

Walla Walla County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

August 5, 2025 Primary Election



Photo By: Mark VanDonge

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Contents

Ballot Measures and Explanatory Statement

Walla Walla County Proposition No. 1 3

For & Against Statements

Walla Walla County Proposition No. 1 4

Candidate Submissions - Walla Walla County Offices

City of Waitsburg | Mayor5-7

How to Register or Update Your Registration8

Registration and Update Deadlines8

Accessible Voting8

Replacement Ballot.....8

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Walla Walla County | Proposition No. 1

WALLA WALLA COUNTY PROPOSITION No. 1

Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities Sales and Use Tax

The Board of Walla Walla County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 25-074, concerning a sales and use tax to fund emergency communications. If approved, this proposition would increase the sales and use tax within Walla Walla County by two-tenths of one percent (0.2%). As authorized and required by RCW 82.14.420, funds received from this tax must be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

Should this proposition be approved?

YES []

NO []

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

WALLA WALLA COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1

Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities Sales and Use Tax

Walla Walla County, the City of Walla Walla, the City of College Place and other entities have executed interlocal agreements to create Walla Walla Emergency Services Communication (WESCOM). WESCOM is currently funded primarily by user agency fees and seventy cent per-month excise taxes on each phone line. Property related to emergency communications is owned by Walla Walla County. WESCOM is staffed, operated and maintained by the City of Walla Walla.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize Walla Walla County to increase the sales and use tax rate by two-tenths of one percent (0.2%). This tax would be paid by anyone who makes a taxable purchase or use anywhere within the County. The new tax would be in addition to any sales taxes already authorized by law. Funds collected by this tax must be used solely for financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

A vote of "Yes" would allow Walla Walla County to impose this additional tax for the funding of emergency communications systems and facilities. A vote of "No" would disallow this tax. If approved, the new tax would take effect on January 1, 2026.

Argument For

Support Safe, Reliable Emergency Communications

When emergencies happen, reliable communication saves lives. This proposition invests in upgrading radio and dispatch systems to improve reliability and response times across Walla Walla County. It ensures that our first responders and dispatchers can communicate clearly, act quickly, and protect the public effectively.

We must also be prepared for major natural disasters. This proposition funds secure facilities and backup systems to keep emergency services running when disaster strikes. It also supports increasing staffing levels and investing in the training and retention of skilled emergency dispatchers—the calm, professional voices behind every 9-1-1 call.

Our current systems are aging and under strain. By establishing a sustainable, long-term funding source, this proposition protects local emergency services and builds resilient infrastructure that our community can count on, now and in the future.

At just two-tenths of one percent—20 cents on a \$100 purchase—this small investment delivers big returns in safety, speed, and reliability. Groceries and medical prescriptions are exempt from this sales tax. Support this critical step forward for Walla Walla County's public safety communications.

**Argument Prepared by
committee members:**
Brandon McKinney

Argument Against

No Information Submitted

**Argument Prepared by
committee members:**
No Information Submitted



Marty
Dunn

Elected Experience: Mayor, City of Waitsburg from 2004-2006 and from 2016-the present. Waitsburg City Council member in 2008 and from 2010-2016.

Other Professional Experience: City of Walla Walla Fleet Services, Lead and Mechanic from 1986- January 2025. Retired February 1, 2025.

Education: Walla Walla High School, Class of 1976. Graduate of Arizona Automotive Institute, 1977

Community Service: Member of the St. Francis Parish, Walla Walla and a communicant of St. Mark's Catholic Church, Waitsburg. Member and Past President of the Waitsburg Lions Club, past member of the Waitsburg Planning Commission, member of Knights of Columbus and past volunteer coach for Waitsburg Youth Sports.

Statement: As Mayor for the City of Waitsburg, I have worked together with the Council and City Administrator to provide for needed infrastructure and services, as well as safety of the community.

In 2024 while serving as Mayor, the city was recognized for its work in improving sewer infrastructure. Additionally, it implemented a plan to update its outdated fire hydrant system, expanded recreational opportunities in Preston Park, continued its street maintenance program, closed a large gap in its side walk network and was awarded grant dollars for future infrastructure improvement. Additionally, through a variety of partnerships, the City of Waitsburg was able to secure some much- needed public works equipment, help shape countywide planning policies, and continue flood mitigation efforts.

In 2025, the city is positioned to provide the level of service the community expects while operating in a fiscally responsible manner; balancing revenues against controlled expenditures.

I am proud to be the mayor because Waitsburg is my home and it is a way of giving back to a town about which I care. In being re-elected Mayor, I will bring experience, integrity, organizational knowledge and commitment to our 'one of a kind' community, Waitsburg!

Contact: mldunn99361@gmail.com
420 W 7TH ST
WAITSBURG, WA 99361

No Photo
Submitted

Jim

Strawn

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: No Information Submitted

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PO BOX 1
WAITSBURG, WA 99361





Brad

Sandau

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: Retired from the Washington State Penitentiary in 2022 where I served as a Correctional Industries Supervisor, Corrections Officer and Corrections Sergeant.

Education: Born in Madison MN
Moved to Touchet WA in 1979 and graduated from Touchet HS in 1983

Community Service: I coached Walla Walla youth football in 2009 and coached Waitsburg middle school football in 2016.

Over the years I have served as a musician in various churches in the Walla Walla area.

Statement: Brad Sandau for Mayor of Waitsburg

As a member of the Waitsburg community, I am proud to call this special town home. I'm running for mayor because I believe in building on the values that make Waitsburg strong—our deep roots, our resilience, and our sense of neighborly care—while also moving forward with fresh energy and practical solutions.

My vision is simple: to strengthen our local economy, support our schools and small businesses, improve essential infrastructure, and ensure our town remains a safe, welcoming place for families, seniors, and future generations. I want to bring greater transparency and communication to city leadership and foster collaboration with residents on the issues that matter most.

Waitsburg deserves leadership that listens, leads with integrity, and works every day for the common good. I bring with me years of experience in community involvement, problem-solving, and a commitment to serving with honesty and heart.

This is our home—and together, we can continue to grow it into the best version of itself. I would be honored to earn your vote.

Brad Sandau

Candidate for Mayor, Waitsburg

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How to Register or Update Your Registration:

- **Online** at www.votewa.gov. You will need a Washington State driver license or ID; or use the last four digits of your Social Security number to register.
- **Mail** the completed registration form to Walla Walla County Elections.
- **In person** at Walla Walla County Elections.

Already registered in Walla Walla County but just need to update your address? Notify the Elections Office by phone or email.

Registration Deadlines

July 28 - Deadline for online and mail-in voter registrations, address changes, and other updates.

July 28 - August 5 - A person can register to vote or update their address in person at the Elections Office up until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Accessible Voting

The Elections Office has an accessible voting unit (AVU) to assist with marking a ballot. Voters requiring reasonable accommodation or assistance may vote on the AVU in the Elections Office starting **July 18**.

Need a Replacement Ballot?

Contact the Elections Office to request a replacement ballot by phone, email, or in-person. Or online at www.votewa.gov.

Walla Walla County Elections

Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, **August 5**.

315 W Main St., Room 203
PO Box 1856
Walla Walla, WA 99362
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