

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION, RELATING TO CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT WITH BOUNDARIES COTERMINUS WITH ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 103, REQUESTING THAT A PROPOSITION TO CREATE THE FIDALGO METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS WITHIN THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT AT A GENERAL ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Whereas the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center (“FPFC”) is located within the City of Anacortes, but is owned and operated by Fidalgo Parks and Recreation District (“FPRD”); and

Whereas the FPFC also serves the nearby residents of Skagit County; and

Whereas FPFC provides a health benefit to both the citizens of Anacortes and to the people living in the unincorporated areas surrounding the City ages 0 to 100+; and

Whereas representatives of the FPRD have reported that the FPFC facility has reached the end of its expected useful life and needs to be updated and forming the Fidalgo Metropolitan Park District would be the first step in finding a replacement and providing for sustained, continuous funding to operate FPFC; and

Whereas a representative from the FPRD has communicated that after consideration of various alternatives, the Board of Commissioners of FPRD has recommended the formation of a Metropolitan Park District, organized under RCW Chapter 35.61, and has plans to succeed the business and assets of the FPRD and owning and operating the FPFC and other park and recreational facilities and programs within the boundaries coterminous with Anacortes School District No. 103, Skagit County, Washington (“Proposed Boundaries”) to the newly formed metropolitan park district if approved by the voters; and

Whereas the City of Anacortes has approved Resolution 3184 placing the creation of the Fidalgo Metropolitan Park District (“FMPD”) to the voters and has requested that the Skagit County Commissioners execute a similar resolution placing the question of formation of the FMPD to the voters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND HEREBY ORDERED that the Board of Skagit County Commissioner hereby orders as follows:

Section One. Request for Election. The Skagit County Auditor, as ex officio Supervisor of Elections (“Auditor”), is requested to call and conduct a primary election on November 4, 2025, in the manner provided by law to be held within the Proposed Boundaries for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the proposed metropolitan park district, for their approval or rejection, a proposition to form a metropolitan park district with all the powers authorized under chapter 35.61 RCW and boundaries coterminous with the

Proposed Boundaries. The ballot title of the Joint Proposition shall be in substantial form as follows:

JOINT PROPOSITION NO. 1
SKAGIT COUNTY AND CITY OF ANACORTES
FIDALGO METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

Skagit County Commissioners adopted Resolution R20250168 and Anacortes City Council adopted Resolution 3184, concerning a joint proposition to form a metropolitan park district. If approved, it would create the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District with the powers in 35.61 RCW to operate the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center Campus. The District would be governed by a five-member board to be elected at large, with boundaries coterminous with the Anacortes School District. The District would levy a maximum property tax rate for 2027 of \$0.12/\$1000 of assessed valuation.

For the formation of a metropolitan park district to be governed by a five-member board of commissioners to be elected at large.

Against the formation of a metropolitan park district.

Section Two. Boundaries of the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District. The boundaries of the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District shall encompass the same boundaries as the Anacortes School District No. 103.

Section Three. Changes to Ballot Title. Prosecuting Attorney or his designee is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, as determined necessary in coordination with the Anacortes City Attorney

Section Four. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution, and in no way affects the validity of other provisions of this Resolution or of the levy or collection of the regular property taxes as so authorized herein.

Section Four. Effective Date. This Resolution takes effect immediately from and after its passage.

Passed this 4 day of August 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Lisa Janicki
Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen
Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kate Williams
Clerk of the Board

Peter Browning
Peter Browning, Commissioner

Recommended:

Trisha Fagne
Department Head

Approved as to Form:

M. Allen
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

RESOLUTION 3184

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT WITH BOUNDARIES COTERMINUS WITH ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 103, REQUESTING THAT A PROPOSITION TO CREATE THE FIDALGO METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS WITHIN THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT AT A GENERAL ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Whereas the Fidalgo Parks and Fitness Center (“FPFC”) is located within the City of Anacortes, but is owned and operated by Fidalgo Parks and Recreation District (“FPRD”) and that serves residents of Skagit County, and

Whereas FPFC provides a health benefit to both the citizens of Anacortes and to the people living in the unincorporated areas surrounding the City ages 0 to 100+, and

Whereas representatives of the FPRD have reported to the City that the FPFC facility has reached the end of its expected useful life and needs to be updated and this would be the first step in finding a replacement and provide for sustained, continuous funding to operate FPFC, and

Whereas, a representative from the FPRD has communicated with the City that after consideration of various alternatives, the Board of Commissioners of FPRD has recommended the formation of a Metropolitan Park District, organized under RCW Chapter 35.61, and has plans to succeed the business and assets of the FPRD and owning and operating the FPFC and other park and recreational facilities and programs within the boundaries coterminous with Anacortes School District No. 103, Skagit County, Washington (“Proposed Boundaries”) to the newly formed metropolitan park district if approved by the voters; and

Whereas Skagit County intends to consider Resolution No. _____ on August 4, 2025; and

Whereas the City wishes to put the question of formation to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Request for Election. The City of Anacortes, Washington, hereby requests that the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners, through the Skagit County Auditor, call a primary election on November 4, 2025, for the purpose of placing on the ballot the following proposition regarding formation of a Metropolitan Park District:

JOINT PROPOSITION NO. 1

SKAGIT COUNTY AND CITY OF ANACORTES

FIDALGO METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

Skagit County Commissioners adopted Resolution. ____ and Anacortes City Council adopted Resolution. 3184, concerning a joint proposition to form a metropolitan park district. If approved, it would create the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District with the powers in 35.61 RCW to operate the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center Campus. The District would be governed by a five-member board to be elected at large, with boundaries coterminous with the Anacortes School District. The District would levy a maximum property tax rate for 2027 of \$0.12/\$1000 of assessed valuation.

For the formation of a metropolitan park district to be governed by a five-member board of commissioners to be elected at large.

Against the formation of a metropolitan park district.

Section Two. Boundaries of the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District. The boundaries of the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District shall encompass the same boundaries as the Anacortes School District No. 103.


Section Three. Changes to Ballot Title. The Mayor is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, determined necessary by the City Treasurer or City Attorney.

Section Four. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution, and in no way affects the validity of other provisions of this Resolution or of the levy or collection of the regular property taxes as so authorized herein.

Section Four. Effective Date. This Resolution takes effect immediately from and after its passage.

The foregoing resolution was ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes, Washington, at a regular, open public meeting thereof this 28th day of July 2025.

CITY OF ANACORTES:



Matt Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney WSBA #40530

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 02DB8E55-8E96-4574-A168-DC07BBD83741

Status: Completed

Subject: CORRECTION: Approved Resolution 3184

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 3

Signatures: 3

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

City Clerk

AutoNav: Enabled

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904 6th St

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Anacortes, WA 98221

cityclerk@anacorteswa.gov

IP Address: 23.90.91.2

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: City Clerk

Location: DocuSign

7/31/2025 1:43:24 PM

cityclerk@anacorteswa.gov

Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Darcy Swetnam

darcys@cityofanacortes.org

City Attorney

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 23.90.91.2

Sent: 7/31/2025 1:47:14 PM

Viewed: 7/31/2025 1:57:37 PM

Signed: 7/31/2025 1:57:45 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 7/31/2025 1:57:37 PM

ID: a263b19a-5f7b-4bbc-b9ee-b93266992888

Steven D. Hoglund

steveh@cityofanacortes.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 23.90.91.2

Sent: 7/31/2025 1:47:14 PM

Resent: 8/1/2025 9:11:06 AM

Viewed: 8/1/2025 10:04:49 AM

Signed: 8/1/2025 10:04:58 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 8/1/2025 10:04:49 AM

ID: fb5ec97e-e475-488d-b153-7d7f0806284f

Matt Miller

mattm@cityofanacortes.org

Mayor

Anacortes, WA

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image
Using IP Address: 23.90.91.2

Sent: 8/1/2025 10:04:59 AM

Viewed: 8/4/2025 8:23:49 AM

Signed: 8/4/2025 8:24:02 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 8/4/2025 8:23:49 AM

ID: 5a5ea087-2b03-430d-97fa-c363d12f25d5

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	7/31/2025 1:47:14 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	8/4/2025 8:23:49 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	8/4/2025 8:24:02 AM
Completed	Security Checked	8/4/2025 8:24:02 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure

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Required hardware and software

Operating Systems:	Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, Windows Vista®; Mac OS® X
Browsers:	Final release versions of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or above (Windows only); Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or above (Windows and Mac); Safari™ 3.0 or above (Mac only)

PDF Reader:	Acrobat® or similar software may be required to view and print PDF files
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	Allow per session cookies

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Proposed Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District

Joint Proposition No. 1

Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District

Skagit County Commissioners adopted Resolution R20250168 and Anacortes City Council adopted Resolution 3184, concerning a joint proposition to form a metropolitan park district. If approved, it would create the Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District with the powers in 35.61 RCW to operate the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center Campus. The District would be governed by a five-member board to be elected at large, with boundaries coterminous with the Anacortes School District. The District would levy a maximum property tax rate for 2027 of \$0.12/\$1000 of assessed valuation.

Explanatory Statement

Written by Proposed Fidalgo Metropolitan Recreation District

The Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center (FPFC) proposes transitioning from a Park and Recreation District to a Metropolitan Park District. This change would eliminate uncertainty tied to renewing maintenance and operations (M&O) levies every six years, improving the long-term sustainability of the current and any future facilities. With this transition, the district boundaries would expand to be consistent with those of the Anacortes School District for a more complete reflection of the community user base that is served. The new district would continue to operate independently of the City and County.

Currently, the facility is funded approximately 50% by user fees for specific programs and 50% by voter-approved levy funding for maintenance and operations. Transitioning to a metropolitan park district would provide more reliable levy funding—essential for qualifying for loans to address larger repairs and capital improvements.

This measure will NOT create a new tax. It will simply replace the current tax. If the change is approved, a newly elected board will set the initial levy rate, not to exceed \$0.12 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. For reference the 2021 voter-approved rate was \$0.1138, and the current levy rate for is \$0.0921.

A Metropolitan Park District still requires voter approval for any levy rate increase beyond the 1% annual cap. Community members will continue to have input through open monthly Board of Commissioner meetings.

The new district would continue to be governed by five commissioners elected from among district residents. A metropolitan district structure would make it more feasible for FPFC to finance major improvements using long-term loans—an option currently limited by the uncertainty of periodic levy renewals. This change supports continued operations and long-term planning for a 50-year-old community facility.

Argument For

Protect and Sustain our Community Pool

Let's preserve what we have and plan responsibly for the future. Vote Yes for a strong and sustainable Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center (FPFC).

Not a New Tax or New Pool Proposal

We believe you want Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center to survive and thrive. Voting yes for a Metropolitan Park District ensures our facility remains financially secure so we can stay open. This is not a request for a new pool. It simply transitions the district to a structure that allows stable, predictable funding for ongoing maintenance and operations. Neither is it a new tax. You already pay a Maintenance and Operations levy, a tax that must be passed every six years for basic operations.

Responsible Financial Planning

A Metropolitan Park District allows for consistent levy funding and access to long term loans – tools not currently available under the 6-year levy cycle. A new district can secure financing to fix the aging facility while minimizing impact on taxpayers.

Local Control and Community Oversight

You will not lose your right to determine what happens to FPFC. The new district will be independent and governed by five Commissioners that you vote for. You will be able to provide input at open monthly board meetings. The levy rate will be set after you elect the new board, with a target not to exceed 12 cents per \$1,000.00 assessed house value. Any future tax increase above the annual 1% cap requires your vote.

Rebuttal of Argument Against

A metropolitan park district is essential to keep our pool open for the future. Stable funding protects this 50-year-old community treasure and allows responsible planning. Refined boundaries reflect who uses the pool, spreading costs more equitably. You keep your vote—commissioners are elected locally, budgets are set in open meetings, and any major project still requires voter approval. This measure ensures fairness, accountability, and a sustainable future for our pool.

Committee: Friend of Fidalgo Pool & Fitness
Committee Spokesperson: Marilyn Stadler
Contact: 360-333-2448; mcsta2007@yahoo.com
Committee Members: Hope Dean, Marcia Brooks

Argument Against

A metropolitan recreational district is a terrible idea for our community.

It forces the annexation of citizens outside of the city limits who voted convincingly last year (by over 60% for Guemes residents) against this measure. This overreach dismisses the will of voters who are not frequent users of the pool. This is not how our democracy works! This proposed annexation puts a future new pool bond measure at risk by including those who clearly voted against annexation the first time. Why risk a new pool?

This measure will increase taxes by 30% (from \$0.092 to \$0.12 per thousand assessed valuation). We support our pool, but this increase adds to the burden of all taxpayers, especially those living on fixed incomes. Anacortes' generous taxpayers have shown how much we love the pool, passing every levy for the last 30 years, providing a stable source of funding for pool operations and maintenance expenses.

Most importantly, this proposition (RCW 35.61) strips our voting rights, granting five commissioners sweeping powers, including the right of eminent domain, to tax, spend and operate without the safeguards in place under the current system. Vote to retain your citizen voting rights and defeat this threat to democracy!

The current system gives a vote to all citizens. Don't give away your voting rights for this power grab! Vote No to forced annexation. Vote No to increased taxes. Vote No to protect your voting rights. Vote No to the Metropolitan Recreation District!

Rebuttal of Argument For

This proposal represents a new tax for Guemes citizens and a 30% tax increase for everyone else. It strips citizens of the right to approve future pool levies and gives sweeping new powers to five commissioners (RCW35.61). We must keep our voting rights! This forced annexation was rejected last year by 60% of Guemes voters, and with thirty consecutive years of voter-approved levies, funding is already secure. Vote no to this dangerous power grab.

Committee: Friends of Fidalgo Taxpayers
Committee Spokesperson: Suzanne Rohner
Contact: 360-770-2746;
friendsoffidalgotaxpayers@gmail.com
Committee Members: Linda Martin