

Prop 3: Converting all Elected Offices to Non-Partisan Offices

Explanatory Statement:
If approved by voters, this proposition would amend the Snohomish County Charter to require that all elected offices be non-partisan. Currently, the offices of County Council, Executive, and Prosecutor are partisan.

Charter Section 4.80 would be amended to remove references to partisan positions.

New Transitional Charter provisions would be added to effectuate the transition to non-partisan offices.

PRO	
Name	Statement
Todd Welch	Snohomish County government exists to deliver services: roads, courts, public health, emergency response. These aren't partisan functions, and treating them as such distorts how voters evaluate candidates and how officials govern. I've covered local government long enough to watch partisan labels reshape county races in ways that don't serve residents. Voters increasingly choose by party affiliation rather than qualifications or track record. That's a problem when the job is fixing potholes and running jails, not advancing a national agenda. Snohomish County already recognizes this. The Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor, Sheriff, and Clerk all run as non-partisan offices. Proposition 3 simply extends that logic to the rest of county government. I want to serve on this committee because voters deserve to evaluate candidates on their ideas and records. Proposition 3 gives them that chance. The Charter Review Commission did the hard work. I want to help voters understand what's actually on the ballot.
Mark James	I would like to serve on the Pro Committee for two primary reasons. First, I am the sponsor of Proposition 3 and have an in-depth understanding of its purpose and intent. Second, I am passionate about this issue and believe it is important that voters receive clear, accurate, and factual information to help them make an informed decision. Serving on the Pro Committee would allow me to ensure the proposition is represented fairly and communicated effectively to the public.
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.
Shawn O'Donnell	I feel strongly about this amendment and supported it as a charter review commissioner. Informed voters will support this. I believe I can convey the needed message.
Tim Schmitt	I have strong thoughts on the benefits of this proposal.
Angie Sievers	I believe making the County Executive and County Council elections non-partisan would align all county elected offices under a consistent governance structure and promote wider participation from both voters and potential candidates, centered in community efforts, aligning electoral focus with local priorities rather than party affiliation. I would welcome the opportunity to work with others to create a description that is easy to understand and informative for voters in making their informed choice.

CON	
Name	Statement
Erick Bidstrup	None provided
Shannon Ozog Somes	I am deeply concerned about this proposition passing and would like to help make sure voters are best informed on what this measure would do.
Christine Eck	Voters have a right to know the values, beliefs, and affiliations of candidates for elected positions in the County. Just as candidate donor information is accessible to the public, so should be their political party affiliation if they have one. It is in the best interest of the public to understand this information, particularly now at a time when our representative democracy, due process, and the rule of law are all at risk. This information should be open, transparent, and normalized and any candidate who is running in good faith should not be trying to hide it.
Anna Marie Jackson Laurence	I am in favor of voter transparency. Voters have the right to know who they are voting for.
Robin McGee	As Chair of the Snohomish County Democratic Party, this proposition disenfranchises both our PCOs and the voters across our county.
Doris Fulton	I feel that party affiliation is essential to help voters identify the allegiances and priorities of the candidates. Party affiliation shows voting preferences, and no one is without bias. I addition, party labels minimizes the time needed for voters to do detailed research. As a retired senior I represent a particular and important point of view.
Todd C Nichols	To make offices nonpartisan is to deprive voters of important information about individual candidates.
Hans Dunshee	this removes a right of a person to have a party label. State law now allows a candidate to not have a label. Therefore it is unneeded. History also shows this also tends to protect incumbents and favor big money candidates.
Janice Greene	I oppose Proposition 3 because removing party labels takes away the one piece of candidate information every voter receives. Campaigns do not become less political when the ballot hides party affiliation; parties still recruit, endorse, and fund candidates. Voters simply lose the disclosure. Nonpartisan ballots shift the advantage to candidates with wealth, name recognition, and insider networks, while voters with less time to research are left guessing. County offices decide taxes, public safety, and land use, and voters deserve to know the perspective a candidate brings to those decisions. I reviewed the full 2026 Charter Review Commission record on this proposal, including the public testimony against it, and as Convener of One Voice Snohomish County, a nonpartisan civic coalition, I can present the Con case in clear, factual, plain language for the voters' pamphlet.
James Kenny	I do not support this proposition. The Council and Executive should remain partisan political offices. I served on the 2006 Charter Review Commission. I have written multiple pro and con committee statements for past charter proposals and fire service ballot measures. I write professionally, and I know how to write and edit on a committee to produce effective material. Please consider me for the Con committee appointment.