

# Spokane County Measure No. 1

## Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Shelter Levy Fact Sheet

### Spokane County Measure No. 1 would...

Address regional animal sheltering needs by constructing or retrofitting a building to replace the existing facility in a more central location.

### What is the ballot language?

The Board of Spokane County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2011-0679, concerning a proposition to replace the Spokane Regional Animal Protection Shelter. This proposition would increase the regular property tax levy up to 5.8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2012 and automatically terminate within 9 years or less unless reauthorized by public vote, be used exclusively to replace the regional animal protection shelter, result in a total authorized regular property tax levy rate of up to \$1.298 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2012 and adjust the levy thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be approved?

### What is a levy?

A levy is an imposition of a tax by authorities.

### When would the levy expire?

The levy will expire in a maximum of nine years, however through cost saving methods, retrofitting a structure and/or partnering with other municipalities, the levy may expire earlier than nine years.



### What would Measure No. 1 do?

The money raised by the levy (up to \$15 million) would provide the necessary funds to replace the aging Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Shelter. The current SCRAPS' (Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service) facility is more than 40-years old and cannot expand to meet demand at its present location off of Flora Road (east of the Spokane Business Industrial Park).

A replaced Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Shelter would:

- give the public one central location for reporting/redeeming lost and found pets and for reporting injured, stray or mistreated animals
- provide uniform enforcement of laws and public policy
- increase capacity for homeless animals

It would also provide:

- a safe and healthy facility for the homeless pets in our community
- the potential for a shared adoption facility with SCRAPS, SpokAnimal and the Spokane Humane Society that would increase adoptions and reduce euthanasia of stray and abandoned animals

If approved by the majority of the voters within Spokane County, the ballot measure would equate to approximately **\$1.00 per month for the owner of a \$200,000 home**

### Can we retrofit a building at a lower cost instead of building new?

Spokane County is working with the City of Spokane to purchase a city-owned property which includes an industrial building at Havana and Broadway. Spokane County will retrofit that building into a regional animal protection shelter. This is projected to cost approximately 1/3 less than building a new facility for a savings estimated at nearly \$5 million (total cost approximately \$10 million).

## By what percentage does the ballot need to pass and who is voting on this issue?

All registered voters within Spokane County (including those who reside within incorporated areas) may vote on this issue. Under state law, a simple majority (more than 50% voter approval) is required to pass the measure.

## For more information on Spokane County Measure No. 1 contact:

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## Who does SCRAPS currently serve?

The current participating jurisdictions receiving services from SCRAPS are: unincorporated Spokane County and the cities of Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Cheney, and Millwood.

## Will there be any cost savings if Measure No. 1 is passed?

The participating jurisdictions will be able to replace the current facility at no additional costs to the general fund budgets of the current partners. Additionally, a savings in operating and maintenance costs (paid by each partner jurisdiction's general fund) could be realized through joint efforts in pet licensing and non-governmental contributions.

## Where would the Regional Animal Protection Shelter be located?

In the vicinity of Havana and Broadway, adjacent to the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. This central location is on current bus routes and would provide citizens with greater access to services (pet adoption, licensing, training, education, etc.), operational efficiency, and improved response time. Owners trying to locate lost pets will have a central location to find their pets as opposed to multiple shelters. This facility can be retrofitted at an estimated savings of 30% over the cost of new construction.

## Why Go For a Levy Now?

At this time many of the jurisdictions within Spokane County have agreed to pursue an expanded regional animal protection and shelter program which requires a larger facility. Interest rates are at an all time low and costs of construction, labor and materials are lower than in the recent past. Additionally the larger regional program could result in lower annual operating costs to all participating jurisdictions. The building that has been identified for renovation is currently available and would generate a savings of 30% over the costs of a constructing a new facility.

## What if other municipalities want to consolidate?

The facility will be large enough to accommodate services for the City of Spokane, who has provided a letter of intent to participate in the regional program, and other municipalities if they decide to partner in a regional facility.

