

MEETING WITH CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP January 16, 2019
F. Milene Henley, San Juan County Auditor
Camolyn Armstrong, Elections Supervisor

- What are the various upcoming election dates? When do ballot proposals need to be submitted for each?

Friday, February 22, 2019 – Last day to file a resolution for the April Special (60 days prior)
 Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – April Special (60 days prior)
 Friday, May 10, 2019 – Last day to file a resolution for the August Primary (Friday of filing week)
 Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – day of the Primary
 Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – Last day to file a resolution for the November General
 Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – November General
 Friday, December 13, 2019 - Last day to file a resolution for the February Special (60 days prior)

A county legislative authority may call a special county election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor prior to the proposed election date. A special election called by the county legislative authority shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by such governing body:

- (a) The second Tuesday in February;
- (b) The fourth Tuesday in April;
- (c) The first Tuesday of August for the primary; or
- (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must be presented to the county auditor at least sixty days prior to the election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(c) of this section must be presented to the county auditor no later than the Friday immediately before the first day of regular candidate filing. A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(d) of this section must be presented to the county auditor no later than the day of the primary. **RCW 29A.04.330**

- What are historical turnout rates for each of the annual elections over the last eight years (special, primary, and general)?

Voter Turnout Last Eight Years

Year	Election	%
2018	April Special	47.88
2018	Primary	54.43
2018	General	83.83
2017	February Special	51.98
2017	April Special	65.12
2017	Primary	26.69
2017	General	56.04
2016	February Special	50.46
2016	Primary	52.04
2016	General	88.25

2015	April Special	52.54
2015	Primary	38.42
2015	General	57.56
2014	February Special	50.08
2014	April Special	56.97
2014	Primary	41.45
2014	General	71.61
2013	February Special	52.9
2013	April Special	59.98
2013	Primary	33.21
2013	General	62.98
2012	February Special	54.67
2012	Primary	52.19
2012	General	89.39
2011	February Special	62.95
2011	Primary	52.22
2011	General	69.55

- Are there restrictions on what can be proposed in a special election?

Formation of Fire District – General Election RCW 52.02.080

Annexation of proximate city or town – Any Election RCW 52.04.071

Withdrawal by annexed city or town – General Election RCW 52.04.101

Commissioner districts—Creation—Boundaries – General Election RCW 52.14.013

Increase in the number of commissioners – Any Election RCW 52.14.015

Decrease in the number of commissioners – Any Election RCW 52.14.017

Bonds may be issued for capital purposes—Excess property tax levies. – Any Election – RCW 52.16.080, RCW 39.36.015

General levy authorized—Limit—Excess levy at special election – Any Election – RCW 52.16.130

Voter approval of benefit charges required – General Election - RCW 52.18.050

- What are election costs for potential ballot measures (such as: lid lifts, expansion of a Board to include more commissioners, new levy, annexation, redistricting)?

Elections cost vary depending how many measures are on the ballot, how many districts are participating in the election and how many voters in the district.

- For example: The formation of the Orcas Hospital District had one proposition and five contests on the 2018 April Special ballot. The cost for their district was \$29,700. The ballot was shared with the San Juan Island School District with one levy. The cost to the school district was \$20, 539. See handout on cost allocation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- If a Board passes a resolution authorizing a public vote for annexation, lid lift, boundary change, or new levy, how far in advance can that be done? For example, could you vote this year to ask the public for an annexation in two years? Can Boards change their minds later?
- If you have separate EMS/Fire levies what are the rules for how funds are spent? How strictly must the funds be kept separate?
 - Fire funds can be spent on EMS services provided by the same Agency, but is the reverse true? If you have a separate EMS levy are there additional restrictions on how the fire levy monies are spent?
- If you propose multiple redistricting and levy changes that only make sense together, is there any way to insert a clause that cancels the effects of one that passes if a crucial one it depends on fails?
- How do you deal with liability in transferring an EMS Agency? How does this vary with some of the permutations of merger (e.g., with EMS shutting down and Fire starting their own service)?
- What happens to the EMS building legally? Can it be transferred with the Agency? If it is not, but the PHD EMS levy is retired, who inherits any remaining debt on the EMS Building?
- Do you have any useful historical information that might inform us about what to do or what not to do?
- Do you have any other suggestions?