Kitsap PUD Prop. 1 is too risky.

Kitsap Public Utility District Proposition 1, on the November ballot, would hand control of the entire county's electric service to a small government agency with no plan, no accountability, and no experience delivering electricity.

PUD Proposition 1 will give the Kitsap PUD — a small government agency — authority to condemn and purchase private utility property, acquire more public debt, set electricity rates and take over all electrical facilities in Kitsap County — no matter the cost and despite the fact that it has no expertise or experience maintaining an increasingly complex grid and responding to storms, wildfires and electric emergencies.

Kitsap PUD Prop.1 is too costly.

Kitsap PUD Proposition 1 will force Kitsap taxpayers to take on $1 billion in new taxpayer debt. Preliminary estimates show that taking over Kitsap's electrical infrastructure will cost as much as $1 billion — more than $7500 per customer. To pay for it, the Kitsap PUD would need to raise property taxes 20 times what they are today.*

In 2008, public power proponents told voters that the Jefferson County PUD could take over Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and start an electric utility for $47 million. The final cost was $109 million. Kitsap County has over 130,000 customers compared to 18,000 customers in Jefferson County — making this an even riskier gamble.

It makes no sense to take on so much taxpayer debt for something that already exists and is reliable when we have so many other critical priorities.

PUD Prop 1 gives the Kitsap PUD a blank check.

Kitsap PUD Prop 1 gives three part-time Commissioners the authority to takeover PSE's local electric system before knowing the total cost, where the power will come from, future electric rates, or tax impacts. If passed, Kitsap residents will have no choice but to get their power from Kitsap PUD, regardless of the cost.

At a time of growing power demand, we shouldn't jeopardize electric service for more than 280,000 Kitsap residents with an inexperienced PUD with 16,000 current customers.

There's no plan.

PUD Prop 1 was rushed onto the ballot without considering the consequences. Rather than conduct a study ahead of the vote and provide voters with answers to critical questions, the Kitsap PUD rushed PUD Prop 1 to the ballot and now claims they will study the issue after the vote.

But voters will have no ability to say "stop" because the PUD Commissioners don't need a second vote to proceed with a takeover.

* SOURCE: July 2026 email exchange between Angela Bennink, General Manager, Kitsap Public Utility District, and Stacie Amasaki, Attorney, Foster Garvey. Bennink: "We believe that purchasing the PSE asset will be between $800 million and $1.2 billion. This would require a levy of about $.92 on the thousand." The current property tax rate for the KPUD is $0.04444 per $1,000 assessed value.

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