

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

November 5, 2024 General and Special Election

Your Ballot Packet arriving by October 24 has a new look



Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

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Political parties

Washington State Democrats
 PO Box 4027
 Seattle, WA 98194
 206-583-0664
info@wa-democrats.org
wa-democrats.org

Washington State Republicans
 11811 NE 1st Street, Ste. A306
 Bellevue, WA 98005
 425-460-0570
info@wsrp.org
wagop.org



Who donates to campaigns?

View information on financial contributors for federal candidates:

Federal Election Commission
fec.gov
 Toll Free 800-424-9530

View financial contributors for candidates and measures:

Public Disclosure Commission
pdc.wa.gov
 Toll Free 877-601-2828

County Auditor letter

Dear Clark County Voter,

Welcome to the 2024 General Election Voters' Pamphlet.

If you receive a ballot packet for a person who does not reside at your address please write "Does not live here", or "Return to sender" on the outside envelope and return it to the USPS. When we receive undeliverable mail from the USPS we change the voter's status to "inactive" and mail a confirmation notice to all the voter's known addresses. Inactive voters who fail to update their information and don't participate in an election for two federal general elections will have their voter registration canceled.

Even though we will be fully staffed, if you come to the Elections Office on Election Day, Tuesday November 5, to obtain a replacement ballot or register to vote, you should expect to wait in line for as long as two hours. We encourage you to contact us prior to Election Day.

Your ballot will be counted even if you don't mark the box on your ballot for every office or issue. Any offices or issues you don't vote for are tallied as "undervotes".

To increase the number of ballots included in the preliminary election results issued after 8:00 pm on Election Day, please return your ballot early.

I encourage you to track the status of your ballot. You can do that online at VoteWA.gov. If you would like to receive your ballot status information in a text message you can enroll in that service by texting "VOTE" to 868392.

Any citizen who fulfills the requirements to register to vote may do so online at VoteWA.gov until October 28 and receive a ballot for this general election. After October 28 through 8:00 pm November 5, qualified persons can receive a ballot for this election by registering to vote in person at the Elections Office.

If you are a registered voter and have not received your general election ballot in the mail by Thursday, October 24, please contact the Elections Office for a replacement ballot.

I urge you to read this pamphlet but to also seek out more information. The more people who participate in the collective decision-making process, the better our democracy works. I hope you will join in by casting your ballot in the November 5 General Election. Every vote counts!

Sincerely,



Greg Kimsey
Clark County Auditor
564-397-2078
greg.kimsey@clark.wa.gov



Has your address changed? Has your signature changed? Lost or damaged ballot?

Contact:

Clark County Elections Office
564-397-2345
elections@clark.wa.gov
clarkvotes.org

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office

Voice 564-397-2322
Relay 711 or 877-833-6341
Fax 564-397-6165
Email ADA@clark.wa.gov

Cover photo by Switching Lanes on Unsplash
Above photo by Beth Conyers

Voting in Washington State

Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you may do so by mail or online at VoteWA.gov.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 5 pm Monday, October 28, 2024.

You may still register or update existing voter registrations after October 28, but you must do so in person by 8 pm Tuesday, November 5.

Who is eligible to vote?

The requirements for registering to vote are simple. You must be a United States citizen, 18 years or older on November 5, 2024 and live in Clark County.



How to vote

Clark County voters will receive their ballots by mail. If you are a registered voter in Clark County, we will mail you a ballot for every election in which you are entitled to participate.

The page **Voting instructions** (page 9) in this pamphlet explains how to vote. Please read the instructions in this pamphlet. We want your vote to count!

Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

Phone: 564-397-2345

Email: elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address: PO Box 8815, Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address: 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Speech-to-speech relay: 711 or 877-833-6341

Be an informed voter. Here's how.

There are many sources of information for citizens wishing to know more about candidates, and coverage of the November 5, 2024 General and Special Election.



Read all about it

- **The Columbian**
columbian.com
- **The Oregonian**
oregonlive.com/elections
- **The Camas-Washougal Post-Record**
camaspostrecord.com
- **The Reflector**
thereflector.com
- **Clark County Today**
clarkcountytoday.com

League of Women Voters

For a schedule of events or candidate forums, see their website at lwvclarkcounty.org or call 971-220-5874.



Watch cable TV

CVTV Clark-Vancouver Television on Comcast cable channels 21 and 23. Election coverage will include candidate forums and interviews of candidates in various races. See TV listings in *The Columbian*, cable channel 2, and the CVTV website, cvtv.org or call 360-696-8233.

If you do not have cable TV you can obtain videotapes of any program from CVTV.



Look online

- Election coverage can be found on the Clark County Elections Office website at clarkvotes.org.
- All Fort Vancouver Regional Library District branches and Camas Public Library have computers with internet connections available for public use during their business hours.
- Follow links provided by candidates to their website, or contact them by email or phone. Contact information listed for candidates is current as of publication date.




What district am I in?

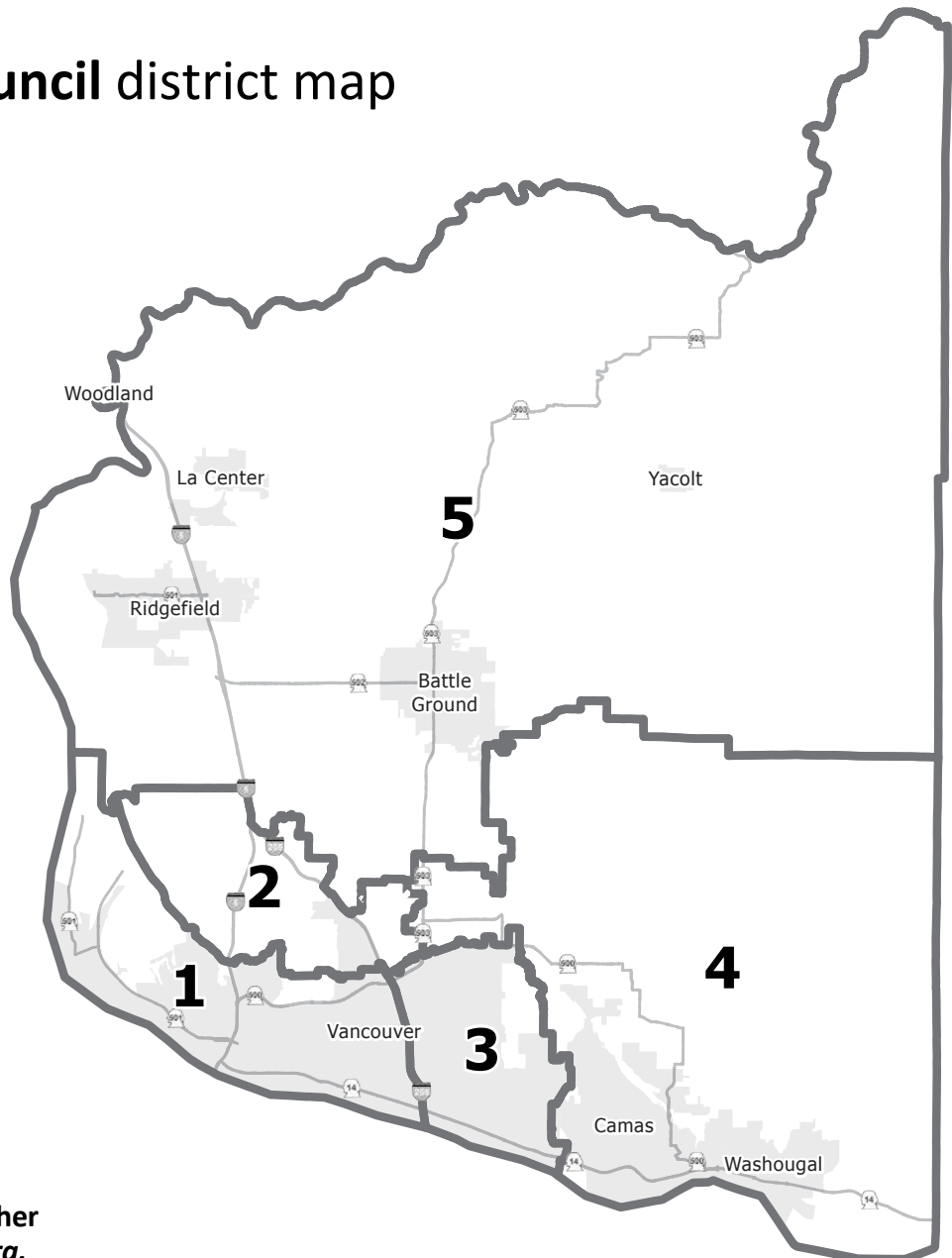
Are you wondering which jurisdictions you live in?

There are several ways to find out:

- **Log in** to VoteWA.gov to view your personalized voter information
- **Refer** to your voter registration card to view your jurisdictions
- **Contact** Clark County Elections:
564-397-2345
elections@clark.wa.gov
- **Visit** clarkvotes.org and click on “Voter Resources” in the left-hand column and select “Voter District Information”. Click “Open Fullscreen Map” for easier viewing. Click on the layer list icon that is located directly under the address field to select which district you want to look up. Select one district at a time or multiple if you prefer. Enter your address. Zoom in and out of the map to follow the district lines.

Clark County Council district map

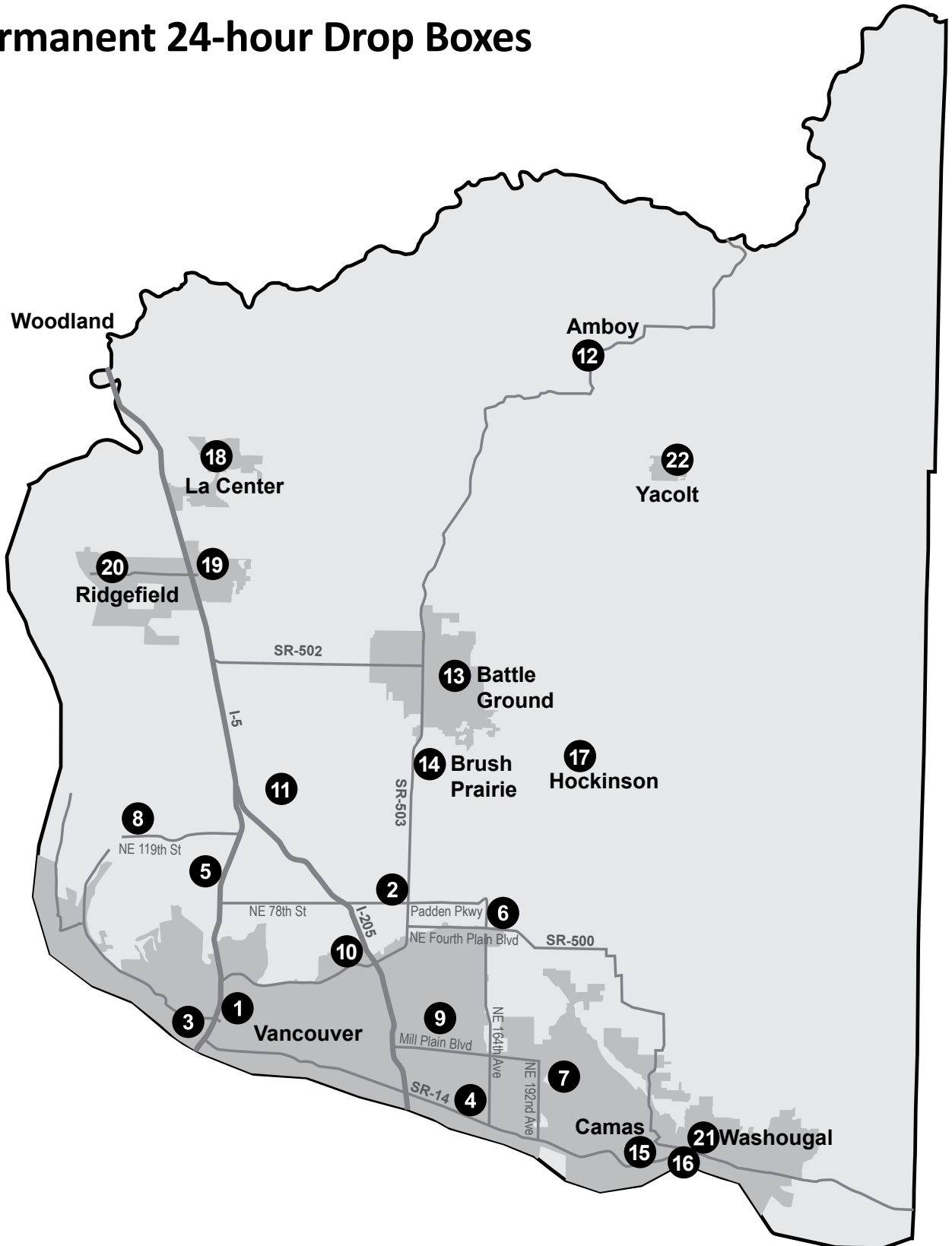
-  Clark County Council district boundary
-  Highway
-  City



To view detailed maps of all other jurisdictions, visit clarkvotes.org.

Ballot deposit locations

Permanent 24-hour Drop Boxes



Ballot deposit locations

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Starting on October 16 until 8 pm on Election Day, you may return your voted ballot **in person** to our office, or to one of the following locations:

Clark County Elections Office **1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver**

Regular hours *open 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday*

Saturday, November 2 *open 9 am to 4 pm*

Election Day *open 7 am to 8 pm*

Red permanent ballot drop boxes *(available 24 hours a day until 8 pm on Election Day)*

Vancouver locations

- 1 Clark College 1933 Fort Vancouver Way (between Hanna Hall and the Penguin Bldg. near flagpole, walk-up only)
- 2 Clark Public Utilities Operations Center 8600 NE 117th Avenue (southeast parking lot)
- 3 Downtown Vancouver West 14th and Esther Streets
- 4 Fisher's Landing Transit Center 3510 SE 164th Avenue
- 5 Hazel Dell – 99th Street Transit Center 9700 NE 7th Avenue (between 94th & 99th Streets)
- 6 Pioneer Elementary/Frontier Middle School 7600 NE 166th Avenue (parking lot between the two schools)
- 7 Shahala Middle School 601 SE 192nd Avenue (located near flagpole)
- 8 Thomas Jefferson Middle School 3000 NW 119th Street (parking lot)
- 9 USPS – Cascade Park 13651 NE 4th Street
- 10 Vancouver Mall Southeast of Macy's near the C-Tran Vine Station (parking lot)
- 11 WSU-Vancouver 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue (WSU Entrance Road entering from NE Salmon Creek Avenue, turn right at the first street into the south parking lot)

Other Clark County locations

- 12 Amboy Middle School 22115 NE Chelatchie Road, Amboy (west parking lot)
- 13 Battle Ground Post Office 418 W Main Street, Battle Ground (next to the blue USPS mailboxes)
- 14 Brush Prairie Post Office 12012 NE 150th Circle, Brush Prairie
- 15 Camas Post Office Downtown 440 NE 5th Avenue, Camas
- 16 Camas Washougal Municipal Court 89 C Street, Washougal
- 17 Hockinson Community Center 15916 NE 182nd Avenue, Brush Prairie (parking lot)
- 18 La Center 1001 E 4th Street, La Center (west end of parking lot)
- 19 Ridgefield Junction Park and Ride Pioneer Street exit, east of I-5, 125 N 65th Ave, Ridgefield (north side of parking lot)
- 20 Ridgefield School District Administrative Office 510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield (walk-up only)
- 21 Washougal Library 1661 C Street, Washougal (walk-up only)
- 22 Yacolt Primary School 507 W Yacolt Road, Yacolt (south parking lot)

WSU Vancouver Student Engagement Hub

WSU Vancouver offers a student engagement hub to provide its students the opportunity to print their online ballot and deposit it into a secured ballot drop box.

Washington State University Vancouver

Firstenburg Student Commons (FSC) Vancouver
14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave • Vancouver, WA 98686

Available November 5, Election Day only – 10 am until 8 pm

Accessible voting

Using the Touch Writer

Clark County voters with disabilities have the option of casting their ballot independently using an accessible voting unit.

The Touch Writer voting unit is a ballot marking electronic machine that allows voters with disabilities, including those who are blind, mobility-impaired or lack upper-body dexterity, to vote privately and independently. The Touch Writer is in a booth that is wheelchair-accessible.

Beginning 18 days before each election, this accessible voting machine is available from 8 am to 5 pm, and on Election Day from 7 am to 8 pm at the Clark County Elections Office, 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver.

To get to the Elections Office on C-Tran, take bus #25 Fruit Valley and St. Johns route. The bus stop is located at Franklin Street and Mill Plain Boulevard.

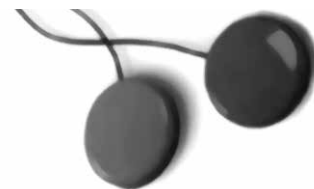


The Touch Writer unit is in a wheelchair-accessible booth.

About the Touch Writer

The Touch Writer is accessible in several ways:

- For those who cannot operate the Touch Writer using the buttons and wheel, special interface devices are available as shown here.
- For those who cannot see or read the Touch Writer screen, use the headphones with volume control to hear the ballot.



Accessible features

- Those who are visually impaired or have difficulty reading can listen to the ballot. The SELECT wheel is the trigger to the audio. Turning clockwise moves the listener through the ballot. To hear something repeated, turn the SELECT wheel counterclockwise. Those using hearing aids with a telecoil mode may use their neckloop rather than the headphones.
- Voters who lack upper-body dexterity can use the jelly switches to move through the ballot. The RED jelly switch is the same as the SELECT wheel. The GREEN jelly switch is the same as the ENTER button.
- Voters with quadriplegia can use their sip-n-puff to vote the ballot. Sip to move through the ballot. Puff to mark your choice.



Voting instructions

Here are a few important reminders to make sure your ballot is counted.

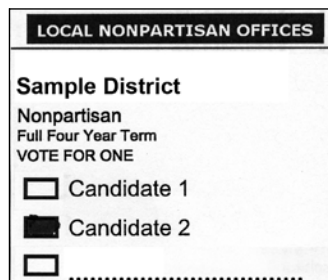
Your ballot packet will be mailed to you at least 18 days before the November 5, 2024 General and Special Election. It will contain:

- An instruction sheet that explains the voting process
- The official ballot where you will mark your choices
- A security sleeve
- A postage-paid return envelope

Mark your ballot by completely filling in the box to the left of your choice with a black or blue ink pen. If you want to vote for a candidate not appearing on the ballot, mark the box to the left of the dotted line provided to indicate your choice. Be sure to mark only one choice for each race or measure on the ballot.

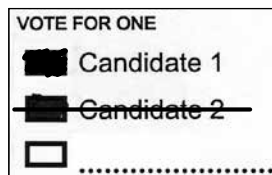
*Example:
Candidate 2 has been chosen.*

One candidate has been marked and the box is filled in completely.



Check your ballot to be sure you have voted for the candidates and measures you intended. Make sure you mark only one response box in each race or measure. If you mark more than one, your vote in that race will not be counted. Your other votes will be counted if they are done correctly. Leaving an office or ballot measure blank will not invalidate your ballot.

If you make a mistake marking your ballot, draw a line through the incorrectly marked choice as shown. You then have the option of marking another choice.



You must sign and date your return envelope in order for your ballot to be counted!

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote when you obtained your driver's license, the signature on your driver's license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you registered to vote online, the signature in your voter registration record is either your driver's license signature or the signature you uploaded directly to the voter portal.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your signature to go through the mail. See pages 6-7 for a complete list of ballot deposit locations.

*Follow the instruction sheet included with your ballot to **seal, sign, date and return your ballot.***

Washington State's voting rights

17-year-old voters

Washington Legislation passed in March of 2020 allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 by a General Election are able to vote in the preceding Primary.

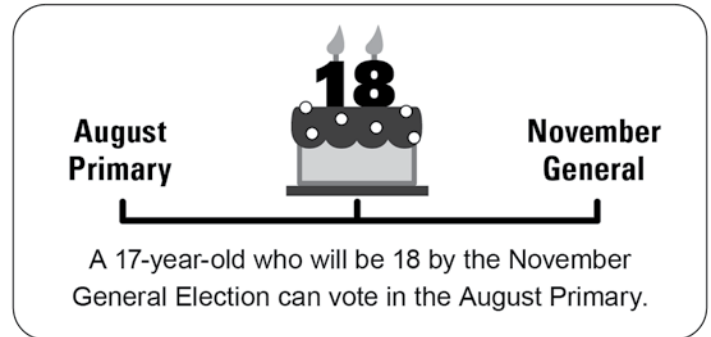
Sixteen and seventeen year-olds can pre-register and will automatically be registered when they are eligible to vote.

Pre-registering can be done through:

- Clark County Elections Office
- Department of Licensing
- Online at VoteWA.gov

Not sure if you've pre-registered?

Call Clark County Elections at 564-397-2345 and make sure your physical and mailing address are current so you receive your ballot.



Felony Conviction and Voting Rights

Washington Legislation went into effect January 1, 2022 regarding convicted felons and their right to vote.

When is my right to vote restored?

- If you were convicted of a felony in a Washington State court, your right to vote is restored automatically once you are no longer serving a sentence of total confinement in prison.
- If you were convicted of a felony in another state or in federal court, your right to vote is restored automatically as long as you are no longer serving a sentence of total confinement in prison.
- You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or a conviction in juvenile court.

Registering to vote

Once your right to vote is restored, you must register to vote even if you were previously registered. You do not need a certificate of discharge to register to vote.

You can register to vote at:

- Clark County Elections Office
- Department of Licensing
- Online at VoteWA.gov

New ballot packet design

A new look to your ballot packet!

Ballot packets will be mailed to voters starting on October 16. They will look much different than they have in the past.

This redesigned ballot packet significantly streamlines the entire process allowing Elections staff to concentrate on other administrative processes, including voter roll maintenance and customer service.

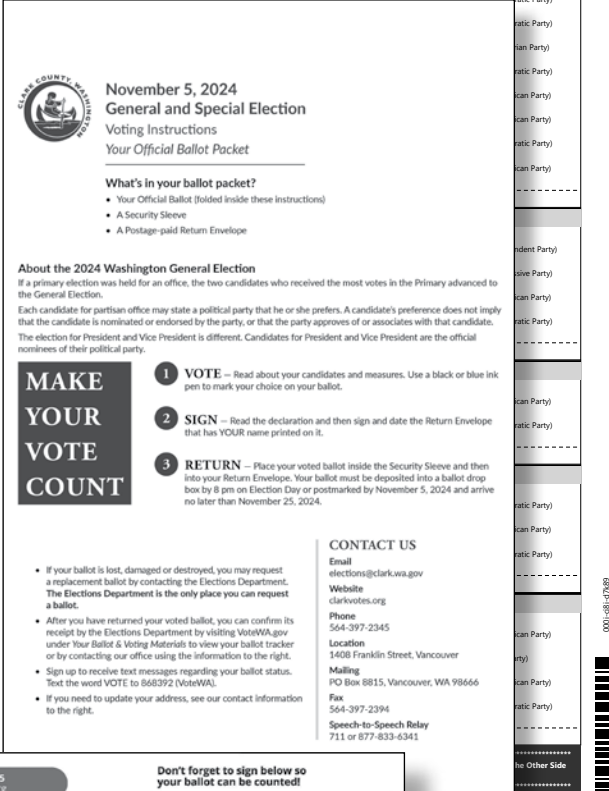
NEW FEATURES:

- The outer envelope is much larger – it will be easier to spot among other mail that arrives in your mailbox.
- The return envelope is larger as well. With this new design, we no longer need to print the voter's address on it which eliminates the possibility of the USPS mistakenly returning a voted ballot back to the voter instead of to the Elections Office.
- The voting instructions are now wrapped around the ballot. This "wrap" will identify and describe whether the ballot packet is the first ballot issued, the replacement ballot or a reissued ballot. It will also list the three nearest drop box locations to the precinct in which you live.
- The ballot will be folded in such a way that the folds do not occur in the barcode area, which is considered a best practice by the tabulation vendor to avoid potential scanning issues.

Official Ballot
Precinct 102
Page 1 of 2

Clark County, Washington		State Partisan Offices		Lieutenant Governor	
Who Donates to Campaigns? View contributors for candidates and measures Public Disclosure Commission www.pdc.wa.gov Toll Free (877) 601-2828		Governor <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers StandupAmerica Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Unaffiliated Party)		<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Libertarian Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Republican Party) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate (Prefers Democratic Party)	

Instructions



November 5, 2024
General and Special Election
Voting Instructions
Your Official Ballot Packet

What's in your ballot packet?

- Your Official Ballot (looked inside these instructions)
- A Security Sleeve
- A Postage-paid Return Envelope

About the 2024 Washington General Election

If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advanced to the General Election.

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate. The election for President and Vice President is different. Candidates for President and Vice President are the official nominees of their political party.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

- VOTE** – Read about your candidates and measures. Use a black or blue ink pen to mark your choice on your ballot.
- SIGN** – Read the declaration and then sign and date the Return Envelope that has YOUR name printed on it.
- RETURN** – Place your voted ballot inside the Security Sleeve and then into your Return Envelope. Your ballot must be deposited into a ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day or postmarked by November 5, 2024 and arrive no later than November 25, 2024.

CONTACT US

Email: elections@clark.wa.gov
Website: clarkvotes.org
Phone: 564-397-2345
Location: 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver
Mailing: PO Box 8815, Vancouver, WA 98666
Fax: 564-397-2394
Speech-to-Speech Relay: 711 or 877-833-6341

564-397-2345
clarkvotes.org

Don't forget to sign below so your ballot can be counted!

Read the declaration

I, **[Name]**, solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am a natural born citizen of the United States of America and that I meet the requirements for voting mandated by state law. At least 18 years old on election day, or 21 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election, voting only once in this election and not voting in any other federal, state or local jurisdiction from serving a sentence of local confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a conviction for a felony or misdemeanor or for a conviction for a felony or misdemeanor involving the same or similar offenses, and that I am not a candidate for office or an agent of any candidate for office and that I am not attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsifying the declaration in a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

Sign & Date (signing for someone else is a Class C Felony)

Your signature must match what you sign registration and your ballot to be counted.

Today's date: / /

I am the voter
 I am signing for another voter

Print or phone number (optional) in case there is an issue with your signature

ATTENTION - READ CAREFULLY - If the voter is physically present and unable to sign their name, the voter can choose to have a third signature witness and have the witness sign below. This may not be a power of attorney to sign for someone else.

Signature of witness 1: _____ Signature of witness 2: _____
CLW04043002 - 09/18/16

Information?
For more information, including voters' rights, visit clarkvotes.org or scan the QR code.

This end up

- Fold and insert your voted ballot into this security sleeve. Some of your ballot will stick out from the side. One ballot per sleeve. Do not tape or seal this sleeve.
- Insert this sleeve into the return envelope.

Security sleeve

CLW04043001 - 8/1/16

CLW04043002 - 09/18/16
clarkvotes.org
564-397-2345

Greg Kimsey, Auditor
Clark County Elections
PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

OFFICIAL ELECTION MAIL
If this voter no longer lives here, write "Moved - no longer here" and place back in your mailbox.

Your Official Ballot

CLW04043001 - 8/1/16

Local Voters' Pamphlet

Position descriptions

Federal Offices

President of the United States

The President must be at least 35 years old, a natural born U.S. citizen, and have lived in the United States for at least 14 years. The President is Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces and is empowered within the federal government (with Senate approval). The President is head of one of the three branches of government. The President is also required to report to Congress annually on the state of the union, and may also propose legislation and veto bills.

U.S. Senator

Senators must be at least 30 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least nine years. Senators serve six-year terms. The Senate has 100 members; two from each state. The Senate has several exclusive powers, including consenting to treaties, confirming federal appointments made by the President, and trying federal officials impeached by the House of Representatives.

U.S. Representative

Representatives must be at least 25 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least seven years. Representatives are not required to be registered voters of their district, but must be registered voters of the state. Representatives serve two-year terms. The House of Representatives has 435 members, all of whom are up for election in even-numbered years. Each state has a different number of members based on population. After the 2010 Census, Washington was given a 10th Congressional District.

State executive offices

Statewide-elected executives must be registered Washington voters and are elected to four-year terms.

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and makes appointments for hundreds of state positions, including directors of state agencies (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The Governor has the power to sign or veto (reject) legislation, and annually submits a budget recommendation and reports on state affairs to the Legislature.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is elected independent of the Governor, and serves as the presiding officer of the state Senate. The Lieutenant Governor is first in line of succession and becomes Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State leads the state Elections Division, Corporations and Charities Division, state Archives and Library, and other programs and services. The Office of the Secretary of State manages corporation and charity filings, collects and preserves historical state records, and governs the use of the state flag and seal. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession for Governor.

State Treasurer

As the state's finance officer, the Treasurer manages the cash flow, investments, and debt of all major state accounts. The Treasurer serves on the State Investment Board, providing guidance for the management of long-term debt and investments, and Chairs the Public Deposit Protection Commission, ensuring the safety of public deposits in qualified banks.

State Auditor

The Auditor works with state and local governments to conduct independent financial and performance audits. The Auditor publicly investigates state employee whistleblower claims about agencies and reports of fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer money received through its citizen hotline.

Attorney General

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state officials, and more than 200 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities. The Office of the Attorney General protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act and provides public information about consumer rights and scams.

Commissioner of Public Lands

The Commissioner of Public Lands is the head of the Department of Natural Resources, overseeing management of more than 5 million acres of state forest, agricultural, range, aquatic, and commercial lands. The Commissioner manages the state's largest on-call fire department, preventing and fighting wildfires on 13 million acres of private, state and tribal-owned forest lands.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Superintendent heads the state education agency and is chief executive officer of the state Board of Education. The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the state's kindergarten through twelfth grade education program. The office certifies teaching personnel, approves and accredits programs, and distributes state and local funds.

Position descriptions

Insurance Commissioner

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner regulates insurance companies doing business in Washington, licenses agents and brokers, reviews policies and rates, examines the operations and finances of insurers, and handles inquiries and complaints from the public.

Public Utilities Commissioner

Clark Public Utilities is governed by an elected board of three commissioners. The commission sets utility policy, approves annual budgets, establishes rates, approves major purchases and investments, and selects a general manager to oversee the utility operations and staff.

State legislative offices

Legislators propose and enact public policy, set a budget, provide for the collection of taxes to support state and local government. Legislators must be registered voters of their district.

State Senator

The Senate has 49 members; one from each legislative district in the state. Senators are elected to four-year terms, and approximately one-half of the membership of the Senate is up for election each even-numbered year. The Senate's only exclusive duty is to confirm appointments made by the governor.

State Representative

The House of Representatives has 98 members; two from each legislative district in the state. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, so the total membership of the House is up for election each even-numbered year.

State judicial offices

Washington judges are nonpartisan. Judicial candidates must be in good standing to practice law in Washington and are prohibited from statements that appear to commit them on legal issues that may come before them in court. Judges must be registered Washington voters.

Supreme Court Justice

The Washington Supreme Court is the highest judiciary in the state. State Supreme Court justices hear appeals and decide cases from Courts of Appeals and other lower courts. Nine justices are elected statewide to serve six-year terms.

Clark County offices

County Councilor

Elected to four-year terms, members of the Clark County Council hold legislative authority for Clark County. The Council is responsible for: Adopting the annual budget; Developing and implementing planning and zoning policies; Making appointments to some advisory committees and boards; Adopting all county ordinances. Candidates must be registered voters and residents of their district at the time of filing.

Do your part!

While the Elections Office is continually updating the voter rolls with information from the Department of Licensing, the post office, local obituaries and a monthly public health deceased list, **you can do your part by following these simple steps:**

- **Update your address** with the Elections Office whenever it changes. Address changes can be made online through *VoteWA.gov*, by email, mail or phone until 5 pm October 28. You may update your registration in-person until 8 pm on Election Day.
- If you are a snowbird or a college student, use our simple web form or call to set up a **temporary or seasonal mailing address**.
- **Return to Sender!** If you receive a ballot for a person who does not live at your residence, write “Does not live here” on the **unopened** envelope and put it back in the mail. This does not apply to military or overseas voters.
- If you receive a ballot for a **recently deceased voter**, write “Deceased” on the **unopened** envelope and put it back in the mail. We will research and follow up.

Keeping up-to-date with the Elections Office is quick and easy!

clarkvotes.org
elections@clark.wa.gov
PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666
564-397-2345



Candidate and measure statements are printed exactly as submitted.

Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

Candidate statements and contact information are current as of publication date. Please visit the online voters' guide at *clarkvotes.org* and click on the *VoteWA* graphic to see a personalized voters' guide with the most current information.

Clark County
Councilor, District No. 3



Chuck Keplar

Elected Experience Ran for Evergreen School District Board in 2023, receiving a strong endorsement from The Columbian.

Other Professional Experience Owner/operator of a construction company. A pastor of a church with over 600 members. Currently working as a paraeducator in high school education,

supporting students with significant needs.

Education Graduating this fall with a Bachelor of Science in Christian Leadership and Management from Liberty University.

Community Service Serving underprivileged youth in nonprofit organizations and schools. Mentoring foster parents. Decades volunteering in sports. Policy council member of a nonprofit with a budget exceeding fifteen million dollars. Experienced in political lobbying, with advocacy efforts in Olympia and Washington D.C.

Statement Clark County has been my home for 24 years and I am the *only candidate* who hasn't just recently moved here. This is where I've raised my eight children, six who joined my family through the foster system. I've been an active member of this community for decades.

I will address issues that matter to families in Clark County. County spending and taxes must decrease. Crime needs to be addressed to keep families safe. Tolls, just another way to tax families, must not be allowed.

Our taxes have increased over the years, and families are feeling the strain. I will work diligently through the county budget to reduce expenditures, identify savings, and consequently lower taxes in Clark County. Community and home safety are paramount. I will propose using funds from the public safety tax to reintroduce SROs to our schools. I will promote policies that enable our county sheriff to enforce current laws. Tolls on I-5 and congestion on I-205 are potential problems that could become realities in the next few years. I will strive to increase capacity across the Columbia River without tolls.

I will be your voice on the Clark County Council. Families First, Lower Taxes, No Tolls.

Phone 360-524-2550
Email chuck@electkeplar.com
Website electkeplar.com

Clark County
Councilor, District No. 3



Wil Fuentes

Elected Experience No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience Over 15 years of leadership experience in banking operations, non-profit program management and higher education.

Education Portland State University: B.A. in Community Development; Western Oregon University: M.A. in

Organizational Leadership with Graduate Certificates in Operational and Executive Leadership

Community Service Clark County Low-Income Housing Committee, Clark County, WA; The Heights Community Investment Committee and Climate Change Work Group, Vancouver, WA; Planning Commission, Comprehensive Plan 2035 Advisory Board, Housing Needs Analysis Subcommittee, Transportation Steering Committee and Affordable Housing Committee, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Statement As your councilor, I will work across the county to prioritize the well-being and prosperity of our neighbors. With my background in banking, nonprofit management, and land use, I know the best way to achieve results is by bringing people together to find common solutions.

Growing up, my family faced housing insecurity, moving frequently because of rising costs. This personal experience drives me to bring housing that meets the needs of everyone at all income levels. We must ensure a beautiful and safe Clark County that meets our neighbors where they're at as they face homelessness, mental health issues, and substance abuse.

Having served as a city planning commissioner, I will bring realistic land use solutions that build community, support small business, and sustain our economic vitality. A balance must be struck between development and sustainability to promote opportunity and ensure responsible stewardship of our air and water.

Effective, responsive governance requires listening to community needs and building collaboration between government, local organizations, and our neighbors. As your councilor, I will listen and advocate for a transparent county council that is held accountable. Together, we can create a healthier and more vibrant Clark County now and for future generations.

Phone 360-553-1933
Email wil@electwil.com
Website electwil.com

Clark County

Councilor, District No. 4



Joe Zimmerman

Elected Experience Clark-Cowlitz Farm Bureau, Legislative Committee - Chair. Washington Farm Bureau, Promotion and Education Committee - VP. Clark County Solid Waste Advisory Commission - VP.

Other Professional Experience Fifth-generation Clark County farmer and the Finance Manager at Bi-Zi Farms.

A former US Marine, owner/operator truck driver, machinery salesman and site manager at the Heritage Farm.

Education Washington State University Vancouver, B.A. in Business and Operations Management

Community Service Clark-Cowlitz Farms Bureau, Friends of the Heritage Farm, Clark County Solid Waste Advisory Commission, Friends of Clark County, SW Washington Victory Garden Project. Additionally, my wife and I spent the last two years as foster parents.

Statement I am running for election to the Council because I love Clark County. As someone who was born and raised here, I feel that my primary duty is to represent the people who came before me, and those that will come after me, making sure that Clark County continues to grow in a meaningful and intelligent way.

My top priorities will be addressing the housing crisis while protecting farmland, animal habitat and open space. We must plan to grow but do so realizing that they aren't making more land. I will also strive to promote local food production, a topic that I am uniquely qualified to address. I want to see Clark County farmers feeding the people of Clark County.

We must plan for the future using broad vision, anticipating our needs years into the future, not just the needs of today. We need safe schools, well-equipped law enforcement, good roads, a clean environment, new and robust jobs, abundant parks and a replacement I-5 bridge. We need to embrace the future, without forgetting our past!

My love for this county is why I chose to run for the Council. I would appreciate your vote to make that happen.

Email joe@ElectJoeZ.com

Website ElectJoeZ.com

Clark County

Councilor, District No. 4



Matt Little

Elected Experience Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Partnership, Co-Chair (current); U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Senior Adviser; Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, Policy Analyst.

Other Professional Experience Ducks Unlimited, Director of Public Policy (current); World Salmon Council - Salmon

Watch Youth Education Program, Director (current); Cascade Forest Conservancy of SW Washington, Executive Director; 20+ years experience in the Pacific Northwest working on conservation and resource management.

Education Dartmouth College, BA Biology; Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs - Syracuse University, Master of Public Administration.

Community Service Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Washington Board Policy Chair; South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative Member; Eagle Scout; Grace Church Member; Camas School District Volunteer.

Statement *Helping families and businesses. Building better communities.* These are my goals and my commitment to you.

Through good planning, we can create vibrant communities with affordable housing, healthy local businesses and jobs, and balanced growth - priorities that will preserve Clark County's urban values, rural economy, and beautiful open spaces.

For 30 years in public service and leading nonprofit businesses, I have helped manage our land and natural resources to benefit our community. I am committed to strong economic growth that preserves our unique way of life. But families are struggling with today's high cost of living. As a fiscal conservative, I will prioritize County resources for essential services and community safety while being very careful with your hard-earned money.

As a father of two girls, living in a community that values family and education is important to me. I will work hard to preserve these values so that we can create a better future for our kids. Please read more about my priorities at mattlittle4clarkcounty.org, and on Instagram and Facebook @ElectMattLittle. I am an independent voice who will listen and work hard for you. Let's move forward together for a better Clark County!

Phone 360-844-0682

Email mattlittle4clarkcounty@gmail.com

Website mattlittle4clarkcounty.org

Public Utilities District No. 1 of Clark County

Commissioner, District No. 1



Sherry Erickson

Elected Experience N/A

Other Professional Experience

Industry expert and consultant for utilities and municipalities across the US. Developed the budget model to launch the Orange County Power Authority in 2022 and delivered lower energy rates than the competing Investor-Owned Utility. Licensed Professional Engineer,

American Public Power Association, Northwest Public Power Association, American Water Works Association

Education Master of Business Administration, Washington State University; B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Brigham Young University; Advanced Utility Accounting certified, American Public Power Association

Community Service nPower Girls Industry Partner for local schools (introduces STEM careers to students); Volunteer for Red Cross blood drive, Stream Steward on StreamTeam, ShareHouse, and St. Paul Shelter

Statement Prices are rising faster than wages. Complex markets, carbon-free energy mandates, and rising demands are changing the utility industry. Clark County needs an experienced leader to take on these challenges and deliver. I've consulted with utilities and have a track record of successfully expanding services and lowering rates. I'm ready to modernize our utility and strengthen our local economy.

My expertise includes 30 years of work experience in business management, engineering design, and consulting. I've improved water and electric utilities across the US with comprehensive rate design and cost-of-service analyses. My clients benefited from effective policies that foster economic stability, environmental stewardship, and great customer service.

If elected, I'll use my expertise to balance infrastructure development and operational costs with fiscal responsibility. To keep rates low, I'll take advantage of grants for clean energy production. PUDs across the state have also received millions of dollars in grants to build fast, reliable fiber internet infrastructure. I'll evaluate opportunities for Clark PUD and take fiscally responsible action. Clean water is essential. I'll maintain our underground aquifers and well systems, and upgrade our aging water lines and treatment facilities.

I would be honored to serve you and earn your vote.

Phone 360-836-8264
Email sherryericksonPUD@gmail.com
Website electsherryerickson.com

Public Utilities District No. 1 of Clark County

Commissioner, District No. 1



James Oneil

Elected Experience None

Other Professional Experience

23-year career in business development and customer service, collaborating with engineers, municipalities, utility districts, and contractors across the Northwest. I understand the operational complexity and critical role these entities provide for the community.

Education Studied Criminal Justice-Clark College. Certifications: NACE CIP 1 Protective Coating Inspector Program and SSPC Concrete Coatings Technician (Society Protective Coatings).

Community Service Founder – John McKibbin Legacy Classic, 2023 Leadership Clark County Outstanding Alumni Award, Building Futures Foundation, CDM Caregiving Services, Children's Center, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, Northwest Blind Athletes, Read Northwest, Shared Hope, Seton Catholic High School, King's Way Christian School, Vancouver School District.

Statement As a lifelong Clark County resident, I'm driven to give back to the community that shaped who I am today. Collaborating with Clark PUD experts, I'll utilize my business and customer service background to be visible, approachable, communicate and listen effectively, and make decisions in customers' best interests.

As our area grows, maintaining exceptional service, reliability, and affordable rates will require diligent management. It is imperative to find solutions that work for all our customers; from the largest corporation to the single parent struggling to pay their power bill. I'm dedicated to amplifying awareness of Clark PUD's financial assistance program available to our customers.

Innovation plays a crucial role in preserving and strengthening the power grid by introducing efficient technology. I'm committed to finding inclusive solutions, embracing innovation to bolster reliability while ensuring safe transmission at a cost families can afford. For 18 years of my career, I was engaged in the planning of large-scale municipal industrial projects, optimizing asset service life, while adhering to municipal budgets, and directly contributing to projects from inception to completion. All skills I hope to translate to serving you as your next PUD Commissioner.

Vote Oneil for a community-powered, future-focused approach.

Phone 360-726-1250
Email electJOforPUD@gmail.com
Website Oneil4PUD.com

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Clark County

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 16

Concerning the Sheriff's Salary

The Clark County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2024-06-07 proposing an amendment to the County Home Rule Charter, concerning the Sheriff's salary. If approved, this amendment would adjust the Sheriff's salary to eight percent (8%) higher than the highest step of the Undersheriff salary range.

Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

The sheriff's pay has not kept up with other law enforcement executives. It is significantly below that of many law-enforcement personnel reporting to him. This disparity is unworkable in the long term, unfair, and indirectly risks public safety.

The sheriff's 2024 salary is 30% less than the undersheriffs and an average of 25% less for all the sheriff's command staff, including chief deputies and commanders. The current sheriff, formerly the Chief Criminal Deputy, has taken a 27% pay cut from his former position. Unless fixed, this disparity will undermine future public safety by discouraging highly qualified law enforcement personnel from running for sheriff and encouraging less qualified candidates to do so.

Washington State retirement for law enforcement is calculated based on a 5-year consecutive salary average. This large salary cut significantly reduces retirement pay for any executive seeking this position, which, in turn, will dramatically reduce our pool of exceptional candidates. The current method of computing the sheriff's salary, in Charter Section 5.5.B.1., specified the salary at \$106,224 in 2014 and allows subsequent adjusted percentage changes approved by the state salary commission for state legislators. The sheriff is not a state legislator and should not be compensated as such.

The salary method must be appropriate for the highest-ranking law enforcement officer. This amendment sets and maintains the sheriff's salary at 8% higher than the highest step of the undersheriff salary. This method ensures a professional wage and fair retirement pay and, therefore, highly qualified candidates for sheriff.

Statement for submitted by:

Ann Donnelly, Chair
adonnelly7@comcast.net

James Senescu

Garry Lucas

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Clark County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2024-06-07 proposing an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter, concerning the Sheriff's salary. This amendment, if adopted, would make the Sheriff's Salary eight percent (8%) higher than the highest step of the Undersheriff salary range.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

See page 30 for complete text of resolution.

Clark County

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 17

Concerning the redistricting process for Clark County Councilor districts.

The Clark County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2024-06-08 proposing an amendment to the County Home Rule Charter regarding the county council districts redistricting process. If approved, this amendment would increase the redistricting committee to seven (7) nonpartisan members, instead of members selected from lists provided by political parties; require county council to appoint a qualified redistricting master; provide criteria for the redistricting plan; and would require adoption of the redistricting masters plan unless five (5) members amend it.

Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

These changes require the County Council to appoint six members of the County Council Redistricting Committee no later than September 30 in the year the decennial census is conducted. This earlier date assists the committee to be prepared to begin its work when the state redistricting commission provides the federal census data. The Redistricting Committee must appoint the committee chair by an established deadline.

The Council is required to appoint a qualified Redistricting Master who is an employee of the County’s G.I.S. Department. The redistricting plan, created by the Redistricting Master, is subject to amendments by five of the seven Redistricting Committee members.

The redistricting plan, recommended to the County Council, must be consistent with elements set forth in state law, for example, equal population, communities of interest, compact, contiguous, and equal favor and non-discriminatory consideration for all segments of the population. It should equalize population within the districts with as few changes to existing boundaries as possible.

Please consider voting “yes” to strengthen the redistricting process.

Statement for and rebuttal of statement against submitted by:

Ann Rivers, Chair
annrivers18@comcast.net

Anne McEnery-Ogle

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Voters made the County Council offices non-partisan, the Redistricting Committee should also be non-partisan. Of the more than 30 county committees, only the Redistricting Committee requires partisan members. This charter amendment limits gerrymandering by requiring a qualified Redistricting Master, whose plan can only be changed by a super majority vote. The con statement regarding three councilors gerrymandered into the same district relates to a charter amendment approved by voters, not actions by the Redistricting Committee.

Clark County

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This amendment to the County Charter would increase the county council redistricting committee to seven (7) non-partisan members instead of members selected from lists provided by the two major political parties. The council would appoint a qualified redistricting master. This amendment would establish criteria for the redistricting plan: equalizing population between council districts, recognize political jurisdiction boundaries, communities of interest, minimize changes to existing boundaries, not to favor or discriminate against any political party or group. This amendment would require the redistricting masters' plan be adopted unless five committee members agree to amend it.

STATEMENT AGAINST

We oppose this charter amendment to drastically alter redistricting procedures in Clark County. This amendment by the County Auditor endangers the current bipartisan process whereby the 2 major parties submit candidates to County Council for consideration. Council then appoints 2 members from each party to the redistricting committee. If the committee can't agree on a chairperson, the Council can appoint one. The proposed amendment has no mechanism to ensure a balanced committee. Instead, the controlling majority on the County Council could stack the committee entirely, leading to possible gerrymandered district boundaries that serve politicians, not voters.

Over time, the whole council could represent one primary viewpoint. In 2021, the Charter Review Committee proposed a 5-District map, where 3 Councilors who were elected as Republicans were redistricted into the same district! The redistricting map was drawn lacking updated census data, and was put on the ballot without an opposing statement.

This 2024 amendment includes new criteria for redistricting not found in state redistricting law RCW 29A.76.010. The state criteria has been deliberated upon by legislators in public hearings, thus is a more reasonable foundation than untested ideas about redistricting criteria. The current process, though imperfect, offers a more fair and balanced approach by limiting the influence of any single political entity or person.

This amendment threatens that balance and could lead to increased manipulation. We urge voters to Reject this amendment, to preserve the integrity of our redistricting processes and protect the fairness of our elections.

Statement against and rebuttal of statement for submitted by:

Rob Anderson, Chair
rob@reformclarkcounty.com

ReformClarkCounty.com

Stephen Willie

Margaret Tweet

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Government officials, not citizens, are pushing this amendment to shift redistricting power from a bipartisan committee to the County Council. It introduces vague criteria, lacks details, and requires a supermajority to alter proposals, paving the way for gerrymandering that benefits political elites over voters. Reject this dangerous power grab and faulty amendment that undermines fair representation. Learn more at www.reformclarkcounty.com

See pages 31-32 for complete text of resolution.

Clark County

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 18**Concerning submission of initiative petitions by Clark County Registered Voters**

The Clark County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2024-06-09 proposing an amendment to the County Home Rule Charter regarding the initiative process. If this amendment is approved, a petitioner must obtain a statement from the county of estimated increased expenditures, and if so, that statement and Prosecuting Attorney’s opinion must be on the petition and ballot. Signatures required for petitions only affecting unincorporated areas would be calculated using the same method as petitions for the entire county.

Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

We are voting “yes” on this amendment to the county charter because we want to keep improving the relatively new initiative process. As a Charter County, Clark County is proud to be one of only seven counties in Washington that allows for citizen lawmaking through initiatives.

Estimated cost: With passage of this amendment, voters will know up front the cost of the initiative to taxpayers. All benefit from knowing the taxpayers’ cost of proposed laws. The county budget and auditor’s offices would determine if a proposed initiative would result in increased expenses and, if it would, estimate those expenses. The estimate would appear on both the petition that initiative sponsors ask voters to sign and if the petition is successful, on the ballot as well.

Reduced complexity: Initiative sponsors need to know the number of valid signatures they must secure in order to place an initiative on the ballot. However, the current process is found to be confusing because of a complex calculation; this amendment simplifies that calculation.

Is the initiative legal?: Currently the Prosecuting Attorney must provide a statement that the proposed initiative is within, or outside of, the scope of local initiative powers, or that the Prosecuting Attorney does not have an opinion on that issue. This amendment requires the Prosecuting Attorney’s statement to appear on both the petition and also on the ballot if the initiative is successful. Please vote “yes!” to help improve the initiative process and thereby keep it strong.

Statement for and rebuttal of statement against submitted by:

Ann Rivers, Chair
annrivers18@comcast.net

Karen Bowerman

Anne McEnery-Ogle

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This amendment would make absolutely no changes in the ability of voters to enact county ordinances. This amendment would provide valuable information for voters to consider. It would not “concentrate power”, “restrict the initiative process”, “expand the list of topics not allowed”, or “make grassroots efforts more difficult”. In 2022 voters did not reject giving the Prosecuting Attorney authority to “inject” legal opinions into petitions and ballots. It would simply provide voters with valuable information.

Clark County

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Clark County Council has reviewed the process for filing initiatives in the Clark County Home Rule Charter. This amendment would require the Budget Office to determine if the initiative would increase Clark County expenditures and if so, the Auditor's Office must provide a Financial Impact Statement. If a financial impact statement is prepared, that statement and the Prosecuting Attorney's opinion would appear on the petition and ballot. This amendment would calculate the number of signatures required for initiatives that only affect the unincorporated area using the same method as initiatives that affect the entire county.

STATEMENT AGAINST

The Washington Constitution firmly protects the right to petition, declaring it "shall never be abridged." Yet, this proposed charter amendment, the third change to initiatives since 2015, threatens this fundamental right by concentrating power in the hands of a few government officials at the expense of ordinary citizens. Championed by the County Auditor despite strong objections from engaged citizens, these amendments could severely restrict the initiative process.

Clark County already has more restrictions than other Charter Counties in Washington State. If these amendments pass, the Prosecuting Attorney would gain new authority to inject legal opinions into petitions and ballots—an idea voters rejected in 2022. Additionally, the County Auditor would acquire the power to estimate initiative costs, a role currently undertaken when a petition receives a County hearing. The Auditor could also create and approve petition formats that include elements not mandated by state law, such as signers' birthdates on petitions.

The initiative process is crucial for self-governance, especially when elected officials fail to address key issues. Expanding government review powers beyond what state and federal laws require would shift decision-making away from the public and concentrate it in the hands of a few. This is not about improving the system but about consolidating power and making grassroots efforts more difficult.

This amendment expands the list of potential topics not allowed as subjects of initiative. To safeguard the people's voice and preserve the integrity of the initiative process, voters should reject this amendment.

Statement against and rebuttal of statement for submitted by:

Rob Anderson, Chair
rob@reformclarkcounty.com

ReformClarkCounty.com

Stephen Willie

Margaret Tweet

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The proposed amendment expands government officials' power to limit future petitions by expanding subject limitations and allowing them to hinder initiatives under the guise of legal opinions and financial estimates. With no appeal process for potentially debatable opinions and estimates, government officials would have an outsized influence on worthy citizen initiatives that could be suppressed. Reject these added restrictions and requirements that could undermine the right to petition. Learn more at www.reformclarkcounty.com

See pages 33-34 for complete text of resolution.

City of Vancouver

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 8

Concerning Vancouver City Officer Vacancies

The City Council of Vancouver adopted Resolution M-4278 proposing an amendment to the City Charter concerning the criteria under which an office is deemed vacated. If approved, this amendment would modify and clarify the criteria that trigger a vacancy in an elected or appointed City office and would provide that an office is deemed vacant if the office holder is unable to discharge their duties with or without a reasonable accommodation, or if they are absent from the City for 60 consecutive days without permission from City Council.

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 2.06 of the City Charter currently provides criteria for determining whether an appointive or elected City officer position has been vacated. This amendment would eliminate references to criteria that are inconsistent with state or federal law and would otherwise clarify the circumstances under which a City office holder's position is deemed vacant. This amendment would add language providing that an office is deemed vacant if the office holder is unable to discharge their duties, or if they are absent from the City for 60 consecutive days without permission from City Council.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT FOR

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 9

Concerning Methodology for Adjusting Vancouver Councilmember Salary

The City Council of Vancouver adopted Resolution M-4279 concerning how and when salary increases are calculated for City Councilmembers. If approved, this amendment would clarify language relating to the use of an external economic indicator (the Consumer Price Index) to calculate adjustments to City Councilmember salaries and would adjust by two months, the date by which a biennial salary schedule must be adopted by the City's Salary Review Commission.

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 2.18(d) of the City Charter currently contains ambiguous language regarding the use of the Consumer Price Index in determining when and how City Council salaries are adjusted within the two-year cycle for salary review and the City's budget cycle. This amendment would clarify language, adjust timelines, and provide a specific methodology to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index over two calendar years, in a manner that is consistent with the two-year Salary Review Commission and City Budget Cycles.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT FOR

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

See page 36 for complete text of resolution.

City of Vancouver

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 10

Concerning the duties of Vancouver’s City Manager

The City Council of Vancouver adopted Resolution M-4280 proposing an amendment to the City Charter concerning the City Manager’s budgetary responsibilities. If approved, this amendment would clarify that the City Manager must prepare and submit to City Council a two-year budget as required by State law and City Charter and must submit a complete report dedicated to the City’s finances at the end of each fiscal year.

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 3.03 of the City Charter currently states the City Manager must prepare the City budget annually even though state law, the City Charter, and City Ordinance provide for a two year budget cycle. In addition, this section requires that the City Manager submit an annual report to City Council regarding the City’s finances and administrative activities. This amendment would require the City Manager to prepare and submit the City budget consistent with the City’s two-year budget cycle and a complete report of the City’s finances at the end of each fiscal year.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT FOR

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 11

Concerning City of Vancouver Contracting Procedures

The City Council of Vancouver adopted Resolution M-4281 proposing an amendment to the City Charter concerning the procedure for approving certain contracts. If approved, this amendment would eliminate the procedural requirement that City contracts with a term of more than five years must be approved by adoption of a City Ordinance. Such contracts would be approved according to the requirements of state law, the City Charter, and the Vancouver Municipal Code.

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 11.05 of the City Charter currently provides that City contracts involving the payment of money with a term of more than five years must be approved by a City Ordinance regardless of the subject matter or dollar value of the contract. This amendment would eliminate the requirement that contracts with terms of more than five years be approved by City Ordinance. Such contracts would be approved according to the requirements of state law, the City Charter, and the Vancouver Municipal Code.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT FOR

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

See page 38 for complete text of resolution.

City of Vancouver

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 12
Concerning Initiative and Referendum Petitions

The City Council of Vancouver adopted Resolution M-4282 proposing an amendment to the City Charter concerning the technical requirements for initiative and referendum petitions. If approved, this amendment would remove language referencing physical paper and indelible signatures that would prevent the acceptance of electronic signatures on petitions and would permit the City Council to authorize the acceptance of electronic signatures on petitions when, and to the extent, allowed by state law.

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

The existing language of the Vancouver City Charter is outdated and limits the accessibility of civic engagement opportunities for our residents. Approving this amendment is crucial to removing barriers to participation in the petitioning process.

The current language’s specific references to physical paper and wet ink mean that participation in petition efforts must be done in-person, creating risks and challenges across diverse demographics including elderly, disabled, and immunocompromised residents. In times of public health crises, minimizing physical contact is essential. The amended language prepares the City for future-state alternatives that reduce the need for in-person interactions, helping to protect our most vulnerable populations.

In-person participation requirements also create barriers during severe weather events, such as winter storms and extreme heat, as well as during periods of poor air quality caused by wildfires. Approval of this amendment will allow the City to explore alternative methods for capturing voter support for petitions without relying solely on in-person signature gathering. Additionally, adopting alternative petitioning methods in the future could reduce the environmental impact of the process by cutting down on the printing, distribution, and storage of large quantities of paper.

As Vancouver's population continues to grow and technology evolves, we must be prepared to embrace modern advancements to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to engage in our democratic processes safely and effectively.

Statement for submitted by:

Terah Ebie, Chair
 terahebie@gmail.com

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of the City Charter currently require that initiative and referendum petitions be circulated on physical paper and that all signatures be made with indelible ink or pencil. This amendment would remove the physical paper and indelible signature requirement and would permit the City Council to authorize the acceptance of electronic signatures on initiative and referendum petitions when, and to the extent, allowed by state law.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

City of Vancouver

Proposition No. 4

Police and Public Safety Services Levy Lid Lift

The Vancouver City Council adopted Resolution M-4288 concerning a levy lid lift to fund police and public safety. If approved, this proposition would fund police and public safety services, including staffing, equipment, technology, facilities, and criminal justice costs; increase Vancouver's regular property tax by approximately \$0.41/\$1,000 assessed valuation, for a maximum levy rate not to exceed \$2.63/\$1,000 for 2025; set the limit factor for Vancouver's total regular property tax levy for 2026-2030 to 100% plus annual increase of 5%; and authorize the 2030 levy amount as the basis to calculate subsequent levies (84.55 RCW).

Should this amendment be approved?

Yes

No

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

Reliable public safety is vital to a thriving community. This is why we ask you to vote yes on Proposition 4. Vancouver is at a pivotal point. Population growth to nearly 200,000 has strained policing resources. Adequate staffing and supportive assets are necessary to address our growing public safety needs. We must send a strong message of accountability for perpetrators of crime and demonstrate support for law enforcement with this measure. We should all feel safe in our homes, businesses, and public spaces. Inadequate staffing levels do not allow sufficient crime prevention or investigations to the degree expected by Vancouver's residents.

With passage of this proposition, improvements include: 80 additional full-time sworn officers; 36 additional full-time equivalent non-sworn police positions; efficiency enhancing technologies; and support for jail, corrections, and public defense resources. Proposition 4 includes facilities investment necessary to support increased staffing and equipment and vehicles consistent with current and future standards.

Targeted outcomes for Vancouver's residents include: reductions in violent and property crime; additional capacity for investigations; increased routine patrol and traffic enforcement; and stronger community conflict resolution. We can anticipate additions to our Neighborhood Police Officer Program and Homeless Assistance Resource Team. Deployment of innovative technologies will improve efficiency, officer safety, and response times.

We recognize the impact of this request on Vancouver's property owners, but urgency dictates that we must act boldly now to secure funding critical to Vancouver's public safety.

Statement for submitted by:

Bart Hansen, Chair
Bart@barthansen.com

Martha Baumgarten

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Washington law authorizes cities to seek voter approval to increase, or "lift", the regular property tax limit. If approved, this proposition would increase Vancouver's regular levy by approximately \$0.41/\$1,000 for a maximum rate of \$2.63/\$1,000 in 2025, increasing annually by up to 5% through 2030, and would fund increased levels of police and public safety services, to include additional officers, equipment, technology, facilities, and other criminal justice costs. The 2030 levy amount would be the basis to calculate subsequent levies. The estimated 2025 impact of this proposition for a home assessed at \$500,000 would be an additional \$205.

No statements were submitted for:

STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

See pages 40-41 for complete text of resolution.

Clark County — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 16

Ordinance No. 2024-06-07

AN ORDINANCE to submit to the voters of Clark County which would update the salary for the sheriff in the Charter.

WHEREAS, In November 2014, the voters of Clark County voted to adopt the home rule charter form of government; and

WHEREAS, In November 2020, pursuant to Article 9 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter, the voters of Clark County elected fifteen (15) commissioners to serve on the Charter Review Commission to review the Clark County Home Rule Charter and propose amendments; and

WHEREAS, In November 2021, the voters of Clark County voted to approve eight (8) out of ten (10) proposed amendments to the Clark County Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, In November 2022, the voters of Clark County voted to approve four (4) out of six (6) proposed amendments to the Clark County Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.3 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter provides the general provisions on filing charter amendments by the charter review commission, council or public; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.6 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter provides specific details of charter amendments proposed by the Clark County Council; and

WHEREAS the Council is considering the matter at a duly-advertised public hearing and concludes that adoption will further the public health, safety and welfare; now, therefore

BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED, AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS.

Section 1. Amendatory. Charter Section 5.5 B.1, Elected official salaries and compensation, Executive Elected Officials, is hereby proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The salary of the sheriff is eight percent (8%) higher than the highest step of the Undersheriff salary range and shall be adjusted if the highest step of the Undersheriff salary range changes. The adjustment will be effective on the date of the change in the highest step of the Undersheriff salary range. one hundred six thousand two hundred twenty-four dollars (\$106,224) in 2014, and shall be adjusted based on percentage changes established by the Washington State Salary Commission for state legislators on the effective date determined by that commission for legislative salary adjustments.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance proposing an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Section 3. Instructions to Staff. The Clerk to the Council shall:

- A. File a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor for submittal to the voters at the next general election as a proposal to amend the Clark County Home Rule Charter.
- B. Transmit a copy to the Clark County Prosecutor and request preparation of an appropriate ballot title for the proposed amendment.
- C. If a majority of the voters vote in favor of the proposed amendment, provide a copy to Code Publishing for inclusion in the Charter.

Section 4. Roll Call Vote. The following persons voted in favor of the above ordinance: Glen Yung; Gary Medvigy; Karen Dill Bowerman; and Sue Marshall.

The following persons voted in opposition to the above ordinance:

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Clark County Council this 25th day of June, 2024.

Clark County — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 17

Ordinance No. 2024-06-08

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter relating to the redistricting process for Clark County Councilor districts.

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter allows for a redistricting committee to be formed after every federal census to adjust the boundaries of the Clark County Council Districts; and

WHEREAS, the current Clark County Home Rule Charter redistricting process allows for the two major parties to submit names to for the Council to nominate members to the redistricting committee; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter similarly limits the redistricting committee to five (5) members; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council desires to put a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter that, if enacted by a majority of the voters, will require the County Council to select six (6) members to the redistricting committee without the two major parties submitting candidates for council selection; and

WHEREAS, the Council is considering the matter at a duly-advertised public hearing and concludes that adoption will further the public health, safety and welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendatory. Charter Sections 6.5, Redistricting Committee, and Charter Section 6.6 Redistricting Plan is hereby proposed to be amended as follows:

Article 6 – Elections and Districts

...

Section 6.5 Redistricting committee

~~Within sixty (60) days of receipt of federal decennial census data from the state redistricting commission or its successor, No later than September 30 of the year the decennial United States Federal Census is conducted the council shall establish a five (5) seven (7) member redistricting committee and appoint a redistricting master for that committee who is an employee in the Clark County Geographic Information Services department (or successor). The redistricting master shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to draw a redistricting plan. The council shall appoint four (4) six (6) persons to the committee, two (2) from each major political party from a list of five (5) submitted by the party's central committee. The four (4) six (6) members of the redistricting committee shall appoint a fifth seventh member who shall be chair. If a majority of the committee members cannot agree on a committee chair within thirty (30) calendar days after the appointment of the committee members the council, no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the appointment of the committee members, shall appoint a seventh person to serve as committee chair. Members of the redistricting committee shall serve without salary but shall be compensated for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The redistricting committee shall, within thirty (30) calendar days of its appointment, meet and appoint a redistricting master. The redistricting master shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a redistricting plan. If the redistricting committee cannot agree on the appointment of~~

~~a redistricting master within thirty (30) calendar days, the council shall appoint a districting master.~~

Section 6.6 Redistricting plan

Within two (2) months after appointment, the redistricting master shall draw a redistricting plan for the county that is consistent with the following and submit the plan to the committee for adoption:

- (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the population reported in the federal decennial census as adjusted by RCW 44.05.140.
- (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section the plan should, insofar as practical, accomplish the following:
 - a. District lines should be drawn so as to coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as communities of interest;
 - b. Districts should be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact territory. Land areas may be deemed contiguous if they share a common land border or are connected by a ferry, highway, bridge, or tunnel. Areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district should not be deemed contiguous;
 - c. Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a single legislative district; and
 - d. Equalizing population within districts should be done with as few changes to existing boundaries as possible.
- (3) The committee shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation and to encourage electoral competition. The committee's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group. The committee shall conduct a public hearing at least one week before proposed adoption. The redistricting committee shall adopt or amend the redistricting plan within thirty (30) days of submission to the committee. The redistricting plan shall be adopted as submitted by the redistricting master or as amended by two-thirds majority a vote of five (5) of the seven (7) members of the redistricting committee. Upon adoption, the plan shall be filed with the council by the redistricting committee. After submission of the plan, the council shall have thirty (30) calendar days to amend the committee's plan. If the council amends the committee's plan, the amendment must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of council members, and the area amended may not include more than two (2) percent of the population of any council district. No later than eight (8) six (6) months after receipt of the census data, the council shall adopt by ordinance a redistricting plan that is consistent with Section 6.6 (1), (2), (3). The adopted redistricting plan for the county must follow precinct boundaries established by the council prior to that year's candidate filing period.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective on the 10th day following adoption and shall result in the submission of the proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter to the voters at the next eligible general election. Should a majority of voters vote in favor of the amendment, the amendment shall be incorporated immediately into the Clark County Home Rule Charter upon certification of the election results.

Clark County — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 17

Ordinance No. 2024-06-08 (continued)

Section 3. Instructions to Clerk. The Clerk of the Council shall:

- A. Record and transmit a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor; and
- B. Cause notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published forthwith, pursuant to Clark County Code 1.02.140.
- C. Provide a copy of this Ordinance to Code Publishing.

Section 4. Roll Call Vote. The following persons voted in favor of the above ordinance: Glen Yung; Gary Medvigy; Karen Dill Bowerman; and Sue Marshall.

The following persons voted in opposition to the above ordinance:

ADOPTED on this 25th day of June, 2024.

Clark County — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 18

Ordinance No. 2024-06-09

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter relating to the submission of initiative petitions by Clark County registered voters.

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter allows registered voters in Clark County to submit petitions for initiative to the Clark County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter initiative process does not include a provision requiring information regarding the financial impact be included with the initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter similarly limits legal review of initiative petitions to specific subject areas; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council desires to put a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter that, if enacted by a majority of the voters, will require the Clark County Budget Office to provide information about possible required expenditures of the initiative;

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council desires to put a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter that, if enacted by a majority of the voters, will require the initiative sponsor to include the Clark County Prosecutor's statements regarding the legality of the proposed amendment;

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council desires to put a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter that, if enacted by a majority of the voters, will revise the requirement that if the initiative only affects the unincorporated areas of the county, the number of signatures required to place the initiative on the ballot will be based on the number of votes cast in the prior gubernatorial election from the unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS, the Council is considering the matter at a duly-advertised public hearing and concludes that adoption will further the public health, safety and welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendatory. Charter Section 7.2, Initiative, is hereby proposed to be amended as follows:

Article 7 – Initiative and Referendum

Section 7.2 Initiative

The people reserve the power of initiative. An ordinance or amendment to an ordinance, ~~except as limited by state or federal law or court interpretation~~, may be proposed by filing an initiative petition with the auditor. The subject of initiatives are limited by state or federal law or court decisions. No ordinance enacted as a result of initiative shall be amended or repealed within two (2) years after enactment, except as a result of a subsequent initiative or referendum or as required by state or federal law.

A. *Initiative Limitations.* State or federal law or court decisions have placed limits on what may be proposed or adopted by initiative. The six (6) subjects described in this section are subjects that may not be proposed or adopted by initiative; however, this is not a complete list of the subjects that The following are limited by state or federal law or court decisions. The following are limited by state or federal law or court ~~interpretations~~ decisions and may not be proposed or adopted by initiative.

1. Ordinances providing for compensation or working conditions of county employees or elected officials.
2. Redistricting council districts.
3. Authorizing or repealing an appropriation of money or any portion of the annual budget.
4. Authorizing or repealing taxes or fees.
5. Authorizing or repealing any provision of a service or program provided by the county.
6. Amending or repealing this charter.

~~B. *Initiative Requirements.*~~

1. ~~Initiatives that require new or additional sources of revenue shall include a recommended revenue source adequate to finance the result of the initiative.~~

~~C. *B. Initiative Procedures.*~~

1. Any registered voter of Clark County may file an initiative proposal with the auditor, who shall transmit a copy to the prosecuting attorney, the Clark County Council Chair and the Clark County Budget Office. If the ordinance proposed by initiative would be effective exclusively in unincorporated Clark County, the registered voter must be a registered voter residing in unincorporated Clark County to file the initiative proposal with the auditor. Within ten (10) business days of the filing date, the prosecuting attorney shall formulate a true and impartial ballot title, posed as a positive question not exceeding fifty (50) words and the Clark County Budget Office shall determine if the petition would result in increased expenditures. If the Clark County Budget Office determines the petition would result in increased expenditures, within thirty (30) business days of the filing date, the Clark County Auditor's Office shall provide the petitioner with the following financial impact statement with the dollar amounts provided: "The Clark County Auditor's Office estimates the cost to implement this initiative would be \$ _____ and annual operating costs would be \$ _____." If the Clark County Auditor's Office provides this statement, it shall appear on the petition and on the ballot.
2. The prosecuting attorney shall transmit the initiative petition to the auditor, who shall give the proposed initiative a number that will be the identifying number. Within an additional five (5) business days, the auditor shall confer with the petitioner to review and establish the form and style of the initiative petition as required by the auditor or ordinance. Within an additional ten (10) days the prosecuting attorney shall evaluate the petition and provide the petitioner and auditor with the following statement: "In the opinion of the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney, the subject of this initiative is within the scope of local initiative powers. Yes [] No [] No opinion at this time []." The prosecuting attorney shall mark the box that reflects his or her opinion. The petitioner ~~may~~ shall include this statement on the petition and on the ballot.
3. The petitioner shall have one hundred twenty (120) days after the form and style of the initiative petition has been established and approved by the auditor and receipt of the Prosecuting Attorney's statement as required in 7.2 C(2), and if required, the Auditor's Office's financial impact statement

Clark County — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 18

Ordinance No. 2024-06-09 (continued)

in 7.2 (B)(1) to collect signatures of registered county voters. Valid collected signatures shall number no less than:

- a. If the ordinance proposed by the initiative would be effective in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County, valid signatures shall number no less than ten (10) percent of the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election; or
- b. If the ordinance proposed by the initiative would be effective exclusively in unincorporated areas of the County, valid signatures shall number no less than ten (10) percent of the votes cast in unincorporated Clark County at the last gubernatorial election; provided, however, the registered voters signing the petition must be registered voters residing in unincorporated Clark County and, further provided that, the number of required signatures shall be calculated based only upon votes cast within areas which, on the date the initiative is initiated, are unincorporated areas of the County.

Each petition shall contain the warning clause prescribed by state law, full text of the proposed measure, ordinance or amendment to an ordinance, and ballot title.

4. The auditor shall verify the number of signatures on the petition, and, if a sufficient number of valid signatures has been submitted, place the proposal on the ballot for the next general election. If the Clark County Auditor's Office provides a financial statement as described in Section 7.2(B)(1), it shall appear on the ballot.
 - a. Signatures on the petition must be submitted to the auditor no less than one hundred fifty (150) days before the date of the next general election.
 - b. If the council enacts the proposal without change or amendment not less than sixty (60) days prior to said election, the proposal shall be removed from the ballot.
 - c. If the council does not adopt the proposed measure but adopts a substitute measure not more than fifteen (15) days after petition validation, the substitute measure shall be placed on the same ballot with the initiative proposal.
 - d. If the ordinance proposed by the initiative is one that is effective exclusively in unincorporated areas of the county, only registered voters in unincorporated Clark County shall be permitted to vote on the initiative.
5. When a ballot contains an initiative petition, substitute measure or multiple initiative measures on the same topic, the voters shall be given the choice of rejecting or accepting each initiative.
 - a. If the voters accept more than one (1) initiative on the same topic, and the measures are incompatible, the initiative receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall be approved.
 - b. If there are multiple measures on the same topic, compatible with one another, they may all be approved.
 - c. If the voters reject all initiatives, none shall be approved.
 - d. If the voters approve one (1) initiative and reject the others, the approved initiative shall be approved.

[Amended, Sec. 13, Res. 2021-7, Nov. 2021; Sec. 7.2, Ord. 2021-07-11, Nov. 2021; Sec. 7.2, Ord. 2021-07-12, Nov. 2021]

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective on the 10th day following adoption and shall result in the submission of

the proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter to the voters at the next eligible general election. Should a majority of voters vote in favor of the amendment, the amendment shall be incorporated immediately into the Clark County Home Rule Charter upon certification of the election results.

Section 3. Instructions to Clerk. The Clerk of the Council shall:

- A. Record and transmit a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor; and
- B. Cause notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published forthwith, pursuant to Clark County Code 1.02.140.
- C. Provide a copy of this Ordinance to Code Publishing.

Section 4. Roll Call Vote. The following persons voted in favor of the above ordinance: Glen Yung; Gary Medvigy; Karen Dill Bowerman; and Sue Marshall.

The following persons voted in opposition to the above ordinance:

ADOPTED on this 25th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 8

Resolution No. M-4278

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to amend Article II, Section 2.06 of the City Charter removing obsolete and non-inclusive language and replacing it with language more aligned with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 10th day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendment to Article II, Section 2.06 of the City Charter, removing obsolete and non-inclusive language and replacing it with language more aligned with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by ~~strikethrough~~. Added language is shown by underline.)

2.06 Vacancies Defined: *An office, either appointive or elective, becomes vacant upon failure to qualify within the time limited by law; upon the death or removal from office; ~~or resignation of the incumbent;~~ ~~or removal from or absence from the city for sixty consecutive days without leave of the city council;~~ ~~or upon an adjudication of insanity;~~ ~~by virtue of a mental health condition that renders the person substantially incapable of doing their duty;~~ ~~by a conviction of drunkenness or by any permanent disability, preventing the proper discharge of duty;~~ ~~upon the inability to properly discharge their duty with or without a reasonable accommodation;~~ by ceasing to be a resident of the city; by conviction of an infamous crime, or any crime involving a violation of official oath; by refusal or neglect to take the oath of office, or to give or renew the official bond or deposit such oath or bond within the time prescribed by law; by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction declaring void the election or appointment; or otherwise proscribed by state law. ~~whenever a judgment is obtained against such officer for breach of condition of the official bond.~~*

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 1 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 10th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 9

Resolution No. M-4279

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to amend Article II, Section 2.18d of the City Charter clarifying ambiguous language around the use of the external economic indicator for calculating salary increases and timing by which a biennial salary schedule ordinance be adopted.

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 10th day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendments to Article II, Section 2.18d of the City Charter, clarifying ambiguous language around the use of the external economic indicator for calculating salary increases and timing by which a biennial salary schedule ordinance be adopted (“Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by ~~strikethrough~~. Added language is shown by underline.)

Section 2.18d Citizens’ Commission on Mayor/City Council

Salaries: *The commission may adopt a schedule of annual salary increases the same way the City adjusts fees and charges to reflect an increase up to the change in the Consumer Price Index equal to an average of the prior two complete calendar years (Two-Year Average Adjustment). ~~at the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the West region as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the prior two years. If the Bureau of Labor Statistics discontinues publishing such index, the most similar index as determined by the city chief financial officer shall be applied.~~ The commission may propose a schedule of salary increases of more than ~~CPI-W~~ the Two-Year Average Adjustment provided that such schedule shall be submitted to the voters for approval. In the event the voters reject such greater increase, the increase within the foregoing limits shall go into effect. The commission may decrease salaries, provided that such decreases shall not be effective until the commencement of a new term of office. The commission may also choose not to adopt any salary change. The commission shall file its schedule of salary adjustments, if any, for the positions of Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Councilmember with the City Clerk by ~~May~~ July 1 of the applicable year, so as to coincide with the City budget cycle.*

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 2 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 10th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 10

Resolution No. M-4280

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to amend Article III, Section 3.03 of the City Charter removing language that does not reflect the two-year fiscal biennium budget cycle mandated by RCW 35.34.040 and as presently provided for by city ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 10th day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendments to Article III, Section 3.03 of the City Charter, removing language that does not reflect the two-year fiscal biennium budget cycle mandated by RCW 35.34.040 and as presently provided for by city ordinance, (“Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by ~~strikethrough~~. Added language is shown by underline.)

3.03 Powers and Duties: *The city manager shall be head of the administrative branch of the city government and shall be responsible to the city council for the proper administration of all affairs of the city and to that end, subject to the personnel provisions of this charter, shall have the power and shall be required to: (1) appoint or remove the city attorney, subject to the approval of the city council; (2) appoint and, when necessary for the good of the service, remove all officers and employees of the city except as otherwise provided by this charter, or by state laws and except as the manager may authorize the head of a department or office to appoint and remove subordinates in such department or office; (3) prepare the budget ~~annually~~ in accordance with Article IV of the Charter, and submit it to the city council and be responsible for its administration upon adoption; (4) prepare and submit to the city council as of the end of the fiscal year a complete report on the finances ~~and administrative activities~~ of the city for the preceding year; (5) ~~keep the city council advised on the financial condition and future needs of the city and make such recommendations as may to the manager seem desirable;~~ (6) perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this charter or required by the city council, not inconsistent with this charter.*

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 3 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 10th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 11

Resolution No. M-4281

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to delete Article XI, Section 11.05 of the City Charter, eliminating an administrative burden that is no longer necessary.

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 10th day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendment to Article XI, Section 11.05 of the City Charter, removing this section to eliminate an administrative burden that is no longer necessary, (“Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by ~~strikethrough~~.
Added language is shown by underline.)

~~Section 11.05 Contracts Beyond One Year:~~ *No contract involving the payment of money shall be made for a period of more than five years unless approved by ordinance.*
(Amended by the vote of the people on November 5, 2019.)

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 5 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 10th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposed Charter Amendment No. 12

Resolution No. M-4282

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to amend Article X, Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of the City Charter removing language referencing physical paper and indelible signatures that would prevent the acceptance of electronic signature on petitions.

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 17th day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendments to Article X, Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of the City Charter, removing language referencing physical paper and indelible signatures that would prevent the acceptance of electronic signature on petitions, (“Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by strikethrough. Added language is shown by underline.)

Section 10.03 Petitions and Committees:

(1) All petitions ~~papers~~ circulated for the purposes of an initiative or referendum shall be uniform ~~in size and style~~. Initiative petitions ~~papers~~ shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance and all other information and warnings required by law. Petitions shall be in a form prescribed by the City Clerk, and may be approved in advance as to form by the City Attorney. Before gathering signatures, any proposed initiated ordinance must be filed with the City Clerk. Within twenty working days after filing, the City Attorney shall evaluate the initiative proposal and express ~~his/her~~ their opinion as to whether or not the initiative proposal is within the scope of a legally permissible local initiative. The signatures to initiative or referendum petitions shall be from registered voters of the City of Vancouver and subject to acceptance by the officer responsible for verification of the sufficiency of signatures under state law. ~~need not all be appended to one paper, but to each separate petition there shall be attached a statement of the circulator thereof as provided by this section. Each signer of any such petition paper shall sign in ink or indelible pencil and shall indicate after such signer's name, the signer's place of residence by street and number, or other description sufficient to identify the place. On each petition shall appear the names and addresses of the same five registered voters of the city, who, as a committee of the petitioners, shall be regarded as responsible for the circulation and filing of the petition. Printed on each separate petition paper there shall be an affidavit of the circulator thereof, affirmed under penalty of perjury, that said circulator personally circulated the foregoing paper, that it bears a stated number of signatures, that all the signatures appended thereto were made in the circulator's presence, and that the circulator believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be.~~

(2) Acceptance of electronic signatures authorized but not required: nothing in this Charter shall preclude the City Council from authorizing, by resolution, the acceptance of electronic signatures when, and to the extent, allowed by state law.

Section 10.04 Filing and Certifying:

All petition ~~papers~~ sections comprising an initiative or referendum petition shall be assembled and filed with the eCity eClerk as one instrument. Petitions ~~pages~~ must be filed no later than February 1 of the same year as the Municipal General Election is held. Within ten days after a petition is filed, the eCity eClerk shall determine whether each ~~paper~~ section of the petition has a proper statement of the circulator and shall convey the valid signed petition ~~pages~~ sections to the officer responsible for the verification of the sufficiency of the signatures to the petition under state law for such verification. The eCity eClerk shall declare any petition ~~paper~~ section entirely invalid and not submit said petition ~~page~~ section for verification, which does not ~~have printed thereon~~ include an affidavit affirmed under penalty of perjury signed by the circulator thereof. If a petition ~~paper~~ section is found to be signed by more persons than the number of signatures certified by the circulator, the last signatures in excess of the number certified shall be disregarded, and the City Clerk shall strike out the excess signatures. If a petition ~~paper~~ section is found to be signed by fewer persons than the number certified, the signatures shall be accepted unless void on other grounds. After completing examination of the petition, and after receiving verification of the sufficiency of such petition signatures from the officer responsible for verification of the sufficiency of signatures under state law, the eCity eClerk shall certify the result thereof to the city council at its next regular meeting. If the eClerk certifies that the petition is invalid or has insufficient signatures, the eClerk shall set forth in a certificate the particulars in which it is defective and shall at once notify the committee of the petitioners of such findings.

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 17th day of June, 2024.

City of Vancouver — Proposition No. 4

Resolution No. M-4288

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Vancouver, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Vancouver at the November 5, 2024, General Election of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in chapter 84.55 RCW to fund police and public safety services, staffing, facilities and equipment; requesting the Clark County Auditor to place the proposition on the November 5, 2024, ballot; and approving matters properly related thereto.

WHEREAS, community growth and the associated 35% increase in call volume for police services from 2017-2023 has resulted in a decline in police response times; and

WHEREAS, a growth in demand for police services has strained investigative capacity of detectives such that nearly 3,100 cases go uninvestigated each year; and

WHEREAS, there is an insufficient effective police force to meet demands of the community; and

WHEREAS, building capacity to meet the demand for services can be accomplished through investments in sworn staff, non-sworn staff, co- and complimentary-response teams and programs, and technology; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the operational gaps, the new staff will require equipment, technology and new precinct space; and

WHEREAS, during 2023, Vancouver Police Department staff identified the necessary additional operating resources needed to increase the ability of the department to more effectively respond to the public safety needs of the community, and to build capacity to proactively engage the community in pre-emptive strategies to prevent threats to community safety, and worked with other City departments to estimate the cost of these additional resources; and

WHEREAS, the city manager convened a community advisory committee on policing to review and advise on identified needs and recommendations from the police department and to formulate a recommendation on potential investments in police and related capacities; and

WHEREAS, operating demands citywide necessitate an additional sworn staff of approximately eighty (80) commissioned/sworn full-time employees (FTEs) in a range of ranks and assignments, and approximately thirty-six (36) non-sworn/non-commissioned FTE positions, related support costs, equipment and related facilities; and

WHEREAS, additional staffing will likely result in additional costs to the criminal justice system and will be eligible for this funding; and

WHEREAS, there are complimentary response services, such as the City's homelessness assistance response team and mental health and substance use disorder response teams, that, if deployed alongside police, may enhance the effectiveness and capacity of an expansion of authorized sworn officer ranks, and contribute to overall community safety and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, during the workshop on July 1, 2024, Vancouver City Council reviewed the operating improvements necessary to increase call response time; and

WHEREAS, during the July 1 and July 8, 2024 workshops,

Vancouver City Council considered the recommendation by the Public Safety Advisory Committee to increase the City's regular property tax levy to fund the operating expenses needed to improve public safety in Vancouver as the first step in a three-step funding approach for the increased police staffing; and

WHEREAS, additional voted revenue increases will be necessary to fully fund the proposed increase in police and public safety service costs, including a voted excess levy to fund the capital costs and a voted sales tax levy will be necessary to fund the proposed investments beyond 2030; and

WHEREAS, Washington State law limits the annual increase of a city's regular property tax levy amount to 1% plus an allowance for new construction unless the voters of a city approve the collection of regular property taxes in a greater amount; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2024 regular property tax levy is approximately \$2.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which includes a \$0.2738 per \$1,000 of assessed value affordable housing levy. The City's total levy is approximately \$0.96 per \$1,000 of assessed value less than what is statutorily authorized; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the limitation specified in chapter 84.55 RCW if such increased levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at an election held with the taxing district (a "levy lid lift"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary to submit to the voters of the City a permanent levy lid lift proposition of whether or not the City shall levy regular property taxes for collection in 2025 in excess of the limit factor provided for in RCW 84.55.050(1); and

WHEREAS, the City Council anticipates future levies to further fund and sustain the investments contemplated herein; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2024, the City Council deliberated on the desired size of the levy increase and selected \$0.41/\$1,000 of assessed value as the levy rate increase to put before the voters during the general election to be held on November 5, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. Findings. The Council hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the above recitals as findings. The Council further finds that the best interests of the residents of the City require the City to fund police services, staffing, equipment, and facilities, including but not limited to the following (together referred to herein as "Police and Public Safety Services"):

- Add up to eighty (80) FTEs sworn officers in a range of ranks and assignments;
- Add up to thirty-six (36) FTEs non-sworn police positions;
- Fund equipment, technology, and vehicles consistent with both current and future standards;
- Fund a traffic enforcement camera program;
- Expand Homeless Assistance & Resources Team (HART) response;
- Fund additional operating, related services, to include the impact of the additional staffing on jail, corrections, public defense and other criminal justice related services,

City of Vancouver — Proposition No. 4

Resolution No. M-4288

maintenance and facility expenses to provide police services, as determined by the City Council; and

- Fund necessary administrative and staffing costs in other City of Vancouver departments to support investments outlined above.

The programmatic expenses above are to be limited by sustainable new revenue and appropriated through the City’s regular budgetary process.

The City Council shall determine the timing, order and manner of funding Police and Public Safety Services and the use of levy lid lift proceeds, including those investments described above, as part of the budgeting process. The cost of all compensation, benefits, training, support services, equipment, technology, vehicles, infrastructure, facilities, real property, and administrative expenses and other costs incurred in connection with the Police and Public Safety Services shall be deemed a part of the costs of such Police and Public Safety Services. The City Council may alter, make substitutions to and amend such components as it determines are in the best interests of the City and consistent with the police service purposes described herein.

Section 2. Calling of Election Regarding the Levy of Additional Property Taxes.

There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Vancouver, Washington a proposition whether the City shall levy regular property taxes above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.050 and RCW 84.55.010 for their ratification or rejection at a special election to be held on November 5, 2024. The Clark County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to call and conduct the election referenced on such day and to submit to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection a proposition to (a) increase the City’s regular property tax levy by approximately \$0.41 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in addition to the regular annual levy inflationary increase, to a total maximum regular property tax rate not to exceed \$2.63 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025, as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW, and (b) for the five calendar years following 2025 (2026-2030), increase the City’s total regular property tax levy amount by a limit factor of 5%. The 2030 levy amount will be used as the basis to calculate subsequent levy limits beginning in 2031.

Upon approval of the voters of the proposition set forth herein, the City may use proceeds of such levy to pay the costs of Police and Public Safety Services as set forth in Section 1 of this resolution.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed as required by law, to certify a proposition to the Clark County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Clark County, Washington, in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 4
 CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
 POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
 LEVY LID LIFT

The Vancouver City Council adopted Resolution M-4288 concerning a levy lid lift to fund police and public safety. If approved, this proposition would fund police and public safety

services, including staffing, equipment, technology, facilities, and criminal justice costs; increase Vancouver’s regular property tax by approximately \$0.41/\$1,000 assessed valuation, for a maximum levy rate not to exceed \$2.63/\$1,000 for 2025; set the limit factor for Vancouver’s total regular property tax levy for 2026-2030 to 100% plus annual increase of 5%; and authorize the 2030 levy amount as the basis to calculate subsequent levies (84.55 RCW).

Should this proposition be approved?

- YES
 NO

For purposes of receiving notice of the language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates: (a) the City Clerk (Natasha Ramras), telephone (360) 487-8484; email: natasha.ramras@cityofvancouver.us; and (b) the City Attorney (Jonathan Young); telephone: (360) 487-8500; email: jonathan.young@cityofvancouver.us, as the individuals to whom such notice from the Auditor should be provided. The City Attorney and the City Clerk are each authorized individually to approve changes to the wording of such proposition as may be recommended by the Clark County Auditor and the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this resolution.

Section 4. Voters Pamphlet. To the extent that a local voters’ pamphlet and/or online voters’ guide (“Voters’ Pamphlet”) will be produced for the November 5, 2024 election, the Voters’ Pamphlet shall include an explanatory statement to be prepared according to state and local requirements, and arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the ballot measure, if any. Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280, the arguments advocating approval and rejection of the ballot measure shall be prepared by committees appointed by the City Council. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons; however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons. The committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot measure, and the committee advocating rejection shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot measure. Should the City Council not appoint the persons to each Committee by the time required by law, the Clark County Auditor shall appoint said committees.

Section 5. Severability. If any provisions of this resolution shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to law, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be deemed severable from the remaining provisions of this resolution and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized by this proposition.

Section 6. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 15th day of July, 2024.

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