



**WE** DESERVE  
TO HAVE A  
VOICE AGAIN  
IN COUNTY GOVT.

## THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS BROKEN

### *Poor fiscal management:*

Run away spending has caused dipping into the County savings account to balance the budget.

### *Continued lawsuits:*

Costly, unprofessional behaviors from Commissioners and bureaucrats result in lawsuits costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle.

### *Lack of leadership vision:*

The County does not set forth a vision for a healthy, productive, growing community and has not partnered well with key community organizations.

### *Incompetent management:*

Problems surrounding poor management include Senior Centers, 911 Call Center, Discover Lewis County and the WSU Extension.

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

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# What are we doing and why?

We are leading an effort designed to change Lewis County government in two important ways:

1. Increase the number of County Commissioners from three full time to five part time. This provides increased representation for our County.
2. Add a professional County Manager to oversee day-to-day operations.

This requires a change to what is called a "Home Rule" Charter County. This allows for more than three County Commissioners. We propose to adjust the role of the County Commissioners from one that is responsible for the day-to-day running of the County Manager to one that focuses on policy matters. They would be paid significantly less than today, resulting in a cost saving that would make room in the budget for an adequately paid, professional County Manager.

## 4 REASONS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CHANGE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

### 1. Cost Savings

We estimate that Lewis County will save **\$165,000** with this change. Part time County Commissioners would be paid \$1,000 a month plus benefits. The County Manager would be paid within a salary range of \$150,000 plus benefits. This is a more appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

### 2. Better Representation

Five Part time Commissioners versus three provide better representation. This eliminates "Professional" politicians and helps us gain servant leaders that care about more than just earning a paycheck.

### 3. Professional Management

An appointed professional County Manager will bring stability and expertise to Lewis County government. This individual will have experience planning and administering a public budget, as well as providing direction to County department heads. A professional County Manager will have knowledge of current HR laws, reducing employee-related lawsuits.

### 4. Transparency

Conduct the people's business in the open instead of behind closed doors. Move Commissioner meetings to the evening when working citizens can attend.

**Swing by the Chamber to sign our petition or to provide financial support to this initiative.**



Centralia - Chehalis  
Chamber of Commerce

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