



MONROE THIS WEEK

October 18, 2024



Thank you for keeping up to date with city events, news, and happenings by reading Monroe This Week. This edition will feature:

- *Property Taxes and the City's Budget*
- *Monroe's Proposition 1: Community Services*
- *Monroe 2044*
- *Orca Recovery Day*
- *General Election Voter Resources*



*Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for Monroe. I can be contacted at **GThomas@MonroeWA.gov**.*

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

PROPERTY TAXES AND THE CITY'S BUDGET

City of Monroe
**2025-2026 Biennial Budget
Public Hearing**



Oct. 22, 2024 7 p.m. MonroeWA.gov

At the first of three public hearings on the **Mayor's Recommended 2025-2026 Biennial Budget**, staff presented an overview of the assumptions to achieve a balanced budget. The **Oct. 15 presentation** reviewed revenue sources and proposed expenditures. The City's Budget allocates funding to deliver programs and services

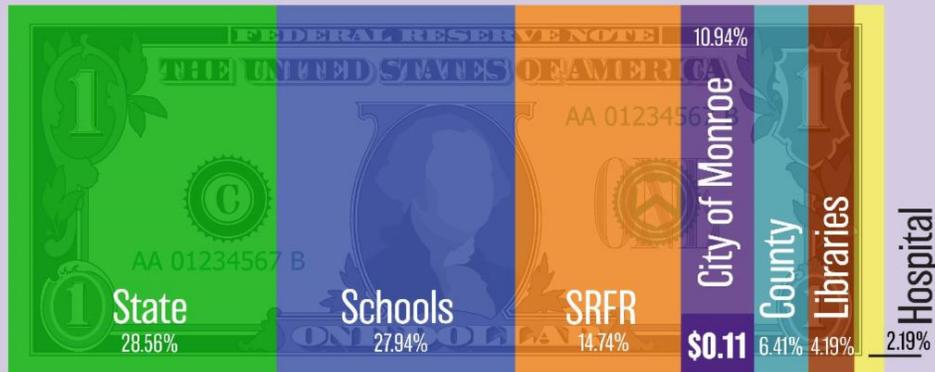
Monroe residents and businesses rely on every day including police protection, parks, road improvements, water and sewer utilities, and other essential services.

During the budget adoption process the City frequently receives questions about property taxes. As a City of Monroe taxpayer, your **property tax statement shows** a breakdown of the districts that property taxes fund. Taxing districts in Monroe include Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, Snohomish County, State of Washington, Monroe School District and Sno-Isle Libraries. The City receives approximately 11 percent of property taxes you pay. Of every one dollar you pay in property taxes, the City of Monroe receives approximately 11 cents (\$0.11) to provide essential services and programs such as parks, street maintenance, and public safety.

City of Monroe

Where do your property tax dollars go?

State of Washington	\$0.29	28.56%
Monroe School District No. 103	\$0.28	27.94%
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue	\$0.20	14.74%
City of Monroe	\$0.11	10.94%
Snohomish County	\$0.06	6.41%
Sno-Isle Libraries	\$0.04	4.19%
Public Hospital #1	\$0.02	2.19%



MonroeWA.gov

Washington state law places a 1% limit on the amount the city can increase property taxes each year. Without a voter approved property tax “lid lift,” the City will collect approximately \$40,000 in additional property taxes in 2025 (1% of the current assessed value) and an additional \$60,000 for the value of new construction.

The 2025-2026 Recommended Biennial Budget assumes the 1% property tax increase and will be used to fund one parks maintenance worker. The Budget does not assume revenue from **Proposition 1: Levy Lid Lift for Community Services** if it passes. (See next article on Proposition 1: Monroe’s Levy Lid Lift.)

The Mayor and City Council will hold a second public hearing on the **2025-2026 Recommended Biennial Budget** on Oct. 22. Materials for the public hearing will be **posted online** by the end of today. Please visit the **City Council webpage** and select the “Meetings” tab to learn how to provide your comments on the Budget.

MONROE'S PROPOSTION 1: PARKS MAINTENANCE IMPACTS

Throughout the process

**Proposition
1**



MONROE COMMUNITY SERVICES LEVY
for parks & public safety



of updating our **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan** in 2021, community members consistently expressed high value and strong support for quality parks, trails, and open space. Our parks system has expanded by 29% since 2008, field reservations have increased 44% between 2015 and 2024, and our special event permitting program has experienced a 400% increase in permit

applications between 2008 and 2023. Our Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff have been managing these increases on reduced staffing levels since 2008. **Watch this quick video** for an overview of the impacts Proposition 1 would have on parks maintenance services.

The revenue sources the City relies on to fund these services – primarily property and sales tax revenue- are in decline and forecasted to remain flat. Additionally, City operating costs have increased due to inflation. And as property values have risen in recent years, Monroe’s property tax levy rates have fallen from \$1.46 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) to \$.86/\$1,000 AV. (See table below.)

Proposition 1: Monroe’s Levy Lid Lift for Community Services proposes an increase of 22 cents (\$0.22) per \$1,000 of AV. If Proposition 1 is approved, Monroe’s property tax levy rate would be \$1.08/\$1,000 AV, costing an average Monroe homeowner an approximately \$10.84 more per month in property taxes.

**CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION NO. 1
LEVY LID LIFT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Monroe City Council adopted Resolution 2024-015, concerning funding for community services, including public safety and parks. This proposition would provide funds for increased community services, including adding employees and equipment to operate/maintain parks and public safety. It authorizes a maximum regular property tax levy for collection in 2025 of \$1.08/\$1,000 of assessed valuation (an increase from 2024 of approximately \$0.22/\$1,000). The 2025 levy amount will be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, veterans and others would be exempt under RCW 84.36.381.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

If approved, Proposition 1 would provide dedicated funding for parks maintenance and public safety community services. Specific to parks maintenance, Proposition 1 would fund three parks maintenance positions, equipment and supplies and allow the Parks and Recreation Department to addresses current service demands. Specific to the Police Department, Proposition 1 revenue would support a second Community Services Officer, providing 7 day/week coverage for nuisance abatement, parking enforcement, and animal control services and one public safety position to support community needs.

Please visit MonroeWA.gov/Proposition1 to learn more details about why the City is proposing Proposition 1 and its impacts if approved or rejected.

YEAR	PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE <i>(per \$1,000 of assessed value based on a home valued at \$591,000)</i>	PAID TO THE CITY OF MONROE
2025*	\$1.08*	\$638/year*
2023	\$0.86	\$508/year
2021	\$1.09	\$644/year
2019	\$1.23	\$727/year
2013	\$1.46	\$863/year

**If Proposition 1 is approved*

DRAFT MONROE 2044 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City is in the final review and adoption process for the Draft Monroe 2044 Comprehensive Plan. This document guides our local policy, planning, land use, and capital investments over a 20-year horizon. Imagine Monroe is the overreaching vision for this draft plan, ensuring that we continue to build a place where everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong.

This draft plan was prepared by city staff with community input and is consistent with



the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050, and the Snohomish Countywide Planning Policies. Plan chapters are broken into the following topic areas: land use, transportation, economic development, housing, parks, capital facilities (such as water and sewer systems), utilities (electric, telecommunications, etc.), and the natural environment.

This Plan update includes changes to the Future Land Use Map that is the basis for Land Use Zoning in Monroe. The current amount of land available in the Monroe and zoning can accommodate the projected 2044 population and housing but it cannot accommodate the projected 2044 jobs. The City is looking at changes to the FLUM. For the specific changes, please see Appendix 3-A – Land Use Capacity Analysis document pages 4-10 to see the proposed changes.

To learn more about this project, review the draft Monroe 2044 Comprehensive Plan chapters and appendices, provide feedback, and find the remaining schedule, please visit the city's project website at <https://www.monroe2044.com/>.

JOIN US FOR ORCA RECOVERY DAY, SAT. OCT. 19



We've got great response from our community and look forward to seeing you at Sky River Park tomorrow for Orca Recovery Day. Activities and information booths are happening 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plan for a fun, family day at the Park with educational games, activities, and materials from several local organizations. Dr. David Bain from the Orca Conservancy will give a short talk about his experience in orca research and how people can conserve orca populations. Attendees will be able to plant native trees during the event to

support watershed health, great habitat for healthy salmon, and cleaner water for orcas. Food trailers Downpour Espresso and GoodBelly LLC will also be onsite with espresso coffee and malasadas. Orca Recovery Day is a region-wide day of action created by the collective Puget Sound Conservation Districts to raise awareness for the local and endangered Southern Resident orcas. Learn more at snohomishcd.org/orca-recovery-day.

VOTER RESOURCES FOR NOV. 5 GENERAL ELECTION

As the Nov. 5 General Election approaches, you may have questions about voter registration and voting.

The **Washington Secretary of State** and **Snohomish County Auditor's Office** have informational websites, apps, and resources – many available in multiple languages and designed to assist persons with disabilities.

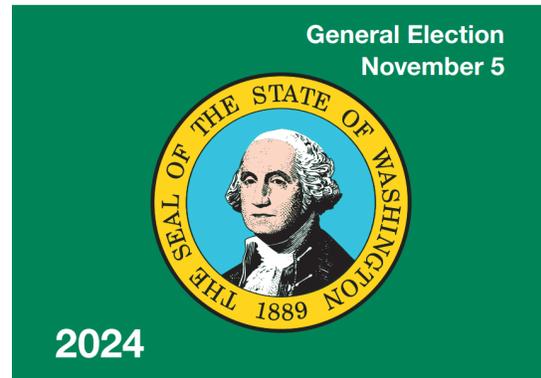
Both agencies remind you that the voting period begins today, Oct. 18 and ends at 8 p.m. on Nov. 5. Online and mail voter registrations must be received 8 days before Election Day. You can register to vote or change your registration right up to 8 p.m. on Election Day and still vote in the election.

While the vast majority of Snohomish County voters cast their ballot by mail, Snohomish County Elections offers **in-person locations** for voters who need accessible voting options, including at the County Offices in Everett and Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe.

Visit **VoteWA.gov** to register and track your ballot.

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections
& Snohomish County



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024. To view the meeting agenda, click the button below. City Council meetings are re-broadcasted on the **City's YouTube Channel (@MonroeWA)**.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember
Tami Beaumont



Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov



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