

<a href="#">C-26</a>	Community Stewardship	Strickling	Article 2, Section XXX
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*Establishes a County funded litter program including equity provisions and non-profit funding channels. This can be done by Ordinance. Not the Charter.*

**Sponsor of Proposal**

*Commissioner Jenn Marie Strickling*

**Brief Summary of Proposal:**

This proposal authorizes the County to support community-led litter cleanup and beautification efforts by providing supplies like bags, grabbers, and safety equipment, and, if the Council chooses, offering small micro-grants to local groups. It ensures these resources are accessible across rural, suburban, and urban communities, while giving the Council flexibility to decide how often programs run and how they are funded. The goal is simple: make it easier for residents to take pride in their communities and keep shared spaces clean.

**Proposed Charter Amendment:**

**~~New Section (2.XX75) (new section to be determined)~~**

**~~(a)1. Purpose.~~**

The County is authorized to promote environmental stewardship, public health, and community well-being by supporting resident-led litter abatement and beautification efforts across all geographic areas of the County, including rural, suburban, and urban communities.

**~~2. (b) Authority to Establish Programs.~~**

The County Council may, by ordinance, establish one or more programs to provide residents, community groups, and other eligible participants with litter collection supplies and safety

equipment, including but not limited to bags, litter grabbers, gloves, and visibility gear.

3. ~~(e)~~ Program Design and Administration.

The County Council shall have discretion to determine the structure, scope, frequency, and method of distribution of any program authorized under this section, including whether such programs are administered on an ongoing, periodic, or event-based basis.

~~(d)~~4. Community Cleanup Micro-Grants.

The County Council may, by ordinance, establish a Community Cleanup Micro-Grant Program to provide financial support for resident-led and community-based litter abatement and beautification activities. Any such program shall serve a public purpose and include appropriate accountability measures to ensure the use of funds for authorized activities.

If established, the Council shall define eligibility criteria, grant amounts, application procedures, reporting requirements, and any other administrative provisions necessary for program implementation.

5. ~~(e)~~ Equity in Access.

In implementing any program authorized under this section, the County shall seek to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities across all districts, including historically underserved and geographically isolated communities.

6. ~~(f)~~ Partnerships.

The County may enter into partnerships or agreements with community-based organizations, educational institutions, tribal entities, and private partners to support and expand program reach and effectiveness.

7. ~~(g)~~ Reporting.

The County Council may require periodic public reporting on program implementation, participation, geographic distribution, and outcomes.

8. ~~(h)~~ Funding.

The County Council may appropriate funds as part of the biennial annual budget process to carry out the purposes of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a specific level of funding.

Rationale for Proposal:

Across our county, people are speaking up; they're tired of seeing litter pile up on roadsides, in neighborhoods, and in the places we share every day. It doesn't reflect who we are. Most people take pride in their communities and want to be part of the solution, but too often they're left to do it on their own. This amendment is about meeting people where they are and having their backs; making it easier, safer, and more accessible to step in and help. When the county leads by example and supports the people willing to take action, we can turn frustration into momentum, clean up our communities, and rebuild a shared sense of pride in where we live. This was inspired by the bipartisan input in our District 5 listening sessions.

*DPA Review of Proposal*

**Date:** 04/01/2026

**Proposal No.:** C-26

**Topic:** Litter abatement

**DPA:** Kristal Cowger

**Legal Review:** This proposed amendment adds to the charter a provision allowing programs to be established to provide resident led litter abatement efforts across the County. These proposed changes are likely within the authority of a Charter County.

**Other Feedback/Comments/Recommendations:** As the Code Revisor pointed out, the Council would not typically administer a program such as the program being proposed.

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## Summary Points

- This is not appropriate for the Charter
- This can be done by Ordinance now without a Charter directive
- Legal review notes the Council would not administer the program
- No clear administrative structure
- Creates funding streams to non profits
- Litter has been highly driven by drug camps

## 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 4-20-26 = **1 CON** ~ **0 PRO**

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### 4-20-26 Packet

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

Friday, April 10, 2026 7:13 PM

Proposed Ordinance C-26

I oppose proposed Charter Amendment C-26 by Commissioner Strickling

Most notably, this proposal is not appropriate for the Charter. It can be accomplished through Ordinance. Executive Mello just pointed out that some things are appropriate for the Charter and some more appropriate for the Council and Ordinance or Resolution. This clearly fits the latter.

Litter in our county has been highly driven by drug camps and homeless which is also an area for the Council and not the Charter as they have been propagating it with their policies.

Legal review points out the Council would not administer a program like this so there is an immediate funding stream established to nonprofits which is always subject to waste, fraud and abuse.

The solution to the dilemma which everyone acknowledges exists is to end our housing first homeless policies which has led to our county looking like a landfill and is breeding public health risks.

Sincerely,

John Leslie