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**Meeting Date:** July 28, 2025

**Subject:** Metropolitan Park District

**Attachments:** Explanatory Statement Submittal form, For or against committee appointment form, Resolution 2025-50, Metropolitan Park District PowerPoint, Cover Sheet

**Presented by:** Adam Vaughn, Finance Director

**Approved for Agenda by:** Dan Ford, City Manager

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**Discussion:**

The Metropolitan Park District ballot initiative was voted on during the 2024 November general election. That measure would have levied a property tax of \$.75 of \$1,000 of assessed value generating approximately \$435,000 to support parks, recreation, and aquatics in the City of Toppenish. The ballot measure did not pass, and the City has had limited funding during 2025 to fund its parks services and has not had no funding for aquatics (swimming pool) or recreation activities.

The estimated yearly cost to operate and maintain City parks is \$300,000 to \$350,000 a year. The swimming pool costs about \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year; plus, additional funding needed for capital repairs. This agenda item allows the City Council to vote to put this measure back on the ballot for the 2025 election. Because of the state of our City parks, and the funds needed to maintain them, the ballot measure as written would be funding used exclusively for City parks.

Groups outside of the City's Staff have expressed interest in collaborating and securing funding to be able to open the swimming pool each year. Based on the available revenue, the City continues to lack the necessary funds to operate the swimming pool on a yearly basis. A potential alternative would be to expand the Metropolitan Park District boundaries to include the school district and use the extra tax levy funds available (due to an increased area and larger assessed value) to allocate to a group outside of the City to operate the pool. At this time, there has not been coordination with the school district on moving forward with this specific item, the deadline to submit a ballot measure for the November election is August 4<sup>th</sup>. Choosing to pursue this option would mean the measure would be delayed to February 2026, or a later election.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated \$435,000 of revenue if a full \$.75 is levied.

**Recommendation:**

Approve Resolution 2025-50 to form a Metropolitan Park District comprising the city limits of the City of Toppenish and to submit a proposition to the electorate of the City of Toppenish through the Yakima County Elections office for consideration at the November 4, 2025, General Election

**Alternatives:**

Delay the vote to a future election