

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-18

A RESOLUTION supporting Kittitas County Ballot Proposition No. 1, which would reauthorize the existing Criminal Justice sales tax in Kittitas County, Washington, thereby maintaining sustainable funding for criminal justice and public safety purposes, as proposed in the August 6, 2019 Primary Election.

WHEREAS, in 2007 the voters of Kittitas County approved a ballot measure adding a sales and use tax increase of three-tenths of one percent which has been used solely for criminal justice and public safety purposes (“2007 three-tenths measure”); and

WHEREAS, the 2007 three-tenths measure has allowed law enforcement agencies, including the Ellensburg Police Department (“EPD”), to hire additional officers that would not have otherwise been hired; and

WHEREAS, the hiring of additional law enforcement officers resulting from revenue raised by the 2007 three-tenths measure has allowed county law enforcement agencies, including EPD, to engage in specific and targeted efforts to prevent and investigate criminal activity in Kittitas County, and such efforts could not have occurred without the additional revenue from the 2007 three-tenths measure; and

WHEREAS, the three-tenths measure was reauthorized by the Kittitas County voters in 2013, and will now expire on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 requires that one-third of all monies received from the 2007 three-tenths measure must be used solely for criminal justice purposes with the remaining money being used for public safety, and whereby the City of Ellensburg is entitled to forty percent of the one-third of all monies received based on a per capita division with the cities within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Ellensburg Police Department has established a compelling financial need for sustainable funding to maintain the needs for law enforcement within the City, and the need for funding was also identified in the Western Regional Institute for Community Oriented Public Safety (WRJCOPS) survey conducted in 2004; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Kittitas County Code Section 3.06.070, the 2007 three-tenths measure will expire on December 31, 2021 unless further authorized by public vote; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reauthorization will continue the sales and use tax increase of three-tenths of one cent, or \$0.30 per \$100.00 of taxable purchase; and

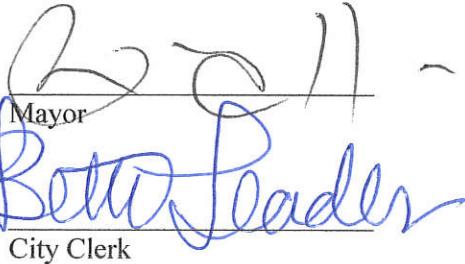
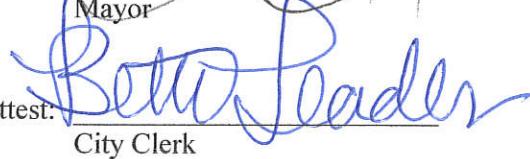
WHEREAS, equal time to receive public comment from citizens in support of, or opposition to, Ballot Proposition No. 1 was made available at the City Council’s regularly scheduled meeting on July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Kittitas County Commissioners have placed on the August 6, 2019 Primary Election a ballot measure which would reauthorize the three-tenths of one percent sales and use tax increase for sustainable criminal justice funding, which proposition, if approved by the voters, would maintain the authorization for said tax monies to be collected without a sunset clause; and

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

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Ellensburg do hereby declare its support for, and encourages approval of, Ballot Measure, entitled, "Proposition No 1. Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners Criminal Justice Sales and Use Tax," which will be presented to the voters at the August 6, 2019 Primary Election.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg at a regular meeting on the 1st day of July, 2019.


B. Ladd
Mayor
Attest: 
Betty Ladd
City Clerk