

| CLEARANCES                  | Initial | Date | Date Received in Council Office: | Agenda date | Assigned to:         |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Originator: Henderson/Woods |         | 6/09 |                                  | 6/22/93     | Council/Intro        |
| Division Head:              |         |      |                                  | 7/6/93      | Council/Work Session |
| Dept. Head:                 |         |      |                                  | 7/27/93     | Council/Hearing      |
| Prosecutor:                 |         |      |                                  |             |                      |
| Purchasing/Budget:          |         |      |                                  |             |                      |
| Executive:                  |         |      |                                  |             |                      |

**SUBJECT:**

Proposed charter amendment to directly state the duties of the Auditor and Treasurer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Ordinance

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

*Please complete sections of box as appropriate & explain the item below.*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Related County contract #: N/A               | Should Clerk schedule a hearing? NO / / YES / X / Requested date:          |
| Amount budgeted for this item/project: \$N/A | Is it (or will it be) within budget? YES / / NO / / (Please explain below) |
| Budget line item number(s):                  |  |

This proposed charter change will clearly specify the duties of the County Auditor and Treasurer instead of the current language that merely refers to general state law. The change is proposed to help complete financial reorganization efforts that began in 1988. The proposed language will clearly establish the Auditor in an internal auditing function covering all county government, while allowing consolidation and centralization of financial processing operations. The Treasurer will continue to supervise County funds and tax collections. This proposal has the support of the County Treasurer, County Auditor, and County Executive.

**ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Pass the ordinance and place it on the ballot for a public vote.

**COMMITTEE ACTION TAKEN:**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:**

- 6/22/93: Introduced
- 7/6/93: Council work session: forwarded for hearing
- 7/27/93: Council adopted the ordinance. 6-0

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):** Ord 93-043

SPONSORED BY: Consent

PROPOSED BY: Henderson

INTRODUCTION DATE: June 22, 1993

ORDINANCE NO. 93-043

AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY CHARTER  
TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE  
REGARDING DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR AND TREASURER

WHEREAS, the people of Whatcom County adopted a Home Rule Charter in 1978 setting forth the form of government; and

WHEREAS, in adopting the charter for Whatcom County the duties of the Auditor and Treasurer were not specifically enumerated and merely referenced state law; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties specified in state law are based on concepts founded in the 19th century and relate to the commissioner form of government that has been replaced by the people of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the nature of modern management demands changes in approach to better safeguard the interests of the people; and

WHEREAS, both outside experts and the informed opinion of professional staff and elected officials have reached the conclusion that changes will result in the more efficient and accountable operation of government; and

WHEREAS the County Auditor, County Treasurer, County Executive and County Council agree that the proposed changes are in the best interests of the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the following amendment of Section 3.52 of the Whatcom County Charter shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection at the November 1993 General Election:

**Section 3.52 Powers and Duties**

The County Assessor, ~~Auditor, Treasurer~~ and Sheriff created by adoption of this charter shall have the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by general law: Provided that these offices ~~and those of the Auditor and Treasurer~~ shall be subject to the personnel, budgeting and any other policies set by the County Council.

1 The County Auditor shall be the recorder of deeds and other instruments which are  
2 required by law to be filed and recorded in the county; shall issue licenses and other  
3 records, as specified in county law and as an agent of the state; shall certify and  
4 administer all elections within the county and maintain voter rolls and records; shall  
5 audit county financial systems, records, and management procedures for compliance  
6 with recognized accounting principles and conformance to federal, state, and county  
7 laws, policies, and procedures; shall insure the adequacy and standing of county  
8 finances through certification of an annual financial report; and shall perform other  
9 duties as specified by county law.

10 The County Treasurer shall be the official responsible for tax and assessment billing  
11 and receipt of money due the county; shall disburse funds for the county; shall be  
12 responsible for banking relationships, cash and debt management, and investment of  
13 funds; shall maintain necessary records and submit regular reports on treasury  
14 activities; and shall perform other duties as specified by county law.

15 Be it further ordained that upon adoption by the voters, this amendment shall be effective  
16 on January 1, 1994.

17 APPROVED this 27th day of July, 1993.

18 ) ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20 Ramona Reeves  
21 Ramona Reeves, Council Clerk

Marge Laidlaw  
~~Marge Laidlaw, Council Chair-acting~~  
Ken Henderson

22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

( ) Approved ( ) Denied

23 Daniel L. Gibson  
24 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Van Zanten, Executive  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_