

BELLINGHAM CITY CHARTER PREAMBLE

“We, the citizens of the City of Bellingham, wishing to establish a government more responsive to the people, more efficient in its operation and more open to that essential ingredient, the concerned participation of citizens, do hereby adopt the following Charter.”

LET’S VOTE ON IT!

CITY OF BELLINGHAM REFERENDUM NO. 1

WHEREAS the elected Freeholders and makers of the Bellingham City Charter refer to the People’s powers of Initiative and Referendum as the First and Second Rights reserved by the People, and

WHEREAS those Rights are the People’s fundamental remedy when government fails to act on their behalf or acts to their detriment, and

WHEREAS government should not interfere with the people’s right to Initiate or Refer legislation to election, and

WHEREAS the City Charter and State Statutes provide that only voters can approve or amend the city’s Charter, and

WHEREAS the Bellingham City Council and the City administration have obstructed or ignored four of the last five direct legislation petitions brought before them by the voters, and

WHEREAS the record reflects the fact that both the City administration and City Council knew that Ordinance #2006-05-042 made changes and additions to the Charter that should be approved by a vote of the People, and

WHEREAS the City Council first approved the appointment of a citizen committee to study and clarify the Charter, subsequently reversing that direction at their 2005 Retreat, and

WHEREAS the City constituted a Charter Review Committee solely of city staff, which is illegal under city and state laws, and

WHEREAS council thereafter passed City ordinance number 2006-05-142 to enact those same Charter amendments, without any vote of the people, and

WHEREAS the voters do not agree that the city council may assume jurisdiction over their Rights of Direct Legislation,

THEREFORE We, the undersigned registered voters of the City of Bellingham, Washington, respectfully order and direct that the City of Bellingham Referendum No. 1, regarding **Bellingham City Council Ordinance 2006-05-042**, being an ordinance passed by the Bellingham City Council, a full, true, and correct copy of which is attached to this petition, shall be referred to a vote of the people pursuant to state law for their approval or rejection at a regular or special election to be held on a date and in the manner required by the Revised Code of Washington.
