

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PROPOSITION 1
LEVY LID LIFT FOR
PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Explanatory Statement

Since 2008, Mercer Island has had a parks levy lid lift to pay the costs of operating and maintaining City parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities, including the full costs of operating and maintaining Luther Burbank Park. The current parks levy lid lift was approved by Mercer Island voters in 2008 and is set to expire on December 31, 2023.

Proposition 1 is a replacement parks levy that will fund operations and maintenance of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, including Luther Burbank Park, and will fund playground replacements and forest restoration at Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. Details about the levy lid lift are described in City Ordinance No. 22-13.

If approved, this proposition increases the parks levy from \$980,122 in 2022 to \$1,629,322 in 2023 and sets the maximum City property tax levy rate at \$0.862/\$1,000 for 2023. The 2023 levy amount would be used to calculate subsequent levies for 15 years thereafter, per RCW 84.55.050.

Because collections under this parks levy lid lift will begin in 2023, the City will end the existing parks levy one year early as declared in Resolution No. 1628, should voters approve this replacement levy.

Proposition 1 is estimated to cost the owner of a median-valued \$2,375,000 Mercer Island home \$18.94 per month in 2023, which is an estimated increase of \$7.55 per month compared to the current parks levy in 2022. Qualifying seniors, disabled veterans, and others are exempt, per RCW 84.36.381.

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM:

Bio Park, City Attorney