

Explanatory Statement

The Orcas Island Park and Recreation District (“Orcas Rec”) was formed in 2009 and two years later, in 2011, the voters in the district approved its first property tax levy at the rate of nine cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation for a period of six years, beginning in 2012 and ending in 2017. This proposal will cancel the levy for the year 2017 and replace it with a property tax levy at the rate of fifteen cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation for a period of six years beginning in 2017 and ending in 2022.

The levy is expected to generate approximately \$294,000 in 2017, and future increases are subject to the limit factor in RCW Chapter 84.55. This amount is well below the statutory limit of sixty cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The district funds its programs, activities, services and property improvements with a combination of money from fees and tax revenue. The purposes for which the tax revenue will be spent are described in RCW 36.69.130 and include facilities, improvements to facilities, programs, services, and activities involving park and recreation. The director of the district estimates that each year nearly 100 programs are offered that serve about 1,600 participants from children to seniors.

The district has acquired Buck Park, and the revenue is expected to be used to maintain and improve facilities there including but not limited to fencing, repairs to the skate park, resurfacing the basketball court, restoring the volleyball court, resurfacing courts used for tennis and pickleball, and repair and replacement of facilities for spectators.

To the extent allowed by law, a portion of the funds may be placed into a reserve account dedicated to planned replacement of infrastructure, courts and facilities when they reach the end of their useful life.

This measure requires approval by 60 percent or more of those voting at the election.

Arguments For and Against

Argument For	Argument Against
<p>In 2012 Orcas Island Park and Recreation District (OIPRD) received its first funding as authorized by the voters. Due to the economic downturn the distribution was approximately 1/3 less than expected that year. Distribution has remained at that level, or less, to date.</p> <p>OIPRD’s task was to build a recreational program serving all age groups and to repair the aging facilities at Buck Park. A robust and diverse program offering with online registration and payment has been established.</p>	<p>No statement submitted.</p>

<p>Repairs to Buck Park had to be scaled back substantially and prioritized. Still, the tennis courts were resurfaced, the skate park patched, field turf repaired and the water system made workable. To make the money go farthest many people donated time and materials to make these fixes possible. That method of maintaining is no longer viable.</p> <p>Buck Park land was a gift to Orcas Island from the Buck family. State money developed the park. Caring for it properly is our legacy to Orcas Island and future generations. All monies are raised, expended and used locally. Local Orcas Island labor and contractors can be used. One day, we will look back and feel gratified that we helped preserve what will, in time, become the “Central Park” of Eastsound.</p> <p>OIPRD is required to get 60% approval to pass the levy. This is usually a very difficult threshold to reach. Your vote literally can make the difference. Please vote and please vote to <i>Approve</i>.</p>	
Rebuttal of Argument For	Rebuttal of Argument Against
No rebuttals are allowed	No rebuttals are allowed
Argument Prepared By	
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