

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Change of Public Defense Standards WA  
**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 9:47:43 AM

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**From:** Dyan Smolinsky <dyan.smolinsky@sheltonwa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 25, 2024 9:45 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Dyan Smolinsky <dyan.smolinsky@sheltonwa.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Change of Public Defense Standards WA

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WA State Supreme Court,

As the administrator of a small rural court in WA, I would like to comment on the proposed change in the public defense standards.

This small city (Shelton) cannot possibly afford to contract with additional public defenders to take over cases in our municipal court. We are at a deficit every year in this city's budget and have been forced to lay off employees. There is already a shortage of public defenders in WA, so where are the extra attorneys to take over cases supposed to come from? This proposal will devastate this small town's budget, and we are not alone in this way. I am asking you, please do not go through with what has been proposed, and let's find a less costly solution to the problem.

Since there are not enough public defenders to take on the newly proposed caseload standards, misdemeanors will no longer be charged by prosecutors and crime will increase dramatically in WA.

You will be responsible for forcing the closure of district and municipal courts across this state, who as you know handle the majority of the criminal cases in WA.

Sincerely,

*Dyan Smolinsky*  
Court Administrator

Shelton Municipal Court  
(360) 432-5149