



CITY OF VANCOUVER Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3



Proposition 5: Police funding measure on November ballot

Measure focuses on officers, equipment and criminal justice costs

Vancouver's population continues to grow, and with that growth comes an increased need for police services. To meet the growing demand, the City Council referred Proposition 5 to the General Election ballot on Nov. 4. If approved by the voters, Proposition 5 will focus on police officers, directing funds to personnel, equipment, and related criminal justice system costs.

Since 2020, the average daily number of calls requiring six or more officers has increased by 45%, contributing to longer response times, greater reliance on overtime to maintain coverage, and reduced capacity for investigations.

Proposition 5 was shaped by community input from the Police Community Advisory Committee, and they will help monitor how funds are used.

Proposition 5 by the numbers

If passed, Proposition 5 is anticipated to raise \$6 million annually over six years starting in 2026. The amount approved will be used for calculating future levies.

How is Proposition 5 different than Proposition 4?

Proposition 5 is a scaled-back proposal that focuses specifically on sworn police officers, the equipment they need to do their jobs, and related criminal justice

system costs. Also, it asks for 13 officers in contrast to the 80 officers and 36 non-sworn police positions asked for in Proposition 4. This request is smaller because the City now has access to additional funding sources to help cover police services. These include two new public safety funding options for cities: a \$100 million grant program signed by Governor Ferguson and a future public safety sales tax that will be considered by the City Council. Proposition 5 is also structured as a single-year levy lid lift. The amount approved will become the basis for calculating future levies. In contrast, Proposition 4 was a multi-year levy lid lift that requested a higher amount each year.

For more about Prop. 5, see page 2.



Scan the QR code or visit cityofvancouver.us/prop5 to learn more.

THE LEVY WILL INCREASE VANCOUVER'S REGULAR PROPERTY TAX BY

\$0.15
PER \$1,000
OF ASSESSED VALUE

for a rate not to exceed \$2.47 per \$1,000 assessed value.



Under the proposed increase, owners of a **\$500,000 home** would pay an estimated **\$75 per year** or about **\$6.25 a month**.

WHAT WILL PROPOSITION 5 PAY FOR?



Up to **13 full-time equivalent sworn police officers** in a range of ranks and assignments



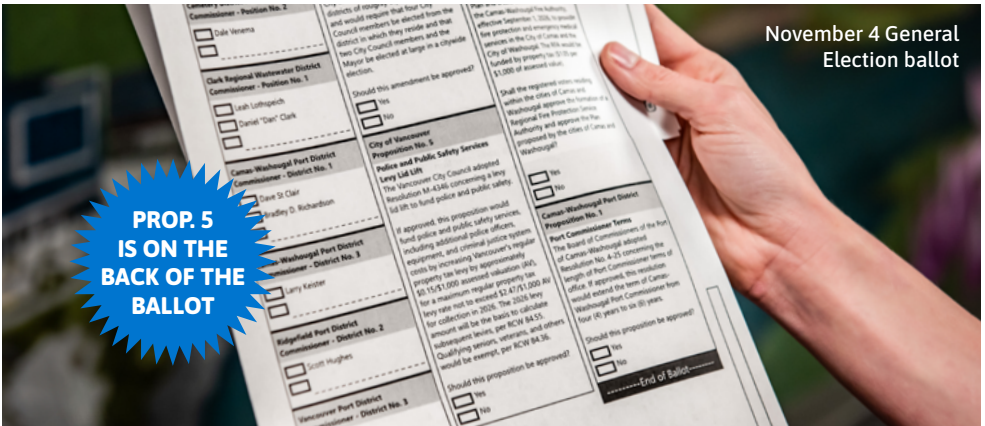
Administrative and staffing costs to support officers and equipment



Equipment and vehicles for new staff consistent with current and future policing standards



Additional **prosecution and criminal justice costs**



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.

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit cityofvancouver.us to verify meeting dates and status of events.

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



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Demand for police services continues to climb

Many factors contribute to increase

In the last nine months, Vancouver Police officers have responded to nearly 67,000 incidents. These include community-driven responses, such as calls to 3-1-1 or 9-1-1, as well as officer-initiated calls, such as traffic stops. These responses were primarily handled by patrol, and these numbers do not include work done by detectives in our investigative units.

Community demands on police extend well beyond emergency calls and criminal investigations. As Vancouver’s population grows, so does the number of public events, gatherings, and visitors. To help ensure everyone’s safety, the Vancouver Police Department routinely assigns additional officers to provide a visible presence and enforcement during large-scale events, busy weekends, and peak summer months when crowds downtown and the waterfront are the largest.

500+ HOURS

From June 1 to Sept. 15, VPD officers provided law enforcement coverage for 11 planned large-scale community events in the downtown area, equating to over 500 hours of additional work outside of regular shifts.

900+ HOURS

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 11, VPD staffed 13 unplanned events/ demonstrations with officers who work as part of the Vancouver Police Department Public Order Team to ensure the safety of the participants and the public at these gatherings where large groups congregated spontaneously in various parts of the city. These unplanned events equated to another 900+ hours of extra work.

This additional workload comes at a cost since Washington state ranks the lowest in the U.S. for police officer staffing. The Vancouver Police Department, with 1.19 officers per 1,000 residents, is the second lowest-staffed police department in the state among Washington cities with a population over 100,000. With these staffing levels, and to meet the growing safety needs of the community, officers regularly work longer shifts and additional shifts, which increases the cost of police services due to overtime, and puts added stress on officers who are already performing at a high level in stressful situations each day.



VANCOUVER HAS THE SECOND LOWEST STAFFED POLICE DEPARTMENT AMONG WASHINGTON CITIES WITH OVER 100,000 PEOPLE

City	Officers per 1,000 residents
Everett	1.91
Seattle	1.50
Spokane	1.51
Bellevue	1.33
Renton	1.26
Kent	1.21
Federal Way	1.47
Tacoma	1.63
Vancouver	1.19
Spokane Valley	0.93

With 1.19 officers per thousand residents, officers are required to work longer shifts, which increases the cost of police services due to overtime and puts additional stress on officers.

PROPOSITION 5 POLICE SERVICES LEVY

To learn more about Prop. 5 visit the City of Vancouver website at cityofvancouver.us/prop5.

Progress on Bridge Shelter continues

The City has reached an important milestone in the Bridge Shelter project. Later this fall, City Council will approve a contractor to build the Bridge Shelter. Construction is expected to begin after the contract is awarded.

To accelerate construction and lower costs, the Bridge Shelter will use pre-engineered steel structures built off-site. This efficient fabrication process reduces material waste, labor demands, energy use, and on-site build time. The shelter is expected to open in fall 2026. When complete, the 120-bed Bridge Shelter will provide a safe, low-barrier place to stay and a full range of supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. Its purpose is to offer immediate relief while helping unsheltered residents transition to permanent, stable housing.

From the moment someone enters, they will be welcomed by shelter operator staff from Do Good Multnomah and access wraparound services that support them on the road to stability. An individualized approach will combine case management, physical and mental health service referral, employment support and other resources. Staff will work with each participant to build on their strengths, set goals and create a plan that leads to long-term housing.

The dormitory building will include a range of spaces for meetings with service providers and areas dedicated to individualized support, showers, laundry and common space. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will provide treatment services for those with behavioral

health needs. A secondary structure will house a kitchen (funded in part by PeaceHealth) and a large communal space that will serve as a dining area and gathering place. It can also be used for emergency weather shelter space when needed.

The Bridge Shelter is part of a broader, coordinated effort by the City and its partners to address the humanitarian crisis of homelessness. This network includes Safe Stay Communities, which provide managed, supportive, non-congregate shelter; a Safe Park location, where people living in vehicles can park safely with access to services; the Community Court, which connects people to treatment and support instead of traditional penalties for low-level offenses in partnership with Clark County District Court; and the Homeless Assistance and Resources Team, which brings outreach, peer support, and resource navigation assistance directly to those living unsheltered in Vancouver. Together, these programs create a continuum of support from immediate relief to long-term stability and pathways to permanent housing.

While no single solution can solve homelessness, working together on projects like the Bridge Shelter is essential to making progress. The Bridge Shelter will be built at 5313 N.E. 94th Ave.

Learn more and stay updated at cityofvancouver.us/homelessness.



Renderings courtesy of Scott Edwards Architects.

Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

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

Vancouver and Clark County residents only

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

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:
Loads must be covered and secured. Call ahead to verify operating hours.

City Bark 2419 N.E. Andresen Rd., Vancouver, WA 360-253-8461	H&H Wood Recyclers 8401 N.E. 117 th Ave., Vancouver, WA 360-892-2805
McFarlane's Bark 8806 N.E. 117 th Ave., Vancouver, WA 360-892-6125	Triangle Resources 612 S.E. Union Street, Camas, WA 360-834-7253
West Van Materials Recovery Center 6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 360-737-1727	



Safe Routes to School program rolls out

Every morning, many Vancouver families begin their day helping students get to school. The City has launched its own Safe Routes to School Program. The program encourages students and caregivers to walk, roll, and bike to school along safe pathways. Through a combination of education and infrastructure improvements, safe routes can improve student safety, reduce congestion near schools, increase physical activity and strengthen community connections.

This year, we completed a project near Franklin Elementary, where new sidewalks, paths and flashing beacons are making it safer for hundreds of kids to walk to school. Three more Safe Routes improvement projects are planned this year near Image, Lincoln and Walnut Grove elementary schools.



Learn more and sign up for email updates at cityofvancouver.us/srts.



Charter Amendment No. 13: Creating voting districts

Voters will consider Charter Amendment No. 13 on November 4, a measure that would change the way City Council members are elected.

As part of the 2024 Charter Review process, the Charter Review Committee recommended a shift to elections by district. Following discussion, the City Council adopted Resolution M-4339 for voters to consider an amendment to the City Charter concerning the creation of voting districts.

If Charter Amendment No. 13 passes, the City Council would appoint a Districting Commission to divide the city into four geographic voting districts of roughly equal population and would require that four City Council members be elected from the district in which they reside. Two City Council members and the Mayor will continue to be elected at large in a citywide election.

If passed, following the creation of voting districts, and after a two-year transition period beginning in 2027, four City Council members would be elected from the district in which they reside, and two City Council members and the Mayor would be elected at large in a citywide election. If a Council member elected to represent a district continues to live in the city but moves out of their district, they will remain the Council member for the district from which they moved until the next election.



Scan here or visit cityofvancouver.us/charteramendment13 to learn more.



Serving up fun: Pickleball comes to Vancouver



Pickleball is taking over courts across the country and now Vancouver is right in the action. With its quick pace, simple rules, and social vibe, this addictive sport offers a perfect mix of fitness and fun for players of all ages.

In September, the City opened our first dedicated pickleball courts at Oakbrook Community Park, located at 3103 N.E. 99th Ave. You can also grab a paddle to play at

shared outdoor tennis/pickleball courts at Fisher Basin Park and Lincoln Elementary, or head indoors for daily drop-in games at Firstenburg and Marshall community centers.

If you're new to the game or want to improve your skills, check out our one-day clinics or join a league. Ready to rally? Scan the QR code or visit cityofvancouver.us/pickleball to learn more.



Grab your free Youth Opportunity Pass

Middle and high school students (ages 11-18) in Vancouver can score a free pass for Firstenburg and Marshall community centers this school year. Dive into pools, hit the gym, play games, rock climb and more!



Scan here or visit cityofvancouver.us/youth-opportunity-pass to get started.

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 for the latest events, meetings, updates and services.

CVTV

Clark Vancouver Television

Tune in to CVTV for your local election guide and candidate forums

Before you vote, learn more about the candidates running for office with Clark/Vancouver Television's (CVTV) Video Voters' Guide, candidate interviews and video coverage of the League of Women Voters' candidate forums.

Watch CVTV on Comcast 23/323HD, 21/321HD and at cvtv.org.

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



Vancouver Waterfront Park

Get prepared now to stay safe and connected during winter storms

Winter storms can bring snow, ice and power outages to Vancouver. Before the first flake falls, make sure your home is equipped with essentials. A little preparation now can prevent problems later. Not sure where to start? This checklist makes winter preparation easy and effective.

Winter storm ready checklist

STOCK:

Flashlights, batteries, warm layers, ice traction cleats, deicer, food, water and medications.

CHARGE:

Cell phones, backup power batteries.

WRITE:

Important phone numbers and other information.

CLEAR:

Storm drains of leaves to reduce flooding and remove snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways.

Learn more



Snowplow routes and City winter weather response: cityofvancouver.us/severeweather



Warming center locations: cresa.wa.gov

Calendar of events

November

3

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

4

Election Day

10

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

11

Lough Legacy Veterans Day Parade
11 a.m.
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
1001 E. 5th St., Vancouver

Veterans Day
City Hall closed

17

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

27

Thanksgiving Day
All City facilities closed

28

Community Tree Lighting
4 to 7:30 p.m.
Esther Short Park
605 Esther St., Vancouver

Native American Heritage Day
All City facilities closed

December

1

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

8

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

15

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

25

Christmas Day
All City facilities closed

January

1

New Year's Day
All City facilities closed

19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
City Hall closed

See full calendar



View more information and other events at cityofvancouver.us/calendar.



Quarterly PFAS testing

Protecting public health and providing a safe water supply is our top priority for our city. We will continue to monitor in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health's monitoring requirements for PFAS. We remain committed to addressing PFAS in the water supply with long-term removal measures.

View PFAS testing results and read about actions being taken to protect water quality at cityofvancouver.us/PFAS.



ClarkPublicAlerts.org

EMERGENCY ALERTS
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON



VOICE, TEXT & EMAIL

SIGN UP NOW!

Find City services and more at cityofvancouver.us

Follow the City on social media @VancouverUS   

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