

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THURSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES PROPOSITION NO. 1, TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019.

WHEREAS, Thurston County Emergency Communications Systems and Facilities Proposition No. 1 will be presented to the voters at the General Election on November 5, 2019, with the following official Ballot title:

THURSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES
PROPOSITION NO. 1
SALES AND USE TAX

The Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County adopted Ordinance No. 15802 concerning sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities. To finance costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities; this proposition authorizes the imposition of an additional sales and use tax at the rate of one-tenth of one percent for emergency communication systems and facilities pursuant to Chapter 82.14.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
 No

and

WHEREAS, all law enforcement, fire service, and Medic One agencies in Thurston County use a consolidated 911 dispatch center known as Thurston 911 Communications (TCOMM 911); and

WHEREAS, TCOMM 911 is responsible for receiving all emergency 911 calls within Thurston County and dispatching the appropriate police, fire, or emergency medical assistance to emergencies reported; and

WHEREAS, this levy would authorize Thurston County to increase the sales and use tax by one-tenth of one percent to finance the costs associated with replacing TCOMM 911's 40-year-old analog radio system with a new digital emergency communications system and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that TCOMM 911 provides critical communications between and among first responders who rely on the emergency communications system and facilities for their safety and the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes this levy is important to improving TCOMM 911's emergency communication systems and facilities to provide more capacity and allow better communications between and among first responders and dispatchers; and

WHEREAS, the tax proceeds would be used for the sole purpose of funding the cost associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of the emergency communication systems and facilities provided by Thurston 911 Communications; and

WHEREAS, all Thurston County public safety agencies depend on the 911 system to answer calls for help and the current analog radio system, independent of the phone system, was installed in 1978 with the last upgrade occurring over 10 years ago, and parts for this system are no longer readily available. The current 40-year old analog system leaves areas of the county without radio coverage and responders cannot easily radio neighboring counties or sometimes even with each other; and

WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555 permits the City Council to take a position on a ballot measure at an open public meeting so long as notice of the meeting includes the ballot title and number of the ballot measure, and that those expressing an opposing view are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opinion at a public hearing prior to action by the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Olympia City Council hereby expresses its support of Thurston County Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities Proposition No. 1 to be presented to the electorate at the General Election on November 5, 2019.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the City Council.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2019.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY