

September 24, 2025

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor
Vancouver City Council
Lon Pluckhahn, City Manager

Dear City of Vancouver Leaders:

The business leaders group Identity Clark County representing 120 leading area employers expresses its support for Proposition 5 Police Services Levy on the November 2025 ballot.

For the past several years, concerns over public safety have been rising as a concern of area business leaders who seek a thriving community where people want to land, live and learn for a lifetime. We appreciated having a business executive on the City of Vancouver's public safety task force to voice perspective regarding the risks, costs and challenges arising in part from an understaffed police force. We also value having hosted a series of discussions with city leaders over several years to understand the public safety situation and evaluate possible solutions. We commend the city for presenting a more measured proposal after thoroughly evaluating voter concerns resulting from the ambitious Proposition 4.

Additionally, we join with leaders across Southwest Washington to embrace the presence of a law enforcement training facility in our community. This makes it more practical for area citizens to pursue a law enforcement career while living in the community where they eventually will serve. We support efforts to create a permanent home for the regional training academy.

While we express support for Proposition 5 and for bringing the measure to voters, we voice caution regarding acceleration of the total tax burden being placed directly upon citizens, and indirectly through regulations and business taxes. Aggressive revenue policies by the City of Vancouver and State of Washington are not allowing citizens and businesses adequate time to explore options, consider proposals and plan accordingly. We are concerned that unintended consequences are mounting especially as we face economic uncertainty. Let's heed painful examples as near as the south side of the Columbia River, where the economic 'doom loop' observed is proving extremely difficult to reverse.

We are hopeful that passage of Proposition 5 will signal community support for practical and measured steps toward addressing public safety, a broadly embraced regional priority.

Sincerely,



Mark Mantei

CEO, Vancouver Clinic
Chair, Identity Clark County



Ron Arp

President, Identity Clark County