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Prosperity



Liquor Initiatives on Ballot

Pasco voters should be aware of two initiatives involving liquor which are to be decided at election on November 2. Initiatives 1100 and 1105, if approved, would close state liquor stores and privatize the sale and distribution of liquor. The state of Washington has long operated a monopolized system for liquor sales. Income from liquor sales and taxes has been used by the state for general government operations and to enforce liquor laws. A portion of liquor sales profits and liquor excise taxes has also been distributed to cities and counties.

2010 Liquor Revenue	Total Distribution to Cities*	Dollars per Capita*	Dollars to the City of Pasco
Liquor Profits	\$34,072,000	\$8.21	\$460,000
Liquor Tax	\$20,551,000	\$4.95	\$275,000
Total	\$54,623,000	\$13.16	\$735,000

The table (*source: Municipal Research Service Center) above shows estimated 2010 liquor profit and tax distributions to Washington cities and to the City of Pasco.

Initiative 1100 would eliminate state liquor profits and, therefore, the distribution of such profits to the state, cities and counties. To the City of Pasco, passage of this initiative is

expected to mean an annual loss of revenue of \$460,000 (2010 dollars). Initiative 1100 maintains the liquor tax.

Initiative 1105 eliminates liquor profits effective November 2011 (an expected \$460,000 annual city revenue loss) and ends liquor taxes effective April 2012 (\$275,000 annual expected City revenue loss). This initiative contains intent language that the privatization of liquor sales and distribution “not result in revenue losses to state or local governments” and directs the Liquor Control Board to recommend to the

legislature a “rate of taxation that, along with other spirits-related revenue sources would project to generate at least the same annual revenue for the state and local jurisdictions as under the current state controlled system...”

The legislature is under no obligation to enact the recommendations of the Liquor Control Board. In the event the legislature is not able to agree on replacement taxes for the loss of liquor profits and liquor excise taxes, the loss to Pasco could be an estimated \$735,000 annually.

Pasco voters are encouraged to study all of the ballot initiatives before casting their ballots.

Proud to be your home!

Halloween Fun!

All children 12 and under are invited to join in for an afternoon of Halloween fun including costume contest, pumpkin coloring contest, games, prizes, treats and refreshments!



It's all taking place on Thursday, October 28, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Pasco Senior Center, 1315 N. 7th. There is no charge, but children must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian. So, bring your grandkids, kids and your friends for a spooktacular good time. It's also free for all! And, don't forget your costume! For information, call (509) 545-3459

City's Website Even More 'Citizen Friendly'

Citizens of Pasco have increasingly taken advantage of the information and other resources available on the City's website.

In 2007, the website logged nearly 110,000 page-loads. In 2009, that number jumped to over 610,000 page-loads – an increase of over 500,000 page-loads a year. In 2007 there were 38,480 unique website visitors. In just two years, this increased to 214,244 – or over 175,764 more unique visitors in 2009.

The City continues to fine-tune the website, making it even more user friendly and offering additional online services. A redesign will launch in October. It will bring an additional level of service to the public by incorporating Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds, Podcasts and Notify Me email subscriptions specific to areas of interest.

The website also includes a Building Permit Fee calculator to provide building permit estimates for single family homes. You can view the City Council meetings live via simulcast or at your convenience via On-Demand. Look up something in the Pasco Municipal Code, read an electronic copy of the Good Neighbor Handbook, or submit a comment/complaint and track the progress of your submittal! Our revised website is bringing you an even more open government at your fingertips, service "online" instead of "in line!" Visit us at www.Pasco-WA.gov.

Lampson Cable Bridge Run - Dec. 18th

It's not too early to mark your calendars and start your training for the Lampson Cable Bridge Run. It's set for Saturday, December 18 with the starting gun going off at 9 a.m.

The annual event begins at the Neil F. Lampson Office Building on the Kennewick side of the Cable Bridge. Runners can choose between a 1 mile, 5K or 10K length. The 5K and 10K races feature an indoor finish line at the Lampson Maintenance Shop in Big Pasco. A free shuttle bus will be provided to transport runners from the 1 mile finish to the maintenance shop, and then all runners back to the starting line.

It's important sign up early. This year there will be **no race-day registration**. Registration deadline is December 17 at the Recreation Office, with a mail-in deadline of December 8. For all the details and a registration form, visit the City's website, www.Pasco-WA.gov.



REMEMBER VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd

Voters may return ballots either by mail or in person. Ballots must be returned in the return affidavit envelope, signed by the qualified voter and postmarked no later than Election Day if returned by mail.

Voters may deposit ballots at the Auditor's Office, 1016 N. 4th Ave, Pasco, Monday - Friday, between 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. until Election Day. On Election Day, you may drop off your ballot between 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Two additional Official Ballot Drop Boxes are open 24 hours beginning 20 days prior to the election and locked promptly at 8 pm. on Election Day. The locations are: Franklin Co. Annex, 116 N. 3rd Avenue and TRAC Facility, 6600 Burden Blvd.

Creation of Regional Facilities District

After four years of working together, City officials from Pasco, Richland and Kennewick have approved the creation of a Regional Public Facilities District. The new district puts in place the mechanism for planning and paying for large regional projects that would be too large for any of the cities to build individually.



All three city councils unanimously approved the interlocal agreement in August.

Before submitting the agreement to the cities for approval, a committee made up of three representatives from each city considered a number of options. The committee favored the creation of a regional public facilities district, which has the ability, with voter approval, to use up to 0.2 percent local sales tax to fund proposed projects.

Not only did the new district require approval from all three cities, it required support at the state level. Local community members needed to lobby the state legislature to revise state law to allow regional districts to overlap more than one city, as well as allow for a single regional vote on the project within the multi-city district.

The new district will operate separately from existing public facilities districts in each city.

Now that the new Regional Public Facilities District is in place, three representatives from each city will form the Board of Directors of the Regional Facilities District. This group will begin the process of identifying large regional projects to be considered by the voters.

Regional Facilities District (cont.)

Two frequently mentioned projects include a regional aquatic facility which could accommodate swimming and diving competitions as well as year-round recreational activities or a performing arts facility.

State law requires that any project undertaken within the Regional Public Facilities District must have a minimum value of \$10 million.

The Board of Directors will eventually present its recommendation to the voters of all three cities for a simple majority vote of the entire facilities district. As a part of the interlocal agreement, the three cities have agreed to fund the planning work until a proposal is put to the voters.



As a city, and community, this is an exciting development. Now the framework is in place where large projects that have the potential to greatly add to the quality of life of the entire area can be considered by voters.

Representing Pasco on the Regional Facilities District Board are Mayor Matt Watkins, Councilwoman Rebecca Francik, and Pasco Public Facilities District board member John Merk.

Holiday Observance:

City Hall will be closed:

Thursday, November 11, 2010

In observance of Veteran's Day

Thursday, & Friday, November 25-26, 2010

In observance of Thanksgiving

For information regarding City Council meetings, visit our web site at www.Pasco-WA.gov

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