

**Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting**  
**7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., April 19, 1995**  
**Courthouse Multi-purpose Room, 311 Grand Ave., Bellingham**

*Individuals needing information about accessibility or special assistance should please contact the County Council office at 676-6690 at least 48 hours in advance, so that we may make necessary accommodations. Some accommodations, such as assistive listening devices or materials in alternative format may require 7 to 10 days notice.*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the April 12, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
  1. Scrimsher, Section 7.30: clarification of legislative non-interference in the County personnel system
  2. Scrimsher, Section 6.60: clarification of legislative non-interference in financial matters
  3. Radke, Section 3.21: establishing a limit of two terms for the Executive
  4. Ahrens, Section 2.20b: increasing Council Members' salaries as a percentage of the Executive's salary
  5. Radke, Section 1.50: new addition, regarding performance and strategic planning
  6. Radke, Section 8.11: Charter Review candidate names to appear on ballots as drawn by lot
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 26, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse Multi-purpose Room, 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham.

People are encouraged to write the Charter Review Commission and share their thoughts and concerns. Please mail your comments to: Charter Review Commission, c/o Whatcom County Council Office, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WHATCOM COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER  
APRIL 19, 1995**

1. (Mary Scrimsher) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

**Section 7.30 - Administration**

The County Executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the County Council by ordinance. Except for setting in place the personnel system and rules, the County Council shall not be involved in the day-to-day administration of the personnel system, except for the employment and supervision of the staff in the legislative branch, or as otherwise provided in this Charter.

2. (Mary Scrimsher) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

**Section 6.60 Consideration and Adoption of the Budget**

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the County Council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the County Executive and shall hold any other public hearings on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The Council in considering the appropriation ordinances proposed by the Executive, may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditure of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the Executive. The Council shall not change the form of the proposed annual budget ordinance submitted by the Executive nor use the annual budget ordinance as a vehicle to convey policy directives or to direct the administration of the County. The appropriation ordinances adopted by the County Council shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the Council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the Executive by reestimating the amount by motion passed by a ~~minimum of five~~ (5) affirmative votes majority vote or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the Executive. Once the annual budget has been approved, the Executive shall need no further authorization to expend the funds appropriated.

3. (Ray Radke) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

**Section 3.21 Election, Term of Office and Compensation**

The County Executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and the term of office shall be four years and until the successor is elected and qualified. No individual shall hold this office for more than two full terms. The County Executive shall receive compensation as determined by the County Council. (amended by Referendum 1986)

4. (Keith Ahrens) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

**Section 2.20 Powers**

The County Council shall exercise its legislative power by adoption and enactment of ordinances or resolutions. It shall have the power:

(a) To levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county.

(b) To establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and to provide for the reimbursement of expenses, except that no council member may receive a salary increase for the term of office during which the ordinance is adopted, nor shall any council member receive a salary in excess of ~~fifteen (15)~~ **twenty-five (25)** percent of that of the County Executive.

5. (Ray Radke) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following section:

**Section 1.50 Performance and Strategic Planning**

The Executive, Administrative, and Legislative Departments under the budget authority of Whatcom County shall establish a partnership intended to achieve:

Long-term strategic planning

Performance measurements

Streamlined processes and organizational structure

Use of Total Quality Management (TQM) principles to achieve efficiencies

Priority-driven, results-oriented budgeting, accounting, and other internal support systems

Performance incentives

6. (Ray Radke) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

**Section 8.11 Election and Period of Office**

At least every ten (10) years after the adoption of this Charter, the County Council shall cause an election of a Charter Review Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) persons, an equal number from each Council district. There shall be no filing fee nor shall there be a primary. ~~Candidates names shall appear on all ballots as drawn by lot.~~ The member of the Commission who receives the greatest number of votes shall convene the Commission. The term of office shall be one year. The Commission shall meet at such times and in such places as it deems appropriate upon having given public notice. (Ord. 93-045; amended by Referendum 1986)