

<a href="#">P-5</a>	Gerrymandering of Council Districts	Sean Liles	Article 4 Section 4.4
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**Amendment location: Packet Date – Page #**

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*This amendment would tighten districting rules to exclude political gerrymandering.*

**Sponsor of Proposal**

Sean Liles

**Brief Summary of Proposal:**

To add language to prevent the practice of gerrymandering county districts when they are drawn up.

**Proposed Charter Amendment:**

**Section 4.40 District Boundaries**

The boundaries of each district shall correspond as nearly as practicable with the boundaries of election precincts and shall be drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of geographic units and natural communities, which are approximately equal in population. No boundaries shall be drawn in such a manner as to advantage or disadvantage any political party, economic, social, or cultural group.

**Rationale for Proposal:**

To protect our county’s population from having their representation diminished by abuses of political Parties

DPA Review of Proposal

**Date:**

4/3/2026

Proposal No.:

P-5

Topic:

Redistricting

DPA:

Katie Blinn

Legal Review:

The proposal prohibits drawing Council district boundaries “in such a manner as to advantage or disadvantage any political party or any economic, social, or cultural group.” This requirement appears to comply with general redistricting requirements in the State Constitution and State law and is likely within the authority of a charter county.

Other Feedback/Comments/Recommendations:

There can be many interpretations for “economic, social, or cultural group.” Consider using terminology that is more definite and precise.

The State Constitution addresses redistricting in [Article II, Section 43](#). The State Redistricting statute, [RCW 44.05.090](#), implements the State Constitutional provision and requires, to the extent possible:

(2)(a) District lines should be drawn so as to coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as communities of interest. The number of counties and municipalities divided among more than one district should be as small as possible;

(b) Districts should be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact territory. Land areas may be deemed contiguous if they share a common land border or are connected by a ferry, highway, bridge, or tunnel. Areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district should not be deemed contiguous;

...

(5) The commission shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation and to encourage electoral competition. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

A state statute that addresses redistricting for noncharter counties, [RCW 36.32.054\(6\)](#), states:

(6) ... The boundaries of commissioner districts must:

(a) Correspond as nearly as practicable to election precinct boundaries; and

(b) Create districts with compact, contiguous territory

containing geographic units, natural communities, and approximately equal populations.

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## Summary Points

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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 3-17-26 = **0 CON** ~ **0 PRO**

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Packet

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