

# Franklin County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet



Franklin County Flag

## General Election November 6, 2012



Dear Voter,

In this Presidential election year we at the Franklin County Auditor’s Office are dedicated to our stated mission : To facilitate honest, transparent and accurate elections. Presidential election years always result in very high participation in the process. We stand ready to help you with all your elections needs and encourage you to act early to avoid long lines or inconvenient waits.

If any of the following apply to you I encourage you to act early:

- Name Changes
- Move to new address
- Lost your ballot
- New to the county
- Not currently registered to vote
- Did not receive a ballot for this year’s primary

The elections process is fundamental to the success of our Republic. The right to vote is protected by our US Constitution and looked upon by many as a civic duty. This voters guide is a great resource. Use it as a beginning point in your search for the information you will need to make an informed vote.

Sincerely,




Matt Beaton

**Contact Us**

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**Email:** [elections@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.franklin.wa.us)

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**Courthouse address:** 1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301

**Table of Contents**

Proposition No.1 Submitted by Fire Protection District 3.....82-83

Proposition No. 1 Submitted by Fire Protection District 4.....84

County Commissioner District 1.....85

County Commissioner District 2.....86

PUD Commissioner District 3.....87

**Ballot Drop Box Locations**

- Auditor’s Office, Elections Department  
1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco
- Courthouse Parking Lot  
1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco
- Election Center  
116 N 3rd Ave, Pasco
- TRAC  
6600 Burden Blvd, Pasco
- Franklin PUD Shop  
619 W Clark St, Connell
- Fire Protection District No. 3  
2108 Road 84, Pasco

**Submitted by Fire Protection District #3****Proposition Authorizing the Imposition of An Emergency Medical Service Tax Levy**

The proposition will authorize the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County Fire Protection District #3 to levy an emergency medical service tax levy in an amount not to exceed \$0.36 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2013 and 5 years thereafter.

Should this Proposition be enacted into law?

Yes

No

**Explanatory Statement**

If enacted this Proposition imposes a district wide property tax of \$.36 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The revenue from this tax may only be used to provide emergency medical service, which consists of the operation and maintenance of emergency medical response vehicles, ambulances, facilities, and equipment, and maintenance of trained staff to respond to medical emergencies.

**Statement For Proposition No. 1**

Due to recent contract changes between the City of Pasco and Franklin County Fire District #3 (FCFD3), the FCFD3 is requesting an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) levy to be placed on the ballot.

The last 20 years, Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service has been contracted with the city (current cost of \$30,000 dollars annually). The City of Pasco has requested termination of the existing agreement, an annual increase to \$90,000 for 2013 and \$180,000 for 2014 and beyond.

The original fee has been paid out of the FCFD3 fire protection budget. The new cost of 6 times this amount can no longer be paid out of the fire protection funds. FCFD3 is eligible to levy up to \$.50 per thousand but is requesting only \$.36 per thousand. This will provide funds to cover the ambulance cost and only 25% of the districts EMS response costs. The remaining 75% of the EMS response (payroll, training, apparatus maintenance and medical supplies) will be managed out of the fire levy funds.

Without the additional EMS levy, the FCFD3 will shortly deplete the reserve funds it has conservatively manage to maintain. These reserve funds have allowed this department to finance basic operations every year before that year's tax money becomes available and fund capital improvements and apparatus replacement without going into debt.

The Pro FCFD3 EMS Levy committee hopes the county residents will agree that this is the most fair method of funding ALS ambulance service for the future, and supports this vital service.

**Rebuttal of Statement Against**

\$0.36/\$1,000 assessed value is calculated by the District at \$313,000 annually. The District cannot levy different from one year to another.

The calculated funds cover 100% of the \$180,000 requested fee from the City, and medical supplies but only provides 25% cost of payroll, training, fuel and apparatus maintenance. The \$90,000 difference in 2013 is only a proposal. Medical calls represent 55% of all calls for service.

**Please support EMS availability.**

## Statement Against Proposition No. 1

Pasco charges \$30,000 annually for ambulance “standby”. Anyone requiring ambulance service pays Pasco an additional \$990.00 transport charge.

Pasco’s “standby” for 2013 will be \$45,000 due to cost increases and reductions in population from the initiated Riverview Area 2 annexation. The “standby” collected by Pasco is “free cash flow” generated from a fixed cost service, and is negotiable.

When Chief Litzenberger was asked “Do you have any estimates of what type of decrease in expenses the district anticipates due to the annexation?” he replied “Due to no longer maintaining one station and the apparatus it houses we will save approximately \$8,500 per year. This station will be sold realizing \$175-200,000. It is also very likely that we will have a reduction in force, saving approximately \$55,000 annually.”

Fire District 3 also maintains \$829,000 “excess reserves” in the bank, over 91% of its annual budget revenue (a typical fire district maintains a 20% “excess reserve”). The annexation savings and “excess reserve” is far more than adequate to cover Pasco’s negotiable standby fee increase.

Fire District 3 failed at its attempt to expel the majority of residents through annexation. It now demands that we each pay more for the same level of service which is easily maintained with existing resources.

Before paying to put this measure on the ballot, the EMS Levy should have been fully reviewed by a “Citizens Committee” to consider District finances, annexation impacts, and alternatives to Pasco’s ambulance service.

Vote **NO** on the unnecessary EMS Tax Levy.

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## Rebuttal of Statement For

At \$0.36/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, this Levy generates over \$360,000 annually in new taxes, an average of \$82 per household.

This new tax is six (6) times greater than Pasco’s 2013 “ambulance standby” increase, and two and one half (2.5) times for 2014 and beyond. District 3 should not impose a Levy which far exceeds Pasco’s “ambulance standby” increase.

Maintain existing service levels with existing tax resources.

Vote **NO** on the excessive EMS Tax Levy.

**Statement For Prepared by:** Pro Committee Spokesman, Ken Reynolds  
Contact: (509) 521-1103; kkreynolds@charter.net

**Rebuttal of Statement Against Prepared by:** Pro Committee Spokesman, Ken Reynolds  
Contact: (509) 521-1103; kkreynolds@charter.net

**Statement Against Prepared by:** Committee in Opposition to Fire Protection District No. 3 EMS Levy  
Roger E. Lenk, Dr. Steven Schlegel  
Contact: c4lp99301@gmail.com

**Rebuttal of Statement For Prepared by:** Committee in Opposition to Fire Protection District No. 3 EMS Levy  
Roger E. Lenk, Dr. Steven Schlegel  
Contact: c4lp99301@gmail.com

Franklin County Auditor’s Office is not responsible for the content of arguments or statements.

**Submitted by Fire Protection District #4**

**Proposition Authorizing the Increase of Existing Property Tax Levies**

The proposition will authorize the Board of Commissioners of the District to increase its regular property tax levy to an amount not to exceed \$0.70 per \$1000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2013 and to authorize setting a limit factor of 3% for each of the five succeeding years for the purpose of providing fire protection services.

Should this Proposition be enacted into law?

Yes

No

**Explanatory Statement**

Franklin County Fire District 4 commissioners have passed Resolution No. 2012-3 to place a levy increase on the November, 2012 ballot. Approval of this levy will allow FCFD #4 to maintain its current level of fire protection services for the residents of Fire District 4.

**Statement For Proposition No. 1**

The committee for approval of the levy on the November ballot feel that FCFD 4 has need of increased funding for replacing outdated equipment as well as additional truck replacement to meet insurance requirements for its residents. There is additional need for vehicle storage and building maintenance as well as maintaining a high level of training for its volunteers. Cost increases in all phases of fire suppression equipment make it difficult to continue at an acceptable level of safety for the volunteers as well as the residents of Franklin County Fire District 4.

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**Rebuttal of Statement For**

No Rebuttal of Statement Submitted.

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**Statement Against Proposition No. 1**

No Statement Against Submitted.

**Statement For Prepared by:** Pro Committee, Dennis L. Koreis, Contact: sherry.koreis@gmail.com, Edward M. Zurcher, Contact: bczurchers@yahoo.com, (509) 269-4437, Scott D. Smith, Contact: scsmith@smwireless.net

Franklin County Auditor's Office is not responsible for the content of arguments or statements.

## Brad Peck

(Prefers Republican Party)



**Elected Experience:** Franklin County Commissioner 2009 to present; elected Chairman of the Board 2010 and 2012.

**Other Professional Experience:** Retired U.S. Air Force officer. Desert Storm (Gulf War) veteran. Advisor to Air Force Chief of Staff (Pentagon). Squadron Commander. Served in Middle East countries, the Pentagon, and throughout the U.S. Managed multi-million dollar budgets leading teams of nearly 400 people. Multiple military awards and decorations. Five years experience working in nuclear power generation.

**Education:** Master of Science, Eastern Washington University 1997. Bachelor of Arts, Central Washington University 1981. Extensive formal management and leadership training.

**Community Service:** Currently serve on more than 20 Tri Cities boards and committees.

**Statement:** Four years ago I asked for your support to bring increased accountability to county government. Since taking office in January 2009 I have significantly cut travel costs, reduced the size of county government, frozen Commissioner pay through 2016, and cut county spending. I have also demanded increased accountability from county departments that spend your tax dollars. That leadership and strong emphasis on accountability helped uncover a multi-million dollar fraud that had gone undiscovered for more than two decades in the county's public works department.

I strongly support quality education with schools funded by the entire community, not just selected businesses or people. I believe we need to protect private landowners from excessive environmental regulation, increase industrial development to reduce taxes on individuals, and provide legal options for farm workers to ensure we have the manpower necessary to support our agricultural economy.

I remain committed to limited government, low taxes, individual accountability, and the premise that government's primary responsibility is to help citizens succeed in their chosen endeavors, not regulate and tax those endeavors.

My wife and I have spent several years faithfully restoring the Moore Mansion in Pasco. We enjoy hosting community events at our historic home and property.

**For more information:** (509) 727-2808; lbp@charter.

## Mark Faith

(Prefers Republican Party)



**Elected Experience:** No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience:** No information submitted.

**Education:** Graduated Kennewick High School 1984, AA Degree Columbia Basin college 1991, Graduated NJATC IBEW Electrical Apprentice program 2003, Attended Central Washington University, Washington State University and Corbin College.

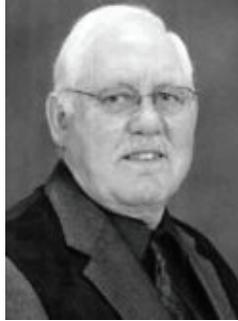
**Community Service:** Involved in church youth programs AWANA, Master Club. Participated and coached youth football 2005- 2011.

**Statement:** Did you know that the farmers of Franklin County are extremely diversified and produce over 130 different crops? Did you know that Franklin County is home to some of the largest and best dairy's and beef producers in Washington State? Did you know that the Ben Franklin Transit system supports our community by providing transportation for thousands of residents? Last year 4,952,503 people counted on the transit system to get them where they needed to go. Where you aware that Franklin County boasts some of the finest construction builders and developers in the industry? Franklin County, including the City of Pasco, issued over 543 building permits for new homes in 2007 alone. Have you considered the wonderful asset Franklin County has in the TRAC facility? TRAC promotes agriculture, farmers, culture, the arts, sports, family and community. My name is Mark Faith and I have a passion for the health and prosperity of our community. As your Commissioner I will work hard to support the fantastic job our community is already doing. I will work tirelessly to promote the community I've described above. I'm asking for your vote and for the privilege of serving as your next Franklin County Commissioner.

**For more information:** (509) 528-1128; mark\_faith@msn.com; faithforcommissioner.com

## Bob Koch

(Prefers Republican Party)



**Elected Experience:** County Commissioner: 2004 elected to his first term and re-elected in 2008 for a second term.

**Other Professional Experience:** Opened All State Auto Electric in 1964 and operated the business until a fire in 2001. Fire District #1 Fire Chief for 20 years, Connell City Fire Chief for 15 yrs. Served as Franklin County Fire Marshal with an International Fire Code Inspector Certification.

**Education:** Graduated from Stillwater High School in Minnesota. Attended Olympic College in Bremerton.

**Community Service:** He is member of Connell Development Association, Eagles Nest, Connell Heritage Museum, Franklin County Historical Museum and an active member of Connell United Methodist Church.

**Statement:** Bob Koch is in his second term as Franklin County Commissioner. He came from the private industry with thirty five years of experience as a self employed businessman. He has been involved in working with Doc Hastings and BLM in Washington, DC on the Juniper Dunes access that has been approved. Was instrumental in the formation of Fire District #5, formerly known as "No Mans Land". Also the Road 100 extension that is about to completed. During his time as Franklin County Commissioner, he has been appointed to numerous boards and committees by his peers. At the county level he is appointed to twenty four boards or committees with five as Chairman. At the state level he has been appointed to the State Building Code Council, County Road Administration Board, State Invasive Species Council and the Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund Committee as Chair. At the national level, he is Vice/Chair of Ag and Rural Affairs. It is his distinct pleasure to represent Franklin County as your County Commissioner and looking forward to continuing. He lives in Connell with his wife of 34 years and has 3 adult daughters.

**For more information:** (509) 546-7088;  
rekoch42@gmail.com

## Al Yenney

(Prefers Republican Party)



**Elected Experience:** No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience:** No information submitted.

**Education:** No information submitted.

**Community Service:** No information submitted.

**Statement:** I would be honored to be your next county commissioner for position two. My experience being on Pasco city council and advanced municipal training will help me guide Franklin county. Your personal and property rights will be defended.

I graduated from PHS in 1964, a decorated veteran, with a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge. I grew up on a family farm twenty miles north of Pasco that is still family owned. I have owned my business Al's Repair since 1971.

As a Pasco city councilman I serve on several committees, Benton/Franklin council of governments, Hanford area economic investment fund, Community Action Connection. I am active in Pasco Kiwanis, Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin veterans coalition and the NRA which gives me the opportunity to be involved with the community I believe in open and transparent government. My goal is to serve the citizen of Franklin County. I would appreciate your vote

**For more information:** (509) 547-8021;  
alrepair@clearwire.net

## Stu Nelson

(Nonpartisan)



**Elected Experience:** No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience:** No information submitted.

**Education:** No information submitted.

**Community Service:** No information submitted.

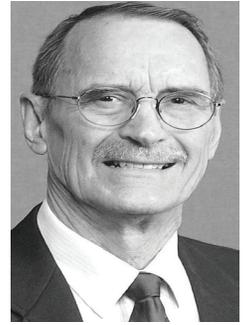
**Statement:** I've been a resident of Pasco for 53 years. I've served on the Pasco Planning Commission and School Levy Committees. I've been on the P.U.D Board 9 years. Since I've been on the Board we have reduced our rates and improved our service in all areas.

I've been a local business owner for 34 years – Stu's Teamsports in downtown Pasco.

I'm on the Board of Trustees for Northwest Public Power – Participants Review Board for Energy Northwest. Represent the P.U.D at the Public Power Council and Washington P.U.D Association with my 9 years and sitting on Regional Power Boards. Background and experience bring strength within this Position. The Industry faces significant ongoing challenges and rate pressures.

## Tom Larsen

(Nonpartisan)



**Elected Experience:** No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience:** No information submitted.

**Education:** No information submitted.

**Community Service:** No information submitted.

**Statement:** As Franklin County Public Utility District Commissioner I will work for policies which protect our property and privacy rights. This can be done by making sure that rate payer's interests come first over those of politicians and big business. My family has lived 36 years in Franklin County. I presently have over 10 years of service on Pasco City Council. Other local experience is real estate loan officer, and broker. Prior to this, I earned a BA Degree in Economics and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). In addition I was an airplane electrician in the U.S. Navy and grew up on my father's farm and ranch.

For more information: [commishsn@gmail.com](mailto:commishsn@gmail.com)

For more information: (509) 545-9916