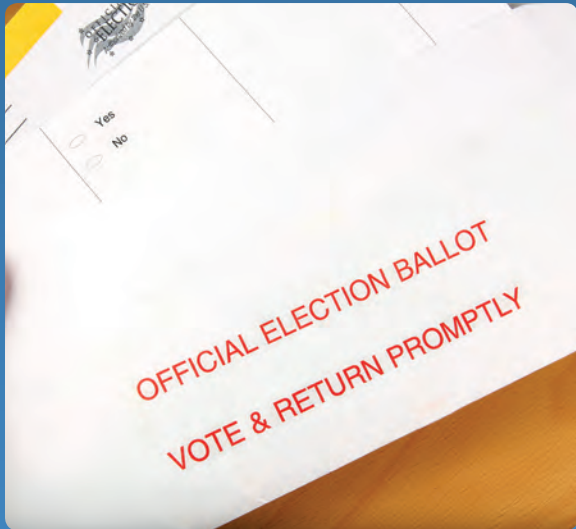


Fall Elections: Major City Issues on the Ballot



The Franklin County Auditor has certified two separate citizen petitions for propositions on the November 5 general election ballot. Under state law, petitions containing the signatures of registered voters equal to at least 10 percent of the votes cast at the last general municipal election, must be presented to the voters.

The first petition seeks to remove two areas of the City which were previously annexed. The total area consists of 649 acres and a population of 1,491. The largest and most recent, referred to as Annexation Area #2, was annexed January 1, 2013. When some residents of the unincorporated “donut hole” began efforts in 2012 to form a new city (completely surrounded by Pasco) within the Pasco Urban Growth Area (UGA), the City completed annexation of Area #2 using water service agreements, signed by property owners who had previously committed to annexation in exchange for water service. City Council annexation of Area #2 stopped the effort to form the new city and helped preserve Pasco taxpayers’ investment in critical infrastructure and community services for that area, including:

- Purchase and substantial improvement of the old west Pasco water system over the past 20 years;

- Construction of a new fire station in 1998 to provide service to that area as well as the City;
- Upgrading and maintenance of Chiawana Park after Franklin County decided it no longer could afford those responsibilities for the UGA.

Those submitting the petition for reduction of the city limits contend they should have the right to vote on annexation and to form their own city if they wish to do so. They also contend that annexation to Pasco will cause their “lifestyle” to be drastically changed because: the city will not permit them to have farm animals (false: the city rules on farm animals are the same as the county rules); the city will make them stop using their wells and septic tanks (false: existing wells and septic tanks can continue as long as they comply with state health rules); and the city will cause housing developments like those on the plateau to occur in the donut hole (false: the city zoned Area #2 the same as the county – half-acre lots). These and other facts can be examined in the “Cost and Regulatory Comparison” chart found on the City of Pasco website at www.pasco-wa.gov/comparison.

The City has continued a plan for urban services, such as utilities, transportation and public safety within the Pasco UGA since the area was so designated by the Franklin County Commission more than 20 years ago. Planning for natural growth to occur in the UGA helps to ensure that public services will be delivered in the most cost effective and efficient manner, thus keeping tax rates lower for Pasco residents.

After receipt of the petition from the County Auditor, the City discovered errors and inconsistencies in the petition which result in confusion and, if neglected, could result in some portions of the City being unintentionally deleted. Consequently, the City Council referred the concerns to the County Auditor to determine whether the city boundary question should be included on the November ballot. In order for the

(Continued on inside)

Visit our website at: www.pasco-wa.gov

CITY COUNCIL:

- Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)**
416-6696, councilmatt@mattwatkins.net
- Mayor ProTem Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)**
545-6134, francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov
- Councilman Mike Garrison (Dist. 2)**
545-3404, garrisoncouncil@pasco-wa.gov
- Councilman Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 3)**
547-7373, rshoff@juno.com
- Councilman Al Yenney (Dist. 1)**
547-8021, yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov
- Councilman Tom Larsen (At Large)**
545-9916, tomlarsenpasco@aol.com
- Councilman Saul Martinez (Dist. 4)**
547-7285, martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov

MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

- City Manager Gary Crutchfield**
545-3404, citymanager@pasco-wa.gov
- Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel**
543-5760, strebels@pasco-wa.gov
- Police Chief Bob Metzger**
545-3481, pascopolice@pasco-wa.gov
- Fire Chief Bob Gear**
545-3426, pascofire@pasco-wa.gov
- Community Dev. Director Rick White**
545-3441, communitydevelopment@pasco-wa.gov
- Public Works Director Ahmad Qayoumi**
543-5738, publicworks@pasco-wa.gov
- Admin. & Community Services Director Rick Terway**
543-5757, acsadmin@pasco-wa.gov

Send Comments to: Communications@pasco-wa.gov

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave. Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 12 on Charter Cable, or on the web at www.pasco-wa.gov/video.



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ballot measure to be approved, 60% of City residents voting on the issue must favor the reduction.

A second proposition, also initiated by residents of the donut hole, seeks to change the form of Pasco’s government from the current Council-Manager form to the Mayor-Council form. State law provides that the City may operate under either governance form. Pasco has operated under the Council-Manager plan since 1964. Under this plan, seven members of the City Council are elected. The Council has the authority to select or discharge the City Manager based on qualifications and performance. The Manager reports directly to the City Council and makes recommendations on matters such as policy and budget; however, he/she has no authority to override or “veto” Council action. The Manager has responsibility for all other employees of the City. Under the Council-Manager plan, the City Council elects one of its members to serve as Mayor, whose primary duty is to chair meetings of the Council and to make appointments to boards and commissions, with approval of the Council.

The petition proposes that the City government be changed to a Mayor-Council form. Under this form, voters elect seven members of the City Council and, additionally, elect a citizen as Mayor to serve as chief administrator and executive officer of the City for four-year terms. While the Mayor would chair meetings of the Council, he/she would have no vote, except to break a tie, but would have veto authority over votes of the Council. (Vetoes can be overridden by a vote of the Council majority plus one.)

Locally, the cities of Kennewick and Richland each operate under the Council-Manager plan while West Richland and Benton City operate under the Mayor-Council plan. Of the 44 largest cities in Washington (all cities with population over 20,000) nearly 60% (26) operate under the Council-Manager form. A majority of voters participating in the election can approve the change.

Citizens are encouraged to become informed on these two election issues. Online voters’ information is available at www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor/ or look for the voters’ information pamphlet prior to the election. Additional information on annexation and the form of government can also be found on the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) website at www.mrsc.org/subjects/governance.

Transportation Plan Maps Future Improvements

The City Council recently adopted the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan, the City’s blueprint for road improvements through 2019.



The City amends the plan annually and keeps a rolling list moving forward to help maintain a thriving transportation infrastructure for residents and businesses. Several of the projects will require the consent (and funding) from state and federal agencies, and having a plan is a requirement for those agencies. Some of the notable projects on the list:

- Continued improvement of the Road 68 Corridor
- Study and construction of additional on/off ramps to I-182 in the west Pasco area
- Completion of the Lewis Street Overpass
- Extension of Chapel Hill Boulevard from Road 84 to Road 68
- Completion of the Oregon Avenue Corridor project

The complete plan can be viewed on the City’s website at www.pasco-wa.gov/TIP. For additional information, please call Public Works at 545-3444.

For information regarding the City, including public meeting schedules, visit our website at www.pasco-wa.gov



Industrial Development: More Jobs, Lower Taxes

Some recent industrial development in the City will result in more local jobs while helping keep property tax bills lower.

Grimmway Farms of Bakersfield, California, has begun construction of a 150,000 square foot facility on Dietrich Road to process carrots. Grimmway, in an article in the June edition of the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business, has indicated the potential of “several hundred” seasonal workers once the facility is fully developed in 2015. Further, Jeff Huckaby, Executive Vice President for Grimmway, said in the article that City officials were easy to work with and was quoted as saying “it’s been so much easier to work with everyone there...it’s a very pro-business environment.”

Zen-Noh Hay, which exports area hay to Asia, recently opened a \$4.6 million expansion of its facilities in the Big Pasco Industrial Park. Hay has become a high-value commodity in Japan, with Zen-Noh accounting for 10 percent of that country’s hay imports. The Zen-Noh facility employs approximately 45 year-round employees.

What these private business projects mean for you as a local taxpayer is a lower property tax bill, as these developments “spread” the overall City tax assessment to a wider base, while at the same time, providing local jobs for area residents, and making Pasco even more attractive to potential industrial investment.



HAPO - New K-9 Unit

Thanks to a very generous \$12,000 donation from HAPO Community Credit Union, the Pasco Police department was able to secure a replacement K-9 unit at little taxpayer expense. Not coincidentally, the Police have elected to name the new dog “Hapo” in honor of his benefactor.

K-9 units are used in a variety of ways, including tracking, article/area searches, criminal apprehension, and handler protection. K-9 units can complete an area search with minimal time and help keep officers safe. K-9 units are worth several officers, as a fleeing suspect on foot can’t outrun a dog. Hapo lives with his assigned handler, and will be available not only to Pasco Police, but other area police agencies as needed.