

CHAMBER CHAT

OCTOBER 2025

Chamber Supports Levy for Public Safety, Essential Services, and Improvements

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to support Proposition 1, the City's Levy for Basic Public Safety, Essential Services, and Improvements, at their September meeting. We believe that safe neighborhoods, responsive emergency services, and welcoming parks are essential for families and businesses alike.

The City faces a projected \$6 million shortfall beginning in 2026, caused by state limits on property tax increases that have not kept up with inflation. For years, reserves have filled the gap, but those funds are nearly gone. Without new revenue, the only option will be continued cuts.

The levy is a long-term solution. For about \$1 per day on a median-valued home, Mount Vernon could add six police officers to increase patrols, hire six firefighters to improve emergency response times, and create stable funding for parks to maintain safe playgrounds, trails, and open spaces. These investments would improve quality of life and help businesses attract customers, employees, and families.

If the levy fails, services across all departments will be reduced. Police will be forced into reactive rather than proactive work, fire response times will lengthen, and parks and recreation services will deteriorate. Residents and businesses could also see longer permit timelines, reduced library hours, and fewer community programs.

Mount Vernon has a bright future, and our community takes pride in our hometown. This levy is a shared investment in that future—one that protects public safety, sustains essential services, and ensures our city remains a place where families and businesses can thrive.

Andy Mayer
President & CEO



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
mountvernonchamber.com

Calendar of Events

Mount Vernon Chamber Annual Meet & Greet

La Catrina Tacos & Tequila

517 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

Tuesday, October 7

5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Speaking of Women Coffee Chat

Wednesday, October 8

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Union Block Bistro

614 1st St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow

Thursday, October 9

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Guardian NW Title & Escrow

1301 Riverside Dr

Mount Vernon

Networking for Success: The Real Talk on Talkin' Biz

Friday, October 10

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

Latino Business Leaders: Mastering your Finances: Start Strong, Stay Profitable

Skagit Valley College – Multipurpose room

2405 East College Way

Mount Vernon

Wednesday, October 15

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

[Register here](#)



Biz Buzz Networking Breakfast

Friday, October 17

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Chamber Membership Luncheon - Skagit County: Issues and Opportunities

Wednesday, October 22

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Chamber Connections Referral Program Open House & Social Hour

Il Granaio

100 E Montgomery St Ste 110

Mount Vernon

Wednesday, October 29

5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

[Register here](#)



BE ONE OF THE FIRST ONES

TO INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS
TO NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

By providing your company
swag or special offer to be
included in every welcome bag

CONTACT:
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com
Mount Vernon
Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547





Join us to Grow YOUR Chamber

Our members are our best storytellers. That's because your business and the people behind it are the heartbeat of our community. When you share your member experience or invite one of your business connections to our chamber events, you're not just promoting us—you're celebrating your own success and inspiring others to join a network that's here to help them thrive.

Think back to a moment when the Chamber made a difference for you. Maybe you made a key connection at a networking event, gained a new customer from our online directory, or found a resource that helped you solve a business challenge. That's a powerful story, and it's one that deserves to be shared.

We're inviting you to be our biggest champion by sharing a testimonial and referring a fellow business owner to the Mount Vernon Chamber. For every referral we receive from a current member, you will have a chance to win additional advertising for your business and a chance to win a Staycation Prize. Winner will be announced at the Holiday Chamber Luncheon on December 10. See the "Join the Chamber Today" flier for all the details or contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944 – (360) 305-0895

This isn't just a contest; it's a chance to build a stronger, more vibrant community, and to show what makes our business community so special.

Mount Vernon HolidayFest

Get ready for a magical afternoon at Mount Vernon HolidayFest! Join us on Saturday, December 14 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Pine Square for a heartwarming celebration of the season, brought to you by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and Mount Vernon Parks Department.

Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, sip on free hot cocoa courtesy of The Lunchbox Diner, explore the festive Holiday Market, and enjoy kids' activities galore. Anna and Elsa from Frozen will be at the market from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. then will accompany you to a free sing-along screening of Frozen courtesy of the Lincoln Theatre.

Bundle up, bring the whole family, and let the holiday spirit shine. It's the most wonderful time of the year and it's happening right here in downtown Mount Vernon!

Sponsorship opportunities are available! See page 8 for more details and contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com to secure your spot today.

Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Aquarius Collective, Birch Equipment Co., Chikara PR, LLC, Coastal Farm & Ranch, CPI Plumbing & Heating, Foothills Toyota, Global Credit Union, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC, Loving Farms, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Quality Gutters, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, WECU, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs, Wingate by Wyndham

Chamber on the Move: Each Stop Shines a Light on a Chamber Member



The Bony Pony



Sound Cedar Lumber



**Sundance Energy
Services**



**Bargains Galore
Thrift Store**

Each month, our chamber team and ambassadors hit the streets to visit local member businesses, celebrate their successes, and share their stories with the community.

Last September our first stop was at The Bony Pony. With over three decades in Skagit County, owner Cherie Geerdes has cultivated the largest inventory of boots and other western attire. Their Highway 99 location provides quality tack, English and Western wear, and a vast assortment of horse supplies to riders and horse owners. If you are lucky, you may run into Cherie's little dogs while at the store.

From the wonderful smell of leather, we transitioned to the aroma of cedar. Locally owned and operated by Robert Desmarais, Sound Cedar Lumber specializes in Western Red Cedar. Their 8,000-square-foot showroom holds everything from Douglas Fir to pressure-treated Hem-Fir. But customer service isn't their only great quality; Robert has made it his mission to support our community in various ways. When he's not at Sound Cedar, he's often volunteering at one of our many community events.

Not far from Sound Cedar Lumber is Sundance Energy Services. What was once an almost Victorian-themed meeting space is now Sundance Energy Services, offering everything from air conditioning to water heaters and everything in between. The company thrives on excellent customer service and the solid knowledge to help clients lower their energy bills.

Last but not least we stopped at Bargains Galore Thrift Store where we enjoyed a tour of both the retail space and the warehouse, which was as clean and organized as the public area. Bargains Galore has already brought out their new holiday inventory, something to keep in mind when you're shopping this season. Your purchases will go the extra mile, as the revenue generated at Bargains Galore Thrift Store goes directly to Mount Vernon Christian School.

We want to extend a huge thank you to The Bony Pony, Sound Cedar Lumber, Sundance Energy Services, and Bargains Galore Thrift Store for their hospitality. Their dedication and hard work are what make Mount Vernon such a special place to live, work, and do business. We're proud to have them as part of our Chamber family! Stay tuned for our next "Chamber on the Move" spotlight, coming soon!

Welcome New Members

Lured Away Guide Service, LLC

(360) 299-1400

Mount Vernon

www.luredawaygs.com



Lured Away Guide Service is the Pacific Northwest's premier fishing charter, specializing in professionally guided trips for sturgeon, salmon, steelhead, and trout. We offer flexible booking options, including single-day and multi-day excursions tailored to your adventure. Our experienced captain combines deep local knowledge with proven techniques to give you the best possible chance of success on the water—no matter your skill level. Make your dream of landing a trophy fish a reality by booking today.

Majestic Inn and Spa

Travis Sherman

(360) 299-1400

419 Commercial Ave

Anacortes

www.majesticinnandspa.com

Experience historic elegance and modern luxury at Majestic Inn & Spa in downtown Anacortes. Boutique rooms, rooftop views, spa sanctuary, and so much more.

Get to Know

Ian Caisley, Caisley Graphic Design

Ian Caisley is a freelance Senior Graphic Designer and artist with more than 14 years experience designing and building digital, print, and interactive media, including as a preferred contractor of the University of Washington. Originally from Seattle, Ian and his wife Erica moved into their first house in July 2023 on the west side of Mount Vernon. As part of his goal to make connections in his new community, Ian joined the Chamber earlier this year and has already met many wonderful members of the Mount Vernon and larger Skagit business communities.

In his personal life, Ian loves to cook and try new foods, and has been enjoying exploring the Skagit Valley, including taking his first trip to Mount Baker just this summer. Ian has also had a passionate interest in game and system design since childhood, and designs and develops video and board games in his spare time. Together with two of his friends, he released a mobile game called Duple Dragon, a runner game where you control two dragons at once and is currently solo-developing a retro RPG called Shimmershoal, a cute and colorful coming-of-age story about a girl named Lani, and her fox companion Keke set in a cozy tropical island fantasy world.



Ian Caisley

Ian is very excited to be a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber, and the larger northwestern Washington business community. Ian is looking for new clients in the local area so he can do business closer to home, and to help local businesses gain access to world-class creative and design help. Check out his work on his professional website, caisley.design, and don't hesitate to book a free consultation to learn more about what working with an experienced creative can do for your business' image, marketing, and communications.

Board of Directors

Chair - Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Vice Chair - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Past Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Treasurer - Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Member at Large - Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

Lance Calloway

Association of General Contractors

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Elizabeth Jennings

Community Action of Skagit County

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Steve Sexton

City of Mount Vernon

Danny Vera

Skagit Regional Health

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and
Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Skagit Regional Health Expands Orthopedic Services with Integration of Skagit Northwest Orthopedics

Skagit Regional Health is pleased to announce a significant development in its effort to expand access to exceptional care across the community.

Effective September 29, 2025, Skagit Regional Health will integrate with Skagit Northwest Orthopedics. The practice will operate under the name Skagit Regional Health – LaVenture Orthopedics.

“This milestone aligns with our Strategic Plan,” said Brian K. Ivie, President and CEO of Skagit Regional Health. “By leveraging partnerships and expanding services, we are strengthening our ability to meet community needs while advancing our mission. Skagit Northwest Orthopedics has been a trusted presence in Mount Vernon for decades, and together we will continue to build on our shared commitment to ‘exceptional healthcare, always.’”

Skagit Valley Family YMCA collecting winter clothing donations for Skagit County teens and young adults

The Skagit Valley Family YMCA is collecting winter clothing donations from October 6 to October 31 to support local teens and young adults served at the Skagit Y’s Sedro-Woolley Rec Center and Oasis Youth Shelter.

Donations needed include hoodies, plus-sized clothing, coats with fun colors or patterns, small men’s pants, new or lightly used socks, new underwear, jewelry and accessories, belts, weatherproof shoes, and pajama pants with fun colors or patterns. Donated clothes will be distributed to the Rec Center and Oasis shelter and made available to any teen or young adult in need of clothing this fall and winter.

To learn more about the Chris Mang Memorial Fund, visit [this page](#).



For more member announcements, visit
mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

September in Pictures



**Membership Luncheon
Candidates Forum**



**Speaking of Women at
Lang's Horse and Pony Farm**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at Skagit
County Historical Museum**



**Ambassador Meeting at
Global Credit Union**



**Best of Show Winners at
BrewFest on The Skagit**



**Ribbon Cutting for Almost There
Senior Care at Sedro-Woolley
Farmers Market**

Ambassadors

Chair - Betsy Anorbe

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

Silvia Alvarez

Triumph Teen Life Center

Clarissa De Vries

CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

Dan Dewispelaere-Rusch

Global Credit Union

Morgan Elton

Country Financial -

The Elton Group

Alicia Evans

Guardian Northwest

Title & Escrow

Ian Houben

Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Jaime Huss

Washington Federal

Crystal King

Chinook Enterprises

Karla Nelson

U.S. Bank - Riverside Dr

Ruth Medina

All Colors Painting

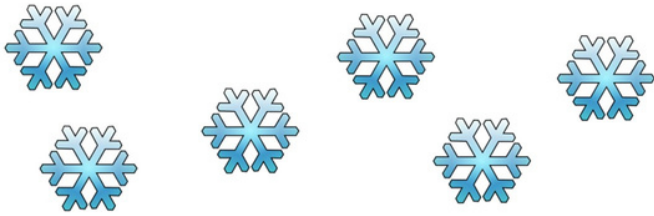
Jessica Rodriguez

Children of the Valley After

School Program

BRONZE LEGACY





Mount Vernon HolidayFest

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sunday, December 14

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pine Square downtown Mount Vernon

'Present' ing Sponsor:

\$3,000

Ownership of character story time

Special recognition at the event

Magnified and well-positioned company logo on poster

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com and DowntownMountVernon.org

Social media promotion on Chamber, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and Mount Vernon Parks channels

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber and Mount Vernon Downtown Association newsletters

Company Banner displayed at the event

Candy Cane Sponsor:

\$1,000

All Candy Cane sponsors have the opportunity to bring branded candy canes (limit 100)

Company logo prominently displayed on promotional poster

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com and DowntownMountVernon.org

Social media promotion on Chamber, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and Mount Vernon Parks channels

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber and Mount Vernon Downtown Association newsletters

Recognition at the event

Icicle Sponsor:

\$550

Company logo on poster

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com and DowntownMountVernon.org

Social media promotion on Chamber, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and Mount Vernon Parks channels

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber and Mount Vernon Downtown Association newsletters

Recognition at the event

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to secure your sponsorship

All sponsorships must be confirmed by Friday, November 14

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1007

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

(360) 428-8547

Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com





CHAMBER

Meet & Greet

Why should you attend?

- ✓ **NEW MEMBERS:** unlock your membership benefits
- ✓ **PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:** learn how the chamber can support your business
- ✓ **EXISTING MEMBERS:** reconnect and engage

INFO / RSVP



(360) 395-2944



Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com



www.MountVernonChamber.com



**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 7**

**5:00 TO
6:30 PM**

**LA CATRINA
TACOS & TEQUILA
1517 S 1st St
Mount Vernon**



Chamber Connections Referral Program *Open House & Social Hour*



Il Granaio

100 E Montgomery St Ste 110
Mount Vernon



Wednesday October 29

5:00 to 6:30 PM

- *Build Strong Business Relationships*
- *Share Best Business Practices*
- *Generate Referrals*



For information

Silvia Reed

(360) 395-2944 / (360) 305-0895

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

Please RSVP

www.MountVernonChamber.com

ENTRENAMIENTO EMPRESARIAL

PROGRAMA 2025 - 2026



Incluye

- Entrenamiento y talleres mensuales
- Eventos de networking
- Consultoria individualizada
- Mentoría con empresarios de su industria

VISITE EL CODIGO QR PARA
INSCRIBIRSE AL PROGRAMA



2025 - 2026 Program Sponsor



27 DE AGOSTO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Convivio de empresarios y lanzamiento de programa

24 DE SETIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Su Plan de Negocio: Creelo, Refinelo, Dominelo

15 DE OCTUBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Dominando sus Finanzas: Empiece Fuerte,
Mantengase Rentable

19 DE NOVIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Guías para Licencias y Permisos de Negocios

10 DE DICIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

21 DE ENERO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fundamentos para su Preparación de Impuestos

25 DE FEBRERO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Financiando su Negocio: Del Emprendimiento a la
Expansion

18 DE MARZO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Estrategias de Marketing para Crecer su Negocio

15 DE ABRIL 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Latino Business Leaders Spring Social

20 DE MAYO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Panel de Empresarios: Construyendo un Negocio
Exitoso

Las clases son gratuitas pero debe inscribirse para poder asistir.
Las clases son en Skagit Valley College - area tras la cafeteria
con una opcion virtual disponible

INFORMES E INSCRIPCION

Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | Call-text (360) 395-2944



Partnership Opportunities

The mission of Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is to create a more prosperous economy for all by advancing Latino businesses through business training, networking, and mentorship, while fostering their integration with the broader business community.

LBL Presenting Partner

\$3,000.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group at all LBL events
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all business training sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 LBL Social-Networking events

LBL Partner (3 business training sessions)

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 business training sessions

Latino Initiative Supporter

\$300.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for LBL participants

LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter

\$300.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

LBL Business Training Supporter (1 session)

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

2025-2026 Schedule

LBL Social-Networking Events

Held on in August—December - April

Latino Initiatives

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

Business Training Program

Free monthly training sessions . Held the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted in event page.



MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM

Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | Direct: (360) 395-2944 - Cell (360) 305-0895



CALLING SPONSORS

Help us Build Businesses from the Ground Up



Food Business Training
Fall 2025



Contractors Training
Winter 2026



FOR INFORMATION

(360) 395-2944 / (360) 305-0895

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

www.MountVernonChamber.com



BUSINESS TRAINING DAYS

Food Industry—Contractors

Partnership Opportunities

Presenting Sponsor

\$1,500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in all event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgement during the event and in all social media posts
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) during the event
- ⇒ Opportunity to provide branded items and display marketing material at all tables

Event Partner

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgment during the event
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) during the event

Event Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgment during the event

Food Industry Training | Friday November 21st | 9:00 to 3:15 PM | Skagit Valley College
Contractors Training | Friday January 30th | 9:00 to 3:15 PM | Skagit Valley College

Event and Sponsorship Information

Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director
Direct: (360) 395-2944 | Cell: (360) 305-0895
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM

OCTOBER 11TH 11A - 1P

MOUNT VERNON

DOG TREAT WALK~COSTUME CONTEST~PHOTO BOOTH

Wag-O-Ween

2025



PROUD GHOSTLY GUARDIAN SPONSOR

B|E|C|U



GROCERY
OUTLET
bargain market



Windermere
REAL ESTATE



JOIN US!
REGISTER ONLINE!
WALK UPS WELCOME!



THE LEVY FOR BASIC PUBLIC SAFETY, ESSENTIAL SERVICES, & IMPROVEMENTS IS A LONG-TERM, LOW-COST SOLUTION

What is a levy lid lift?

A permanent single-year levy lid lift allows a taxing district to exceed the statutory 1% increase limit one time by asking voters for approval. This new total becomes the base for future annual increases, which are then limited to 1% per year unless another voter-approved lid lift occurs.

What percentage of "yes" votes are needed for approval?

A simple majority (50% + 1) of voters is required for the Levy for Basic Public Safety, Essential Services, & Improvements to pass.

How are tax amounts determined for property owners?

Washington is one of two states with a levy-based property tax system rather than a rate based system. Under this approach, taxing districts collect a set dollar amount (aka the levy) annually, regardless of property value changes. The county assessor calculates the property tax rate by dividing the levy by the total assessed property value within the district (typically expressed in dollars per \$1000 of assessed value).

Are tax exemptions available?

Yes. Seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities may qualify for property tax exemptions or deferrals.

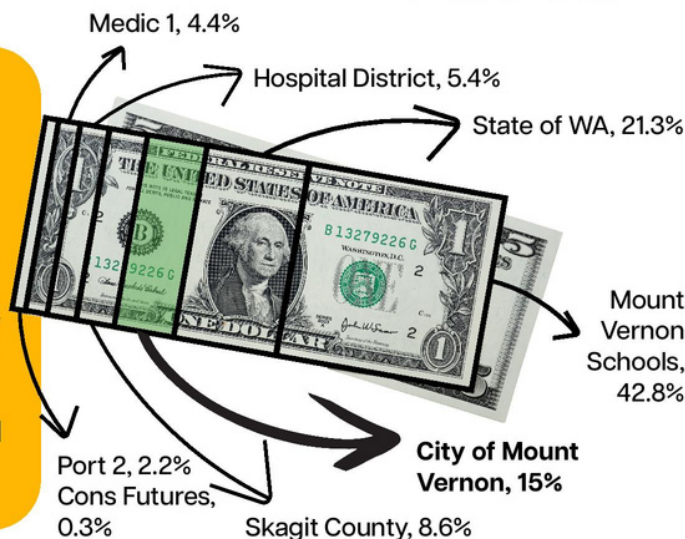
Where can I learn more?

www.mountvernonwa.gov/levylidlift



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025, only 15% of a typical owner's property tax bill comes to the City to support essential services.



Levy Quick Facts



Funds Proactive Policing

Adds 6 new police officers (one per year for six years), including the uniforms, equipment and vehicle required for each officer



Enhances Critical Fire Services

Adds 6 additional firefighters, replaces a fire engine, cardiac defibrillators, Self-Contained-Breathing-Apparatus, and an ambulance



Maintains and Improves Parks and Recreation Services

Creates a dedicated funding source to secure the *Supervised Playground* program, community events, and helps address a backlog of deferred parks maintenance and capital projects like replacing old playgrounds, ball field improvements, repaving asphalt surfaces and trails, etc.



Long-term, Low-cost Solution

For a median home valued at \$550,000, the increase would be about \$1 per day for improved Public Safety and Parks in Mount Vernon.

The City of Mount Vernon provides valued community services.

Having police show up at your door when your safety is compromised, having the fire department take you to the hospital and protect your property from fire damage, and having open spaces that are safe, well-maintained and provide recreational opportunities for all ages are services our residents have come to expect and value.

MORE OFFICERS = MORE EMPHASIS PATROLS
Emphasis patrols in 2025 resulted in 120 proactive cases and 71 arrests.

Existing service levels are threatened by a projected \$6 million shortfall in 2026 and beyond.

State law requires the City to pass a balanced budget each year. Any funding gaps must be fixed by either increasing revenue or decreasing costs and services. **Over the past five years (2020-2024) the consumer prices index, which measures inflation, has increased an average of 5% each year, while over that same timeframe the General Fund revenues have averaged 1% less than in 2020.** For years, the City has absorbed inflation costs by using the general fund reserves to balance the budget, but these reserves are now at levels that threaten the City's financial policies and bond ratings.



It doesn't have to be this way. With increased funding, the City could have proactive policing, an enhanced critical fire response, and safe and vibrant park spaces.



If the levy passes, we could increase our ability to **police proactively** by hiring 6 new police officers (and fully outfit them with vehicles and equipment), **enhance critical fire services** by hiring 6 additional firefighters, **AND maintain and improve Parks and Recreation services** by creating a dedicated funding source that'll keep pace with growing demands.

For a median home valued at \$550,000, the increase would be about **\$1 per day** for **improved Public Safety and Parks** in Mount Vernon.

6 new firefighters will increase the Fire Department's 4-minute response time coverage by an estimated 33% citywide.



**Ballots Due:
November 4**

WWW.MOUNTVERNONWA.GOV/LEVYLIDLIFT

LEVY FOR BASIC
**PUBLIC SAFETY,
ESSENTIAL SERVICES,
AND IMPROVEMENTS**

This fact sheet is published and paid for by the City of Mount Vernon, WA



SPONSOR SWAN CHANGE LIVES

SWAN invites local businesses and community members to sponsor our annual **Woman of the Year Banquet and Award Ceremony**. Your support helps us honor and celebrate the women making a significant impact in our community.



**DONATE
TODAY**



Donation levels include:

- ✓ **Partner: \$200**
- ✓ **Supporter: \$350**
- ✓ **Mentor: \$500**
- ✓ **Charter: \$750**
- ✓ **Leadership: \$2000**
- ✓ **Other**



For info about sponsorship packages:
swanskagit.com/be-a-sponsor/



information@swanskagit.com



JOIN THE CHAMBER TODAY



RECEIVE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

IF JOINING BY DEC. 17

- YOUR BUSINESS NAME IN A ONE-TIME CHAMBER AD IN THE SKAGIT VALLEY HERALD
- FREE INSERT IN THE CHAMBER NEWSLETTER (1/YEAR)
- ADDITIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE



WHY JOIN?

AND WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- Over 100 business events/year allowing you to connect with business leaders in the community
- Access to the Chamber women-only program, "Speaking of Women"
- Chamber Referral Program to help you create referrals for your business and grow your business relationships
- Niche-focus business assistance and professional development

... plus many other membership benefits



Already a Chamber member?

Bring a referral to the Chamber by Dec. 10 for a chance to win

- Additional advertisement for your business / nonprofit
- A chance to win a Staycation Package



FOR INFORMATION

(360) 395-2944 / (360) 305-0895



Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

