

Levy Information Sheet

for commissioners and staff

Levy Details:

- **Proposition Name:** Hospital District 304, Proposition 1
- **What:** Increase levy rate from 9.42¢ to 50¢ per thousand dollars of assessed home value.
- **Example:** For a \$500K home, this amounts to an *increase* of about \$17 per month.
- Current levy has been in place over 50 years.

Comparisons:

- Ours is *one of the lowest* PHD levy rates in WA state.
- Last year (2025), the following PHD levy increases were passed:
 - **Island Health:** 34¢ → 75¢
 - **Evergreen Health:** 14¢ → 60¢
 - **Orcas Island Health Care District:** 41.5¢ → 75¢

About Us:

- **PHD:** We are a Public Hospital District -- a community-created and community-owned special-purpose district.
- **Legal Name:** Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 304. Our DBA (doing business as) name is United General District 304.
- **Our Focus:** We offer over 50 programs promoting health and wellbeing at every stage of life. Prevention programs that keep people well so they need less medical intervention.
- **Funding:** We are partially funded by tax dollars. About 90% of our programs are grant funded.

Hospital and PeaceHealth:

- **Relationship to PeaceHealth:** In 2014, District 304 entered into a long-term agreement with PeaceHealth. We maintain ownership of the hospital facilities, while PeaceHealth oversees all clinical services.
- **Will this money go to PeaceHealth?** *NO.* The additional levy funds will stay with United General District 304 and be used locally for community programs.

Levy
webpage:



Remember to say:

"If passed, Hospital District 304, Proposition 1 would..."

Promote Community Mental Health: *Provide mental health care training and opportunities to local first responders, schools, and our neighbors, empowering our community to meet local needs.*

- We could**
- Stabilize and expand bereavement programming.
 - Expand suicide prevention programs and connections to resources.
 - Support schools, professionals, and community members with strategies and education.
- Why this matters**
- In 2025, nearly 25% of Skagit County 10th graders reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more.
 - Suicide continues as leading cause of death in young people.

Support Our Seniors: *Enhance opportunities for new classes that support active, independent lifestyles while accessing local care.*

- We could**
- Offer classes on brain health, fall prevention, chronic disease management, Medicaid, etc.
 - Expand outdoor activities geared for seniors, including Nature Rx and beyond.
 - Offer programs that help seniors with limited incomes access healthy food.
- Why this matters**
- Over half (52%) of single seniors struggle to afford basic living costs; for couples, it's 22%.
 - About 1 in 4 Skagit County residents (24%) are age 65 or older—higher than the state average of 17%.

Increase Family Services: *Strengthen and expand family support services that lay the foundation for healthy development in newborns and young children. Programs that ensure caring transitions from hospital to home and beyond.*

- We could**
- Hire Community Health Workers to connect families with local resources.
 - Increase Parent & Caregiver Groups, and expand the Bringing Baby Home program.
- Why this matters**
- Every dollar invested in children & families can return up to \$29 in long-term benefits.
 - Rates of child abuse and neglect are higher in Skagit County than in WA State overall.

Enhance Nutrition Access: *Secure access to vital food opportunities for our neighbors of all ages and needs. Expand food security initiatives like Farm-to-School supporting local growers and funding for those in need to eat healthy and thrive.*

- We could**
- Expand Farm to School programming into Burlington.
 - Offer fruit & veggie prescription programs to help manage and prevent chronic disease.
 - Offer nutrition education, healthy cooking classes, and more.
- Why this matters**
- When schools offer school gardens, 44% of students eat more fruits & veggies.
 - Over one in three (38%) of Skagit residents utilized more than one food resource, such as food banks, Meals on Wheels, etc.

Empower Youth to Make Positive Choices: *Build meaningful opportunities to help our youth avoid using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and reach their full potential.*

- We could**
- Create a local mentorship program similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters.
 - Provide free, positive activities that bring youth and families together.
 - Ensure full funding for youth and adult coalitions.
 - Offer education on substance use prevention for schools, professionals, and community.
- Why this matters**
- More than 1 in 4 Skagit County 10th graders say they don't have a trusted adult.
 - The earlier young people start using substances, the higher their risk of addiction, legal issues, and serious harm.