

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 18

Date submitted
to Commission: **6/8/15**

Date scheduled
on agenda: **6/22/15**

Charter Amendment Number: 18
Submitted by: Ken Bell
Title: Shall Charter Section 3.21 be amended to apply term limits to the County Executive?
Section: Charter Section 3.21
Amendment: ARTICLE 3 THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH Section 3.21 Election and Term of Office. 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. The County Executive shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. Terms are considered consecutive unless they are at least four years apart.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 19

Date submitted
to Commission: **6/8/15**

Date scheduled
on agenda: **6/22/15**

Charter Amendment Number: 19
Submitted by: Ken Bell, Todd Donovan, and Eli Mackiewicz
Title: Shall the Charter be amended to change the election system to a system of preferential voting?
Section: Charter Sections 2.11, 2.12, and 2.13
Amendment: Section 2.11 Three Districts Election. The County Council shall consist of seven (7) members, selected as follows: For purpose of nomination of members of the Council, the county shall divide into three districts so that each district shall comprise as nearly as possible one third of the population of the county. On adoption of the Charter, the existing commissioner districts shall constitute the three districts for the purpose of nomination of candidates to the County Council. Three members will be elected every two years, and four members two years after that. Section 2.12 Nominations. Ballot Access (a) Nominees by district. There shall be two Council positions in each of the three districts, designated position (A) and position (B), respectively. At the primary election, the qualified electors of each district shall select two (2) candidates for each position to be filled from their district. (b) Nominee at large. There shall be one Council position designated councilmember at large, which shall be nominated without regard to district. The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes county wide shall be certified as candidates for the position of councilmember at large. Candidates who file for County Council will appear on the November general election ballot. Section 2.13 Election Countywide by Preferential Voting. The registered voters of Whatcom County shall vote upon each Council member position at the November general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected. Voters will rank candidates in order of preferences. A candidate is elected when the candidate's vote total exceeds this amount: (the total valid votes cast divided by the number of seats to fill, plus one), plus one. If a candidate is elected, the elected candidate's second preference votes are transferred to the remaining candidates. A second round of counting then determines if additional candidates have exceeded the amount of votes required to be elected. When no candidate is elected after transfers, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and that candidate's second preference votes are transferred to the remaining candidates. The process is repeated until all seats are filled. Proportional representation balloting shall be used for the County Council elections in November 2017 and all subsequent elections. If the County Auditor certifies to the County Council and the County Executive no later than July 1, 2017 that the Elections Office will not be ready to implement proportional representational balloting in November 2017, then the County shall begin using proportional representation balloting at the November 2019 general election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 20

Date submitted
to Commission: **6/8/15**

Date scheduled
on agenda: **6/22/15**

Charter Amendment Number: 20

Submitted by: Jon Mutchler

Title: **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?**

Section: Section 2.30

Amendment:

**SPECIFIC LANGUAGE PENDING
(This item may be withdrawn)**

CURRENT LANGAUGE:

Section 2.30 Ordinances.

Every legislative act shall be by ordinance.

The subject of every ordinance shall be clearly stated in the title, and no ordinance shall contain more than one subject. Ordinances or summaries of them, the places where copies are filed, and the times when they are available for inspection, shall be published when the ordinances are proposed and again upon enactment.

No ordinance shall be amended unless the new ordinance sets forth each amended section or subsection at full length.

Ordinances may, by reference, adopt Washington State statutes, or any recognized, printed codes or compilations in whole or in part.

At least thirteen (13) days shall pass between the introduction and the final passage of every ordinance except emergency ordinances. Every ordinance shall be introduced in its entirety in writing.

Every ordinance which passes the County Council must be presented to the County Executive. If approved by the Executive, the ordinance shall be signed by the Executive and become law as provided in this section. If not approved by the Executive, the entire ordinance shall be vetoed and returned with the Executive's written objections, which shall be entered in the journal of Council proceedings. If, within thirty (30) days after being returned to the Council, the ordinance receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Council, it shall become law. If the Executive does not either sign or veto an ordinance within ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, after presentation of the ordinance by the Council, it shall become law without the Executive's signature.

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all ordinances shall take effect ten (10) calendar days after the date they are signed by the County Executive or otherwise enacted or at a later date if stated in the ordinance. (*Amended by Ord. 2005-075 Exh. A*)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 21

Date submitted
to Commission/or Clerk: 06/18/2015

Date scheduled
on agenda: 6/22/15

Charter Amendment Number: 21

Submitted by: Eli Mackiewicz

Title: Shall the Charter be amended to dissolve the Charter Review Commission?

Section: 8.10 through 8.21 (various deletions)

Amendment:

ARTICLE 8 CHARTER REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

~~Section 8.10 Charter Review Commission. This Charter shall be reviewed periodically by a Charter Review Commission as provided in this Article.~~

~~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. The qualified voters of the respective districts shall vote only for candidates from their district at the general election. 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~~

~~Section 8.12 Vacancy. Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled within fourteen days of the declaration of a vacancy, by the next highest recipient of votes cast in the Charter Review Commissioner election from the district where the vacancy occurs. If a Commissioner is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without prior notice being given to the Chair, a vacancy in that position may be declared by a two-thirds vote of the Commissioners. (Amended by Referendum 1986).~~

~~Section 8.13 Procedures. The Commission shall review the Charter to determine its adequacy and suitability to the needs of the county and may propose amendments. The Commission may also make recommendations to the County Council and publish its findings. Members of the Commission shall serve without salary, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The Council shall provide to the Commission reasonable funds, facilities and services appropriate to an elected county agency. Provisions for expenditures shall be made in the budget. Expenditures of the Commission shall be budgeted for their scheduled term of office.~~

~~Section 8.20 Charter Amendment – General Provisions. Charter amendments may be proposed by the Commission, the County Council or by the public. Any proposed Charter amendment shall be filed and registered with the Auditor and submitted to the voters at the next November general election occurring at least ninety (90) days after registration of the proposed amendment with the Auditor. If more than one amendment is submitted on the same ballot, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against the amendments separately; provided, an amendment which embraces a single or interrelated subject may be submitted as a single proposition even though it is composed of changes to one or more articles. If a proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issues, it shall be effective ten (10) days after the results of the election are certified, unless a later date is specified in the~~

petition or ordinance proposing the amendment. Any implementing ordinance required by any Charter amendment shall be enacted by the Council within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the amendment is effective, unless the amendment provides otherwise. (Ord. 2005-075 Exh. A).

~~Section 8.21 Amendments by the Charter Review Commission. The Commission may propose amendments to the Charter by filing such proposed amendments with the County Council who shall submit the amendment to the voters at the next November general election at least ninety (90) days after the filing and registration of the amendments~~

Ballot Titles

- 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?

Charter Amendment #1 (Proposed Amendment #1)

As adopted by the Commission: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of councilmembers within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Section 2.13 be amended to provide for election of County Council members by voters only within the council district from which the candidates were nominated, except for the at-large position which shall be selected by voters from the entire county?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #2 (Proposed Amendment #2)

As adopted by the commission: 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?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.60 pertaining to initiatives and referendums be amended to increase the limit from 20 words to 40 words for the concise ballot question posed to the voters?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #3 (Proposed Amendment #3)

As adopted by the Commission: 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?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Section 8.20 be amended to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments to previous Charter amendments that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #4 (Proposed Amendment #5)

As adopted by the Commission: Shall the Charter be amended to facilitate voting on initiative and referendum?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.60 be amended to add an alternative threshold of signatures required (8% of the number of votes cast in the last regular gubernatorial election, in addition to the existing threshold of 15% of the number of votes cast in the last general election, whichever is lower) to place an initiative or referendum upon the ballot?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #5 (Proposed Amendment #6)

As adopted by the Commission: Shall the Charter be amended to apply term limits to the County councilmembers?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Section 2.14 be amended to apply a term limit of no more than three consecutive full terms to the County Council members, to be applied prospectively only, beginning with the 2017 election?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #6 (Proposed Amendment #10)

As adopted by the Commission: 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?

Ballot Title:

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, which pertain to the method of nominating and electing County Council members?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #7 (Proposed Amendment #13)

As adopted by the Commission: Shall the Charter be amended to include four political parties, instead of two, in the districting process?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Section 4.41 be amended to include representation on the districting committee from each political party with a candidate who receives at least 15% of the vote cast in the County in the last gubernatorial primary or presidential election, with a second representative on the committee assigned to each party of which a candidate for those same elections received at least 33% of the vote?

Yes _____

No _____

Charter Amendment #8 (Proposed Amendment #14)

As adopted by the Commission: 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?

Ballot Title:

Shall Charter Section 8.22 be amended to lower the number of signatures required for placement upon the ballot of proposed Whatcom County Charter changes by initiative from 20% to 15% of the number of votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election?

Yes _____

No _____

DRAFT