



HB 2421: Election Funding in Washington

Washington State Association of County Auditors

Thurston County Auditor's Office

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Thurston County Auditor

History: How we got here

- School districts in the 1940s
- Other local governments in the 1950s
- Odd year election funding in the 1970s
- Even year funding 2019!!

How we got here

Olympian opinion piece on “Fair Share” election funding from 1993!

► **OUR VIEW:** ELECTION COSTS ARE SHIFTED FROM STATE TO SMALL TAXING DISTRICTS

State should pay

This state's funding formula for recouping election costs is all screwed up.

In 1971 the state shifted the responsibility for conducting elections to the county level. Counties got the responsibility, but no money.

Consider this fact:

The state will reimburse counties for portions of general election costs in odd years when there

Election costs

■ **The problem:** The state has shifted responsibility for conducting elections to the county level. But the state refuses to pay its fair share of election costs.

Those commissioners serve without pay.

But park commissioners have to be elected. Under the state's cost-sharing formula for elections, the parks district was sent a bill for \$1,700 in 1991. This year's costs are expected to be \$1,800.

The district has yet to pass a bond issue so residents are starting music festivals, selling hot

2019: State Will Pay Their Share (We did it!!)



Laying the groundwork

Listening Tour

- There were a lot of misconceptions about what the "ask" actually was.
- King County legislators were a major roadblock.
- Daryl Daus from Kitsap met with Chair of Ways and Means Rolfes, another roadblock.

Key legislators focus

- Governor's office: Really, we don't pay?
- Senator Billig with Vicky and Heidi (caucus influence)
- Rolfes: Postage Costs
- Hunt: Voters Pamphlet
- Gregerson and House Democrats: Outreach

Meetings Auditors had with their Legislators

How we got to the finish line

- Mary Hall, Mike Shaw, Jennifer Wallace met with Senator Hunt to draft new bill
- Meetings with the influencers
- Ballot Processing Center tour with Caucus staff to Appropriations
- Presented to Commissioners at WSAC annual meeting in Spokane
- Senator Rolfes Chair of Ways and Means – Kitsap satisfied postage issue – this was key
- Key meetings
 - Senator Liias – House floor leader (caucus influence and pulls to floor)
 - Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib guaranteed to pass it out of rules
 - Representative Ormsby – Chair of House Appropriations
 - Senator David Frockt - Vice Chair of Ways and Means
 - David Postman – Chief of Staff, Governors support
- Mike Shaw was awesome!

HB 2421 (SB 6134)

Milestones:

- Exec'd (passed) out of House Appropriations on Feb 8
- Passed the House 80-16 (2 excused) on Feb 13
- Exec'd out of Senate Ways & Means on Mar 2
- Eliminated 10% Voter Outreach money
- Passed Senate 42-2 (5 excused) on Mar 4 with amendments
- House concurred to amendments, final passage 96-1 Mar 10
- Session ended March 12
- Governor signed into law on Apr 3

- SB 6134 had also passed out of the Senate Ways & Means committee
- It takes a village

What does HB 2421 do?

- State reimburses their costs in even years beginning in 2022 – finally!!
- Clearly defines that federal elections are included in the states share
- New responsibilities
 - Postage added as an election cost in our billing
 - Voters' Pamphlets printed and distributed for all counties
- Implementation date: July 1, 2021

2018 Election Costs by County

County	State Share	County Share	Other Jurisdictions	TOTAL
Adams	\$ 32,641.83	\$ 30,685.65	\$ 2,809.09	\$ 66,136.57
Asotin	\$ 9,094.98	\$ 9,094.98	\$ 19,480.47	\$ 37,670.43
Benton	\$ 162,145.02	\$ 185,249.45	\$ 40,821.62	\$ 388,216.08
Chelan	\$ 200,004.00	\$ 207,392.00	\$ 49,788.00	\$ 457,184.00
Clallam	\$ 105,510.30	\$ 131,313.77	\$ 37,717.80	\$ 274,541.87
Clark	\$ 434,919.53	\$ 322,971.83	\$ 103,908.56	\$ 861,799.92
Columbia	\$ 4,446.05	\$ 4,815.27	\$ 3,211.36	\$ 12,472.68
Cowlitz	\$ 121,276.21	\$ 129,568.45	\$ 30,787.69	\$ 281,632.35
Douglas	\$ 73,043.70	\$ 51,718.40	\$ 21,296.57	\$ 146,058.67
Ferry	\$ 12,282.46	\$ 9,380.79	\$ 2,040.75	\$ 23,704.00
Franklin*	\$ 128,588.01	\$ 127,903.90	\$ 40,054.68	\$ 296,546.59
Garfield	\$ 3,316.52	\$ 3,472.23	\$ -	\$ 6,788.75
Grant*	\$ 26,287.54	\$ 26,287.54	\$ 81,636.22	\$ 134,211.30
Grays Harbor	\$ 88,891.00	\$ 91,549.00	\$ 8,579.00	\$ 189,019.00
Island	\$ 113,093.71	\$ 97,191.28	\$ 36,722.38	\$ 247,007.37
Jefferson	\$ 50,637.26	\$ 48,327.88	\$ 30,133.72	\$ 129,098.86
King	\$ 5,456,208.98	\$ 5,456,208.98	\$ 1,428,397.81	\$ 12,340,815.78
Kitsap	\$ 522,953.20	\$ 608,663.18	\$ 198,010.96	\$ 1,329,627.34
Kittitas	\$ 40,541.00	\$ 40,541.00	\$ 22,145.47	\$ 103,227.47
Klickitat	\$ 31,235.32	\$ 35,384.88	\$ 17,525.66	\$ 84,145.87
Lewis	\$ 48,698.03	\$ 78,644.28	\$ 7,842.59	\$ 135,184.90
Lincoln	\$ 44,635.29	\$ 19,606.10	\$ 1,289.57	\$ 65,530.96
Mason	\$ 96,671.00	\$ 91,252.00	\$ 29,964.00	\$ 217,887.00
Okanogan	\$ 49,042.72	\$ 40,624.71	\$ 7,720.03	\$ 97,387.46
Pacific	\$ 21,893.19	\$ 21,893.19	\$ 32,945.44	\$ 76,731.82
Pend Oreille	\$ 42,720.15	\$ 23,417.80	\$ 10,799.41	\$ 76,937.36
Pierce	\$ 918,759.00	\$ 1,096,976.00	\$ 603,315.00	\$ 2,619,050.00
San Juan	\$ 82,550.98	\$ 53,664.11	\$ 6,665.99	\$ 142,881.08
Skagit	\$ 128,239.26	\$ 186,452.15	\$ 32,869.06	\$ 347,560.47
Skamania	\$ 27,064.48	\$ 41,130.68	\$ 5,494.31	\$ 73,689.47
Snohomish	\$ 878,282.02	\$ 439,141.01	\$ 538,823.23	\$ 1,856,246.26
Spokane	\$ 386,682.37	\$ 535,219.20	\$ 5,650.87	\$ 927,552.44
Stevens	\$ 71,321.39	\$ 63,227.56	\$ 3,557.86	\$ 138,106.81
Thurston	\$ 582,327.56	\$ 352,029.48	\$ 121,998.21	\$ 1,056,355.25
Wahkiakum	\$ 13,669.71	\$ 7,031.19	\$ 12,887.67	\$ 33,588.57
Walla Walla	\$ 102,871.33	\$ 104,520.50	\$ 12,183.15	\$ 219,574.98
Whatcom	\$ 711,284.00	\$ 205,642.00	\$ 139,643.00	\$ 1,056,569.00
Whitman	\$ 78,520.00	\$ 86,703.00	\$ 8,525.00	\$ 173,748.00
Yakima	\$ 204,289.65	\$ 233,068.47	\$ 13,929.57	\$ 451,287.69
TOTAL	\$ 12,106,638.75	\$ 11,297,963.90	\$ 3,771,171.77	\$ 27,175,774.42

*Includes estimates

Actual Postage Cost to Jr. Districts if billed in 2019

				TOTAL ALLOCATED COST			\$ 309,591			Total Cost			312,891
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Estimated Additional Billing for Postage per Jurisdiction
Jurisdiction	Registered Voters	Issues & Office #	Issue and Office Factor	Weighted Registration Factor	Percentage Cost Factor	Allocation of Election Costs	Total Basic Fee	Direct Costs	Adjusted TOTAL COST	Fund 010	Fund 109	Check Fields TOTAL COST	
City of Lacey	33,248	1	1	33,248	0.122188	\$ 37,828.26	\$ 300.00		\$ 38,128.26	\$ 38,128.26	\$ 5,719.24	\$ 43,847.50	\$ 1,551.86
City of Olympia	39,147	3	1.4	54,806	0.201414	\$ 62,355.87	\$ 300.00		\$ 62,655.87	\$ 62,655.87	\$ 9,398.38	\$ 72,054.25	\$ 2,558.07
City of Yelm	5,400	1	1	5,400	0.019845	\$ 6,143.91	\$ 300.00		\$ 6,443.91	\$ 6,443.91	\$ 966.59	\$ 7,410.50	\$ 252.05
Centralia SD #401	304	1	1	304	0.001117	\$ 345.88	\$ 300.00		\$ 645.88	\$ 645.88	\$ 96.88	\$ 742.76	\$ 14.19
North Thurston Public Sc	72,554	1	1	72,554	0.266639	\$ 82,549.07	\$ 300.00		\$ 82,849.07	\$ 82,849.07	\$ 12,427.36	\$ 95,276.43	\$ 3,386.47
Olympia SD #111	51,988	1	1	51,988	0.191058	\$ 59,149.89	\$ 300.00		\$ 59,449.89	\$ 59,449.89	\$ 8,917.48	\$ 68,367.37	\$ 2,426.54
Tenino SD #402	7,208	1	1	7,208	0.026490	\$ 8,200.98	\$ 300.00		\$ 8,500.98	\$ 8,500.98	\$ 1,275.15	\$ 9,776.13	\$ 336.44
Yelm Community School	18,946	1	1	18,946	0.069627	\$ 21,556.01	\$ 300.00		\$ 21,856.01	\$ 21,856.01	\$ 3,278.40	\$ 25,134.41	\$ 884.30
West Thurston (Littlerock	6,946	1	1	6,946	0.025527	\$ 7,902.88	\$ 300.00		\$ 8,202.88	\$ 8,202.88	\$ 1,230.43	\$ 9,433.31	\$ 324.19
West Thurston (Rochest	8,293	1	1	8,293	0.030477	\$ 9,435.45	\$ 300.00		\$ 9,735.45	\$ 9,735.45	\$ 1,460.32	\$ 11,195.77	\$ 387.08
Fire 9 McLane BL	12,413	1	1	12,413	0.045618	\$ 14,123.02	\$ 300.00		\$ 14,423.02	\$ 14,423.02	\$ 2,163.45	\$ 16,586.47	\$ 579.38
TOTALS	256,447	13	11.4	272,106	1.000000	\$ 309,591.22	\$ 3,300.00	0	\$ 312,891.22	\$ 312,891.22	\$ 46,933.68	\$ 359,824.90	\$ 12,700.57

Approximately a 3% increase

Example of junior taxing district voters' pamphlet costs

Allocation Factor of 1 plus .2 Thurston County 2019 Voter Pamphlet Primary Election				TOTAL ALLOCATED COST \$ 23,271					Total Cost 23,271		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Jurisdiction	Registered Voters	Issues & Office #	Issue and Office Factor	Weighted Registration Factor	Percentage Cost Factor	Allocation of Election Costs	Total Basic Fee	Adjusted TOTAL COST	Fund 010	Fund 109	Check Fields TOTAL COST
City of Lacey	33,248	1	1	33,248	0.122188	\$ 2,843.44		\$ 2,843.44	\$ 2,843.44	\$ 426.52	\$ 3,269.96
City of Olympia	39,147	3	1.4	54,806	0.201414	\$ 4,687.12		\$ 4,687.12	\$ 4,687.12	\$ 703.07	\$ 5,390.19
City of Yelm	5,400	1	1	5,400	0.019845	\$ 461.82		\$ 461.82	\$ 461.82	\$ 69.27	\$ 531.09
Centralia SD #401	304	1	1	304	0.001117	\$ 26.00		\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 3.90	\$ 29.90
North Thurston	72,554	1	1	72,554	0.266639	\$ 6,204.98		\$ 6,204.98	\$ 6,204.98	\$ 930.75	\$ 7,135.73
Olympia School 111	51,988	1	1	51,988	0.191058	\$ 4,446.13		\$ 4,446.13	\$ 4,446.13	\$ 666.92	\$ 5,113.05
Tenino SD #402	7,208	1	1	7,208	0.026490	\$ 616.44		\$ 616.44	\$ 616.44	\$ 92.47	\$ 708.91
Yelm Community Schools	18,946	1	1	18,946	0.069627	\$ 1,620.31		\$ 1,620.31	\$ 1,620.31	\$ 243.05	\$ 1,863.36
West Thurston (Littlerock)	6,946	1	1	6,946	0.025527	\$ 594.04		\$ 594.04	\$ 594.04	\$ 89.11	\$ 683.15
West Thurston (Rochester)	8,293	1	1	8,293	0.030477	\$ 709.24		\$ 709.24	\$ 709.24	\$ 106.39	\$ 815.63
Fire 9 McLane BL	12,413	1	1	12,413	0.045618	\$ 1,061.59		\$ 1,061.59	\$ 1,061.59	\$ 159.24	\$ 1,220.83
TOTALS	256,447	13	11.4	272,106	1.000000	\$ 23,271.11	\$ -	\$ 23,271.11	\$ 23,271.11	\$ 3,490.67	26,761.78

Stakeholders

- Cities
- Ports
- School
- Fire Districts

Should have bought them in earlier.

Meet on an annual basis to build relationships.

Financial hardship clause

- RCW 29A.32.220
- (2). If the required appearance in a county's voters' pamphlet of the offices or measures of a unit of local government would create undue financial hardship for the unit of government, the legislative authority of the unit may petition the legislative authority of the county to waive this requirement. The legislative authority of the county may provide such a waiver if it does so not later than sixty days before the publication of the pamphlet and it finds that the requirement would create such hardship.

How do we keep HB 2421?

- 2021 will be a session on defense
- Continue building relationships
- Pick our battles. Work *behind the scenes* to kill bills.
- Focus on overwhelming support in both houses and both caucuses.
- Mike Shaw??

Introduction to Voters' Pamphlets

- Create a document that provides information on candidates and measures
- 29A.32.220 outlines what must be in the voters' pamphlet
 - "Official local voter pamphlet"
 - Date of primary or election
 - For and Against statements for each measure
 - County Auditors name may not appear in the year they are on the ballot
 - You can mail to every registered voter household or saturation
- Must adopt administrative rules 29A.32.230
 - Outlines deadlines
 - Length of for and against documents
 - Reasons for rejection of candidate statements
 - States that statements cannot be libelous or inappropriate
 - Appeal process in case of rejection
- Must distribute to jurisdictions on the ballot

Voters' pamphlet production

- Single issue pamphlet – 8 X 11 insert with the ballot

Orting School District No. 344

(360) 893-6500

Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

See complete resolution text at
PierceCountyElections.org

Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Orting School District No. 344 adopted Resolution No. 3.2019-2020, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for education. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2021	\$2.07	\$3,900,000
2022	\$2.07	\$4,100,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 3.2019-2020. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Orting School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2020. The taxes collected by this levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including after school activities and athletics, classroom instructional materials, technology, safety and security enhancements, staffing and substitutes, staff professional development, transportation services, and general maintenance and equipment.

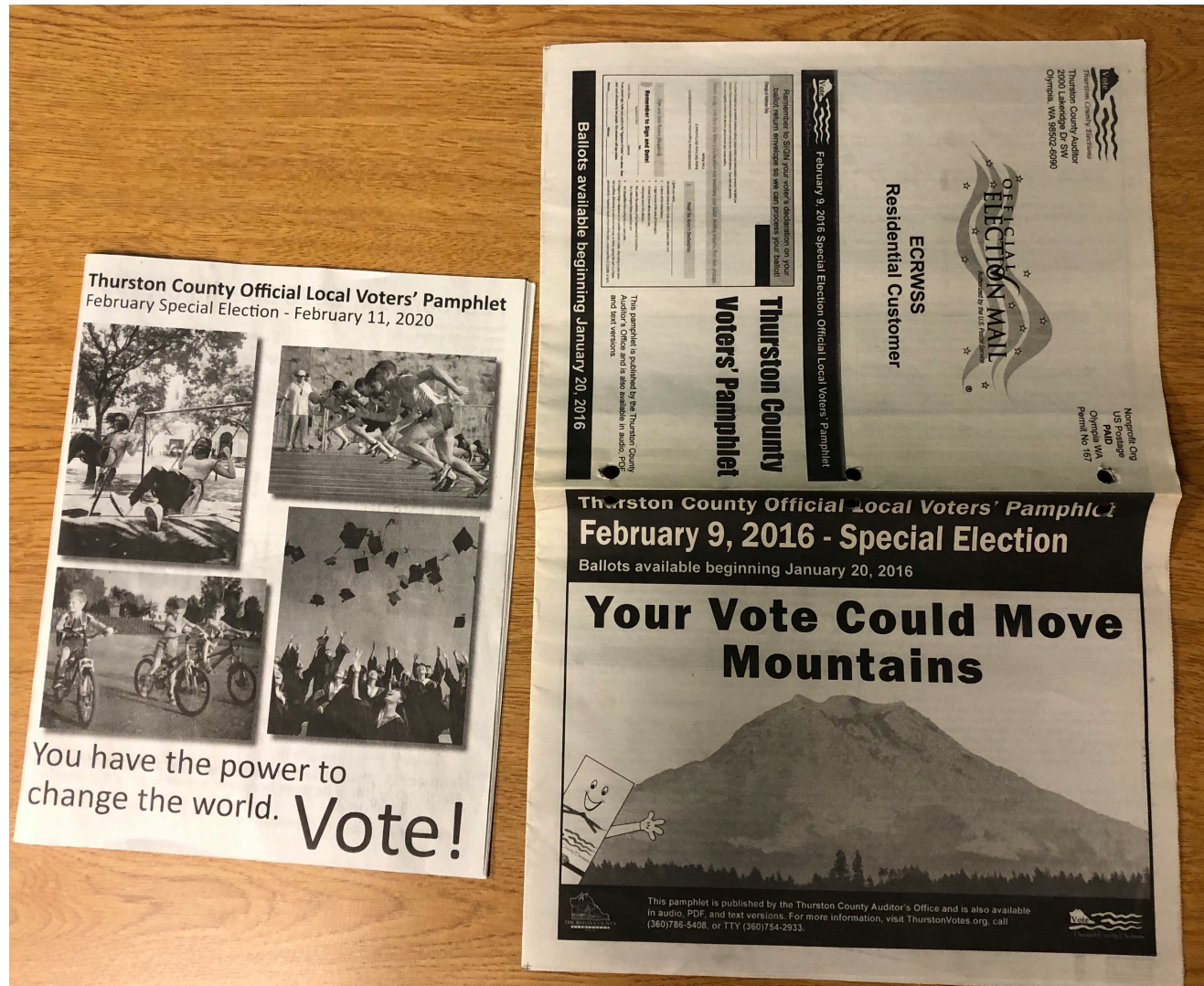
The proposed two-year replacement educational programs and operations levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$3,900,000 in 2021 and \$4,100,000 in 2022. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Pierce County Assessor at 253.798.2169.

Statement For

Vote Yes for our kids and schools!
Our 2,700 students are counting us! The state provides the bare minimum funding required to meet the educational needs of Orting students who deserve our local support with a Yes vote on the Educational Programs and

Statement Against

Voters' pamphlet production



Voters' Pamphlet production

[illegible]

Voters' pamphlet production support

- Share InDesign files/templates for all formats
- Share extra space filler information graphics
 - Basecamp, WSACA website
- Form partnerships with counties to contract out work as a group
- We'll help in any way we can
- Other ideas?

Questions?

Contact Us

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