

**CITY OF MILTON
WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-1985

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MILTON, WASHINGTON, REQUESTING
PIERCE COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICIALS AND KING COUNTY ELECTION
OFFICIALS TO PLACE ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION
BALLOT AN ADVISORY BALLOT MEASURE ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER
THE SALE, POSSESSION, AND DISCHARGE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS BE
MADE ILLEGAL IN THE CITY OF MILTON**

WHEREAS, Milton Municipal Code Chapter 8.04 currently regulates the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks with the City; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, and particularly around the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve celebrations, the City Council and Milton Police Department receive input and reports from residents about property and life safety issues and impacts related to the sale, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks within the City; and

WHEREAS, many residents within the community have also expressed their enjoyment and desire to continue the sale, possession and discharge of consumer fireworks within Milton; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Milton has considered the concerns received from residents on each side of the issue, and now desires to provide its residents an opportunity to provide input to the City Council on the issue, in a manner that is transparent to the community, by placing an advisory proposition on the November 4, 2025 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will consider the results of this advisory proposition when determining what action, if any, should be taken with regards to regulating the sale, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks with the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILTON,
WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Findings. The City Council finds that the interests of the City of Milton will be best served by placing before the voters an advisory proposition asking voters whether the sale, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks should be prohibited within the City of Milton.

Section 2. Calling of Advisory Vote. The Milton City Council, by the adoption of this resolution, hereby requests that the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections place, on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 general election, the following advisory proposition before the duly registered voters of Milton. This vote is advisory only, and the City Council will not be legally bound by its results but will carefully consider the results in making any decision regarding consumer fireworks.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to certify, no later than August 5, 2025, to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections, a copy of this resolution and the advisory proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters at that election in substantially the same form as provided in Exhibit A.

For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the advisory proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Council hereby designates the City Clerk as the individual to whom such notice should be provided. The City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections.

The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit this advisory proposition to Milton voters at the November 4, 2025 election.

Section 4. Explanatory Statement. The explanatory statement specified in RCW 29A.32.241 is attached as Exhibit B. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this statement to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections.

Section 5. Voters' Pamphlet. In accordance with RCW 29A.32.280, the arguments advocating approval and disapproval of this advisory vote, and ballot measure shall be included in the voter's pamphlet and shall be prepared by committees appointed by the City Council. Each committee shall be appointed by August 5, 2025 and shall submit appointment forms to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections no later than August 5, 2025. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons. If the City Council fails to appoint committees by August 5, 2025, the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections shall issue a media release and publish information on their election website announcing the opportunity to form committees and provide statements. If the City Council is unable to make appointments, the auditor shall make appointments on a first-come, first-served basis if qualified committee members contact the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections by the appropriate deadline. The committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot propositions and the committee advocating disapproval shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot proposition. Statements of the committee advocating approval and the committee advocating disapproval shall be submitted to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections no later than on August 12, 2025. The rebuttal statement of each committee shall be submitted to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of King County Elections no later than on August 18, 2025.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution.

Section 7. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage.

Passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Milton, Washington this
18th day of February, 2025.



SHANNA STYRON SHERRELL, MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



TRISHA SUMMERS, CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF MILTON, WASHINGTON

ADVISORY VOTE NO. 1

**SALE, POSSESSION, AND DISCHARGE OF CONSUMER
FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY OF MILTON**

The Milton City Council is calling for an advisory election to determine whether the sale, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks should be prohibited within the city limits of Milton. The prohibition of the sale, possession or discharge of consumer fireworks would not affect properly licensed and permitted public displays of fireworks.

Should the sale, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks be made illegal within the city limits of the city of Milton?

YES? _____

NO? _____



EXHIBIT B

Explanatory Statement for Milton 2025 Advisory Ballot Measure Regarding the Prohibition of Fireworks within the Milton City Limits

Under Milton Municipal Code Chapter 8.04, the City of Milton currently allows the sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks within its city limits. This ballot proposition is a non-binding advisory vote that allows residents to inform the Milton City Council whether they are for or against prohibiting the sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks within the City of Milton. A “Yes” vote means the voter is in favor of prohibiting the sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks within the City of Milton. A “No” vote means the voter is in favor of continuing to allow the sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks within the City of Milton as laid out in Milton Municipal Code Chapter 8.04. The outcome of this advisory vote will provide input to the Milton City Council in its decision-making process to evaluate whether to modify the City’s existing law, which currently allows the sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks in the city limits of City of Milton.

City of Milton, 1000 Laurel Street, Milton, WA 98354 - 253-922-8733 - cityofmilton.net

Mayor Shanna Styron Sherrell

Police Chief Tony Hernandez

Public Works Director Dustin Madden

City Clerk/Human Resource Manager Trisha Summers

Interim Finance Director Michelle Robbecke

Planning Manager Angelie Stahlnecker