Ballot Measure Statements

Primary Election Committee Rosters must be received by 5 p.m. on June 3rd.

General Election Committee Rosters must be received by 5 p.m. on August 19th.

Argument

Arguments consist of up to 250 words, including no more than four headings. Headings may not exceed 15 words each and will be printed in bold type. Headings are calculated in your total word count.

Hyphenated words count as two words unless the hyphenation is listed as one word by dictionary.com.

Photographs or charts are permitted. Each square inch of chart or photograph will substitute for 50 words. Bullet lists are not permitted.

The body or your argument may not include bold, underlining, or all caps. Italics are permitted for emphasis. Bold, underlining, or all caps will be removed and replaced with italics.

No more than five paragraphs are allowed for arguments. Excessive paragraph returns will be removed.

Arguments must be submitted to the County Auditor's Office no later than 10 business days after the Committee Roster has been submitted.

Once submitted, arguments cannot be changed by the committee unless requested by Benton County or court order.

Committee roster

You may nominate up to four additional committee members. Submit your committee roster with your initial argument.

Committee member names will be printed in the order submitted on the roster. Each committee member may use up to eight words as a title or identification. Name and title or identification will be published exactly as submitted, or as defined in WAC 434-381-160.

Committee contact information

Each committee may submit contact information consisting of a telephone number, an email and a web address for publication. This information does not count toward argument or rebuttal word limits. Provide contact information on the committee member roster form on page 8.

Rebuttal

After both committees submit their initial arguments, Benton County will transmit the statements to the opposite committee. Both committees may then prepare rebuttal arguments.

Rebuttal statements must be submitted within 5 business days of the initial argument.

Rebuttals may consist of up to 75 words without headings One paragraph is allowed and excessive paragraph returns will be removed.

Rebuttals may not include bold, underlining, or all caps. Italics are permitted for emphasis. Bold, underlining, or all caps will be removed and replaced with italics.

Rebuttals cannot interject new points that were not addressed in the opposite committee's argument.

Once submitted, arguments cannot be changed by the committee unless requested by Benton County or court order.

Review proofs

A proof copy of the page as it will appear in the voters' pamphlet will be sent to each committee for review. Only errors made by Benton County may be corrected. Committees may only request changes to their own content.

Changes to proofs must be received within three business days after proofs are sent to committees.

Deadlines

The committee members will write an argument in favor of or opposition to the ballot measure.

From the day the initial two members of each committee are appointed, the committees have ten business days to submit their arguments to Benton County. A roster of all committee members must accompany the argument.

Once arguments for both sides are received the arguments are exchanged. After the exchange, the committees have five business days to submit a rebuttal to the Benton County Auditor's Office .

Relevant RCWs and WACs

For more information consult the following.

RCW 29A.32.060 pertaining to voters' pamphlet arguments and rebuttals.

WAC 434-381-120 pertaining to deadlines.

WAC 434-381-160 pertaining to committee names and contact information.

WAC 434-381-170 pertaining to argument format.

WAC 434-381-180 pertaining to editing arguments.

How to submit information

Although you will receive official notification from Benton County via letters in the mail, daily correspondence is typically conducted via email.

email

We prefer email. Please submit arguments and roster to elections@co.benton.wa.us.

mail

A CD containing arguments and rosters is acceptable.
Voters' Pamphlet
Benton County Election Department
PO Box 470
Prosser, WA 99350

Questions?

Call (509) 736-3085 or (509) 786-5618

Email elections@co.benton.wa.us