



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Snohomish County, Washington**

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-006**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF  
RANKED-CHOICE VOTING**

*WHEREAS, voter turnout in “Top Two” primaries is, without exception, significantly lower than the general election and is not reflective of the general electorate; and*

*WHEREAS, under the “Top Two” primary system, voters may be motivated to engage in “strategic voting” whereby they vote to prevent a disfavored candidate from winning instead of casting a vote for their preferred candidate; and*

*WHEREAS, an alternative to our “Top Two” primary system is ranked-choice voting, whereby instead of choosing just one candidate to support in a given race, voters rank the candidates running in the order of that voters’ preference (e.g. 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice); and*

*WHEREAS, using ranked-choice voting means that a separate primary is no longer necessary; and*

*WHEREAS, more than forty U.S. jurisdictions used ranked-choice voting in their most recent elections, including Salt Lake City (UT), New York City (NY), Santa Fe (NM), St. Paul (MN), Oakland (CA), Cambridge (MA), Benton County (OR), and the State of Maine; and more than fifty jurisdictions are projected to use ranked-choice voting in their next election, including the State of Alaska; and*

*WHEREAS, many jurisdictions including Cambridge (MA), Eastpointe (MI), and New York City (NY) either currently or in the past used multi-winner ranked-choice voting for municipal elections; and*

*WHEREAS, potential benefits of ranked-choice voting include lowered costs, increased voter turnout, improved civility in and decreased costs of political campaigns, and elected bodies that are more reflective of the electorate by measures of race, class, gender, and political beliefs; and*

*WHEREAS, local Washington jurisdictions are effectively prohibited from adopting ranked-choice voting by state law, which mandates the top-two primary and the use of numbered positions when multiple elected officials represent the same geography; and*

*WHEREAS, state law could be amended to allow political subdivisions the ability to adopt ranked-choice voting, should they choose;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Snohomish County supports passage of legislation that allows for political subdivisions to have the options of using ranked-choice voting in their local elections. This resolution shall be sent to all applicable legislators representing Snohomish County.*

**APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.**

**Megan Dunn**  
Council Chair

**Jared Mead**  
Council Vice-Chair

**Stephanie Wright**  
Councilmember

ATTEST:

**Debbie Eco, CMC**  
Clerk of the Council