

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pull the Plug on PSE? Kitsap Voters to Decide on Nov. 3

POULSBO, July 28, 2026—The board of the Kitsap Public Utility District decided unanimously on Tuesday to ask county voters whether to grant authority to the agency to provide electric utility service. In response, a citizens' group, Kitsap Ratepayers Alliance (KRA), formed to advocate passage of the measure.

If approved, the November 3 ballot measure would set in motion a process that could replace Puget Sound Energy as the county's electric utility.

The Kitsap Ratepayers Alliance believes that public ownership of electric service will provide much-needed local control, save consumers money via priority access to low-cost and clean power from the Bonneville Power Administration and will help assure a better future for county residents.

KRA spokesperson Tom Goodlin, Bainbridge Island, said that unplugging PSE "is an opportunity for Kitsap County residents to locally control their electrical supply and costs. That comes with many benefits including taking power away from a private enterprise and putting it in the hands of local governance."

An example, the group says, is the monthly cost of an 800-kw hr. bill. Nearby Jefferson County PUD voted in 2008 to acquire PSE's local assets and began providing electricity to the district in 2013. Today the cost for 800 kw hrs. in Jefferson County is \$132.10 while Kitsap County electric customers pay PSE \$161.36 or 22% more. (see accompanying documentation).

Supporters of the measure say that a local public electric utility will keep rates more affordable than depending on state regulators to slow the pace of PSE's recent and planned large rate increases. If approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, PSE's requested rates will increase by nearly 30% over three years while tens of millions of dollars are distributed to the offshore company's shareholders.

In voting for the PUD's resolution to put the question to the voters, Kitsap County PUD Commissioner Stacey Smith said, "I do believe in utility rates being affordable."

Kitsap Ratepayers Alliance agrees and invites the public to join their campaign for passage of the ballot measure. Please contact Tom Goodlin, tgoodlin@comcast.net for more information.

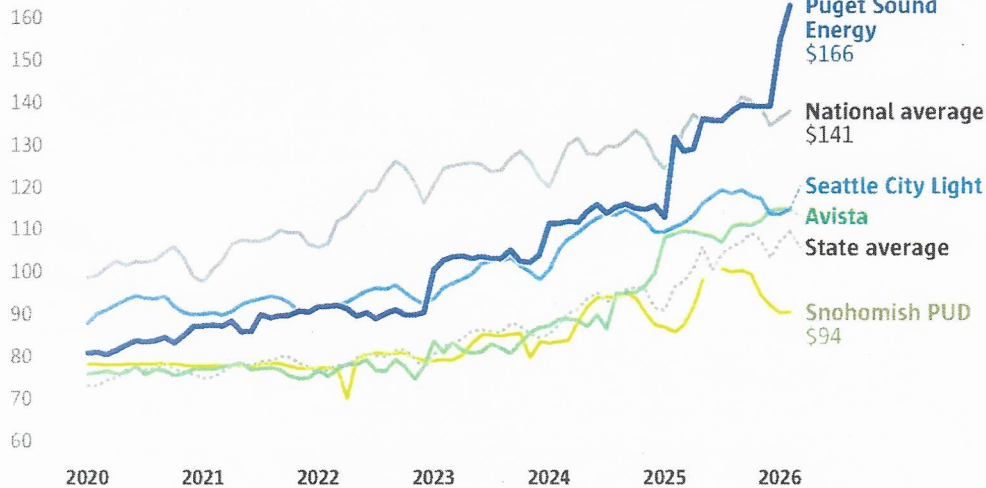
Kitsap PUD press release 7/28/2026: <https://www.kpud.org/news-releases/kpud-board-places-public-power-authority-measure-before-voters/>

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PSE's electricity prices soar past Seattle's, national average

Puget Sound Energy, which is responsible for around a third of the state's electricity customers, has increased its price of electricity faster than any other state utility. For the average residential customer using 800 kilowatt hours a month, the price is now more expensive than Seattle's and the national average.

\$170/mo



Note: Seattle City Light and Snohomish PUD are publicly owned utilities that have their rate cases reviewed by local elected officials. PSE and Avista are investor-owned utilities that have their rate cases reviewed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Price data for June 2025 was omitted for Snohomish PUD due to what the utility called a data entry error.

Chart: Reporting by Amanda Zhou, graphic by Fiona Martin / The Seattle Times • Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Note: PSE's electric rates have increased 45% in two years. They now have filed for another 9.5% increase for each of the next two years. Source: Seattle Times