

Port of South Whidbey Levy Information

The Port of South Whidbey, which includes the communities of Freeland, Clinton and Langley, is a significant economic driver for South Whidbey Island. It provides small business incubator programs and safe waterfront access through a working harbor, boat launches, public beaches and low-cost ferry parking for residents, while also maintaining the historic Whidbey Island Fairgrounds & Event Center.

The Port receives no revenue from Island County. It is funded by user fees and a small property tax levy. The Port operates under a balanced budget and has passed all its independent financial audits by the state.

The Board of Commissioners is asking voters to consider a levy on the November 3 General Election ballot. Revenue would:

Expand small business incubator programs. The Port wants to expand the space it provides for small businesses to meet the needs of local residents so they can shop locally.

Provide matching funds for grants. The Port requires matching funds for competitive grants to renovate community facilities. One such project is creating a passenger-only ferry facility to support residents who rely on connection to the mainland for work, medical or personal needs.

Preserve the historic Whidbey Island Fairgrounds & Event Center. Several buildings are more than 90 years old and require preservation, safety improvements and ADA accessibility upgrades. Events at the fairgrounds provide revenue for South Whidbey communities to support other projects residents want.

The levy request is \$0.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For the average homeowner, based on a home assessed at \$866,000 according to county records, that would cost approximately \$4.33 per month, or \$52 per year. The measure will appear on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot.