



Petition to form a Metropolitan Park District in University Place

December 28, 2015

When is this issue expected to appear on the ballot?

This issue is expected to be placed on the April 26, 2016 Special Election ballot.

Provided the petition receives the required number of signatures by February 26 the question to form a new district will be placed on the April ballot.

The issue shall appear on the ballot of the next general election or at the next special election date specified under RCW 29A.04.330 occurring sixty or more days after the date the county auditor certifies that the petition proposing the creation of the park district contains sufficient valid signatures. (RCW 35.61.030)

When would park district commissioners be elected?

Commissioners would be elected at the same election at which the proposition to form the district is submitted to the voters.

Five park commissioners will be elected to serve staggered terms. Candidates shall run for specific positions. No primary election will be held. The election of park commissioners shall be null and void if the district is not created.

A candidate filing period will be announced, once the petition receives the required number of signatures.

What is the schedule the Auditor's Office expects to follow for checking the petition?

The Auditor's Office began the signature verification process on Monday, December 28, 2015 and expect to complete the review by Thursday, December 31.

How many signatures are needed to validate the petition?

2,950. Fifteen percent of the registered voters in the proposed district.

Who can sign the petition?

Any registered voter living within the City of University Place.

How will the petition be checked?

The petition signatures will be checked using Pierce County's voter registration system. The system's petition module will be used to track all voters signing the petition.

We will verify that:

- Each petition signer is a registered voter within the proposed boundaries (City of University Place).
- The signature on the petition matches the voter registration signature on file.
- Give the voter credit for signing the petition.

The petition module tracks each signer and identifies any voter attempting to sign the petition more than once.

Who will check the petition?

The petition will be checked by the Pierce County Auditor's Office. The petition will be checked by election staff trained in signature verification. Signature training is provided by the Washington State Patrol.

What happens if a person signs the petition more than once?

Only the first signature will count

Will each signature be checked?

Yes, each signature will be verified by a trained signature checker. Statistical sampling is only allowed for statewide recalls and initiatives.

Can the signature check process be observed?

Yes, any interested parties can observe from the public viewing area of the Election Center.

Why would a petition signature not be counted as a valid signer? (These are reported as 'challenged' on our website)

Examples include:

- Signature does not match
- Voter is not registered in the district
- Unable to read voter's name
- Duplicate - voter has signed more than once
- Printed signature