



## PRESS RELEASE

### Unofficial results show Kitsap Transit's fast-ferry proposal passing

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*Note: High-res photos and video of the Rich Passage 1 are available upon request.*

BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit's Proposition 1, a sales-tax increase to support locally controlled passenger-only ferries to downtown Seattle, is receiving majority support from county voters, according to unofficial results posted Thursday by the [Kitsap County Auditor](#).

Of the 103,939 ballots counted so far, 51.3 percent support Proposition 1 and 48.7 percent oppose it. A simple majority is required for the measure to be approved.

"We're extremely grateful to Kitsap County voters for their support of Kitsap Transit," said Executive Director John Clauson. "Cross-sound foot ferries have played an essential role in our region's history. With this vote, we start a new chapter in cross-sound travel."

Proposition 1 authorizes Kitsap Transit to levy an added 3/10 of 1 percent (0.3%) sales tax that is designated for passenger-only ferry service. Kitsap Transit plans to launch service from Bremerton to downtown Seattle next summer, followed by service from Kingston in 2018 and Southworth in 2020.

Kitsap Transit, which currently has one fast ferry (Rich Passage 1), will resume conversations with the Federal Transit Administration on grants for the fleet and start negotiating a partnership with King County Marine Division to operate the new service to Seattle.



*"Cross-sound foot ferries have played an essential role in our region's history. With this vote, we start a new chapter in cross-sound travel."*

*- John Clauson, Executive Director, Kitsap Transit*

“We’re excited to work with King County Marine Division, which runs a thriving water-taxi service with a proven track record of performance,” Clauson said.

Because Kitsap Transit’s approved 2017 budget does not include any funds for a cross-sound ferry service, the agency plans to submit an amended budget to its board by January that will allow it to implement the fast-ferry proposal. In April, the agency’s board approved the ferry proposal and directed Clauson to place it on the November general-election ballot.

Kitsap Transit also will immediately begin recruiting for a ferry program director to lead the rollout of the new service as well as management of Kitsap Transit’s existing foot ferries between Bremerton, Port Orchard and Annapolis.

Because Proposition 1 also provides dedicated revenue for Kitsap Transit’s existing foot ferries, \$1.5 million will be returned to bus service. Kitsap Transit is bringing on a consultant to work with the community to weigh in on how those additional funds should be spent, such as restoring Sunday service or extending hours of service on weekdays and Saturdays.

“It is our intention to deliver a seamless experience for our bus and ferry riders,” Clauson said. “We have a lot of work to do, but I want to take this moment to thank everyone who has worked on the fast-ferry plan over more than a decade to make this vision a reality.”

On Nov. 8, 50.8 percent of ballots counted were in favor of Proposition 1. On Nov. 9, 52.4 percent of the 10,875 additional ballots tallied were supportive. And on Nov. 10, 54.1 percent of the 9,988 additional ballots tallied were supportive.

According to the Kitsap County Auditor, the election results will be certified on Nov. 29.

Here are the results, as reported by the Auditor’s Office through Nov. 10:

<b>Proposition 1</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	53,334	51.3%
No	50,605	48.7%

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