

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Clarifying nonpartisan office elections

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 6, Section 6.2 Offices Designated

This proposal changes the last sentence in Section 6.2, "Elections for the offices shall be conducted in the manner provided for partisan local elections under state law."

The amendment language to read: "Elections for these offices shall be held in accordance with the procedures established for nonpartisan elections under applicable law, except that both the Primary and General Election shall occur in even-numbered years."

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: Section 6.2 is a contradictory section. It allows the executive and legislative offices to be nonpartisan, yet still elects them in a partisan manner.

Under current procedures, when only one or two candidates are running for a countywide nonpartisan position, their names appear on the Primary ballot and subsequently advance to the General Election ballot. The top vote-getter from the Primary is listed first on the General Election ballot. This approach reflects a partisan method of electing officials.

The proposed amendment seeks to address this by stipulating that if there are only one or two candidates, they would bypass the Primary and proceed directly to the General Election ballot, with their order determined by lot drawing.

Like all other nonpartisan elections, if there are three or more candidates, their names will appear on the Primary ballot in the order determined by a lot drawing. The two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the General Election ballot and be listed in order of the number of votes received.

Because voters approved a change to make elected officials nonpartisan, officials should be chosen through a process that reflects this, and the Primary should be skipped if only two candidates are running. Elections should still take place in even-numbered years like partisan ones, as voter turnout tends to be higher during those periods.

This change could save Clark County approximately \$70,000 whenever there are just two candidates by eliminating a race the County is charged for, and redistributing the cost to other jurisdictions.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 6 – Elections and Districts, section 6.2 Offices Designated

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission’s amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber _____

2/23/2026 _____

Printed Name

Date