

## Proposed Methow Aquatic District

- The current pool has reached the end of its useful life, and there is no obvious funding source for aquatics in the Methow.
- How do we create a sustainable aquatic facility in our community?
  - 'Our community' is defined primarily as the Methow Valley School District, and secondarily extending north and east of Omak, and south of Chelan.
  - Twisp sits in the center of these boundaries.
- Pools don't often generate sufficient income to cover operating costs
  - A junior taxing districts is an equitable, sustainable system for funding and governance
    - Metropolitan Park Districts
      - Acquire and sell property
      - Issue bonds, and service debt
      - Construct and maintain facilities
      - Employe a range of personnel
      - A one time vote vs. a vote every six years
      - Highest maximum levy rate of park districts
- Who is involved
  - Friends of the Pool is supporting the summer operations at the Wagner Pool, and managing the capital campaign to build the Methow Aquatic Center (MAC).
  - A Political Action Committee (PAC) has been formed to gather support for the Metropolitan Park District (MPD) with the goal of passing a ballot measure in November.
- Formation
  - An interlocal agreement can be made between each governing body represented within the MPD boundary (the Methow Valley School District).
  - Those bodies approve the MPD by resolution and nominate one of their members to serve on the board. (One year terms)
  - Twisp and Winthrop also each appoint one at-large member to the board.
- Levy/Voting
  - The MPD is voted into existence by electors of the district boundary
    - This is a simple majority vote
    - Metropolitan Park Districts are junior taxing districts
    - MPD's may levy up to \$0.75/assessed \$1,000, this rate will be set by the board once elected.
      - The first \$0.50 falls in level 5 and the remaining \$0.25 falls in level 4 of the '5.90'
  - Purpose: Functions of the MPD are limited by the ballot resolution.
- Activities
  - A new seasonal outdoor pool would continue to be in competition with Brewster, Omak, and Okanogan. An indoor facility would serve more customers than the current pool.
  - The proposed aquatic center will host recreation and competition activities.

- Beyond swimming. The first priority of the capitol campaign is to construct a new pool. It is not limited to that function and its success could create space for additional recreational activities.
- Facility and Location
  - The new aquatic center will have two pools. One a regulation size competition pool, the other a shallower, warmer pool for swimmers of all capabilities.
  - The current site is too small for the new facility.
  - The preferred site is at the intersection of East County Rd and Highway 20.
  - All potential sites are in Twisp.
  - The School District is currently planning for additional educational facilities. Citing the pool at the school would also restrict use of the center.

**Full Text of Measure:**

**Proposition 1. [Methow Aquatics District].** A petition of the voters has been submitted concerning formation of a metropolitan park district. If approved, this proposition would create a district under chapter 35.61 RCW, to be known as the Methow Aquatics District, to provide ongoing funding to develop, construct, operate, and maintain the Methow Aquatics Center and related existing and future facilities. The District would have the powers provided under chapter 35.61 RCW, excluding eminent domain, but including, among others, to levy regular property taxes up to 75 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, and its boundaries would be coterminous with the boundaries of Methow Valley School District 350. The District would be governed by a five member board appointed by the Okanogan County Commission and the Twisp and Winthrop Town Councils as provided by interlocal agreement approved by the three jurisdictions.

- For the formation of a metropolitan park district to be governed by a board appointed by the Okanogan County Commission and Twisp and Winthrop Town Councils
- Against the formation of a metropolitan park district.