

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY LID LIFT
PROPOSITION 2
2019 General Election**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q – What is Proposition 2?

In 2009, the voters of San Juan County approved an increase (levy lid lift) in the Current Expense property tax levy to provide financial support for a host of programs and services for a period of six years (2010-2015). In 2014, the voters approved a levy lid lift for another six years (2015-2020) to fund the same set of programs and services (see below). Proposition 2 is a continuation of levy lid lift that has now been in place for 10 years.

Proposition 2, if passed, would continue the financial support for the same programs and services with an increase in amount collected to account for the increased cost of providing programs and services. Unlike the prior two voter approved levy increases, Proposition 2 does not state an end date; it would be in place until a new proposition is submitted to the voters.

Q – What programs would receive funding in 2020 if Proposition 2 is approved?

- Support to Senior Services programs on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands - \$404,000
- WSU Extension programs; including 4-H, Master Gardeners, and Agricultural Resources Committee programs - \$228,000
- Maintenance and operation of County Parks - \$326,000
- General fund support of the San Juan County Fair - \$51,000
- Public Health services on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands - \$145,000
- Corrections / Work Release program - \$54,000
- Victim Services through the Prosecutor's Department - \$68,000
- Support to Emergency Management Services - \$140,000
- Maintenance of county buildings and grounds - \$23,000
- Protection of island waters by funding operations, maintenance and equipment of Islands' Oil Spill Association - \$130,000
- Parks and Fair maintenance - \$100,000
- Natural Resources programming - \$40,000

Q – What would happen to the Current Expense Levy Lid Lift if Proposition 2 is passed by the voters on November 5, 2019?

The 2014 Levy Lid Lift would be cancelled and the new 2019 Levy Lid Lift would become effective in 2020 and, in subsequent years. The levy amount collected after 2020 would be limited to a 1% increase pursuant to state law under RCW 84.55.

Q – What would happen to the Current Expense Levy Lid Lift if Proposition 2 is not passed by the voters on November 5, 2019?

The 2014 Levy Lid Lift would continue until the end of 2020 when it would automatically terminate unless a new levy lid lift proposition was placed on a 2020 ballot and approved by the voters. If it was placed on the 2020 General Election ballot the outcome of the 2020 vote would not be known until November which would make the County's budgeting process for 2021 more difficult as two different budget scenarios would need to be developed and discussed.

Q – How much money would the Levy Lid Lift raise in 2020?

The 2019 Levy Lid Lift generated approximately \$1,200,000. The 2020 Levy Lid Lift would generate approximately \$1,700,000, an increase of \$500,000.

Q – What is a property tax levy lid lift?

A property tax levy is a tool local government can use to generate revenue; the levy collects taxes based on the assessed value of someone's property. Rules governing different types of levies, such as length and approval requirements, are set by state law. The "levy lid lift" allows for a property tax increase greater than what is established by state law, which is currently a 1% increase over the prior year's total property taxes collected.

Q – What is the Current Expense Levy Rate in Proposition 2?

In 2019, the Levy Lid Lift rate was approximately 16 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and, if approved, the 2020 Levy Lid Lift rate would be 22 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value which is an increase of 6 cents.

The **total** Current Expense levy rate for 2020, if approved, would be 85 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of which the Levy Lid Lift portion is 22 cents.

Q – How much will the Levy Lid Lift portion of the Current Expense property tax cost me?

If you own a property in San Juan County, your property taxes are based on the assessed value of your property. The below table provides a comparison of annual property tax amounts for three assessed value examples of the 2019 (current) and 2020 (if Proposition 2 is approved) levy lift costs. (Note: the 2020 costs are based on the 2019 Total Taxable Assessed Value (TAV) since the 2020 TAV is not yet known.)

Levy Lid-Lift's portion of your property tax bill		
	2019 Annual	2020 Annual
Home Assessed Value	Levy Lift Cost	Levy Lift Cost
\$300,000	\$47.36	\$66.00
\$600,000	\$94.72	\$132.00
\$900,000	\$142.08	\$198.00

Q – How can I learn more?

To learn more about Proposition 2, please visit www.sanjuanco.com.

If you have questions, please email the county at prop2@sanjuanco.com.