

Charter Review Commission Resolution No. 2020-1

THE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION finds as follows:

1. In November 2019, the voters of Clallam County elected 15 commissioners to serve on the Charter Review Commission to review the Home Rule Charter and propose amendments to the same if appropriate;
2. WHEREAS, the duly elected Charter Review Commissioners have faithfully undertaken their responsibilities entrusted to them by the voters; and
3. WHEREAS, a majority of the duly elected Charter Review Commissioners have identified 6 amendments to be proposed to the voters for their consideration in the November 2020 General Election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission, in consideration of the above findings of fact, transmit the following proposed amendments and explanatory statements to the Clallam County Auditor for inclusion on the 2020 general election ballot in a form that substantially conforms with the following attachments.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 30th day of July 2020.



Sue Erzen, Chair
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

ATTEST:



Loni Gores, Clerk
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

EXHIBIT A

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Non-Partisan Prosecuting Attorney

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. This amendment would make the Office of Prosecuting Attorney a non-partisan office. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Non-Partisan Prosecuting Attorney

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter currently provides that the Prosecuting Attorney shall be a partisan office. The amendment, if adopted, would make the Prosecuting Attorney a non-partisan office. Future candidates running for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney would not state a party preference when they file to run for office and a party preference would not be printed on the ballot.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 4.10: Composition

Elected county officials in addition to the County Commissioners shall include the Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts. The Director of the Department of Community Development shall be elected November 2003 for an initial term of three (3) years, and every four (4) years thereafter. All elected officials shall be non-partisan, except for the Commissioners and the Prosecuting Attorney.

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)

EXHIBIT B

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Clarifying Charter Section 4.10

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the clarification of Article IV, Section 4.10. This amendment would insert the word "County" before the word Commissioners to clarify any ambiguity as to which Commissioners are being referenced. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Non-Partisan Prosecuting Attorney

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter currently provides in part that "All elected officials shall be non-partisan, except for the Commissioners . . ." This amendment, if adopted, would insert the word "County" before Commissioners as follows: All elected officials shall be non-partisan, except for the County Commissioners. This removes a potential ambiguity that results from not specifying which Commissioners are being referenced.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 4.10: Composition

Elected county officials in addition to the County Commissioners shall include the Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts. The Director of the Department of Community Development shall be elected November 2003 for an initial term of three (3) years, and every four (4) years thereafter. All elected officials shall be non-partisan, except for the County Commissioners and the Prosecuting Attorney.

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)

EXHIBIT C

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Frequency of Charter Review Commission Elections

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the frequency of Charter Review elections. This amendment would change the frequency of elections from 5 years to 8 years. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Frequency of Charter Review Commission Elections

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter currently provides that a Charter Review Commission will be elected every five (5) years. The amendment, if adopted, would change the frequency of the election of the Charter Review Commission to every eight (8) years. This change would take effect immediately and the next Charter Review Commission would be elected in the general election held in November 2027.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

11.10.10: Election and Period of Office

Commencing with the statewide general election in November ~~2019~~ 2027 and every ~~five~~ eight years thereafter, the Commissioners shall cause an election of a Charter Review Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The Commission shall consist of 15 members, 5 from each county commissioner district. Each member of the Commission shall be a resident of the commissioner district which he or she represents. There shall be no filing fee. There shall be no primary. Persons filing will be elected by district. The member of the Commission who receives the greatest number of votes shall convene the Commission within 30 days of commencement of the term of office. The term of office shall be one year from January 1 until December 31 after the general election. The Commission need not meet continuously, but may meet at such time and in such places as it deems appropriate upon given public notice.

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)

EXHIBIT D

Proposed Ballot Measure:

County Commissioners Elected Countywide

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the election of County Commissioners. This amendment would change the system of electing County Commissioners to a system in which County Commissioners will be nominated by district and elected by the voters countywide. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Countywide Election of County Commissioners

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter provides that County Commissioners are nominated and elected solely by voters of each district. The amendment, if adopted, would result in County Commissioners being nominated by district in a primary election and then elected by voters countywide in a general election.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 2.20 Composition and Term of Office

The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of three members. The Commissioners shall be nominated ~~and elected solely~~ by the voters from each of the three districts and elected by the voters countywide for a term of four years as provided in this Charter. ~~The practice of at large voting for Board of County Commissioners is discontinued.~~

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)

EXHIBIT E

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Appointment of Director of Department of Community Development

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter concerning the appointment of the Director of the Department of Community Development. The amendment would remove the Director of the Department of Community Development from elected county officials, thus returning it to an appointed position. The amendment shall become effective at the end of the elected Director of the Department of Community Development's term. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Appointment of Director of Department of Community Development

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter currently states that the Director of the Department of Community Development (DCD) is an elected county official. This amendment would make the position an appointed position. The DCD Director would be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. This change would take effect at the end of the current Director's term.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 4.10 Composition

Elected county officials in addition to the County Commissioners shall include the Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, ~~Director of the Department of Community Development~~, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts. The Director of the Department of Community Development shall become an appointed position at the expiration of term of current Director of the Department of Community Development. ~~–elected November 2003 for an initial term of three (3) years, and every four (4) years thereafter.~~ All elected officials shall be non-partisan, except for the Commissioners and the Prosecuting Attorney.

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)

EXHIBIT F

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Signatures Required for Petitions

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the number of signatures required for an initiative petition to repeal the Charter. The amendment would change the number of signatures required to file an initiative petition for repeal of the Charter from 35% to 20% of the number of voters who voted for the office of governor in the last statewide election. Should this amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Signatures Required for Petitions

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter provides that an initiative to repeal our Charter requires signatures from 35% of the number of voters who voted for the office of governor in the last statewide election. The amendment would lower the number of signatures required to 20% of the number of voters who voted for the office of the governor in the last statewide election.

This statement was prepared by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; 223 E. Fourth Street, Suite 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 417-2426.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 11.20.50 Repeal of the Charter by the People

Six years after the adoption of the Charter the public may initiate repeal of the Charter by filing an initiative petition bearing the signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ~~35~~ 20 per cent of the number of voters who voted for the office of governor in the last statewide election, the signatures to be gathered within 180 days of registration of the petition by the Auditor. A proposal to repeal the Charter must include provisions for transition.

(Amendment as proposed by the Charter Review Commission, amended by the voters November 3, 2020.)