

The Burlington Journal

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Flood Control Election Dec. 3 Vital to County

Skagit Voters Have First Chance to Begin Permanent River Control Plan; Will Save Millions

Most far-reaching, most important of all action ever taken toward permanent flood control in the Skagit and Samish valleys is next Tuesday's special election at which Skagit county will decide whether or not it wishes to join hands in one organization that will be able to obtain sensible, permanent control of flood waters in the future.

Voters will vote for or against the formation of a "Flood Control District" comprising all of Skagit County except the islands, as specified in flood control laws passed by the last legislature. This district would be able to "talk business" for state and federal aid, where small districts and communities are not recognized.

Only opposition to the measure voiced so far has come from timber interests in the upper valley whose large timber holdings might be taxed in the future to help the valley below.

Advocates of the measure point to the following reasons:

1. This is the first opportunity Skagit County has had to start a comprehensive flood control plan that will eliminate the hit and miss expensive methods now being employed by individuals and small groups.

2. Other counties of the state have already adopted such measures

overwhelmingly and Skagit County with the worst flood problem of all should do something likewise.

3. While a new organization is set up, no new officials or overhead is allowed under this plan. The county commissioners will become directors of the flood control district, at no extra pay.

4. Only money-spending powers of the flood district will be in the district, which could amount to only \$30,000 in the whole district if a plan is found which such money could be used.

5. Local dike districts have had to dig up far more than \$30,000 to pay for damages from one flood, and then had nothing but repaired dikes for their money.

6. Lower district assessments will result as soon as the rivers are put under permanent control as local districts would have no more expenses.

7. If nothing is done to control the Skagit, that stream will change its course and destroy millions of dollars in property in cities and farms.

The Burlington district lying in the path of the Skagit if it continues its present trend, is urged to vote 100 percent for the flood control district next

Tuesday.

Regular polling places in all four Burlington precincts will be open from eight a.m. to eight p.m. next Tuesday, Dec. 8. The library, the city hall, the Oddfellows hall and the Clarence Judy residence will be polling places in the four respective precincts.