

# Pierce County

## Proposition No. 1

### Sales And Use Tax For Improvements To Pierce County's 9-1-1 Emergency Communication System

#### Ballot Title

The Pierce County Council passed Resolution No. R2011-87 proposing to fund improvements to Pierce County's 9-1-1 emergency communication system. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would authorize a county-wide, one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) local sales and use tax to fund costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing and re-equipping the county's 9-1-1 emergency communication system and facilities infrastructure. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

#### Explanatory Statement

If approved by a majority of registered voters in the county, Proposition No. 1 will authorize a new, county-wide local sales and use tax to fund improvements to the county's 9-1-1 emergency communication system. The tax will be in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and will be collected from those persons subject to sales and uses taxes upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax is one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or the value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. All moneys received from the tax must be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities infrastructure.

#### Statement For

##### *The system is broken:*

Pierce County's existing patchwork of public safety radio communications and dispatch centers needs immediate upgrading to meet new federal and state mandates. Our system is fragmented and soon to be obsolete. Too often police and fire cannot directly communicate with each other when responding to an emergency because they use different radio systems. Coverage gaps frequently put first responders out of radio contact.

##### *Improving public safety:*

South Sound 911 will provide a seamless regional solution. Next Generation technologies - along with the merged efforts of existing, experienced dispatchers - will create efficiencies that greatly improve safety for all citizens, businesses and first responders in Pierce County.

##### *Regional cooperation:*

Police, fire and EMS leaders throughout Pierce County developed this practical, collaborative solution. Building a unified system for public safety communications and dispatch makes sense. This makes everyone in Pierce County safer.

##### *Supported by first responders:*

Please join police, fire, EMS and business groups in voting to approve South Sound 911.

Committee Members: Pat McCarthy, Paul Pastor, and Brian Sonntag,  
www.fix911.org,  
Citizens for South Sound 911

#### Statement Against

##### Excessive Taxes

Vote "No" on Prop-#1. Despite implications, a "No" vote will *not* result in loss of services. Pierce County had nearly *a decade* to implement the FCC mandated radio upgrades which cost only a fraction of *the millions in taxes* collected by their proposal. Their *agenda has ballooned* to include new buildings, long term financing, and revenue generation.

##### Alternate Agenda and Excuses

This plan is filled with *deceptive language* and *misdirection*. The proponents use words like "safety," "stream-line" and "cost-effective," and expect the voters to look no further. There are alternate solutions available which are fair, transparent and accountable. The people of Pierce County deserve a well-planned and fiscally-responsible system.

##### Undisclosed Additional Taxes

Most people will pay *another new tax* for every 911 call. Proponents *refuse to disclose* these fees. All of us will pay *more taxes* with no guarantee of improved or even equal service.

##### South Sound 911: A Disastrous Plan

Taxpayers shouldn't bear the burden of *Pierce County's failure* to plan.

Committee Members: Chris McNutt, Ron Morehouse, and Barbara Williamson, 253-271-8060,  
Info@ReasonableGovernment.com,  
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The Committee for Reasonable Government

#### Rebuttal of Statement Against

The county and its cities and towns *each* face huge costs to comply with federal mandates and changing radio industry standards. Police, fire and EMS leaders spent 18+ months developing a collaborative, common-sense solution that *consolidates* dispatch centers, *coordinates* radio purchases and makes every citizen and business *safer*. Critics just want to protect their turf and ignore the obvious benefits of regionalizing the 911 system. Get the straight facts about South Sound 911 at www.fix911.org.

Committee Members: Pat McCarthy, Paul Pastor, and Brian Sonntag,  
www.fix911.org,  
Citizens for South Sound 911

#### Rebuttal of Statement For

Their *only* true statement is they need to upgrade soon; due to procrastination. The mandate only calls for radios, *not extravagant buildings*. This upgrade costs \$20 million. We'd be *taxed over \$500 million*. Those upgrades which *are* required will happen without Pierce County's hostile takeover. They've *invented problems* to justify *their greed*, not address compliance/public-safety. South Sound 911 was *only "developed"* by those who benefit most, *excluding everyone else*. Join Police/Fire/EMS/Dispatch that are *Voting No*.

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