Charter Review 2021

Charter 101

Chuck Green, Charter Review Commissioner, Councilor District 2

Maureen Winningham, Charter Review Commissioner, Councilor District 3

June 14, 2021

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What We Will Cover

Welcome

- Charter 101 with Commissioner Chuck Green
- Public Comment
- What is a Charter Review?
- Review of Proposed Amendments with Maureen Winningham and Chuck Green
    1. Clarity, Technical Edits of the Charter
    2. Non-Partisan Elected Positions
    3. Charter Review Frequency & Term
    4. Ethics Oversight
    5. Redistricting
    6. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Oversight

Questions

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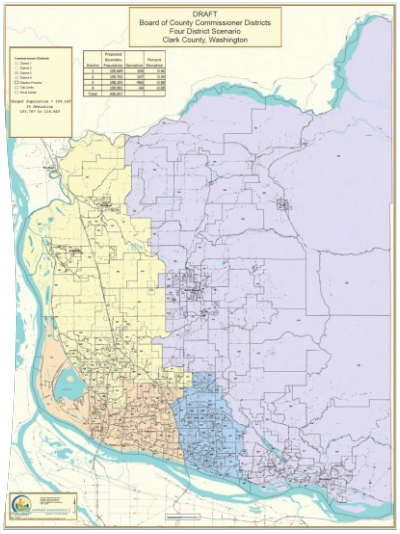
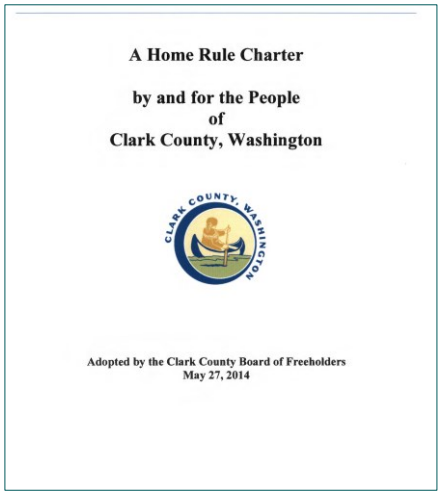
Clark County Home Rule Charter: Background

- Drafted by Board of Freeholders
- Approved by 53% of voters: 2014
- Enacted 2015
- First Review after 5 years (now)
- Charter Review Commission Elected 2020
- Seeking public input on amendment proposals



What is the County Charter?

Charter 2014


A Home Rule Charter

by and for the People
of
Clark County, Washington

Adopted by the Clark County Board of Freeholders
May 27, 2014

- "Constitution and structure" of county government
- Spells out the powers, duties and relationships of government
- Strengthens the rights of citizens
- Defines representation and elections
- Provides for direct role of citizens in county government

County Charter Key Items

Charter 2014

- **Separation of Powers**: Executive vs. Legislative Branches

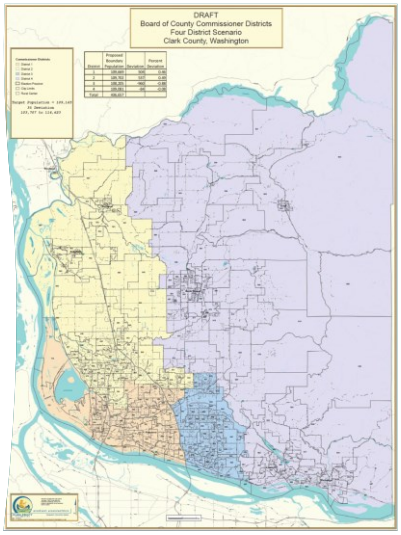
  Section 2.6A, Non-interference clause

  Section 7.5, Recall

- **Power to the People**: Initiative, Referendum, Mini-Initiative

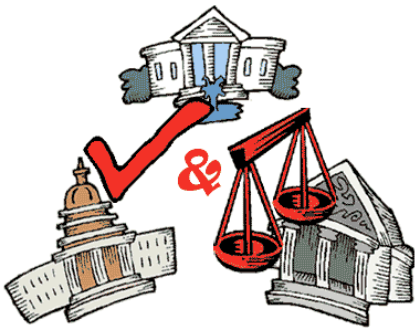
- **Direct Representation**: Four districts nominated & elected by district, plus at-large Chair (countywide), all Partisan

- Chair serves on any board with 2 or more Council members (RTC, C-TRAN, others)



Separation of Powers

Charter 2014



- **Legislative**: County Council (5 members)
  - Four elected by district
    - Council Chair elected countywide*
- **Executive**: County Manager (appointed by Council); Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer
- **Staff reports to Executive branch**
- Council cannot interfere with staff, but they can still talk with constituents

* Only Charter county in WA state who elects Council chair

Power to the People

Charter 2014

- **Initiative**: Petition to put ordinance on the ballot
- **Referendum**: Refer something County Council has passed onto the ballot
- **Mini-Referendum**: Petition for County Council to hold public hearing on an issue

What is a Charter Review?

Charter 2014

- **Charter Review Commission**: 15 members, 3 for each Council position, 1-year terms
- **Review**: first review after 5 years (this one), then every 10 years
- **Vote**: Charter Review Commission refers amendment proposals to voters, November ballot

Public Comment
Tell Us What You Think!

We are asking for your comments to help inform the Commissioners

Fill out the Survey

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Charter Commissioners

1	1. Anthony Vendetti 2. Kim Harless 3. Chris Goodwin
2	1. Chuck Green 2. Kelsey Potter 3. Dorothy Gasque
3	1. Maureen Winningham 2. Terri Niles 3. Jeff Angelo
4	1. Deanna Rusch 2. John Latta 3. Greg Anderson
At Large	1. Doug Lasher 2. Eric Holt 3. Open Seat

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1. Clarity/Consistency/Administrative Clean-up Provisions

2021 Proposal

Five years in, the Charter Review Commission proposes minor, technical changes to improve the clarity and readability in parts of the Clark County Home Rule Charter. These changes would correct clerical errors and some updates to contemporary language.

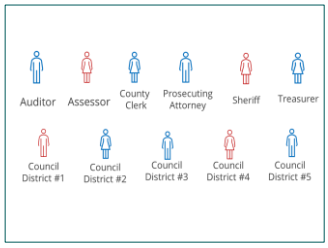
- Should the Charter Review Commission forward a clarity/ clean-up measure to this year's ballot?
- Additionally, should this include direction to the county's Redistricting Committee to avoid splitting of precincts by district boundaries in crafting the Redistricting Plan?

2. Non-Partisan Elected Positions

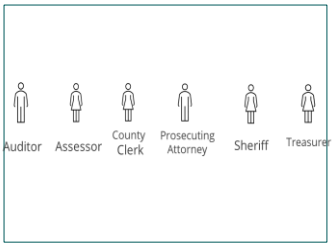
2021 Proposal

Clark County elected positions are currently Partisan (i.e. Republican, Democrat, etc.).

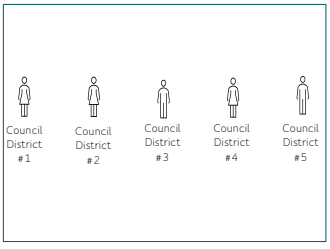
Current: All Partisan



Should the Executive elected offices (Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer) become non-Partisan?



Should the County Council offices become non-Partisan?



3. Charter Review Frequency & Terms

2021 Proposal

The next Charter Review will be in 10 years. Charter Review Commissioners are elected to 1-year terms.

- Should Charter reviews be more frequent, such as 5 years instead of 10?
- Should Charter Review Commissioners terms be up to 2 years instead of 1?

4. Ethics Oversight

2021 Proposal

Currently, the County Council has a Code of Ethical Conduct as part of their Rules of Procedure. There is no specific Code of Ethics currently to govern elected and appointed officials.

- Should there be an Ethics Code in the Charter?
- Should an Independent Ethics Oversight Commission be appointed to handle ethics complaints and ensure compliance?
- Should the county establish an Ethics Oversight and Compliance office that coordinates ethics training, ethics compliance, ethics oversight issues and staffs the ethics commission?

5. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Oversight

2021 Proposal

This proposal intends to improving accountability and public trust in Clark County's operations and services related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) best practices.

- Should there be a new position or office within Clark County government that drives, advises and coordinates DEI efforts?
- Should the county create a DEI advisory board or commission?
- Should we look at a combination of 1 and 2?

6. Increase Council Districts from 4 to 5

2021 Proposal

The Clark County Council consists of four (4) representative districts elected within each district, and a Council Chair elected countywide. The Charter Review Commission is considering a proposal to increase the number of Councilor districts to five (5).

This proposal would:

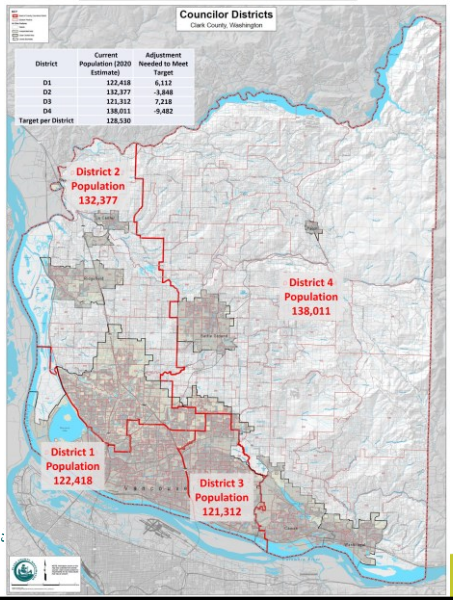
- Replace the countywide chair position with a fifth district Councilor
- Revise the four-district map to five districts (see maps, next two slides)
- Revise the Charter related to Council composition and Council Chair accordingly
- Council Chair would be appointed each year from and by the five Councilors.

Should this proposal be approved?

What would you modify with this proposal?

Current and Proposed District Maps

Current Four-District Map and Population



Current District	Transitional District	Next Election
Council Chair	District 5	2022
District 1	District 1	2022
District 2	District 2	2022
District 3	District 3	2024
District 4	District 4	2024

District	Current Population	Adjustment to meet Target
District 1	102,622	314
District 2	102,703	233
District 3	103,368	-432
District 4	103,180	-244
District 5	102,809	127
Target by District	102,936	

DRAFT: Five-District Transitional Map Proposal

Five District Map - May 27, 2021

Current Charter District	Transitional District	Next Election
Council Chair	District 5	2022
District 1	District 1	2022
District 2	District 2	2022
District 3	District 3	2024
District 4	District 4	2024

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https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharterSurvey2021

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Thank you!

Clark County Charter Review Commission

https://clark.wa.gov/county-manager/charter-review-commission-overview

Clark County Public Service Center

1300 Franklin Street · PO Box 5000

Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Chuck Green – District #2

Chuck.Green@clark.wa.gov

Maureen Winningham – District #3

Maureen.Winningham@clark.wa.gov

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