July 11, 2026

A new Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney can create real change

Justice!

That's what we committed to focusing on this year. We all deserve it, and our community is now directly investing in promised improvements to our local legal system through a dedicated sales tax.

Because leadership matters now more than ever, we narrowly focused our endorsement efforts on a single, critical race: Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney. It is an understatement to say that this one position has the power to dramatically reshape the course of local justice.

After evaluating all four candidates through a rigorous written and oral review process, one leader stood out as uniquely ready to make an immediate, positive impact.

We choose Jesse Corkern for Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney.

Jesse Corkern stood out for his clear and honest vision. He addressed the office's cultural challenges directly, framing staff morale and retention as a leadership responsibility. This was backed by a track record of identifying, then working toward solutions from within the office. He pairs that experience with fresh recruitment and retention ideas to address case backlogs and staff attrition, including structural changes built around the strengths and interests of the individual staff.

On data, Corkern promised to use it to make and measure policy efficacy. He was the only candidate to clearly state that the prosecutor's office is far behind in data collection, visibility, and use. He matched that honesty with a real commitment: a dedicated data employee and a real-time, public-facing interactive dashboard to help policy makers with their decisions and let residents hold the office accountable. He brings that same forthrightness to prosecutorial discretion and the need to address low-level, nonviolent offenders through a Community Court - a philosophy that sees the office's power as a tool for justice, not just punishment.