



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KPUD Board Places Public Power Authority Measure Before Voters

Poulsbo, WA — The Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD) Board of Commissioners voted today to place a measure on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot asking Kitsap County voters whether they wish to authorize KPUD to provide electric utility service.

If approved by voters, the measure would grant KPUD the legal authority to construct or acquire electric facilities for generation, transmission, or distribution of power as permitted under Washington law. Approval of the measure would not require KPUD to provide electric service, acquire an existing electric system, or construct new electric infrastructure.

"This vote gives Kitsap County residents the opportunity to decide whether they want KPUD to have the authority to provide electric service in the future," said Board President Debra Lester. "Today's action is one step in a much longer process, and the voters will determine whether that process continues."

The Board's action follows a public listening session, written comments submitted by community members, and discussion during public Board meetings. Throughout the process, KPUD has encouraged community members to learn about the issue and share their perspectives. Commissioners considered public input alongside questions about local control, long-term community needs, and the role a public utility could play in providing electric service.

If voters approve the measure in November, the Board has committed to conduct a comprehensive investigation into whether providing electric service is in the best interest of Kitsap County residents. That work could include a feasibility study evaluating potential costs, anticipated electric rates, operational considerations, financing options, and other factors necessary for informed decision-making.

Strengthening Kitsap communities through responsive and sustainable utility services.

Kitsap Public Utility District
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Completion of a feasibility study would not commit KPUD to providing electric service. Any future decisions would require additional Board action following public discussion and review of the study's findings.

If the measure is not approved by voters, KPUD would not receive the authority to provide electric service, and the current process would conclude. Any future consideration of the issue would require a new process, such as a community-initiated proposition placed on the ballot in accordance with state law.

Seeking Committee Members for the Local Voters' Pamphlet. Following the Board's action, KPUD is inviting community members to be considered for committee appointments that will prepare the arguments "for" and "against" the ballot measure for the Kitsap County Local Voters' Pamphlet.

State law provides for separate committees to prepare statements supporting and opposing the measure. Each committee is limited to three members and must appoint a chairperson to serve as the primary point of contact. At least one committee member will be identified in the voters' pamphlet.

Residents interested in being considered for appointment to either committee are encouraged to complete the online application form on the KPUD website at <https://bit.ly/KPUDElectricInfo>. The deadline for submitting applications is **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2026**. Committee appointments will be made by the Board in accordance with state law during a **Special Board Meeting on Friday, July 31, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** to be held at KPUD Administrative Offices located at 1431 NW Finn Hill Road, Poulsbo, WA. If you need assistance with completing the application or need a paper copy, please contact the KPUD Clerk of the Board at clerkoftheboard@kpud.org or via phone at 360-626-7703.

Throughout this process, KPUD remains committed to providing factual information so residents can make informed decisions. Information about the ballot measure, frequently asked questions, public comments, and the overall process is available on the KPUD website.

About Kitsap Public Utility District: KPUD is a locally governed public utility providing drinking water, wastewater, and telecommunications services and infrastructure to communities throughout Kitsap County. Governed by an elected Board of Commissioners, KPUD is committed to delivering reliable, high-quality utility services while serving the long-term interests of the communities it represents.

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For more information concerning KPUD's history, mission, vision, core values, and strategic goals, please visit our website <https://www.kpud.org/about-us/who-we-are/>.