

**San Juan County Public Hospital
District No. 3**

**Proposition No. 1: Orcas Island
Health Care District 10-year
temporary levy lid lift**

This proposition would increase the District's regular levy for 10 years to fund operating and capital costs of primary care services, acute/urgent care services, and other health care services, including after-hours care, and for related specialties, facilities and programs. It authorizes a maximum regular property levy rate of \$0.70/\$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026. The 2026 levy amount would be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies (through 2035).

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Written by Stacey Crawshaw-Lewis, Pacifica Law Group LLP

Orcas Island Health Care District has proposed a levy lid lift to fund primary care services, acute/urgent care services, and other health care services, including after-hours care, and related specialties, facilities and programs. If approved, this proposition would authorize a 10 year increase in the District's regular property tax levy. The District's current levy rate is \$0.41503 per \$1,000 of assessed value; the proposition would authorize the 2026 levy rate to increase to \$0.70 per \$1,000, which is below the \$0.75 per \$1,000 maximum statutory rate for public hospital district regular levies. If approved, the 2026 levy amount would be used as the basis to calculate subsequent levies for the following nine years (through 2035) as allowed by Chap. 84.55 RCW. The levy lid lift is temporary and would expire after 2035.

As further described in Resolution 2025-01, the purpose of the levy lid lift is to provide additional revenues to be used to fund operating and capital costs of on-island primary and acute/urgent medical care (including after-hours care) and primary care adjacent specialties, facilities and programs, including by maintaining and expanding current primary care services, modernizing facilities, and providing temporary housing for healthcare workers.

This measure would cost the owner of a \$1,000,000 assessed value property approximately 285 additional dollars per year for 10 years. This measure would raise approximately \$1,300,000 in additional funding for the District in 2026 and for each of the following nine years.

Argument For

Vote "Yes" to ensure health care access for Orcas.

OIHCD's current contract with Island Health (IH) contained no provisions for cost escalation — terrific for OIHCD. Since the pandemic, however, health care costs have increased 30%. IH cannot continue to fund this deficit. Ever fiscally responsible, OIHCD, which has not drawn down its levy maximum for 5 of the last 7 years, negotiated a 20% reduction (\$300,000) in the cost of the first year of the proposed contract, which calls for an annual increase of either 5% or the CPI, whichever is greater, over the next ten years.

Without this temporary levy lid lift, OIHCD will deplete its cash reserves in 3 to 8 years, unless significant reductions in services occurs, an outcome potentially damaging to islander's health.

Why partner with IH if the proposed contract necessitates a temporary levy lid lift that is almost 70% higher than the current rate? First, IH is OIHCD's only viable partner. Second, they are the most affordable option, possessing an exceptional Medicaid reimbursement rate others cannot match. Third, they have run our clinic well, having brought stability to primary care services islanders have sought for decades. Fourth, this temporary levy provides flexibility to manage potential reductions in reimbursement while maintaining services as our population ages and grows.

Revenue raised by this levy lid lift will be used solely to fulfill the mission to "protect and improve the health of islanders now and over the long term," balancing fiduciary responsibility with improved services.

Written by Mike Miller - mllmilleratmit@gmail.com; Rick Hughes - starwave96@hotmail.com; Trey Holland - treyhollandsphoa@gmail.com

Argument Against

In late 2017 the Coalition for Orcas Health Care was formed by residents of Orcas with the result being a measure placed on the 2018 ballot to form a public health care district for access to high quality primary, urgent and after hours care in a financially sustainable and cost effective manner.

The commissioners established an efficiently running clinic; upgraded facilities and staff; partnered with Island Health; set up processes that included appropriate administration with transparency all with public input and within budget.

The current commission now is proposing a new 10 year Temporary Levy Lift (LL) increasing the millage rate from .415 to .700 or 69%.

The LL contains this statement: "Longer term, the district intends to serve as a catalyst to bring all health care stakeholders together to support a community approach to care that addresses all health care needs on the island". This statement is a significant expansion of the original mission.

The proposed LL includes many high cost programs for modernization, staff housing and additional services.

I strongly encourage voters to learn exactly how the substantial increase will be spent in order to decide if you are willing to pay for those things with your tax dollars.

Written by Bob Thomas - bobonisland@aol.com

Return Your Ballot

Official ballot drop box

Return your ballot to an official ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 22:

San Juan County Elections Office
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
M–Th 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Election Day 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Orcas Island Senior Center
62 Henry Rd, Eastsound, WA

In person

The Elections office is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M–Th, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 22:

San Juan County Elections
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
(across from the Courthouse)

By mail

No stamp is needed! Place your ballot in the mail before the deadline. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before April 22, in order to count.

Replacement Ballots

1. Contact SJC Elections as soon as possible:
Phone: 360-378-3357
Email: elections@sanjuancountywa.gov
OR
2. Print a replacement ballot:
 - Sign in to votewa.gov with your name/birthdate
 - Click *MyBallot* -> *Online Ballot* in the left column
 - Follow instructions to vote and return your ballot



San Juan County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet April 22, 2025 Special



Local Jurisdiction Participating in this Election
San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 3

Register to Vote

Online

Log in to votewa.gov to register to vote or update your address. You will need a current Washington State driver's license, permit or ID card. If you do not have a Washington driver license, permit, or ID, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number to register. If you do not have any of these, you may still register by mail or in person. Online registrations must be submitted no later than April 14 in order to process the registration for the April Special Election.

In person

The Elections office is open for registration 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M–Th, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 22. In person registrations must be initiated no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 22.

By mail

Print a voter registration form from sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx
Fill out the form and mail it to:

San Juan County Auditor
Elections Division
PO Box 638
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Accessible Voting

San Juan County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an accessible voting unit.

The accessible voting equipment will be available Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, beginning Thursday, April 3, through April 22, and from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 22.