

Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., May 31, 1995
Courthouse Basement, 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.

Please note: due to new security measures in the Courthouse, the main rotunda entrance will not be available. Signs will be posted pointing the way to an alternate entrance.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the May 24, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
 1. Stender, Section 3.21: making the Executive position appointed
 2. Beech, Section 9.20: requiring the County to follow generally accepted accounting principles
 3. Stender, Section 3.22 (i): addition of new subsection allowing the Executive to seek outside legal counsel
 4. Stender, Sections 2.12 & 4.10: making Council positions partisan
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the County Courthouse Basement, 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
MAY 31, 1995**

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

Section 3.21 Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The County Executive shall be ~~appointed by the County Council, 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 receive compensation as determined by the County Council.~~ (amended by Referendum 1986)

{Note: additional language implementing this change throughout the Charter is on file at the Council Office and will be available at the meeting.}

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

Section 9.20 Purchasing, Contracts, Claims, and Bonds.

The County Council shall by ordinance establish procedures for purchasing supplies, services, materials and equipment, the awarding of contracts, the processing of claims, and the sale or refunding of bonds. The ordinance shall provide when bids shall be required and how invitations for bids shall be advertised.

~~The ordinance shall provide, for purposes of bid preparation, that all county departments will submit bids in the competitive bidding process and employ full accrual and cost accounting principles.~~

3. (Stender) I move to amend the Charter by the addition of the following subsection:

Section 3.22 Powers and Duties.

As Chief Executive Officer, the County Executive shall have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other specific elective officers by this Charter. The County Executive shall have the power to:

- (a) Supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this Charter or created by the County Council.

{etc.}

(h) Sign or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county, all claims, deeds, contracts and other instruments.

(i) To employ legal counsel.

The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the County Executive. (Amended by Referendum 1986)

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

Section 2.12 Nominations.

(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~~ ~~one candidate from each political party or Independent~~ for each position to be filled from their district.

(b) Nominee at large.

There shall be one council position designated council member at-large, which shall be nominated without regard to district. ~~The two candidates~~ ~~candidate of each political party or Independent~~ receiving the largest number of votes county-wide shall be certified as candidates for the position of council member at-large.

Section 4.10 Election Procedures.

Except as provided in this Article, the nominating primaries and elections of the Assessor, Auditor, Treasurer, ~~and Sheriff, and County Executive~~ shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of non-partisan county officers.

Nominating primaries and elections of the County Council ~~and Executive~~ shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of ~~non~~-partisan county offices. (amended by Referendum 1986)