

COWLITZ COUNTY

OFFICIAL LOCAL VOTERS' PAMPHLET

August 17, 2010 Primary



Published by: Cowlitz County Auditor, KRISTINA K. SWANSON

Participating Jurisdictions:

Cowlitz County, City of Castle Rock, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District.

PREAMBLE TO LOCAL VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Dear Voters of Cowlitz County:

Welcome to the 2010 Top 2 Primary Electronic Local Voters' Pamphlet. This pamphlet is your guide to the election and a great tool to assist you in making informed decisions regarding candidates and measures.

This year, Washington State will once again conduct a Top 2 Primary. Originally used for the first time in August, 2008, it is unlike past primaries. Voters will not have to pick a party to participate. All candidate names will appear on the same ballot, and voters can choose any candidate on the ballot.

In other states, the Primary is for the political parties, because the purpose of the Primary is to select each political party's nominee who will represent the party in the General Election. In a Top 2 Primary, the Primary is for the voters and candidates because the purpose is simply to winnow the number of candidates down to two. The candidates are not representing any political party when they appear on the ballot; they are representing themselves.

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.

Kristina K. Swanson
Cowlitz County Auditor

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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 July 28, 2010. Official Ballots will be mailed Friday, July 30, 2010.

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, August 17, 2010. 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

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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
- * Do not currently have your civil rights denied as a result of being 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 **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 July 28, 2010, 20 days prior to the Primary. 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 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

eSlate voting machines will be available Monday through Thursday, during regular business hours for the Primary, beginning Wednesday, July 28, through Election Day, August 17, 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.



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

Cowlitz County - Sample Ballot

Primary - August 17, 2010

INSTRUCTIONS

How to Mark Your Ballot

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

- Use a black or blue ink pen.
- 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.

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.

READ: Each candidate for partisan office 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.

FEDERAL Partisan Offices	FEDERAL Partisan Offices Cont...	STATE Partisan Offices Cont...
US Senator	US Representative 3rd Congressional District	State Representative Pos. 2 Legislative District 18
<input type="checkbox"/> Norma D. Gruber (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jaime Herrera (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Orcutt (Prefers Republican Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mohammad H. Said (Prefers Centrist Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Denny Heck (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Goodspaceguy (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> David W. Hedrick (Prefers Republican Party)	State Representative Pos. 1 Legislative District 19
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike The Mover (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> David B. Castillo (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kurt Swanson (Prefers Republican Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Akers (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Crist (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dean Takko (Prefers Democratic Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Latimer (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Norma Jean Stevens (Prefers Independent Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> James (Skip) Mercer (States No Party Preference)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	State Representative Pos. 2 Legislative District 19
<input type="checkbox"/> Clint Didier (Prefers Republican Party)	STATE Partisan Offices	<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Sutinen (Prefers Lower Taxes Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Schalk Leonard (States No Party Preference)	State Representative Pos. 1 Legislative District 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Brian E. Blake (Prefers Democratic Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Patty Murray (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Russell (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Burr (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Vick (Prefers Republican Party)	COUNTY Partisan Offices
<input type="checkbox"/> William Edward Chovil (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Bittner (Prefers G.O.P. Party)	Assessor
<input type="checkbox"/> Dino Rossi (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Kampe (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry McLaughlin (Prefers Democratic Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Allen (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon T. Haugen (Prefers Neither Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Baker (Prefers Reform Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Carson (Prefers Independent Party)	Auditor
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ann Rivers (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristina Kephart Swanson (Prefers Democratic Party)
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

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
Primary - August 17, 2010

COUNTY Partisan Offices Cont...

Clerk

- Roni A. Booth
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- Beverly Little
(Prefers Republican Party)
- _____

**Cowlitz County
Commissioner District #3**

- James R. Misner
(Prefers Independent Party)
- Axel Swanson
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- _____

Coroner

- Timothy J. Davidson
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- _____

Prosecuting Attorney

- Tom Ladouceur
(States No Party Preference)
- Sue Baur
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- _____

Sheriff

- Mark S. Nelson
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- _____

COUNTY Partisan Offices Cont...

Treasurer

- Kathy Hanks
(Prefers Democratic Party)
- Merritt (Buz) Ketcham
(Prefers Republican Party)
- _____

JUDICIAL Nonpartisan Offices

**State Supreme Court
Justice Position 1**

- Stan Rumbaugh
- Jim Johnson
- _____

**State Supreme Court
Justice Position 5**

- Barbara Madsen
- _____

**State Supreme Court
Justice Position 6**

- Bryan Chushcoff
- Charlie Wiggins
- Richard B. Sanders
- _____

**Court of Appeals
Division 2, District 3
Judge Position 2**

- Jill M. Johanson
- Joseph Daggy
- _____

LOCAL Measures

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2010 for collection in 2011 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$56,000 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

- Yes
- No

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT AUTHORIZING
PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees adopted resolution 2010-5 concerning a proposition to authorize its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy to the allowable rate of \$0.50 of \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2011 to provide continued funding for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's normal operation and maintenance. Thereafter, such levy amount would be used for the purpose of computing limitations for subsequent levies as allowed by RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved?
- Rejected?

**ELECTION OF POLITICAL PARTY
PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICER**

Precinct Committee Officer is a position in each major political party. For this office only: If you consider yourself a Democrat or Republican, you may vote for a candidate of that party.

Precinct Committee Officer

For a write-in candidate, include party

- _____

COWLITZ COUNTY ASSESSOR

The County Assessor determines the valuation of all taxable property in the county. This office maintains legal descriptions and property records, prepares assessment rolls, and establishes levy amounts for each taxing district.

The County Assessor's office appraises property both by physical inspection and by market activity. Washington State Law mandates that property must be physically inspected at least once every six years, with annual review and updates based on sales analysis.

Appraisers are required to be accredited by the Washington State Department of Revenue by successfully completing appraisal courses and tests and thereafter completing 15 hours of continuous education every two years. The County Assessor is responsible for verifying that all of the county appraisers are qualified. This office also administers the special assessment and taxation programs including the Senior Citizen/ Disabled Persons Exemption, open Space Taxation Act, and Forest Land Assessment as provided by State law.



Terry McLaughlin
Prefers Democratic Party

I am honored to serve as your Assessor for the past six years. As your Assessor I have maintained trust and integrity while providing fairness and uniformity to the valuations of property in the county.

To give you confidence in the Assessor responsibilities, I provided assessment information on the Internet along with interactive mapping. I will continue to identify efficiencies for the county and the public by the use of technology.

Born and raised in Kelso, I served as Geographic Information System Manager with the county for five years and have a total of 20 years experience with the county.

NO OTHER CANDIDATES FILED FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR

ASSESSOR'S MISSION STATEMENT

The role of the Assessor is to estimate (appraise or assess) the value of all taxable property. It is our mission to serve the citizens of Cowlitz County by achieving accuracy, equity, and fairness in the estimation of value.

- To achieve accuracy, it is our responsibility to neither under-nor over estimate the value of property.
- To achieve equity, it is our responsibility to see that all properties are assessed in a similar manner.
- To achieve fairness, it is our responsibility to ensure that each owner's share of the total property tax is the same as his or her share of the total value of property.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Assessor's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/assessor

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

COWLITZ COUNTY AUDITOR

The County Auditor manages four departmental areas; Accounting, Recording, Licensing, and Elections. The County Auditor's office serves as the "check and balance" organization for the county and ensures that expenditures are limited to the approved annual budget. The Auditor and staff audit all claims chargeable to the county and those special purpose districts requesting those services and issue payments for all claims.

As Licensing agent for Washington State Department of Licensing, the Auditor and staff process motor vehicle and vessel licenses, annual renewals, title applications and transfers.

As the Official Record Keeper for the county, the Auditor and staff record and maintain deeds, real estate contracts, liens, and other written instruments required by law to be recorded in the County. The Auditor's office also issues and maintains marriage licenses and records.

As the Chief Election Official, the Auditor and staff maintain voter registration records and conduct elections for Federal, State, County, Cities and local taxing districts.



Kristina Kephart Swanson
Prefers Democratic Party

Thank you for the honor of serving as your County Auditor. I am fortunate to work with employees dedicated to providing outstanding public service. The Recording and Licensing divisions were restructured to improve the availability of services to the public and provide convenient, on-line access to recorded documents.

Substantial improvements were made in Elections here and across the country. Serving on the Standards Board for the Federal Elections Assistance Commission, I ensure voters in this state have a direct voice in election reform.

I look forward to continuing my leadership role in Cowlitz County and appreciate your vote and support.

NO OTHER CANDIDATES FILED FOR COUNTY AUDITOR

DID YOU KNOW?

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted in 2002 in response to election controversies surrounding the 2000 Presidential Election. HAVA provided funding for States to improve their election processes and make voting more accessible for elderly voters and voters with disabilities.

To date, Cowlitz County has received almost \$1.1 million to upgrade election registration and tabulation equipment, and improve accessibility for voters with disabilities. Fund uses include: updated election and disability voting equipment, ballot drop boxes, disability outreach advocate, accessible Administration Building and Elections Office, and live feed video/audio of election processing and election certification.

COWLITZ COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is in the executive branch of government and is the administrator of the Superior Court Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office is responsible for keeping the permanent records of all cases filed in Superior Court, assisting the public and legal community in the filing of their cases with Superior Court and keeping records of all proceedings held in court. During court proceedings it is the clerk's duty to mark and secure all exhibits (evidence) entered in jury and non-jury trials and court hearings. They also administer oaths, certify court documents and affix the seal of the court.

It is the responsibility of the Clerk's Office to collect and disburse monies for restitution, court costs, fines, child support, trust accounts, garnishments and fees as well as manage the juries for both District and Superior Courts by summoning prospective jurors and processing all juror questionnaires.



Roni A. Booth
Prefers Democratic Party

I have lived in Cowlitz County over 35 years, have been with the Clerk's Office since 1987, and held almost every position within the office. I have been the Cowlitz County Clerk since 2005.

I have brought document imaging to a reality and recently submitted a grant application to install a Public Computer Center at the Hall of Justice. I am working toward electronic access from your home to search court records and documents.

I am committed to the service of the public and believe I have the knowledge and experience it takes to continue as your County Clerk.



Beverly Little
Prefers Republican Party

In February, 2010, I retired after working 20 years in the Clerk's Office. My main goal as Clerk is to make customer service first priority. People coming to the Clerk's Office are experiencing an event in their lives that is devastating, whether it be divorce, domestic violence, a death in the family, etc. The now closed doors will be open and every person will be listened to and treated with dignity and respect.

I have the qualifications and experience to bring efficiency to this office.

For more information, go to "Beverly Little For Cowlitz County Clerk. Com".

COWLITZ COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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.

The Commissioners serve on a variety of community-wide boards and commissions along with other public officials to help direct public policy. Commissioners are responsible for appointing members to serve on numerous boards.



James R. Misner
Prefers Independent
Party

My experience as a business owner and citizen working with the county shows me that the system works, but isn't reaching its full potential.

I adamantly believe Cowlitz County has every component necessary to succeed when we revitalize service to the citizen. Increasing land rights, easing permitting, providing protection and access to our rich natural resources, and improving roadways and zoning are just the start of what I'll work tirelessly to achieve for all of us. I'm excited as we begin focusing on unparalleled public service and the belief that when our goal is Cowlitz County excellence, we'll all win.



Axel Swanson
Prefers Democratic Party

Axel Swanson was raised in Cowlitz County and graduated from R.A. Long High School and LCC. He earned his B.A. from Gonzaga University and advanced degrees from Vermont Law School. Axel served in the Marine Corps Reserve for six years earning the rank of Sergeant.

Axel was elected County Commissioner in 2006; he leads several key regional boards and commissions. If re-elected he will continue his commitment to balanced budgets, public safety, job creation, promoting Mount St. Helens and providing common sense leadership.

Axel Swanson works for us!

Please visit voteaxel.com for more information.

COWLITZ COUNTY CORONER

The County Coroner investigates all sudden, violent, suspicious, and unusual deaths occurring in the county. The County Coroner's purpose is threefold: fully investigate each death and ascertain facts; to prevent similar deaths in the future; and to ensure that a death is not concealed, overlooked or ignored. The County Coroner certifies and signs the death certificate, locates and notifies the next of kin, and inventories and releases personal property found on the deceased to the next of kin.



Timothy J. Davidson
Prefers Democratic Party

Timothy J. Davidson is the qualified candidate for Cowlitz County Coroner, with the experience, knowledge, and compassion to assure the office's responsibilities are met.

Tim has 24 years of investigative experience, including ten years within the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office as an Autopsy Technician, Deputy Coroner, Chief Deputy, and is the current Cowlitz County Coroner. Tim has the experience and knowledge needed for the office in which he holds.

Tim is a nationally certified Medicolegal Death Investigator. He has advanced training/education in Forensic Investigations, Basic Forensic Pathology, Criminal Justice Administration, and Business Administration with a specialty in Health Care Management.

NO OTHER CANDIDATES FILED FOR COUNTY CORONER

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Coroner is a medico/legal death investigator.
- The Coroner is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- There are four part-time Deputy Coroners, all trained in forensic investigations, and all nationally certified.
- An average of 400 cases a year are referred to the Coroner.
- Autopsies are done by contracted forensic pathologists and cost \$1,200 each.
- No autopsies are done for most natural deaths.

COWLITZ COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The County Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for administering all divisions of the office.

The criminal division prosecutes all criminal actions in the Superior, District and Juvenile courts.

The civil division provides legal service to the county. The Prosecutor is advisor to the County Commissioners and County Officials, and represents them if legal action is brought against any county department or official.

The support enforcement division handles the enforcement of unpaid child support obligations.

The victim/witness division assists victims of and witnesses to crimes committed throughout the county.

The Prosecutor is to seek to reform and improve the administration of criminal justice, and stimulate efforts to remedy inadequacies or injustice in substantive or procedural law.



Tom Ladouceur
States No Party
Preference

For 20 years, I have lived and practiced law in Cowlitz County, where I served as Deputy Prosecutor, City of Woodland Prosecutor, District Court Judge pro tem, and Deputy Public Defender.

I am now running for the office of Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney. I offer my diverse legal experience, strong work ethic, and proven good judgement. Enthusiastically endorsed by my colleagues, neighbors, family, and friends, I now seek your support and your vote.

The citizens of Cowlitz County deserve a prosecutor's office that protects the public with professionalism, hard work, and integrity. Together we can make this happen.



Sue Baur
Prefers Democratic Party

I am privileged to be your County Prosecutor. Growing up, I learned the important values of integrity, hard work, and protecting the vulnerable. I became a lawyer to prosecute crime: to give voice to the victimized, and hold offenders accountable. I've prosecuted, or supervised the prosecution of thousands of felonies including homicides and child abuse. I've administered 30+ employees through good and bad budget years while increasing services to victims. I worked to create the County's Children's Justice & Advocacy Center to minimize trauma to our children while increasing reliability of abuse investigations. I'm committed to seeking a just result.

COWLITZ COUNTY SHERIFF

The County Sheriff, by statute, is the “Chief Executive Officer and Conservator of the Peace of the County.” The major responsibilities of the Sheriff’s Office are general law enforcement services in the unincorporated county, maintenance of order, crime prevention and investigations, traffic control, marine enforcement, serving civil process (papers), and emergency services including search and rescue.

The Sheriff’s Office provides for security of the courts and works to coordinate mutual assistance between the federal, state, county, and city public safety offices and organizations.

The Sheriff’s Office conducts public awareness programs, informing the public about resisting criminal victimization, drug abuse, alcohol dependency, and responding to local emergencies.



Mark S. Nelson
Prefers Democratic Party

I am a life-long resident of Cowlitz County. I have spent a career serving my fellow citizens as a law enforcement officer. The citizens of this county deserve the best law enforcement available. As a fellow citizen and career law enforcement officer, I am committed to provide just that.

NO OTHER CANDIDATES FILED FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office is to work in partnership with the citizens of our communities to preserve the public peace, protect the rights of persons and property, prevent crime, and provide assistance to persons in urgent situations.

We will be courteous and professional in enforcing the laws of Cowlitz County, the State of Washington and the Constitution of the United States.

Working with our citizens, we will strive to provide a professional law enforcement presence to help increase the safety and security of citizens and improve the quality of life in Cowlitz County.

For more information on the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, visit: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/sheriff

COWLITZ COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is the Chief Financial Agent for Cowlitz County, and is also the Ex-officio Treasurer of all taxing districts within the county and Ex-officio Tax Collector of incorporated cities. The County Treasurer's Office collects and distributes taxes from real estate, personal property, real estate excise, and local improvement districts.

As custodian for all monies for Cowlitz County and local government jurisdictions, the Treasurer receives and distributes all revenues from federal, state and local sources, maintains funds and accounts, reports cash transactions and services long-term debt.

Surplus monies, not needed for immediate expenditure, are invested by the Treasurer, according to the laws of the state and policies established by the county.



Kathy Hanks
Prefers Democratic Party

Kathy has been employed with Cowlitz County for 21 years, serving the last 10 years as the Treasurer's Administrative Assistant. She served as cashier, reports deputy, account clerk and Administrative Assistant during employment with Cowlitz County. Kathy will continue to use technology to improve service and save tax dollars. Because of her experience, leadership, and integrity Kathy is the right person for the job.

Kathy and her husband Bob have been married for 36 years and reside in Kalama. She is a graduate of Lower Columbia Leadership Academy and is a member of Kelso Kiwanis.



Merritt (Buz) Ketcham
Prefers Republican Party

Proven Leadership: Combining 31 years managing large projects in the private sector (LFCO) and 18 years as elected Supervisor/Commissioner in the public sector (Longview Diking and PUD), I bring a successful track record of innovative leadership and fiscal restraint.

I completed graduate program courses in accounting and finance beyond my engineering degree plus experience in bond sales and conservative investment strategies. I have the education, experience and courageous leadership skills to manage the People's Money.

County officials are cutting expenses where they can. It is more important now than ever to stretch every dollar.

Please vote Buz Ketcham for strong leadership.

City of Castle Rock
Library Levy

Official Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
City of Castle Rock

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2010 for collection in 2011 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$56,000 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

YES _____

NO _____

Explanatory Statement:

The levy is needed to fund the Castle Rock library. Costs of operation of the library have been minimized. There is, however, a budget deficit for next year's operation.

Complete Text of Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-04

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK HAS, BY RESOLUTION DETERMINED TO ASK QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON, TO FUND BY SPECIAL EXCESS LEVY THE FURNISHING OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK AND WILL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL EXCISE LEVY ON REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE HAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK DURING THE YEAR 2011.

WHEREAS, the expected revenues coming to the General Fund of the City of Castle Rock during the year 2011 are inadequate to absorb the expenses of furnishing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock without impairing the obligation of labor and other contracts, and at the same time provide the other essential services to the citizens which are supported by the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, no other funds are available to defray the costs and expenses of the operation and maintenance of the library; and

WHEREAS, to adequately fund the furnishing of library services during the year 2011, the monies will have to come from a source other than General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to raise the required funds by an excess levy if approved by the voters of the City of Castle Rock at the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 17, 2010 Primary, and, if passed, levied in 2010 for collection in 2011, now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. That the following proposition be placed on the ballot of the election to be held August 17, 2010, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2010 for collection in 2011 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$56,000 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

Yes _____

No _____

City of Castle Rock
Library Levy...Continued

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 May 25, 2010, which is eighty-four days prior to the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 17, 2010 State Primary; 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 August 17, 2010 Primary 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 Special Election held in conjunction with the August 17, 2010 Primary.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Castle Rock and signed by the Mayor on this 22nd day of March, 2010.

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 \$56,079 for the year 2011. This levy would replace the levy amount that funded the 2010 library budget.

The levy, which would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home \$75, would enable the library to remain open 36 hours a week. It includes staff wages and operating costs. Approval would provide continued free public Internet access and 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. 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.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Bud May and Marsha Quigley

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

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

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Library Lid Lift

Official Ballot Title:

PROPOSITION #1
FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees adopted resolution 2010-5 concerning a proposition to authorize its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy to the allowable rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2011 to provide continued funding for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's normal operation and maintenance. Thereafter, such levy amount would be used for the purpose of computing limitations for subsequent levies as allowed by RCW 84.55. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?
 REJECTED?

Explanatory Statement:

RCW 84.55 allows Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) to collect up to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year for general operation and maintenance. FVRL has collected at a rate below \$0.50/\$1,000 since 2002 due to tax limitation laws. Passage of this proposition would restore FVRL's levy rate to \$0.50/\$1,000 for 2011. Thereafter, FVRL's levy rate would be subject to all applicable tax limitations, including the \$0.50/\$1,000 constitutional maximum and the 1% limit on annual property tax collection increases. Additional revenue collected in 2011 would be used to purchase more books and other items for check-out, and to restore library hours.

Complete Text of Resolution:

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Resolution 2010-5

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING A LEVY LID LIFT ELECTION FOR RESTORATION OF THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY AS PROVIDED IN RCW 84.55.

A regular meeting of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (Library District) Board of Trustees was held May 10, 2010 at the La Center Grange and attended by a quorum of the Board for the conduct of such business; and, after due consideration and deliberation, the following resolution was duly passed by a majority vote of all Trustees then attending.

WHEREAS, the Library District provides library services to the residents of Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties and the City of Woodland in Cowlitz County; and

WHEREAS, limitations imposed by Initiative 747 have caused the Library District's regular property tax levy rate to decline below the allowed maximum statutory amount; and

WHEREAS, in response to declining new revenue, the Library District in 2009 reduced its open hours by one day in each of its seven largest libraries and reduced staffing positions by 10%; and

WHEREAS, library usage continues to grow within the Library District and had increased by 8% in 2009, despite reduced hours; and

WHEREAS, the Library District has not been able to increase its book budget due to this ongoing decline in new revenue; and

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Library Lid Lift...Continued

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55 permits the Library District to place a measure on the ballot asking voters within its service area whether they would like to restore the Library District's levy rate to the allowable statutory limit; and

WHEREAS, a successful Levy Lid Lift election would provide the funding needed to restore library open hours that were lost in 2009 and substantially increase the book budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board of Trustees hereby calls for a Levy Lid Lift measure to be placed on the August 17, 2010 Primary Election ballot for all voters in the library district's legal service area, at which time the proposition to restore the regular property tax levy to its allowable maximum statutory amount shall be submitted to the voters for authorization.

Section 2. The proposition, if authorized by the voters of the taxing district, will restore the library district's levy rate to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Section 3. The ballot language shall be as follows:

PROPOSITION #1 FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees adopted resolution 2010-5 concerning a proposition to authorize its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy to the allowable rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2011 to provide continued funding for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's normal operation and maintenance. Thereafter, such levy amount would be used for the purpose of computing limitations for subsequent levies as allowed by RCW 84.55. Should this proposition be:

____ APPROVED?

____ REJECTED?

Section 4. The Board of Trustees authorizes and directs the Executive Director and/or his designee(s) to submit a copy of this resolution showing its adoption to the Clark, Skamania, Klickitat and Cowlitz County Auditors at least 45 days prior to the date of the next Primary Election.

Adopted this 10th day of May, 2010.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Library Lid Lift...Continued

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

We need our great libraries now more than ever.

When household budgets are stretched thin, people turn to libraries for no-fee books, magazines, Internet access, story times, programs and job-search help. As more and more companies require online applications, the library may be one of the few places the unemployed can get Internet access to apply for jobs.

But our library district – one of our most important resources for livable and healthy communities – can't meet this crying need because of severely reduced revenues. They've been forced to make deep cuts: slashing hours at seven libraries, reducing staff by 10 percent and eliminating some popular services. Their book-buying power has been flat for more than 10 years, falling far behind growing demand and resulting in long waits for books.

Restoring the full levy rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation will cost the owner of a \$200,000 house just \$16 more a year. Without approval, there's more at risk than not restoring hours or buying more books. More critical service cuts are likely in the future, including one less open day a week at the main library in Vancouver.

This is the first time in 17 years that the library district has gone to voters for increased funding for operations and maintenance. They know it's a tough time to be asking voters for more money. They've been good stewards of our tax money, making difficult cuts before asking us for help. It's our choice – let's get this right! Please vote YES.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Cecilia Mains

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

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

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