

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number 4

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board

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

1. The citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their elected officials.
2. The County Code includes a Code of Ethics applicable to all county personnel, including elected officials, but it includes no mechanism for the review of ethical concerns involving elected county officials.
3. The establishment of an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter, Article VIII – The Public Interest, Section 8.100, Ethics Review Board - Establishment and Purpose, be added to read as follows:

Section 8.100. Ethics Review Board — Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section 8.110. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, one from each of the county commissioner districts.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section 8.120. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- County Auditor
- County Treasurer

- County Assessor
- County Director of the Department of Community Development

(b) The order of making appointments shall be determined by lot and each official will make one appointment in turn, repeating the order after each official has made an appointment to the Ethics Review Board.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 8.110.

Section 8.130. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

1. Determine the rules of procedure for receipt, review and appeal of complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics
2. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.
3. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction.
4. Conduct impartial reviews.
5. Issue written findings publicly upon completion of review.

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring after this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by a person or persons having first-hand knowledge of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

1. Have direct knowledge of the alleged conduct; and
2. Believe the charge or charges to be true and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section 8.140. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Subsections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

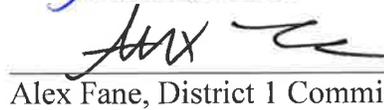
1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment hereby proposed 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 and the Charter amendment hereby proposed is passed and approved on this 24 day of November 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

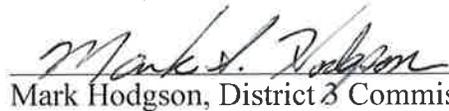

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

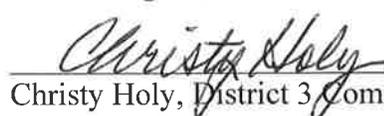

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner


Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner


Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

see attached
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner


Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner


Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

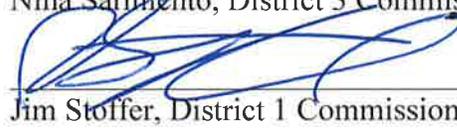

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner


Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Absent
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

see attached
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner


Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner


Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner


Jeff Tozzer, District 4 Commissioner

Absent
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

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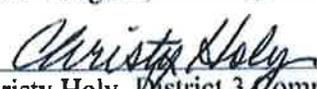

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner


Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner


Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

William R. Fleck
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner


Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner


Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner


Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner


Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Absent
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

see below
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner


Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner


Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner


Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Absent
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Signature: 
Email: rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov

Signature: 
Email: ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov