

Prop 1: Adoption of a Foundational Government Services Policy

Explanatory Statement:

If approved by voters, this proposition would add a section to the Snohomish County Charter to require the County Council to adopt, maintain, and periodically update a foundational government services policy that: (1) prioritizes the funding of state-mandated services, including, but not limited to, the offices of the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and District and Superior Court Judges and the delivery of foundational services over the expansion of discretionary program, (2) promotes structural budget balance and long-term fiscal responsibility, and (3) establishes reserves, revenue stabilization, and financial planning.

Foundational government services are defined under the categories of public safety, public works, public health and human services, emergency management, and core administrative and financial functions necessary to deliver foundational government services required by State law.

The County Council shall, by ordinance, adopt and maintain policies necessary to effectuate the above requirement.

PRO

Name	Statement
Brian Sullivan	Author of Prop 1 as the Snohomish County Treasurer

CON

Name	Statement
Christine Eck	Current language overrides key Legislative authority, as the true and duly elected representative of County residents, to decide as a body how to allocate funding. And the language risks limiting County Council in their responsibilities to scrutinize and adjust the budget for the core services listed in Proposition No. 1.
Janice Greene	I oppose Proposition 1 because it writes budget priorities into the county charter, a document meant for the structure of government, not spending policy. Budget decisions belong in the annual budget process, where the Council weighs current needs in public and can adjust as conditions change. The definition of foundational services remained unsettled through the commission's final meetings; public defense, a constitutionally required service, was debated in and out of the list. A provision this unsettled invites disputes over what "prioritize" requires, and a charter mistake takes another countywide election to correct. I followed the 2026 Charter Review Commission process from January through transmittal, reviewed every meeting against the official record, and can present the Con case accurately. As Convener of One Voice Snohomish County, a nonpartisan civic coalition, I am committed to giving voters a clear, factual statement.