

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 9

Date submitted
to Commission/or Clerk: Feb 23 2015

Date scheduled
on agenda: **4/27/2015**

Charter Amendment Number: 9	3/6/2015: Not discussed. Held to 3/23/2015 3/23/2015: Postponed until the proposed amendment is written to include transition language.
Submitted by: Todd Donovan	
Title: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for the election of Council Members countywide and by districts from which the candidate was nominated?	
Section: 2	
Amendment: Sec. 2.11 Three Five Districts The county shall divide into three five districts so that each district shall comprise as nearly as possible one third fifth of the population of the county. Sec. 2.12 Nominations (a) There shall be two Council positions in each of the three districts, designated positions A) and position B), respectively. At the primary... (b) Nominee at large. There shall be one two Council positions designated councilmember at large, which shall be nominated in different years without regard to district. The two candidates... Sec. 2.13 Election Countywide and by Council District The registered voters of Whatcom County each Council District shall vote upon each their district's Council member position at the November general election and upon the at-large position.	

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 12

Date submitted
to Commission: **3/23/2015**

Date scheduled
on agenda: **4/27/2015**

Charter Amendment Number: **12**

3/23/15 (New Business): Held to 4/13/2015 as New Business
4/13/2015 (New Business): Submitted.

Submitted by: **Jon Mutchler**

Title: **Shall the Charter be amended to include a new section to require compliance with the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act?**

Section: **New Charter Section 5.15**

Amendment:

Section 5.15 Open Government

1. **Purpose Statement.** The people of Whatcom County do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created (RCW 42.30.010). All governing and advisory bodies of Whatcom County shall serve the public good in a public, open, and transparent manner.
2. **Open Public Meetings Act Applied.**
 - a. The Whatcom County Council is subject to the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42).
 - b. It shall be the policy of Whatcom County that all advisory bodies appointed by the County Council, or by the council in any ex officio capacity, or by the Executive (including but not limited to public commissions, boards, councils, committees and subcommittees) be subject to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.
3. **Training.** It shall be the policy of Whatcom County that all members of the Whatcom County Council and all advisory bodies receive annual training to review the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.
4. **Enforcement.** It is incumbent upon each member to vigilantly uphold and enforce the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and safeguard the public's right to know. Violations may result in sanctions pursuant to RCW 42.30.120 and 42.30.130.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 13

Date submitted
to Commission: **3/23/2015**

Date scheduled
on agenda: **4/27/2015**

Charter Amendment Number: **13**

4/13/2015: Held to 4/27/2015

Submitted by: **Eli Mackiewicz**

Title: **Shall the Charter be amended to include four political parties, instead of two, in the districting process?**

Section: **Section 4.41 Districting Committee.**

Amendment:

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** from each major political party, the four to appoint the fifth who shall be the Chairman. 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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 14

Date submitted
to Commission: 4/13/2015

Date scheduled
on agenda: **4/27/2015**

Charter Amendment Number: **14**

Submitted by:

Jon Mutchler and Todd Donovan

Title:

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?

Section:

Section 8.22 Amendments by the Public

Amendment:

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 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. (Amended by referendum 1986; Ord. 93-045; amended by referendum 1995; Ord. 2005-075 Exh. A)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (Pending)

Date submitted
to Commission: **(Pending)**

Date scheduled
on agenda: 4/27/2015 (New Business)

Charter Amendment Number: **(Pending)**

Submitted by:
Jon Mutchler for County Auditor Debbie Adelstein

Title: **County Auditor duties and responsibilities amendment**

Section: **Section 3.52 Powers and Duties.**

Amendment:

Section 3.52 Powers and Duties.

The County Assessor and Sheriff created by adoption of this Charter shall have the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by general law, provided that these offices and those of the Auditor and Treasurer shall be subject to the personnel, budgeting and any other policies set by the County Council.

The County Auditor shall be the recorder of deeds and other instruments which are required by law to be filed and recorded in the County; shall issue licenses and other records, as specified in County law and as an agent of the state; shall certify and administer all elections within the County, as part of these duties shall publish and distribute a local voters pamphlet for all primary and general elections that shall include a brief description of the powers and duties of each county elected official, and maintain voter rolls and records; shall audit County financial systems, records, and management procedures for compliance with recognized accounting principles and conformance to federal, state, and County laws, policies, and procedures; ~~shall insure the adequacy and standing of County finances through certification of an annual financial report;~~ and shall perform other duties as specified by County law.