



## Port Seeks Levy Lid Lift

**Bingen, Washington** – After a 3-to-1 defeat of its proposed levy lift in 2012, the Port of Klickitat Commission is asking its constituents to consider a modified levy lift in this year's general election. Unlike the lift proposed in 2012, this time around the rate would increase 27.897 cents to 45 cents per thousand of assessed value and the increase would be limited to six years. The proposed rate is 6.5 cents less than the 2012 proposition and 7 cents less than the combined rate of the Port's regular and Industrial Development District (IDD) levies in 2012.

“Several people I've talked with in the months since the election indicated that, at the time, they believed the levy lift would have been in addition to the port tax they were already paying,” said Port Commissioner Jim Herman. “So it's not surprising they voted against it. It wasn't until later they realized the levy lift simply replaced one tax with another, slightly smaller one. Unfortunately, that recognition came too late to save the ballot measure from defeat.”

The Port's total tax levy was 52.129 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2012 and dropped to 17.103 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2013. This means a person owning property located in the Port District with an assessed value of \$250,000 paid \$130.32 in port tax in 2012 and \$42.76 in 2013. Under the plan proposed by the Port, district residents would pay 45 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$112.50 for the same \$250,000 property. That would make the Port's levy rate the fourth lowest in the county (the lowest levies being for Fire Districts No. 1 and No. 14 and Cemetery District No. 1).

“The confusion last year was unfortunate and left many voters that supported maintaining the status quo believing they would actually be voting for more taxes, said Port Commissioner Bill Schmitt. “In the end, we tightened our belts, cut the budget, and delayed several projects to live within our means. However, that means the Port can't make the kind of investments it did in 2009 and 2011 that paved the way for all the construction that's taking place today. Without the nearly two million in infrastructure investments made by the Port, these buildings would not exist...and the jobs they represent would be in jeopardy.”

According to Marc Thornsby, the Port's Executive Director, the Port received \$491,401 from its Industrial Development District levy in 2012. The proposed levy lift would replace 78% (or \$386,006) of that lost revenue. “There's a lot of excitement about the recent development at the Port and many folks have said they want to see more of the same,” said Thornsby. “But that's

### At A Glance...

**Who:**.....Port of Klickitat  
**What:**.....Levy Lid Lift  
**When:**.....September 10, 2013  
**Where:**.....Bingen, Wash.  
**Quick Facts:**...The Commission is asking voters to approve a levy lid lift of 27.897 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The lift would replace 78% of the revenue lost when the Port's IDD levy expired in 2012.

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going to require them to provide the same level of financial support as they have in the past. We can't continue making million dollar investments in infrastructure every couple years without replacing the funds lost when the IDD levy expired.”

Additional information regarding the Port's levy lid lift is available in a one-page summary document and a three-page detail document, both of which are available at the Port Office and on the Port's web site at [www.portofklickitat.com](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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#### **About the Port of Klickitat**

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at [www.portofklickitat.com](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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