

MEMORANDUM

To: Snohomish County Charter Review Commission

From: Commissioner Demi Chatters, District 2; Commissioner Jennifer Gregerson, District 2; Commissioner Amanda Dodd, District 4; Commissioner Robin McGee, District 5

Date: May 27, 2026

Subject: Statement of Dissent Regarding Public Participation and Deliberation in the Transmittal of Proposed 2026 Charter Amendments

**CC: Snohomish County Council
Snohomish County Executive**

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully decline to sign the transmittal letter submitting the 2026 Snohomish County Charter Review Commission's proposed amendments to the County Council.

Our dissent is grounded in serious concerns regarding the integrity, inclusiveness, and deliberative quality of this process. While the transmittal letter characterizes the Commission's work as thoughtful and responsive to public engagement, our experience as members of this body reflects a markedly different reality.

Throughout the review period, members of the public repeatedly sought meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of charter amendments. However, those efforts were too often met with procedural barriers, limited consideration, or outright dismissal. Community-driven proposals, all of which reflected substantial public interest and addressed pressing issues of governance, accountability, and representation, were not afforded genuine deliberation. Instead, they were effectively terminated at early stages without substantive discussion or analysis.

Although public meetings and hearings were held, their existence alone does not equate to meaningful public participation. Critically, the vast majority of substantive votes on proposed amendments occurred prior to the Commission's public hearings. As a result, by the time the public was formally invited to comment, the proposals had already been largely decided. This sequencing deprived the public of any meaningful opportunity to influence outcomes and reduced the hearings to a procedural formality rather than a substantive component of the decision-making process.

A process that invites comment only after key decisions have been made fails to incorporate, seriously evaluate, or transparently respond to public input, and risks

disenfranchising the very residents it purports to serve. In our view, this Commission did not meet its obligation to ensure that public voices were fully and fairly considered.

We are also concerned that multiple amendments advanced by the Commission will have the effect of reducing transparency, limiting public oversight, or otherwise undermining the interests of the voting public. These proposals, in our judgment, were not sufficiently vetted for their long-term implications on democratic accountability within Snohomish County government.

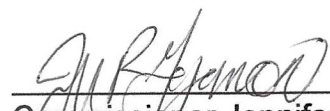
The Charter Review Commission holds a unique responsibility to act as a steward of public trust and to safeguard the foundational principles of open, accountable governance. We do not believe that standard was met in this instance.

For these reasons, we cannot endorse the transmittal of these amendments as presented.

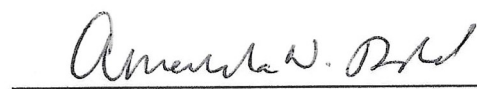
Respectfully submitted,




Commissioner Demi Chatters
Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, District 2



Commissioner Jennifer Gregerson
Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, District 2



Commissioner Amanda Dodd
Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, District 4



Commissioner Robin McGee
Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, District 5