



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 25-029

***A RESOLUTION OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTING
A CITIZEN ASSEMBLY IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY***

WHEREAS, meaningful public participation in policymaking is crucial to the future of Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, robust public participation in which residents learn deeply about an issue, weigh trade-offs, and find common ground can enhance both an individual's sense of efficacy and the quality of government decision-making; and

WHEREAS, public processes should give people with a range of experiences and perspectives the opportunity to participate, enabling trust-building across differences and a shared commitment to our community; and

WHEREAS, traditional public processes often favor the loudest voices, but innovative processes can surface views that are more representative of the overall community; and

WHEREAS, a citizen assembly provides an opportunity for a randomly selected, representative group of people comes together across ideological and demographic differences to learn about, deliberate on, and recommend solutions to key public policy questions; and

WHEREAS, in a citizen assembly, elected officials commit at the outset to considering and responding to the assembly's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, more than 600 citizen assemblies have taken place around the world, resulting in high levels of satisfaction among both participants and broader communities, including the vast majority of participants reporting a positive experience and better understanding of the political system; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality citizen assembly should advise – not replace – government, and be fully customized to Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality citizen assembly in Snohomish County should leverage global learnings and U.S. best practices to engage every segment of the community, including those who typically do not participate in civic life; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality citizen assembly in Snohomish County should support a healthy civic ecosystem by creating opportunities for the broader public to engage, as well as a feedback loop between community and government that facilitates ongoing communication; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has the opportunity to be part of a national pilot that would deepen community engagement, provide insights from top academic researchers that bolster civic engagement long-term, and put the County on the national stage as an innovator in civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, a citizen assembly should center equity throughout the entire process, including design, assembly execution and policy implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council supports a county-wide citizen assembly to engage local residents in decision-making on an important issue to be determined.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Nate Nehring
Council Chair

Megan Dunn
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Jared Mead
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

ATTEST: _____
Debbie Eco, CMC
Clerk of the Council