

Comment on emergency rulemaking / WAC 390 draft changes

[Andrew Villeneuve](#) reported via email
(Mon, 12 May 2025 at 7:35 PM)

To: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Greetings Commissioners:

On behalf of the Northwest Progressive Institute (NPI), I'm writing to express our strong support for [proposed amendments to WAC 390](#) that would temporarily allow political parties and committees to display their positions on ballot measures on sample ballots. [The proposal in front of the Public Disclosure Commission](#) would be a win for grassroots democracy, making it easier for state and local political party organizations to communicate their endorsements to the public.

NPI's highly respected public opinion research has consistently found that endorsement guides published by political parties and advocacy groups are a key source of information that voters in Washington use to reach decisions about how they will vote in addition to the official voter's pamphlet (an almost-universally utilized resource!) – along with conversations with family and friends, select mass media outlets, candidates' campaign websites, and candidate forums.

An average of 27.25% of thousands of voters in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties surveyed in a series of scientific polls commissioned by NPI between 2021 and 2023 said they that they use online or printed endorsement guides created by political parties and advocacy groups at election time to obtain information about what is on the ballot and make a decision as to how they will vote. That's nearly one in three voters!

And it's more than twice as much as the average of 13% of voters across King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties who said they use Facebook for that same purpose, or the average of 14.25% of voters across those same four counties who said they used some combination of Twitter/X, Snapchat, Nextdoor, Instagram, and /or TikTok to obtain information about what is on the ballot and make a decision as to how they will vote.

Political parties give like-minded residents of Washington and other jurisdictions a vehicle for organizing for the change they want and electing candidates who share their values and principles. Without political parties, elections in our state and country would likely become even more celebrity-driven and dominated by big money.

At a perilous time for our democracy, making it easier for party organizations at the state and local level to communicate their ballot measure positions to voters is a constructive and healthy action to be taking.

We appreciate the PDC's willingness to take up the petition submitted by the Washington State Democratic Party, and we urge the Commission to adopt the draft emergency rules so that state and local party organizations may reap the benefits during this important local election year.

Thank you for your service to the people of the State of Washington. Please reach out if you have any questions about our research that you'd like me to answer.

Sincerely,

—

Andrew Villeneuve

Executive Director, Northwest Progressive Institute

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