

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lewis County Citizens Launch Petition Drive to Expand County Commission from 3 to 5 Members

Nonpartisan effort aims to improve representation for all Lewis County residents

LEWIS COUNTY, WA — Lewis County Citizens for Commission Reform (LCCCR) today announced the launch of a signature-gathering campaign to place a measure on the November 2026 ballot that would expand the Lewis County Board of Commissioners from three members to five.

The initiative, authorized under RCW 36.32.055, requires signatures from 10 percent of voters who participated in the most recent general election— 2,039 Lewis County residents—to qualify for the ballot.

Why Five Commissioners?

Lewis County spans more than 2,400 square miles, from the population centers of Centralia and Chehalis in the west to rural communities like Randle in the east. Under the current three-commissioner structure, the third district covers a massive geographic area, often leaving East County residents with less influence in county matters.

Expanding to five commissioners would create smaller districts, allowing elected officials to be more responsive to the specific needs of their communities.

The group says that, "right now, East Lewis County areas like Packwood share a commissioner district with cities like Winlock, even though the communities have very different needs. Five commissioners means better, more local representation for everyone."

LCCCR Urges a Fiscally Responsible Approach

Although commissioner salaries cannot be altered through ballot measure, LCCCR is advocating for reforms to commissioner compensation. The committee supports restoring a 10-person salary commission that was disbanded by the current commissioners and tying their salaries to the local median household income rather than to state judicial salaries.

This change would ensure elected officials share in the economic realities of the residents they serve. It also means 5 commissioners under a fair compensation formula would cost the county roughly the same as 3 commissioners under the current inflated formula.

How to Get Involved

Registered Lewis County voters can sign the petition at upcoming community events throughout the county. Volunteers interested in canvassing can contact LCCCR at lewiscounty3to5@gmail.com or call 360-822-8384. More information is available at www.lewiscounty3to5.com

The committee must collect valid signatures from all three current commissioner districts, with at least 20 percent coming from each district. Signatures must be submitted to the Lewis County Auditor by August 5, 2026, though the group is aiming to reach a signature goal of 2,500 by July 4th, 2026.

About Lewis County Citizens for Commission Reform

LCCCR is a nonpartisan committee of Lewis County residents working to give voters the opportunity to decide whether to expand county commission representation. The committee does not endorse candidates or take positions on other political issues.

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For more information, contact LCCCR at lewiscounty3to5@gmail.com or 360-822-8384.

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