

# Ballot Measure to Deny Rights Fails

## How Citizens in Skagit County Defeated the Charter Initiative and What We Can Learn in Whatcom County



By Gary Hagland

### Skagit County – Winning The Fight to Defeat the Charter Initiative

Frustrated environmental radicals, seething over the fact that their three county commissioners ignore their extreme demands, have failed in their efforts to change Skagit County's form of government.

Liberal groups have been frustrated that they have been unable to push their agenda through the currently-elected three County Commissioners in Skagit County. Instead of seeking dialogue and compromise, the Liberals promoted a charter initiative to change the form of government, oust the current commissioners and replace them with 7-to-9 County Councilmembers.

Voters in Skagit County rejected the attempted coup by a 2-to-1 margin, sending a resounding message to stop Skagit County from turning into "Seattle North." Residents were not impressed by arguments from charter supporters that a new county governing structure was needed to deal with the "challenges of the 21st Century."

Extremist groups have long-advocated downsized, crowded housing arrangements. Proposals have included dramatically increasing mass transit, setting aside more green spaces, and confining the vast majority of people to a narrow "urban growth area" corridor along I-5. Disturbingly, policy decisions were to be determined not only by elected officials, but also by private individuals.

At the beginning of 2018, the pro-charter organizers began unobtrusively visiting groups that shared their goals and views about the environment and politics in general. They explained the charter process and suggested that it was the fastest and easiest way

of getting rid of the recalcitrant commissioners. They gathered enough signatures and placed the issue on the November ballot at the last minute.

Without much time, those opposed to the radical proposal scrambled to organize a credible response. They quickly chose the name "No-On-Charter." They established a steering committee, sought volunteers for freeholder candidates, began raising money to publicize the anti-charter campaign, and enlisted bipartisan support from leaders, past and present, in the Skagit community.

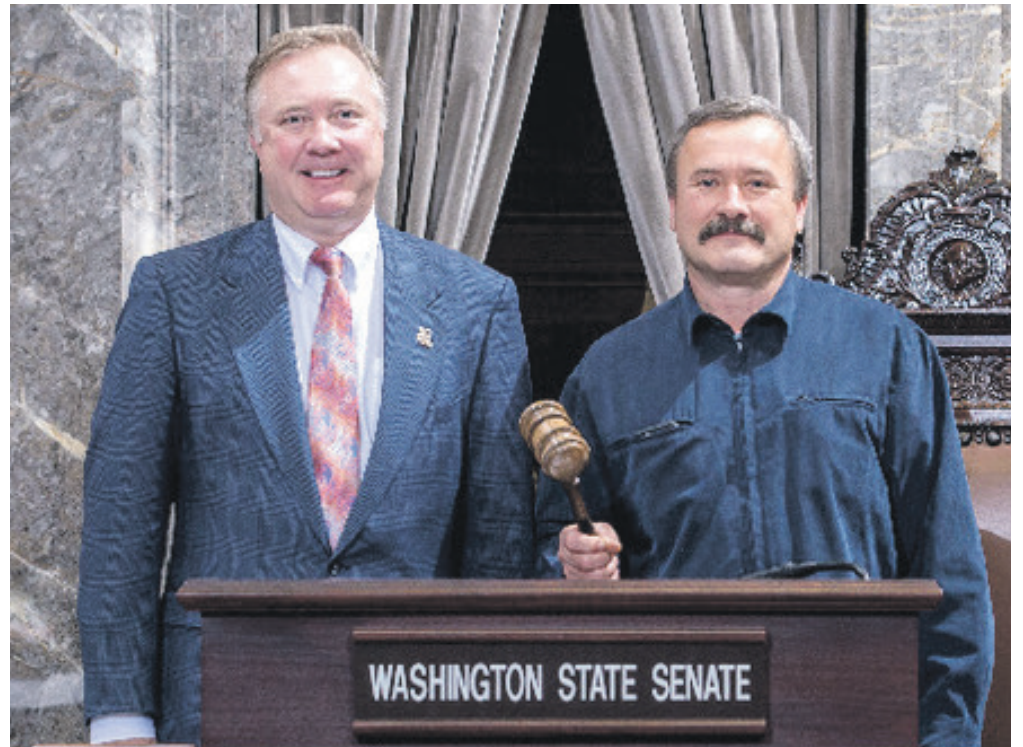
Thanks to some very generous donors, No-On-Charter could afford broadcast and online media as well as newspaper ads. This proved invaluable in getting the message out that the charter measure was a product of leftwing radicals who were attempting to gain control of local county government, despite cloaking their rhetoric in platitudes and claiming they were just ordinary residents of Skagit concerned about good governance.

In addition to financial donors, a small cadre of individuals took it upon themselves to submit letters to the editor of several local papers making salient points about the pitfalls of charter government as well as the true nature of the pro charter folks. Charter governments, especially in King and Whatcom, were used as prime examples of what to expect if Skagit decided to discard its current governing structure. Neither county council is noted for wise decision making.

A significant point made by those who were against the charter was that rural residents and especially farmers lost representation in favor of the more populous cities. This is a pattern seen time and again in the state's charter counties.

Early in the campaign, the No-On-Charter committee encountered a significant and somewhat suspicious obstacle when the county elections department barred them from submitting a statement for the local Voter's Guide. Officials said No-On-Charter missed a deadline. However, the deadline was internal-only and was not publicized. In many cases, the guide is the sole source a voter uses in determining how he or she

*continues on page 8*



## Чому важливість голос імігрантів

Вшановуючи українську громаду, одностайним голосуванням, яке прийняло резолюцію, ініційовану республіканцями, Сенат хотів би визнати переваги та благословення, які може запропонувати слов'янська культура Америки. Імігранти, які переїхали із комуністичних країн шукаючи свободою, принесли людей які мають працелюбну етику і консервативну, чесну мораль. З яскравими розумними розумами багато слов'ян мали змогу досягти успіху і забезпечити свої сім'ї, що було б дуже важко зробити в країнах, з яких вони емігрували. Це приносить користь кожному в наших громадах, і взагалі, нашій нації, покращуючи нашу економіку. Тим не менш, коли наші діти та їхні діти стають майбутніми поколіннями, ми можемо чітко бачити розмитість ліній між правильним і неправильним, а також як бореться Демократична партія, щоб відбирати права американського народу. Настав час, як ніколи, об'єднатися і протистояти соціалістичним ідеологіям і боротися за наше майбутнє, майбутнє наших дітей і майбутнє Америки. Якщо ми не будемо відстоювати те, у що віримо, Америка може розпасти у стан країн, з яких більшість людей тікали. Зміни починаються в наших громадах з призначеними нами лідерами, за які ми вибираємо і. Ці лідери ведуть наш голос до держави і борються за наші цінності та прозби. Таким чином, кожний голос має значення. Ми повинні наполегливо працювати, щоб голосувати за кращого кандидата, який буде боротися за працелюбних американців, тому що досягнення процвітання - це одне, а збереження і розвиток вимагає постійної роботи, особливо для процвітання і свободи нації.

At <https://www.thefourthcorner.com/local-news/2019-state-senate-honors-ukrainian-immigrants-and-tax-aunt-it-forum/>

Translation? Go to: [TheFourthCorner.com/localnews/2019-translation/](http://TheFourthCorner.com/localnews/2019-translation/)

## Why Would Anyone Want to Move to Whatcom County?

By Molly Crocker

Well why not? Our median home price has crept over \$500K. It's become a very exclusive neighborhood. But I suppose if we all do as AOC wishes and stop having children that supply will eventually get ahead of demand and prices will drop. But I'm not sure there will be any neighborhood children available for lawn mowing. Finding someone to do upkeep might replace the cost of the home.

For now, the average young person starting out has a choice

of communes to live in, since all of his/her friends are packed into apartments that rent for \$2 per square foot. I've heard of up to eight people living in a three-bedroom apartment that rents for \$2000 per month. It's wonderful practice for the socialism to come. Some families are already practicing multi-generational living in tight spaces. I see several homes in my neighborhood where five cars roll in at night and vanish in the morning. They have names of various businesses on them, so I'm thinking the owners are

*continues on page 7*