

The Burlington Journal

DECEMBER 6, 1935

Flood Control Wins, Then Blocked by Injunction Timber Companies Allege Plan Would Tax Unfairly

By a vote of nearly three to one, Skagit county voters said "yes" to the proposition of forming a giant flood control district for permanent work on rivers and salt water problems in Skagit county. County totals were 1,901 approving and 767 against the district, giving a margin of 1,134 votes.

Even while ballots were being counted, however, flood control organization struck a legal snag. Early Wednesday morning two timber companies obtained a temporary restraining order against county and state officials completing the organization.

Judge Geo. A. Joiner granted the injunction until Dec. 28, when County Auditor C. P. Kloke, Prosecutor Richard Welts, Commissioner Hupo Bauman and E. F. Banker, state director of conservation and development, must appear to show cause why the injunction should not be made permanent.

The timber companies maintain that the proposed flood control district is discriminatory against them, because of their large holdings on the hills in the upper valley, where flood control "could not possibly benefit them, directly or indirectly." The complaint said the district would result in unfair taxation.

The three county officers, who comprise the election board, were enjoined from certifying the election

results to the state, and both Banker and county officials stopped from naming the new district and setting up its organization.

Only scattered precincts throughout the county registered a majority in opposition to the flood district. Burlington led the larger communities with its margin in favor of the district.

A special committee of the Burlington chamber of commerce worked all day Monday and Tuesday getting voters out. The fire department's public address system was rented by the chamber for the two days. The committee in charge was W. D. Knipe, J. N. Groven, Emmett Shepler and John Batdorf.

The Burlington vote by precincts on formation of a flood control district was as follows:

	Yes	No	Total
Southeast	144	10	154
Northeast	68	11	79
Northwest	30	10	40
Southwest	54	11	65
Totals	296	42	338