

PROPOSED BALLOT TITLES

- Proposed Amendment 1 from Joe Elenbaas (Proposition #1 below): 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 (Proposition #4 below): 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 (Proposition #2 below): 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 (Proposition #5 below): Shall the Charter be amended to facilitate voting on initiative and referendum?
- Proposed Amendment 6 from Ken Bell (Proposition #7 below): Shall the Charter be amended to apply term limits to the County councilmembers?
- Proposed Amendment 10 from Chet Dow (Proposition #3 below): 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 (Proposition #8): 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 (Proposition #6 below): 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

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:

Proposition No. 1
ELECTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter concerning the method of electing County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Section 2.13 to provide for election of County Council members by voters only from within the council district from which the candidate was nominated, except for the at-large position which would continue to be selected by voters from the entire county. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED _____

REJECTED _____

Charter Amendment #2

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:

Proposition No. 2

LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.20 be to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments to previous Charter amendments that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters. This proposal should be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Charter Amendment #3

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:

Proposition No. 3

LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER'S ELECTION PROVISIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.23 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. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Charter Amendment #4

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:

Proposition No. 4

INCREASING WORD LIMIT FOR BALLOT QUESTIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter increasing the word limit for ballot questions. This measure would amend Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.60 pertaining to initiatives and referendums to increase the limit from 20 words to 40 words for the concise ballot question posed to the voters. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Charter Amendment #5

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

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 5

LOWERING THRESHOLD FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM SIGNATURES

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter lowering the number of signatures required to place initiatives and referendums on the ballot. This measure would amend Sections 5.40 and 5.60 to lower the threshold of signatures required to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot from 15% of the number of votes cast in the last general election to 8% of the number of votes cast in the last regular gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Charter Amendment #6

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:

Proposition No. 6

LOWERING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR CITIZEN INITIATIVES TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter reducing signatures required to place citizen-proposed Charter amendments on the ballot. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.22 to lower the number of signatures required for placement upon the ballot of proposed Whatcom County Charter changes by citizen initiative from 20% to 15% of the number of votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Charter Amendment #7

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

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 7

TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to place term limits upon the County Executive and County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Sections 2.14 and 3.21 to apply a term limit of no more than three consecutive full terms to the County Executive and County Council members, to be applied prospectively only, beginning with the 2017 and 2019 elections. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED _____

REJECTED _____

Charter Amendment #8

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

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 8

ALTERING COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to alter the requirements for composition of the Districting Commission. This measure would amend Charter Section 4.41 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. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____
REJECTED: _____

Notes on order and format of propositions:

I have clustered the proposed charter amendments by topic. Propositions 1, 2, and 3 generally intend to address election of council members, either by providing for district-only voting or seeking to limit Council authority to alter voter-adopted amendments; Propositions 4, 5, and 6 address procedural requirements for initiatives and referenda; and Propositions 7 and 8 each address discrete topics that are independent of the others. In each proposition I have included language that seeks to fairly characterize the amendment that is being proposed, while recognizing that the statement of the issue may not be exhaustive. I believe that the voters' pamphlet with its pro- and con- statements for each of the propositions is the best place for the arguments to be fully fleshed out, and that the phrasing of the language should be approached in such a way as not to become a battleground for persuasion.

I am not contemplating major changes to the language of the ballot titles but am prepared to consider well-placed suggestions for improvement. As I noted the last time we met, I must turn all of this material around and hand it over for publication in the County Council's agenda packet within a day and a half after our meeting on July 13, so time will be of the essence.

As requested at our last meeting on June 22, I have spoken with several attorneys from various organizations (Municipal Research Service Center, Washington State Association of Counties, San Juan County) on the proper interpretation and application of Washington State Constitution Article XI, Section 4 to our Propositions 2 and 3 as numbered above, and am prepared to share that information with the Commission.



WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

July 6, 2015

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Whatcom County Charter Review Commission

SUBJ: 2015 Charter Review Commission Recommended Amendments to Voters

The 2015 Whatcom County Charter Review Commission recommends eight amendments to the voters for the November 2005 general election. Please forward these amendments to the Whatcom County Auditor, per Charter Section 8.20. The full text of the amendments are in the attached document.

Proposition No. 1: ELECTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter concerning the method of electing County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Section 2.13 to provide for election of County Council members by voters only from within the council district from which the candidate was nominated, except for the at-large position which would continue to be selected by voters from the entire county. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 2: LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.20 to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments to previous Charter amendments that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 3: LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER'S ELECTION PROVISIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.23 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. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 4: INCREASING WORD LIMIT FOR BALLOT QUESTIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter increasing the word limit for ballot questions. This measure would amend Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.60 pertaining to initiatives and referendums to increase the limit from 20 words to 40 words for the concise ballot question posed to the voters. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 5: LOWERING THRESHOLD FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM SIGNATURES

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter lowering the number of signatures required to place initiatives and referendums on the ballot. This measure would amend Sections 5.40 and 5.60 to lower the threshold of signatures required to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot from 15% of the number of votes cast in the last general election to 8% of the number of votes cast in the last regular gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 6: LOWERING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR CITIZEN INITIATIVES TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter reducing signatures required to place citizen-proposed Charter amendments on the ballot. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.22 to lower the number of signatures required for placement upon the ballot of proposed Whatcom County Charter changes by citizen initiative from 20% to 15% of the number of votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 7: TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to place term limits upon the County Executive and County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Sections 2.14 and 3.21 to apply a term limit of no more than three consecutive full terms to the County Executive and County Council members, to be applied prospectively only, beginning with the 2017 and 2019 elections. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

Proposition No. 8: ALTERING COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to alter the requirements for composition of the Districting Commission. This measure would amend Charter Section 4.41 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. Should this proposal be APPROVED or REJECTED

C: Debbie Adelstein, Whatcom County Auditor

2015 Whatcom County Charter Review Commission Approved Amendments

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
ELECTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter concerning the method of electing County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Section 2.13 to provide for election of County Council members by voters only from within the council district from which the candidate was nominated, except for the at-large position which would continue to be selected by voters from the entire county. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED _____
REJECTED _____

Amending Language:

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.

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 2
LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.20 to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments to previous Charter amendments that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters. This proposal should be:

APPROVED: _____
REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

Section 8.20 Charter Amendment – General Provisions.

Charter amendments may be proposed by the Commission, the County Council **(except in matters approved by a 2/3 majority of the voters)**, 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 inter-related 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.

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Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 3

LIMITING POWER OF COUNCIL TO AMEND CHARTER'S ELECTION PROVISIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter limiting the power of the Council to propose Charter amendments. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.23 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. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

Section 8.23 Amendments by the County Council.

The County Council may propose amendments to the Charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters at the next November general election occurring at least ninety (90) days after enactment. A minimum of five (5) affirmative votes shall be required to enact such an ordinance. **No ordinance to amend any provision of Sections 2.12 or 2.13 of this Charter shall be proposed or enacted by the Council.** An ordinance proposing an amendment to the Charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the County Executive.

The County Council by unanimous vote of the entire Council may effect amendments to the language of the Charter where the passage of time has rendered language moot or obsolete. Such changes shall be made by ordinance, and have a public hearing.

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 4

INCREASING WORD LIMIT FOR BALLOT QUESTIONS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter increasing the word limit for ballot questions. This measure would amend Charter Sections 5.40 and 5.60 pertaining to initiatives and referendums to increase the limit from 20 words to 40 words for the concise ballot question posed to the voters. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

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) words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure **the ballot title which shall consist of: (a) a statement of the subject of the measure; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question: "Shall this be enacted into law?"** The statement of the subject of the measure must be proposed as a positive statement, be sufficiently broad to reflect the subject, and be sufficiently precise to give notice of the measure's subject matter, and not exceed ten words. The concise description must contain no more than thirty words, be a true and impartial description of the measure's essential contents, clearly identify the proposition to be voted on, and not, to the extent reasonably possible, create prejudice either for or against the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title. The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days ...

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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) words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the measure being referred~~ **the ballot title which shall consist of: (a) a statement of the subject of the measure; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question: "Shall this be enacted into law?"** The statement of the subject of the measure must be proposed as a positive statement, be sufficiently broad to reflect the subject, and be sufficiently precise to give notice of the measure's subject matter, and not exceed ten words. The concise description must contain no more than thirty words, be a true and impartial description of the measure's essential contents, clearly identify the proposition to be voted on, and not, to the extent reasonably possible, create prejudice either for or against the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title. The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days..."

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 5

LOWERING THRESHOLD FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM SIGNATURES

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter lowering the number of signatures required to place initiatives and referendums on the ballot. This measure would amend Sections 5.40 and 5.60 to lower the threshold of signatures required to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot from 15% of the number of votes cast in the last general election to 8% of the number of votes cast in the last regular gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

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) 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 to collect the signatures of the registered voters in the county equal in number to ~~not less than fifteen (15) percent of the votes cast in the county in the last general election~~ **not less than 8% of the vote cast in the county in the last regular gubernatorial election."** The one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall begin upon receipt of official notification to petitioner(s) by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office either by certified mail or messenger. If the last day for collecting signatures falls on a weekend or legal holiday, then the one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall extend to the end of the next business day. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed measure, ordinance or amendment to an ordinance and the ballot title. The Auditor shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if it is validated, submit the proposal to the people at the next general election that is not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the

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registering of the petition, unless the County Council enacts the proposal without change or amendment. If the County Council does not adopt the proposed measure and adopts a substitute measure concerning the same subject matter, the substitute proposal shall be placed on the same ballot with the initiative proposal; and the voters shall be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for accepting either, then the measure receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither measure shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue. “

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) 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 to collect the signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to ~~not less than fifteen (15) percent of the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election~~ **not less than 8% of the vote cast in the county in the last regular gubernatorial election**. The one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall begin upon receipt of official notification to petitioner(s) by the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office either by certified mail or messenger. If the last day for collecting signatures falls on a weekend or legal holiday, then the one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall extend to the end of the next business day. Each petition shall contain the full text of the measure being referred and the ballot title. The Auditor shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if it is validated, submit the measure to the people at the next general election that is not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the registering of the petitions.

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 6

LOWERING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR CITIZEN INITIATIVES TO AMEND CHARTER

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter reducing signatures required to place citizen-proposed Charter amendments on the ballot. This measure would amend Charter Section 8.22 to lower the number of signatures required for placement upon the ballot of proposed Whatcom County Charter changes by citizen initiative from 20% to 15% of the number of votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

Section 8.22 Amendments by the Public

The public may propose amendments to the Charter by registering with the Auditor an initiative petition bearing the signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to, but not less than, ~~twenty (20)~~ **fifteen (15)** percent of the number of votes cast in the county in the last gubernatorial election. Signatures shall be registered not more than one hundred twenty (120) days following filing of the petition with the Auditor, who shall submit the amendments to the voters. The one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall begin upon receipt of official notification to petitioner(s) by the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office either by certified mail or messenger. If the last day

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for collecting signatures falls on a weekend or legal holiday, then the one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall extend to the end of the next business day.

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 7

TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to place term limits upon the County Executive and County Council members. This measure would amend Charter Sections 2.14 and 3.21 to apply a term limit of no more than three consecutive full terms to the County Executive and County Council members, to be applied prospectively only, beginning with the 2017 and 2019 elections.

Should this proposal be:

APPROVED _____

REJECTED _____

Amending Language:

ARTICLE 2 – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 2.14 Terms of Council Members.

The term of office of each elected councilmember shall be four (4) years commencing with the second Monday in January following election, and until a successor has been elected and has qualified. **Elected councilmembers shall serve no more than three consecutive terms in office. Terms are considered consecutive unless they are at least four years apart.**

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 three full consecutive terms in office. Terms are considered consecutive unless they are at least four years apart.**

Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 8

ALTERING COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Whatcom County Charter Review Commission has proposed an amendment to the Whatcom County Charter to alter the requirements for composition of the Districting Commission. This measure would amend Charter Section 4.41 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. Should this proposal be:

APPROVED: _____

REJECTED: _____

Amending Language:

Section 4.41 Districting Committee.

During the month of January, 1981, and by January 31 of each tenth year thereafter, a ~~five-member~~ Districting Committee shall be appointed. The County Council shall appoint ~~four persons~~ to the committee, ~~two-one~~ **representative** from each major political party, **defined as the stated party of any candidate receiving at least 15% of**

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the Whatcom County's vote in the most recent gubernatorial primary or presidential election. Parties receiving at least 33% of the vote in those elections will be provided a second representative on the Districting Committee. If the number of total representatives is even, the ~~four to appoint~~ appointees will select a ~~fifth~~ an additional member who shall be the Chairman. If the total number is odd, the Committee will vote for and appoint a Chair internally. The Districting Committee shall within thirty (30) days of its appointment meet and appoint a Districting Master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the Districting Committee is unable to agree upon the appointment of a Districting Master within thirty (30) days, the County Council shall appoint a Districting Master by March 31 of that year.

DRAFT