

Applications for Pro and Con Committees: Proposition No. 4

Proposition No. 4: CLARIFYING THE POWER AND DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to clarify the powers and duties of county elected officials. This measure would amend Article 3 of the Whatcom County Charter to clarify the independence of the County Elected Offices from the office of the County Executive and to make more consistent the terminology used to describe those offices. This amendment clarifies the powers and duties of each elected office without changing those powers or duties.

PRO: Greg Thames, Lane Davis Coury

CON: No applicants

Pro and Con Committee Application: Proposed Charter Amendments

The Whatcom County Council seeks applicants to prepare statements for the Whatcom County Voters' Pamphlet on proposed amendments to the Whatcom County Charter. Council will appoint up to three members to each pro and con committee during their regular evening meeting on Tuesday, July 22 at 6 p.m.

To volunteer for one or more committees, please submit this form by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2025.

(Section Break)

First Name	Greg
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Last Name	Thames
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Email Address	
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Phone Number	
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Whatcom County Residency	Yes
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(Section Break)

Committee Selection

Indicate your committee preference(s) from the list of proposed amendments below. (Additional information about each amendment is available at www.whatcomcounty.us/4576.)

Authorizing Councilmembers to Hire Dedicated Aides	Field not completed.
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Establishing a Whatcom County Office of the Ombuds	Pro Committee
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Establishing Performance Audits	Pro Committee
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Clarifying the Power and Duties of Elected Officials	Pro Committee
Modifying the Redistricting Process	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Adjusting the Calculation of Signatures Required for a Referendum	Pro Committee
Prohibiting County Government from Interfering with Initiatives and Charter Amendments	Pro Committee
Modifying the Budget Process	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Adding Accountability to Financial Reporting Requirements	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Determining Initial Rules for the Charter Review Commission Meetings	Pro Committee
Adjusting the Calculation of Signatures Required for a Charter Amendment	Pro Committee
Requiring Land Supply and Construction Cost Analysis	Con Committee

(Section Break)

Please provide additional information for Council to consider when making committee appointments (e.g. qualifications, background, resume highlights).	<p>My name is Greg Thames, and I am a longtime resident of Ferndale, Washington. I am dedicated to informed civic engagement and transparent local governance. With a practical background in community reporting and local issue analysis, I actively participate in discussions regarding Whatcom County's government structure and accountability.</p> <p>I hold a degree in Mass Communications with a focus on Photojournalism from Jackson State University. I have experience summarizing complex local government proceedings in clear, everyday language that working families can easily understand. Additionally, I have been involved in</p>
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community discussions about the Charter Review Commission's work, staying informed about proposed amendments and their broader impacts on transparency, fiscal responsibility, and citizen involvement. Also I have attended nearly every charter commission meeting. So I understand the ideas and goals of the commission work.

As a person with strong writing skills, I want to make sure that the public has a clear understanding of each issue. I am also personally committed to ensuring that Whatcom County's governance reflects the will and best interests of its citizens, and that voters receive clear, balanced information when they head to the ballot box. Good information is important for our democracy to work.

Please describe your interest in serving on the committee(s) you selected.

I am volunteering to serve on the Pro/Con Committees for several proposed Charter Amendments because I believe the voters deserve straightforward, unbiased information and fair arguments both for and against each measure. I am especially interested in measures concerning fiscal accountability, the duties of elected officials, redistricting processes, performance audits, and maintaining a fair initiative and referendum process. Serving on these committees is an opportunity for me to help ensure the Voters' Pamphlet accurately reflects diverse perspectives and upholds our County's democratic principles. I am dedicated to working collaboratively with fellow committee members to produce statements that meet the highest standards of clarity and integrity.

I am available to attend the Council meeting on July 22 at 6 p.m. and look forward to the possibility of contributing to this important civic process.

Upload a resume or other supporting documentation.

Field not completed.

Are you available to attend the Council meeting on July 22 at 6 p.m. in case Councilmembers have questions for you?

Yes

(Section Break)

Questions?

Please contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010 if you have any questions.

Pro and Con Committee Application: Proposed Charter Amendments

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(Section Break)

First Name	Lane
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Last Name	Davis Coury
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Email Address	
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Phone Number	
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Whatcom County Residency	Yes
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Committee Selection

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Authorizing Councilmembers to Hire Dedicated Aides	Field not completed.
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Establishing a Whatcom County Office of the Ombuds	Pro Committee
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Establishing Performance Audits	Pro Committee
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Clarifying the Power and Duties of Elected Officials	Pro Committee
Modifying the Redistricting Process	Pro Committee
Adjusting the Calculation of Signatures Required for a Referendum	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Prohibiting County Government from Interfering with Initiatives and Charter Amendments	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Modifying the Budget Process	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Adding Accountability to Financial Reporting Requirements	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Determining Initial Rules for the Charter Review Commission Meetings	Pro Committee
Adjusting the Calculation of Signatures Required for a Charter Amendment	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Requiring Land Supply and Construction Cost Analysis	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Please provide additional information for Council to consider when making committee appointments (e.g. qualifications, background, resume highlights).	<p>I am a voter who has lived in Bellingham for 4 years. As an observer of every Review Commission meeting, I have a reasonable understanding of each proposed amendment.</p> <p>My 35-year career as a technical instructor gave me experience in simplifying explanations of complex concepts.</p>
Please describe your interest in serving on the committee(s) you selected.	<p>At the Commission meeting on July 12, I heard that few volunteers had signed up for this important task.</p> <p>Most amendments seem straightforward. But providing a quick</p>

summary of pros and cons helps voters make informed decisions with confidence.

Upload a resume or other supporting documentation.	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Are you available to attend the Council meeting on July 22 at 6 p.m. in case Councilmembers have questions for you?	Yes
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(Section Break)

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