



FAQ'S ON THE PARK DISTRICT'S LEVY LID LIFT

The Park District levy lid lift proposal is on the August 3 ballot. We encourage you to vote. The lid lift will assure continued maintenance of existing facilities, parks, trails, open space, playgrounds, programming, special events and seeds a sustainable future.

Everyone benefits from 40+ miles of trails; 25 parks; 76 acres of recreational shoreline; 104 acres of playground and athletic facilities; 1500 acres of park property; and 3700+ programs offered each year. It is hard to imagine a day goes by that does not involve the Park District in some way.

What is a levy lid lift?

A portion of the property tax Bainbridge Island homeowners pay each year goes to the Park District to fund maintenance and operations. In 2008, Bainbridge Island residents voted to approve a 75¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the Park District. Park District land and programming have increased 60% in the past 13 years, while the tax rate has declined to 57¢ per \$1,000. The levy lid lift, Proposition 1, seeks to reinstate the 75¢ per \$1,000 rate, meaning an increase of roughly \$12.08 per month on an \$850,000 home.

What will the Park District do with the additional funds?

The Park District will continue maintenance of existing land and facilities, fund necessary deferred maintenance projects, and expand human resources to keep all operations running well.

What if the levy does not pass?

By the year 2024, the Park District would need to make significant budget cuts because current tax revenue is not keeping up with inflation and growth. This would mean reduced levels of park maintenance and services that Bainbridge Island currently enjoys. In addition, it would lead to many of the deferred maintenance projects being unfinished, and new projects will not be possible unless there are offsetting budget cuts. It is important to note that the Park District has the same number of full-time staff (42) in 2021 as it did in 2008, there has been no increase in full-time staff in 13 years.

I'm a senior on a fixed income, I am not sure I can afford it.

Written into the Proposition is an exemption for qualifying low-income senior citizens, veterans, and persons with disabilities. The specifics of this will be determined by the state, but the Park District recognizes and honors those for whom this may cause financial hardship.

How does the potential Bainbridge Athletic Club purchase figure into this?

Park District Commissioners voted to ask the community for a levy lid lift prior to when the opportunity to purchase the Bainbridge Athletic Club (BAC) came to light. BAC is a stand-alone, revenue generating entity, not dependent upon levy funds. The Park District intends to continue the successful existing operational model at BAC. Park District Commissioners feel confident in staff's ability to positively manage BAC.

What does passage mean for the Aquatic Center?

The Ray pool, built in 1971, needs substantial improvements to prevent an imminent failure. Passage of the levy will provide resources to address those aging problems.

Look for the ballots in the mail and vote August 3!