



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6124
July 19, 2022
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6124: Parks Levy Pro and Con Committee Appointments (Res. No. 1629)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Resolution No. 1629 appointing members to the parks levy pro and con committees.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1629 - appointing members to the parks levy pro and con committees
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	2. Articulate, confirm, and communicate a vision for effective and efficient city services. Stabilize the organization, optimize resources, and develop a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to appoint the members of the pro and con committees for the upcoming parks levy renewal ballot measure appearing on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

- The entity placing a measure on the ballot typically facilitates the formation of a pro and con committee to prepare respective statements (and rebuttals) for inclusion in the local voter’s pamphlet.
- The pro and con committees will agree to submit statements in favor of and in opposition to the park levy renewal ballot measure for the local voters’ pamphlet.
- The City Manager and staff began soliciting applicants from the community to serve on the pro and con committees in early July. The solicitation included an article on the [Park Levy Let’s Talk Page](#), an article in the MI weekly email, an advertisement in the MI reporter, and messaging on all City social media profiles.
- At the time of publication of this agenda bill, the application deadline for the pro and con committees had been extended to Noon on Friday, July 15, 2022.

- All applications will be forwarded to City Council for review by the close of business on Friday, July 15, 2022.
- The City Council will select up to three individuals for each committee and approve Resolution No. 1629.

BACKGROUND

Parks Levy Renewal

The current parks levy was approved by the Mercer Island community in 2008 and expires at the end of 2023. The current levy provides funding to operate and maintain Luther Burbank Park and supports operations at all City parks, trails, athletic fields, open spaces, and recreation facilities.

At the June 7, 2022 ([AB 6090](#)) and the June 21, 2022 ([AB 6105](#)) City Council meetings, the Council discussed placing the parks levy renewal on the ballot a year early and considered a number of parks levy renewal scenarios.

At the June 21, 2022 City Council meeting, the Council directed the City Manager to bring for the Council's consideration a draft ordinance for a November 8, 2022 special election for the renewal of the parks levy to include the base parks levy plus Alternative B as summarized in the table on the next page.

At the July 5, 2022 City Council meeting, staff presented Ordinance No. 22-13 for first reading and sought City Council review and feedback on the ordinance, ballot caption and description, and the explanatory statement (see AB 6111).

Staff is presenting Ordinance No. 22-13 for a second reading and adoption at the July 19, 2022 City Council meeting (see AB 6121).

Recruitment for Pro and Con Committees for Park Levy Renewal

Although it is not a legal requirement, the entity placing a measure on the ballot typically facilitates the formation of a pro and con committee to prepare respective statements (and rebuttals) for inclusion in the local voter's pamphlet.

Upon receiving direction from the City Council to prepare a ballot measure, the staff began soliciting applicants from the community to serve on the pro and con committees. The solicitation included an article on the [Park Levy Let's Talk Page](#), an article in the MI weekly email, an advertisement in the MI reporter, and messaging on all City social media profiles.

Those interested in applying were asked to submit an application by 12pm on July 11, 2022. To give ample time for more applicants to complete the process, the deadline for the recruitment was extended to Noon on Friday, July 15. City Council will review these applications and appoint members of the committees at the July 19, 2022 City Council meeting.

The application materials will be forwarded to the City Council for review by the close of business on July 15, 2022.

Responsibilities of Each Party

The information below describes the responsibilities of the pro and con committee members, the City, and King County Elections.

Responsibilities of Members of Pro/Con Committees

The pro and con committees commit to submitting statements in favor of and in opposition to the park levy renewal ballot measure for the local voters' pamphlet.

Additionally, the committees are responsible for the following: Submitting pro/con statement, following all guidelines, to King County Elections by 4:30 p.m. on August 9, 2022 and submitting rebuttal statement, following all guidelines, to King County Elections by 4:30 p.m. on August 11, 2022.

A Pro/Con Statement Submission form is required when submitting a statement. This form and other detailed instructions are included in the Local Voters' Pamphlet Packet which City staff will provide to the committees upon their appointment.

Responsibilities of the City of Mercer Island

The City Council is tasked with appointing pro and con committees to prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to the parks levy renewal ballot measure to be included in the local voters' pamphlet. See RCW 29A.32.280.

Upon the City Council's selection of committee members and approval of resolution No. 1629, City Staff will submit to King County Elections the pro and con committee appointment form by the 4:30 p.m. August 2, 2022 deadline.

Additionally, the City is responsible for informing the committees of the rules, procedures, and deadlines for submitting statements for the local voters' pamphlet. The City will share with the appointed committee members the King County Local Voters' Pamphlet packet.

Responsibilities of King County Elections

King County Elections will receive all materials from the City as well as the pro and con committees. Following the deadline for pro and con statements, King County will send each statement to the opposing committee so rebuttals can be written.

Prior to publication of the local voters' pamphlet, King County Elections will email each committee a proof of their statements. Upon receipt of the proof, committees will ensure that there are no discrepancies between the proof copy and the information they submitted.

No changes to the originally submitted statements will be accepted. No new material will be accepted. The only permitted changes are updates to the contact information section. Committees must notify King County Elections of any discrepancies or contact information updates by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the deadline stated in the email containing the proof copy.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Appointing Members of Pro and Con Committees

City staff recommend the Mayor and Deputy Mayor prepare a proposed slate of candidates to serve on the pro and con committees, based on the final list of applications received by the July 15, 2022 deadline, for City Council review and approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of Resolution No. 1629, City Staff will submit to King County Elections the pro and con committee appointment form by the 4:30 p.m. August 2, 2022 deadline.

Additionally, the City will inform the appointed pro and con committees of the rules, procedures, and deadlines for submitting statements for the local voters' pamphlet. The City will share with the appointed committee members the King County Local Voters' Pamphlet packet.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Resolution No., 1629 and appoint _____ to the pro committee and _____ to the con committee.