

Applications for Pro and Con Committees: Proposition No. 5

Proposition No. 5: MODIFYING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to modify the process of adjusting the boundaries of each district in the county as is required once every ten years. This measure would amend Article 4 of the Whatcom County Charter to clarify the powers and appointment process for the Chair of the Districting Committee, require the Committee to comply with State law on Redistricting, and adjust timelines to align with the availability of census data. The measure would also require that the Districting Committee hold a public hearing before adopting a redistricting plan.

PRO: Lane Davis Coury, Joel Pitts Jordan, Eamonn Collins

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.

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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

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	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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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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First Name	Joel
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Last Name	Pitts Jordan
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Email Address	
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Phone Number	
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Whatcom County Residency	Yes
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Establishing a Whatcom County Office of the Ombuds	Field not completed.
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Establishing Performance Audits	Pro Committee
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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	Pro Committee
Adding Accountability to Financial Reporting Requirements	Pro Committee
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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).	I have served for the last six months as a Charter Review Commissioner representing Council District 1. I am honored to have served with this group that has come together on twelve propositions to send to voters. I could not be prouder to have played a small role in that through leading the legal and financial research, drafting, stakeholder engagement, and, in some cases, negotiation on the four propositions listed on this application. In this role, I have strived to bring forward my professional experience serving as the Legislative Coordinator for the Department of Health and prior experience as a Legislative Fellow for the Office of the Attorney General. Those
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roles provided a foundation which I carried over in carefully researching and crafting these proposals, three of which were built from examples from other jurisdictions. This gives me a unique perspective on the proposals, their intent, and the problems which they seek to solve.

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

As stated above, I researched, drafted, and negotiated all four of the listed proposals. I believe that these proposals embody principals of good governance: Not in coming up with solutions in search of a problem but in identifying a problem, collaboratively coming up with a solution, and finding a path to implementation. I would commend all four of the proposals to you and would ask for your appointment to the PRO committees for the listed propositions. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Upload a resume or other supporting documentation.

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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

(Section Break)

Questions?

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

Joel Pitts-Jordan

WORK EXPERIENCE

Washington State Department of Health; Olympia, WA

Agency Legislative Coordinator – June 2022-Present

- Support staff and agency leadership in developing and refining legislative and budget proposals to meet strategic and policy objectives through collaborating with subject matter experts, reviewing supporting documentation, and coordinating with the Governor's Office.
- Analyze legislative proposals throughout session for impact on the Department's operations or key policy objectives.
- Draft written materials including one-pagers, talking points, and summaries of the Department's legislative and budget agenda to assist agency leadership in communication and decision-making.
- Collaborate with subject matter experts, Assistant Attorneys General, and the Code Revisers Office to draft legislation.
- Provide briefings and supporting materials to executive leadership to inform decision-making on agency request legislation, decision packages, and final position and actions on proposed legislation during session.
- Coordinate member engagement and work sessions throughout the year including planning, scheduling, and communication with legislative staff.

Whatcom County Charter Review Commission; Bellingham, WA

Commissioner District 1 – January 2025-July 2025

- Conducted policy, legal, and fiscal research to lead development of six amendment proposals to the Whatcom County Charter, four of which were approved by the Commission.
- Cultivated relationships with fellow commissioners, stakeholders, County Departments, community members, and County legislative staff to foster a collaborative policy development process.
- Supported strategy through providing advice to the Chair and working towards approval of a broad agenda.
- Facilitated negotiations between commissioners and stakeholders on complex and contentious proposals.

Washington State Office of the Attorney General; Olympia, Seattle, Bellingham, WA

Legislative Fellow – January 2022-March 2022

- Monitored committee activity and progress of legislative proposals throughout session.
- Analyzed legislation as it was introduced for an impact on the Attorney General's Office or strategic priorities and tracked all bills with a confirmed impact.
- Researched and drafted documentation in support of agency request legislation to be used with legislators and stakeholders.

Legal Office Assistant – November 2019-June 2022

- Maintained, filed, and organized all court orders and future court dates for 400 juvenile dependency, termination, and guardianship cases while tracking discovery, responses to requests for discovery, new petitions, and court reports.
- Drafted, received, and filed all correspondence in Indian Child Welfare Act related cases while maintaining knowledge and awareness of ongoing and surrounding case law.
- Utilized case-management software to draft court orders, run reports, and open new cases.

Policy Intern – June 2018-September 2018

- Analyzed federal and state legislation from across the country on topics including cybersecurity, student borrower defense, and criminal justice.
- Drafted correspondence to Congressional members on both workers' rights and offshore oil drilling.
- Balanced daily tasks such as analysis and memoranda with developments including new litigation research, constituent assistance, and new office directives.

EDUCATION

University of Washington; Seattle, WA – September 2017-June 2019

Master of Public Administration, Concentration in Public Financial Management and Social Policy

Western Washington University; Bellingham, WA – September 2013-June 2017

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Sociology, Concentration in American Politics and Criminal Justice
Departmental Honors in Political Science

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(Section Break)

First Name	Eamonn
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Last Name	Collins
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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)

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Requiring Land Supply and Construction Cost Analysis	<i>Field not completed.</i>
(Section Break)	
Please provide additional information for Council to consider when making committee appointments (e.g. qualifications, background, resume highlights).	I have served since January as a Charter Review Commissioner.
Please describe your interest in serving on the committee(s) you selected.	I cosponsored the Budget Process and Redistricting Process charter amendments and would like to help write the pro statement that will appear in the voters' pamphlet.

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?

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