



Passing a Tax Levy or Bond Issue Validation Formula

Passing a Tax Levy:

Washington State Constitution Article 7 Section 2 ...“the number of persons voting ‘yes’ on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election...”

To validate, levies must pass with a 60% favorable majority. They must also win a *minimum* number of ‘yes’ votes based on the number of people within the taxing district who voted in the previous November General Election. That minimum number of ‘yes’ votes is determined by calculating 60% of 40% of the people who voted in the most recent General Election.

For example:

10,000	number of people voting in the taxing district in the last General Election (votes cast)
x 40%	
4,000	
x 60%	
2,400	minimum ‘yes’ vote required to pass

To pass the levy, the district must have at least 2,400 ‘yes’ votes even if only a total of 2,500 people vote on the levy. A levy can still pass even if the issue does not receive the 40% voter turnout, but still receives the minimum number of ‘yes’ votes.

In other words, if only 3,000 voters vote on the proposition and 60% vote ‘yes’, that would constitute only 1,800 ‘yes’ votes. The proposition fails to validate and does not pass. However, if 3,000 voters vote on the proposition and at least 2,400 vote ‘yes’ (equal to an 80% favorable majority) the proposition would pass.

The proposition must have at least a 60% favorable majority to pass.

November 3, 2009 Special / General Election Validation

Naches Park & Recreation District		
Special Levy		
Total voting at last General Election:	40%	60%
993	397	238