

City of Lakewood



Special Election - Proposition No. 1
Submitted by the City of Lakewood
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$7,000,000

Ballot Title: The Lakewood City Council adopted Ordinance No. 355 concerning a proposition relating to a police facility. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would authorize the City to acquire, construct, improve and equip a new police station, issue up to \$7,000,000 of general bonds maturing within 20 years, and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire the bonds, all as provided in Ordinance No. 355. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: The City of Lakewood requests voters to approve General Obligation Bonds to construct a police facility. The Facility will bring together Lakewood's police functions in one permanent location. The new facility is planned to co-locate police administration, investigations, patrol, and training, which are currently housed in three different locations, two of which are short term leases.

Bond proceeds will construct and equip these facilities. Without voter approval, the City does not have funding to pay for the project.

The bonds would mature within 20 years and would be paid by annual excess property taxes. The cost would be approximately 17 cents for every \$1,000 assessed property value. City property taxes will remain approximately 27% lower than prior to incorporation for the comparable portion of the tax bill.

Statement For:

The residents of Lakewood depend upon our local police for public safety. A "yes vote" for Proposition #1 will provide the City of Lakewood with a Law Enforcement Facility that will house both the current and future needs of the city. Proposition #1 consolidates all of the city's law enforcement efforts in one location, allowing better management, reduced cost, and a more responsive public safety program.

Proposition #1 will allow the City to construct a new Law Enforcement Facility before the city's current lease for the Law Enforcement Facility with Pierce County expires.

The City of Lakewood has hired quality personnel and passage of this proposition will provide the City quality facilities to match the quality law enforcement personnel that its residents demand.

We ask for your "yes vote" for this proposition – doing it right the first time saves time, money, and proves that quality is important to Lakewood.

Committee Members Include: Tony Robinson, Morris Quimby, and JoEthel Smith

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Public safety comes first. Lakewood spends 60%, over \$13,000,000, of the general fund on Police. **The Council is making a \$3,800,000 "down payment", but needs voters' help to make the "mortgage" payments.** The \$7,000,000 bond is only part of the \$10,800,000 needed for a Police Station. The yearly "mortgage" on \$10,800,000 is about \$900,000 – Lakewood can't afford that without cutting critical programs including Police. **Yes to Police, Yes to a Police Station!**

Committee Members Include: Tony Robinson, Morris Quimby, and JoEthel Smith

Statement Against:

No New Taxes!

Lakewood needs a new police station, **not** a new tax to pay for it. Here's a better way.

Use Existing Revenues To Make Annual Bond Payments!

Since 2000, Lakewood has had revenue surpluses averaging more than \$600,000 per year. This is enough to pay the annual debt service of \$580,000 on a \$7,000,000 construction bond without resorting to new taxes.

Use Uncommitted Savings As Bond Down Payment!

Lakewood also has approximately \$10,000,000 in uncommitted funds and assets, including real estate, drug seizure money, reserves and surpluses that could be used as a down payment to reduce the bond amount. Yet, City Council has committed only \$1,500,000 of these savings towards that down payment.

Yes To A New Police Station—No To New Taxes!

If the new police station is a high priority, then let City Council make it a high budget priority. Use revenue surpluses to pay the annual debt service, and uncommitted savings to pay down the bond. **Lakewood needs a new police station, not a new tax to pay for it! Vote No!**

Committee Members Include: Ron Cronk and Lisa Shanahan

Rebuttal of Statement For:

The outcome of this election will not affect public safety or the quality of police services. The real question is: How do we pay for a new police station? A "no" vote on Proposition 1 will tell the city to do a better job; to sharpen their pencils and make better use of the resources we already have provided them. They have the money. Yes, build a police station, but without new taxes. **Vote No!**

Committee Members Include: Ron Cronk and Lisa Shanahan