

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

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: 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: February 27, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Brandon Erickson
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Limitation on Consecutive Terms for County Council Members
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** This amendment establishes a limit of three consecutive terms for members of the Clark County Council. All uninterrupted service as a County Council member, including the term being served at the time this amendment takes effect, shall be counted for purposes of determining eligibility. Service of more than half of a full term as established by this Charter shall be deemed a full term for purposes of determining eligibility. A person who has served three consecutive terms shall not be eligible to seek election to the County Council again until at least one full term has intervened during which that person did not hold the office. Service in different council districts shall not be treated as service in separate offices.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** This amendment promotes periodic leadership renewal on the County Council while balancing continuity and institutional knowledge. The amendment limits consecutive service rather than lifetime service, defines how partial terms are treated, prevents circumvention through district changes, and applies uniformly to current and future office holders by counting prior and current service. Similar term limits have been implemented in Pierce County and Snohomish County charters.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Article 6 – Elections: Add new Section 6.7 – Limitation on Terms of County Council Members

Acknowledgement

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

Brandon Erickson

February 26, 2026

Printed Name

Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 27, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Commissioner Ann Donnelly
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Executive Elected Officials to Remain Elected, Not Appointed
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** Clarifies Section 3.5 to affirm the elected officials will remain elected, not appointed, as follows in italics: Section 3.5 Executive Elected Officials. The executive elected officials of Clark County shall consist of the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer. *Each of these offices shall be filled by direct election by the qualified voters of Clark County and shall serve terms as provided by law. These offices shall not be made appointive, and no Clark County body, officer, or authority may appoint, remove, or replace the holder of such office except as expressly authorized under Sections 6.1.A and 6.1.B of this Charter, or applicable provisions of state law governing vacancies or suspensions.*
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The purpose of this amendment is to preserve the voters' fundamental right to directly elect these executive officials. It affirms and protects the County's voters' rights to hold these officials directly accountable at the ballot box, not to be taken away by any County entity. It is now necessary to affirm this right of election in light of public discourse that suggests that one or more of these positions should be filled by appointment. Future discourse may recommend appointment of any or all of the executive elected officials, unless this amendment is offered to and approved by the voters of Clark County.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 3.5

Acknowledgement

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

Ann Donnelly, Charter Review Commissioner

Date February 27, 2026

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 28, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Patrick Adigweme
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s):

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Revised Council Powers Regarding Boards and Commissions

- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:**

Current Language:

H. Have concurrent authority with the county manager to nominate members to the following boards and commissions. Members are appointed by the council.

1. Clark County planning commission.
2. Clark County historic preservation commission.
3. Board of equalization of assessment.

Revised Language:

H. Have concurrent authority with the county manager to nominate members to all boards and commissions, except the Ethics Review Commission. Members are appointed by the council.

- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:**

Expand permissible council nominations for boards and commissions.

- **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.

Patrick Adigweme

February 28, 2026

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 28, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Patrick Adigweme
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s):

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Permit County Auditor to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** This amendment would allow for the county auditor to adopt ranked choice voting for races with more than four candidates, eliminating the primary as a cost-savings measure.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The intent is to allow for better interpretation of voter intent while also reducing spending.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 6

Acknowledgement

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

Patrick Adigweme

February 28, 2026

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 28, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Patrick Adigweme
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s):

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: Require Annual Report Publication by the County Manager
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:

Current Language:

- Section 3.2 B:

3. The county manager shall have the power to Present to the council an annual statement of the county's fiscal and governmental affairs, and any other report which they may deem necessary.

4. Annually prepare and present to the council in a public meeting a budget and budget message setting forth proposals for the forthcoming fiscal year.

Revised Language

- Remove Section 3.2 B-3, B-4, and add to the end of Section 3.2 B:
The county manager must:

1. Present to the council in a public meeting and publish broadly an annual statement of the county's fiscal and governmental affairs, and any other report which they may deem necessary.

2. Annually prepare and present to the council in a public meeting a budget and budget message setting forth proposals for the forthcoming fiscal year.

- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The intent is to strengthen reporting requirements and transparency of data about the health of Clark County as an organization. Current language has allowed for gaps in availability of this data to the public.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 3.2

Acknowledgement

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

Patrick Adigweme

February 28, 2026

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: February 28, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Patrick Adigweme
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s):

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: Modify County Council Composition
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:

Current Language:

- Section 2.1:

The legislative power of the county not reserved to the people or executive branch shall be vested in a county council. The council shall consist of five (5) members. The voters of each of these districts shall nominate and elect one (1) council member to represent their district.

Revised Language:

- Section 2.1:

The legislative power of the county not reserved to the people or executive branch shall be vested in a county council. The council shall consist of seven (7) members. The voters of each of these districts shall nominate and elect one (1) council member to represent their district. The sixth and seventh members shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the entire county.

- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** Increase council member accountability by adding two at-large positions which will be accountable to the whole county, not just one particular district.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 2.1

Acknowledgement

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

Patrick Adigweme

February 28, 2026

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: March 1, 2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Commissioner Ann Donnelly
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s):

Amendment Proposal Overview

- Title: Clark County's Requirement to Support Public Safety
- Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: In 2025, County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) documented an urgent staffing shortage that places the public and law enforcement at risk. This amendment permanently addresses the county's public safety needs by establishing a minimum level of funding of CCSO sworn deputies. The proposed requirement is 85% of the Washington Statewide Average of officers per thousand residents, as published annually by Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. That 2025 average is 1.37 officers per thousand residents. Clark County's 2025 staffing level is 0.59 officers per thousand residents. The amendment requires the County, within 48-60 (TBD) months of amendment passage, to increase staffing to 85% of the Washington Statewide Average, thus to 1.16 officers per thousand residents. At 251,805 residents in unincorporated Clark County (WASPC), this staffing level would require a funding increase from the current 172 deputies in 2026 to approximately 292 deputies funded within 48-60 months of amendment passage. Thereafter, staffing funding would be maintained at 85% of WASPC's periodically published Washington Statewide Average.
- Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment: To affirm that it is the paramount duty of the County to make ample provisions for public safety; to correct a long-standing and now crucial staffing crisis within the County's law enforcement agency, CCSO, that is putting both the public and law enforcement in danger; therefore, to establish a reasonable and verifiable level of staffing funding for CCSO linked to a periodically updated statewide standard published independently by a third party (WASPC).
- Charter Section(s) Affected: Establishes new Section 2.7 in Section 2

Acknowledgement

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

Ann Donnelly, Charter Review Commissioner
Printed Name

March 2, 2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 3/7/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: John Jay
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Prohibiting Symbolic Political Proclamations by the County Council
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** This proposed amendment prohibits the County Council from adopting proclamations or resolutions that express symbolic political positions unrelated to the County's jurisdiction, governmental functions, or intergovernmental responsibilities. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that official County action is focused on governance, public services, and matters that directly affect County residents, and is not used to issue general political or ideological statements. The amendment does not limit the County's authority to address local policy issues, advocate on behalf of County interests, or engage in legitimate intergovernmental relations.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The purpose of this proposed amendment is to ensure that Clark County government focuses its legislative and official actions on governing and providing public services rather than issuing proclamations or resolutions expressing symbolic political or ideological positions outside the County's jurisdiction. The policy intent is to prioritize the use of County resources, staff time, and Council deliberation toward matters that directly affect County residents and local operations, while preventing the use of official County action for symbolic or partisan messaging unrelated to County governance.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Article 2

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

3/7/2026
Date

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: March 7, 2026

Sponsor Information

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

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Role of Council Member on Boards and Commissions and Method of Appointment and Replacement

Brief Description of Proposed Amendment: Identifies the role and responsibility of a council member when appointed to represent the Council on to a board or commission. Establishes the term of service. Identifies the process for appointment and replacement.

- The role of a council member when appointed to a board or commission is to represent the council, rather than the council member's district. For specific votes on the board or commission, the Council representative shall seek direction from the Council, which shall be established through majority vote. The Council member may express the differing views of their District and place such views into the Council record.
- The term of service on the Board or Commission shall be one year from date of appointment.
- Appointment of the council member to board or commission will be by majority vote of the Council. The Council member may refuse the appointment.
- The Council member may be replaced:
 - By resignation of the Council member, after giving the Council 30 days' written notice
 - After expiration of the member's term on the board or commission
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** to avoid future controversy and litigation that may arise due to differing interpretations of the role of the council member, lack of definition of the service term and of the process for replacement.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Section 2.4 Powers of Council

Acknowledgement

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

Ann Donnelly

Date March 7 2026

Amendment Reference Number: 26-29.

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 03/09/2026

Sponsor Information

- Primary Sponsor: Morgan Holmgren
- Optional Co-Sponsor(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Allowing for the removal of executive branch elected officials by the County Council
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** To add a power to the county council that would allow for the removal of members of executive offices by a supermajority vote in cases when an official has "committed some act or acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office, or who has violated his oath of office."¹
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The goal of this proposal is to allow for an efficient method of removing executive branch elected official in cases of misconduct. The current procedure only allows for the removal of officials from executive offices through recall elections or arrest and conviction of the official. These procedures and processes are slow moving and in extreme cases of misconduct may leave executive officials in their position (or suspended with pay) for significant periods of time or until the official's term runs out. This proposal then suggests that the county council be granted the authority to remove officials from executive office in cases that match the language around recall elections (see Article 1 Section 33 of the state constitution) via a supermajority vote. A supermajority should be defined as a majority vote plus one. The proposal would then trigger the vacancy section of the Clark County Charter.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Sections 2.4 and 6.1

Acknowledgement

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

Morgan Holmgren
Printed Name

03/09/2026
Date

¹ WA State Constitution Article I Section 33: <https://leg.wa.gov/state-laws-and-rules/washington-state-constitution/?section=15aea7cf-9f33-455d-9ebc-027ccb3c6b98#52dda199-2e7d-4374-8521-7ba2e53381b5>

Amendment Reference Number: 26-30.

(To be assigned after submission)

Clark County, WA Charter Review Commission

Amendment Proposal Intake Form

Date Submitted: 03/09/2026

Sponsor Information

- **Primary Sponsor:** Morgan Holmgren
- **Optional Co-Sponsor(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.

Amendment Proposal Overview

- **Title:** Adjusting County Council Size for Population.
- **Brief Description of Proposed Amendment:** To set a formula and structure for determining the appropriate size of the County Council for Clark County.
- **Purpose and Policy Intent of Proposed Amendment:** The current council is set to a size of five members (Charter section 2.1). The county population at the 2020 US Census was just over 500,000 people. Each council district included approximately 100,000 people when the boundaries were drawn. The US Census Bureau estimated that the population had grown to over 525,000 people in 2024¹. The intent of this proposal is to set a standard size for county council districts based on population so that the council can maintain its connection to the people. This proposal is to create a formula to determine when the county should add seats to the council and then the timing of determining that change. First, the preliminary proposed formula would be that the size of the county council should be set at approximately 100,000 people where a council seat should be added when the number of people per district exceeds 110,000 people per district (a 10 percent deviation from goal of 100,000 per resident). Second, the timing for this calculation should be done when the decennial census data is released and the redistricting committee is convene and draw new district lines.
- **Charter Section(s) Affected:** Sections 2.1 and 6.6

Acknowledgement

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

Morgan Holmgren
Printed Name

03/09/2026
Date

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/clarkcountywashington#qf-flag-NA>