

Pierce County - Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3

Submitted by Pierce County

Eliminate Instant Runoff Voting

Ballot Title:

The Pierce County Council passed Ordinance No. 2009-1 proposing to amend the Pierce County Charter. If approved, Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 would eliminate Instant Runoff Voting (also known in Pierce County as "Ranked Choice Voting" or "RCV") and restore the primary and general election system for all county elective offices in accordance with state general election law; all as set forth in Ordinance No. 2009-1. Should Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement: *(Complete text of measure found on pages 84.)*

In November 2006, the voters of Pierce County adopted amendments to the Pierce County Charter eliminating the primary election system for certain county offices and requiring Instant Runoff Voting (also known in Pierce County as "Ranked Choice Voting" or "RCV") for those offices. If approved, Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 would eliminate Instant Runoff Voting and would restore the primary and general election system for all county elective offices in accordance with state general election law.

Statement For:

An Approval vote on 3 is a vote to return to the "top two" primary system of voting.

Amendment 3 replaces the unpopular "Ranked Choice Voting" with the much fairer "top two" primary system.

Voters like the "top two" primary. Every primary vote cast in 2008 used the top two system. It provides for fair and easily administered elections.

RCV backers have made a lot of promises - most of them have proven to be false.

RCV is actually more expensive-\$1.6 million extra.

RCV confused voters. - 21,000 voters did not vote an RCV ballot, and a majority did not select a second or third choice candidate.

RCV does not promote informed voting. Voters have to choose from a long list of candidates. The primary system allows voters to pick the two best candidates for the final election.

RCV was an experiment. It is a flawed system. It is time to return to a fair and proven system of voting.

Committee Members: Karen Vialle, Pat McCarthy, and John Herr

Statement Against:

Amendment 3 Takes Control Away from Voters

Amendment 3 is an attempt by incumbents and insiders to rig the system. Incumbents don't like Ranked Choice Voting because it makes races more competitive and cuts in half the amount of money they can raise from big donors. The 2008 county general election had the most candidates since we adopted our Charter. By repealing RCV, incumbents want to return to unfair and uncompetitive races.

RCV Keeps Costly Primary out of County Elections

As party insiders are trying to repeal RCV, they are also suing to reinstate the unpopular *Pick-a-Party Primary* - another system they know how to manipulate. RCV saves the cost of running a primary, where most people don't vote. RCV opens the general election to political independents.

Grassroots Opposition to Amendment 3

Amendment 3 is supported by incumbents and insiders. It is opposed by independent-minded citizens and the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

No Rigging the System! Reject Amendment 3! Reject all 3 Amendments!

Committee Members: Kelly Haughton, 253-732-7855, Rich Anderson-Connolly, and Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow, info@protectvoterchoice.com, www.protectvoterchoice.com

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Regular voters oppose RCV

After the 2008 elections tens of thousands of voters said they opposed RCV. Amendment 3 is about listening to the people and **returning to the voter approved top two primary.**

Do not be fooled - the alternative to RCV is the top two primary. Many voters supported RCV because they thought it would replace the pick-a-party. Today, RCV supporters are using the same misleading argument.

Committee Members: Karen Vialle, Pat McCarthy, and John Herr

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Voters were right to keep RCV in place in 2007.

The cost figure is misleading - it includes one-time equipment purchases and personnel used for all elections. **RCV saved the County \$250,000 this year** by running one election.

The turnout figure is misleading - local races have lower turnout than the Presidential race. Compared to the previous *local* election, **participation increased with RCV.**

Voters choosing from a long list of candidates is known as **democracy**. Reject 3!

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