



# Parks Levy Renewal

AB 6121 | July 19, 2022





# Agenda

- Recap of past City Council Meetings on parks levy renewal
- Second reading of Ordinance No. 22-13 related to the parks levy renewal.
  - Explanatory Statement
- Resolution No. 1628
- Next Steps

**Note:** This PPT slide deck will be added to the City Council packet after the meeting.



# Recap of Past City Council Meetings on Park Levy





# June 7, 2022 City Council Meeting

- The Council considered a parks levy renewal options that included the following (see [AB 6090](#)):
  - Base Levy: Maintains the current parks levy amount and levy categories + 1% annual increase
  - Option 1: Proposed various levels of funding for ongoing playground replacements
  - Option 2: Proposed funding various elements of the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan
- Council concurred with the recommendation to place the parks levy renewal on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot for a term of 16 years.



# June 21, 2022 City Council Meeting

- Staff presented several alternative levy scenarios for City Council consideration (see [AB 6105](#)).
- City Council voted unanimously to direct the City Manager to draft an 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

Base Parks Levy + Alternative B		
	2022 (Current Levy)	2023 (Proposed Levy)
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
<b>Alternative B:</b>		
Option 1D: Fund 100% of Playground Replacement Costs	-	\$414,355
Option 2C: Fund all Forest Management projects except for the second phase of tree planting	-	\$225,054
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$980,122</b>	<b>\$1,629,332</b>

# July 5, 2022 City Council Meeting

- Staff presented Ordinance No. 22-13 for first reading and received City Council feedback on the proposed ballot title and the accompanying Explanatory Statement (see [AB 6111](#)).
- The City Council directed the City Manager to incorporate feedback received at the meeting and bring back Ordinance No. 22-13 for a second reading and adoption at the July 19, 2022 meeting





# 2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Ordinance No. 22-13



# Parks Levy Ordinance No. 22-13

- Staff and legal counsel incorporated feedback received from City Council during first reading of Ordinance No. 22-13 (Exhibit 1) at the July 5, 2022 meeting
- The ordinance includes the parks levy renewal ballot title, which consists of three elements:
  - Ballot Caption (name of jurisdiction and a statement of the subject matter).
  - A concise description of the ballot measure (75-word limit).
  - A question to the voters.
- This is the second reading of the ordinance.





# Ballot Title

- The ballot title included in Ordinance No. 22-13 is shown here.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY LID LIFT FOR  
PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The City Council of the City of Mercer Island adopted Ordinance No. 22-13 concerning property taxes for park operations, maintenance, and capital projects.

This proposition funds operations and maintenance of parks and open spaces, including Luther Burbank Park, and funds playground replacements and forest restoration in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space; increases the parks levy from \$980,122 (2022) to \$1,629,322 (2023); and sets the maximum tax levy at \$0.862/\$1,000 for 2023 collections and 15 years thereafter (2023 levy amount would be used to calculate subsequent levies), per RCW 84.55.050. Qualifying seniors, veterans, and others are exempt, per RCW 84.36.381.

Should this proposition be approved:

YES?.....

NO? .....



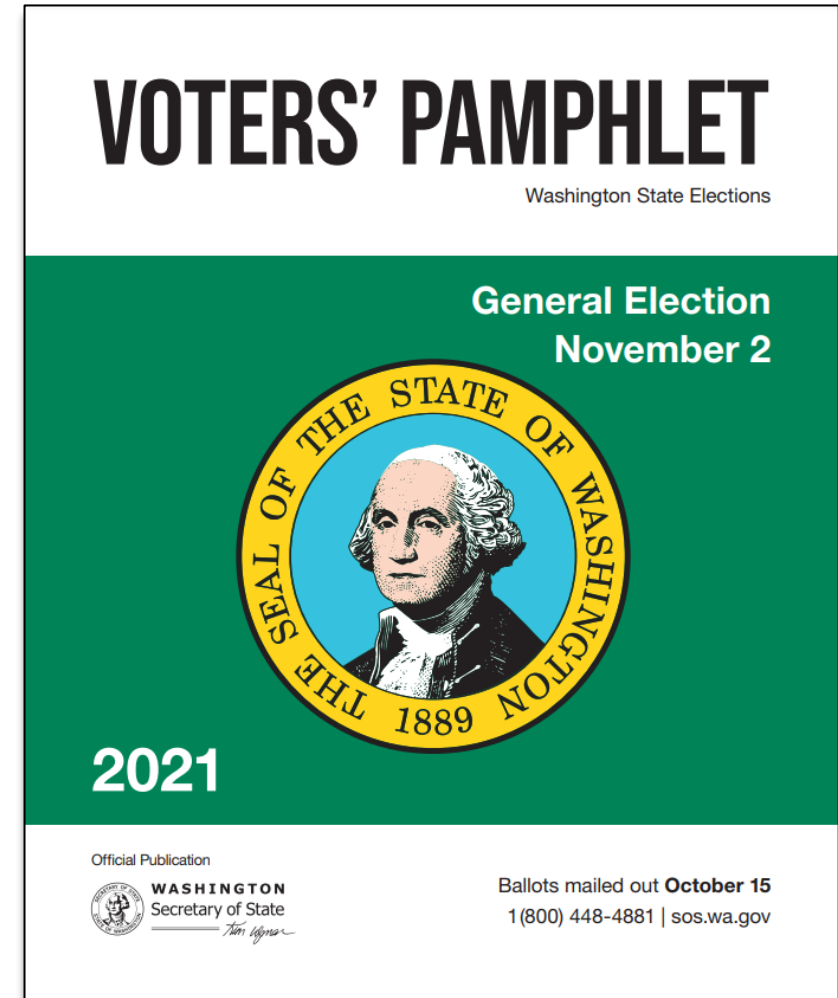

# 2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Explanatory Statement





# Parks Levy Renewal Explanatory Statement

- City staff, with support from legal counsel, prepared a revised Explanatory Statement to reflect feedback received from the City Council during the July 5, 2022 City Council meeting for inclusion in the local voter's pamphlet (Exhibit 2).
- The Explanatory Statement states the effect of a ballot measure if passed into law.
- The statement must not be an argument in favor of or in opposition to the measure.



# 2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Resolution No. 1628





# Resolution No. 1628

- Resolution No. 1628 (Exhibit 3) to address the concerns that there will be two parks levies in 2023.
- This resolution states the City's intent to end the current parks levy lid lift one year early if voters approve the parks levy renewal at the November 8, 2022 election.
- The City Council will end the current parks levy one year early by setting the current parks levy rate to zero for 2023. This will occur during the budget process in November and December.



# Next Steps and Motions





# Next Steps

- Upon City Council approval of Ordinance No. 22-13, City staff will submit the ordinance and the Explanatory Statement to King County Elections.
- City staff will commence work on development of a fact sheet related to the parks levy for publication later this summer. This information will be distributed through normal City communication channels.



# Recommended Motions

1. Adopt Ordinance No. 22-13, providing for the submission on the November 8, 2022 election, a ballot proposition authorizing the City to lift the levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to pay for costs of maintaining and operating City parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, and to fund playground replacements, operations and maintenance of Luther Burbank Park, and forest restoration at Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 1628, expressing the City's intent to not impose two parks levies for 2023.

