RESOLUTION 3103

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEVY REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS IN CHAPTER 84.55 RCW FOR PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING.

Whereas the City of Anacortes has identified the need to add police officers and firefighter/medics to improve levels of service and response times to protect public health and safety;

Whereas the number of needed police officers and firefighter/medics exceeds the City’s ability to fund the positions using existing general revenue without substantial cuts to other important services;

Whereas property tax revenue, in inflation-adjusted dollars, has decreased in the last decade, even as population has increased by more than 10% and the city’s health and welfare benefit costs have increased substantially;

Whereas the City’s 2023 regular property tax levy is $0.98095 per $1,000 of assessed value;

Whereas RCW 84.55.050(1) allows for a one-year permanent increase in property tax revenue above the 1% annual limit set in RCW Chapter 84.55 if such a levy increase is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters in an election (a “levy lid lift”);

Whereas the City Council has determined that it is essential and necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare, and in the best interest of the City and its residents to submit a one-year permanent levy lid lift proposition to the voters for their approval or rejection;

Whereas under RCW 84.55.050(3) and (4), the proposition may provide that the City will use the regular property tax levy amount so approved for purposes of computing the levy lid for subsequent levies; and

Whereas under RCW 84.55.050(4), the proposition may set the regular property tax levy at a rate less than the maximum rate allowed for the City; and

Whereas the continual provision of public safety services to protect the public health and safety of the City require the expenditure of permanent and reliable (i.e., sustainable) revenues in excess of the current levy lid; and
Whereas the amount of the proposed levy lid lift has been calculated to support police by providing funding to add five additional police officers, which will bring police staffing into alignment with industry standards, thereby increasing the safety levels of both officers and citizens, and will reduce response times;

Whereas the amount of the proposed levy lid lift has been calculated to support fire by providing funding to add eight additional firefighter/medic staff members, which is the number necessary to staff a second unit at Fire Station 1;

Whereas it is therefore in the best interests of the City and its residents to seek voter approval of a levy lid lift proposition authorizing an increase to the City’s regular property tax levy for collection in 2024 by a rate of approximately $0.36240 per $1,000 of assessed value to the maximum aggregate rate of $1.34353 per $1,000 of assessed value;

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

Section One. Description of the Ballot Proposition. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1) and RCW 29A.04.330, the City Council hereby calls for the submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of the City asking whether the City shall levy regular property taxes in excess of the limitation established in RCW 84.55.010, as follows:

(a) Maximum Aggregate Levy Rate Authorized. The proposition authorizes the City to establish its maximum aggregate regular property tax levy to the amount resulting from a rate of $1.34335 per $1,000 of assessed value for levy in 2023 and collection in 2024 [which represents a rate that is less than the maximum rate allowed for the City].

(b) Computing the Limitations for Subsequent Levies. The City will use the dollar amount of the maximum aggregate property tax levy resulting from the rate identified in this Resolution for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW.

Section Two. Calling of Election. The Skagit County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Skagit County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct a special election, in the manner provided by law, to be held within the City on April 25, 2023, in conjunction with the Special election to be held on the same date, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW and to use the dollar amount of
such levy for the purpose of computing the limitations for the City's subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW. The Skagit County Auditor's office, as the City's ex officio supervisor of elections shall conduct the election, canvas the vote, and certify the results in the manner provided by law.

Section Three. Ballot Measure. Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071 the City Attorney of the City (the "City Attorney") has prepared the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

CITY OF ANACORTES,
WASHINGTON PROPOSITION 1
PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING

The Anacortes City Council adopted Resolution 3103 concerning funding to improve public safety service levels and response times. This proposition would provide funding for five additional police officers and eight additional firefighter/medics by establishing a maximum regular property tax levy of $1.34335/$1000 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024 (an estimated increase of approximately $0.36240/$1000). The 2024 levy amount will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes □

No □

Section Four. Authorization to Deliver Resolution to Auditor and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to (a) present a certified copy of this Resolution to the Auditor no later than February 24, 2023; and (b) perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to submit to the City's voters at the April 25, 2023 election, for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW and to use the dollar amount of such levy for the purpose of computing the limitations for the City's subsequent levies under chapter 84.55 RCW.

Section Five. Notices Relating to Ballot Title. For purposes of receiving notice of
the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates (a) the City Attorney (Darcy Swetnam), telephone: (360)299-1955; email: DarcyS@CityofAnacortes.org; and (b) the City Clerk/Treasurer (Steve Hoglund), telephone: (360)293-1906, email: SteveH@CityofAnacortes.org as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided. The City Attorney is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Skagit County Auditor.

**Section Six. 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 the other provisions of this Resolution or of the levy or collection of the regular property taxes as so authorized herein.

**Section Seven. Effective Date.** This Resolution takes effect immediately from and after its passage. This resolution was ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes, Washington, at a regular, open public meeting thereof this 5th day of December 2022.

Matt Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney
CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Anacortes, Washington (the "City"), hereby certify as follows:

1. The attached copy of Resolution (the "Resolution") is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City held at the regular meeting place thereof on December 5, 2022, as that resolution appears on the minute book of the City, and the Resolution is now in full force and effect.

2. That said meeting was duly convened, held and included an opportunity for public comment, in all respects in accordance with law; due and proper notice of such meeting was given, including notifying the public of the access options for remote attendance; that a legal quorum of the members of the City Council of the City was present throughout the meeting; and a majority of the members voted in the proper manner for the passage of the Resolution.

Dated: 12/8/2022.

CITY OF ANACORTES,
WASHINGTON

[Signature]

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk/Treasurer