

VOTE NO PROP 1

There's a better way to get the Walkways and Park Improvements we need without a **PERMANENT 61%** LFP property tax increase.

PROP 1 IS...

PERMANENT

Prop 1's proposed increase goes on forever. The City Council could have funded these improvements with a limited term levy, but chose not to.

EXCESSIVE

Prop 1 will increase the LFP portion of your property tax 61%. If passed, it would cost the average home-owner more than \$360 a year, every year.

RESTRICTIVE

Prop 1 funds would represent 38% of our property tax revenue—all to be spent on parks and safe streets. This limits our ability to address evolving needs and priorities (without another tax increase).

NO CLEAR PLAN

The City's current plans and reports do NOT define specific project details, costs, or priorities—this info would only be developed AFTER Prop 1 passed—with NO requirement for public input.

LOSS OF CONTROL

Prop 1 lacks transparency, accountability, and effective controls. There is no process for community review and approval.

THERE'S A BETTER WAY:



USE TIME-LIMITED FUNDING

Fund these efforts responsibly, in the same or less time, with term/time-limited or project-specific financing—an approach commonly used by all other King County (and most state) municipalities.



MAKE IT AFFORDABLE

Reduce the taxpayer share of funding. Allocate existing funds, seek grants, and use federal, state, county and other funding sources. Balance the need for these improvements with other city priorities.



KEEP THE BUDGET FLEXIBLE

Ensure our City remains financially agile to address new issues, priorities, and emergencies as they arise, such as climate change impacts, social services, population density, infrastructure, or natural disasters.



CREATE A DETAILED PLAN

Require a clear plan reflecting community priorities and acceptable funding levels. Citizens should know specifically what they are "buying" after having an opportunity to provide input.



INCLUDE ACCOUNTABILITY

Provide appropriate controls, monitoring, and routine approval milestones for citizens, with targeted, time-limited funding mechanisms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Prop 1 was rushed through with almost NO input

- Funding for these improvements was never included in the City's biennial or mid-biennial budget discussions.
- City Council discussed a funding proposal as early as April 2021, yet it was only a matter of days from when the concept went public until Prop 1 was put on the ballot. (End of May: PR firm hired; end of June: concept presented to the public; July 8: draft of Prop 1 with no dollar amounts shared at a Council meeting; 14 days later: Council voted to place the 61% tax increase on the ballot.)
- City Council collected no significant input on the structure of this funding proposal, and held no public hearings about funding options.

LFP would become one of the most heavily taxed cities

- Should Prop 1 pass, Lake Forest Park would have a higher property tax rate than Lynnwood, Woodinville, Brier, Kenmore, Mountlake Terrace and Shoreline.
- Prop 1 would disproportionately penalize young families, seniors, and people on fixed incomes—those who can least afford a big tax increase in the midst of the COVID-19 economic turmoil.

EVERYONE will be affected

- Prop 1 would place the entire burden of funding the proposed improvements directly on property tax payers—sidestepping other available options.
- Those living in apartments and rental homes would see their rent increased by landlords who are struggling to pay higher taxes on their rental property.
- Business owners would need to raise the prices of products and services to pay their higher property taxes.

Improvements CAN be funded using existing revenues, grants, and other means

- Other sources of funds could remove some or most of the burden of these costs from property taxes. This would require the City Council to better define the proposed projects, identify estimated costs, and determine public priorities. The City has had prior success in obtaining grants for other uses.
- City revenues are likely higher than anticipated, as the most recent budget was done with conservative expectations, and economic recovery has generally exceeded expectations.
- We do not know how much the City may have received from Covid-related funds, or infrastructure funds, nor how these funds may have been used, since the City has been reticent to provide clear financial data.

Vote **NO** on Prop 1. Don't give City Council a huge, never-ending, non-accountable influx of money with no citizen input or control.



There's a

BETTER WAY
VOTE NO PROP 1

Learn more at abetterwaylfp.org

*Paid for by Neighbors for a Sustainable LFP
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