



►YOUR Democracy & Your Choice for Sheriff !
Vote “Rejected” No. 53 this November + Sign Below

Charter Amendment
No. 59

Ballot Title - Charter Amendment No. 59

Statement of Subject: Charter Amendment No. 59 concerns amending the Pierce County Charter regarding the Office of Sheriff.
Concise Description: This amendment would make the Sheriff a nonpartisan position elected by the voters; grant authority to the Sheriff to employ or retain their own legal representation outside of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and reinstate the last elected Sheriff of Pierce County to the Office to finish the term ending December 31, 2028.
Should this proposed charter amendment be? Approved ☐ Rejected ☐

Initiative Petition for submission to the People

To the Honorable Prosecuting Attorney of Pierce County:
We the undersigned citizens and legal voters of Pierce County, State of Washington, respectfully direct that the proposed measure known as Charter Amendment No. 59, and entitled, “**Statement of the Subject:** amending the Pierce County Charter regarding the Office of Sheriff. **Concise Description:** This amendment would make the Sheriff a nonpartisan position elected by the voters; grant authority to the Sheriff to employ or retain their own legal representation outside of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and reinstate the last elected Sheriff of Pierce County to the Office to finish the term ending December 31, 2028. Should this proposed charter amendment by? Approved ☐ Rejected ☐ a full, true and correct copy of which is printed on the reverse side of this petition, be submitted to the legal voters of Pierce County for their approval or rejection at the general election to be held the 2nd day of November, 2027; and each of us for himself or herself: I have personally signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition only once.

WARNING:
Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.

All Pierce County voters may sign this charter amendment petition. Print clearly!

Print Name as Registered to Vote		Signature	Home Address City	Zip Code	County
0.	Keith Swank	Keith Swank	930 Slug Out Crime All the Way Tacoma, WA	98402	Pierce
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: keith.swank@ElectSheriff.org	Phone: (253) 446-6445	
1.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
2.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
3.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
4.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
5.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
6.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
7.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
8.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
9.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		
10.		Sign Here as registered to vote	Street Address City	Zip Code	County
		Keep informed! (optional)	Email: Phone:		

Ask family & friends to sign - 10 Not required - Mail ASAP but no later than March 8, 2027

The Revised Code of Washington 29A.72.130 requires only the printing of the signature declaration block to the right. The act of signing, however, cannot be compelled under the Constitution. Yet final acceptance of collected signatures may depend upon the petitioner's completion of this declaration. Potentially, some bench partisan may unConstitutionally reject all your hard work if this box is left unsigned. So, please do not afford them that ability to condition the citizen's absolute right to petition their government. Sign now. Yet, the decision is yours.

Further, harassers of petitioners may be prosecuted as Class C felons under RCW 9A.46.020, and subject to civil legal action. RCW 9A.46.020 applies to any conduct constituting harassment against a petition signature gatherer. This penalty does not preclude the victim from seeking any other remedy otherwise available under law.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

I,

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swear or affirm under penalty of law that I circulated this sheet of the foregoing petition, and that, to the best of my knowledge, every person who signed this sheet of the foregoing petition knowingly and without any compensation or promise of compensation willingly signed his or her true name and that the information provided therewith is true and correct. I further acknowledge that under chapter 29A.84 RCW, forgery of signatures on this petition constitutes a class C felony, and that offering any consideration or gratuity to any person to induce them to sign a petition is a gross misdemeanor, such violations being punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

SIGNATURE

X

Address

City

Zip Code

AN ACT Regarding Office of Sheriff accountable to voter election and independence; amending Pierce County Charter Section 3.70, Section 4.90, Section 7.20; creating new Section 9.70; providing an effective date and effecting the restoration of the term of office to which the Sheriff was elected in 2024.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF Pierce County IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Pierce County Charter

Article 3 The Executive Branch - Section 3.70 -- Office of Sheriff
The Office of Sheriff was created by Washington State Constitution, Article 11, Section 5, to wit,

"County government. The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office..."

There is hereby created the executive department Office of Sheriff. The Sheriff shall be a nonpartisan position, elected by the voters of the County and shall serve full time. ~~Effective January 1, 2027, the Sheriff shall cease to be an elective office, and the current term of office shall terminate. The Sheriff shall be appointed by the Executive and confirmed by a majority of the Council.~~

Article 4 Elections - Section 4.90 -- Limitation on Terms of Office
No person shall be allowed to serve in County elective office for more than two consecutive 4-year terms in the same position as a Councilmember or Executive. No person shall be allowed to serve in County elective office for more than three consecutive 4-year terms in the same position as Sheriff, Assessor-Treasurer or Auditor. Service as the Assessor-Treasurer or Auditor prior to January 1, 2009, shall be counted as part of such consecutive terms. Establishment of residency in an alternate district will not circumvent this restriction.

Article 7 Personnel System - Section 7.20 Exemptions
(1) The provisions of this article shall apply to all County positions except:
(a) contract employees.
(b) all volunteer members of boards and commissions appointed by the Council or Executive.
(c) all elected officials and no more than two other persons in each department of an elected official of the executive branch.
(d) those employees of the Prosecuting Attorney and Superior and District courts according to State law; provided the above independent elected officials may request and the Council and Executive may grant, by ordinance, modifications to this exemption.
(e) those employees of the ~~Executive Department~~ Office of Sheriff to the extent required by State law.

INSTRUCTIONS: With Charter Amendment No. 59 the “Legislature” of the Citizen has reconvened in 2026-27! Become a “co-sponsor” today by signing! That's your Constitutional right! We must submit 81,878 signatures by March 13, 2027, so please ask each family and neighbor to sign NOW. Recruit business locations willing to host petitions. Keep copies in your car at all times for sharing. Contact us and we will supply additional petitions. Once you have filled this petition sign at top of this page, fold or enclose inside envelope and mail with your most generous DONATION so that we may print more petitions.

Mail back petitions throughout this fall and winter, yet no later than March 8, 2027 to:

**Elect Sheriff
PO Box 410
Tacoma, WA 98401**

HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL PETITIONS:

- Copy front and back of this petition at your local copy shop. 11"x17" paper size MUST be maintained or signatures become worthless. Simple!
- Phone or email us: **Phone (253) 446-6445
eMail: keith.swank@ElectSheriff.org**
- Mail your request, including your most generous donation to help pay for copies and postage expense.
For example, your contribution of \$100 will pay for the printing of 500 petitions (250 for \$50). This citizen effort will not be successful without your donation. Because all staff are volunteers, 100% of your funds will go toward petitions and signature collections. We are concerned citizens exactly like you.

Paid for by Elect Sheriff

www.ElectSheriff.org

- (f) the chief officer of each executive department.
- (g) all employees of the Council.
- (h) other employees as may be necessary as determined by the Council.

(2) Exemptions provided by this Section shall not limit the County's responsibility to fulfill its affirmative action and nondiscrimination policies.

Article 9 General Provisions - Section 9.70 Legal Representation - Office of Sheriff
Legal representation and advice shall be supplied to the Sheriff through the office of Prosecuting Attorney. Notwithstanding, the Sheriff may employ or retain his or her own legal representation whenever he or she deems necessary.

NEW SECTION. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. The sponsor of the initiative shall be the people's agent to defend the law enacted by the voters in any lawsuit or appeal.

NEW SECTION. This Act takes effect upon Auditor certification of the November 2027 General Election.

NEW SECTION. Upon voter approval of this Act and immediately upon Auditor certification of election all authority of any unelected sheriff of the executive department shall cede to the Office of Sheriff and into which Office the last elected Sheriff of Pierce County shall be immediately sworn to term ending December 31, 2028.

tape here

From:

tape here

MAIL TO:

Elect Sheriff

PO Box 410

Tacoma, WA 98401

Affix
Postage
Here

tape here