

Intercity Transit Authority Only voters residing in the Intercity Transit Authority District may vote on this measure.
Proposition No. 1
Maintain, Improve and Expand Public Transportation Services

Ballot Title

The Intercity Transit Authority adopted Resolution 02-2018 concerning a proposition to finance public transportation services. This proposition seeks voter approval to increase the sales and use tax within the public transportation benefit area by four-tenths of one percent (0.4%) to maintain, improve and expand transit services. The funds would preserve current services, expand bus routes into new areas, increase the frequency and operating hours of local and commuter bus service, make capital and technology improvements and expand specialized transportation services for seniors and individuals living with disabilities.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

For Statement

Public transportation is an essential service in our community. Intercity Transit connects people to jobs, schools, health care, services, shopping, and activities. Intercity Transit serves those without transportation and provides commuter options that help reduce air pollution and congestion. Public transportation will become even more critical as our community grows.

For an additional 4 cents per \$10 taxable purchase, we can preserve service for those that rely on it and make it more accessible for new riders. Services like Dial-A-Lift for seniors and those living with disabilities will be enhanced. New routes will be added so Intercity Transit can serve new and growing neighborhoods, employment centers and locations to the north. Intercity Transit will extend hours and increase frequency to accommodate a wider variety of schedules. Reductions in federal funding make this vote necessary. Without new revenue to offset diminished federal funding, Intercity Transit will need to reduce services by 15%. It's up to us to address population growth, protect our quality of life and serve our low income, student, elderly and disabled populations.

Voting Yes on Proposition 1 provides more buses, shorter waits, expanded hours, new routes and express service on major routes. Voting Yes prevents service cuts and sustains an important community service.

Proposition 1 allows us to save transit service for people that rely on it and to invest in improvements to meet our community needs well into the future. We urge you to vote yes on Proposition 1. Thank you for your support.

Thurston For Better Transit: Karen Fraser, Gary Edwards, Virgil Clarkson (www.thurstonforbettertransit.org)

Rebuttal of Statement For

Intercity Transit has not denied that this is the biggest increase in taxes they've ever asked for.

Next year 911 communications will be asking for a tax increase to modernize its communication system between fire, police and medics. This upcoming measure is more important than an increase in transit service. Make your tax dollar count.

Explanatory Statement

Intercity Transit (IT) provides public transportation services in Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm and the surrounding urban growth areas. This proposition would authorize IT to increase the sales and use tax imposed by four-tenths of one percent (0.4%), or an additional four cents on a \$10 taxable purchase.

The increase is necessary to preserve the existing level of service in the face of rapid population growth and reduced federal funding. If rejected, IT will need to cut service. If approved, the revenue will allow IT to continue service for people who rely on public transit, including students, seniors and individuals living with disabilities who utilize IT's specialized transportation services.

The revenue would also support improvements to the existing system, such as adding trips earlier in the morning, later at night and on the weekends, and providing more frequent service, better connections for commuters, new bus routes to growing population and employment centers, improvements to transit services for seniors and individuals living with disabilities, Bus Rapid Transit, and technology upgrades which will improve service for all.

Against Statement

Biggest increase in history

This is the biggest tax increase in the history of Intercity Transit. Never, in the time the system has been in existence has it ever asked voters for an increase in the sales tax of this magnitude. The Washington State Legislature, in an effort to bail out Sound Transit in King County, authorized transit systems to increase the amount of money they could raise. Intercity Transit saw a cash cow dangling in front of it and couldn't resist the opportunity to "cash in".

Original Mission

When the transit system was first formed its mission was to provide transit service to those who couldn't or didn't drive. Since that time, it has strayed far beyond that original intent and has become a poster boy for government agencies which expand into areas outside of its original mission. It runs the DASH shuttle which operates as a parking shuttle moving people from the Farmer's Market to the state legislature. The state should pay for that service, not the taxpayers of Thurston County. It operates a ride sharing service which is not part of its mission and it sends buses to Tacoma and Seattle. It has expanded far beyond its original mission and Thurston County taxpayers are paying the cost.

Not needed

This tax increase is just an opportunistic government agency seeing a bucket of cash dangling in front of it and can't resist grabbing onto it with only vague plans on how to use it.

Ken Balsley (balsley@cco.net)

Rebuttal of Statement Against

It is urgent that (1) we prevent a 15% service reduction due to federal funding cuts; and (2) we help our growing population get to jobs, schools, medical appointments, and more. This will fund more buses, additional routes, expanded hours, shorter waits and some express services *and* minimize congestion and air pollution.

A typical household would pay only \$2 to \$5 per month, about the cost of a latte. Please vote yes.

Statements are the opinions of the authors and aren't checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.