

San Juan County Official Local
Voters' Pamphlet

April 27, 2021 Special Election



Published by the San Juan County Auditor's Office



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Register to Vote

Online

Log in to votewa.gov to register to vote or update your address. You must have a Washington State driver's license, permit, or ID card. Online registrations must be submitted no later than April 19 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-F, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 27. In person registrations must be initiated no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 27.

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

San Juan County Elections must receive the mailed form by April 19 in order to process the registration for the April Special Election.

Return Your Ballot

Ballot drop box

Return your ballot to a ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 27:

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

San Juan County Courthouse
Second St. Entrance, 350 Court St., Friday Harbor

Orcas Island Senior Center
62 Henry Rd., Eastsound

In person

The Elections office is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M-F, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 27:

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 27 in order to count.

Replacement Ballots

- Contact SJC Elections as soon as possible:
Phone: 360-378-3357
Email: elections@sanjuanco.com
OR
- Download 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

Local Jurisdictions Participating in this Election

Town of Friday Harbor
San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 3
San Juan Island Park & Recreation District
Orcas Island School District No. 137

Cover Photo: Madrona Overlooking San Juan Channel
Photo Credit: Amy Cadwell

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 Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, beginning Friday, April 9, through April 26, and from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 27.

Who donates to campaigns?

View contributors for measures through the Public Disclosure Commission.

Website: www.pdc.wa.gov
Phone: 877-601-2828

Town of Friday Harbor Proposition No. 1

Annexation of Town of Friday Harbor into San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 3

Shall the Town of Friday Harbor be annexed to and be a part of the San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 3 (San Juan Island Fire & Rescue), as provided by Chapter 52.04 RCW?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

Written by **Randall K Gaylord, SJC Prosecuting Attorney**

San Juan County Fire District #3, commonly known as San Juan Island Fire & Rescue, encompasses San Juan, Brown, Pearl Islands and other nearby islands. The district presently provides fire protection, all-hazard, emergency response including structural and wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, hazmat response, vehicle extrication, and response to other emergencies. Paid staff and volunteers work with San Juan Island EMS, the San Juan County's Sheriff's department, and other agencies.

Currently, the Town of Friday Harbor (the Town), by contract, obtains fire protection services from the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. The Town Council has declared its intent to join San Juan Island Fire & Rescue and followed the procedures established by Chapter 52.04 RCW for the annexation of all property within the Town to the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue.

If annexation occurs, all public and private properties of the Town of Friday Harbor will be joined with and merged into San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. San Juan Island Fire & Rescue will assume all responsibilities for providing fire service in the Town, including fire and rescue, governance, management, and other services otherwise duly authorized. If the annexation is approved by voters, the annual tax levy imposed by San Juan Island Fire & Rescue will then be applied within the corporate limits of the Town, except as otherwise provided by law, and the Town will be relieved of the contract for such services.

This combination of Town and San Juan Island Fire & Rescue has been studied for several years. The Town Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 1710 (2021) in which the Council confirmed that it was in the best interest of the Town to join with and annex to San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. San Juan Island Fire & Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2021-1 which concurred with the annexation of the Town.

This proposition will be presented to registered voters of the Town and of the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the Town and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue district vote in favor, the Town will be annexed and will be part of San Juan Island Fire & Rescue and the responsibility for providing fire services will be transferred to San Juan Island Fire & Rescue.

Argument For

The Town of Friday Harbor is proposing to annex into San Juan Island Fire District #3, an overdue action following the dissolution of the Town's fire department, in 2010.

A YES vote on Town annexation into Fire District #3 means town property owners will pay an equal share of costs for fire and rescue services through the existing assessment paid by district taxpayers.

A YES vote means town voters will have a direct vote on governance and finances of the Fire District by voting for District Commissioners.

Without annexing, the Town will need to negotiate a new contract with the district, as the current contract expires at the end of 2021. Contract costs have increased and will not be set at the existing rate. An assessment is equitable and predictable.

Town property owners' approximate cost would be 44.5 cents per thousand dollars of valuation resulting in an annual tax on a home assessed at \$350,000 of approximately \$156.

To phase the impact for town property owners, the Council committed reducing its general property tax levy by \$200,000 in 2022 and \$100,000 the second year of the annexation, in 2023. Thereafter the full property tax levy for the Town would be assessed.

The Town council will invest any costs savings from the general fund in building needed Town infrastructure. This obligation would run for a minimum period of five years, post annexation.

Join us in voting YES on Town Annexation.

Written by

Tom Eades
Becki Day
Charles Dalldorf

Argument Against

No information submitted.

**SJC Fire District No. 3
Proposition No. 1**

Annexation of Town of Friday Harbor into San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 3

Shall the Town of Friday Harbor be annexed to and be a part of the San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 3 (San Juan Island Fire & Rescue), as provided by Chapter 52.04 RCW?

[] Yes

[] No

Explanatory Statement

Written by **Randall K Gaylord, SJC Prosecuting Attorney**

San Juan County Fire District #3, commonly known as San Juan Island Fire & Rescue, encompasses San Juan, Brown, Pearl Islands and other nearby islands. The district presently provides fire protection, all-hazard, emergency response including structural and wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, hazmat response, vehicle extrication, and response to other emergencies. Paid staff and volunteers work with San Juan Island EMS, the San Juan County's Sheriff's department, and other agencies.

Currently, the Town of Friday Harbor (the Town), by contract, obtains fire protection services from the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. The Town Council has declared its intent to join San Juan Island Fire & Rescue and followed the procedures established by Chapter 52.04 RCW for the annexation of all property within the Town to the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue.

If annexation occurs, all public and private properties of the Town of Friday Harbor will be joined with and merged into San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. San Juan Island Fire & Rescue will assume all responsibilities for providing fire service in the Town, including fire and rescue, governance, management, and other services otherwise duly authorized. If the annexation is approved by voters, the annual tax levy imposed by San Juan Island Fire & Rescue will then be applied within the corporate limits of the Town, except as otherwise provided by law, and the Town will be relieved of the contract for such services.

This combination of Town and San Juan Island Fire & Rescue has been studied for several years. The Town Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 1710 (2021) in which the Council confirmed that it was in the best interest of the Town to join with and annex to San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. San Juan Island Fire & Rescue adopted Resolution No. 2021-1 which concurred with the annexation of the Town.

This proposition will be presented to registered voters of the Town and of the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue. If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the Town and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the San Juan Island Fire & Rescue district vote in favor, the Town will be annexed and will be part of San Juan Island Fire & Rescue and the responsibility for providing fire services will be transferred to San Juan Island Fire & Rescue.

Argument For

The issue of Town annexation into Fire District #3 is solely about the equitable payment, by the town, for existing fire and rescue services.

Fire District #3 does not include the Town of Friday Harbor. The town contracts for fire and rescue services and currently pays for service through its general fund.

A YES vote on Town annexation into Fire District #3 will have no financial impact on existing district taxpayers.

A YES vote on town annexation means town property owners will pay their equal share of the assessment. If Town voters approve a separate measure, property owners will join District #3 property owners paying into the existing property tax levy.

Except for the Town, property owners on San Juan Island, Brown and Pearl Islands pay for service through an existing assessment. Starting in January 2022, property owners on Henry, Johns, Spieden and Stuart Islands will pay into the same assessment.

The Town ceased operations of its fire department in 2010 due to the cost and inefficiencies of operating a stand-alone department and agreed to annex the Town at a future date.

Join us in voting YES on Town annexation into Fire District #3 to ensure equitable payment for services for all taxpayers.

Written by

Dan Paulson
Susan Risser
Brent Snow

Argument Against

No information submitted.

San Juan Island Park & Recreation District Proposition No. 1

Levy

The Board of Commissioners of the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District ("Island Rec") adopted Resolution No. 21-01 concerning the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize Island Rec to renew a property tax levy of 38.5 cents or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for each of the tax years 2022 – 2027, subject to the limit factors in RCW 84.55, which monies (or proportionate amount) will be dedicated for the following purposes:

16.5 cents for funding Island Rec programs and recreational services;

10.0 cents for sports programs with the School District; and

12.0 cents for operation and maintenance of all Island Rec parks, including John O. Linde Community Park.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Written by **Randall K Gaylord, SJC Prosecuting Attorney**

The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District ("Island Rec") must renew its property tax levy every six years. The current levy will expire in 2021. This proposal affects the Island Rec levy for the years 2022 through 2027.

This proposal is for approval of levy to a total of 38.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That levy amount is expected to generate approximately \$1,488,000 in 2022, and future increases are subject to the limit factor in RCW Chapter 84.55. This amount is well below the statutory limit of 60 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Island Rec has specified three purposes for the revenue and dedicated funds accordingly. Of the 38.5 cents, 16.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (an amount anticipated to be \$638,000 in 2022) will be dedicated to continuing funding the Island Rec programs and recreational services. Of the total amount, 10 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (an amount anticipated to be \$385,000 in 2022) will be dedicated to providing interscholastic sports programs for the San Juan Island School District pursuant to an Intergovernmental agreement with the School District. Of the total amount, 12 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (an amount anticipated to be \$465,000 in 2022) will be dedicated for the operations and maintenance of all Island Rec parks, including John O. Linde Community Park, which has been developed as a donor-funded 30-acre community park pursuant to an agreement with the School District, the property owner.

Argument For

YES for the Island Park and Recreation District Levy will continue to fund Island Rec programs that add to the quality of life that we enjoy on San Juan Island.

STAR, Camp Eagle Rock and TREK are programs that serve children after school and in the Summer. Programs for adults include fitness classes for all levels and enrichment programs. In the Summer we look forward to Music on the Lawn and Movies in the Park.

We take walks with and without our dogs at Lafarge Open Space (formally gravel pit) which is owned and maintained by Island Rec. The Eddie and Friends Dog Park, Family Park at the Fairgrounds, the Skate Park and the fantastic John O. Linde Community Park are all maintained by Island Rec.

YES for the Island Rec Levy provides the ability to continue funding San Juan Island School District sports programs. All high school students, whether public, private or homeschooled have the opportunity to play on these sports teams. Without the levy, which accounts for 85% of the school sports budget, there would be no school sports.

Island Rec is asking for renewal at the same levy rate (38.5 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value) as the expiring levy.

I urge you to Vote YES for the renewal of the Island Rec Levy so that we can continue to provide programs that keep us all healthy and engaged.

Written by

Tori Zehner

Contact:

www.yes4islandrec.org

Argument Against

No information submitted.

**Orcas Island School District No. 137
Proposition No. 1
Technology Capital Projects Levy**

The Board of Directors of Orcas Island School District No. 137 adopted Resolution No. 2021-01 concerning a facilities and technology modernization levy to meet the anticipated needs of the district. The proposition authorizes the modernization and remodeling of District facilities, including technology systems; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2022	\$ 0.19	\$ 500,000
2023	\$ 0.19	\$ 500,000
2024	\$ 0.18	\$ 500,000
2025	\$ 0.18	\$ 500,000
2026	\$ 0.18	\$ 500,000
2027	\$ 0.17	\$ 500,000

as provided in District Resolution No. 2021-01.
Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

Explanatory Statement

Written by **Cynthia Weed, Attorney for Orcas School Dist.**

Orcas Island School District seeks voter approval of a capital levy in place of the District’s earlier capital levy which expired in December of 2020. This levy would fund projects to improve the District’s facilities through the acquisition and installation of technology systems, including infrastructure improvements, computers, tablets and other technology devices, implementation support, safety upgrades, and other capital expenditures to the District’s facilities plan. If the levy is approved, taxable property within the District would be taxed to pay for improvements over the next six years. The estimated rates of this levy are \$.19 (2022 collection); \$.19 (2023 collection); \$.18 (2024 collection); \$.18 (2025 collection); \$.18 (2026 collection), and \$.17 (2027 collection) per year for each thousand dollars of assessed property value. This represents an average decrease of \$.02 (two cents) from the rates of the expired levy. The levy would generate funding in the amount of \$500,000 each year of the levy. The exact levy rates shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the San Juan County Assessor at (360) 378-2172. A “yes” vote approves the imposition of the levy. A “no” vote opposes the imposition of the levy. To pass, this measure must be approved by a simple majority of voters.

Argument For

The Capital Projects Technology levy before you will replace an expired one. Its cost, going forward, is estimated to be less than the previous one. Thanks to your support of the expired tech levy, our staff and students had the resources to rise to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Never was this more critical. The OISD was able to quickly pivot to a new online norm. Learning happened virtually. Graduation materialized with the help of technology. School Board meetings were still convened. Communication continued. This replacement Capital Projects/Technology Levy will now fund much needed new equipment, as well as software updates/upgrades. It will provide ongoing support services and necessary training for staff. To best cultivate and advance student achievement, technology tools and the expertise to use them are necessary. The pandemic has highlighted the fundamental necessity of technology for all students. The 21st Century demands that our schools function as technology savvy learning environments. Being tech proficient is no longer a choice; it’s a requirement for most students’ pathways to success. Please join us in supporting this levy. Thank you for your consideration.

Written by Yes for Orcas Public Schools

Janet Brownell, Advocacy Committee Chair
Hilary Canty
Tony Ghazel

Argument Against

No information submitted.