

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 19

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

Date scheduled
on agenda: **FAILED**

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| Charter Amendment Number: 19 | 6/22/2015: Failed 7-6-1, Bell, Donovan, Mackiewicz, May, Ryan, Stuen, and Walker in favor; Goldsmith abstained; Langley absent. |
| 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: | |
| <p>Section 2.11 Three Districts Election.</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Section 2.12 Nominations. Ballot Access</p> <p>(a) Nominees by district.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(b) Nominee at large.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates who file for County Council will appear on the November general election ballot.</p> | |
| <p>Section 2.13 Election Countywide by Preferential Voting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The process is repeated until all seats are filled.</p> <p>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.</p> | |