

Bond Case Briefs

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CHARTER AMENDMENTS - WASHINGTON

A Better Richland v. Chilton

Supreme Court of Washington, En Banc - January 29, 2026 - P.3d - 2026 WL 234184

Political action committee filed petition for writ of mandamus against county auditor, directing auditor to place proposed city charter amendment on the ballot to be voted on at a special election.

The Superior Court denied the petition and ordered that the proposed amendment be included in the general election. Committee sought direct review.

The Supreme Court held that:

- Moot issue of whether proposed amendment could be placed on special election ballot was matter of continuing and substantial public interest, and thus the Court would review it;
- Phrase “next regular municipal election” in statute providing that “amendment[s] shall be submitted to the voters at the next regular municipal election,” includes both special elections and general elections; and
- Committee did not identify ministerial, nondiscretionary duty requiring county auditor to hold special election, and thus mandamus would not lie.