

RESOLUTION 20- 2022

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF SAN JUAN COUNTY A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO INCREASE THE ROAD LEVY ABOVE THE REGULAR TAX LIMITATIONS OF RCW 84.55.010

Background

- A. San Juan County, like each county of the state of Washington, has a “road fund” which accrues road levy receipts that can only be used for proper county road purposes. Such purposes include laying out, constructing, altering, repairing, improving, and maintaining county roads, bridges, and wharves necessary for vehicle ferriage and for other proper county purposes.
- B. The state of Washington allows counties to impose a general tax levy for roads up to a maximum of two dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand of assessed value of the taxable property in the county.
- C. San Juan County has imposed a road levy of less than one dollar since 1994.
- D. Road levy tax receipts represent approximately 7% of total taxes collected by the county.
- E. The County possesses no evidence the road levy has ever increased (“lifted”) the road levy after approval of a proposition to the voters.
- F. The cost of materials and labor associated with road infrastructure construction and maintenance has significantly increased in recent years.
- G. San Juan County has also recently experienced an increase in the frequency and severity of significant hydrological events, which has resulted in an upward trend in damage to road infrastructure. This upward trend has placed tremendous pressure on the County in its efforts to repair County infrastructure in a timely manner in the wake of these events.
- H. The funds generated by the current road levy tax are insufficient to meet current need for adequate maintenance of roadways and marine facilities, to repair the growing list of storm damaged culverts and roads in a timely manner, and to provide for right-of-way enhancements to the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The best interests of the citizens of San Juan County require submission to the qualified voters of the County a proposition to increase the road levy to one dollar per \$1,000 assessed value, an amount that is above the regular property taxes limitations established in RCW 84.55.010, for approval or rejection at the general election to be held on November 8, 2022.
2. It is estimated that the proposed levy lid lift will result in approximately \$4 million in additional revenue for 2023, and these funds, together with any increases thereto authorized by chapter 84.55 RCW, shall be directed to fund the following road related functions:

- a. Capital and maintenance projects intended to preserve and/or replace County infrastructure impacted by the growing trend in significant hydrological events.
 - b. Maintain and improve the network of County marine facilities, including docks, piers, ramps, and buoys.
 - c. Enhance County right-of-way shoulders to accommodate safer and more accessible non-motorized use for pedestrians and cyclists.
3. The County Auditor, as supervisor of elections in San Juan County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct an election to be held at the 2022 general election within San Juan County and to submit to qualified electors of the County the proposition set forth in this resolution.
 4. The Prosecuting Attorney will prepare a ballot title for the ballot and explanatory statement for the voter's pamphlet. The County suggests the following title:

COUNTY OF SAN JUAN
PROPOSITION NO. ##-
REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT

The San Juan County Council adopted Resolution No. 20-2022 concerning the imposition of a road levy lid lift. This proposition would authorize the road levy rate at \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed value, which is estimated to be 44 cents per \$1,000 assessed value above the rate for 2023, and the increased amount will be used to maintain roads and marine facilities, repair storm damage, and enhance road for pedestrians and cyclists; and the approved levy rate may be increased based upon the 2023 amount, subject to the limit factors imposed in RCW 84.55.

Shall this proposition be approved?

- Yes
 No

5. This measure will be effective upon approval by a majority of the voters.

Dated this 2nd day of August 2022.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk 8.2.2022
Date

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Christine Minney
Christine Minney, Chair
District 1

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Michael J. Thomas 8/2/22
Date

Cindy Wolf
Cindy Wolf, Vice-Chair
District 2

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: Randall K. Gaylord
Date 7/28/2022

Jamie Stephens
Jamie Stephens, Member
District 3