

Bond, Levy, and Ballot Issue Information

Local Ballot Issues and Measures...

Only local jurisdictions have the authority to request a special election by submitting a resolution to the Auditor's Office. There is no provision in statute for placing a measure on the ballot by citizen petition in Grays Harbor County except for the City of Ocean Shores. See [Ordinance 548](#) for details. All issues and measures are submitted by the jurisdictions.

For more petition questions, please visit the Office of the Secretary of State's website at: [Circulating Initiative and Referendum Petitions](#)

Common Issues and Measures Presented to Grays Harbor County Voters...

Taxation Measures:

Bonds- Bond issues allow for the collection of tax monies and creation of long term bonds, typically for the purpose of constructing, repairing, and/or creating structures and facilities.

Levies- Levies allow for the collection of a set amount of tax monies over a short period, typically for the purpose of jurisdiction maintenance, operation, and continuity of service. Occasionally they may be earmarked for upgrades or enhancements of existing services.

Levy Lid Lifts- Levy lid lifts, or levy lid increases, do exactly what the name implies. They lift the lid on the existing levy, temporarily increasing the amount of tax money collected by the district.

Sales and Use Tax- Generally a tax placed directly upon users of a general service within a jurisdiction for the purpose of continuing services when operating costs exceed anticipated revenues.

Other Measures:

Advisory Votes- Advisory votes are non-binding questions placed before the voters of a jurisdiction for the purpose of assisting the council or commissioners in a decision making event.

Changing of Form of Government- A request to change the classification of a jurisdiction. Example: town to city, or city council/mayor form of government to city council/manager.

Voter Approval Requirements...

Levy Lid Lifts, School Levies, and Sales and Use Taxes- Require a simple majority, 50% + 1 vote.

Excess Levies- Require a minimum "yes" vote and a super majority to pass, 60% (minimum "yes" vote is calculated 24% of the number of voters in the district who participated in the last year's general election).

Bonds- Require 40% validation and super majority to pass, 60% (validation means enough voters participated in the election in order to consider it valid).

Other Measures- Passage or voter approval of the other measures will vary. Refer to statute.

Bond, Levy, and Ballot Issue Information

ELECTION YEAR

RCW 29A.04, 29A.52 & 29A.80

The year of an election determines the jurisdictions participating. For example, U.S. President and Vice President appear only on the general election ballot every four years. Charter counties may adopt different schedules for county or special purpose elections.

Year of Election	Primary	General Election
Scheduled jurisdictions Odd Year -City, town and special purpose districts -Vacant partisan offices -Vacant judicial offices (other than district court) -Regularly scheduled charter county and judicial offices	Nonpartisan offices (except cemetery & park) w/ 3 or more candidates Partisan offices Judges — use Judicial Offices in Washington State chart Local measures	The top two vote-getters from the primary Any races skipping the primary State initiatives and referenda (provided by the Secretary of State's Office) Judges — use Judicial Offices in Washington State chart Local measures
Even Year -Federal & state offices -Judicial offices -Partisan county offices -Public Utility Districts (PUD)	Partisan offices — all races Nonpartisan offices w/ 3 or more candidates Judges — use Judicial Offices in Washington State chart Local measures PCO w/ 2 or more candidates in major party race	The top two vote-getters from the primary Any races skipping the primary (except PCO) State initiatives and referenda (provided by the Secretary of State's Office) Judges — use Judicial Offices in Washington State chart Local measures Presidential nominees

Additional Resources...

[Office of the Secretary of State Elections & Voting](#)
[Department of Revenue Guide to Ballot Measures](#)

