

Skagit County

Skagit County Section 2008 Voters' Pamphlet

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Skagit County

SKAGIT COUNTY AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

To assist you in the 2008 General Election, I am pleased to offer this guide as a reference for election information. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Jeanne Youngquist,

Skagit County Auditor
Skagit County Auditor's Office
700 S. Second Street, Room 201/P.O. Box 1306
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: (360) 336-9305
Fax: (360) 336-9429
Email: sselections@co.skagit.wa.us

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Qualifications For Voting

To become a registered voter, a person must be:

- A United States citizen, and...
- A resident of Washington State for 30 days immediately preceding the day of election, and...
- 18 years old or older on or before the day of election, and...
- Not presently denied civil rights as a result of felony conviction.

When To Register

Register anytime. However, registration files close 30 days prior to an election. Mail-in registration forms and transfers must be postmarked no later than the 30-day closing date in order to be eligible to vote.

Persons who are not currently registered in Washington State, and do not register by the 30-day deadline, may register in person at the Skagit County Auditor's Office during a special registration period between the 30th day and the 15th day prior to an election.

Registration Deadlines

- November 4th, 2008 General Election
30 day deadline for mail-in registrations and transfers = October 4th, 2008
15 day in-person deadline = October 20th, 2008

Where To Register

Register in the following ways and places.

1. Register online with the Washington State Secretary of State's Office at:
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/>
2. Register in-person at the Skagit County Auditor's Office at:
700 South Second Street, Room 201
Mount Vernon, WA.
Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

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3. Obtain a mail-in registration form at any of the following locations:
 - Skagit County Auditor’s Office
 - Cascade Mall Information Desk
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - City/Town Halls
 - Most Post Offices
 - Public Libraries
 - Public Schools
 - Senior Service Centers
 - Vehicle Licensing Offices
 - State Agencies including Department of Motor Vehicles

When To Transfer

When moving from one address to another within Skagit County, the new address must be reported to the Elections Department at least 30 days before the next election. Contact the Elections Department by phone at (360) 336-9305, by mail, by email, or in person. A new registration card showing your new precinct will be issued and mailed. If you are moving from another county or state, a new registration form must be completed.

Name Change

In order to change a name in voting records, a new registration form must be completed with the new signature. This can be done using any of the methods listed above.

Where To Vote

Skagit County is an all vote-by-mail county. All voters in Skagit County receive their ballots in the mail and return their voted ballots to the Elections Department by mail, or at a ballot drop-box location listed below. Instructions for voting and returning the ballot are included with the ballot. Please note that your voted ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day. **Make sure you know the last pick-up time of your post office**—ballots deposited after that time on Election Day are postmarked the *next day* and are not counted! If you are unsure what to do, use one of the drop-off locations listed below. Please also be sure you **sign the return envelope!**

Voter Registration Cards

Skagit County registration cards are not a form of identification and they are not proof of United States’ Citizenship, per Public Law 104-99. Voters are not required to show their registration card in order to vote. If you would like a replacement card, please notify the Skagit County Elections Department.

Special “Submarine Ballots”

Any registered voter who completes an application stating that he or she is unable to vote and return a ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided, may request a special ballot, a “submarine ballot.”

Disability Access

For voters needing assistance with physical disability issues, the Skagit County Elections office is a designated accessibility site. Please call (360) 336-9305 for further information.

Questions

If you have any questions, please call the Elections Department at (360) 336-9305, email us at scelections@co.skagit.wa.us, or visit us on the web at www.skagitcounty.net.

Skagit County

MAIL BALLOT DIRECTIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! The instructions below apply to the November 4th, 2008 General Election.

Step 1, Items In Your Ballot Packet

Your ballot packet includes the following:

- A ballot
- A white secrecy envelope
- A colored mailing envelope
- Instructions

Step 2, Vote Your Ballot

1. Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. Do not use pencil or felt tip pen.
2. Completely blacken the box to the left of your desired selection.
3. To write in a candidate, blacken the box to the left of "Write-in," then write their name AND party on the line provided under the desired position.
4. Do not write or make any mark of identification on the ballot.
5. If you make a mistake voting your ballot, please correct it by drawing a line through the candidate's name, then make another choice if desired.
6. After you have finished voting, place your completed ballot into the white security envelope and seal.
7. Next, place the white security envelope inside the colored mailing envelope and seal.
8. Sign and date the Affidavit of Absentee Voter on the back of the colored mailing envelope. Your ballot cannot be processed unless the Affidavit is signed.
9. Please note that power of attorney is not recognized. If the voter cannot sign the mailing envelope, two people must witness the voter's "X" or other mark on the mailing envelope. The witnesses must also write "Witnessed By," then sign their names. Witnesses are not required to be registered voters.
10. To request a replacement ballot, or for any other questions, call the Elections Department at (360) 336-9305.

Step 3, Return Your Voted Ballot

There are three ways to return your ballot:

1. **Mail.** Mail the colored mailing envelope containing the ballot inside the privacy envelope. It requires first class postage if mailed within the United States. It must be postmarked no later than Election Day, November 4th, 2008.
2. **In-Person Delivery.** As soon as you receive and vote your ballot, you may deliver it to the Elections Department in the Skagit County Auditor's Office, 700 South Second Street Room 201, Mount Vernon, Washington, during regular business hours, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. As noted in section Drop-Off Locations, there is also a 24-hour ballot drop-off box in the parking lot at this address.
3. **Ballot drop-box Locations.** From the day you first receive your ballot until 8:00 PM Election Day you may deposit your ballot in any of the ballot drop-boxes listed in section Drop-Off Locations. Remember that these locations are all open 24 hours a day during that period.

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Ballot Drop-Off Locations

The following ballot drop-off locations are open as soon as you receive your ballot, 24 hours a day. **All drop-off locations close at 8:00 pm on Election Night!**

Anacortes

Anacortes Public Library
1220 10th Street
Anacortes

Burlington

Burlington Parks and Recreation
Building 900 E. Fairhaven Street
Burlington

Concrete

Skagit Upriver Services/Library
45770 A Main Street
Concrete

La Conner

La Conner Regional Library
614 E. Morris Street
La Conner

Mount Vernon

North

Mount Vernon Police Department
1805 Continental Place
Mount Vernon

South

Skagit County Auditor's Office
700 S. Second Street, Room 201
Mount Vernon
(Drop box in U-shaped parking lot on 3rd St. near
corner with Kincaid; office open 8:30-4:30 week
days)

Sedro-Woolley

Sedro-Woolley Post Office
111 Woodworth Street
Sedro-Woolley
(In alley between Eastern Ave and Metcalf)

Ballot Instructions

- Use a black or blue pen to mark your ballot.
- To vote your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box to the left of your choice.
- To vote for a write-in candidate, completely fill in the box to the left of the words "Write-in" and write in the name.
- More than one vote in a contest is an overvote, and no votes for that contest will be counted. If you do not want to vote a particular contest, you can leave it blank.
- If you make an error, draw a line through the text of the candidate's name or ballot measure response, then fill in the box corresponding to your desired choice. You may also call the Skagit County Elections Department at (360) 336-9305 to request a new ballot if your current ballot has been spoiled.
- If you sign or otherwise identify yourself on the ballot, the ballot will not be counted.
- Complete and sign the declaration on the return envelope. If you are unable to sign, make your mark and have it witnessed by TWO people. Make sure they both sign the envelope.
- Place your voted ballot in the white secrecy envelope, seal that envelope, then place the white secrecy envelope in the colored return envelope and seal that envelope.
- If you are returning your ballot by postal service, affix First Class postage to the return envelope. If you use a drop box, **NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED.**
- Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day, November 4th, 2008. Make sure you know the last pick-up time of your post office; ballots deposited after that time on Election Day are postmarked the next day and not counted!
- If you do not want to mail your ballot, deposit it in one of the ballot drop-boxes listed above. All locations are operational as soon as you receive your ballot, and all are open 24 hours a day. **All boxes close 8:00 PM on Election Day.**

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Board of County Commissioners, First District

Ron Wesen



Biographical Information

Current Occupation/Employer: Organic and Conventional Dairy Farmer

Elected experience: Skagit County Drainage/Irrigation Commissioner District 16.

Education: B.S. Dairy Science, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Family: Married 26 years. Parents, four brothers and spouses living on and jointly operating our century family farm.

Significant career experience: I have risen to a leadership role in every organization I have served since high school and have had the opportunity to represent our community in both Olympia and Washington, D.C. World-wide travel has given me valuable perspective about how our Skagit values and quality of life can be sustained as our community changes and grows.

7210 Worline Rd
Bow, WA 98232
(360) 766-6808
ron@wavecable.com

Candidate Statement

As a 4th-generation Skagitonian, I have a commitment and responsibility to my community. As a leader, I'm known as someone who listens to all sides and acts fairly. I've been an effective advocate for our community. The success of my family business depends on my ability to address daily challenges, long-term business needs, and outside pressures. I will bring all of these skills to the Office of County Commissioner and am eager to serve my community.

Top 3 issues:

- **Wise Spending:** To manage the coming changes in our community, we must use common sense to make investments and expenditures, providing appropriate infrastructure and services to residents and businesses while keeping our local taxes affordable.
- **Quality of Life:** My goal is a safe, attractive and affordable community with good jobs, good schools, and a healthy environment that maintains our community's heritage and natural beauty.
- **Protect Our Natural Resource Industries:** Balance the needs of and retain our maritime and marine industries, forestry and timber, agriculture, nature and agricultural tourism while effectively managing community change.

Abbreviated Record of Service: Currently serving at the local, state and national levels: President – Skagit Dairy Federation; President – Skagit Farm Bureau; Drainage & Irrigation District Commissioner; WA AgForestry Leadership Class 22; Pioneers in Conservation Technical Review Team (salmon recovery project review, ranking and analysis for statewide salmon recovery projects); Secretary/Treasurer Washington State Dairy Federation; American Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Board of County Commissioners, First District

Bill Turner



Biographical Information

Current Occupation/Employer: President Mt. Erie Construction Inc. 1982-present.

Education: Vanderbilt University, BA 1973.

Elected Experience: Anacortes City Councilman and member of three Skagit County Inter-Government committees.

Family: My wife Sally is also my business partner. We have two children. Emily is studying at Johns Hopkins Medical School and lives with husband Jared and son Aeneas. Carl just graduated from San Diego State University.

Significant Career Experience: Built first and only Super-Insulated home on Fidalgo Island. A leader in inclusion of solar energy components. Created the first neighborhood in Anacortes using Low Impact Development. One of the few small builders to provide employees paid holidays and medical insurance.

P.O. Box 472
Anacortes, WA 98221-0472
(360) 391-6201
www.electbillturner.com

Candidate Statement

My 25 years of experience dealing with Skagit County Government, whether as an Anacortes City Councilperson, builder/businessman, environmentalist, supporter of the GMA, or average rural citizen, has informed me of the issues. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to lead in the resolution of Skagit County's issues.

Skagit County's issues are bigger, meaner and more complicated than they used to be. The science is complex. The players are smarter, and there are more of them. The decisions are difficult, but we have the people and resources to get it right.

I believe in involving citizens in the decision-making process, rather than making decisions over lunch or behind closed doors. Our citizens have an immense amount of information, expertise and experience to offer. When everyone's help is welcomed, the County Commissioners can make more thoughtful decisions.

I pledge to keep citizens informed of the Commission's actions, to insure the public's involvement and to apply that input in my decisions. We need to set aside our historical animosity, sit down and really listen to each other. Together, we can find solutions that create a better future, not just for ourselves, or any one group, but for all of Skagit County.

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Board of County Commissioners, Second District

Ken Dahlstedt



Biographical Information

Ken is currently a county commissioner and a fourth generation farmer. He is a graduate of Burlington/Edison high school. As a commissioner since 2001, Ken has served on many boards and committees, including Skagit Council of Governments, Skagit Transit Board, National Association of Counties, Agriculture Steering Committee, Food Safety Subcommittee, Rural Caucus, Burlington-Edison Kiwanis Club, Profac Coop-Board of Directors, Skagit Community Action-Board of Directors, United Way-Board of Directors, and the Northwest Regional Council Area Agency on Aging. Ken has been married to his wife Flo, an elementary school teacher, for 33 years. Together they have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

17126 Brook Court
Mount Vernon WA 98274
(360) 632-6073
www.kendahlstedt.com

Candidate Statement

It has been a true privilege to serve the citizens of Skagit County for the past eight years. During that time I have strived to be available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to meet the critical needs of our citizens. Together, in the last 8 years, we have successfully fought the floods of 2003 & 2006, built McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon, the Alcohol & Drug and Mental Health Center in Burlington and, the Search and Rescue facility at the Port of Skagit County. We have provided economic development funds such as \$500,000 for each of the hospitals in Sedro-Woolley, Anacortes and Mount Vernon. With your help I was also able to fight to protect the integrity of our solid waste system to maintain stable prices for waste handling for our citizens while encouraging recycling and conservation of our resources. In the next four years I will continue to fight for improved flood protection, farm and forest land preservation, public safety, a balanced budget, saving taxpayer dollars, ensuring honest & open government, continue support for veterans & seniors, and encouraging businesses. I know who I work for and that is "You," the citizens of Skagit County, from Anacortes to Marblemount. Please re-elect Kenneth A. Dahlstedt for Skagit County Commissioner on November 4, 2008. Working together we can make a difference in the years ahead. For more information please go to www.kendahlstedt.com or contact Ken's campaign manager Lacy Sweigart at 360-632-6073 or lacy.sweigart@gmail.com.

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Board of County Commissioners, Second District

Don Gordon



23191 State Route #9
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
(360) 840-7722
gordonforcommissioner@msn.com

Biographical Information

Current occupation / Employer: Chairman, Business Bank. Outside Director, Skagit Valley Medical Center, Chairman, Guardian Title. Member-Manager, Villaorba LLC.

Elected experience: Elected “Freeholder”, Skagit County November, 2003. Precinct Committee Officer 2004.

Education: Graduate, Washington State University.

Family: Married to Kay 50 years. Four children, eight grandchildren live in Skagit County

Significant career experience: Executive manager, General Motors and Nissan Motors 15 years. Owner-manager Gordon Nissan-Suzuki 23 years. President, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, President, Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon. Citizen of the Year, 2007 WA. Realtors. Business Person of the Year 2007, NW Business Monthly. “Mr. Skagit County”, Skagit Argus 2005. Award of Excellence recipient, U.S. Small Business Administration.

Candidate Statement

From the beaches on Fidalgo to the peaks of the Cascades, land use decisions will properly determine where we farm, fish, manufacture, sell, work, live, shop, play, educate, receive health care, provide public safety etc. These decisions must respect property rights, private and public, while still matching growth management responsibilities with healthy economic opportunities. There will be tough choices. I’ll listen well and be willing to act. The economics of running County government and providing services we need at levels we’re willing to pay for is a priority. Since 2004 the County General Fund balance has declined from \$8.9 million to \$5.8 million during a time of prosperity. We’re in a tough economy now. For the next few years we must spend less and save more. I know how to do that. We must measure the cost-benefit ratio of regulation and restrictions on farming, timber management, housing and business. Proper regulation preserves our community; unnecessary regulation drives up costs and reduces opportunity. I’ll seek a livable balance. Regionalization, (County, Cities and Districts planning together, working in concert, and sharing resources) is a priority. Turf wars waste resources; I’ll work to eliminate them. Sharing water resources and flood control are local responsibilities. We’ve built our homes, farms, businesses and lives next door to the finest natural river in America. We’ll help the Corps complete their work but not count on a solution from Washington. We must work together regionally to design and complete projects responsibly.

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Public Utility District No. 1, Commissioner District No. 1

Al Littlefield



Committee to Re-Elect Al
Littlefield
2219 15th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221-2020
(360) 293-7356
Email: PUDAJE@cnw.com
<http://www.alforpud.com>

Biographical Information

EDUCATION: Anacortes Schools

ELECTED EXPERIENCE: Skagit County PUD Commissioner since 1986.
Anacortes City Council Member 1982-1986

FAMILY: My wife of 40 years, and I live in Anacortes, 90 feet from where I was raised! I have one son and daughter-in-law, two beautiful granddaughters, middle son deceased on fishing boat tragedy, Alaska 1983, and one daughter, employed at Nordic Tugs, living in Anacortes.

SIGNIFICANT CAREER EXPERIENCE: Currently President of Skagit PUD, current officer of PUD Self-Insurance Board, State of Washington. WSDFW Volunteer Instructor, RSVP Member, Eagles Club Past President, State of Washington Roadside Cleanup Volunteer, Wildlife for Habitat member, retired Texaco Dealer/owner 30+ years.

Candidate Statement

I am proud to say I am locally grown and locally raised! I possess more detailed knowledge and experience with regard to pressing issues facing Skagit PUD#1. As YOUR PUD Commissioner, I believe in collaboration between local and tribal governments. On the issue of electric authority, it will be up to the voters in Skagit County. I, as a Commissioner, will work hard on the decision the voters make. I will continue to streamline to the best of my ability local, state and federal permitting process to achieve local land and water management. I will continue to keep current on PUD strategy, growth and staffing to fulfill PUD's commitment to Skagit citizens. I will develop a visible Skagit PUD by way of public newsletters, media and community participation. I will encourage the development of PUD's vision, mission and core values. I will go public with emerging issues facing the PUD. My track record, 20+ years as your PUD commissioner, and the teamwork the three Commissioners experience is of benefit to PUD customers, you are the owners. I feel a high level of turnover in critical public offices is a roadblock to continuous operation and the implementation of on-going projects. The winning combination of construction, banking and retail brought to the table by the current PUD Commissioners enables a diverse and complimentary team within the District and brings a distinct degree of expertise and experience to the customer. Let's keep this winning formula!

Skagit County

Candidate Statement: Public Utility District No. 1, Commissioner District No. 1

Ken Kukuk



<http://kukuk4commish.com>

Biographical Information

Current Occupation/Employer: Retired Utility Manager

Education: Mountlake Terrace High School, Edmonds Community College, University of Washington, Cascade Public Management Program Institute For Public Policy and Management.

Elected Experience: Cross Valley Water Association VP

Family: Married to Melva for 40 years. They have two daughters, two grandchildren.

Significant Career Experience: Ken served as Skagit County Public Utility District General Manager 8-1/2 years, Asotin County Public Utility District General Manager 11-1/2 years and Mercer Island Utility Superintendent 8 years. Ken has served as Section President American Water Works Association, Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) General Manager's Section and Water Committee Chairman, Legislative Committee Member and Washington Public Works Board Member.

Candidate Statement

As P.U.D. Commissioner, my first priority is to keep our water safe and affordable. With the new construction, and families moving into Skagit County there is a greater demand on the current water system. Let's make sure we have the best employees and the best system and water in the state.

The utility industry is facing many and varied challenges. My philosophy toward the responsibility of a P.U.D. Commissioner is one of consensus through teamwork and transparency.

As Commissioner, I will make certain that the P.U.D. continues to develop an open dialog with the elected officials of Skagit County, Cities, Towns and Special Districts to ensure open access and a regional approach to planning for meeting future water needs.

If the ballot measure for P.U.D. electric authority passes, and it is financially feasible to pursue the purchase of the electrical system serving Skagit County, I have the experience needed to work with the Bonneville Power Administration to make sure contracts and agreements needed to purchase, transmit and move power to the electric system serving Skagit County are met. I too am fully acquainted with the process of acquiring public and private water and electric system infrastructure.

I will bring a new enthusiasm to the Commission, with over 40 years utility experience, as well as a fresh determination to represent YOU, the customer owners with a new vitalization.

My experience makes me the best-qualified candidate for this position.

I would consider it an honor serving you. I appreciate your vote

Skagit County

Measure Statement: City of Sedro-Woolley

City of Sedro-Woolley

Proposition No. 1

Fire Department Acquisition and Improvement Bonds - \$2,000,000

The City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley passed Ordinance No. 1617-08 concerning this proposition. This proposition authorizes the City to construct and equip fire station #2 and acquire a fire engine and a ladder truck, issue general obligation bonds in the principal amount of \$2,000,000, maturing within a maximum of twenty years, and levy property taxes annually in addition to regular tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Ordinance No. 1617-08. Should this proposition be: Approved [] Rejected []

Explanatory Statement

Statement regarding Sedro-Woolley Proposition 1, the Sedro-Woolley Fire Department Acquisition and Improvement Bonds.

If approved, Proposition 1 will authorize the City of Sedro-Woolley to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, to build Fire Station 2, to purchase and equip a new ladder truck and to purchase and equip a new fire engine.

Fire Station 2. Fire Station 2 will be built on Portobello Drive just off of Fruitdale Road on property already owned by the City. Station 2 will increase the Fire Department's capacity to respond to calls by adding a new station to the North side of town. Station 2 will include two vehicle bays to accommodate a fire engine and an aid vehicle. Station 2 will also include space for future sleeper units, allowing the Fire Department to respond to calls more quickly at night and on the weekends. The City planning department estimates that the part of Sedro-Woolley that is East of State Route 20 will eventually grow to 8,000 people. Station 2 will allow the Fire Department to respond more quickly today and be ready for the growth of the future.

Ladder Truck. National standards require the Fire Department to have a ladder truck to serve several dozen buildings in the City today. Some of those buildings include United General Hospital, Sedro-Woolley High School, Janicki Industries and most of the buildings downtown. If approved, this bond will allow the Fire Department to purchase and equip a ladder truck with a 110 foot tall ladder.

Fire Engine. The third element of this bond proposal is the purchase of a new fire engine which will allow the Fire Department to locate an engine at Fire Station 2.

If approved, the impact of this bond on a Sedro-Woolley homeowner is estimated at \$.17 per \$1,000.00 in assessed value, or for a \$250,000.00 home, approximately \$3.54 per month. The bond would be repaid over a period of 20 years. For more questions on this proposal please contact Dean Klinger, Sedro-Woolley Fire Chief at 855-2252.

Statement submitted by City of Sedro-Woolley

— No statements were received in favor of, or against, City of Sedro-Woolley Proposition No. 1 —

Skagit County

Measure Statement: Public Utility District No. 1

Public Utility District No. 1 Proposition No. 1

Shall Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County construct or acquire electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power?

Explanatory Statement

If approved by the voters of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County, this measure will give PUD No. 1 authority to acquire, construct, operate, maintain and add to electrical systems and provide electrical services to those customers in the public utility district. By Resolution No. 2134-08 the Commission of Skagit PUD No. 1 is presenting this measure to the voters for their approval.

If approved, Skagit PUD No. 1 has agreed to fund an updated feasibility study for the acquisition of existing electric power facilities in Skagit County. Electric Services are currently provided by Puget Sound Energy.

Approval of this measure will place with the elected local PUD commission decision-making responsibility regarding operation, maintenance, rate-setting and other electric utility issues for any electric facilities acquired or constructed.

Explanatory statement prepared by Peter A. Gilbert, Attorney for District

Statement in favor of Public Utility District Proposition No. 1

If voters approve this measure, Skagit PUD Number 1 has agreed to fund an in-depth study of the feasibility of acquiring existing electric power facilities in Skagit County. The PUD commissioners placed the issue on the ballot and have asked the voters to register their opinion.

Skagit Citizens for Electric Authority, SCEANOW.org, is a bipartisan, grass-roots group whose members believe it is time for a positive vote on this issue.

Puget Sound Energy is in grave financial difficulties and has agreed to sell itself to an investor group. At the time this is being written that buyer is Macquarie Group of Australia. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission regulates PSE, which presently has monopoly control over our electric power service. By the time voters read this, there maybe another buyer in the picture if the WUTC has not approved the sale to Macquarie.

PSE, in spite of having its rates set to guarantee a profit of more than 10%, has a very poor credit rating and must take drastic measures to ensure its survival.

We believe local control of our electric service will ensure better, more responsive and cheaper service in the long term than continuing to gamble with PSE.

Our opinion is based on:

- Available power from BPA for new public utilities
- Better “economies of scale” buying our power from BPA than PSE has
- A Skagit PUD manager with extensive experience in electric service
- A close network of other electric PUDs that offer assistance and expertise
- It is usually better to “own your home than to rent it”
- An uncertain future with PSE
- Even more uncertainty with a foreign or other “outside” owner of PSE

In spite of doom and gloom prophesies and the fear, uncertainty and doubt PSE attempts to foster in the community, we believe a YES Vote is in our best interests.

PSE has begun a campaign that calls this a government take over. We believe it is time to end this corporation’s control of our lives. It is our POWER!

Please VOTE YES on Proposition No. 1 PUD.

Statement submitted by Skagit Citizens for Electric Authority, contact John M. Smith, jmyronsmith@gmail.com, (360) 856-6901.

Rebuttal to statement against Public Utility District Proposition No. 1

The fact is the people of Skagit County have been paying “rent” to PSE for more than 100 years and have

Skagit County

Measure Statement: Public Utility District No. 1

nothing to show for it other than more “rent” in the form of higher rates in the future. We believe that “rent” should end and the debt they mention would buy the system for the future of the community.

PSE says this is a government takeover; rates would no longer be regulated. The fact is this is a citizen takeover and rates would be regulated by three locally elected commissioners – people who live in our community, not Olympia, Bellevue or Australia.

They argue our PUD has no experience running an electric utility, but PUDs in 23 other communities have shown they can run their own electric utilities – and all at rates significantly lower than PSE. PSE states that PUD rates would be 20% higher; that statement is not true.

Statement submitted by Skagit Citizens for Electric Authority, contact John M. Smith, jmyronsmith@gmail.com, (360) 856-6901.

Statement against Public Utility District Proposition No. 1

Skagit County has a long, successful history with Puget Sound Energy – more than 100 years of low-cost and reliable electricity.

Now, Skagit County PUD wants to take over the power system . . . and that means higher rates, higher property taxes and less reliable energy. We strongly urge our fellow Skagit County citizens to vote NO on Proposition 1.

If Proposition 1 is approved, a PUD takeover would cost more than \$240 million. And that’s just to buy the existing electrical infrastructure. Vote NO to spending hundreds of millions to buy something you’ve already paid for.

If Proposition 1 is approved, the PUD will be authorized to raise our property taxes immediately – without another vote. Vote NO to higher property taxes.

If Proposition 1 is approved, the PUD will be authorized to raise our electric rates, which means rate increases will no longer be limited by state government. And Skagit ratepayers would pay 20 percent more for PUD power. Vote NO to skyrocketing electric rates.

If Proposition 1 is approved, we give Skagit PUD a Blank Check to issue bonded indebtedness to investors throughout the world, placing the residents of Skagit County into hundreds of millions of dollars of debt without another vote of the people. Vote NO to massive public debt.

If Proposition 1 is approved, our electric system will be put in the hands of the PUD, which has no experience in running a power system. PSE has over 100 years of experience in safely operating our power system with local employees based in Skagit County. Keep our power system safe and reliable, Vote NO.

Advocates of PUD power claim that a PSE merger will reduce our control over the power system. The truth? The state and federal governments will continue to regulate PSE’s energy operations and financial statements exactly as they do today.

Don’t give the PUD a blank check to raise our electric rates and property taxes. We have better local priorities for our money. Let’s keep PSE, state oversight of rate increases and a safe, reliable energy system.

Vote NO on Proposition 1!

Statement submitted by Skagit Committee for Reliable and Affordable Energy, 1777 S. Burlington Blvd. #158, Burlington, WA 98233

Rebuttal to statement in favor of Public Utility District Proposition No. 1

As you read the Statement in favor of Proposition No. 1 PUD, you will notice one thing is missing throughout: details on how they will spend your tax and ratepayer money.

In its beginning, the Pro Statement says that the PUD has put this on the ballot to get our opinion. If only that was all they wanted.

In truth, approval of Proposition 1 will give the PUD a Blank Check to raise our property taxes to fund their “in-depth study” and to raise our electric rates to purchase the existing PSE electric system. Proposition 1 is the **only vote** we get before the PUD raises our property taxes and electric rates and creates a massive \$240 million public debt for all Skagitonians!

Read their statement carefully. How do they say they will fund the study and purchase?

Vote NO on the Blank Check they call Proposition 1.

Statement submitted by Skagit Committee for Reliable and Affordable Energy, 1777 S. Burlington Blvd. #158, Burlington, WA 98233

Skagit County

Measure Statement: Skagit Transit System

Skagit County Public Transportation Benefit Area

Proposition No. 1

Shall public transportation services in Skagit County be maintained and improved by authorizing the Skagit Transit System to impose an additional two-tenths ($2/10^{\text{ths}}$) of one percent (1%) sales tax, effective January 1, 2009?

Explanatory Statement

If approved by the voters, this measure will authorize the Skagit Transit System to increase the sales and use tax from two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) to four-tenths of one percent (0.4%), within the Public Transportation Benefit Area, effective January 1, 2009. The result upon approval will be an increase of two cents (\$.02) for every ten dollars (\$10.00) sales transaction. Washington State statutes provide transit agencies taxing authority of up to nine-tenths of one percent (0.9%) of sales and use tax. The purpose of this tax is to maintain and improve public transportation services within the Public Transportation Benefit Area.

The increase in revenue will replace, in part, state and federal grants scheduled to expire in June 2009. The revenue generated by this increase would be used solely for operation, maintenance and capital needs. The revenue will allow the Skagit Transit System to continue to offer existing levels of service and to expand service and would also allow for replacement and purchase of vehicles in order to meet the current and future needs in the Skagit Transit service area.

Explanatory Statement prepared by Richard J. Langabeer, Attorney for Skagit Transit System.

Statement in favor of Skagit County Public Transportation Benefit Area Proposition No. 1

Proposition 1 for Skagit Transit will:

- ⊕ Reduce congestion on the roads
- ⊕ Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases
- ⊕ Keep all the buses running
- ⊕ Add more routes and buses

The cost?

0.2% increase in Sales Tax

How much is that?

2¢ on a \$10.00 purchase

What does that mean?

- 1¢ on a \$5.00 latte
- \$1 on a \$500.00 refrigerator
- \$29 per year for a household with median income

What do I need to know?

Skagit Transit has had NO INCREASE in sales tax rate since it began in 1993. Its rate is STILL 0.2%.

With the increase, it will STILL have the LOWEST transit sales tax rate in Western Washington. ONLY 0.4%.

TRANSIT PROPOSITION 1 DOES NOT AFFECT PROPERTY TAXES!

Preserving proven improvements in service – Successful in restructuring routes and schedules and in getting grants, Skagit Transit has introduced many improvements in the last few years:

Skagit County

Measure Statement: Skagit Transit System

- Standing-room-only service to Bellingham and Everett
- Early evening service
- Service every 30 minutes in most of the Burlington-Mount Vernon core area
- Nearly 40 van-pools in service

The grants have shown that the service will be used, but many of them are expiring. Now it's our turn to preserve and enhance these improvements.

Enhancing service – In the last few years, the people of the County have said repeatedly that they need service improvements:

- At least some service on Sundays, in the late evening, and to east Mount Vernon
- More frequent service on Saturdays, during the rush hour, and to Anacortes, LaConner, East County, and North County.
- Fill the waiting list for 28 more van-pools.

The proposed increase in sales tax won't mean we'll get all of this, but it will mean we can have some of it.

Vote yes for Skagit Transit Proposition 1!

Statement prepared by People for Skagit Transit, email Stoney Bird: sjbird@verizon.net

No statement was submitted in opposition to Skagit County Public Transportation Benefit Area Proposition No. 1