



## 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, February 9, 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 January 26, 2015**
6. **Discuss and Approve Regular and Special Meeting Schedule and Location(s)**  
*Continued from January 26, 2015*
7. **Discussion and Possible Vote to Amend the Rules of Order**
  - Discuss and vote on the process for scheduling proposed Charter amendments on the Commission agenda.  
  
*The Commission will take a mid-meeting break if necessary.*
8. **Discussion and Possible Vote on Submitting Proposed Charter Amendments to Voters at the next General Election**
  - Proposed Amendment #1: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of council members within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?
  - Proposed Amendment #2: 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: Expand the preamble to affirm the diversity of our citizens.
9. **Other Business**
  - Discuss and approve agenda items for the next Commission meeting.
10. **Adjourn**  
*The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015 at the Lummi Administration Building, 2665 Kwina Road, Bellingham.*

Please visit us on the web at [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council/charterreview.jsp](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council/charterreview.jsp)

# Proposed Amendment No. 1

Date submitted  
to Commission: **1/26/2015**

Date scheduled  
on agenda: **2/9/2015**

Submitted by Joe Elenbaas

Charter Amendment Number: **1**

Section: **Article 2: The Legislative Branch. Section 2.13**

Amendment:

**“Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of council members within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?”**

As proposed, this Amendment would modify language in Section 2.13 as follows:

Section 2.13 Election ~~Countywide~~ by Council District

The registered voters of ~~Whatcom County~~ **each Council District** shall vote upon each council member position **to be filled from their district** at the November general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

## Proposed Amendment No. 2

Date submitted  
to Commission: **1/26/2015**

Date scheduled  
on agenda: **2/9/2015**

Submitted by Joe Elenbaas

Charter Amendment Number: **2**

Section: **Article 5: The Public Interest. Sections 5.40 and 5.60**

Amendment:

**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?**

As proposed, this Amendment would modify language in Sections 5.40 and 5.60 as follows:

Section 5.40 Initiative – Procedures.

Any legal voter or organization of legal voters of Whatcom County may file an initiative proposal with the County Auditor, who within five (5) days, excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays, shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The Auditor shall give the proposed initiative a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The Auditor shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten (10) days after receipt thereof, in consultation with the petitioner shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed ~~twenty (20)~~ **forty (40)** words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title. The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days .....(continued)

Section 5.60 Referendum – Procedures.

Any legal voter, or organization of legal voters of Whatcom County may file a referendum proposal, against any enacted ordinance or portion thereof, with the County Auditor. The proposal shall be presented to the Auditor within forty-five (45) days after the ordinance is passed by the County Council.

Within five (5) days, excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays, the Auditor shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The Auditor shall give the referendum proposal a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The Auditor shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the County Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten (10) days after receipt thereof, shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a question, not to exceed ~~twenty (20)~~ **forty (40)** words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the measure being referred. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days .....(continued)

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT No. 3

Date submitted  
to Commission/or Clerk: **2/3/2015**

Date scheduled  
on agenda: **2/9/2015**

Submitted by Jon Mutchler

Charter Amendment Number: **3**

Section: **Preamble**

Amendment: Expand the preamble to affirm the diversity of our citizens.

As proposed, this Amendment would modify language in the Preamble as follows:

### Preamble

Treasuring the many wonders of our unique environment, **respecting the diversity of our citizens**, and realizing that the power and duty to govern and protect this region is inherent in its people, we, the citizens of Whatcom County, in order to have a government which advances justice, inspires confidence, and fosters responsibility, do adopt as the foundation of our government, this Charter.