

Prop 4: Increasing Public Access to County Financial Transparency

Explanatory Statement:

If approved by voters, this proposition would add a section to the Snohomish County Charter to require the County to maintain, as reasonably practicable, publicly accessible, searchable, and downloadable financial information already collected through budgeting, procurement, contracting, grant administration, and financial records amangement.

When not otherwise proscribed by law, the information should include the purpose or scope of the funded activities, funding amounts and expenditures, recipient names and locations, agreement terms, administering department or agency, associated County Fund or budget line item, audit findings, monitoring reports, reviews, or oversight findings.

The information shall be searchable and accessible to the public without fee.

PRO	
Name	Statement
Dan Perkins	I would like to serve on the Pro/Con Committee because I believe these propositions will strengthen public trust and improve county government by limiting tax increases, increasing transparency, and making county offices nonpartisan. I value clear, factual communication and want to help prepare a statement that explains why these measures are in the best interest of county residents. I look forward to working collaboratively with other committee members to produce a concise, persuasive, and accurate statement that will help voters make an informed decision. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important civic process.
Janelle M Cass	I respectfully request appointment to the Pro Committee because I have been actively involved in developing this proposed Charter amendment and understand both its purpose and the practical considerations for implementation. I believe the amendment strikes an appropriate balance between increasing transparency for taxpayers and minimizing unnecessary administrative burdens on County staff, contractors, nonprofits, and local businesses. If selected, I will work collaboratively with the other committee members to prepare a clear, accurate, and factual statement that explains the measure's intent and effect. My goal is to help voters understand that this proposal promotes greater public access to information the County already collects about contracts, grants, and expenditures, while allowing implementation to occur through existing systems and future modernization efforts. I am committed to providing voters with an honest explanation of how this amendment strengthens accountability, builds public trust, and improves transparency in the stewardship of public resources.

CON	
Name	Statement
Christine Eck	Transparency is good for everyone. However the mandates in Proposition No. 4 do not include the potential costs of having to procure new systems, work to integrate systems, and the number of new staff needed to meet these requirements. If there is to be real transparency from the start, voters deserve to know the costs to them associated with this Proposition, along with the realistic timelines for implementation.
Doris Fulton	This proposition will do nothing to increase transparency. This a deception on the voters.
Janice Green	I oppose Proposition 4 because it places an unfunded technology mandate in the county charter. The county's own budget office told the commission that the ongoing Oracle ERP implementation, a \$15,000,000 project, limits what a public-facing portal can deliver and at what cost. No fiscal estimate accompanies this proposition. I support transparency, which is why the drafting matters: Section C was struck and the remaining text renumbered after the public hearing on this proposal had closed, so voters never commented on the final language. Requirements like these belong in ordinance, where the Council can fund, adjust, and improve them, not in a charter provision that takes another countywide election to fix. I followed the full 2026 commission record on this proposal and can give voters an accurate, sourced Con statement.