



MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager
From: Tracy Burrows, Sr. Management Analyst
Date: September 23, 2006
Subject: Potential Annexation Area Voting Patterns

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council receive this report related to voting patterns in the Potential Annexation Area.

This memo provides information about voting patterns on fiscal measures within the annexation area. If annexation goes forward, the annexation ballot measure will likely request that annexation area residents incur their proportionate share of the City's bonded indebtedness. Such a ballot measure would trigger a minimum voter turnout requirement and would request a financial commitment from annexation area residents. This memo examines annexation area voting results to help shed light on the following two issues:

1. How annexation area voter turn-out and voting patterns may influence the preferred timing of an annexation ballot measure; and,
2. What recent election results in the annexation area indicate about the likelihood that PAA residents would vote to take on their proportionate share of Kirkland's voted debt.

Voter Turn-Out – Impact on the Timing of an Annexation Ballot Measure

Washington State law includes a voter turn-out threshold requirement for an annexation ballot measure related to incurring voted debt. If the annexation ballot includes a "yes" or "no" vote on whether annexation area residents are willing to share in the City's bonded indebtedness, then the number of votes cast on the measure must be a minimum of 40% of the voter turn-out from the previous general election in order to be validated. Thus, by definition, an annexation vote that takes place during a November general election automatically meets the threshold validation requirements. An election held at any other time must meet the 40% of the general election turn-out threshold. The pattern of voter turn-out in the PAA indicates that the 40% threshold is not likely to be a barrier to validation, unless the annexation vote were to occur during a special election following a presidential year general election.

Table 1 below shows that the voter turn-out in the PAA was sufficient to meet the 40% threshold in the May 2003 King County Parks Levy, the September 2004 Woodinville Fire District Levy, and the February 2006 Lake Washington School District Bond/Levy elections. These elections all followed non-presidential year general elections. Largely because of the high voter turn-out for the 2004 presidential election, the May 2005 Fire District 41 Levy election fell significantly short of the 40% threshold (voter turn-out was 28% of the presidential general election.)

The May 2004 Evergreen Hospital Bond election was the only bond or levy-related issue since 2002 that did not meet the 40% threshold following a non-presidential general election. This levy garnered only 36% of the previous year's non-presidential election turn-out. However, one would expect that an annexation ballot measure would likely generate more voter interest than a hospital bond issue. These results indicate that the City Council has flexibility in

determining the timing of the annexation ballot measure, but that it would be prudent to avoid placing the annexation measure on a special election ballot following the November 2008 presidential election. This is consistent with the annexation timeline scenarios that the Council is currently considering which anticipate a 2008 annexation election that would be validated by the 2007 general election turn-out threshold.

Table 1 Potential Annexation Area Election Turn-Out for Bond and Levy Issues

Date	Election Issue	PAA Turn-Out	40% Threshold	Met Threshold?
May-03	Special Election - King County Parks Levy	4555	4059	YES
Nov-03	General Election	11470	4588	YES
May-04	Special Election Evergreen Hospital Bonds	4108	4588	NO
Sep-04	Primary Election - Woodinville Fire Levy	1408	829*	YES
Nov-04	2004 General Election - Presidential	16052	6421	YES
May-05	Special Election Fire District 41 Levy	3679	5164*	NO
Nov-05	2005 General Election -Human Services Levy	9767	3907	YES
Feb-06	Special Election School District Levy and Bond Issues	5059	3907	YES

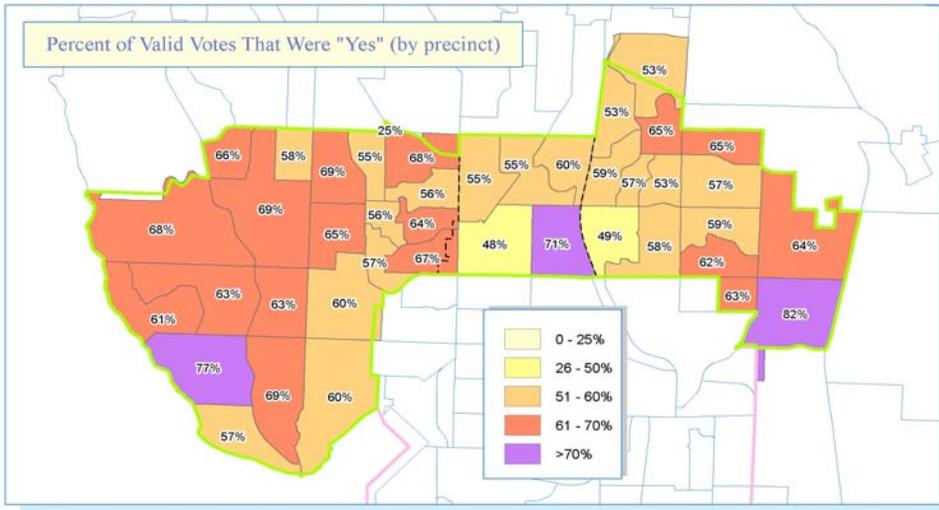
*Pro-rated to reflect precincts voting in the Fire District Levy Election

Potential Annexation Area Support for Bond and Levy Measures

The voters in Kirkland’s Potential Annexation Area have demonstrated support of levy and bond measures in recent elections. The maps below show, by voting precinct, the levels of support for the 2003 King County Parks Levy, the 2005 Initiative 912 proposal to repeal the gas tax increase, and the 2006 Lake Washington School District bond measure. None of the PAA voting precincts supported the repeal of the gas tax, with the Finn Hill neighborhood precincts voting most consistently against the repeal. The Parks Levy and School District bond measures garnered strong support in the PAA, with 61% support of the Parks Levy and 64% support for the Lake Washington School District Bond. For both those measures, the precincts with the strongest levels of support tended to be in the Finn Hill and Kingsgate neighborhoods.

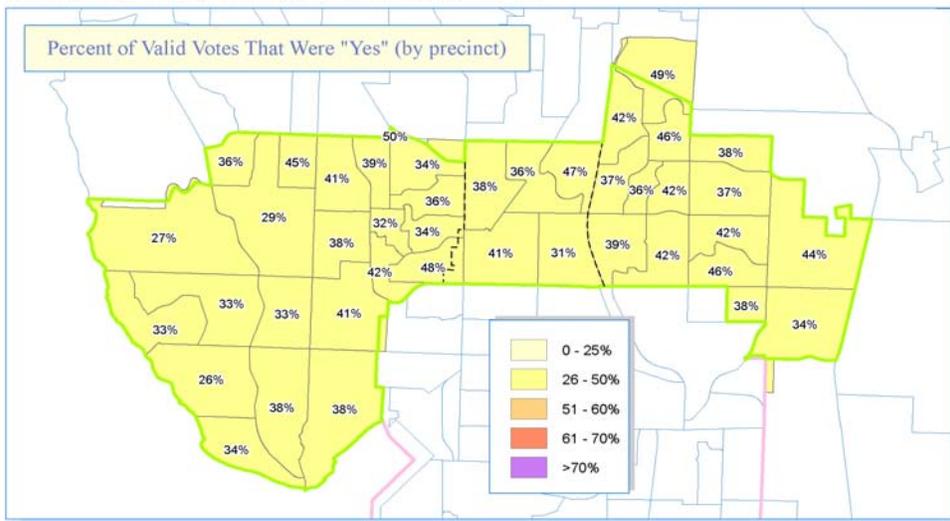
The voters in the PAA also voted to support the 2003 Woodinville Fire and Life Safety Levy (53% yes in the PAA, while this measure failed overall in the Fire District with a 48% yes vote), the 2004 Evergreen Hospital Bonds (69% yes), the Fire District 41 levy (63% yes), and the Veteran and Human Services Levy (55% yes). The precinct by precinct results of these elections are displayed on maps that are available in the Council Study.

PAA Summary: 61% of valid votes on this measure were "Yes"



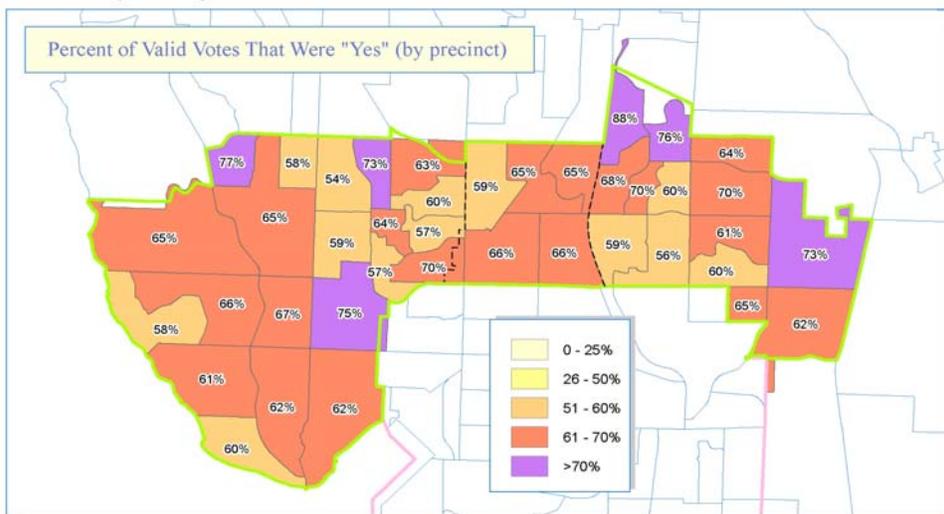
5/2003 Special Election
Proposition 1
King County Parks Levy

PAA Summary: 38% of valid votes on this measure were "Yes"



11/2005 General Election
Initiative 912
Repeal Gas Tax Increase

PAA Summary: 64% of valid votes on this measure were "Yes"



2/2006 Special Election
Proposition 3
Lake Washington School
District Bond

Recent election returns from the PAA indicate that the voting patterns in the annexation area are very similar to voting patterns of the current residents of Kirkland. Annexation area vote results were generally within one to two percentage points of the City of Kirkland results. The proposed gas tax repeal was the only measure where the voting patterns were more distinct. 67% of Kirkland residents opposed the repeal compared to 62% of annexation area residents. Table 2 shows the comparison of Kirkland and Potential Annexation Area (PAA) voters on various fiscal measures.

Table 2 Comparison of Kirkland and Annexation Area Voting Patterns

Date	Election Issue	Jurisdiction	Yes Votes	No Votes	% For	% Against
May 2003	King County Parks Levy	Kirkland	4,081	2,762	59.6%	40.4%
		PAA	2,797	1,758	61.4%	38.6%
May 2004	Evergreen Hospital Bonds	Kirkland	8,480	3,596	70.2%	29.8%
		PAA	5,686	2,530	69.1%	30.9%
Nov. 2005	Vet. & Human Services Levy	Kirkland	7,073	5,515	56.2%	43.8%
		PAA	5,086	4,235	54.6%	45.4%
Nov. 2005	Gas Tax Repeal	Kirkland	4,365	8,931	32.8%	67.2%
		PAA	3,720	6,047	38.1%	61.9%
Feb 2006	LWSD Bond Issue	Kirkland	4,306	2,148	66.7%	33.3%
		PAA	2,865	1,628	63.8%	36.2%

Conclusion

The pattern of voter turn-out in the annexation area indicates that an annexation ballot measure would likely meet the validation requirements, even if the measure were on a special or primary election ballot. The exception to this would be a special or primary election following the 2008 presidential election. Because of the high voter turn-out for the presidential election, there is the potential that a 2009 non-general annexation election would not meet the 40% voter turn-out threshold.

Voting patterns on fiscal issues in the annexation area show that annexation area residents typically vote very consistently with current Kirkland residents. The area is generally supportive of bond and levy measures. This would indicate that including the question of taking on a proportionate share of the City’s voted debt would not likely be the determining factor on the outcome of the annexation measure itself.