



November 4, 2019

City Council Members  
City of Yakima  
129 N. 2nd Street  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Re: Request to Reject Proposed Charter Change Abandoning Manager-Council Form of Government and Implementing a Strong Mayor System**

The undersigned organizations endorse the letter sent by the ACLU-Washington dated October 22 with regard to legal concerns over the proposed Mayor-Council form of government. These organizations join the ACLU-Washington in urging the Council to reject proposals to establish a Mayor-Council form of government.

In addition, OneAmerica is very concerned that the recommendation before the Council does not appear to be the result of a comprehensive review of the Charter, nor does it appear to be the product of a robust community engagement process that would be commensurate to a change of this significance. Furthermore, rather than pursue a Mayor-Council proposal, OneAmerica urges the Council to examine how the City may ensure full representation in a manner consistent with the federal court order that established single member Council districts in the City of Yakima.

If you have any questions, please send them to Rich Stolz, Executive Director of OneAmerica ([rich@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:rich@weareoneamerica.org), (206) 723-2203).

Rich Stolz, Executive Director  
OneAmerica

Additional signatories to the ACLU-Washington Letter:

Dori Peralta Baker, Chair  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-Yakima

Cindy Black, Executive Director  
Fix Democracy First



Annie Benson, Senior Directing Attorney  
Washington Defender Association

Paul Benz, Co-Director for Policy & Programs  
Faith Action Network

Cheryl Berenson  
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) WA State Policy Advocate

Shannon Murphy, President  
Washington Conservation Voters

Darcy Nonemacher, Government Affairs Director  
Washington Environmental Council

Marcos Martinez, Executive Director  
Casa Latina

Karl Eastlund, CEO  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho

Alissa Haslam, Executive Director  
Win|Win Action

Faaluaina Pritchard, Executive Director  
Asian Pacific Cultural Center

Diane Sosne, President  
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

George Cheung, Director  
More Equitable Democracy

Anita Quintana  
Yakima Community Integration Committee Member

Rick Polintan, Board President  
Asian Pacific Islander American for Civic Engagement (APACE)



Rocío Carrión, Executive Director  
I AM Empowerment LLC

Estela Ortega, Executive Director  
El Centro de La Raza

Aaron Ostrom, Executive Director  
FUSE Washington

Criss Bardill, President  
Yakima County League of Women Voters