

**Charter Review Candidates Endorsed by the Whatcom County Democrats**

**District 1**  
Todd Donovan  
Eli Mackiewicz  
Barbara Ryan  
Thomas Stuen  
Alison (Alie) Walker

**District 2**  
Bob Bandarra  
Kate Blystone  
Susan Gribbin  
Judd Morse  
Stan Snapp

**District 3**  
Chris Johnson  
John Lesow  
Richard May

**Charter Review Candidates**

**District 1**  
Stoney Bird  
Bob Burr  
Kevin Byford  
Bruce Clawson  
Delaine (De) Clizbe  
Dick Donahue  
Todd Donovan  
Bob Hall  
Larry Helm  
Eli Mackiewicz  
Nancy Metcalf  
Kent S. Murray  
Barbara Ryan  
Orphalee Smith  
Michele Stelovich  
Thomas Stuen  
Alison (Alie) Walker  
Anthony (Tony) Wallace  
Tom Walstrom

**District 2**  
Bob Bandarra  
Ken Bell  
Kate Blystone  
Rebecca Boonstra  
Branden Brink  
Atul Deshmane  
Chet Dow  
Ben Elenbaas  
Joe Elenbaas  
Susan Gribbin  
Bob Johnson  
Cliff Langley  
Judd Morse  
Sherryl (Sherry) Nelson  
Larry Nicholas  
Stan Snapp  
Matt Weeda

**District 3**  
Ralph Black  
Linda Cain  
Nick Evans  
Yvonne Goldsmith  
Chris Johnson  
Wes Kentch  
John Lesow  
Richard May  
John K. Munson  
Jon Mutchler  
Eileen Sobjack  
Karl Uppiano

# Why a Charter Review Commission?

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mission brings forth for the voters' decision next year. The number of candidates makes it a challenge to know what each stands for.

All commission candidates have been asked to give statements about their backgrounds and views

for the Voter's Guide that will be delivered to all Whatcom County households in mid-October. *The Bellingham Herald* requested similar statements from Charter Review candidates for publication in the weeks prior to the election. The League of Women Voters

asked all candidates for elective office—including Charter Review candidates—to respond to a series of questions about pertinent issues in their campaigns. These questions are posted on its statewide voter information website: [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).

We urge voters to use all these resources to cast well-informed votes on Nov. 4. Ultimately, the actions taken by those elected to serve on the Charter Review Commission may affect all of Whatcom County's residents for many years to come. ■

The below amendments were placed on the ballot by Charter Review Commissions elected in 1985, 1994 and 2004.

## 1986 Amendments

Yes 9,308 30.82%	<b>Amendment 1:</b> Change County Council and executive elections from non-partisan to partisan.
No 20,890 69.18% ✓	
Yes 17,162 56.88% ✓	<b>Amendment 2:</b> Change elections for assessor, auditor, treasurer and sheriff from partisan to non-partisan.
No 13,008 43.12%	
Yes 9,999 32.61%	<b>Amendment 3:</b> Reduce the number of signatures needed to place an initiative on the ballot from 15 percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election to 10 percent in the last general election.
No 20,662 67.39% ✓	
Yes 8,448 28.31%	<b>Amendment 4:</b> Reduce the number of signatures needed to place a referendum on the ballot from 15 percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election to 6 percent in the last general election.
No 21,393 71.69% ✓	
Yes 19,389 67.03% ✓	<b>Amendment 5:</b> Require that the prosecuting attorney consult with initiative petitioners in preparation of the ballot title.
No 9,537 32.97%	
Yes 10,290 37.51%	<b>Amendment 6:</b> Allow the council to amend ordinances proposed as mini-initiatives, if there are enough qualifying signatures, as well as accept or reject them.
No 17,146 62.49% ✓	
Yes 14,102 50.72% ✓	<b>Amendment 7:</b> Initiatives failing to obtain the required signatures may be treated as mini-initiatives at the request of the proponents.
No 13,704 49.28%	
Yes 17,781 66.11% ✓	<b>Amendment 8:</b> Initiatives, referendums and mini-initiatives be numbered using a separate sequential series, once numbers are issued they not be reissued.
No 9,116 33.89%	
Yes 22,761 76.75% ✓	<b>Amendment 9:</b> Allow for a formal review of the Whatcom County Charter to occur every ten years.
No 6,896 23.25%	
Yes 18,371 62.58% ✓	<b>Amendment 10:</b> Charter Review Commission vacancies be filled by the next highest recipients of votes in the same district.
No 10,983 37.42%	
Yes 23,772 80.76% ✓	<b>Amendment 11:</b> Three consecutive unexcused absences of a Charter Review Commissioner creates a vacancy if approved by two-thirds of the commissioners.
No 5,662 19.24%	
Yes 22,449 74.85% ✓	<b>Amendment 12:</b> Elected county officials be barred from holding any other office or employment within county government.
No 7,542 25.15%	
Yes 18,354 69.84% ✓	<b>Amendment 13:</b> "The enumeration of this charter of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others retained by the people."
No 7,926 30.16%	
Yes 17,948 60.59% ✓	<b>Amendment 14:</b> Charter language be amended to be gender free.
No 11,673 39.41%	

## 1995 Amendments

Yes 22,991 63.49% ✓	<b>Amendment 1:</b> Reword the preamble to include government's advancement of justice as a reason for the charter.
No 13,223 36.51%	
Yes 19,231 51.46% ✓	<b>Amendment 2:</b> Require that those unduly burdened by regulations or ordinances be compensated.
No 18,142 48.54%	
Yes 12,023 31.68%	<b>Amendment 3:</b> Limit the number of county employees to four full-time equivalents per 1,000 residents.
No 25,928 68.32% ✓	
Yes 17,799 50.33% ✓	<b>Amendment 4:</b> Require separation of powers and cooperation between the executive and legislative branches. Both branches shall engage in long-term planning.
No 17,564 49.67%	
Yes 18,228 50.40% ✓	<b>Amendment 5:</b> The legislative branch shall not interfere with the administration of the executive branch.
No 17,938 49.60%	
Yes 11,972 33.07%	<b>Amendment 6:</b> Move the long-range planning function of the planning commission from the executive to the council.
No 24,227 66.93% ✓	
Yes 12,381 35.46%	<b>Amendment 7:</b> Reduce the number of signatures needed to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot. It would be lowered from 15 percent of voters in the last gubernatorial election to 7 percent in the last general election.
No 22,531 64.54% ✓	
Yes 23,901 68.48% ✓	<b>Amendment 8:</b> Clarify the end of initiative and referendum signature gathering period if it falls on a weekend or holiday.
No 11,003 31.52%	
Yes 24,082 69.17% ✓	<b>Amendment 9:</b> Establish a different time frame for the executive to submit quarterly reports.
No 10,734 30.83%	
Yes 15,970 44.95%	<b>Amendment 10:</b> Once the annual budget has been approved, the executive shall need no further authorization to expend appropriated funds.
No 19,556 55.05% ✓	
Yes 19,329 56.15% ✓	<b>Amendment 11:</b> Voting for Charter Review Commission candidates shall be changed from county-wide to district only. Names of candidates will appear on all ballots as drawn by lot.
No 15,095 43.85%	
Yes 19,499 56.18% ✓	<b>Amendment 12:</b> Allow the entire council, by unanimous vote and with a public hearing, to amend the charter where the passage of time has rendered language mute or obsolete.
No 15,207 43.82%	

## 2005 Amendments

Yes 39,307 67.28% ✓	<b>Amendment 1:</b> Elect County Council members (except at-large) in the general election by district only. <sup>1</sup>
No 19,118 32.72%	
Yes 15,579 26.74%	<b>Amendment 2:</b> Eliminate the salary lid (currently 15 percent of the executive) on County Council members.
No 42,672 73.24% ✓	
Yes 35,164 60.43% ✓	<b>Amendment 3:</b> Publish a voter's pamphlet for all primary and general election.
No 23,023 39.57%	
Yes 42,958 77.66% ✓	<b>Amendment 4:</b> Consider compensating those unduly burdened during the drafting and adopting stage of all regulations and ordinances.
No 12,358 22.34%	
Yes 43,386 78.41% ✓	<b>Amendment 5:</b> Require the County Council to meet at least 22 times a year.
No 11,947 21.59%	
Yes 44,660 82.68% ✓	<b>Amendment 6:</b> The county council shall fill vacancies in elective offices that occur after the filing deadline.
No 9,357 17.32%	

1. Charter Amendment 1 was reversed at the 2008 general election, 53.75 percent of the voters approved a charter amendment to return general election voting to countywide.

