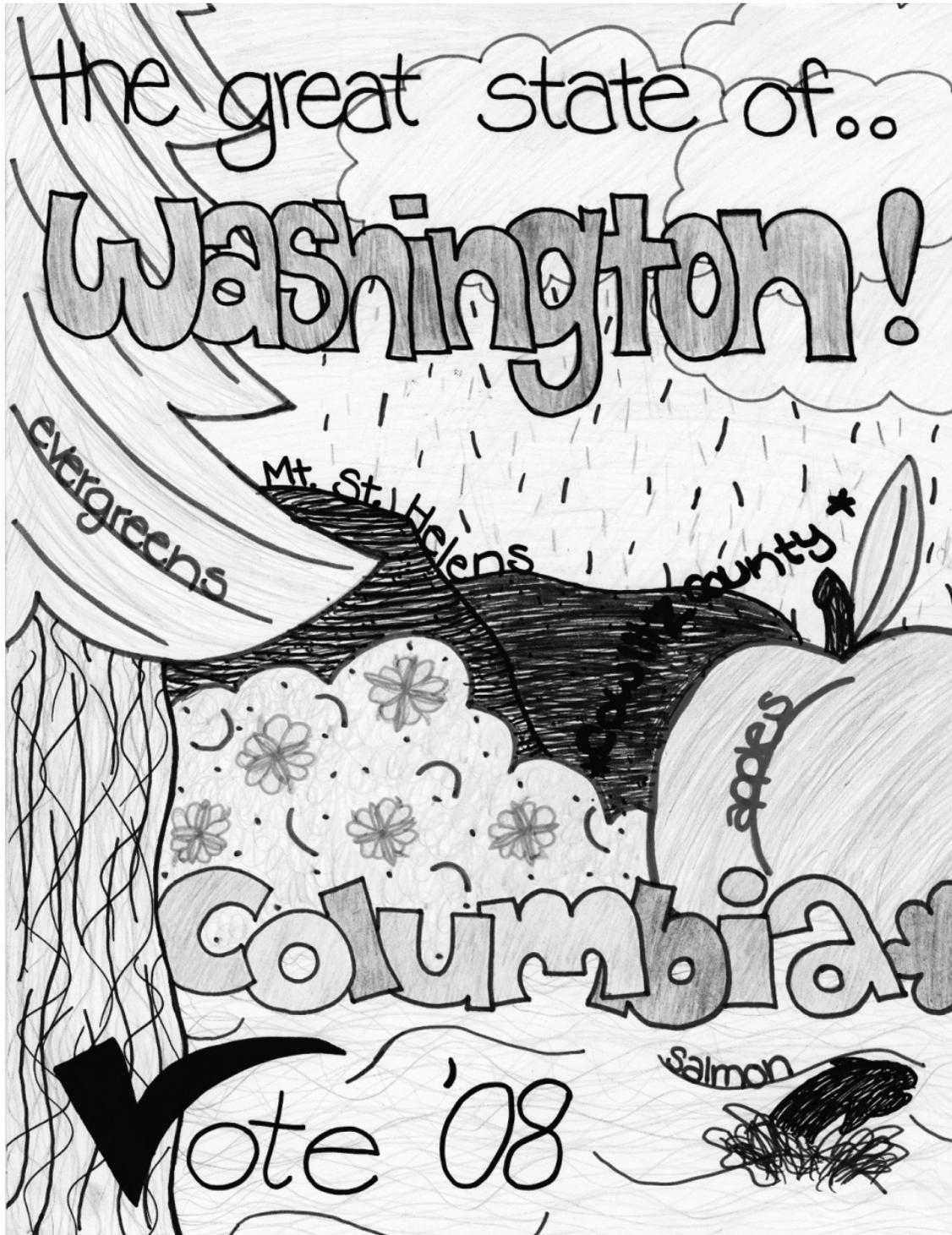


# COWLITZ COUNTY

## OFFICIAL LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

November 4, 2008 General Election



Published by: Cowlitz County Auditor, KRISTINA K. SWANSON

## PREAMBLE TO LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

Dear Voters of Cowlitz County:

Welcome to the 2008 Cowlitz County Local Voters Pamphlet. Every four years, the Presidential Election marks the peak of our election cycle. It is rewarding to see a renewed interest in voting and it is my sincere hope that this election will bring in a record number of new and informed voters who will continue to vote in every election.

The Cowlitz County Auditor's Office has made many improvements in the last year to give voters more options to cast their ballot. One of these improvements is the addition of six curbside ballot drop boxes located in all of the major cities inside Cowlitz County. These drop boxes make casting a ballot more convenient and accessible for the citizens of Cowlitz County.

Voters' response to these ballot drop boxes in Cowlitz County has been outstanding. Over 65% of all ballots returned to our office were returned in one of our convenient ballot drop boxes. Ballot drop boxes will be available for returning ballots beginning October 15, and through 8:00 pm on Election Day, November 4, 2008. No postage is required for returned ballots deposited in ballot drop boxes.

I encourage you to use this pamphlet to learn about the candidates and local issues that you will find on your ballot. Information about each candidate's beliefs, skills, and experiences has been provided in this pamphlet. In addition, the entire text of every local measure has been reproduced.

It is my hope that you will utilize the 2008 Cowlitz County Local Voters Pamphlet to become a more informed voter. It is inspiring to see voters taking the time to exercise their right and participating in this important process. Never underestimate the power of your vote.

Kristina K. Swanson  
Cowlitz County Auditor

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**Participating Jurisdictions:** Cowlitz County, Cowlitz County Public Utility District, City of Castle Rock, City of Kelso, Castle Rock School District No. 401, Fire Protection District No. 6, and Cowlitz Transit Authority

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*Congratulations to 9th grader Karin Myers of Kelso whose artwork is displayed on the cover of this pamphlet.*

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## OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL OR REPLACEMENT BALLOT

**COWLITZ COUNTY IS ENTIRELY VOTE BY MAIL.** Official Ballots will be available in the Elections Department beginning October 15, 2008. Official Ballots will be mailed Friday, October 17, 2008.

**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 4, 2008. Please allow one week for delivery delays prior to requesting a replacement ballot.

**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](mailto:elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

### WEBSITE ADDRESS:

[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

## Voting in Washington State

### Qualifications

You may register and vote in elections in Washington State if you:

- \* Reside in Washington;
- \* Are a U.S. Citizen;
- \* Are at least 18 years old on or before Election Day; and
- \* Have had your voting rights restored if you were ever convicted of a felony.

In Washington, you do not declare a political party membership when you register to vote.

### Registration Deadlines

Keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must register to vote at least **30 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 **30 days** prior to an election. You may register **in person** at the Cowlitz County Elections Department up to **15 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](http://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 15, 2008, 20 days prior to the General Election. The drop boxes are available 24 hours per day and close 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 Ave, near the Post Office boxes;

**Longview**, on Broadway Ave, driving west toward the Civic Circle, just before the Post Office boxes;

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

**Woodland**, city parking lot, Davidson and 2nd Street, near Utility Payment Drop box;

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

**Kalama**, North 1st Street, near the 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 Friday, during regular business hours for the General Election, beginning Wednesday, October 15, through Election Day, November 4, until 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.

# WHAT'S NEW IN ELECTIONS

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## NEW ONLINE BALLOT STATUS LOOKUP

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Cowlitz County voters can now check the status of their Official Ballot using our Ballot Status Lookup function. To check the status of your ballot, you will be asked to enter your first name, last name, and your date of birth. The new ballot status lookup page is available at: <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections/voterinfo/default.aspx>.

When checking on the status of your ballot, **please allow 3 to 5 days** for your ballot to be processed and registered in the ballot status lookup system.

The ballot status lookup function is another convenient tool for you to use to verify your voter information is current. If there are changes to your name, physical address, or mailing address, email the friendly staff at the Elections Department by using the comments area provided.

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## Personalized Voter Information

The Office of the Secretary of State is making information to voters more available and convenient than ever with MyVote. Voters can enter their name and date of birth and get access to the online address change form, candidate statements and photos, ballot drop box locations in your area, and contact information for elected officials who represent you. This information is tailored to each individual voter and is an exciting advancement for Washington State.

The service is free and available 24/7 at the Secretary of State's website:  
<http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/OSOS/VoterVault/Pages/MyVote.aspx>.



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Register to vote online at: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx>

To register to vote using the online function, you must have either:

- a valid Washington State driver's license; or
- a valid Washington State ID card.

If you do not have either of these documents, you may still register to vote by downloading the paper voter registration form from this website or you can contact the Elections Department.

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Note to Voters: The following Sample Ballot contains all candidates and measures certified to appear in the State General Election to be held on November 4, 2008. You will not be entitled to vote on all races and issues that appear on this Sample Ballot. When you receive your ballot only the contests and measures that apply to your precinct will be listed.

## COWLITZ COUNTY - SAMPLE BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

### \*NEW INSTRUCTIONS\*

#### How to Mark Your Ballot

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice.  
 - Use black ink or # 2 pencil.  
 - In each race, vote for one candidate.  
 - More than one vote for an office or ballot measure will be an overvote, and no votes for that office 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 candidate's name. You then have the option of making another choice.

Signatures, comments or identifying marks on the ballot may invalidate your ballot.

#### Write-In Votes

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.

### STATE

#### Proposed by Initiative Petition

##### INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 985

Initiative Measure No. 985 concerns transportation. This measure would open high-occupancy vehicle lanes to all traffic during specified hours, require traffic light synchronization, increase roadside assistance funding, and dedicate certain taxes, fines, tolls and other revenues to traffic-flow purposes.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

YES

NO

#### Proposed by Initiative Petition

##### INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 1000

Initiative Measure No. 1000 concerns allowing certain terminally ill competent adults to obtain lethal prescriptions. This measure would permit terminally ill, competent, adult Washington residents, who are medically predicted to have six months or less to live, to request and self-administer lethal medication prescribed by a physician.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

YES

NO

### STATE

#### Proposed by Initiative Petition

##### INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 1029

Initiative Measure No. 1029 concerns long-term care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. This measure would require long-term care workers to be certified as home care aides based on an examination, with exceptions; increase training and criminal background check requirements; and establish disciplinary standards and procedures.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

YES

NO

### FEDERAL Partisan Office

#### PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

##### OF THE UNITED STATES

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for One)

Barack Obama/Joe Biden  
Democratic Party Nominees

John McCain/Sarah Palin  
Republican Party Nominees

Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez  
Independent Candidates

Gloria La Riva/Eugene Puryear  
Socialism & Liberation Party Nominees

James E. Harris/Alyson Kennedy  
Socialist Workers Party Nominees

Bob Barr/Wayne A. Root  
Libertarian Party Nominees

Chuck Baldwin/Darrell L. Castle  
Constitution Party Nominees

Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente  
Green Party Nominees

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**READ: Each candidate for President and Vice President is the official nominee of a political party. For other partisan offices, each candidate may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.**

### STATE Partisan Office

#### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

TWO Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Brian Baird  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Michael Delavar  
(Prefers Republican Party)

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#### GOVERNOR

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Christine Gregoire  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Dino Rossi  
(Prefers G.O.P. Party)

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#### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Brad Owen  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Marcia McCraw  
(Prefers Republican Party)

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#### SECRETARY OF STATE

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Sam Reed  
(Prefers Republican Party)

Jason Osgood  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

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#### STATE TREASURER

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Allan Martin  
(Prefers Republican Party)

Jim McIntire  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

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### STATE Partisan Office

#### STATE AUDITOR

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Brian Sonntag  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

J. Richard (Dick) McEntee  
(Prefers Republican Party)

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#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Rob McKenna  
(Prefers Republican Party)

John Ladenburg  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

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#### COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Doug Sutherland  
(Prefers Republican Party)

Peter J. Goldmark  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

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### STATE Nonpartisan Office

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Teresa (Terry) Bergeson

Randy Dorn

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### STATE Partisan Office

#### INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

FOUR Year Term

(Vote for ONE)

Mike Kreidler  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

John R. Adams  
(Prefers Republican Party)

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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 4, 2008

STATE Partisan Office	COUNTY Partisan Office	JUDICIAL Nonpartisan Office	LOCAL
<p><b>STATE SENATOR</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18</b> FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph Zarelli (Prefers Republican Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jon Haugen (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>COWLITZ COUNTY</b> <b>COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1</b> FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tom Wilson (Prefers Republican Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kathleen A. Johnson (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE</b> POSITION NO. 1 FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> James E. F. X. Warne</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>CITY OF CASTLE ROCK</b> <b>PROPOSITION NO. 1</b></p> <p>Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2008 for collection in 2009 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$42,079 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p><b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE, POS. 1</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18</b> TWO Year Short and Full Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jaime Herrera (Prefers Republican Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Vanessa Duplessie (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>COWLITZ COUNTY</b> <b>COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2</b> FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> George Raiter (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rama Mitchell Jr. (Prefers Republican Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE</b> POSITION NO. 2 FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stephen M. Warning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>PROPOSITION NO. 1</b> <b>CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL</b> <b>DISTRICT NO. 401</b> <b>REDISTRICTING OF SCHOOL</b> <b>DIRECTOR DISTRICTS</b></p> <p>The Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution Nos. 2008-02 and 2008-08 concerning a proposition to redivide the District into director districts. This proposition would dissolve the existing directors' districts and reapportion the District into three directors' districts with two directors at large and provide for incumbent directors to serve to the expiration of their current term of office, all as provided in District Resolution Nos. 2008-02 and 2008-08.</p> <p>Should this proposition be:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> APPROVED</p> <p><input type="radio"/> REJECTED</p>
<p><b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE, POS. 2</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18</b> TWO Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ed Orcutt (Prefers Republican Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jonathan Fant (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>COUNTY Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>P.U.D.</b> <b>COMMISSIONER</b> <b>DISTRICT NO. 1</b> SIX Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Merritt (Buz) Ketcham</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE</b> POSITION NO. 3 FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim M. Johanson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 1</b> ONE Year Unexpired Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rick Roberson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>
<p><b>STATE SENATOR</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19</b> FOUR Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Brian Hatfield (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>JUDICIAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>SUPREME COURT</b> JUSTICE POSITION NO. 3 SIX Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mary Fairhurst</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5</b> THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gerald P. Malella</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 1</b> ONE Year Unexpired Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rick Roberson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>
<p><b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE, POS. 1</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19</b> TWO Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dean Takko (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>SUPREME COURT</b> JUSTICE POSITION NO. 4 SIX Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charles W. Johnson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5</b> THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gerald P. Malella</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5</b> THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gerald P. Malella</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>
<p><b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE, POS. 2</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19</b> TWO Year Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Brian E. Blake (Prefers Democratic Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>SUPREME COURT</b> JUSTICE POSITION NO. 7 SIX Year Short and Full Term (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Debra L. Stephens</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5</b> THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gerald P. Malella</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><b>LOCAL Nonpartisan Office</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF KELSO</b> <b>COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5</b> THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gerald P. Malella</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>

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 4, 2008**

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**LOCAL**

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**PROPOSITION NO. 1  
COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
LEVY LID LIFT**

The Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 2008-08-11-1 concerning an increase in the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would allow the district to permanently increase its regular property tax levy to provide revenues necessary to meet the maintenance and operation expenses of the District, so that in 2009 it can levy for collection in 2010 regular property taxes at the rate of \$0.81 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and increase the levy each year thereafter as allowed or limited by chapter 84.55 RCW, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Should this proposition be:

- APPROVED
- REJECTED

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**PROPOSITION NO. 1  
COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION**

The Board of Directors of the Cowlitz Transit Authority adopted Resolution No. 1 concerning a proposition to finance expenses of the Transit Authority. This proposition would authorize the Transit Authority to increase the sales and use tax collected within the Cowlitz County Public Transportation Benefit Area from the current rate of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of the selling price. The tax proceeds would be used only for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance or capital needs of the public transportation system.

Should this proposition be approved?

- YES
- NO

Sample

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*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 COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the county's legislative body and chief administrator.

In its legislative role, the Board is responsible for adopting the annual budget and levying taxes. The Board is also responsible for the operations of budgets under the control of appointed department heads and adopting, amending, and repealing all ordinances.

As administrators, the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for management of departments such as health, public works, corrections and law enforcement records and other departments which are not the responsibility of other elected officials; county buildings, property, vehicles and equipment; approving contracts; policies affecting county employees; and setting budget policy.

In their quasi-judicial capacity, the Commissioners hear appeals of decisions made by other county boards or commissions and determine approval for a variety of development proposals, such as shorelines and subdivisions.

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**TOM WILSON**  
(Prefers Republican Party)

*Proven Leadership*-I have been a business and community leader for many years; current manager for Cascade Natural Gas, current board member of the Cowlitz County Economic Development Council and served 16 years for the Port of Woodland.

*Proven Results*-As Port of Woodland Commissioner, I was instrumental in bringing 245 family wage jobs, 27 new industries and increased tourism for the communities of Cowlitz County.

*Positive Vision*-Using a common sense approach to growth, government and planning, I will make Cowlitz County the best place to live, work, and raise a family.



**KATHLEEN A. JOHNSON**  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a Cowlitz County Commissioner these past four years. As your District 1 Commissioner, I have embraced the investment the voters made in me and listened and acted on a myriad of issues that impacted our county residents. These past few years major decisions were made on equitable water rights, fishing rights, private road access, land use issues, building permit issues, regional economic development, and much more. Yes, I am willing to continue to take action on your behalf if you vote to retain me.

# COWLITZ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Mission Statement of the Office—

The focus of the Cowlitz County Commissioners' Office staff is to be a place of respect, information, courteousness and professionalism, using a team effort to provide people-oriented service in a timely manner.

## Cowlitz County Government Mission Statement –

To provide quality services as required by law or mandated by the public, to enhance the health, safety and general well being of its citizens.

## Guiding Principles –

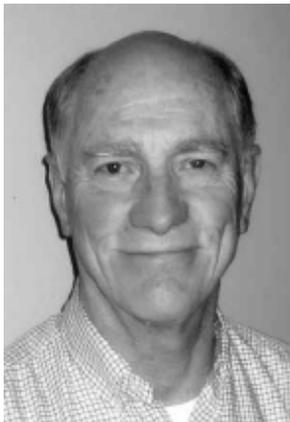
Conduct County operations in a legal, ethical and fair manner.

Conduct the public's business in a manner that is responsive, accessible and open to county citizens.

Provide professional leadership and operational excellence.

Recognize that county employees and citizen volunteers are the foundation upon which these services are provided.

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**GEORGE RAITER**  
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Cowlitz County has always been a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I am committed to maintaining this. We have a solid base of wood product jobs, and now we are diversifying with new world-class employers. I am a past president of our Economic Development Council. I am serving my second term as the Governor-appointed County Commissioner on the State Economic Revitalization Board. I have helped make investments to attract new jobs. I have initiated programs to increase efficiency, save tax dollars, and focus on customer service. I am running for re-election to continue leadership in this area.

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**RAMA MITCHELL JR.**  
(Prefers Republican Party)

As your commissioner, I am going to bring Accountability back to Cowlitz County. The problems that face our community are systemic and they need systemic solutions, not just band-aids. We need to attract more diversified employers, which offer a family wage and support local infrastructure. We need to embrace and prepare for the growth in our county and bring back civic pride. It is time for a positive change. Thank you for your support.

## PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington (Cowlitz PUD) is a publicly-owned municipal corporation governed by a three-member Commission. Cowlitz PUD provides electrical service within Cowlitz County. The Commissioners determine the operating policies, adopt the budget and establish rates. The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss and conduct the business of the PUD. The Commissioners also hire the utility's General Manager, Auditor and Treasurer.

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**MERRITT (BUZ) KETCHAM**  
(Nonpartisan Position)

I feel privileged to have served you as PUD Commissioner for the past several years. We have kept the rates the same today as they were in 2004 and our ecological footprint small. The demand for new energy sources will challenge us into the next decade. I have worked hard to make our PUD an example of what can happen with passionate leadership. Our White Creek project is the largest public wind resource in the USA producing some of the lowest cost wind energy in the State! I request your vote so that we can step together into the future.

## CITY OF KELSO COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Kelso City Council has the authority to set the city's policies. The mayor, elected from among the council members, serves a two-year term and is recognized as head of the city for ceremonial purposes, although he does not have any regular administrative duties. Council members are appointed by ballot election by the citizens of Kelso. Council members serve for four years, and the terms are staggered.

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**RICK ROBERSON**  
(Nonpartisan Position)

Stepping back onto the Kelso City Council as an appointee has somewhat been like entering into a new city government with a great city staff and a divergent council more than able to work towards consensus. It has given me great hope that this hometown of mine (ours) is poised for an era of significant success.

Ultimately that success will need to be shared and moved out into our neighborhoods, making lives better for the citizens. It's a well deserved goal because we are not just that little logging town "We are Kelso" and have "Kelso Pride!"

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**GERALD P. MALELLA**  
(Nonpartisan Position)

As a candidate for Kelso City Councilman Position #5 – East District, I intend to be an active voice for the citizens of Kelso. As a member of the Airport Board, I am supporting the extension of our runway in order to qualify Kelso for Regional Airport status. Other areas of concern that I am actively promoting are: 1) The revitalization of the downtown core area. 2) Obtaining a centrally located regional senior center. 3) Moving our city library to a convenient downtown location. 4) Actively recruiting new economic development in order to increase our tax base.



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**CITY OF CASTLE ROCK  
LIBRARY LEVY...Continued**

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2. The City Clerk-Treasurer is authorized and directed to present a duplicate original of this Resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor, as supervisor of elections, by no later than August 12, 2008, which is eighty-four days prior to the November 4, 2008 State General Election; to request said officer to submit the above proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Castle Rock at an election to be called in conjunction with the November 4, 2008 General Election, and to take all actions and do all things necessary to cause the ballot proposition described above to be submitted properly to the qualified electors of the city at the November 4, 2008 General Election.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Castle Rock and signed by the Mayor on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.

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**STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

Castle Rock property owners are asked to approve a one-year levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to fund a proposed library budget of \$42,079 for the year 2009. This levy would replace the levy amount that funded the 2008 library budget.

The levy, which would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$50, would enable the library to remain open 36 hours a week. It includes money for librarian and assistant librarian wages, utilities, supplies, some books, postage, telephone, insurance, and related operating costs. Voter approval would provide continued free public Internet access, as well as access to the local newspaper, income tax forms and other informational publications.

Castle Rock's library has over 18,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, videos, books on tape, and reference materials. Adults may take advantage of the opportunity for recreational and informational reading, and children can expand their reading horizons through the library's summer reading program. No additional fee is required for City tax payers to hold a library card and anyone outside the city limits can obtain one for a nominal fee.

Not only is Castle Rock's library vital to the community, but healthy libraries are important to new businesses when they consider moving into the area. Studies have shown that library access helps to educate voters, encourages employment, and discourages crime and substance abuse.

We urge voters to approve this levy.

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**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

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**Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:**

Bud May and Marsha Quigley

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**STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

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**CITY OF KELSO RESOLUTION  
FOR SPECIAL ELECTION**

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**Complete Text of Resolution:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-974**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008, TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERMS OF POSITION NOS. 1 & 5 CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS HOLDING THOSE POSITIONS, WHICH TERMS WILL NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 12/31/09 AND 12/31/11 RESPECTIVELY.**

WHEREAS, two vacancies have been created on the Kelso City Council by the resignation of council members holding Position Nos. 1 and 5 in the year 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Kelso City Charter 2.06(c) provides that such a vacancy be filled by the voters at the "next regular election"; and

WHEREAS, the next regular election will be held on November 4, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the appointed Council Members for Position Nos. 1 and 5 have sought to file for the next regular election during the filing period prescribed by state law for the November 2008 election, but were told by the County Auditor that their filing would not be accepted; and that there would be no City election in an even-numbered year; and,

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.12.04.330 authorizes a special election upon Resolution of the Kelso City Council; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to pass a Resolution requesting a special election be held for the recently appointed council members occurring in 2008; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

**SECTION 1.** That Kelso City Charter Section 2.06(c) shall be interpreted to require an election in November 2008 for Position Nos. 1 and 5, notwithstanding the fact that it will be conducted in an even-numbered year. Position No. 1 term expires 12/31/09 and Position No. 5 term expires 12/31/11.

**SECTION 2.** That the City Clerk is authorized and directed to present a duplicate original of this Resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor as supervisor of elections in sufficient time to permit candidates for the unexpired terms to be elected along with candidates running in other elections on the November 2008 general election ballot; and, that the Auditor is requested to open a special filing period attendant with said election; and, further requested that said officer submit the above described election to the qualified voters of the City of Kelso.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

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**CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 401  
REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR DIRECTOR DISTRICTS**

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**Official Ballot Title:**

PROPOSITION NO. 1  
CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401  
REDISTRICTING OF SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

The Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution Nos. 2008-02 and 2008-08 concerning a proposition to redivide the District into director districts. This proposition would dissolve the existing directors' districts and reapportion the District into three directors' districts with two directors at large and provide for incumbent directors to serve to the expiration of their current term of office, all as provided in District Resolution Nos. 2008-02 and 2008-08

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED.....  
REJECTED.....

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**Explanatory Statement:**

No explanatory statement was submitted by the jurisdiction for inclusion in this pamphlet.

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**Complete Text of Resolution:**

**Castle Rock School District No. 401  
Cowlitz County, Washington**

**Resolution No. 2008-08**

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401  
To Allocate by Re-District Position and Define Future School Director's Terms of Office**

WHEREAS the Board of Directors previously approved Resolution 2007-07, A Resolution Agreeing to Dissolution of the Vader School District And Annexation of the Territory to Castle Rock School District, and

WHEREAS Castle Rock School District No. 401 now incorporates the former Vader School District No. 18, Lewis County, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide School Board representation to the residents of the former Vader School District No. 18, pursuant to RCW 28A.343.040 and RCW 28A.343.050, the Board of Directors previously approved Resolution 2008-02, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 to Adopt the Redistricting Plan for Castle Rock School District Director Districts, said Resolution describing the reformation of Castle Rock School District director districts 1,2,3,4, and 5 with Vader School District director districts 1,2,3,4, and 5 into Castle Rock School District director districts 1,2, 3 and two representatives at large, and

WHEREAS the current incumbent Directors all hold office on four-year terms pursuant to RCW 28A.343.300, and

WHEREAS RCW 28A.343.310 provides for a combination of two-year and four-year terms and fair allocation of said terms on a board comprised of both representatives of director districts and at-large representatives, and

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**CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 401  
REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR DIRECTOR DISTRICTS.....Continued**

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WHEREAS the Board of Directors has, among them, proposed the new Director District 2, includes the former Vader School District No. 18, and the allocation of said differing terms of office and the re-district positions among existing directors be as follows:

<u>Former District #</u>	<u>Incumbent Office Holder</u>	<u>Term Began</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Re-District Number</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
1	VACANT	Nov 2007	Nov 2011	2	2 Year Term
2	William Schumacher	Nov 2005	Nov 2009	3	2 Year Term
3	Glen Paget	Nov 2007	Nov 2011	At-Large	4 Year Term
4	Vilas Sundberg	Nov 2005	Nov 2009	1	4 Year Term
5	Gayle Baker	Nov 2007	Nov 2011	At-Large	2 Year Term

WHEREAS, all directors serving post-redistricting shall continue to serve in office as provided at RCW 28A.343.350, and,

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of directors serving the current term of office the terms shall be as follows:

Director District One	4 Year Term	Elected 2009	Term Ends 2013
Director District Two	2 Year Term	Elected 2011	Term Ends 2013
Director District Three	2 Year Term	Elected 2009	Term Ends 2011
Director At Large	4 Year Term	Elected 2011	Term Ends 2015
Director At Large	2 Year Term	Elected 2011	Term Ends 2013

WHEREAS RCW 28A.343.050 provides, in pertinent part, that a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors be submitted to the Superintendent of the appropriate Educational Service District asking formation of the question to be submitted to the voters and submission to the County Auditor, the Board of Directors having previously approved Resolution 2008-02 in that regard, and the Board of Directors now reaffirming that request and proposing the foregoing solution to issues as to allocation, and the Offices of the Cowlitz County Auditor and Prosecuting Attorney having proposed a ballot measure be submitted to voters on the general election ballot in November 2008 in the manner and form attached as ANNEX A,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the terms of office of the redistricted director positions and allocation of post-redistrict director positions to incumbents is approved, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors asks the approval of the foregoing proposed solutions by the Superintendent of Educational Service District 112 and as to that portion of the former Vader School District No. 18 in Lewis County, the Superintendent of Educational Service District No. 113.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors at its regular meeting of August 26, 2008

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**STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement for this measure.

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**STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

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**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
LEVY LID LIFT**

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**Official Ballot Title:**

PROPOSITION NO. 1  
COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
LEVY LID LIFT

The Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 2008-08-11-1 concerning an increase in the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would allow the district to permanently increase its regular property tax levy to provide revenues necessary to meet the maintenance and operation expenses of the District, so that in 2009 it can levy for collection in 2010 regular property taxes at the rate of \$0.81 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and increase the levy each year thereafter as allowed or limited by chapter 84.55 RCW, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED.....  
REJECTED.....

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**Explanatory Statement:**

No explanatory statement was submitted by the jurisdiction for inclusion in this pamphlet.

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**Complete Text of Resolution:**

**COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-08-11-1  
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$0.81 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.

**Background:** WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District. Such services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for general maintenance, operations, equipment and personnel in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District.

**Resolution:** NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 6, Cowlitz County, Washington as follows:

**Section 1.** In order to provide fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services in the District, it is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles and to construct and remodel station facilities to be staffed by properly trained personnel equipped with proper fire fighting and emergency medical equipment.

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**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
LEVY LID LIFT.....Continued**

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**Section 2.** In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services, the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010 and levy beginning in 2009 and collect beginning in 2010, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$0.81 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

**Section 3.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 4, 2008, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be permanently increased to \$0.81 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation in 2008 and thereafter adjusted subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. Cowlitz County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, is hereby requested to call an election and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1  
COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6  
LEVY LID LIFT

*The Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 2008-08-11-1 concerning an increase in the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would allow the district to permanently increase its regular property tax levy to provide revenues necessary to meet the maintenance and operation expenses of the District, so that in 2009 it can levy for collection in 2010 regular property taxes at the rate of \$0.81 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and increase the levy each year thereafter as allowed or limited by chapter 84.55 RCW, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.*

*Should this proposition be:*

**APPROVED**.....  
**REJECTED**.....

**Adoption:** ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Cowlitz County Fire Protection District No. 6, Cowlitz County, Washington, at a regular public meeting of such Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, the following commissioners being present and voting:

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**STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement for this measure.

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**STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:**

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

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# COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY, CITY LIMITS OF LONGVIEW AND KELSO

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**Official Ballot Title:**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1  
COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

The Board of Directors of the Cowlitz Transit Authority adopted Resolution No. 1 concerning a proposition to finance expenses of the Transit Authority. This proposition would authorize the Transit Authority to increase the sales and use tax collected within the Cowlitz County Public Transportation Benefit Area from the current rate of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of the selling price. The tax proceeds would be used only for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance or capital needs of the public transportation system.

Should this proposition be approved?

.....YES  
.....NO

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**Explanatory Statement:**

Existing law:

The Cowlitz Transit Authority operates the public transportation system in Longview and Kelso through a voter-approved Public Transportation Benefit Area. To provide its services, the Cowlitz Transit Authority is authorized to collect a retail sales and use tax of 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) within Longview and Kelso. The Cowlitz Transit Authority has been collecting this tax since 1987. This tax is currently the lowest in the state.

Effect of Measure No. 1:

If Measure No. 1 is passed, it would raise the retail sales and use tax from 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) to 0.3% (three-tenths of one percent). This additional funding would be used to enhance urban area bus service, continue paratransit (accessible) service, develop van pools for area commuters, increase coordination with other transportation service providers, and implement other services appropriate to meet the transportation needs of the Longview-Kelso area.

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**Complete Text of Resolution:**

RESOLUTION NO. 1

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF MEASURE  
NO. 1 TO THE NOVEMBER 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, The Cowlitz Transit Authority wishes to pass a resolution directing the submission to the qualified voters of Cowlitz County of a measure authorizing an additional sales and use tax of 0.2% (two-tenths of one percent) to fund the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of The Cowlitz Transit Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY, COUNTY OF COWLITZ, STATE OF WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1. Findings.**

A. The Cowlitz Transit Authority operates the public transportation system within the City of Longview and the City of Kelso through a voter-approved Public Transit Benefit Area. The Cowlitz Transit Authority owns and operates an extensive system of urban bus area services, paratransit (accessible) services, and other transportation facilities within the City of Longview and the City of Kelso.

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## COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY.....Continued

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B. Recently, The Cowlitz Transit Authority has not been able to add the necessary services to keep up with significantly increasing ridership demand caused by growth in population and employment, and shift away from automobiles to transit caused by the increasing cost of fuel. For the county to achieve land use and environmental goals consistent with employment and household growth targets, The Cowlitz Transit Authority needs to carry a growing proportion of trips to support the county's mobility, economy and quality of life.

C. In accordance with RCW 82.14.045, and by approval of the qualified electorate, the Cowlitz Transit Authority is currently imposing a retail sales and use tax of 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of its public transportation system.

D. To fund the needs of the Cowlitz Transit Authority's public transportation system, a measure should be submitted to the voters requesting authorization to fix and impose an additional sales and use tax of 0.2% (two-tenths of one percent) for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of The Cowlitz Transit Authority transit system.

E. The Cowlitz Transit Authority conducted a survey and found that 78% of residents of the City of Kelso and the City of Longview support a tax increase for better transit service.

**SECTION 2. Authorization of Additional Sales and Use Tax.** For the purpose of providing funding for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of public transportation, The Cowlitz Transit Authority hereby directs the submission of a measure to the voters of Cowlitz County substantially as set forth in Section 3 of this Resolution to authorize The Cowlitz Transit Authority to fix and impose, pursuant to RCW 82.14.045, an additional sales and use tax of 0.2% (two-tenths of one percent) bringing the total sales and use tax up to 0.3% (three-tenths of one percent).

**SECTION 3. Call for Election.** It is hereby found that the measure, substantially as hereinafter set forth, be submitted to the qualified electors of the county at the general election on November 2008 in substantially the following form:

**THE COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MEASURE NO. 1**

Shall the Cowlitz Transit Authority be authorized, pursuant to RCW 82.14.045, to increase the current sales and use tax from 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) to 0.3% (three-tenths of one percent) within the Cowlitz County Public Transportation Benefit Area's current boundaries (City limits of Longview and Kelso) to fund the operations, maintenance and capital needs of the Cowlitz Transit Authority to provide enhanced bus, paratransit (accessible), and other public transportation services?

INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
YES.....  
INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
NO.....

**SECTION 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Resolution or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY THIS 30th DAY OF JULY, 2008.

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## COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY.....Continued

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### STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

A good public transportation system is vital to the health of a community.

Recognizing this need, 21 years ago the citizens of this community started CUBS with a sales tax rate of one-tenth of one percent—or 1 cent on every \$10 purchase.

Our community has changed a lot in 21 years, but our public bus service has not been able to keep pace with the community's needs.

We pay the lowest sales tax rate for public transportation in the entire state. Without additional funding, the public bus service will remain static, struggling to maintain service at the current (unsatisfactory) level while drawing down its reserves each year.

Without this increase, those reserves will be depleted and public bus service cut dramatically by 2014.

For just 2 pennies *more* on a \$10 dollar purchase, our bus service will continue to be viable for many years and will be better able to meet the needs of this community by providing:

- Longer hours of operation
- Shorter wait times between buses
- New routes
- Smaller, more economical buses
- Expanded weekend service
- Sunday service
- Van pool commuter service

This is the first sales tax request for public transportation in 21 years. With it, we will still be paying the lowest sales tax for public transportation in Washington State.

We citizens have an opportunity to create an improved public bus system with more options to meet our families' growing transportation needs. Vote yes. It's worth the *extra* two cents.

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### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

No rebuttal was submitted.

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### Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Cindy Helms, Bill Ammons, and Michael Webber

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## COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY.....Continued

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### STATEMENT OPPOSING RESOLUTION:

The question will read should we pay a higher sales tax to support expanded bus service. The real question is should we support a decline in local retail sales caused directly by a sales tax increase. Increased sales tax encourages shoppers to purchase more often from tax free locations.

The Washington Department of Revenue did a study of sales tax in border counties. The study found that as the sales tax increased more money was spent tax free in Oregon. The proposed increase from 7.7 to 7.9 percent (a tax increase of just under 3%) is enough to get more cost conscious shoppers to move about 3 percent more of their spending to Oregon or to the internet.

Who loses? Local businesses do, especially big ticket retailers. Local cities and Cowlitz County will also be hurt because there are smaller sales tax receipts. Smaller sales volume will also mean fewer retail jobs locally.

Some will make it sound like a few dollars to help the poor. The real result will be fewer local jobs caused by a sales tax increase to support riders.

We need a bus service to support the truly poor in the center of Longview and Kelso and we have this with our present 0.1% sales tax supporting our CUBS service. More empty busses going to west Longview or possibly Lexington simply wastes fuel.

I challenge CUBS to print their total department fuel consumption and their total passenger miles, not including employees.

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### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Reasonable public transportation is a cost we the voters agreed to pay 21 years ago. Over these years the cost of items we buy has increased substantially. Although the tax rate hasn't increased the dollars in taxes paid has increased.

We need to help our most needy with transportation but tripling the tax makes no sense. If the budget needs adjusting modify the routes or adjust the riders fares but no additional tax.

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### Voters Pamphlet Arguments Opposing Resolution Prepared By:

Bill Hallanger, Hal Palmer, and Ray Caldwell

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **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 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 107  
Kelso, WA 98626

(360) 577-3005