

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 12

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

Date scheduled
on agenda: **Failed**

Charter Amendment Number: **12**

3/23/15 (New Business): Held to 4/13/2015 as New Business
4/13/2015 (New Business): Submitted.
4/27/2015: Failed 5-8-2: Donovan, Joe Elenbaas, Kentch,
Mackiewicz, and Mutchler in favor; Langley and May
abstained

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.