

## Introduction to Local Measures

The next pages contain a local measure certified to appear on the November 7, 2023 General Election ballot.

For the measure in the Local Voters' Pamphlet, the legislative authority of the jurisdiction placing the measure on the ballot is required to formally appoint committees to prepare statements advocating the approval and rejection of the measure. If the jurisdiction is unable to make such appointments, the Thurston County Auditor advertises for such appointments.

The Auditor's Office encourages you to thoroughly review all statements and seek additional information from the jurisdictions, the appointed citizens' committees, and the local and regional media.

## Local Measure Contacts

### Jurisdiction Contact:

Thurston County  
Ramiro Chavez, County Manager  
ramiro.chavez@co.thurston.wa.us  
(360) 754-2960

### For Committee Contact:

Invest in Public Safety  
Sam Hunt  
Tim Braniff  
Gary Edwards  
(360) 280-2533  
info@investinpublicsafety.com  
www.investinpublicsafety.com

### Against Committee Contact:

Jon Pettit  
jon@jonpettitt.us  
(360) 951-8888

## Thurston County Proposition No. 1

### Sales and Use Tax for Law Enforcement Protection, Corresponding Prosecution and Public Defense Services, and Elections Security

The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners has adopted Resolution No. 16289 concerning imposition of a sales and use tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450. If approved, this proposition would authorize an additional sale and use tax at a rate of two-tenths of one percent to be used, of the County distribution, for up to 75% in law enforcement protection, including hiring additional sheriff deputies, and associated infrastructure, and up to 25% for additional prosecution and proportionate public defense services, and elections security infrastructure as stated in Resolution No. 16289.

Should this proposition be:

Approved  
Rejected

## Explanatory Statement

Proposition 1 authorizes the County to raise funds for public safety purposes through an increase in the sales and use tax as set forth in RCW 82.14.450. This measure will impose a sales and use tax in the amount of two-tenths of one percent. All revenues shall be distributed as follows: 60% shall be retained by Thurston County and 40% shall be distributed on a per capita basis to cities within Thurston County.

The county plans to use its share of this funding exclusively for hiring additional sheriff deputies, supporting law enforcement services and associated infrastructure, including facilities, (75%), and additional prosecution and public defense, and elections security infrastructure, including facilities (25%). This funding cannot be used to supplant funding for any ongoing services and/or programs.

The proposed increase in the sales and use tax will continue to produce revenues for these public safety purposes in future years.

Statement prepared by Elizabeth Petrich  
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

## Argument For

### *Invest in Public Safety*

Our community is safe when our law enforcement agencies are fully staffed. That's why we need to invest in more law enforcement officers and mental health co-responders. With more deputies and mental health professionals on the streets, we can respond to crimes faster and *keep our neighborhoods and families safe*.

### *We can do better.*

Urgent action is required. Right now, Thurston County ranks 38th out of 39 counties in deputies per capita. *That's not good enough.* We need to boost our law enforcement numbers so we can effectively combat crime and protect our community. This funding will add 28 additional deputies and allow the expansion of alternatives like Thurston County's mental health co-responder SCOUT team.

### *A Comprehensive Approach*

This resolution allocates 75% of the funds to law enforcement and 25% to defense, prosecution, and election security – underscoring a balanced strategy in tackling crime and strengthening election security during a time of growing threats and intimidation against election workers. A comprehensive approach, one with fiscal and public accountability, is *vital for maintaining a just and secure community and protecting our democracy*.

### *Building a better future for all.*

Voting Yes on this resolution exemplifies our dedication to the safety, justice, and prosperity of our community. This is an opportunity for us to collectively *shape a more secure and promising future for all of Thurston County and our democracy*. Endorsed by: Senator Sam Hunt; Commissioners Carolina Mejia, Tye Menser, and Gary Edwards; Sheriff Derek Sanders; Auditor Mary Hall.

## Argument Against

### *Would you pay \$10 to get \$4 of service?*

Vote No! Under state law for Public Safety Sales Tax, only 60% of the revenue goes to the county, the other 40% goes to the cities. Of the total tax collected less than 40% will be directed to actual law enforcement for the county. Vote No!

The planned and budgeted absence of a proper level of funding for road deputies, is now being presented as a *"lack of funding"* to manipulate the voters to support more sales tax increases. Do you trust that your current tax dollars are being spent effectively for the primary required services by Thurston County? No! Should the city taxpayers supplement the unincorporated for additional law enforcement in addition to paying to provide their own law enforcement? No!

Does *"more sheriff deputies on the road"* mean that the proposed tax should be used to build election facilities? No! Did the county need a second assistant county manager? No! Does the county need to spend approximately \$2,500,000 a year for a rented facility because the Commissioners chose to neglect the County Courthouse? No! Did the county need to spend approximately \$10,000,000.00 to fix up a privately owned building for the landlord of the building? No!

Thurston County Commissioners have intentionally failed to provide adequate funding to provide on the road sheriff deputies for unincorporated Thurston County. We don't need to be taxed more to get what we paid for already. Vote No!

## Rebuttal of "For" Argument

Current funding is available within current revenues. Wasteful use of tax dollars is the cause of lack of funding for law enforcement. The politicians want to convince you that democracy is at risk without more deputies on the road. Who caused the problem?

Trusting the same politicians to solve the problems they created, by giving more taxes only sets up the next *"need by design"* for more tax increases. Stop the insanity. Vote No.

## Rebuttal of "Against" Argument

Supporting Proposition 1 in Thurston County means enhancing public safety across *all* jurisdictions. It is crucial to recognize the county as a whole.

We must avoid blaming current elected officials for legislative requirements, laws, and restrictions established over decades to protect our community. Public safety and election security are our collective responsibility. A yes vote benefits every city and the entire county. Together, we can increase the safety of all residents and protect our democracy.