Snohomish County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

April 22, 2025 Special Election

City of Brier
Edition 2

Registration and Accessible Voting Services

Accessible voting equipment is available to assist voters in independently casting a private, secure ballot.

April 14 is the deadline to change an address or update an existing registration by mail or online (votewa.gov).

Voters may change their address, update an existing registration, pick up a replacement ballot, get a voters' pamphlet, vote on accessible voting equipment, and register to vote in person through 8 p.m. Election Day, April 22, at the location and during the hours listed below:

Location	Days / Hours
Snohomish County Auditor's Office 1st Floor – Admin West 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett	Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Election Day, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

We have interpreter services! Call us at 425-388-3444.

For TDD service, please call 711.

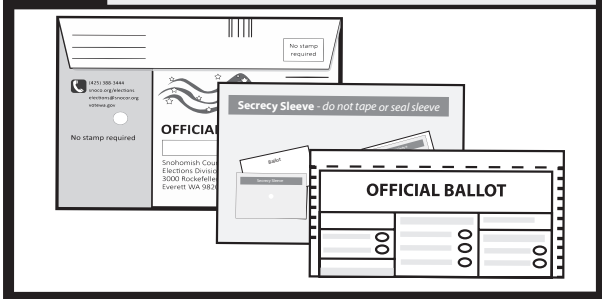
Snohomish County Elections
A Division of the Auditor's Office

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 505
Everett, WA 98201-4046

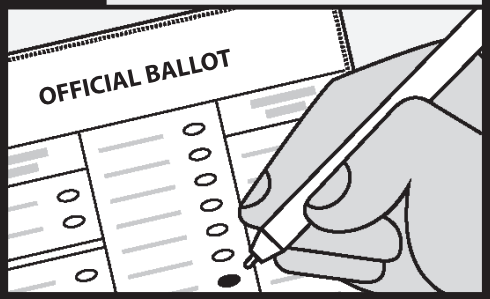
(425) 388-3444 | elections@snoco.org | www.snoco.org/elections

How to Vote Your Ballot

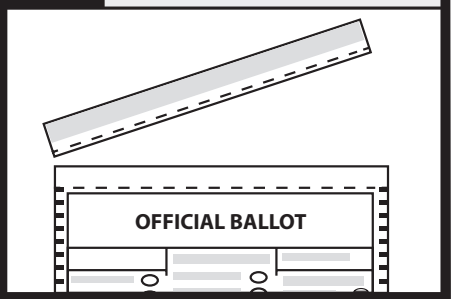
1 Open your ballot packet and remove contents. Vote early to ensure your votes will be in Election Night results.



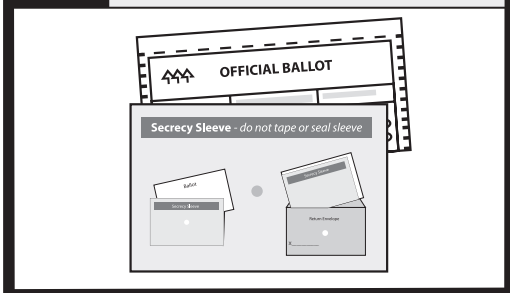
2 Follow the instructions included in your ballot packet to mark your choices.



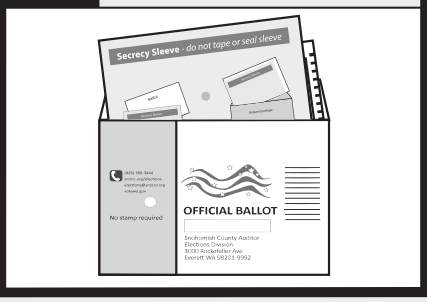
3 Remove and discard the stub at the top of your ballot.



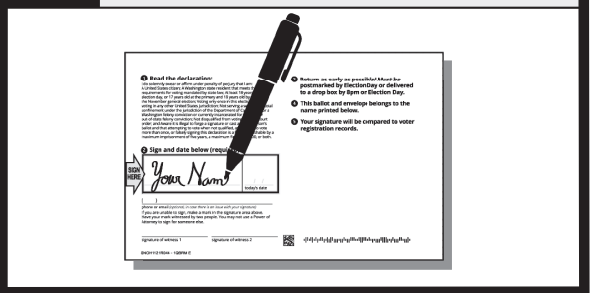
4 Place your voted ballot in the secrecy sleeve. It will extend beyond the sleeve.



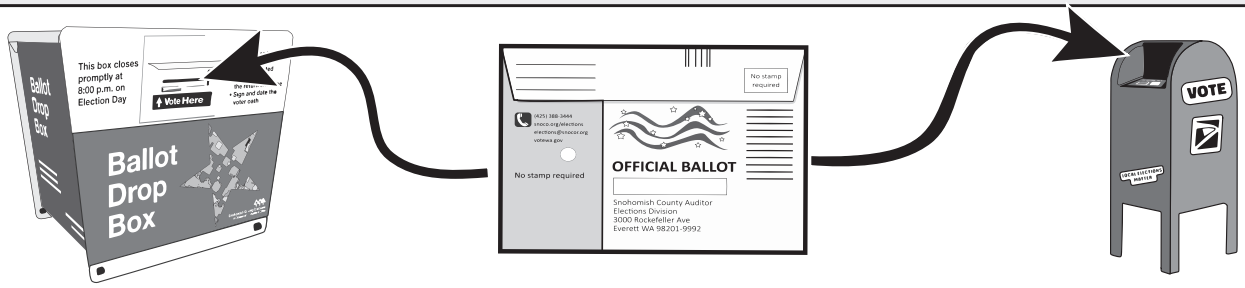
5 Place your ballot and secrecy sleeve in the return envelope.



6 Sign and seal the return envelope. **Your signature is required for your ballot to be counted.**



7 Return your voted ballot in the return envelope by mail (no stamp needed) or to a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 22. If you mail your ballot, it must be postmarked by April 22.
See the list of ballot drop boxes on the back page.



Results and Resources

Election Results Online

Unofficial election results will be available online after 8 p.m. Election Night at snoco.org/elections. Official results will be available after certification, May 2.

Replacement Ballots

If your ballot is lost, damaged, or spoiled, call us at 425-388-3444 or visit VoteWA.gov.

Visit the VoteWA voter portal to:

- Get a replacement ballot
- Update your voter information
- Track your ballot
- Register to vote
- Find your elected officials

VoteWA

VoteWA.gov

More information inside

City of Brier
Proposition No. 1

Levy Lid Lift for Brier Police and Governmental Services

Brier Resolution 608 calls for this proposition to fund the police department and governmental services by authorizing an increase to the regular property tax levy by $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed value, for a total levy rate of $1.07821 per $1,000 of assessed value, for collection in 2026. The 2026 levy amount will be the basis to compute future levies (subject to 1% limit). Low-income seniors and disabled homeowners may be exempt from this increase.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes
No

Explanatory Statement

The City of Brier seeks voter approval to increase its regular property tax levy to $1.07821 per $1,000 of assessed value. This increase remains well below the City's maximum allowable rate of $1.889 per $1,000 of assessed value.

Under state law, the total property tax levy rate is limited to a 1% annual increase each year, which has not kept pace with inflation. Voter approval of Proposition 1 will fund additional Brier Police Department personnel and maintain existing service levels for police, public safety and other essential City services.

Proposition 1 would authorize the increase of the City's levy rate by approximately $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed value, with collection starting in 2026. This would add approximately $37 per month to the property tax bill for a home assessed at Brier's average value of $865,300 as noted in the 2024 BERK financial analysis report. The 2026 levy amount will be used as the basis to calculate future levies in succeeding years (limited by law to 1% per year). Low-income seniors and low-income disabled homeowners may qualify for exemption from the increase.

Argument in Favor

Voting yes is an investment in Brier's future. It will enhance the city's financial stability and long-term ability to adequately fund police and other essential services.

Brier runs on a lean budget focused on providing only the most essential municipal services. Having our own Brier Police Department is a priority. Our city budget reflects that. The bulk of general fund spending (51%) is dedicated to police and public safety. We have a city police department that is professional, responsive and community focused.

Our city property tax levy is the primary source of revenue for Brier's general fund. Inflation has far outpaced our property tax revenue growth, which is limited by state law to a 1% annual increase. The city now faces an annual deficit of $500,000. If we don't increase our levy rate, Brier will have a negative balance in 2029 (based on the Berk Report, an independent financial analysis available on the city website, www.ci.brier.wa.us).

This proposition will raise the rate of our existing city property taxes to generate the additional funding necessary to maintain police and municipal services and provide financial stability. The rate increase is $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed value. That would amount to a $500 increase for a house with an assessed value of $1,000,000.

By supporting this tax levy increase you will ensure that Brier has adequate funding for a well-functioning police department and other vital services.

Please vote yes.

Argument Against

Can the BERK report be trusted?

In April 2023, the Brier City Council used a BERK report to persuade the community to annex into the South County Regional Fire Authority (SCRFA), projecting a General Fund balance of $1.8 million by 2029.

However, the 2024 BERK analysis now suggests a $0.4 million deficit by the same year. While neighboring cities chose to "give back" the remaining EMS levy, Brier kept $0.37 per $1,000 in 2024. These shifting projections undermine confidence in the report's accuracy.

The BERK report uses Sultan as a peer city. Sultan has a lower sales tax rate of 9.1% retaining 2.6%, while Brier's sales tax is 10.5 retaining 4%. Sultan's median home sale price is $570,000 compared to Brier's $1.8 million. If Sultan can afford to hire more employees without additional revenue, Brier should be able to do so given its higher sales tax rate and more expensive real estate.

This measure *nearly doubles* property taxes in 2025 from $0.58 to $1.078 per $1,000 of assessed value. For a property valued at $850,000, the tax increase is over $423 annually. On top of that, there was an additional $500 this year for the education levy and about $900 for the Regional Fire Authority. Given the inconsistencies in the BERK report and current economic pressures, this is not the right time for a massive tax hike.

Vote no on this excessive levy lid increase!

Response to Argument Against

City expenses are exceeding revenues. Larger than anticipated cost increases have accelerated the deficit timeline in the 2023 Berk report. The 2025 study indicates Brier will be broke by 2029 if we don't act. This is the right time for a levy increase and it's crucial to Brier's future. If we don't do this now we may not get another chance to keep up with inflation. Vote yes.

Argument prepared by: Leslie Hynes, Steve DeKoekkoek, and Dave Johnson

Response to Argument in Favor

Voting no is a stand against unnecessary tax hikes that burden hardworking families and residents on fixed incomes. While essential services matter, reckless spending isn't the answer. The city must cut costs, like excessive overtime, before demanding more from taxpayers. The police department will be overstaffed with a chief, lieutenant, and two sergeants for just six officers. With more hikes looming, Brier must budget smarter, alleviating the financial burden on residents.

Argument prepared by: Jacqueline Vandivort

Arguments are the opinion of the committee and are not checked for factual or grammatical accuracy.

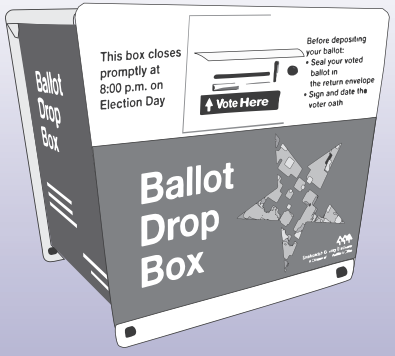
Ballot Drop Boxes - Open April 3

Only the ballot drop boxes below are open for the April 22 Special Election.

Ballot drop boxes are available 24/7 until 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 22.

No postage needed.

Registered voters in City of Brier and City of Edmonds will get a ballot for the April 22 Special Election.

For maps and directions to the boxes open for the April 22 Special Election, visit snoco.org/elections, VoteWA.gov, or scan the QR code below.

Drop Box location	Address	Drive-up Box
Brier (near City Hall)	2901 228th St SW	
Edmonds (near library bookdrop)	650 Main St	✓
Everett (Courthouse Campus)	Rockefeller Ave and Wall St	
Lynnwood (near Edmonds College)	20226 68th Ave W	✓
Mountlake Terrace (near library)	23300 58th Ave W	✓
Woodway (near Town Hall)	23920 113th Pl W