



Memo

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Matt Simms & Jennifer Cox
Date: 7/14/2023
Re: Aquatic Recreation Center Bond

This item is to discuss: a recommendation to place the aquatic recreation center bond measure on the November 2023 general election ballot. This is based on a careful review of the pros and cons of the general election ballot versus a special election ballot in the spring of 2024. In the end, there is a greater chance to hear the voice of the population of the District at the general election, with between 9,000 and 11,000 voters expected to turn out for that event (special election voter turnouts historically have fallen in the range of approximately 7,000 voters).

For reference, the South Whidbey School District bond measure will be on the same general election ballot, as will all the mayoral positions on the island and several of the school board positions. It is expected these additional voters will reflect the strength of support for the aquatic recreation center bond that we found in the community survey done as part of the feasibility study (71% calling it the highest priority for the community that the survey allowed).

To proceed with the November 2023 bond measure requires the approval of the resolution at the July 19th meeting of the board in order that the measure could be filed by the August 1st deadline for the general election.