

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Clarifying nonpartisan office elections

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 6, Section 6.2 Offices Designated

This proposal changes the last sentence in Section 6.2, "Elections for the offices shall be conducted in the manner provided for partisan local elections under state law."

The amendment language to read: "Elections for these offices shall be held in accordance with the procedures established for nonpartisan elections under applicable law, except that both the Primary and General Election shall occur in even-numbered years."

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: Section 6.2 is a contradictory section. It allows the executive and legislative offices to be nonpartisan, yet still elects them in a partisan manner.

Under current procedures, when only one or two candidates are running for a countywide nonpartisan position, their names appear on the Primary ballot and subsequently advance to the General Election ballot. The top vote-getter from the Primary is listed first on the General Election ballot. This approach reflects a partisan method of electing officials.

The proposed amendment seeks to address this by stipulating that if there are only one or two candidates, they would bypass the Primary and proceed directly to the General Election ballot, with their order determined by lot drawing.

Like all other nonpartisan elections, if there are three or more candidates, their names will appear on the Primary ballot in the order determined by a lot drawing. The two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the General Election ballot and be listed in order of the number of votes received.

Because voters approved a change to make elected officials nonpartisan, officials should be chosen through a process that reflects this, and the Primary should be skipped if only two candidates are running. Elections should still take place in even-numbered years like partisan ones, as voter turnout tends to be higher during those periods.

This change could save Clark County approximately \$70,000 whenever there are just two candidates by eliminating a race the County is charged for, and redistributing the cost to other jurisdictions.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 6 – Elections and Districts, section 6.2 Offices Designated

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission’s amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber _____

2/23/2026 _____

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Creation of a Public Advocate/Ombudsman for Clark County Citizens

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 8 – General Provisions, Section 8.13 Ethics Review Commission and Oversight Office

This proposal would provide an additional FTE that reports to and in support of the Ethics Review Commission. This employee would follow the established standards of the United States Ombudsman (USOA) for the functioning of an independent, confidential and credible review process to aid in the investigation and resolution of complaints and inquiries about county agencies that fall outside of an ethics violation involving Clark County government.

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: The Public Advocate would serve as an impartial intermediary between citizens and general Clark County government.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 8 – General Provisions

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber _____

Printed Name

2/23/2026 _____

Date

Amendment Reference Number: 26-03

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Dorothy Gasque

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Increase in County Council Salaries and Compensation

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 5, Section 5.5, Elected Officials Salaries and Compensation and update to 11.2

This proposal eliminates 5.5, subsection A and revises the section regarding Executive Elected Officials to include Council Members. These changes would not affect the section regarding the salary of the sheriff, judges or the prosecuting attorney.

5.5.a would read, "Beginning in 2027, the salary of a council member, assessor, auditor, county clerk and treasurer is one hundred seventy-three thousand three hundred and ten dollars (\$173,310), which is the current salary, and shall be adjusted based on percentage changes established by the Washington State Salary Commission for state legislators on the effective date determined by the commission for legislative salary adjustments.

This proposal would also update section 11.2 to read as, "The salary and pay schedule for council members beginning January 1, 2027, shall be the same compensation as assessor, auditor, county clerk and treasurer and shall continue until the completion of their term, as calculated in accordance with Section 5.5.A.

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: The original charter amendment that increased council makeup from three commissioners to five council members was created, while also reducing the wages of the members of Council, to make the amendment more cost neutral, and more apt for citizens to pass. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to increase county council salaries and make them more equitable among elected officials.

Council members with a full-time salary enable them to dedicate their efforts exclusively to their roles. Additionally, this approach broadens the pool of potential candidates by making it feasible for highly qualified individuals, who might otherwise be deterred by financial constraints, to seek office.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 5 – Elected Officials Salaries and Compensation and Article 11 – Transitional Provisions.

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission’s amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber _____

2/23/2026 _____

Printed Name

Date

Amendment Reference Number: 26-04

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Provide ASL Interpretation Services and Other Accommodations at Council Meetings

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 2 - The Legislative Branch, Section 2.5 Rules of Procedure

This proposal mandates that American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation services be made available at County Council meetings. Additionally, it requires that the ASL interpreter be recorded so that their interpretation is included in meeting recordings, which are posted and archived in accordance with OPMA requirements.

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: Article II of the Americans with Disabilities Act mandates that local governments offer "auxiliary aids and services," except when providing them would be an undue burden. For individuals who are hearing impaired, these services may include sign language interpretation or real-time captioning.

Real-time captioning only works well if speakers speak directly into the microphone, if the microphone works well and if there is no other sound interference.

Captioning alone poses challenges, as many individuals in the Deaf community find it difficult to read captions due to ASL's unique sentence structure—time, topic, comment—which differs significantly from English word order.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 2 – The Legislative Branch

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber

Printed Name

2/23/2026

Date

Amendment Reference Number: 26-05

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Signature requirements for initiatives and referenda, as well as clarifying amendments

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 7, Section 7.2 Initiatives and 7.4 Referendum

This proposal lowers the requirement for verified signatures on an initiative or referendum from 10% to 8%.

Determines the required number of signatures for unincorporated areas based on current data from those regions.

Permits Election staff to conduct random statistical sampling of signatures for verification purposes, as outlined by State Initiatives and Referenda procedures.

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: The Home Rule Charter grants the citizens of Clark County the right to Initiative and Referendum. Historically, no petition has advanced to the ballot since Clark County became home rule due to the high signature threshold required. Adjusting the signature requirements from 10 to 8% and employing current data when determining the necessary number for unincorporated areas are changes, instead of data from the last gubernatorial elected would enhance the probability of petitions reaching the ballot.

Additionally, assessing a petition with over 26,000 signatures is a challenging job that must be finished quickly. This proposed amendment would allow Election staff to utilize the state's statistical sampling program and applicable rules to identify both the quantity of signatures, and which ones should be reviewed. However, this method cannot serve as the only reason for rejecting a petition.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 7 – Initiative and Referendum, section 7.2 Initiatives and section 7.4 Referendum

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber

Printed Name

2/23/2026

Date

Amendment Reference Number: 26-06

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor Information

Primary Sponsor: Cathie Garber

Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Kim Hamlik

Amendment Proposal Overview

Title: Change Charter Review Commission Elections from 5 years to 10 years

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: This amendment proposes:

Changes to Article 9, Section 9.1, subsection a Charter Review Commission

This proposal changes the first sentence in subsection a to read: Every ten (10) years, the council shall cause an election of a Charter Review Commission.

Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: Five years ago, the first Charter Review Commission undertook a significant responsibility: recommending new amendments and clarifying existing sections of the charter for voter consideration within a one-year timeframe.

One of the proposed amendments brought forward to the voters was an amendment that future commissions be elected every five years, with commissioners elected serving a two-year term. This amendment was passed by voters.

The elected Freeholders intentionally wrote our Charter in a straightforward manner to ensure its passage. The initial commission's role was to expand upon the charter and make clarifying adjustments to this very minimal charter.

Our home rule charter should be written broad enough that adjustments are not required every five years. A two-year term provides the commission with sufficient time to evaluate all suggested amendments submitted by commissioners and to obtain essential input from citizens. There is only one other Home Rule County in Washington that elects its Charter Review Commissioners every five years. Notably, we are the sole Home Rule County that elects commissioners for a two-year term.

Charter Section(s) Affected: Article 9 – Charter Review and Amendment, Section 9.1.a. Charter Review Commission.

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Cathie Garber

Printed Name

2/23/2026

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2/23/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: John Jay
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Ann Donnelly, Brandon Erickson, Peter Silliman, Brad Benton, Liz Cline

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Requiring Land Supply and Construction Cost Analysis
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** Requires that Clark County publish a credible public analysis of how proposed changes to land use or construction codes could affect land supply and construction costs before the county adopts any such amendments. The goal is to provide information on potential economic and development impacts prior to enacting relevant legislation. The analysis required by this section shall be borne by the county and may not be funded by any development-related fee, including but not limited to permit, impact, mitigation fees, or any other fee that may negatively impact housing affordability.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The intent is to promote transparency and data-informed policymaking in Clark County, Washington by ensuring that potential impacts on land supply and construction costs are evaluated before adopting land use or construction code changes. It reflects concern that regulatory changes could contribute to the region's housing challenges and aims to help policymakers avoid actions that may worsen the housing crisis by considering economic and housing supply effects in advance.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Article 8

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

John Jay
Printed Name

2/23/2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2/23/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: John Jay
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Ann Donnelly, Brad Benton, Liz Cline, Peter Silliman, Brandon Erickson

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Requiring Supermajority Council Approval for County Taxes
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** Requires a supermajority vote of the County Council of Clark County, Washington to enact any new county tax or to increase the rate or tax base of existing county taxes, including property and sales taxes. At least four of the five Councilmembers must approve such measures. The amendment does not change the county's taxing authority under state law and would take effect on January 1 following voter approval.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The intent is to require broader agreement before the county of Clark County, Washington can impose new taxes or raise existing ones, including property and sales taxes. It reflects a policy preference for limiting tax increases in an effort to help control the overall cost of living.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 2.4

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

John Jay
Printed Name

2/23/2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2/23/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: John Jay
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Ann Donnelly, Brad Benton, Liz Cline, Peter Silliman, Brandon Erickson

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Prohibiting County Government from Interfering with Initiatives and Charter Amendments
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** Limits county government involvement in the citizen initiative and charter amendment process within Clark County, Washington. The amendment would prohibit the County Council or other county officials from taking actions that block, delay, or otherwise interfere with placing initiatives or charter amendments on the ballot, bar the use of county resources to support or oppose such measures, and prevent the Council from delaying implementation of voter-approved initiatives or charter amendments. This amendment would not prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter Amendments as specified in Section 9.6 of the County Charter
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The policy intent is to preserve and protect the direct initiative and charter amendment powers of voters in Clark County, Washington by restricting governmental interference in that process. It aims to ensure initiatives and charter amendments can be placed on the ballot without county officials taking actions to block or delay them, prevents the use of public resources to campaign for or against such measures, and requires timely implementation of measures approved by voters. The amendment reflects a policy preference for keeping the county government neutral in matters of voter-driven constitutional or charter change.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Articles 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

John Jay
Printed Name

2/23/2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2-24-2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: PETER SILLIMAN
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): LIZ CLINE, BRAD BENTON, JOHN JAY

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** REVISED BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PROCESS
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** Make proposed budget information publicly accessible in September to promote transparency and discussion.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** Provide additional transparency to the County Council and public about the proposed budget and revenue requirements by requiring its publication earlier in the year.

Charter Section(s) Affected: PROPOSED EDITS AND NEW SECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

PETER SILLIMAN

2-24-2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2-24-2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: PETER SILLIMAN
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): LIZ CLINE, BRAD BENTON, JOHN JAY

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: 1% LEVY LIMIT
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: CREATES A 1% ANNUAL LEVY LIMIT
- Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: LIMITS COUNTY ANNUAL LEVY INCREASES TO 1% (PLUS NEW CONSTRUCTION) WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE

Charter Section(s) Affected: UNDERTERMINED

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

PETER SILLIMAN

2-24-2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2-24-2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: PETER SILLIMAN
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): LIZ CLINE, BRAD BENTON, JOHN JAY

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SAFETY
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: MAKES DEPUTY STAFFING A PARAMOUNT DUTY
- Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: prioritizes law enforcement deputy staffing.

Charter Section(s) Affected: **PROPOSED SECTION 1.6 THE DUTY OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

It is the paramount duty of the County to make ample provision for law enforcement deputy staffing and the public safety of all residents residing within its borders.

CCSO Deputy staffing per county resident shall be near national averages for similar departments.

The County shall enforce the law without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

PETER SILLIMAN

2-24-2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2-24-2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: PETER SILLIMAN
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): LIZ CLINE, BRAD BENTON, JOHN JAY

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: CLARIFIES THAT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
- Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: Click or tap here to enter text.

Charter Section(s) Affected: PROPOSED EDIT OF ARTICLE 2 SECTION 2 G

"The council shall be responsible for its organization, rules of conduct for business- **and for the employment and supervision of personnel in the Legislative Branch.**"

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

PETER SILLIMAN

2-24-2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2-24-2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: PETER SILLIMAN
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): LIZ CLINE, BRAD BENTON, JOHN JAY

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: PERFORMANCE AUDITS
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: GIVES TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH THE RESPONSIBILITY AND ABILITY TO PERFORM PERFORMANCE AUDITS OF COUNTY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RECORD KEEPING AS WELL AS PROGRAM OR DEPARTMENT EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVNESS.
- Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: provide transparency to the County Council and public about the performance of county programs, departments, financial management, or processes.

Charter Section(s) Affected: PROPOSED NEW SECTION UNDER ARITCLE 2

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

PETER SILLIMAN

2-24-2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 2/24/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Dorothy Gasque
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Kim Hamlik

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: ETHICS
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** This amendment would clarify that the county code of ethics should supplement, not merely reference, state ethics laws, and declare that the policy's purpose is to ensure our county government serves all residents equally. It would clarify the role of the independent ethics commission to include recommending changes in legislation to the County Council, managing and coordinating training and education of local officers and employees in state and local ethics, and authority to refer ethics matters to appropriate enforcement agencies. It would establish the office of the Inspector General, which shall oversee the use of public funds. The office shall have jurisdiction to investigate, audit, and provide contract oversight while promoting efficiency, improving agency operations, and preventing and deterring waste, fraud, and abuse. The office of the Inspector General and the Oversight office would share resources when advisable to avoid redundancies and inefficiencies.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** This amendment would create a more robust and independent system of accountability, ensuring that the ethics provisions in our charter are clear and effective. The addition of an Inspector General's office would establish an investigative body with law enforcement capabilities that the current policy lacks. In addition to its role in ethics enforcement, the IG would also create cost savings for taxpayers through the auditing process and reductions in fraud, waste, and abuse.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 8.12 Code Of Ethics and Section 8.13 Ethics Review Commission and Oversight Office

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Commissioner Dorothy Gasque
Printed Name

2/23/2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 02/23/2026

Sponsor Information

- **Primary Sponsor:** Kim Hamlik
- **Optional Co-Sponsor(s):**

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Amendment to Authorize Council Removal of Appointed Councilors from Boards/Commissions and Direction of Votes by Simple Majority
-
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:**
 - Amend the Clark County Home Rule Charter to explicitly grant the County Council the authority, by a simple majority vote, to (1) remove any councilor from a council-appointed position on a board and/or commission, and (2) direct an individual councilor appointed to such a board and/or commission on how to vote on specific policy items or matters.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:**
 - To clarify and strengthen the County Council's oversight and collective authority over its appointed representatives on external boards and commissions. This ensures that councilors serving in these roles act in alignment with the majority will of the full council, promoting unified representation of county policy, accountability to the elected legislative body, and efficient governance. It addresses potential conflicts where individual councilors may vote contrary to council consensus, while maintaining the council's appointment power under existing charter language. This change enhances coordination without infringing on core separation of powers (Article 1.5) and aligns with the council's legislative role in representing the county as a whole.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:**

- Primarily Article 2 (The Legislative Branch), specifically by amending or adding to Section 2.2 (Organization) to include new subsections on removal and vote direction (e.g., new Section 2.2(E): "The council may, by simple majority vote, remove any councilor from service on a board or commission to which the council has appointed them" and new Section 2.2(F): "The council may, by simple majority vote, direct an individual councilor appointed to a board or commission on how to vote on specific policy items or matters."). Potentially cross-reference or amend related sections in Article 2 if needed for consistency.

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the sponsor acknowledges that this proposal is subject to the Commission's amendment deliberation and adoption process.

Kim Hamlik
Printed Name

02-24-2026
Date