



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Port of South Whidbey to discuss levy at June 9 meeting
*Public invited to learn about proposed funding for economic development,
fairgrounds preservation and waterfront infrastructure*

FREELAND, Wash. – The Port of South Whidbey Board of Commissioners will discuss a proposed levy measure during its special public meeting on Tuesday, June 9, and community members are invited to attend to learn more and ask questions.

Commissioners are considering a levy increase of \$0.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. For a home assessed at \$866,000—the current county average—the proposed increase would cost approximately \$4.33 per month, or about \$52 per year.

Revenue would support economic development activities, including preservation of several buildings at the fairgrounds protecting their history and heritage, expansion of small business incubator programs, improvements to waterfront access infrastructure, and matching funds for future grant opportunities.

Port officials say several fairgrounds buildings are more than 90 years old and require preservation and safety improvements, including ADA accessibility upgrades and additional usable space for businesses and community events.

The Port of South Whidbey serves approximately 16,000 residents and businesses across South Whidbey Island, including Freeland, Clinton and Langley. The Port manages the harbor, public beaches, waterfront access areas and the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds & Events Center while supporting economic development and small business activity throughout the community. The Port is funded through user fees and a property tax levy and receives no funding from Island County.

The Port's special board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 9, at 4 p.m. at the Clinton Community Hall, 6411 S Central Ave, Clinton. The meeting also will be accessible online via Zoom. Meeting agenda information and access details will be posted at least 24 hours in advance on the Port's website.

Community members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the proposal and the Port's long-term priorities for economic development, public facilities and waterfront access.

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The Port of South Whidbey serves approximately 16,000 people and businesses on South Whidbey Island, including Freeland, Clinton and the city of Langley. The Port encompasses a harbor, 65 miles of shoreline, three public beaches, and the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds. Its mission is to drive economic development for South Whidbey through access to these properties while respecting the unique rural character and environment of the island. Learn more at portofsouthwhidbey.com.