



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 10, 2026

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**Port of South Whidbey places levy measure on November ballot**  
*Proposal would support waterfront access, economic development, public facilities and fairgrounds preservation*

FREELAND, Wash. – The Port of South Whidbey Board of Commissioners has approved a resolution placing a levy measure on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot.

If approved by voters, revenue would help maintain and improve the waterfront facilities, boat launches, public beaches, economic development programs, community facilities and fairgrounds assets that serve South Whidbey residents and visitors.

Proposed funding priorities include improvements to waterfront access infrastructure, support for small business incubator programs, preservation and modernization of Port-owned facilities, matching funds for future grant opportunities, and improvements to buildings and infrastructure at the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds & Events Center.

"The Port manages and supports a wide range of facilities and services that contribute to South Whidbey's economy and quality of life," said Port Executive Director Jim Pivarnik. "This measure would help us maintain important community assets, improve public access to waterfront amenities, support local businesses and preserve facilities for future generations."

The Port of South Whidbey serves approximately 16,000 residents and businesses across South Whidbey Island, including Freeland, Clinton and Langley. The Port encompasses a harbor, 65 miles of shoreline, three public beaches and the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds while supporting economic development and small business opportunities throughout the community.

The measure would increase the Port's levy rate by \$0.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For the average homeowner, defined by county records as a home assessed at \$866,000, the proposed increase would cost approximately \$4.33 per month, or about \$52 per year.

The Port is funded through user fees and a property tax levy and receives no funding

from Island County. Because state law limits most property tax revenue growth to 1% annually, the Port's levy rate has declined over time as property values have increased.

Additional information about the measure will be available in the coming months through the Port's website and public meetings.

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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](http://portofsouthwhidbey.com).*