

**Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting**  
**7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., April 26, 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 19, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
  1. Ahrens, Section 2.20b: increasing Council Members' salaries as a percentage of the Executive's salary
  2. Polinder, Section 1.50: addition of new section, "Separation of Powers"
  3. Polinder, Section 1.51: addition of new section, "Cooperation of Branches"
  4. Radke, Section 8.11: Charter Review candidate names to appear on ballots as drawn by lot
  5. Polinder, Section 8.11: vote by district for the Charter Review Commission
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
  1. Discussion of Ombudsman Position
  2. Discussion of Council Chair Position - Full Time or Part Time
  3. Discussion of Terminology Usage throughout the Charter: Executive vs. Administrative; Department, Offices, or Branch
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, 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 TOT HE WHATCOM COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER  
APRIL 26, 1995**

1. (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.

2. (Ron Polinder) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following section:

**Section 1.50 Separation of Powers**

There shall be separation of powers into two branches of government: legislative and executive. ~~The judicial task of county government shall function in accordance to State Law (Section 3.55).~~ Both branches are to dutifully fulfill their responsibilities and refrain from overextending their authority, as defined in this Charter.

3. (Ron Polinder) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following section:

**Section 1.51 Cooperation of Branches**

Though powers are distributed to the respective branches, each branch shall strive to work in partnership with the other branch for a unified government in order to advance public justice for the people of Whatcom County, which is the primary task of this government.

4. (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)

5. (Ron Polinder) 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. The qualified voters of the respective districts shall vote only for candidates from their district at the general election. There shall be no filing fee nor shall there be a primary. 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)