

Thurston County Regional Justice Center Proposition No. 1 General Obligation Bonds - \$88,000,000

Official Ballot Title:

The Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County adopted Resolution No. 13057 concerning a proposition to issue general obligation bonds for the acquisition, construction and equipping of a regional criminal justice center. This proposition would authorize the County to acquire, construct and equip a 640-bed jail and four nonjury courtrooms, improve seven courtrooms in the existing County courthouse, and renovate the County's existing jail, and issue general obligation bonds in the principal amount of \$88,000,000, maturing within a maximum of 25 years, and levy property taxes annually, in addition to regular tax levies, to repay such bonds.



Should this proposition be:

Approved _____

Rejected _____

Statement For:

We need a new jail and justice center. The jail now routinely holds five times the number of inmates it was originally designed to house. It's a money pit, beleaguered with repair after repair.

It Is Not Safe

It's not safe for the officers and inmates. It's not safe for the nurses, chaplains, counselors, trainers and community volunteers who work there. It's especially not safe for the rest of us who can no longer count on crooks being locked up because an overcrowded jail forces us to let them loose.

No Vacancy Means No Accountability

We now have 7,500 outstanding warrants in Thurston County. People who commit crimes aren't being held accountable. The Drug Court alternative only works if there is jail space to deal with non-compliance. Meanwhile, we're shipping inmates to jails in other counties at prices we have no control over. And, we're letting people loose who should be locked up for our safety.

More Expensive To Put It Off

There are 104,700 more residents now than when the jail was built in 1978. As our community population grows, so too does the need for new jails and courts. We can't ignore it. The problem won't go away. The longer we wait the more expensive it will get. And our community will be even less safe if the bad guys aren't held accountable. We must solve this problem.

Public Safety Comes First

Protecting our families from crime is one of local government's most important responsibilities. Let's keep our families, neighborhoods and communities safe.

Vote YES for the Thurston Justice Center. www.thurstonjustice.org. Citizens For A Responsible Jail Solution.

Voters' Pamphlet statement prepared by: Pro Committee - Ralph Munro, Jean Pettit and Graeme Sackrison

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Jail opponents offer no practical alternatives. A three year community process has produced a workable, affordable solution that needs to be acted on now to keep us safe.

It is designed to meet future needs, promote programs to discourage repeat offenders and provide treatment for mentally ill persons who commit crimes. Our criminal justice system cannot succeed without adequate jails and safe courts. Protect public safety, vote yes for the Thurston Justice Center.

Thurston County Regional Justice Center Proposition No. 1 - Continued

Explanatory Statement:

This proposition would authorize Thurston County to issue \$88,000,000 in general obligation bonds for the purpose of constructing a regional justice center. The bonds would mature within 25 years with interest and principal payable out of annual property tax levies. The regional justice center would be constructed on 27 acres in the Mottman Industrial Park in Tumwater and would include a 640 bed correctional facility, municipal and district court courtrooms and offices for the courts, prosecution and defense staff. Inmates now housed at the existing County and City facilities would move to the new facility and the existing jail would be renovated and used for holding inmates waiting for jury trials and providing reserve capacity for 80-90 inmates. In addition, the Superior Court courtrooms in the existing County courthouse would be remodeled and two courtrooms that are currently used by district court would be converted to Superior Court courtrooms.

Explanatory Statement prepared by: David Klumpp, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney

Statement Against:

Let's think this through.

~ The current proposal will *not* solve overcrowding. ~ Officials admit the new jail would be nearly full when opened in 2008. ~ Thurston County has not implemented specific professional recommendations for efficiently reducing jail population. ~ Our jail population increased *nearly four times as fast* as county population. ~ Jails are like closets. The more space you have, the more you'll keep filling it up. ~ We *cannot* build our way out of this problem!

\$103 million is fiscally irresponsible.

~ This is just Phase I. Two more expansions – with additional taxes – would follow unless we stop now and *choose better solutions*. ~ \$88 million bond issue plus \$15 million sales tax would pay only for construction. Operating it would cost millions more every year. ~ Criminal justice already consumes 76% of the county's general fund. Where would extra operating funds come from? Increase taxes? Cut county services? ~ If this passes, will overloaded taxpayers vote

against schools, parks, buses, libraries and other community needs?

Cost-effective solutions exist.

~ Streamlined procedures and cost-effective programs *would* relieve crowding. ~ Jail is an expensive revolving door for people whose problems stem from poverty, mental illness, drugs or alcohol. ~ Instead of jailing so many people, let's use proven programs that save money, reduce crime, and protect society: Drug Court, Mental Health Court, mental/drug/alcohol treatment, electronic home monitoring, job training, anger management, supervised probation, etc. ~ But a huge jail would consume the money needed for alternative solutions. Don't accept vague promises of funding them later. ~ Vote "NO" on waste. Support a smart mix of cost-effective solutions. ~ See www.jailalternatives.org.

Voters' Pamphlet statement prepared by: Con Committee - Glen Anderson, Sara Glass, Bill Pilkey

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Don't wait 'til 2008! Efficiencies and alternatives can solve crowding now. Choose better ways to protect public safety! Funding effective treatment and programs would reduce crime and make everyone safer.

Reject misleading statistics and scare tactics! Remodeling has expanded the jail to meet growing needs. Build our way out of 7,500 warrants? Get real!

Big jails are "money pits." Don't sentence yourself to 20 years of high taxes. Vote "NO." Choose better alternatives.