

MEMORANDUM

TO: Monica Martinez Simmons, Council Clerk

FROM: Jeff Slayton, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT: Ballot title for the transportation levy for the November 2015 ballot

DATE: July 23, 2015

Via e-mail and hand-delivered

In accordance with Section 11 of Ordinance 124796, please find below the ballot title prepared by the City Attorney to be submitted to King County Elections.

SEATTLE PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE

The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 concerns replacement funding for citywide transportation maintenance and improvements.

If approved, this proposition would replace an expiring levy and would fund bridge seismic upgrades, transit corridor and light rail access projects, pedestrian and bicycle safety projects, synchronized traffic signals, street maintenance and repair, freight projects, and neighborhood street projects.

It authorizes regular property tax collections, above RCW 84.55 limits, of \$95,000,000 in 2016 and \$930,000,000 over nine years. The 2016 total regular tax limit would remain \$3.60/\$1,000 of assessed value, including approximately \$0.62/\$1,000 of assessed value in additional taxes.

Should this levy be approved?

Yes

No



Seattle City Attorney

Peter S. Holmes

Jeff Slayton
Assistant City Attorney
(206) 233-2154

August 6, 2015

Wayne Barnett, Executive Director
Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Re: Transmittal of Explanatory statement for ballot measures on the
November 3, 2015 election

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Attached please find the City Attorney's explanatory statements for the two City measures on the November 3, 2015 election. These explanatory statements are for your use in the local voters' pamphlet in connection with that election.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PETER S. HOLMES
City Attorney

By: Jeff Slayton
Assistant City Attorney

cc: Mayor Edward B. Murray
Councilmembers
Pete Holmes, City Attorney
Monica Martinez Simmons, Council Clerk

Enclosures: Explanatory Statements

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CITY CLERK



Seattle City Attorney

Peter S. Holmes

August 6, 2015

CITY OF SEATTLE PROPOSITION 1

Transportation levy measure placed on the November 3, 2015 ballot

Filed Ballot Title

The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 concerns replacement funding for citywide transportation maintenance and improvements.

If approved, this proposition would replace an expiring levy and would fund bridge seismic upgrades, transit corridor and light rail access projects, pedestrian and bicycle safety projects, synchronized traffic signals, street maintenance and repair, freight projects, and neighborhood street projects.

It authorizes regular property tax collections, above RCW 84.55 limits, of \$95,000,000 in 2016 and \$930,000,000 over nine years. The 2016 total regular tax limit would remain \$3.60/\$1,000 of assessed value, including approximately \$0.62/\$1,000 of assessed value in additional taxes.

Should this levy be approved?

Yes

No

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City Attorney's Explanatory Statement

Seattle Proposition 1 replaces an expiring transportation levy and funds safety, congestion relief, and maintenance and repair projects, such as bridge seismic upgrades, transit corridor and light rail access projects, pedestrian and bicycle safety projects,

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synchronized traffic signals, freight projects, and neighborhood street projects.

Proposition 1 raises a maximum of \$930 million over 9 years, spendable on three program categories: Safe Routes (\$420 million); Congestion Relief (\$303 million); and Maintenance and Repair (\$207 million). Each category's expenditure amount may be changed by no more than 10% by ordinance, after a Levy Oversight Committee has had an opportunity to comment. These amounts may change by more than 10% if approved by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

These categories and other details about the levy are described further in Ordinance 124796, included in this pamphlet. In addition to expenditures using Proposition 1 revenues, the City of Seattle will appropriate at least \$40 million (adjusted by inflation) annually using General Subfund revenues for transportation purposes.

Revised Code of Washington chapter 84.55 limits annual property tax revenue increases to 1% over the highest amount that the City could have received in one of the three most recent years. This limit can be exceeded if approved by a simple majority of the voters. Proposition 1 authorizes the City to exceed these limits to collect no more than the \$930 million referenced above.

In 2016, the first year of collection, no more than \$95 million will be raised. The additional tax rate associated with the Proposition 1 increase for each property owner would be approximately \$0.62 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The City's total regular property tax rate would not exceed the state law rate limit of \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Taxes levied in 2023 for collection in 2024, and later tax levies, would be calculated as if Proposition 1 had not been passed.