Office of the City Attorney

City of Snoqualmie
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August 3, 2026

King County Elections
C/O Julie Wise, King County Elections Director
919 Southwest Grady Way,
Renton, Washington 98057

Re: Explanatory Statement For City of Snoqualmie Proposition No.1 - Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached Explanatory Statement is for the City of Snoqualmie's Property Tax Levy Lid Lift, which was approved by the City Council on August 3, 2026 to be placed on the ballot for a vote of the residents of the City. This Explanatory Statement was prepared by myself as the City Attorney for the City of Snoqualmie.

Sincerely,

Dena Burke
City Attorney
City of Snoqualmie

Explanatory Statement

Since the City's current regular property tax levy took effect in 2017, cumulative inflation in the Seattle area has increased almost 45%, while the City's regular property tax revenues have not kept up, increasing only approximately 18%.

Beginning in 2021, inflation accelerated sharply. To continue balancing its budget, the City implemented other available revenue measures, reduced staffing, and narrowed its work towards essential city services and maintaining legal compliance. This reduced the ability to plan ahead, influence regional decisions affecting the community, pursue improvements, and increased pressure on providing public safety and other core services.

Without additional revenue, future inflation may continue to outpace growth in the City's existing regular property tax levy, increasing pressure for future service level reductions. In response, the City placed this proposition to the voters. The money collected shall be used to fund general city services, including police, fire, streets, parks, community events, planning and development, and the services that support those operations.

For a home assessed at $977,000, the estimated cost in 2027 is approximately $588 per year, or $49 per month. The proposition would also authorize annual increases for each of the succeeding 10 years up to the June-to-June percentage change in the CPI-U for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater. Existing exemptions under RCW 84.36.381 would continue. Future levies would be calculated based on the 2037 levy limit and limited by applicable statutory limits, including the 101% levy lid.