

Pro and Con Committees

For each ballot measure that will appear in the voters' pamphlet, [RCW 29A.32.280](#) requires the legislative body (city/town council, board of commissioners, etc.) to formally appoint two committees no later than the resolution filing deadline:

- A **“pro” committee** of no more than three people to prepare arguments advocating for the measure's approval. This committee must consist of people known to favor the measure.
- A **“con” committee** of no more than three people to prepare arguments against the measure. Whenever possible, this committee must consist of people known to oppose the measure.

These committees may seek the advice of others. The committees may include agency elected officials or staff members, but the staff/officials must keep their campaign activities completely separate from their public duties and may not use public facilities to support or oppose the ballot measure. For more information, see our page on [Use of Public Facilities in Election Campaigns](#).

If the local legislative body fails to make the appointments by the deadline, the county auditor must make the appointments whenever possible.

The statements submitted by the pro and con committees will appear in the local voters' pamphlet. Some counties allow each committee to read the opposing committee's submitted statement and provide a short rebuttal statement that will also appear in the voters' pamphlet. The word limits, deadlines, use of rebuttal statements, and any other requirements are determined by each county's election rules ([RCW 29A.32.230](#)).

Practice Tip: Sometimes jurisdictions will seek volunteers for the pro/con committees through announcements on the agency website, newsletter, or local news media. For example, see:

- [Kirkland Pro and Con Committee Application Form](#) (2020)
- [Whatcom County Pro and Con Committee Advertisement](#) (2022)
- [Yakima Pro and Con Committee News Release](#) (2021)