

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - April 25, 2017 Special Election

City of Blaine Proposition No. 2017-1 Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements

Ballot Measure:

The Blaine City Council, Blaine, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 1704-17, concerning a sales and use tax to fund transportation improvements. This proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.002) to be collected from all taxable events within the City in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455 for a term of ten years for the purpose of paying for financing costs of transportation improvement projects identified in the Blaine Transportation Improvement Program as allowed by Chapters 36.73 RCW, 36.74 RCW and 82.14 RCW, which include street, sidewalk, and trail improvements and programs. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement:

The City requires additional revenue to pay for needed transportation improvements. This measure would help fund these improvements by increasing the sales and use tax by 0.2%. All of the funds generated by this tax increase would be used for the sole purpose of paying for transportation projects that the City has identified as necessary to improve such things as safety, travel time, capacity and reliability. Projects include improvement and repair of streets, sidewalks and trails. This tax will be paid not just by City residents, but rather by all persons who shop in the City.

*To read Committee For & Committee Against Statements, see other side.

Voting Instructions:

Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot into the security sleeve
- Place the security sleeve inside the green return envelope and seal

Sign:

- Sign the voter declaration

Return:

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office - Election Division

Returning Your Ballot:



By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open April 5; close at 8:00 pm on April 25. Locations available:

- 311 Grand Avenue: Whatcom County Courthouse, in the south parking lot of the courthouse or inside at Suite 103
- 610 3rd Street: Blaine Library parking lot
- 4581 Birch Bay Lynden Road: North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Station



By Mail:

First class postage required. Ballots must be postmarked by April 25. We recommend mailing by Friday, April 21.

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov

Voting Center:

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham, WA



Phone: 360-778-5102

Fax: 360-778-5101

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor/

Services Available:

- Accessible voting using visual/audio technology
- Replacement ballots
- Voter registration

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Election Day, April 25, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm



City of Blaine
Proposition No. 2017-1
Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements

Statement For:

A “Yes” vote for the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) will raise much needed funds for our city roads and trails. As we all know, good roads and trails are vital to economic development and quality of life in Blaine. The TBD equates to a 2¢ increase on a \$10 purchase, cents you already pay if you shop in Lynden, Ferndale or Bellingham as they all have their own TBD. These 2¢ means resurfaced streets, filled potholes, repaired sidewalks, and new trails for you and your family.

A “Yes” vote means 100% of the revenue stays in Blaine (compared to less than 1% of existing sales tax). This revenue will not go to Olympia, Washington D.C. or even the Blaine general fund; it is all for the maintenance and improvement of Blaine’s roads and trails. Additionally, a significant portion of the tax will be paid by people living outside of Blaine. Tourism and restaurant purchases from visitors will provide a large percentage of money. An estimated 35% of sales tax revenue in Blaine comes from P.O. boxes alone!

A “Yes” vote means everyone in Blaine will enjoy safer streets, better trails and an improved quality of life!

Statement For prepared by:
Committee For Transportation Benefit District;
Eric Davidson, Janet Pickard and Colin Hawkins

Rebuttal of Statement For:

We should be creating a different model that would drive more business to our city in the long-term. It is a fact, that if we had more traffic coming into Blaine, we would not need to increase the taxes. We should solve the real problem rather than bandaging the issue. It is not the minimal amount of the tax that is concerning, it is the philosophy and practice that does not do us justice.

Statement Against:

As a Blaine business owner and student of politics and economics, I am not in favor a sales tax increase. I believe, that taxation is theoretically a short-term solution implemented to solve any monetary issue that we, as a society encounter. I say “theoretically” because the taxes do not go away once a project has been sufficiently paid and or completed. One blaring example of this is the income tax. That was supposed to be a short-lived phenomenon that became an institution. In too many cases, we see that institutions do not serve the populace that they are intended to serve.

Rather than increasing our sales tax and perpetuating a requirement based economic model, I suggest that we work together as a community with truly voluntary participation in funds creation and allocation. We are a force of intelligent, compassionate and hardworking individuals. I am volunteering my ideas, experience and enthusiasm to this cause. I want to see Blaine thrive and do not believe that increased taxation is the answer to our needs. We have a rare opportunity to champion a different model and potentially create a deeper appreciation for our city, our common goals and for an independent ideal.

Statement Against prepared by:
Jacob Lamont

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

The TBD provides a choice for voters in Blaine to ensure quality roads and trails. The TBD ensures the entire burden is not at the expense of the citizens of Blaine but from everyone who shops in Blaine and uses city services. TBD funds stay completely in Blaine to benefit the people of Blaine. That 2¢ on a \$10 purchase allows Blaine to enjoy a safer and better quality of life for years to come.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.