

Public Utility Districts Bring What, Now???

Why should you vote for a PUD Commissioner?

Public Utility District (PUD)

A Public Utility District is a community-owned, locally regulated utility created by a vote of the people under RCW 54. A PUD may provide electricity, or water/sewer, or local access to broadband telecommunication services.

PUDs are governed by a Board of 3 or 5 elected commissioners who serve 6 year nonpartisan terms. Only registered voters within the PUD boundaries may vote for a commissioner. The districts may be further subdivided so that a discrete area is represented by its own commissioner. Commissioners are responsible for setting customer rates and overseeing the operations of the PUD. They establish district policies, approve budgets and expenditures, and approve projects.

Most electric PUDs buy electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), although some in other counties (Grant, for example) own their own hydro generation dams on the Columbia River.

In 1936, county residents voted to create Kittitas County PUD to provide electricity to residents in specific areas of the county.

How are PUDs funded?

Under RCW 54.16, a Board of Commissioners may raise revenue through issuing bonds or levy taxes on property within the District's boundaries. However, most PUDs rely on customer fees to support daily operations.

In conclusion, commissioners of Water Districts and PUDs can impact your life not only by the fees they set, the bonds they issue, or the taxes they levy but by the level of service and customer care they provide to you. So become an informed voter, learn about commission candidates, make an informed decision.

Not registered? Go to [VoteWA](#) to register online.

Vote. It matters.