

Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., April 5, 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 March 29, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
 - 1. Gardner, Sections 2.11 and 2.12: five Council Members instead of seven, four districts instead of three
 - 2. Scrimsher, Section 2.24: definition of legislative non-interference
 - 3. Scrimsher, Section 7.30: clarification of legislative non-interference in the County personnel system
 - 4. Smith, Section 2.13: vote by district for the Council at both the primary and the general elections
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, 1995 at 7 p.m. at the Mayor's Training Room, Bellingham City Hall.

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

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

Section 2.11 - ~~Three~~ **Four** Districts

The County Council shall consist of ~~seven (7)~~ **five (5)** members, selected as follows: For purpose of nomination of members of the Council, the county shall divide into ~~three~~ **four** districts so that each district shall comprise as nearly as possible ~~one-third~~ **one-fourth** 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.~~

Section 2.12 - Nominations

- (a) Nominees by district.

There shall be ~~two~~ **one** council positions in each of the ~~three~~ **four** 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.

- (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 receiving the largest number of votes county-wide shall be certified as candidates for the position of council member at-large.

Section 4.20 Qualifications.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while holding office, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of Whatcom County and council members shall be residents of the districts which they represent. Any change in the boundaries of the council member's district which shall cause that member to be no longer a resident of the district which that council member represents shall not disqualify that council member from holding office during the remainder of the term for which that council member was elected or appointed. ~~Any reduction in the number of Council positions allowed in each district shall not disqualify the council member whose term is nearest to completion from holding office during the remainder of that term.~~

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 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.

In the event that changes in the Charter result in increases or decreases in the number of districts, a Special Districting Committee shall be appointed as called for above if a regular Districting Committee would not otherwise be scheduled, by January 31 of the next year after the change shall have been approved by the voters. Establishment of a Special Districting Committee shall not alter the schedule for appointment of regular Districting Committees.

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

Section 2.24 - Relationship with Other Branches

Except in the performance of its legislative functions under this Charter, as defined in Section 2.10, the County Council, its staff, and individual council members shall not interfere in the administration of the executive and/or administrative branch or executive branch. They shall not give orders to or direct, either publicly or privately, any officer, or employee subject to the direction and supervision of the County Executive, executive branch, or other elected official.

3. (Mary Scrimsher) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 7.30 - Administration

The County Executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the County Council by ordinance. Except for setting in place the personnel system and rules, the County Council shall not be involved in the day-to-day administration of the personnel system, except for the employment and supervision of the staff in the legislative branch, or as otherwise provided in this Charter.

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

Section 2.13 - Election Countywide

The qualified voters of the entire county the specific districts shall vote upon each council member position the Council Members from their respective districts at both the primary election and the November general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.