to make very difficult budget cuts over this past year while preserving Yale Elementary School as the centerpiece of my small community. I look forward to continuing to work to pass a bond to build the new high school this district so desperately needs. With my six-year-old daughter, Erin, beginning first grade this year, my commitment to the District will be vested for many years to come. I thank the residents of the Woodland School District for their continued support.

Kelso School District, Director Position 1



Patty Wood, Non-Partisan

It has been a privilege to serve all Kelso students, including my own three children, as a member and current Chair of the Kelso School Board. The fiscal events of the past year have been extreme and challenging and I am eager to refocus on student academics. In today's changing demographics and difficult economy it is essential that our youth are educated completely. This means our students must be prepared not simply with world-class academics, but the necessary skills to be productive and competitive citizens in our local and global market.

I look forward to continuing this rewarding endeavor.

School District Directors, continued

Kelso School District, Director Position 2



Joan Gisler Tolby, Non-Partisan

As a mother of 7, I have advocated for children for 40 years, volunteering in the community, in leadership roles or wherever needed. I believe strongly in public education as a cornerstone to equality and foundation for a lifetime passion for learning. Strong curriculum, the arts, and sports are intertwined in helping provide quality education to equip our children with the life skills, critical thinking, and self confidence needed for future challenges. I will bring enthusiasm and passion to the board with the problem solving skills of diverse ideas, mutual respect, and willingness to work hard for the children.



Jeff Hart, Non-Partisan

My wife Tina and I are proud to have our sons, Nick and Cooper attend Kelso Schools. Especially since I'm a Kelso graduate myself.

I believe we must have confidence that our elected officials are spending our tax dollars in an efficient and effective manner.

We must provide students with a solid educational foundation including classroom teaching, athletics, fine and liberal arts along with varied life experiences to groom productive community members.

I believe difficult financial times require creative thinking and fresh ideas. With this, I bring open mindedness and an analytical mindset that will help Kelso Schools to prosper.

School District Directors, continued

Kelso School District, Director Position 4



Calvin T. Miller, Non-Partisan

As a married father of three students in Kelso Public Schools, a lifelong Kelso resident, Kelso Alumnus, and a UW graduate, I have a vested interest in the success of Kelso students. I am a small business owner that employs over 100 local residents. Additionally, I am involved in numerous local youth sports organizations and the LCC foundation. As an elected official I will continue and work tirelessly for the expansion of educational resources, the maintenance and improvement of educational standards and fiscal responsibility. Now more than ever, the KSB needs the district to operate efficiently and effectively.



Amanda M. Pink, Non-Partisan

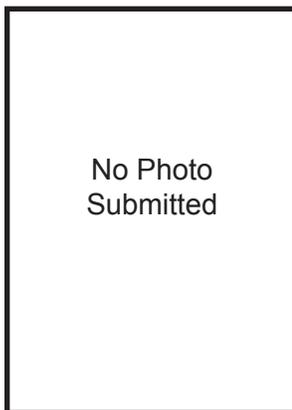
As the Emergency Support Shelter Children's Program Coordinator, I work daily toward maximizing the quality of services available to families while minimizing cost to the community. I work under the shadow of budget cuts and funding shortfalls while continuously striving to achieve higher standards. These same skills are vital for a successful, healthy education system during economic downturns. We all agree the purpose of a school board is to provide our children with the highest-quality education possible while managing costs in complicated times. Thank you for letting me put my skills to work for our children. Learn more at: www.myspace.com/amandapink.

Fire Protection District Commissioners

Cowlitz County contains seven fire protection districts. Fire protection districts provide fire prevention services, fire suppression and emergency medical services in the unincorporated areas of Cowlitz County. Administrative authority for the districts resides with the elected fire commissioners.

Fire protection districts, being special purpose districts, levy regular property taxes to provide services to the public. Additionally, with voter approval, the boards of fire commissioners may issue bonds and make excess levies for specific purposes.

Fire Protection District 1, Commissioner Position 2



David W. Pietz, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue, Commissioner Position 3



Bill Hallanger, Non-Partisan

Public safety is the most important function of government.

Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue is responsible for many public safety activities which affects lives. Firefighting has been a primary focus of the district since formation. In recent years we have expanded into ambulance transport, and hazardous chemical control. With weather emergency, we take a lead in the rescue of distressed residents.

Our primary income is property taxes representing less than 15% of your total property tax bill. That income is supplemented with fees for service.

My goal is to continue our cost effective emergency services roll for the department.

Fire Protection Districts, continued

Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue, Commissioner Position 4



Keith L. Merritt, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Fire Protection District 3, Commissioner Position 3



Butch Brenaman, Non-Partisan

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a Fire District #3 Commissioner. This position continues my history of service including 16 years as a School Board member and two terms with the Toutle Valley Community Council. I currently serve as a District 3 Fire Commissioner. I have over a decade of experience working with local Toutle government. The fire district needs to be accountable to you the taxpayer. I promise to carefully evaluate the status of the fire district's budget and will assure that it is spent efficiently, without waste.

Fire Protection District 5, Commissioner Position 2



Frank Kockritz, Non-Partisan

I am a lifelong resident of the Kalama area. I attended Kalama Public Schools, graduating in 1953. I was employed for 43 years at the Kalama Shopping Center as owner of Frank's Meat Market. I retired in April of 2001. I was also a member of the Cowlitz District 5 Fire Department for 40 years, retiring in January of 2001.

I am completing a six year term as Fire Commissioner for Position 2 and feel confident I have the expertise to further serve Cowlitz Fire District 5 for another six-year term as Fire Commissioner.

Fire Protection Districts, continued

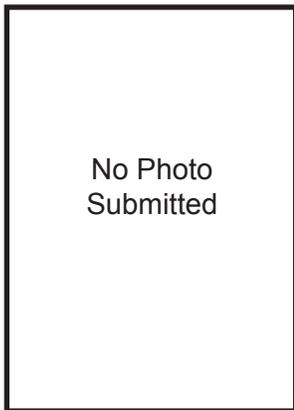
Fire Protection District 6, Commissioner Position 3



Monte W. Martinsen, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Fire Protection District 7, Commissioner Position 3



Don G. Stuart, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Cemetery District Commissioners

Cowlitz County has seven operating cemetery districts. Each three-member, non-partisan commission, elected from within the jurisdictions, serves staggered six-year terms. No commissioner is salaried, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

Under state law, cemetery commissioners are empowered to make and carry out contracts and to acquire, improve and operate cemeteries, as well as establish fees and regulations for cemetery use.

Cemetery District 1, Commissioner Position 1

No Photo
Submitted

Richard Miller, Non-Partisan

During the past eight years as Commissioner of Cemetery District # 1, our goal has been to provide well kept, pleasant, and affordable cemetery facilities for the Cowlitz County area families.

The five cemetery locations of District # 1 have been improved and perpetual care provisions insured.

I hope to continue to be able to help local families have a place for their loved ones that we can all be proud of.

Cemetery District 2, Commissioner Position 1

No Photo
Submitted

Shirley M. Wertman, Non-Partisan

Shirley Wertman was raised in Southwest Washington and graduated from Woodland High School. She and her husband Jack (deceased) raised four children and have seven grandchildren. She worked as a school secretary until her retirement and relocation back to Woodland, where she has lived for the past twenty years. Her mother served the Cemetery District for thirty years.

Cemetery Districts, continued

Cemetery District 3, Commissioner Position 1



Linda Clark, Non-Partisan

In 2008, I was given the opportunity to fill a vacated commissioner position on the Silver Lake Cemetery District 3 Board, and now seek election in the upcoming term. I am proud to be a life-long resident of the Toutle/Silver Lake community, and have always appreciated the beauty and historical significance of our local cemetery. It is important to me that the cemetery continues to be maintained in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our community, and to provide a beautiful resting place for our past and future generations.

Cemetery District 6, Commissioner Position 2



Bill Spencer, Non-Partisan

No statement submitted.

Cemetery District 7, Commissioner Position 3



Marvin L. Snider, Non-Partisan

I have filed for the position of Cemetery District #7 Commissioner Position 3. I have already served 6 years as commissioner for this district and have a great interest in the part this cemetery plays in the history of the Stella area. My wife's relatives have family buried there and we live only a quarter of a mile from the cemetery site. I am also an active member of the Stella Historical Society.

BEACON HILL SEWER DISTRICT

Beacon Hill Sewer District is an authority established under RCW Title 57 for acquisition, construction, operation, environmental compliances and regulation of the sanitary sewer facilities.

Three Sewer District Commissioners are elected to staggered six-year terms. The non-partisan commissioners receive no fixed monetary compensation, except per diem for each meeting.

Sewer District Commissioners serve as the legislative authority for their district, setting policies and objectives for the district, approving the budget along with hiring and regulating a staff of professionals who implement the policies and objectives.

Beacon Hill Sewer District is not tax supported, but is funded by the rate payers through sewer service charge.

Beacon Hill Sewer, Commissioner Position 3



Dean Takko, Non-Partisan

As a 25-year member of the Board of Directors of Beacon Hill Sewer District I have helped move it from a small sewer utility to a fairly large water and sewer district. With the very good field and management personnel I would like to continue for one more term to guide it through the growth that is still ahead.

LEXINGTON FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT

Lexington Flood Control Zone District is a quasi-municipal corporation established under Chapter 86.15 RCW for the purpose of flood control through the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater collection facilities, pump stations, dikes, levees and other related flood control structures within District boundaries.

Three District Supervisors are elected to staggered six-year terms. The non-partisan commissioners receive no fixed monetary compensation, except per diem for each meeting. The District Supervisors serve as the legislative authority for their district, setting policies and objectives for the district, approving the budget along with hiring and/or contracting for professional and operation & maintenance staff who implement the policies and objectives.

Lexington Flood Control Zone District is funded by annual benefit assessments based on the valuation of properties within the District boundary.

Lexington Flood Control Zone District, Supervisor 1



Donald L. MacDonald, Non-Partisan

I have lived in Cowlitz County for more than 27 years, having served as senior pastor in two local churches before retiring in 2001.

Having served as an elected Lexington Flood Control Zone District Supervisor for the last six years, I have a wide range of experience and knowledge of the past and current flood management solutions for Lexington.

I would appreciate your vote in November to continue serving the community members of the Lexington Flood Control Zone District in the future.

City of Kelso and Longview Advisory Vote

Official Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
Advisory Vote on Merger Study

The City Council of the City of Kelso adopted Resolution No. 09-1000 and the City Council of the City of Longview adopted Resolution No. 1935 concerning the question whether the two cities should study the financial and logistical feasibility of merging the two cities. This proposition is only to decide whether or not to study the pros and cons of merging the two cities, including a final recommendation by May 3, 2010 that will incorporate the estimated costs. The proposition is not to approve any actual merger of the cities. A merger would mean combining the two governments and physical boundaries to become one city.

Should this proposition be:

Approved _____

Rejected _____

Explanatory Statement:

If the advisory vote is approved or rejected then the City Council of Longview will take that into consideration about whether or not any further City resources should be expended on the financial and logistical feasibility of merging the cities of Kelso and Longview. The vote is not binding and is intended solely to provide guidance to the City Council. If after the vote the City Council determines to carry out a feasibility study then likely the cost of such study would be covered through in-house staff of the City and/or volunteers, with a due date of on or before May 3, 2010.

Complete Text of Resolution, City of Longview:

RESOLUTION NO. 1935

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, JOINING WITH THE CITY OF KELSO, IN DIRECTING THE TAKING OF AN ADVISORY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF A MERGER OF THE CITIES OF LONGVIEW AND KELSO, THE SAME DATE AS THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION, AND THE COSTS OF SUCH ADVISORY VOTE SHALL BE SHARED IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE POPULATION OF EACH CITY

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all leaders to ensure sound financial management; and

WHEREAS, a part of that financial management is to consider the best use of resources when providing services to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, now, more that ever, because of the poor economic conditions of the country it is prudent for the leaders of our cities to consider all possible options to reduce costs and maintain services; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Longview and Kelso provide similar services such that one means of financial management is to merge if reasonably possible and it makes the most financial sense; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the cities want to know the desires of the citizens before they take any further steps toward considering such a merger; and

City of Kelso and Longview Advisory Vote.....continued

Complete Text of Resolution, City of Longview, continued:

WHEREAS, the leaders of the cities want to know the desires of the citizens before they take any further steps toward considering such a merger; and

WHEREAS, it is believed the only meaningful way to determine the desires of the citizens is to take an advisory vote of the people; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the cities want to start with "one voice" in pursuing the vote of the people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, as follows:

1. An advisory vote shall be submitted to the citizens of the cities of Longview and Kelso to be held on November 3, 2009 in conjunction with the State General election to be held on the same day.
2. The advisory vote to be submitted to the people shall be whether the cities of Longview and Kelso should move forward to study potential greater efficiencies and long term savings in tax dollars by a merger of the cities, with a recommendation within six months of such vote. More specifically the ballot title shall read as set forth in **Attachment A** attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference;
3. Any cost associated with the advisory vote shall be covered in the same proportion as the population of the cities as determined by the Office of Financial Management, State of Washington, on the day of the vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Longview and approved by its Mayor at 6:30 p.m. this 6th day of August, 2009.

ATTACHMENT A

The City Council of the City of Kelso adopted Resolution No. 09-1000 and the City Council of the City of Longview adopted Resolution No. 1935 concerning the question whether the two cities should study the financial and logistical feasibility of merging the two cities. This proposition is only to decide whether or not to study the pros and cons of merging the two cities, including a final recommendation by May 3, 2010 that will incorporate the estimated costs. The proposition is not to approve any actual merger of the cities. A merger would mean combining the two governments and physical boundaries to become one city.

Should this proposition be:

Approved
Rejected

Complete Text of Resolution, City of Kelso:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-1000

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, JOINING WITH THE CITY OF KELSO, IN DIRECTING THE TAKING OF AN ADVISORY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF A MERGER OF THE CITIES OF LONGVIEW AND KELSO, THE SAME DATE AS THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION, AND THE COSTS OF SUCH ADVISORY VOTE SHALL BE SHARED IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE POPULATION OF EACH CITY

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all leaders to ensure sound financial management; and

WHEREAS, a part of that financial management is to consider the best use of resources when providing services to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, now, more than ever, because of the poor economic conditions of the country it is prudent for the leaders of our cities to consider all possible options to reduce costs and maintain services; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Longview and Kelso provide similar services such that one means of financial management is to merge if reasonably possible and it makes the most financial sense; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the cities want to know the desires of the citizens before they take any further steps toward considering such a merger; and

WHEREAS, it is believed the only meaningful way to determine the desires of the citizens is to take advisory vote of the people; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the cities want to start with one voice: in pursuing the vote of the people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, as follows:

1. An advisory vote shall be submitted to the citizens of the cities of Longview and Kelso to be held on November 3, 2009 in conjunction with the State General election to be held on the same day.
2. The advisory vote to be submitted to the people shall be whether the cities of Longview and Kelso should move forward to study potential greater efficiencies and long terms savings in tax dollars by a merger of the cities, with a recommendation within six months of such vote. More specifically the ballot title shall read as set forth in **Attachment A** attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference;
3. Any cost associated with the advisory vote shall be covered in the same proportion as the population of the cities as determined by the Office of Financial Management, State of Washington, on the day of the vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Kelso and approved by its Mayor this 7th day of July, 2009.

STATEMENT FOR RESOLUTION:

The cities of Kelso and Longview should explore the cost-cutting benefits and other outcomes of merging the two cities, including the consequences of merging various departments and services.

This is a vote to study the idea of merging, not a vote to merge the cities. After a thorough analysis, voters will have the final say about the actual act of merging the cities.

Why now? Never has it been so urgent to study ways to save taxpayers' money. But more is at stake than nuts-and-bolts savings. Both cities could benefit from improved services with seamless delivery including building and land-use planning, police and fire protection, parks and recreation, libraries, and other areas of overlap that will come up in the study process.

Each city has strong traditions and spirit of community. Part of the study will be to find ways that Kelso and Longview can preserve their unique identities while working together.

The study will not be expensive. A citizens committee will work with city officials to do the research, at an extra cost of approximately \$1,000, to be shared by the cities. The rest of the labor will be absorbed in the salaries of staff who complete the study within a six-month time frame.

Whatever the outcomes, it is worthwhile to consider all questions raised by the idea of a merger. Only concrete answers will help citizens of both these vital communities decide whether or not to become one.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

All good questions. The question being asked here, however, is none of those raised. The question is only whether or not to study the pros and cons of merging the two cities, including a final recommendation by May 3, 2010 that will incorporate the estimated costs.

The people of Kelso and Longview deserve to have answers to all the questions raised. A "Yes" vote will provide those answers.

Arguments For Resolution Prepared By:

Rick Winsman, Cathy Zimmerman, and Don Lemmons

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

Whether or not a merger between Longview and Kelso eliminates any duplication of services, the disadvantages far outweigh any potential benefits.

Longview and Kelso each want to control their own unique identities. Several merger attempts in the past have failed. For example the respective Park Departments were merged in 1997, then divorced in 2005 after numerous complaints from the public. Costly merger questions are unlimited. Would downtown Kelso cease to exist? Which city hall would be abandoned? Would our individual histories be lost? What would the new city be named?

Consolidating departments of both cities would be a nightmare considering the differences of existing employment contracts and unions. New zoning ordinances, a new Comprehensive Plan, and revised city codes and statutes would be required. The challenges and costs are incomprehensible.

Kelso is the only Charter City in the State of Washington. A special election at the expense of Kelso citizens is required to dissolve it, just as a vote of the people established it in 1993. Charter Cities have more freedom from state law than non-chartered cities.

Longview has several major projects on the horizon including a 37 million dollar water treatment plant. Kelso shouldn't be required to subsidize a system they don't need or use. And Longview shouldn't be required to upgrade Kelso's older infrastructure.

The disadvantages are too many. That's why few cities have ever merged. With our present economic problems, we don't need another expensive and time consuming study that will ultimately fail.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR RESOLUTION:

It is unrealistic to think that the proposed merger study will only cost \$1000.

Neither city can afford staff time for a study without additional cost. Staffs have already been reduced to bare minimums. What person would give sincere effort to a study that would potentially eliminate their job?

Both cities have plenty on their agendas. There are no concrete answers. Why waste time on a study that could create unforeseen problems.

Arguments Against Resolution Prepared By:

Larry Peterson, Veryl Anderson, Bill Kasch

City of Woodland
Adoption of Council/Manager Form of Government

Official Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
CITY OF WOODLAND
Adoption of the Council-City Manager Form of Government

The Woodland City Council adopted Resolution 575, a proposition to change Woodland's form of government from the Mayor-Council form to the Council-City Manager form. If this ballot proposition is approved, the executive authority of the City would be exercised by a manager who is appointed by the City Council and would no longer be exercised by a popularly elected mayor.

Should this proposition be approved?

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Washington law permits two forms of government for non-charter code cities: the mayor-council form and the council-manager form. Woodland is currently organized as a mayor-council city. Washington law requires that proposals to change the form of government be submitted to voters. In March, the Woodland City Council passed a resolution proposing a change to the council-manager form of government.

Under the mayor-council form, the mayor is directly elected by the voters and is the executive officer for the City.

Under the council manager form, the city council elects the mayor. The mayor is selected from council members and performs ceremonial functions. A city manager is hired as an administrator and reports directly to the council.

A "yes" vote is a vote to change Woodland's form of government to the council-manager form.

A "no" vote is a vote to retain Woodland's present mayor-council form of government.

Complete Text of Resolution:

CITY OF WOODLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 575

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY, AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009, OF THE PROPOSITION THAT THE CITY SHOULD ADOPT THE COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND ABANDON THE COUNCIL/MAYOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT; AND, FURTHER, REQUESTING THE COWLITZ COUNTY AUDITOR TO PLACE SUCH PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF WOODLAND.

City of Woodland
Adoption of Council/Manager Form of Government.....continued

Recitals

WHEREAS, Chapter 35A.06 RCW (1) authorizes a non-chartered, code city to abandon its plan of government and reorganize under another plan of government, and (2) authorizes the City Council to pass a resolution requesting that a proposition be submitted to the qualified voters within the City of whether the City should abandon its form of government and reorganize under another plan of government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the best interests and general welfare of the City would be served by submitting to the qualified voters in the City the proposition that the City should adopt the Council/Manager form of government and abandon the Council/Mayor form of government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires this proposition be included on the ballot at the next general election and submitted to the qualified voters of the City to decide whether the City should adopt the Council/Manager form of government and abandon the Council/Mayor form of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

The following proposition shall be submitted to the voters of the City of Woodland at the next general election and be in the form of a ballot title as follows:

PROPOSITION

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON

Shall the City of Woodland adopt the Council/Manager form of government abandoning the Council/Mayor form of government?

FOR ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

AGAINST ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND FOR RETAINING THE COUNCIL/MAYOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The City Clerk is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Cowlitz County Auditor.

PASSED by the City Council this 2nd day of March, 2009.

Chuck Blum, Mayor

Mari E. Ripp, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to form only:
 William Eling, City Attorney

STATEMENT FOR RESOLUTION:

This proposition is about considering another form of government that would be more effective for a community that has almost doubled in size in the last ten years. This growth has resulted in an increased responsibility for resource management and long-range planning for our City's future.

Woodland's geographic location make it poised for even more dramatic growth in the coming years. This development will bring regulatory, economic, and political challenges that will require twenty-first century management skills.

Woodland's annual budget is over \$14 million dollars – Your tax dollars. While there is cost involved in hiring a professional, it is an investment with a high rate of return for our community. We cannot afford NOT to have a full-time manager than whose primary responsibility is the fiscal well-being of Woodland and the effective delivery of city services.

The manager reports directly to the City Council and is primarily responsible for implementing its policy directives. A manager will prepare business plans and budgets, coordinate daily departmental operations, and direct staff reports on departmental, planning and economic developmental issues.

A change in government structure is a major consideration. Woodland residents should consider the best interests of the City and its future, setting aside personalities and emotion. Have a professionally run city will enhance the opportunities that we have on the I-5 corridor for economic development and tourism and strengthen our relationships with neighboring jurisdictions. Please vote to support this change.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

Woodland needs professional management that is accountable to the City Council. Professional management is the best investment we can make in our community right now. Without proper controls in place, Woodland finances will continue to suffer. As a major hub on the I-5 corridor, demand for City services is going to continue to grow, and we need a professionally managed City to attract the businesses and jobs that will drive our economy into the future.

Arguments For Resolution Prepared By:

Steven B. Madsen, Joyce Raney, and Dave Kroon

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

Vote No! Why is Woodland voting on a City Manager form of government? Resolution 575 was developed and passed by City Council members with little to no input from citizens. Research into news reports, City Council meeting minutes, and conversations with City Council members indicate that the main intent of this resolution is to remove from office a Mayor who was elected by a majority of the citizens of Woodland.

How will the City pay for the difference between an \$8,000/year Mayor and a \$100,000 to \$150,000/year City Manager? Claims that a City Manager form of government will pay for itself are not based on fact!

Considering the financial situation of the city, now is not the time to increase city expenditures by implementing a new and more expensive form of government. During 2009 the City of Woodland has experienced very challenging budget issues, including the necessity of reducing Public Works maintenance staff. As per quotes from City Council members about the budget year 2010, "It's going to be a rough year".

A City Manager is not directly accountable to the voting public. A City Manager reports to the City Council and the check and balance between Mayor and city Council is lost.

In this financial environment should the City of Woodland significantly increase expenses by moving to a City Manager form of government? We don't think so! Vote No!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR RESOLUTION:

No rebuttal was submitted.

Arguments Against Resolution Prepared By:

Jim Yount, Barbara Karnis, and Marshall Allen

Ballot Secrecy Questions

Is how I voted secret?

Yes. Secrecy of the ballot is mandated by Washington State Law and is upheld in all elections.

Can how I vote get tracked back to me?

No. An election official can not trace a ballot back to a particular voter.

How does my ballot remain anonymous?

The voter places the voted ballot in the inner security envelope, and then places the security envelope in the outer return envelope for mailing back to the County Auditor's Office. Once the voter's signature on the outer return envelope is verified, the outer return envelope that contains the voter's name and address is opened and separated from the inner security envelope that contains the voted ballot.

Before the inner security envelope may be opened, it is combined with many other security envelopes. This allows the ballot to remain anonymous. Only once the security envelope is combined with other security envelopes may the ballot be removed. This maintains the secrecy of the ballot.

Is this process observed by any outsiders?

In every county, political party observers are invited to observe the entire election process. In Cowlitz County, members of each of the two major political parties work in teams to separate the outer envelope, which identifies the voter, from the inner security envelope, which contains the voted ballot, and combine the inner security envelopes together to maintain the anonymity of the ballot.

Why don't all voters receive the same ballot?

Each county includes dozens, sometimes hundreds, of government jurisdictions. The jurisdictions have boundaries that meet and overlap in various locations. For example, each county has:

- Congressional district boundaries;
- Legislative district boundaries;
- County council or county commissioner district boundaries;
- Court of Appeals district boundaries;
- District Court district boundaries;
- City boundaries;
- Port district boundaries;
- School district boundaries;
- Fire protection district boundaries;
- Sewer district boundaries;
- Hospital district boundaries.

The boundary lines of these jurisdictions do not line up, but instead begin and end at various locations. One residence may be located in School District A, while another residence a few blocks away is located in School District B. These two households may be located in the same congressional district, and therefore eligible to vote in the same congressional race, but are located in different school districts, and therefore not eligible to vote in the same school district race.

The location of a voter's residence is pivotal to determining in which jurisdictions the voter is eligible to vote, and therefore which ballot the voter receives. In the example above, the voter in the first residence would receive a ballot that includes an election for School District A, while a voter in the second residence would receive a ballot that includes an election for School District B.

Ballot Secrecy Questions.....continued

Jurisdictions often have two types of elections: ballot measures and public office (candidate races). Some jurisdictions hold their elections for public office in even-numbered years, while other jurisdictions hold their elections for public office in odd-numbered years.

Why is there a barcode on my ballot?

Where one boundary line ends and another begins often dictates the shape of an election precinct. Voters in one precinct are eligible to vote on one set of ballot measures and candidate races, while voters in the neighboring precinct are eligible to vote on a slightly different set of ballot measures and candidate races, all based on the set of jurisdictions that cover that precinct.

The variations in jurisdictions precinct-to-precinct result in different ballot formats. A county may have dozens, or even thousands, of ballot formats for one election.

Ballots are tabulated on optical scan and digital scan tabulating equipment. The equipment must be able to determine the ballot format for every ballot. Bar codes on each ballot allow the tabulation equipment to immediately determine the ballot format of that ballot, which allows the equipment to correctly read the ballot. Without the bar codes, the equipment would not know which candidate races were printed on the ballot, and therefore would not be able to determine which candidates had received votes. The bar codes are unique to each election.

I heard that some ballots have a bar code unique to that ballot. Why?

Some Washington counties print a unique bar code or serial number for each ballot. These bar codes or serial numbers do not identify to whom the ballot was issued. Secrecy is maintained when the security envelopes that contain the voted ballots are mixed together. The ballot is not linked to the voter in any way.

Bar codes or serial numbers that are unique to each ballot ensure that the same ballot is not tabulated twice.

Unique bar codes provide a more efficient method for reconciling the number of ballots tabulated, with the number of voters credited with returning a ballot.

Bar codes or serial numbers that are unique to each ballot can also be used to verify that the ballot was issued by the County Auditor's Office, screening out counterfeit or "look alike" ballots.

Since the unique bar codes or serial numbers are not linked to a voter, they cannot be used to identify a voter.

Why is there a barcode on my outer envelope?

A barcode on an outer envelope is similar to a tracking bar code used by a commercial shipping company. The outer envelope contains the voter's name and address. Once the outer envelope is received by the County Auditor's Office, the bar code is scanned to quickly identify the voter to whom this envelope was issued and therefore which voter is returning a ballot.

The use of a bar code is much more efficient and accurate than reading each outer envelope, typing in the voter's name, and identifying the correct voter in the county voter registration system. Once the bar code identifies the voter in the voter registration system, the signature on the outer envelope is compared to the signature in the voter registration file to verify that the person who signed the envelope was the registered voter.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are mail elections?

Mail elections are an alternative to polling place voting. Prior to each election a ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible registered voter to the address on record.

When are the ballots mailed to the voters?

Washington State law requires ballots be mailed to voters at least 18 days prior to an election.

I will be out of town when ballots are mailed. How do I make sure I get a ballot?

If you will return prior to Election Day, you may have time to vote and return your ballot when you get back. If you will not return prior to Election Day, you will need to provide the Cowlitz County Auditor with a temporary mailing address to send your ballot. If you will be unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot you may request a Special Absentee Ballot up to 90 days before an election.

What do I do if my ballot doesn't arrive?

If Election Day is approaching and you have not received a ballot, contact the Elections Department for a replacement ballot. If you would like a replacement ballot to be mailed to you, do not wait until the day before the election to request one. If there is not enough time to receive a replacement ballot by mail, you may pick one up in person.

What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?

If your ballot is returned to the Cowlitz County Auditor with address information from the postal service, the Auditor may change your status as a voter from active to inactive and mail out a confirmation notice to all known addresses. If you do not respond to the notice or contact the Elections Department before two federal elections pass, your voter registration will be cancelled. It is very important to notify the Elections Department when you move.

What if I make a mistake while voting my ballot?

If you make a mistake on your ballot, draw a line through the entire candidate's name. You then have the option of making another choice.

When must the voted ballot be returned?

Mail ballots must be post-marked on or before Election Day. If the Auditor's Office receives a ballot after Election Day that was not post-marked on or before Election Day, the votes on the ballot will not be counted.

Can anyone find out how I've voted once I mail my ballot?

The procedures for processing mail ballots ensure that the secrecy is maintained for each voter's ballot. The secrecy envelopes containing the ballots are removed and separated from the outer envelopes so that a particular ballot cannot be tied back to an individual voter.

Can the public watch the mail ballot process?

Yes the public may observe the processing of mail ballots. You may contact the Elections Department to arrange times to observe.

More questions?

Contact the Cowlitz County Elections Department:

207 North 4th Ave, Room 107
Kelso, WA 98626

(360) 577-3005

Felony Convictions

Losing the Right to Vote:

If you have been convicted of a felony, you lose the right to vote until it is restored.

You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction, or a conviction in juvenile court.

Restoring the Right to Vote:

- If you were convicted in Washington State Superior Court, your right to vote is restored as long as you are not either in prison or on community custody for that felony with the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). If you have questions about whether you are on community custody with DOC, call (360) 725-8213.
- If you were convicted in another state or in federal court, your right to vote is restored as long as you are not incarcerated for that felony.

Once your right to vote is restored, you must register to vote in order to receive a ballot. To register to vote, call the Cowlitz County Elections Department at (360) 577-3005 or register to vote online at: <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/cowlitz/VoterInfo/Pages/RegistertoVote.aspx>.

Maintaining the Right to Vote:

- Do not commit another felony.
- If you owe fines, restitution, or other court costs for your felony conviction, and you fail to make 3 payments in a 12-month period, a petition can be filed in court asking the sentencing court to revoke your right to vote. The sentencing court can revoke your right to vote if it decides that you willfully failed to pay. The sentencing court can also restore your right to vote once you make a good-faith effort to pay.

Screening the Voter Registration Rolls for Ineligible Felons:

DOC and the state court system provide the Secretary of State's Office with lists of felons who are ineligible to vote. Three times a year, the Secretary of State uses that information to screen the list of registered voters for ineligible felons.

If you are registered to vote, but are ineligible because your right to vote is not restored, you will be sent a letter explaining that your registration will be cancelled in 30 days. The letter provides information on how to dispute the pending cancellation by contacting your county elections department. If you do not dispute the cancellation, your voter registration will automatically be cancelled after 30 days.

You can register to vote once your right to vote is restored.