

**Clark County Charter Review Commission
Resolution No. 2021-8**

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of Clark County a proposal to amend the Clark County Home Rule Charter to authorize the County Auditor in the administration of elections to implement ranked-choice voting for county elected officials' positions.

WHEREAS, In November 2020, the voters of Clark County elected fifteen commissioners to serve on the Charter Review Commission to review the Clark County Home Rule Charter and propose amendments to the same if necessary and appropriate;

WHEREAS the Clark County Charter Review Commissioners have faithfully undertaken their responsibilities entrusted to them by the voters of Clark County, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Charter Review Commission has, in open public meetings convened between January 1, 2021, and December 8, 2021, proposed and deliberated on potential charter amendments; and

WHEREAS, Clark County Charter Review Commission, in a duly noticed public meeting held on December 8, 2021 voted to submit to the voters of Clark County in the November 2022 General Election a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter which would authorize the County Auditor in the administration of elections to implement ranked-choice voting for county elected officials' positions; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Charter Review Commission has reviewed the Charter and determined that the proposed amendments are necessary and appropriate for its adequacy and suitability to the needs of Clark County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CLARK COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:

Section 1. New.

Section 6.1 Election Procedures, is hereby proposed to be added to the Home Rule Charter as follows:

- A. Elections for county officials, including elections to fill vacant county offices, shall be conducted using ranked-choice voting. Under ranked choice voting, voters shall have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and counting shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for the remaining candidate the voter has ranked highest. If a candidate has a majority of votes in a round, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate has a majority of votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and votes for that candidate shall be transferred to each ballot's next-highest ranked remaining candidate, continuing until one candidate receives the majority of votes for all remaining candidates. The candidate receiving the majority of votes shall be deemed elected at the time of certification.

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- B. The county canvassing board shall adopt rules for the implementation and tabulation of ranked-choice voting in accordance with this charter.
- C. All candidates in a ranked-choice election shall be listed on the ballot. The ballot shall permit a voter to rank a minimum of six candidates, inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law, in order of preference for a ranked choice office, unless there are fewer than six candidates on the ballot for such office, in which case the ballot shall permit a voter to rank the total number of such candidates for such office inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law.
- D. There shall not be a primary for county offices and all candidates shall appear on the general ballot. The offices of the council positions representing Districts 3 and 4 shall be filled in the same general election as when the usual election for the office of governor occurs. The offices of the council positions representing Districts 1, 2 and 5 and the assessor, auditor, clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, and treasurer shall be filled in the general election that occurs two years following the election when the other county offices are filled.
- E. In the event that Washington State law is enacted allowing the use of ranked-choice voting to elect county officers, that law shall take the place of the relevant provisions in this charter except that voters shall be allowed to rank candidates for each county office in the manner described in Section 6.1 C.
- F. Beginning January 1, 2026 Clark County shall conduct all elections for the county offices designated in Section 6.2 in accordance with this section.

Section 2. Amendatory.

Section 6.2 Offices Designated is hereby proposed be amended as follows:

The Offices of council member, assessor, auditor, clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, and treasurer shall be nonpartisan offices. ~~Elections for the offices shall be conducted in the manner provided for partisan local elections under state law.~~

Section 3. Amendatory.

Section 6.3 Qualifications is hereby proposed be amended as follows:

Limitations Each county official holding elected office shall be, at the time of filing for office, appointment or election and at all times while holding office, a citizen of United States, at least eighteen (18) years old and a resident and registered voter of Clark County. Each district county council member, throughout their term of office, shall be a resident of the district in which ~~he or she files~~ they file for the primary election.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution proposing amendments to the Clark County Home Rule Charter shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

1 **Section 5. Instructions to Staff.** The County Manager shall direct appropriate county staff to do
2 the following:

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4 A. File a copy of this Resolution with the Clark County Auditor for submittal to the
5 voters at the next general election as a proposal to amend the Clark County Home
6 Rule Charter.
7 B. Transmit a copy to the Clark County Prosecutor and request preparation of an
8 appropriate ballot title for the proposed amendment.
9 C. If a majority of the voters vote in favor of the proposed amendment, post the
10 approved amendment and the entire Home Rule Charter, as amended, on the County
11 website.
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13 ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Clark County Charter Review Commission this 8th day of
14 December, 2021.

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16 ATTEST:

FOR CLARK COUNTY CHARTER
REVIEW COMMISSION:

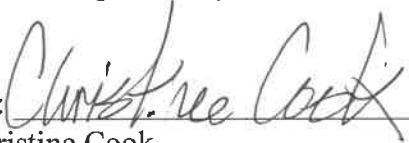
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21 Kelsey Potter, Secretary
22 Clark County Charter Review Commission
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Kim D. Harless, Co-Chair
Clark County Charter Review Commission

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26 Approved as to form only
27 Anthony F. Golik
28 Prosecuting Attorney

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31 By: 
32 Christine Cook
33 Senior Deputy Prosecutor
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Charles P. "Chuck" Green, Co-Chair
Clark County Charter Review Commission

CLARK COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2021

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Countywide At-Large Commissioners

Doug Lasher
Eric Holt
Bridget McLeman

Councilor District 1 Commissioners

Anthony Vendetti
Kim Harless
Chris Goodwin

Councilor District 2 Commissioners

Chuck Green
Kelsey Potter
Dorothy Gasque

Councilor District 3 Commissioners

Maureen Winningham
Terri Niles
Jeff Angelo

Councilor District 4 Commissioners

Deanna Rusch
John Latta
Greg Anderson