



Monroe Parks & Public Safety Services

Levy Lid Lift - Proposition 1



The Monroe community has consistently expressed that quality parks and recreation activities and community safety are high priorities and in response, Proposition 1, Parks and Public Safety Services Levy Lid Lift, has been placed in the November 2024 general election. Proposition 1 addresses longstanding parks maintenance staffing deficiencies and supports police community safety services. If approved, the property tax levy rate would be set at \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), which is a \$0.22/\$1,000 AV increase from the current levy rate. On average, a Monroe homeowner would pay about \$10.84 more a month in property taxes to the City if Proposition 1 passes.

Why is the City seeking a Levy Lid Lift?

Monroe values quality parks and recreational activities and it's parks system and the number of users, visitors and events have grown. However, due to budget constraints the Parks & Recreation Department is maintaining an expanded parks system and aging facilities. Many city parks are more than 30 years old with aging play structures, restrooms, and irrigations systems that need more frequent repair. Maintenance staff levels were reduced in 2008 due to the recession and have remained at reduced levels.

Monroe values safety and residents and businesses are requesting more public safety services and programs. Police services are enhanced by Community Services Officers (CSO) who address nuisance violations, animal control complaints, and parking violations, and participate in community events. One CSO position is permanently funded; funding for the second CSO ends in 2024.

Monroe's recent growth has created more demand for park amenities, recreation activities, and community safety services. However, the revenue sources the City relies on to fund these services are in decline. Between 2013 and 2023, the City's property tax rate declined from \$1.46/\$1,000 assessed value (AV) to \$.86/\$1,000 AV. Sales tax revenues are not keeping pace with inflation and are expected to be below 2022 levels. City operating costs have increased by over 25 percent due to inflation. The gap is widening between available revenues and costs to maintain services valued by the Monroe community.



**Vote by
Tuesday, November 5**

Voter & election information at
SnohomishCountyWA.gov
(425) 388-3433 | assessor@snoco.org

Get the facts about Monroe's Proposition 1

MonroeWA.gov
 (360) 794-7400
 cityclerk@monroewa.gov





How will the Levy funds be used?

If approved, levy funds from Proposition 1 will be used to:

- Restore parks maintenance staffing to pre-recession levels and address current service demands.
- Fund a second full-time Community Services Officer (CSO) to provide 7 days/week coverage with efficient response times.
- Fund a public safety position in the Police Department that would best support community needs.

How much will the Levy cost?

If approved, Proposition 1 would set the City's property tax levy to \$1.08/\$1,000 assessed value (AV.) Based on the average 2023 property value in Monroe of \$591,000, the approximately cost to a property owner would be an additional \$10.84 per month. Eligible low-income seniors, disabled veterans and other people with disabilities would be exempt from the levy lid lift. If Proposition 1 is approved, collection would begin January 1, 2025.

For a home valued at \$591,000, the average annual property taxes paid to the City ...

Year	Property Tax Levy Rate	Paid to the City of Monroe
2013	\$1.46	\$863/year
2019	\$1.23	\$727/year
2021	\$1.09	\$644/year
2023	\$0.86	\$508/year
2025	\$1.08	\$638/year

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What if the Levy is not approved by voters?

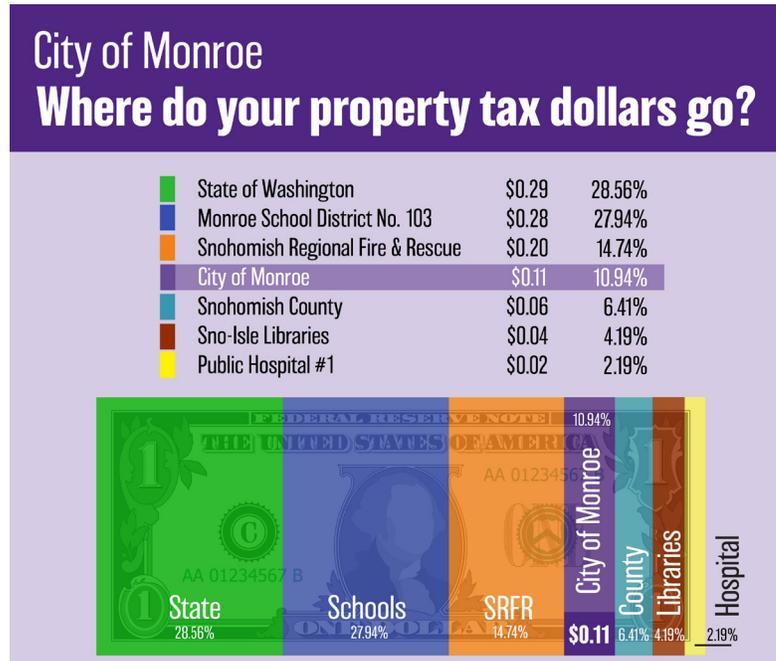
Park maintenance services would continue but at reduced levels or be deferred. Resources for programs, sports field uses, and events would be reduced. There would be fewer opportunities to add new events and reserve park facilities and sports fields. Future acquisitions and developments of new parks, trails and facilities such as the riverfront parks, Cadman site, and Trombley Park would be delayed.

Community Services Officer (CSO) staffing would revert to partial work-week coverage impacting response times for animal control issues and nuisance investigations and abatement. Additionally, parking and abandoned vehicles enforcement would be limited as would Police Department participation in community events.

What is a Levy Lid Lift?

Washington State law limits the amount of property tax the City can collect to a one percent increase per year, unless an increase ("lid lift") is approved by a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one) to an amount equal to or less than the statutory maximum tax rate (\$1.60/\$1,000 AV).

Property owners in Monroe support several different taxing districts, each with its own levy and levy rate. In 2023, a typical homeowner paid approximately 11% of their total property tax bill to the City of Monroe.



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