



WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

*Members of our community who require special assistance to participate in our meetings are asked to contact our office at least **96 hours** in advance to enable us to make necessary arrangements.*

AGENDA

6:30 p.m. Monday, June 22, 2015

Civic Center Garden Room, 322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham, Washington

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Session

Members of the public will have 3 minutes to address the Commission on any subject. Each speaker should state his or her name for the record. To submit handouts, please provide one for each commissioner and two for staff and the record.

5. Approval of Minutes for June 8, 2015

6. Old Business: Discussion and possible vote on proposed Charter amendments for voters at the next general election

The Commission will take a mid-meeting break if necessary.

- Proposed Amendment 18 from Ken Bell: Shall the Charter be amended to apply term limits to the County Executive?
- Proposed Amendment 19 from Ken Bell, Todd Donovan, and Eli Mackiewicz: Shall the Charter be amended to change the election system to a system of preferential voting?
- Proposed Amendment 20 from Jon Mutchler: Shall the County Executive have the authority to veto one or more individual items of appropriation within a budget passed by the County Council, while still approving the remainder of the budget? And shall the County Council have the authority to override the County Executive's veto by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Council?

7. Old Business: Proposed Charter Amendments for Voters at the next General Election

The Commission voted to forward these proposed amendments to Whatcom County voters. The Commission is not scheduled to discuss the proposed amendments at tonight's meeting. However, any commissioner may move to reconsider these amendments during any meeting.

- Proposed Amendment 1 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of councilmembers within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?
- Proposed Amendment 2 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter in Article 5.40 and Article 5.60 be amended to increase the concise statement limit from 20 words to 40 words?

- Proposed Amendment 3 from Ben Elenbaas: Shall Charter Section 8.20 be amended to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments on matters that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters?
- Proposed Amendment 5 from Todd Donovan: Shall the Charter be amended to facilitate voting on initiative and referendum?
- Proposed Amendment 6 from Ken Bell: Shall the Charter be amended to apply term limits to the County councilmembers?
- Proposed Amendment 10 from Chet Dow: Shall Charter Section 8.23 be amended to prohibit the County Council from proposing any Charter amendment to Charter sections 2.12 or 2.13?
- Proposed Amendment 13 from Eli Mackiewicz: Shall the Charter be amended to include four political parties, instead of two, in the districting process?
- Proposed Amendment 14 from Todd Donovan and Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter be amended to lower the threshold requirement for ballot signatures for Whatcom County Charter changes from 20% to 15% for citizen initiatives?

8. New Business

- Review of Draft Ballot Titles.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2015 at the Civic Center Garden Room, 322 N. Commercial St., Bellingham.

**Please visit the Charter Review Commission on the web at
<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/290/2015-Whatcom-County-Charter-Review-Comm>**