

<a href="#">C-25</a>	4 year Financial Outlook	Rohrer	Article 6, Section XXX
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*Requires the Executive to present a 4 year outlook when presenting the budget.*

**Sponsor of Proposal**

*Loujanna Rohrer*

**Brief Summary of Proposal:**

This amendment would strengthen Pierce County’s budget process by requiring a formal four-year financial outlook in addition to the current balanced biennial budget. Looking ahead four years would help identify future costs, deficits, and financial risks earlier, improve transparency for the public, and support more responsible long-term planning to protect county services and fiscal stability.

**Proposed Charter Amendment:**

**Add New Section 6 XXX**

**Four-Year Balanced Budget Outlook**

- (1) The County Executive shall prepare and submit, as part of the proposed biennial budget, a four-year budget outlook covering the proposed budget biennium and the following biennium.
- (2) The four-year budget outlook shall include:
  - projected revenues
  - projected expenditures
  - fund balances
  - and other information necessary to demonstrate the County’s financial condition
- (3) The four-year budget outlook shall demonstrate that projected expenditures shall not exceed projected revenues and available fund balances for each year of the four-year period.
- (4) The County Council shall consider the four-year budget outlook in adopting the biennial budget.

(5) The County may adopt by ordinance additional requirements, methods, and assumptions for preparation of the four-year budget outlook consistent with this section.

**Rationale for Proposal:**

A four-year budget outlook helps keep Pierce County financially stable by identifying structural deficits early, improving transparency, and requiring leaders to show whether today's budget decisions remain affordable over time. It allows the County to plan more responsibly for economic downturns, rising costs, labor obligations, capital projects, and service demands, while reducing the risk of sudden cuts, emergency fixes, or rushed tax and fee increases. In short, it protects the public by encouraging longterm planning instead of short-term budgeting.

DPA Review of Proposal

Date: 04/01/2026

Proposal No.: C-25

Topic: Financial Administration,

DPA: Kristal Cowger

**Legal Review:** The proposal adds a requirement for the County Executive to prepare a Four-Year balanced budget outlook as part of each biennial budget. This change is within the authority of a charter county.

**Other Feedback/Comments/Recommendations:** As the code revisor has pointed out, the County adopts a biennial budget. Making changes suggested by the code revisor would help this proposal align with the current County budget process.

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## Summary Points

- Provides much needed long range planning tool.
- Provides forecast between budget cycles
- Helps prevent surprises and emergency's at each budget cycle
- Gives the public a more transparent view of County financial outlook
- Allows for better planning of large capital projects
- Reduces the need for emergency taxes and cuts
- The recent Public Safety tax reflected poor planning and foresight
- There is a pattern of this type of short range planning

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## Submit written testimony

By Email: [katey.hobbs@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:katey.hobbs@piercecountywa.gov)

By Web Form: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/FormCenter/Charter-Review-41/Provide-Written-Public-Comment-893>

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## Submitted public testimony

Names in **RED** = CON

Names in **GREEN** = PRO

As of 3-20-26 = **0 CON** - **1 PRO**

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### 4-13-26 Packet

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John Leslie

[john@thetruthpage.org](mailto:john@thetruthpage.org)

Sat 4/4/2026 9:29 AM

Proposed Charter Amendment C-25

I am in full support of proposed Amendment C-25 as presented by Commissioner Rohrer.

We are constantly being forced to make hard budget decisions because no long range planning is mandated by the Charter. This is a much needed tool to make long range spending decisions. The Charter revision moving us to a Biennial Budget was helpful, but still does not look at the next Biennium. This Amendment would make long range planning a part of the process instead of walking blindly into the next budget cycle

Most recently the end of Covid funding is a good example. The long range impacts of the spending commitments that were made with it were not considered. The recent public safety tax revealed that no long range plan has been made to account for infrastructure so the tax was presented as an emergency fix. Just now an Ordinance is being considered to start long range planning for public safety capital projects.

This should be a no-brainer. The costs and impacts of budgeting without long range considerations is mounting. I urge the Commission and voters to support this much needed Amendment.

Sincerely,

John Leslie