

Lynden Tribune

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER

On June 1, 2021, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2021-032, submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposal to amend Whatcom County Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.41 to align signature requirements for citizen initiatives with Washington State norms. This ordinance submits to the qualified voters of Whatcom County (at the November 2021 General Election) a charter amendment to allow that persons proposing an initiative must "collect the signatures of the registered voters in the county equal in number to not less than eight (8) percent of the vote cast in the county in the last regular county executive election," and the requirement for a mini-initiative be "the signatures of qualified voters equal in number to not less than three (3) percent of the number of votes cast in the county in the last county executive election." The changes would amend Section 5.40 and Section 5.41 of the County Charter.

If the proposal is approved by the voters, the Whatcom County Charter will read as follows:

Section 5.40 Initiative - Procedures.

Any legal voter or organization of legal voters of Whatcom County may file an initiative proposal with the County Auditor, who within five (5) days, excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays, shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The Auditor shall give the proposed initiative a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The Auditor shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten (10) days after receipt thereof, in consultation with the petitioner shall formulate the ballot title which shall consist of: (a) a statement of the subject of the measure; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question: "Shall this be enacted into law?" The statement of the subject of the measure must be proposed as a positive statement, be sufficiently broad to reflect the subject, and be sufficiently precise to give notice of the measure's subject matter, and not exceed ten words. The concise description must con-

tain no more than thirty words, be a true and impartial description of the measure's essential contents, clearly identify the proposition to be voted on, and not, to the extent reasonably possible, create prejudice either for or against the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title. The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days to collect the signatures of the registered voters in the county equal in number to not less than eight (8) percent of the vote cast in the county in the last regular gubernatorial county executive election. The one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall begin upon receipt of official notification to petitioner(s) by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office either by certified mail or messenger. If the last day for collecting signatures falls on a weekend or legal holiday, then the one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall extend to the end of the next business day.

Section 5.41 Mini-Initiative.

Any ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance may be proposed to the County Council by registering with the Auditor initiative petitions bearing the signatures of qualified voters equal in number to not less than three (3) percent of the number of votes cast in the county in the last gubernatorial county executive election. Upon verifying the sufficiency of the signatures, the Auditor shall transmit the initiative petition to the Council which shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and enact or reject the ordinance within sixty (60) days. Public documents are available for review weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Council Office, 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105, Bellingham, and at co.whatcom.wa.us/council. View meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, videos, documents, and archives at whatcom.legistar.com. The Council is currently holding all meetings remotely. For instructions on how to watch or participate in meetings, please visit whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON,
COUNTY OF WHATCOM

M. Fair being first sworn on oath, deposes and says that she is the principal clerk of the LYNDEN TRIBUNE, a weekly newspaper. That said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has been approved as a legal newspaper by order of the superior court in the county in which it is published and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publications hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continually as a weekly newspaper in Whatcom County, Washington, and it is now, and during all of said time was, printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper.

That the annexed is a true copy of a Proposed Amendments to Whatcom County Charter, Section 5.40-5.41 as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplement form)

of said newspaper once each week for a period of 3 consecutive weeks, commencing on the

13 day of October 2021, and ending on the

27 day of October 2021, both dates inclusive, and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the

foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 1,000.13 which amount has been paid in full.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 day

of October 2021
M. Lewis

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington.

