



# Pro and Con Committee Appointment for Proposition 1 (Parks Levy Renewal)

AB 6124 | July 19, 2022



# Agenda

- Role of Pro and Con Committees
- Recruitment Process
- Next Steps and Motions



# What Do Pro and Con Committees Do



# Role of Members of Pro/Con Committees

- The pro and con committees submit statements in favor of and in opposition to the parks levy renewal ballot measure for inclusion in the local voters' pamphlet.
- The committees must submit their respective statements to King County Elections by August 9, 2022 and a rebuttal statement by August 11, 2022.

City of Mercer Island	
Official Ballot Title	Explanatory Statement
<p><b>City of Mercer Island Proposition No. 2 Levy for Park Operations and Maintenance</b></p> <p>The City Council of the City of Mercer Island adopted Ordinance No. 08-08 concerning property taxes to maintain and operate park and recreational facilities. This proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$900,000 to a total authorized rate of up to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2009 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW for each of the 15 succeeding years to continue operating Luther Burbank Park, improve forest and vegetative health of open spaces, and operate and maintain park and recreation-related facilities and services. Should this proposition be:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> APPROVED <input type="radio"/> REJECTED</p>	<p>If approved by voters, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy to pay for open space and forest restoration at Pioneer Park and other areas and school-related park and recreation activities. An additional measure on the November 2008 ballot is a Parks Bond. If the Parks Bond is approved by voters, the Parks Operations &amp; Maintenance Levy would provide funding for maintenance costs associated with Parks Bond projects. The Parks Operations &amp; Maintenance Levy would also replace the current levy which pays for operations and maintenance of Luther Burbank Park. Mercer Island City Council agreed to accept transfer of Luther Burbank from King County in 2003 and later that year voters approved a six-year maintenance and operations levy for the park which expires in 2009.</p> <p>The City's regular property tax levy would increase by up to 10.2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (to a total rate not to exceed \$1.25 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) for collection in 2009 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. For the owner of an average valued Mercer Island home of \$1 million, the estimated annual cost is \$113.68 for the Operations &amp; Maintenance Levy. The property tax increase would be in effect for 15 years.</p>
<p><b>Statement for</b></p> <p>The character of Mercer Island is enhanced by well maintained parks, open spaces and recreational facilities. Prime among these is Luther Burbank Park which was transferred from King County to Mercer Island in 2003. Islanders endorsed a 6-year levy, expiring in 2009, to operate and maintain this park. Before you now is a levy which provides for the future maintenance both of Luther Burbank Park and of the additional and improved park, open space and recreational facilities included in the separately described Capital Park Bond. This levy will pay primarily for future Luther Burbank Park maintenance, for forest restoration at Pioneer Park and for the upkeep of city and school related park and recreation activities. At a time when there is growing environmental awareness and an increasing need for recreational and sporting facilities we must maintain the limited assets we have. This levy will increase the annual property tax by \$113.68 for a \$1 million home but given the expiration of the current Luther Burbank Park levy will result in a net annual increase of \$34.29 for the same home. We urge your strong continuing support for the parks and recreational facilities of Mercer Island.</p> <p><b>Rebuttal of statement against</b></p> <p>The opposition focuses on Luther Burbank Park without fully recognizing the extent to which this proposition funds growing operational and maintenance needs for parks throughout the Island. The expiration of the Luther Burbank Levy in 2009 leaves the City with inadequate funds to appropriately maintain our parks. Recently Mercer Islanders showed they valued parks and open space by strongly supporting the funding of off-island King County parks. Let us now support our own.</p> <p><b>STATEMENT PREPARED BY:</b> Joe Wallis, Bryan Cairns, Julie Crow</p>	<p><b>Statement against</b></p> <p>Five years ago, we warned that if Islanders passed the one-time, limited Luther Burbank operations levy, the City Council would definitely be back for more.</p> <p>They're back!</p> <p>In the past, when we acquired a park, operations were funded in the current budget. King County spent a little over \$200,000 maintaining Luther Burbank. Five years ago, the City Council nearly doubled that to over \$400,000. The Council's statement in the 2003 voters pamphlet claimed that without the levy "there will be insufficient funds to maintain and operate" Luther Burbank, even though we had over \$1 million a year in surplus then and in the five years since then.</p> <p>In the Luther Burbank master planning process, the public provided strong direction that operations funding for Luther Burbank should come from the general fund as it does for all other parks. The City Council is ignoring that direction.</p> <p>The Council is not only coming back, <u>but coming back for more</u>, expanding the levy from \$400,000 to \$900,000 a year and the duration from 6 years to 15 years.</p> <p>There are funds in the budget to maintain <u>all</u> our parks. This levy frees up those funds for less popular City Council projects. Vote NO.</p> <p><b>Rebuttal of statement for</b></p> <p>Levy supporters wrote in the 2003 Voters Pamphlet, "By limiting the levy to six years, the City Council has stayed true to its promise of examining alternate revenue sources rather than relying only on a permanent levy." <u>This 15-year levy breaks that Council promise.</u> For the first time in Island history, the Council is expanding taxes by imposing continuing levies. Our parks can be maintained within the budget. For documentation and additional details visit <a href="http://www.livewithinbudget.org">www.livewithinbudget.org</a>.</p> <p><b>STATEMENT PREPARED BY:</b> Marty Gale, Ira Appelman, Thornton Gale</p>

# Recruitment Process



# Pro and Con Committee Recruitment

- Upon receiving direction from the City Council to prepare a ballot measure on July 5, the staff began soliciting applicants from the community to serve on the pro and con committees.
- This recruitment effort included:
  - An article on the Parks Levy Let's Talk Page
  - An article in the MI Weekly email
  - Advertisement in the MI Reporter
  - Messaging on all City social media profiles
- Those interested in applying were asked to apply by 12pm on July 11, 2022

## Pro and Con Committees for Upcoming Parks Levy Renewal

30 Jun 2022

### City of Mercer Island Seeks Community Members to Serve on Pro and Con Committees for Upcoming Parks Levy Renewal Ballot Measure

On June 21, 2022, the Mercer Island City Council directed the City Manager to prepare a parks levy renewal ordinance for placement on the November 8, 2022 ballot. The City Council is anticipated to approve a final ballot measure ordinance on July 19, 2022.

Councilmembers voted unanimously for a ballot measure that includes the base parks levy, full funding for the playground replacements, and funding for all Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan projects except for the second phase of tree planting. The total proposed annual parks levy renewal amount is \$1,629,332 in 2023.

The existing parks levy, passed by voters in 2008, provides just over \$980,000 in annual funding for maintenance and operations of Luther Burbank Park in addition to supporting operations at all City parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities. The current parks levy also funds capital projects at Luther Burbank Park, Pioneer Park and open spaces across Mercer Island.

King County Elections and Washington State Law establishes that the City of Mercer Island may organize the appointment of committees to prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to ballot measures. The City is seeking applications from interested community members to serve in these roles.

#### Pro and Con Committees Requirements

Each committee will be limited to three members. The primary role of each committee is to prepare a statement in favor of or in opposition to the ballot measure respectively.

Each committee is required to submit their respective statements (200-word/four paragraphs limit) to King County Elections by August 9, 2022. Rebuttal statements (75-word/two paragraph limit) are due by August 11, 2022. All materials are due by 4:30pm on the day of the deadline.

#### How to Apply for Pro or Con Committees

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please apply by submitting an application ([available here](#)) to City Clerk Andrea Larson by email ([cityclerk@mercerisland.gov](mailto:cityclerk@mercerisland.gov)) or mail (Andrea Larson, 9611 SE 36th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040) **before 12:00pm on July 11, 2022**. Please limit your application statement to 300 words.

The City Council will review the applications and make appointments to the pro and con committees at the regular City Council Meeting on July 19, 2022.


Requests for an application can also be made by calling: 206-275-7795.



# Pro and Con Committee Recruitment

- To give ample time for more applicants to complete the process, the deadline for the recruitment was extended to Noon on Friday, July 15. This extension was communicated using the same methods on the prior slide.
- The City received a total of 6 applications, 4 for the pro committee and 2 for the con committee.
- However, one of the applications for the con committee was withdrawn.
- These applications were provided to City Council on July 15.

Please be advised that personal information provided on this form may be disclosed to requestors under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).



**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**  
**Pro and Con Committees for Upcoming Parks Levy Renewal**

Please complete the entire application to assist the City with the appointment process.

I am interested in the following committee:

☐ Pro  
☐ Con

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Primary Phone No.</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>

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**STATEMENT OF INTEREST**  
Please provide brief background information about yourself and why you should be appointed to the Pro/Con committee. Please limit your statement to 300 words.

Applications are due by **12:00 PM on Monday, July 11, 2022** to the City Clerk ([cityclerk@mercerisland.gov](mailto:cityclerk@mercerisland.gov) or 9611 SE 36th St, Mercer Island WA 98040).

Please be advised that personal information provided on this form may be disclosed to requestors under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).

# Next Steps and Motions



# Next Steps

- City staff recommended the Mayor and Deputy Mayor prepare a proposed slate of candidates to serve on the pro and con committees, based on the final list of applications received by the July 15, 2022 deadline.
- Upon approval of Resolution No. 1629, City Staff will submit to King County Elections the pro and con committee appointment form.
- City staff will inform the appointed pro and con committees of the rules, procedures, and deadlines for submitting statements for the local voters' pamphlet.



# Recommended Motion

Approve Resolution No. 1629 and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to the pro committee  
and \_\_\_\_\_ to the con committee.

