

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number CRC 1

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that state law precludes him from serving as ex-officio coroner.
3. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
4. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
5. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
6. The Clallam County Charter Review Commission desires to amend the Clallam County Charter by removing the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, thereby removing the responsibility for performing those duties, or having those duties performed, to the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training and credentials to serve as the coroner.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, of the Clallam County Charter be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as

such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. (~~The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.~~)

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this 23rd day of June, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.



Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

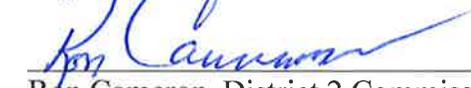


Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

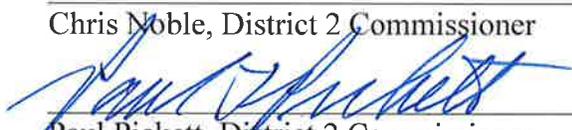


Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

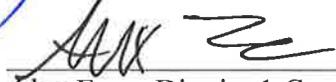
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner



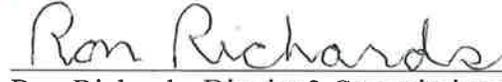
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner



Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

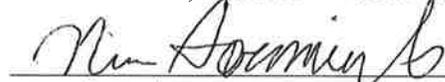


Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

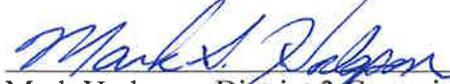


Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

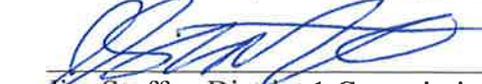
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner



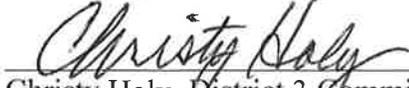
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner



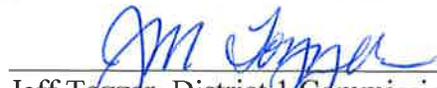
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner



Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner



Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner



Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner



Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

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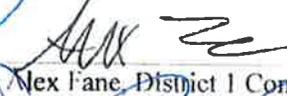
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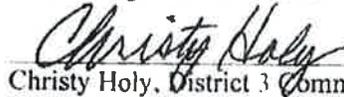

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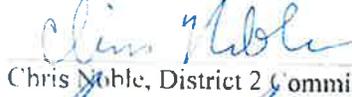

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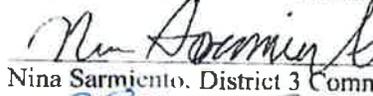

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