

RESOLUTION 33 -2014

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF  
SAN JUAN COUNTY A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO  
CONTINUE AND REPLACE A LEVY, INITIATED IN 2009, ABOVE THE  
REGULAR TAX LIMITATIONS OF RCW 84.55.010**

**Background**

- A. San Juan County encountered a severe budget crisis in 2009 due to long term financial issues exacerbated by the national economic problems and a recession.
- B. Pursuant to RCW 84.50.055(1), County voters adopted in 2009 a levy lid lift, effective for property taxes collected in 2010, of approximately \$1,000,000 per year, and term-limited to expire at the end of 2015.
- C. The 2009 levy lid lift funded a list of specific needs, including senior services; public health; county parks; 4-H, master gardeners and other agricultural/educational programs; emergency management; Islands' Oil Spill Association; part of a corrections officer and part of a prosecuting attorney; and maintenance of County facilities. These programs have continued to be funded by the levy lid lift in each year since the passage of the measure.
- D. National and County economic conditions have improved since 2009, but San Juan County conditions still have not recovered to the pre-recession level.
- E. If the levy lid lift expires at the end of 2015, it would remove more than \$1,000,000 from the County budget, and again seriously threaten the continuation of the programs listed above, and/or other programs.
- F. County Council has reviewed these and other County needs, and concluded that the programs set forth in Section 2 below are those that should benefit from the funding from the levy replacement, if approved by the voters in November 2014.
- G. The proposal set out in this resolution requires approval by a simple majority of the voters of San Juan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY  
COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The best interests of the citizens of San Juan County require the submission to the qualified voters of the County of a proposition to replace a levy, initiated in 2009, above the regular property taxes limitations established in RCW 84.55.010, for approval or rejection at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014. The proposition shall be to cancel the levy lid lift for 2015 and replace the levy lid lift with an increase to the County's regular property tax levy by eighteen cents per one thousand dollars (\$0.18 per \$1,000) of assessed valuation to a total rate of eighty seven cents per one thousand dollars (\$0.87 per \$1,000) of assessed valuation for collection in 2015 and to increase the levy thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW to allow for the uninterrupted continuation of the levy lid lift for a term of six (6) years.

2. It is estimated that the proposed levy lid lift will result in approximately \$1,123,000 additional revenue for 2015, which funds, together with any increases thereto as authorized by chapter 84.55 RCW, shall be used to fund only the following programs and projects at the rate for 2015 as set forth below, and in subsequent years in a proportionate amount, unless altered by a simple majority vote of the people:

- a. Senior Services on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands, in an amount of approximately \$312,000;
- b. WSU Extension programs, including 4-H, Master Gardeners, and other volunteer and agricultural programs, in an amount of approximately \$148,000;
- c. Maintenance and operation of county parks, in an amount of approximately \$287,000;
- d. General fund support of the San Juan County Fair, in an amount of approximately \$45,000;
- e. Public health services on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands, in an amount of approximately \$128,000;
- f. Corrections-Work Release, in an amount of approximately \$48,000;
- g. Victim Services-Prosecutor, in an amount of approximately \$40,000;
- h. Emergency Management, in an amount of approximately \$85,000;
- i. Maintenance of county buildings and grounds, in an amount of approximately \$20,000;
- j. Protection of island waters by funding the maintenance of Islands' Oil Spill Association emergency response equipment in an amount of \$10,000.

3. The County Auditor, as supervisor of elections in San Juan County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct a general election to be held within San Juan County and to submit to the qualified electors of the County the proposition set forth in this resolution.

4. The Prosecuting Attorney is requested to certify a proposition in substantially the following form:

COUNTY OF SAN JUAN  
PROPOSITION NO. 1- SIX YEAR LEVY LID LIFT

The San Juan County Council adopted Resolution No. 33-2014 concerning the replacement of the existing levy lid lift. This proposition would cancel an existing levy lid lift for the year 2015 and replace it in 2015 and for five consecutive years in the amount of 18 cents (for a total rate of 87 cents) per \$1,000 assessed value, subject to limit factors in RCW 84.55, for the purpose of funding senior services, fair, parks, extension programs, public health, victim services, corrections, and other items at the amounts set forth in the resolution. Shall this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

5. The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as may be required as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution.
6. The Prosecuting Attorney shall prepare an Explanatory Statement based on this resolution for use in the Voters' Pamphlet.
7. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the County Council.

Dated this 31<sup>ST</sup> day of JULY, 2014.

ADOPTED this 31<sup>ST</sup> day of JULY 2014.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
SAN JUAN COUNTY,  
WASHINGTON**

Ingrid Gabriel 8.01.2014  
Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

Rick Hughes  
Rick Hughes, Chair  
District 2

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Michael J. Thomas 7/31/14  
Michael J. Thomas Date

Bob Jarman  
Bob Jarman, Vice-Chair  
District 1

RANDALL K. GAYLORD  
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: Randall K. Gaylord  
Date 7/30/2014

Jamie Stephens  
Jamie Stephens, Member  
District 3