



A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2024 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 4

# Proposition 4 addresses the growing need for police services

To meet the growing demand for police services in Vancouver, the City Council referred Proposition 4 to the General Election ballot on Nov. 5. If approved by the voters, Prop. 4 will allow the City to add additional officers and non-sworn police positions that are necessary as the community and the demand for police services grows.

## Community growth spurs need for police services

Community growth has contributed to a 30% increase in call volume for police services and an 87% increase in reported crimes since 2018. In addition to higher call volume, the increasing complexity of calls frequently requires multiple officers for extended periods of time, resulting in the diversion of resources from other parts of the City. Prop. 4 will help maintain and increase the overall capacity to provide police and public safety services throughout Vancouver.

## What will Prop. 4 pay for?

If approved by the voters, Prop. 4 would fund increased staff and supportive services, including:

- Add up to 80 full-time equivalent sworn officers and up to 36 full-time equivalent non-sworn police positions
- Efficiency-enhancing technologies
- Additional operating and related services, including the impact of the additional staffing on jail, corrections, and public defense



- Maintenance and facility expenses to provide police services
- Expand Homeless Assistance & Resources Team (HART) response
- Equipment, technology, and vehicles consistent with current and future standards
- Administrative and staffing costs related to police staff and services

## How much will Prop. 4 cost?

In Washington, state law limits property tax revenue growth annually at 1%. Even with growth or a rise in property values, the City can only collect 1% of additional property tax over the previous year. Prop. 4 asks voters to consider lifting the amount the City can raise. If approved, there will be a \$0.41/1,000 increase in

assessed value on 2025 property tax statements, then starting in 2026, the amount raised for police services will be 5% of all the City's property tax revenue.

## What if Prop. 4 doesn't pass?

As Vancouver's population continues to grow, the demand for police services will inevitably increase. Even with prioritizing public safety and identifying efficiencies without new revenue, the cost of providing police services will not keep pace with our expanding community. Without the passage of Prop. 4, there is no room in the 2025/26 recommended budget for more officers. Learn more about Prop. 4 by visiting [cityofvancouver.us/prop4](https://cityofvancouver.us/prop4).



# Recommended budget submitted to City Council

## Budget balanced, \$43 million gap closed

The recommended 2025/26 biennial budget was presented to the City Council on October 1. This budget aligns with the values and priorities outlined in the City's Strategic Plan and addresses the Council and community's goals while managing existing resource constraints, including closing the anticipated \$43 million budget gap.

The balanced recommended budget includes approximately \$2.1 billion in total expenditures across all funds for the biennium, including \$769.2 million for the general, street and fire funds and \$582.9 million in capital expenditures.

"With this recommended budget, we have largely been able to minimize impacts to services our residents rely on," said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn. "Through targeted reductions, cost reallocations and the addition of new revenues, the budget largely maintains our core services and advances a range of strategic investments to serve our growing community."

The recommended budget includes new revenue sources supporting police, fire, economic development, parks and transportation infrastructure. Some of these are continued rollout of revenue adopted by the City Council in the last budget. The recommended budget also includes implementing a Business and Occupation Tax on retail services dedicated to constructing and operating a new bridge shelter to help address the homelessness emergency. The recommended budget also includes an Admissions Tax and Cultural Access Sales Tax to support new investments in arts and cultural facilities and programs.

View the budget presentation schedule, budget document, map of proposed capital projects, and a dashboard of the City's proposed operating and capital budget at [cityofvancouver.us/budget](https://cityofvancouver.us/budget).



The City of Vancouver newsletter is published quarterly for residents and those who receive services from the City.

Questions, comments and suggestions can be sent to Laura Shepard at [laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us).

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit [cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us) to verify meeting dates and status of events.

Scan the QR code for translations in Español, Русский, Tiếng Việt and 中文.

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WASHINGTON

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# Proposition 4: Complexity of calls diverts resources and stretches capacity of police

Today, there are almost no “typical” police calls for service, with nearly all calls having layers of complexity. A trend that has been developing over the past few years are calls that require multiple police resources to contain an area, de-escalate, optimize safety, or investigate a crime.

The daily number of incidents that require six or more patrol officers to respond to a single call has more than doubled since 2017, to more than nine incidents per day. During these calls, more than half of all available patrol resources from a specific precinct are required at a single call for service.

The frequency of these incidents results in large portions of the city with significantly diminished police coverage for significant parts of the day, translating into delayed response to calls for service and increased risk.

Over the summer, several incidents required an expanded response from VPD. Here are a few examples illustrating how one call can quickly require more than one responding unit.

If passed, Prop. 4 will help maintain and increase the overall capacity to provide police and public safety services in Vancouver. Learn more about Prop. 4 by visiting [cityofvancouver.us/prop4](http://cityofvancouver.us/prop4).



## Sept. 20: Firearms dumped in neighborhood

While attempting to elude police, a wanted suspect dumped four firearms in bushes in a residential area. He was apprehended and arrested for attempting to elude, reckless driving, possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute and four counts of unlawful possession of a firearm. VPD officers, along with K-9 Oso, located the four firearms, all of which were real, loaded firearms, and one had a 30-round magazine.

VPD units: **30** Total time on scene by VPD units: **31 hours**

Other Responding Units: Vancouver Fire and AMR



## Sept. 5: Man in crisis rescued from Columbia River

A community member noticed a naked man swimming far out in the river. He quickly jumped on his jet ski, brought the man back to shore, and called 911. When police and paramedics arrived, the man, who appeared to be experiencing a mental health crisis, walked back toward the river and swam approximately 200 yards from the shore. Vancouver Fire deployed their boat to aid the responding police officers. They rescued the hypothermic man and transported him to the hospital for evaluation and treatment.

VPD units: **8** Total time on scene by VPD units: **5.3 Hours**

Other Responding Units: Vancouver Fire plus crew from Fire Boat 1, AMR, Port of Portland Marine Unit



## Sept. 9: Threats of shooting outside a high school, two armed males arrested

A student reported threats of a school shooting posted on social media. The threat appeared credible and was targeted to a specific student. While investigating, patrol officers located and arrested two males who were on the campus, approaching the school armed with loaded firearms. Both were arrested.

VPD units: **8** Total time on scene by VPD units: **27.4 hours**



## August 23-24: Male armed with a knife slashing tires in a neighborhood

A man went on a tire-slashing spree and slashed tires on 52 vehicles, causing an excess of \$14,500 in damage. Extensive follow-up with victims and documentation of all damage was required.

VPD units: **23 VPD personnel** Total time on scene by VPD units: **19.3 hours**



# Search for the next police chief is underway

The City recently opened an internal recruitment process to hire Vancouver's next police chief following Chief Jeff Mori's retirement announcement earlier this year.

"Policing continues to experience change, and community safety remains at the top of many people's minds in Vancouver. By conducting an internal recruitment, we are prioritizing continuity, deep

institutional knowledge, and proven commitment to our community," said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn.

To help understand the community's expectations for its next chief, the City ran a survey to gather information regarding the attributes and leadership qualities the community would like to see their police chief. Accountability, transparency and being approachable/

accessible were the top attributes the more than 150 respondents shared.

Interviews were held on Oct. 16, with a forum for the community to meet the finalist scheduled for Wed., Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. at Evergreen Public Schools Administrative Services Center, 13413 N.E. LeRoy Haagen Memorial Drive. It is anticipated the next chief will be hired by mid-November.

# Bridge Shelter progress

More than 500 people are living unhoused in Vancouver. Progress continues on efforts to open a bridge shelter—a critical tool to expand shelter capacity and more effectively address safety and livability concerns associated with unsheltered homelessness. The future shelter will provide a place for people to stay and receive services to 'bridge' the space between living outside and stable housing.

After a competitive process, Do Good Multnomah, a non-profit organization currently operating Vancouver's Kiggins Village Safe Stay, was selected as the future shelter's operator.

"Do Good Multnomah was selected for their expertise in addressing substance use, mental health and trauma," said Jamie Spinelli, homeless response manager. "They have a successful track record of helping unhoused community members find stability and housing."

Do Good Multnomah will collaborate with

neighbors, businesses, unsheltered community members and the City to develop guidelines for the shelter's establishment and ongoing operations. Once opened, they'll manage and staff the shelter 24/7.

## Join a community info session

Community feedback is an essential part of planning for a future shelter. Later this year, City Council will vote on whether to move forward with a shelter at the proposed **5313 N.E. 94<sup>th</sup> Ave.** property in the Van Mall neighborhood. Join us in-person or online to learn more about plans for the bridge shelter, meet the operator and share your thoughts:

- 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16 at Walnut Grove Elementary School
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 via Zoom

Learn more and RSVP at [cityofvancouver.us/bridgeshelter](http://cityofvancouver.us/bridgeshelter)



The I-5 bridge at sunset

# Help shape the future of the Interstate Bridge and I-5 Corridor

The Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) program has reached an important milestone with the release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for public review. During the 60-day public comment period, community members can review the document and provide feedback on design options and technical analysis.

Comments are due November 18. Visit [interstatebridge.org/DraftSEIS](http://interstatebridge.org/DraftSEIS) or scan the QR code to view the document and learn more.



We encourage you to use this opportunity to help shape the new bridge and other investments along the five-mile corridor.

# Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding – **never** blow or place leaves in the street.



Vancouver and Clark County Residents Only

Valid October 1 – December 31, 2024

Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of **leaves only** - no bags. No trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads.

**Complete the following information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for this program is provided through your garbage rates.  
Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

**Drop-off locations:**  
*Call ahead to verify operating hours. Loads must be covered and secured.*

<b>H&amp;H Wood Recyclers</b> 8401 NE 117 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA 360-892-2805	<b>McFarlane's Bark</b> 8806 NE 117 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA 360-892-6125
<b>West Van Materials Recovery Center</b> 6601 NW Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA   360-737-1727	<b>Triangle Resources</b> 612 SE Union Street, Camas, WA 360-834-7253



## Vancouver's water stations to receive PFAS filtration systems

The City was recently awarded \$10 million in a low-interest loan for PFAS mitigation from the Washington State Department of Commerce's Public Works Board. So far, we have nearly \$40 million in state and federal support for treatment improvements at Water Stations 4 and 14 to remove PFAS contaminants. Sampling has consistently been at or exceeded state and federal regulations, and these stations have been identified as priority for treatment. Construction is expected to begin 2025.

A new full-scale PFAS filter system is being designed to help provide the community with clean and safe drinking water. PFAS filtration systems are planned for Water Station 9 to continue treatment efforts. View the Q3 PFAS test results and learn more about PFAS and mitigation strategies at [cityofvancouver.us/pfas](https://cityofvancouver.us/pfas).





With the winter season comes gatherings, decor and gift-giving. After the festivities, you might be left with food scraps, cooking oil, holiday trees and lights, or other seasonal waste. Responsibly dispose of holiday recycling; it's the gift that keeps giving.

Many holiday items can be recycled at the curb through your recycling or organics service. While others require drop-off at transfer stations, recycling locations or local businesses. Remember, never put holiday lights in your recycle cart.

On Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day holidays that occur on Monday through Friday, your garbage, recycling and organics will be picked up one day later.

Got holiday items? Learn how to properly dispose of hundreds of items at [cityofvancouver.us/recycleright](https://cityofvancouver.us/recycleright).



\*Check the RecycleRight app to find drop-off locations

### Drop-off recycling\*

	Computers and electronics
	Working holiday lights
	Cooking oil
	Bubble wrap

### Curbside recycling

	Wrapping paper (no shiny foil or metallic paper)
	Cardboard boxes (clean and dry, best if broken down or flattened)
	Wine bottles (in glass recycling, no corks or lids)
	Food scraps (in organics bin)

# Safe Stay Communities: Summer success

This summer, Vancouver's Safe Park and four Safe Stay Communities have made a significant impact, helping unhoused individuals access vital services and move toward stability.

Vancouver's Susan Schone moved into The Outpost Safe Stay in 2023 following four years living in her vehicle and ongoing addiction. Fast forward to summer 2024 and Schone is celebrating 45 days sober and helping others in recovery as a Certified Peer Counselor. After gaining work experience as part of the nonprofit Talkin' Trash litter cleanup crew, she landed

a temporary position supporting encampment cleanup and litter removal with the Homeless Assistance and Resources Team (HART).

"I owe it all to having stable housing," said Schone. "This place connected the dots for me and now I got the opportunity of a lifetime to work with the City and help others learn from my experience."

The City's Safe sites are designed to meet the diverse needs of our community, recognizing that the path to stability isn't one-size-fits-all.



The community garden at 415 West, a Safe Stay community.


### Good neighbors

Safe Stay/Park sites are not only dedicated to helping individuals find stability—they're also good neighbors. This summer, staff and residents at **Safe Park** launched **Trash Smashers**, a volunteer cleanup crew to keep the neighborhood tidy. **The Outpost** in east Vancouver set up a **misting station** for those needing relief from the summer heat. And at downtown's **415 West**, residents are sharing the bounty from their **new community garden** with regular donations to the Clark County Food Bank.




"Now I sprinkle joy everywhere I go": Susan Schone found recovery, ambition and a job she loves after moving into a Safe Stay Community.


Between June and August:



35 people moved into stable housing


19 people celebrated sobriety milestones or completed detox treatment






8 people reconnected with children or other family

7 people obtained employment



INSIDE CITY HALL




City Council

Mayor & Council Office 360-487-8629

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor  
Sarah J. Fox | Bart Hansen | Kim D. Harless  
Erik Paulsen, Mayor Pro Tem | Diana H. Perez | Ty Stober

Call the City

Abandoned Vehicles	3-1-1
Building and Permits	360-487-7800
Business License	360-487-8410, opt 3
Community Liaison	360-487-8604
City Manager's Office	360-487-8600
Code Compliance	360-487-7810
Garbage/Recycling	360-487-7160
Homeless Assistance and Resources Team	360-487-8626
Operations Center (streetlights, potholes)	360-487-8177
Parking Services	360-487-8650
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	360-487-8311
Public Works	360-487-8177
Utility Customer Service	360-487-7999
Vancouver Fire Department	360-487-7212
Vancouver Police Department	360-487-7400



Stay in the know, visit [cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us) for the latest events, meetings, updates and services.

Five proposed changes to Vancouver's Charter on the ballot in November

Vancouver's Charter is the "constitution" of our City government and it guides our structure and operations. It was originally drafted in 1951 and approved by the voters in 1952. The Charter requires that every five years, a committee of 15 citizens review it and recommend changes to the City Council. If the Council approves the amendments, they will be submitted to a vote of the people.

A Charter Review Committee was convened in 2023, and they presented their recommendations to the City Council in May 2024. After a public hearing in June, the Council voted to submit five of the seven proposed amendments to the voters for the Nov. 5 General Election.

You can read the full proposed charter amendments at [cityofvancouver.us/government/city-charter](https://cityofvancouver.us/government/city-charter).



Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1 – Concerning Vancouver City Officer Vacancies

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2 – Concerning Methodology for Adjusting Vancouver Councilmember Salary

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 – Concerning the Duties of Vancouver's City Manager Proposed

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 4 – Concerning City of Vancouver Contracting Procedures

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5 – Concerning Initiative and Referendum Petitions

Live election coverage on CVTV

Clark/Vancouver Television (CVTV) will broadcast exclusive live coverage of local general election results in Clark County starting at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Watch results, interviews, analysis and commentary live on **Comcast channel 23/323HD**, on **cvtv.org** and CVTV's Facebook page, **@ClarkVancouverTV**.


*CVTV is the local government, non-commercial cable access channel operated and funded by the City of Vancouver and Clark County, Washington.*

Three ways to watch

TV  
Comcast 23  
Comcast 323HD

Online  
[cvtv.org](https://cvtv.org)

Facebook  
[@ClarkVancouverTV](https://www.facebook.com/ClarkVancouverTV)



Clark Vancouver Television

## City Council votes to oppose four statewide initiatives

On Sept. 16, the Vancouver City Council accepted public testimony and took collective action to express opposition to four statewide initiatives on the ballot for the Nov. 5 General Election.

Measure No. 2066, concerns regulating energy services,

including natural gas and electrification, and if passed, would repeal or prohibit certain laws and regulations that discourage natural gas use.


Measure No. 2109, concerns taxes, and if passed, would repeal an excise tax imposed on the sale or exchange of certain

long-term capital assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000.

Measure No. 2117, concerns carbon tax credit trading, and if passed, would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation

establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Measure No. 2124, concerns state long-term care insurance, and if passed, provides employees and self-employed the choice of whether to enroll or opt-out of WA Cares Insurance.



Read more at [cityofvancouver.us/ccosi](https://cityofvancouver.us/ccosi) or scan the QR code.

Calendar of events

View more information and other events at [cityofvancouver.us/calendar](https://cityofvancouver.us/calendar)



October

28 City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

30 Meet the Candidates for Police Chief  
6:30 p.m.  
Evergreen Public Schools  
Administrative Services Center  
13413 N.E. LeRoy Haagen Memorial Dr.

November

4 City Council Meeting  
Consent Agenda: 2025-26 Biennial Budget  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

5 Election Day

11 Veteran's Day — City Hall Closed  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Lough Legacy Veteran's Day Parade  
11 a.m.  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
1001 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver

12 Vancouver Planning Commission Meeting  
Public Hearing: Section 30 update  
4:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

16 Bridge Shelter Info Session  
10:30 – Noon  
Walnut Grove Elementary School  
6103 N.E. 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Vancouver

18 City Council Meeting  
Public Hearing: 2025–26 Biennial Budget  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

19 Online Bridge Shelter Info Session  
6 – 7:30 p.m.

25 Council Community Forum  
6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Location to be announced

29 Native American Heritage Day — City Hall Closed

December

2 City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

9 City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

10 Vancouver Planning Commission Meeting  
Public Hearing: Downtown design guidelines  
4:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

16 City Council Meeting  
Public Hearing: 2024 Second Supplemental Budget  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

25 Christmas Day — City Hall Closed

January 2025

1 New Years Day — City Hall Closed

Find City services and more at [cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us)

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