

*Skamania County Official Local*

# Voters' Pamphlet

November 5, 2024 General and Special Election

**Ballots for the General Election will be mailed by October 18, 2024**



Published by the  
Skamania County Auditor's Office

# Table of contents

## Voter Resources

Message from the Elections Office..... 79  
 Voting information ..... 80  
 Ballot drop box locations..... 81

## Candidate Statements

Skamania County  
*Commissioner, District No. 1* ..... 84  
*Commissioner, District No. 2*..... 85  
 Klickitat, Skamania Superior Court  
*Judge, Position No. 1* ..... 86  
 Public Utility District  
*Commissioner, District No. 1* ..... 87

## Ballot Measures

Skamania County..... 82  
 Cemetery District..... 83  
 Fire District No. 7..... 88  
 Skamania County Park and Recreation District No. 1..... 89

**i Political parties**

**Washington State Republicans**  
 11811 NE 1st Street, Ste. A306  
 Bellevue, WA 98005  
 425-460-0570  
 info@wsrp.org  
 wsrp.org

**Washington State Democrats**  
 PO Box 4027  
 Seattle, WA 98194  
 206-583-0664  
 info@wa-democrats.org  
 wa-democrats.org

**i Who donates to campaigns?**

View financial contributors for candidates and measures:

**Public Disclosure Commission**  
 www.pdc.wa.gov  
 Toll Free 877-601-2828

### Local Jurisdictions Participating in this Election

- State of Washington
- Skamania County
- Cemetery District
- Public Utility District No. 1
- Fire District No. 7
- Skamania County Park and Recreation District No. 1

# Message from the Elections Office

Welcome to the 2024 General Election Voters' Pamphlet. This pamphlet includes candidate statements and details about the state and local issues on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

**Why Your Vote Matters:** Your participation in elections is crucial as many important state and local races and issues directly impact your life. Your vote helps shape the future of our communities.

**Key Dates to Remember:**

- **Ballots Mailed:** By October 18th. If you don't receive your ballot, contact the Auditor's Office for a replacement. Please return your ballot as soon as possible.
- **Postmark Deadline:** Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 5th to be counted.
- **Drop Box Deadline:** Ballots must be deposited in drop boxes by 8:00 PM on November 5th. Drop box locations in Skamania County are listed in this pamphlet and on our website.

**Need Help?** For information on voter registration deadlines, correcting mistakes on your ballot, or any other questions, contact our elections department at 509-427-3730.

**Election Night Results:** The Auditor's Office will be open until approximately 8:30 PM to answer questions. Unofficial results will be posted on our website at [www.skamaniacounty.org/elections](http://www.skamaniacounty.org/elections) as soon as they are available.

**Review the Pamphlet:** Please take time to read through this pamphlet for valuable information on candidates, levies, ballot drop locations, and more. Your vote is an important way to contribute to our community's future.

Thank you for participating in the election!



**Has your address changed? Has your signature changed? Lost or damaged ballot?**

Contact:  
 Skamania County  
 Elections Office  
 509-427-3730  
[elections@co.skamania.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.skamania.wa.us)  
[skamaniacounty.org/elections](http://skamaniacounty.org/elections)

**Mailing address**  
 PO Box 790  
 Stevenson, WA 98648

**Street address**  
 240 NW Vancouver Avenue, Room 27  
 Stevenson, WA 98648

**Office Hours**  
 Monday through Thursday  
 7:30am – 5:30pm  
**7:30am – 8:00pm on Election Day**

# Voting information

---

## Accessible voting

The Skamania County Elections Office is committed to accommodating voters with disabilities.

Accessible formats of the voters' pamphlet are available online. If you wish to join the subscription list to receive a copy of the voters' pamphlet on USB drive, please contact the voter hotline at 800-448-4881 or email [voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov](mailto:voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov). Provide your preferred format, name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Skamania County voters with disabilities have the option of casting their ballot independently using an Accessible Voting Units (AVU). AVU's are available in the Auditor's Office starting 18 days before Election Day, until 8 p.m. on Election Day. AVUs in Skamania County are wheelchair-accessible, screened from other voters to maintain privacy, and can be outfitted with headphones or sip-and-puff tools.

If you have questions or concerns regarding accessibility, please contact the Skamania County Elections Office at 509-427-3730.

## Register to vote

Registering to vote only takes a few minutes, and can be done in person, by mail, or online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov). A Washington driver's license or ID is required to register online. If you need to update your address or name, please contact Skamania County Elections at 509-427-3730.



## Replacement ballots

If you lose your ballot or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement by contacting Skamania County Elections at 509-427-3730. Replacement ballots can also be printed online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).

## Returning your ballot

You must sign and date your return envelope in order for your ballot to be counted!

- Sign on the signature line below the "Voter's Declaration"
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 509-427-3730 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your signature to go through the mail. A complete list of ballot deposit locations in Skamania County can be found in this pamphlet on the following page.

## Military and overseas voters

As a military or overseas voter you have several options for registering to vote, receiving your ballot and returning it. If you are a military spouse or dependant, and you are away from home because of the military service, you also qualify as a military voter.

Military and overseas voters are exempt from the regular voter registration deadlines. The last day to register and request a ballot is Election Day. Even if you are not registered, you may still vote and send in a ballot because your signature on the declaration attests to your eligibility and constitutes registration. If you register close to Election Day, or for some other reason did not receive your ballot, please request one as soon as possible to ensure enough time to return your ballot. Specify whether you would like to receive your ballot by mail, email or fax.

Voters registered as military and overseas citizens may return ballots by mail, email or fax.

# Ballot drop box locations

*After October 29, 2024, use a drop box to ensure your ballot is received on time. No postage is needed.*

## 24-hour drive-up ballot drop boxes

Drop Box Locations are available until 8pm on Election Day



**NORTH BONNEVILLE**  
**City Hall and Post Office**  
210 CBD Mall Drive North  
Bonneville, WA



**STEVENSON**  
**County Courthouse north side entrance**  
240 NW Vancouver Avenue  
Stevenson, WA



**CARSON**  
**Carson Transit Station**  
11 Carson Frontage Road  
Carson, WA



**STABLER**  
**The Little Church in the Valley parking lot**  
342 Hemlock Road  
Carson (Stabler), WA



**WASHOUGAL**  
**Canyon Creek Middle School parking lot**  
9731 Washougal River Road  
Washougal, WA



**UNDERWOOD**  
**Underwood Community Center parking lot**  
951 Schoolhouse Road  
Underwood, WA

Ballots can also be dropped off *during regular business hours* at the following location:



**AUDITOR'S OFFICE**  
**County Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Room #27**  
240 NW Vancouver Avenue, Stevenson, WA  
  
*Monday through Thursday 7:30am – 5:30pm*  
*Election Day 7:30am – 8:00pm*

## Skamania County

### Proposition No. 1

#### Sales and Use Tax For Funding Sheriff's Office Personnel

The Skamania County Board of County Commissioners has adopted Resolution No. 2024-12 concerning a sales and use tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450. If approved, this proposition would authorize an additional sales and use tax at a rate of 0.3 percent to be used for funding additional needed law enforcement personnel including an animal control officer.

Should this proposition be approved?

***To vote, use your official ballot.***

#### STATEMENT FOR

The safety and well-being of our community should be the utmost importance for our county and animal control is a crucial part of this imperative proposal. The proposed tax to fund an animal control officer is a necessary step toward ensuring a safer environment for both residents and animals. Currently, our community lacks the financial resources to address issues to enforce laws regarding stray animals and neglected pets. This leads to preventable incidents, increased health risks, and a strain on local services that are overburdened. By implementing this minimal tax, we can hire a dedicated professional who will manage these challenges effectively. A dedicated animal control officer will proactively respond to domestic animal issues and engage in public education. This investment will lead to a reduction in animal-related incidents, enhance public health, and ensure humane treatment for all animals within our county. Skamania County continues to suffer from a revenue stream reduction due to dwindling appropriated funds from the Secure Rural Schools Act and nearly non-existent timber harvests, decimating the Skamania County operating budget. However, tourism continues to increase, placing a significant strain on emergency services. Imposing this tax would capitalize on tourism-based capital, bringing money back to help Skamania County citizens. The cost of the tax is minimal compared to the benefits it will bring. This is a practical solution reflecting our community's needs, which will foster responsibility and compassion. We urge our fellow citizens to support this initiative, making a positive impact on our county.

Statement for submitted by:

Tamara Kuhn:  
tamara.kuhn@gmail.com

Amy Weaver:  
aldonoho3323@gmail.com

Emily Sabo:  
emilysabo93@gmail.com

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

RCW 82.14.450 authorizes the voters of Skamania County to approve an increase in local sales tax of up to 0.3% to support criminal justice and law enforcement. Skamania County is proposing such an increase in the local sales tax in order to fund an animal control officer and other law enforcement personnel needs. This would relieve the pressure on commissioned officers to carry out duties which do not require a full commission, freeing them to respond to other public safety concerns. The sales tax increase would amount to \$0.30 on every \$100 purchase, not including exempt food and vehicle purchases.

***No statements were submitted for:***

**STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR**

# Cemetery District

## **Proposition No. 1**

### **Property Tax Levy Lid-Lift for Maintenance and Upkeep Costs**

The Board of Commissioners for the Skamania County Cemetery District adopted Resolution No. 2024-02 Proposing an Increase in the District's regular property tax levy. If approved, this proposition would establish a new regular levy rate of \$0.1037 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to be collected beginning January 2025. This permanent Increase will establish a new dollar amount for the purpose of computing the limitations imposed by RCW 84.55 .010 for subsequent levies. Proceeds will be used to maintain and adequately fund district operations and proactively plan for the increasing needs and service demands of communities served by the District.

Should this proposition be approved?

***To vote, use your official ballot.***

---

#### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

This levy lid lift proposition would increase the regular levy rate from the current \$0.054869 to a proposed \$0.1037 per \$1000 of assessed value in the district, or an increase of less than \$5.00 per \$100,000 of value. The Cemetery District, established in 1973, has not seen a levy rate increase in over 50 years. The District's responsibilities have increased from 2 to 10 cemeteries, include more than 32 acres of grounds and more than 3400 burials. With this levy rate increase, the Cemetery District will be able to adequately preserve and maintain Skamania County's cemeteries and burials.

***No statements were submitted for:***

**STATEMENT FOR**

**STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR**

## Skamania County

Commissioner, District No. 1 4 year term



### Brian Nichols

Prefers Republican Party

**Statement** As a third generation Skamania County resident I have seen firsthand the challenges the people of our county face. Job creation and growing existing small business will be my priority, and I will look for common sense solutions to meet the unique challenges that our county faces. I have served Skamania County over the last 30

years as a Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and Paramedic and I look forward to continuing to serve our County. It has been a blessing to work and raise my family in Skamania County where I grew up and I humbly ask for your vote.

**Phone** 541-490-7559  
**Email** brianjnichols2024@gmail.com  
**Address** PO Box 229, North Bonneville, WA 98639  
**Website** brian4commissioner.com

## Skamania County

Commissioner, District No. 1 4 year term



### Mary Ellen Grode

Prefers Independent Party

**Statement** Skamania County has been home for 32 years, where I've raised children and grandchildren. Skamania's economy is important to me as a homeowner, and cottage-industry business owner for 16 years. As your Commissioner, I will continue my long-standing commitment to serve the community. I enjoy being Children's

Pastor at Salmon Falls Chapel, and president of a local non-profit working to preserve the peace, freedom, and rural character we all value. There are many issues affecting local residents; I promise to listen to the people, promote conversation, and serve the County with fairness and integrity. Vote for Mary Ellen Grode!

**Phone** 360-837-3663  
**Email** VoteMaryEllen2024@gmail.com  
**Address** PO BOX 1081, WASHOUGAL, WA 98671  
**Website** www.facebook.com/vote.mary.ellen.for.skamania.county.commissioner



**Skamania County**  
**Commissioner, District No. 2** *4 year term*



**Rob Farris**  
**Prefers Republican Party**

**Statement** As a lifelong resident, I've watched our county's financial landscape change dramatically. I believe we must adapt to these changes while preserving our rural way of life. We need leaders who understand fiscal responsibility's importance yet recognize the value of our communities' unique character. I will work to ensure that our

county government is efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of all citizens. Let's move forward together, embracing progress while protecting the qualities that make our county a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

**Phone** 541-490-6607  
**Email** robforskamania@gmail.com  
**Address** PO Box 36, Stevenson, WA, 98648

**Skamania County**  
**Commissioner, District No. 2** *4 year term*



**Mary Repar**  
**Prefers Democratic Party**

**Statement** I will do my best for all the citizens of Skamania County. I won't lie to you. I will listen to you and if needed can be brought to change my mind when reason calls for it! You can always call me on my cell at (360) 726-7052 with questions and concerns. I believe our county does well to remain rural and livable and I will work hard to retain that livability.

**Phone** 360-726-7052  
**Email** repar@saw.net  
**Address** PO Box 103, Stevenson, WA 98648

## Klickitat, Skamania Superior Court

Judge, Position No. 1



### Randall Krog

**Statement** I want to thank all of the citizens of Klickitat and Skamania County for the privilege to serve you as your Superior Court Judge for the past 7.5 years and look forward to continuing to serve the Klickitat and Skamania County communities for the next 4 years. I have gained an incredible amount of experience over the past 7.5 years as Superior Court Judge and promise to

continue to work hard to provide all of the citizens of Klickitat and Skamania County with a fair, hard-working, impartial judicial officer committed to protecting everyone's rights and upholding the laws and constitution of the United States and the State of Washington. I would be honored to have your continued support for the next four years.

**Email**        reelectkrog4judge@gmail.com

**Address**     PO Box 114, Carson, WA 98610

**Public Utility District**  
**Commissioner, District No. 1**



**Mel Steele**

**Statement** Last 6 years as grassroots liaison for PUD ratepayer’s families and businesses, extensively interacting with Skamania PUD has been my primary civic mission dedicating 3000+hours. Having been raised in public utility family, public servant 25+ years Federal Government natural resources: USFS-WindRiver... NW-Regional Planning Forester serving in Bonneville Power

Administration building 7 years inclusive of BPA-Tribal relations also highly qualifies me to govern our locally owned utility with constituents. Masters Science Studies-Washington, NR-Law/ Detailed Washington DC 16 years resident Skamania. Under Oath I will maximize public disclosures, maximize ratepayer representation...I will vote against unfair/unjust fees, pro-lower baserates, and pro-replace penalties with incentives.

**Phone** 509-637-3720  
**Email** pud2024steele@gmail.com  
**Address** PO Box 572, North Bonneville, WA 98639  
**Website** pud2024steele.com

**Public Utility District**  
**Commissioner, District No. 1**



**Dan Boyes**

**Statement** For eight years I've attended every PUD meeting as your district one Commissioner, working through a growing number of challenges that have raised the price of our water and power. Retirements have cost the PUD knowledge, skill, and money. Regulation, inflation, fire, ice, aging reservoirs, pipes, poles, trucks, transformers and upgrading obsolete

radio and computer systems have kept the PUD in debt. The transition to smart metering and older long-term debt must be paid for. If re-elected I will continue to be the strongest voice for fiscal restraint, and a sustainable, affordable PUD for all ratepayers.

**Phone** 509-427-8389  
**Email** electdan4pud@outlook.com  
**Address** PO Box 433, North Bonneville, WA 98639

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for accuracy.*

## Fire District No. 7

### Proposition No. 1

#### Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Board of Cowlitz-Skamania County Fire Protection District No. 7 adopted Resolution No. 7-24 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations. This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2024 and collected in 2025. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, emergency medical services and facilities, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2024 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be approved?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### STATEMENT FOR

Your fire department needs our support in this levy lid lift proposal. As a dedicated team of volunteers, they strive to provide the highest level of emergency services to our community, but they need your help to continue that mission. Why the Levy Lid Lift is Necessary The levy lid lift will allow them to invest in essential equipment, training, and facilities to maintain and improve response, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. Modern firefighting and medical equipment are crucial for effective emergency response. This levy will fund the replacement of outdated gear, ensuring our volunteers have the tools they need to protect lives and property. Our volunteers are the backbone of the fire department. To retain and attract dedicated individuals, they need to offer comprehensive training programs and provide adequate support. The levy will enable them to invest in these areas, ensuring our team is well-prepared to handle any emergency. The levy will support necessary maintenance and upgrades to fire stations, ensuring they meet current safety standards and can accommodate modern equipment. Your Vote Matters Under Washington law fire tax rates decrease as property values increase. This decrease has dropped the fire departments overall taxation rate. Supporting this levy lid lift means supporting the safety and well-being of your neighbors, friends, and family. Our volunteer fire department is committed to serving you, but they need the necessary resources to do so effectively. A YES vote will ensure they can provide the highest-quality emergency services our community deserves.

Statement for submitted by:

Scott Johns  
503-714-5434  
computer\_\_geek@yahoo.com  
csfd7.org

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Cowlitz-Skamania County Fire Protection District No. 7 provides emergency fire protection and emergency medical services to its citizens. If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to establish its levy rate at \$1.11 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025. The dollar amount levied in the 2024 year shall serve as the District's future tax levy base. Approval of this measure will allow the District to maintain firefighting staffing, equipment and facilities and maintain the level of fire protection and emergency medical services provided to its citizens while providing for firefighter safety.

**No statements were submitted for:**

**STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR**

## Skamania County Park and Recreation District No. 1

### Proposition No. 1

#### Property Tax Authorization

Will the Skamania County Parks & Recreation District #1, also known as Underwood Park & Recreation District (UPRD) be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of \$0.20 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of the next six consecutive years?

***To vote, use your official ballot.***

---

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Skamania County Parks and Recreation District #1 (Underwood Parks and Recreation District) has been collecting a levy of \$0.20 per \$1000 of assessed value in the district for the past 6 years. That levy expires after this year. Passing this proposition will allow the District to continue to collect \$0.20 per \$1000 valuation in the District for the next six years. Rental income from the Community Center is inconsistent and uncertain, but the levy proceeds will enable the District to pay for the regular operating expenses of the Community Center and make repairs and improvements when needed.

***No statements were submitted for:***

**STATEMENT FOR**

**STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST**

**REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR**

***Please recycle this pamphlet***