



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES of July 14, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 14, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jim Stoffer, Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Ron Cameron, Patti Morris, Paul Pickett, Ron Richards, Christy Holy, Rod Fleck, Chris Noble, Bill Benedict, Cathy Walde and Nina Sarmiento. Mark Hodgson was excused.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Richards requested an executive session regarding personnel matters.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as modified

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes June 23, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on land acquisitions by State and Federal agencies
- Robert Wissolik, Sequim, commented on water steward position (see attached)
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on water steward position (see attached)
- Gayle Baker, Sequim, commented on water steward position
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on land acquisitions by State and Federal agencies
- Dr. Sarah Huling, Forks, commented on district only voting (see attached)
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on district only voting
- Isaac Anderson, Port Angeles, commented on district only voting, serving on NGO's, water steward
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on town hall meetings, public comment timing
- Norma Turner, Port Angeles, commented on district only voting (see attached)
- Laurel Hargis, Port Angeles, commented on BOCC non-profit board members
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on water steward, BOCC non-profit board members, public comment length
- Stephanie Sherman, Port Angeles, commented on water steward, BOCC non-profit board members (see attached)
- Bonnie Bless-Boenish Sequim, commented on land acquisitions, BOCC non-profit board members, district only voting, water steward
- Ann Soule, Sequim, commented on water steward

CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Clerk Gores, Annie Hartnett, Commissioner Pickett, Commissioner Richards, Eric Fehrmann, Commissioner Fisch, Commissioner Ozias, Commissioner Tozzer, Gayle Baker, Jodi Dotson, Tjgg, Pepai Whipple, Dennis Funston, jtgraham, Charles Schultz, Pamela Caldwell, Dr. Sarah Huling, Carolyn Gray, Esther Littlejohn, Dan Blevins, Jeanin Brown, Ian Hillway, Geoffrey Fox, Fred Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Kaj Ahlburg, Marguerite Glover, Duane Benedict, Patrice Johnston and Shelley Taylor and Greg Taylor (see attached).

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MINUTES of July 14, 2025

Page 2

GUESTS

Commissioners Johnson and French provided a report to the CRC Members regarding the non-profit boards they serve on and the importance of serving on these boards. Commissioner Ozias provided a written summary that was included in the agenda packet for July 14, 2025. CRC Members asked questions regarding serving on boards.

CRC recessed at 6:53 p.m. and reconvened at 7 p.m.

Discussion was held by the CRC Members and Jay Reno, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, regarding calling an executive session. Reno noted there are specific reasons for executive sessions and the session would need to be noticed 24 hours in advance. Fisch questioned if a vote of the Commission is required to go into executive session. Reno stated he needed to research the question. Richards noted that the session is regarding the performance of some or all the people who have been advising. CRC Members held discussion and it was decided to postpone the request for an executive session.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies (Step 2) – Commissioner Richards**

Fisch read the proposed amendment into the record as follows:

Proposed amendment:

Section 9.00; Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies
The Board of County Commissioners shall be required to respond to all requests from State and Federal agencies for comments on the potential impact of transfers or acquisitions of land to or by those agencies where such transfers or acquisitions would affect the County's taxing, legislative, regulatory, and/or law enforcement jurisdiction. No later than July 1, 2027, the County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to add a section setting forth standards under which the Board of County Commissioners must base its responses required by this section. Those standards shall allow for the responses to include a recommendation that the transfers or acquisitions be denied, granted, or conditioned; they shall address both the positive and/or the negative impacts, as the case may be, of such transfers or acquisitions on the county's interests; and they shall consider the factors which the State or Federal agencies give weight to in approving such transfers or acquisitions.

Richards briefed the CRC Members on the proposed amendment and the legal response provided by Dee Boughton, Prosecuting Attorney's Office. He feels the amendment should move to the next step or form a committee to study the topic. CRC Members provided pro and con statements on the land acquisition by State and Federal agencies proposed amendment.

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved that the Charter Review Commission approve the final draft and proceed to schedule a final vote at a subsequent meeting, scheduled by the Commission, with notice given to the public at least 3 days before the subsequent meeting, Cameron seconded, motion failed

(7 voted in favor of and 7 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to form a committee, Cameron seconded, motion passed

Commissioners Richards, Cameron, Stoffer, and Walde will serve on the committee.

Fleck left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- **BOCC Non-profit Board Members (Step 2) – Commissioner Tozzer**

Fisch read the proposed amendment into the record as follows:

Proposed amendment:

Section 2.11:

No County Commissioner shall serve as a board member, officer, or trustee of any nonprofit organization that receives direct financial compensation, contracts, grants, or in-kind benefits from Clallam County. If a County

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MINUTES of July 14, 2025

Page 3

Commissioner is selected, appointed, or elected to such a position, they must resign from either the nonprofit or their public office within 30 days. Failure to do so constitutes a disqualifying conflict of interest.

Tozzer read the following into the record:

County government must serve the public—not private boards. Yet under current rules, County Commissioners can sit on nonprofit boards that receive funding or benefits from the very government they help control. That’s a textbook conflict of interest.

This amendment fixes that. It would prevent Commissioners from serving on the boards of any nonprofit that receives county money—whether through grants, contracts, or in-kind assistance. Commissioners must choose: represent the public, or represent the nonprofit—not both.

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), which advises Washington governments, warns against this exact problem. MRSC notes that nonprofit board membership can trigger violations of conflict-of-interest laws, particularly when funding or contractual decisions are involved. It urges transparency, abstention, and, in many cases, avoidance altogether.

Likewise, the National Association of Counties (NACo) emphasizes that county leaders must avoid any situation that compromises their obligation to the public good. Even unpaid nonprofit board service can blur loyalties.

This amendment isn’t about punishing civic involvement—it’s about drawing a bright ethical line. When commissioners vote on budgets, contracts, or grants, we must be 100% sure they’re doing so without bias or split allegiances.

Imagine if a judge also served on the board of a law firm appearing in their courtroom. We’d call that unethical. The same logic applies here.

Good governance demands independence. This simple amendment ensures elected officials serve only one master: the people.

ACTION TAKEN: Tozzer moved to add Section 2.11 to the Clallam County Charter to prohibit County Commissioners from serving on the boards of nonprofit organizations that receive direct funding, contracts, or in-kind support from the County, Sarmiento seconded, no vote was taken

CRC Members provided pro and con statements on the BOCC non-profit board members proposed amendment.

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to refer the motion and proposal that it covers to the Ethics Committee for their review and recommendation, Stoffer seconded, motion passed
(8 voted in favor of and 5 voted opposed)

• **County v District BOCC Elections (Step 2) – Commissioner Tozzer**

Fisch read the proposed amendment into the record as follows:

Section 2.20:

The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of three members. The Commissioners shall be nominated and elected solely by the voters of their represented district for a term of four years as provided in this Charter. (Delete “by the voters from each of the three districts and elected by the voters countywide”)

Tozzer read the following into the record:

Ensures Fair Representation by Region:

Clallam County is geographically, economically, and culturally diverse. Each district — from the rural West End to urban Port Angeles and growing Sequim — faces distinct local issues. Electing commissioners by district allows each region to select a representative who best understands and advocates for its specific needs.

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MINUTES of July 14, 2025

Page 4

Restores Voter Control Within Districts:

Under the current system, candidates must win a countywide election—even though they are running to represent a single district. This allows voters from outside a district to override the will of that district's own residents, diminishing local control and community voice.

Reflects the Will of the People:

In 2025, a Charter Review Commission community survey of over 1,400 participants found 74% in favor of returning to district-only elections. Voters have made their preferences clear.

Corrects a Confusing and Flawed System:

The 2020 charter amendment created a hybrid system: commissioners are nominated by district but elected countywide. This structure is confusing to voters and undermines basic principles of local representation.

Protects District 3 and Other Minority-Voice Regions:

Rural and remote areas such as District 3 (West End) are especially vulnerable under the current system. In recent elections, there has been credible concern that the outcome was decided by voters in other districts, not the residents the commissioner was meant to represent.

Promotes Accountability and Clarity:

District-only voting makes it clear: if you live in a district, you vote for your commissioner. It enhances accountability and simplifies the process for voters.

Amending the Charter to allow both nomination and election of County Commissioners by district strengthens democracy, aligns with voter intent, and ensures all parts of Clallam County have an equal and authentic voice.

The CRC is not deciding to return to nominating and voting for the Board of Commissioners by district; it is deciding to allow the people of Clallam County to choose.

ACTION TAKEN: Tozzer moved to amend Section 2.20 of the Clallam County Charter to return to the nomination and election of County Commissioners solely by the voters of their represented district (move to step 3), Benedict seconded, motion failed
(3 voted in favor of and 10 voted opposed)

CRC Members provided pro and con statements for the district election voting.

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to call for the question, Stoffer seconded, motion failed
(6 voted in favor of and 7 voted opposed)

CRC Members continued providing pro and con statements for the district election voting.

Benedict left the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

• **Water Resource Specialist (Step 2) – Commissioners Pickett and Sarmiento**

Fisch read the proposed amendment into the record as follows:

Article IV, Section 4.25

The Director shall retain, through a personal services contract bidding procedure, a Water Resources Specialist, with the necessary expertise to collect, analyze and provide water resources data to all entities managing water resources in the County. The position would have no water management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Bids shall be ranked by an ad hoc Committee with seven members comprised of: three county employees, one from Department of Community Development; one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Environmental Health Section of County Health and Human Services Department; two citizens selected by the Director; and two citizens selected by the Board of County Commissioners. The bid price may be considered in the ranking, but shall not be determinative of the ranking of a bid. This position shall be contracted for four-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited to ensure

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of July 14, 2025
Page 5

the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring. The Specialist's position need not be filled unless the annual cost of the winning bid is less than the annual salary of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

Original motion

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to forward the proposed Charter amendment and accompanying draft recommendation to step 3, Stoffer seconded

Pickett briefed the CRC Members on the changes made to the amendment since the last meeting. He noted that the hiring procedure was added to the Charter amendment and removed from the recommendation. The recommendation now includes just the job description. In addition, there was a typographic error and minor formatting issues.

Richards and Sarmiento stated their concerns with the recommendation. Richards recommended to strike the recommendation from the motion and move forward with just the Resolution. He noted that the Water Committee could meet prior to the next CRC meeting to reconsider the recommendation.

Amended motion:

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to amend the motion to strike recommendations from the motion and just move the Resolution forward, Sarmiento seconded, motion passed

(12 voted in favor of and 1 voted opposed)

CRC Members provided pro and con statements for the water resources specialist amendment.

Fleck joined the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Original motion

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to forward the proposed Charter amendment and accompanying draft recommendation to step 3, Stoffer seconded, motion passed

(7 voted in favor of and 6 voted opposed)

The amendment will move forward to the July 28, 2025 meeting for step 4. Pickett will work with Gores to issue a notice.

• **BOCC town halls – Commissioner Sarmiento**

ACTION TAKEN: Sarmiento moved to create a committee to explore an amendment in the Charter requiring BOCC town halls, Richards seconded, motion carried

(13 voted yes)

Commissioners Sarmiento, Richards, Tozzer and Cameron will serve on the committee.

• **Explanatory Statements/For and Against Committees – Commissioner Fisch**

Fisch reported that there needs to be a For and Against Committee for the Coroner amendment. CRC Members held discussion regarding the For and Against Committee. Richards recommends telling the Clallam County Board of Commissioners to form the committee. Fisch will forward the information to the BOCC.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

• **Ethics Committee**

Cameron commented that the Ethics Committee met on July 10, 2025. The committee is still waiting to hear back from Clark County on some requested information. Tozzer noted that he was able to speak with a Charter Review Commissioner from Clark County regarding their Ethics Committee and he feels the CRC Ethics

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of July 14, 2025
Page 6

Committee is on the right track. Tozzer will report on that conversation at the next Ethics meeting on July 24, 2025.

- **Water Committee**

Pickett will work with Gores on the notice to the public. The Water Committee will also schedule another meeting in the next two weeks. Gores will follow up with Pickett and provide some available date and times for room availability.

REPORTS

- **Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch**

No Chair report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on NGO's, oath of office
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on West End, North Olympic Development Council, CERN, Dungeness River Management Team, pictures on zoom, church issue
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on church issue, water steward, town hall meetings, staffing issues
- Gayle Baker, Sequim, commented on district voting, Ethics Committee
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on water steward
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on voting for the entire meeting if not in attendance, water steward
- Administrator Todd Mielke, commented on County budget, reserves
- Mary Wilson, Sequim, commented on water steward
- Concerned Citizen, commented on water steward, district voting
- Rebecca Horst, Sequim, commented on the work of the Charter Review Commission, Sequim MAT clinic, compliance issues

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ACTION TAKEN: Sarmiento moved to adjourn the meeting, Morris seconded, motion carried

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved: 7/28/25

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting – July 14, 2025

Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent

	Land acquisition move to final vote – Richards	Non-profit to refer to the ethics Committee – Pickett	Called the question - Pickett	Vote by district - Tozzer	Move forward with water amendment only - Richards	Water amendment - Richards
Susan Fisch	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bill Benedict	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Absent
Jim Stoffer	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Jeff Tozzer	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Alex Fane	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Ron Cameron	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Pattie Morris	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Chris Noble	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Paul Pickett	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Ron Richards	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rod Fleck	No	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	No
Mark Hodgson	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Christy Holy	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Cathy Walde	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Nina Sarmiento	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Yes	7	8	6	3	12	7
No	7	5	7	10	1	6
Pass or Fail	Failed	Passed	Failed	Failed	Passed	Passed

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

Public Comment on Agenda Items – 1st Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

NO	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Ed Bowen	Ed Bowen	POB 111 CB
2	Robert Wissolik	Robert Wissolik	211 W Nelson Rd. Sequim 98352
3	Denise Lapid	Denise Lapid	Sequim
4	Ed Bowen	Ed Bowen	Sequim
5	John Worthington	John Worthington	Sequim
6	Eric Fehrmann	Eric Fehrmann	Sequim
7	Dr. Sarah Huling	Dr. Sarah Huling	Forks
8	Mark Curtis	Mark Curtis	Sequim
9	Isaac Anders	Isaac Anders	Port Angeles
10	Moemo-kuu	Moemo-kuu	PA
11	Laurel Hargis	Laurel Hargis	PA
12	Terin Cummins	Terin Cummins	Sequim
13	Stephanie Sherman	Stephanie Sherman	PA
14	Bonnie Bless-Baerish	Bonnie Bless-Baerish	Sequim
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

General Public Comment – 2nd Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

No	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Robert Wissale	RC Wissale	211 W. Wagon Rd Sequim WA 98382
2	Ed Brown	Ed Brown	111 POB CB
3	JOHN WORTHINGTON	John Worthington	SEQUIM
4	Eric Robinson	Eric Robinson	Sequim
5	Ale BAKER	Ale Baker	Sequim
6	Marky Curtis	Marky Curtis	Sequim
7	James	James	Sequim
8	TODD MIELKE	Todd Mielke	SEQUIM
9	Mary Wilson	Mary Wilson	Sequim
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

July, 14, 2025

Public Comment
Devin Lapio
7/14/25 CRC

Attention: Loni Gores, Board Clerk

Forward to: Charter Review Commission

RE: CRC Water Steward Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I have been attending most of the scheduled regular CRC meetings and Town Halls have been and consistently commenting on the issue of a water steward. Below is a list of reasons why I am against creating this new position.

- 1.) During the first Town Hall in Sequim, a public commenter, Ann Soule, read from a written statement to the CRC commissioners in attendance her approval of a water steward position and her qualifications for the position, and then submitted her written statement to the commissioners.
My concern is that the event was a Town Hall, a Q & A, for the public. I was not aware of any commissioners present being there to receive resumes as a hiring committee or a hiring board.
- 2.) The idea of a water steward was first presented to the public as a volunteer data gathering position. With each successive CRC meeting, I have been hearing how this position has evolved from volunteer > to paid county employee > to now a fully staffed county department.
This seems like a bait 'n' switch tactic.
- 3.) The salary for this "volunteer" position can be as high as \$108,000, plus benefits, plus reimbursed expenditures. Another bureaucratic burden on the already over-taxed taxpayers.
- 4.) In the beginning of the discussions, this position had no authority, but lately I have heard the word "authority" applied to the water steward position/dept.
- 5.) Reliance on models used for purposes of data gathering is notorious for inefficient, questionable, and subjective practices.

Public comment
Robert Wissolik
7/14/25 CRC

Clallam county WATER STEWARD

I lived in Colorado before moving to Sequim four years ago. They had a saying back there. **"Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting."** I do NOT want a water commissioner in Clallam County telling me how to use my water. Reasons for not wanting this bureaucratic position established include:

1. There is no real reason for having this position here. This is unlike Colorado where they really do have water worries.
2. The expense of a new position along with the supporting staff is not justified when Clallam county worker layoffs have or will be executed.
3. I expect legal problems will surface when some of this steward's desires are implemented. This adds to Clallam County expenses taking money away from needed county expenses. I am also anticipating that my water rights will be taken away or altered without just compensation. Do not expect me to believe empty promises to the contrary.
4. Policies enacted by like organizations in Colorado forced some farmers out of business. I anticipate that would happen here too.
5. The commission recommending this position was legislated to be nonpartisan. I guess that means that almost all the commissioners are Democrats. Another promise not kept.
6. I am unhappy with the deceptive title of Steward when the title should be Commissioner.

Remember that whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting.

Robert S. Wissolik PE

- 6.) Multiple housing developments in Clallam County did not need a water steward to proceed with new construction.
- 7.) A survey was conducted to determine the public's stance on a new position of a water steward, and overwhelmingly 70% of 1,450+ respondents said "NO".
- 8.) At the second Town Hall, attendees were told by the CRC commissioners that depending on how the survey of public opinion resulted, is how the CRC would determine if the issue would go to ballot.
- 9.) The public's opinion has been usurped by outside influencers, such as the local Tribes (where meetings are held on tribal land to purposely curtail or omit public engagement), Op-Eds in the Sequim Gazette by Tony Corrado and Craig Smith, and the DRMT (Dungeness River Management Team).
- 10.) An extraordinary amount of time has been dedicated to this issue, while other issues with positive public support, such as District Only Voting, are given merely a passing notice.

The purpose of the CRC is to ensure that the public has opportunities to be heard, and its trust in that purpose is carried out by the CRC. Due to the Commission's lack of adherence to its own rules and oaths, I request that the proposal of the water steward position being considered for placement on the November ballot, or referred to the Board of Clallam County Commissioners for a Board vote, be disqualified for any further discussion or consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Lapio".

Denise Lapio

Public comment
On Sarah Huling
7/14/25 CRC

 **FINAL 3-Minute Public Comment – July 14 CRC Meeting: Good evening, Commissioners. I'm Dr. Sarah Huling, stepping up to the plate tonight from District 3—the West End.**

I've been tracking this Charter Review season since the first pitch back in January. By May, I was deep in the dugout—binge-watching every inning, studying the plays. Come June, I knew it was time to stop warming the bench and take my first swing with public comment.

Another-Public Commenter

a Strike

Tonight, I'm back at bat to address one pitch that keeps getting called ~~dead~~: district-only voting.

At your last meeting, ~~someone~~ called it—three strikes, it's out. But democracy doesn't run on baseball rules. We don't bench a good idea just because it didn't clear the fences in its first few at-bats.

If we called every reform "out" after a few failed swings, we wouldn't have:

Women's suffrage, which struck out in Congress for over 40 years before the 19th Amendment finally crossed home plate.

The Civil Rights Act, which faced filibusters and missed signals for decades before finally scoring in 1964.

The ADA, which sat benched by special interests until it cleared the bases in 1990.

Native American voting rights, thrown out at the state level again and again—even after citizenship—until the 1960s.

↳ of the game

And **the G.I. Bill**, which almost got shut out in committee, but was driven home by the American Legion in the bottom of the ninth.

These weren't walk-offs. They were hard-fought innings. But they changed the game—because people kept stepping up to the plate, refusing to leave the field.

Now, I want to acknowledge Norma Turner—a longtime all-star for rural equity. She's earned her place in the Charter Hall of Fame. That's why I was genuinely surprised to hear her call for benching district-only voting—especially when the West End is the most at risk of being shut out under the current rules.

Here's the pitch: in the primary, District 3 voters nominate two candidates. But when it comes time to decide the winner, it's no longer our home game. Voters from Sequim and Port Angeles—fans from a different stadium—get to call the final score. Even if the West End rallies behind a hometown favorite, we can still lose the championship on someone else's field. That's not local representation. That's a blown call at the plate.

Some say countywide voting keeps commissioners thinking big-picture. But commissioners, like legislators, are drafted to represent their own district—not the whole league. And just like we don't vote for lawmakers outside our district, we shouldn't be deciding the lineup for someone else's team. Each district should pick its own player. That's how representative democracy works.

Look at King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties—three of Washington's biggest, most competitive leagues. And importantly, they're all *Home Rule Charter* counties—just like Clallam. They've already adopted district-only voting. If they can run that play in packed urban stadiums, we can certainly handle it right here in Forks, Sequim, and Port Angeles.

That's why I support the proposal on your agenda tonight. 74% of over 1,400 CRC survey respondents are calling for a return to district-only voting. It's a clean, rulebook fix—one that restores accountability and lets each district compete on its own field, under its own fans.

And just to be clear—you're not changing the rules tonight. You're simply giving the fans a chance to weigh in this November. Thank you for stepping up to the plate—and giving this idea one more at-bat for the people of Clallam County.

Public Comment
Norma Turner
7/14/25 CRC

Comments to Charter Review Commission - July 14, 2025
Norma Turner - Port Angeles

Sincere congratulations to Sara Huling on her new degree. I also thank her both for her kind comment about me and for presenting interesting historical information.

I have three points of a contrasting view

First The examples of changes made after a long history of repeated efforts were described as “struck out in Congress” “faced filibusters” “sat benched by special interests” These are examples of elected officials failing to act on publicly supported issues. It is the total opposite of the issue of electing commissioners county wide. Elected officials had no role, it was direct action of the voters. Three of the four times it was on the ballot they said no thanks

Second: The example of King, Pierce, and Snohomish, counties using district-only voting for council seats. Is true but incomplete. They also elect, county wide, a County Executive Just as we do at both the state and national level. Representatives elected by district cannot unilaterally pass laws because it must also be approved by a governor or president with the power to veto proposed legislation. Our three member board of commissioners is empowered to create and pass laws, there is no-one above them to veto it.

If you use these three counties as a role model you must include on the ballot that electing commissioners by district only must include electing a county executive county wide for power balance.

Third: The voters voted to return to county wide voting for commissioners in 2020. Interestingly the vote out of the District 3 was the same as the final county total 54.2% in favor. I was so struck by this that I ran the numbers 3 times just to be sure I got it right. The attached breakdown by precinct for that election is attached. If you put it on the ballot for the fifth time the voters may well ask how times do we need to tell you?

A factoid you may not know. Prior to the 1989 change in Sec 7.40 redistricting rules. Districting was gerrymandered to Port Angeles in just one district. The result? Dist 3 lines flowed south of the city east to Morris Creek. Thus despite living south and a little east of PA I was elected as a Dist 3 Charter Review commissioner in 1989. At least now Dist 3 is contiguous and compact as possible.

District 3

Votes on Charter amendment #4 (countywide election for county commissioner) Nov 2020	YES	NO
PORT ANGELES 106	408	306
PORT ANGELES 108	455	317
PORT ANGELES 109	553	417
PORT ANGELES 110	198	118
PORT ANGELES 111	505	321
PORT ANGELES 112	477	335
PORT ANGELES 113	410	304
BEAVER 204	222	363
BLACK DIAMOND 208	268	200
BOGACHIEL 212	142	191
CLALLAM BAY 215	228	202
DRY CREEK 224	403	331
ELWHA 230	117	121
FRESHWATER BAY 233	555	493
JOYCE 241	500	471
MADISON CREEK 248	220	131
NEAH BAY 252	302	182
QUILEUTE 262	168	120
SUN 269	97	128
FORKS 301	246	297
FORKS 302	305	384
TOTALS	6779 - 54.2%	5732 - 45.8%

Public Comment
Stephanie Sherman
7/14/25 CRC

Stephanie Sherman, Port Angeles

I have been continuing to attend these Charter Review meetings - listening and learning. And, I would like to comment on a couple of the issues that your committee is considering.

First: Regarding the recommendation to have a Water Steward of some sort. I do believe that the availability of water in the future is a serious concern that our county needs to **PROACTIVELY** address. In fact, the Elwah Dungeness Watershed was recently declared by the Department of Ecology to be “in drought”. To make an analogy.....it’s like putting off some dental work now because it’s too expensive and your teeth aren’t really bothering you too much at the moment. However, a few years later, when your teeth are really hurting and you finally go to the dentist, you find out that rather than needing just a couple of fillings, you now need to have a bunch of your teeth pulled and need implants and your entire mouth is infected.....resulting in a VERY EXPENSIVE “repair bill”. And all of this COULD have been avoided by addressing the issue in the first place. **This is how I see the water situation now.** Given the credible concerns about climate change, population growth, snowpack, stream flows and current usage, I strongly support engaging some kind of water steward to collect and share data with all the various entities that currently monitoring water resources and are concerned about water availability and accessibility in the coming years. **I understand the concern about HOW TO PAY FOR THIS PERSON.** But, like in any business or household, I think priorities need to be reassessed periodically to determine where to cut expenses and where to redirect funds. And, I think the county needs to do this.....as **the water issue is NOT GOING AWAY.**

Second, regarding Commissioners serving on other NGOs. In my opinion, anyone serving on an NGO is doing so in the spirit of service to the community.....and not for any personal gain. I think the simple act of recusing from voting on any distribution of funds where there seems to be a SIGNIFICANT **PERSONAL** conflict of some sort would be the most practical solution. I think requiring any of our

commissioners, who are voluntarily serving on other community boards, to resign would be counterproductive.

I am making these comments in good faith. And..... whether or not you agree with my point of view or not, I hope that you know that I, too, care about the future of our community.

And finally, I want to thank you all again for the VERY SIGNIFICANT amount of time all of you have dedicated to this committee. I am sorry that some of you (and some of the people making public comments) are being disrespectfully criticized by a handful of members of the community, simply because they don't agree with you. But I want you to know that I will support whatever decisions this committee – **as a whole** – makes.....whether I agree with them or not.....because I do believe that you all have the best interests of our community in mind.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:39 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Meeting Notice - July 2
Attachments: 07-02-25 CRC Water Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Water Committee meeting notice for July 2:

- 1) Water Committee meeting notice on July 2 at 9 a.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on July 2, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

July 2, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- 9:00 Meeting called to order. Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.
- 9:05 Public Comments
- 9:15 Review and edit drafts of Amendment and Recommendation
- 10:00 Develop presentation to next Charter Review Commission meeting
- 11:15 Public Comments
- 11:25 Next steps
- 11:30 Adjourn

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:45 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #7518 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Annie
Last Name	Hartnett
Email	anniehartnett@gmail.com
Phone	512-400-8740
Subject	Hydrologist
Comments	The county should have a hydrologist on staff—especially during a drought!

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 8:01 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Richards, Ron; Holy, Christy; Sarmiento, Nina
Subject: CRC Water Committee Documents for July 2 meeting.
Attachments: CRC Water Priority comments PaulJPickett 2July2025.docx; CRC Water Recommendation draft2_clean.docx; Draft Resolution Water DRAFT2_clean.docx; Water Committee Meeting, Wednesday June 25th, 2025. .docx; Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee Agenda 2July2025.docx

CRC Water Committee members:

Attached are documents for our meeting tomorrow:

- Agenda
- Minutes of last meeting
- Version of draft proposed amendment from last meeting.
- Version of draft recommendation from last meeting.
- A document I put together with my priority issues gleaned from the comments we got from Craig Smith, Hansi Hals, and Bowen Kendrick

Loni, could you provide printed copies for the meeting? I'll be on zoom, so just for the other three committee members.

Thank you all,

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

Highest priority comments from recent responses to proposed amendment and draft recommendation

- Add some emphasis on networking and communication skills.
- Identify statements that are “speculative”.
- Add references somewhere – to amendment resolution? To recommendation?
- Add more information on County needs for water resources information to the whereas statements
- Address the issue of continuity (with past/future work) and adaptability of the position, as well as overall guidance and supervision.
- Clarify the “therefore” in Finding #4
- Finding #5 – alternative language to “sparse”
- Finding #6 – address leveraging existing data
- Finding #8 – de-emphasize the shift to projects
- Add position qualifications to the recommendation?
- Hydrogeologists are licensed geologists. Engineers are licensed. Stick to these two professions? Or don’t name professions, just describe the knowledge, skills and experience needed?
- Add more details about position duties?
- Reconsider hiring panel composition?
- Add “Coordinated Water System Plan” as an example of a need that this position could support? Add “Countywide Water Resources Strategic Plan” as an example of a need?

**Recommendation the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners
Fresh Water Advisory Committee and Water Resources Specialist Hiring Process
DRAFT – June 25, 2025**

THE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION finds as follows:

1. The Clallam County Charter Review Commission (CRC) is proposing a Charter amendment to create a position of Water Resources Specialist; and
2. The CRC would like to provide recommendations for how the position would be hired and some details of the position's duties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission, in consideration of the above findings of fact, transmit the following recommendations to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners for their consideration and action:

Hiring and duties of a Water Resources Specialist

Qualified bids received for this position shall be reviewed and ranked by ad hoc Hiring Committee.

The Committee shall be appointed by the County Commissioners, and will consist of seven members:

- 1) Three County employees, each from
 - a. The Department of Community Development
 - b. Environmental Health Services
 - c. Department of Public Works
- 2) Four members representing entities with significant stakes in water resources in Clallam County, with
 - a. two members selected by the Director of the Department of Community Development and
 - b. two members selected by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Specialist's position shall not be filled unless at least one submitted bid is received for a candidate that is less than the cost on an annual basis less than the annual salary and benefits of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

The Specialist retained for the position must be among the top three bidders as ranked by the Committee. The contract period for this position shall have a term of three years, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring.

The Specialist's findings and reports shall be based upon sound data and science and shall be transmitted to others via publication on an internet site accessible to the public.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of ____ 2025.

Susan Fisch, Chair
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
DRAFT – under review

Resolution Number _____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The above factors, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing ground water resources.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. Therefore, it has become increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Water data for the County is sparse, and often old and out of date; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfil existing water rights that exist on paper.
6. The cost of water planning with existing limited data is likely much greater than the cost of improving this information. Adequate and improved information is needed.
7. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do county-wide comprehensive water planning, but all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.
8. In 2018, Clallam County shifted its water resources science expertise from a general role to specific projects. This disrupted the continuity of the County's water resources data acquisition, analysis, and sharing. The County is the government authority in the best position to provide the expertise to address county-wide water data needs.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article _____, a Section _____: _____, to read as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners shall retain, through a personal services contract, a Water Resources Specialist, who will be a hydrologist or professional with equivalent expertise. This position shall be available to provide scientific data to all entities managing water resources in the County. The position would have no water resource management, regulatory, or enforcement authority.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Clean copy as of 6-23-25 - Sarmiento

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Water Committee Meeting, Wednesday June 25th, 2025.

Commissioners in attendance: Ron Richards, Christy Holy, Paul Pickett, Nina Sarmiento.
Commissioner Sarmiento taking notes.

Call to order at 9:04 am

Action – The agenda was approved.

Action – The minutes from the June 18th meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was no one online or in the room.

Committee Business -

- Discussion about the DCD led by Commissioner Richards.
 - The DCD shall administer all laws with respect to the environment, natural resources, shoreline development, environmental policy, agriculture, watershed planning, and floodplains. Points out the DCD is not engaging in administering laws about water as the charter suggests. A hydrologist may provide data for this.
- Discussion about feedback on the proposed amendment from the commissioners.
 - Understanding the problem that the gap is in countywide planning.
 - Q & A sheet is needed. Commissioner Richards outlined FAQs we have heard, and Commissioner Pickett began the draft document.
- Discussion on making the actual resolution more succinct, the language was shortened by suggestion of commissioner Holy.

11:15 Public Comment – There was no one online or in the room.

Action - A Motion to accept the edits to the proposed amendment was moved and seconded, and accepted by all commissioners.

Next Meeting - The committee set the next meeting for July 2nd at 9am.

Next Steps -

- The updated amendment can be shared, asking for feedback and support from the DRMT and other county staff involved with water, Paul Pickett leading this.
- The Q & A will be worked on and brought for discussion at the next meeting.
- The amendment will move to step 2 and at the July 14th Charter review meeting.

Adjourned at 11:40

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

July 2, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

9:00 Meeting called to order. Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.

9:05 Public Comments

9:15 Review and edit drafts of Amendment and Recommendation

10:00 Develop presentation to next Charter Review Commission meeting

11:15 Public Comments

11:25 Next steps

11:30 Adjourn

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:46 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Pickett, Paul; Holy, Christy; Sarmiento, Nina
Cc: Tony Corrado; Bowen Kendrick x459
Subject: RNR's Documents for Water Committee to Consider on 7/2/25
Attachments: 070125 Responses to Public Input in opposition to charter amendment.docx; 070125 Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Water Resources Specialist.docx

Hi Paul, Christy, and Nina,

Hopefully for our consideration on Wednesday, July 2, attached are two documents – one sets forth responses to the public comments we have received regarding the water resources specialist, and one is a revised proposed charter amendment relating to the water resources specialist.

I have written these documents in an attempt to respond to the public comments we have received to date, both for and against, and to the most recent input from Craig Smith, Tony Corrado, and Bowen Kendrick - which have been especially informative and much appreciated.

The proposed charter amendment takes a step back nearer to where we were prior to the last proposal. The reasons for this are explained in the responses document.

A have also proposed returning the responsibility for administering the proposed contract to the Director of the Department of Community Development. Here's why:

Section 4.25 of the Clallam County Charter reads as follows: The Director of the Department of Community Development shall administer, enforce and advise the County Commissioners on all laws, except health, with respect to the environment, natural resources, and land and shoreline development, including, but not limited to, zoning, land divisions, environmental policy, building and fire codes, forest management, mining, agriculture, watershed planning, and floodplains.

Section 2.30.20 of the Clallam County Charter reads as follow: The executive power of the county shall be vested in the Board of Commissioners except those powers assigned to other elected officials and other elected boards and commissions by law.

The Washington State Constitution, Article 11, Section 4, reads as follows: All the powers, authority and duties granted to and imposed on county officers by general law, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court and the justices of the peace, shall be vested in the legislative authority of the county unless expressly vested in specific officers by the charter.

Reading these all together, and recognizing that the Washington State Constitution is a law, it is clear to me that almost all the laws the DCDD must administer have a connection with respect to the work the Water Resources Specialist would do. It is true that Environmental health has some responsibilities under the Charter and state law for domestic water supplies, but not the many other areas that the Water Resources Specialist would impact. Whether Public Works has any authority in regard to water projects is an open question under Section 4.25 of the Clallam County Charter, but it certainly does not have the broad authority that the DCDD has.

The Water Committee of the Charter Review Commission offers these comments in response to the public input opposing the Water Resources Specialist:

1.

Input: The major players in water usage in Clallam County have not weighed in on this issue.

Comment: In testimony to the water committee or in public meetings regarding the water situation in Clallam County, representatives of the Clallam County Public Utility Commission, the City of Sequim, and the Quileute Tribe have favored the idea of this type of position, if not the exact language of the resolution. Even Bruce Emery spoke positively of the idea once it was explained to him that the purpose of the position was only to gather information and not to play a management role. A written recommendation from the Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group approved by the Dungeness River Management Team on August 10, 2022, called for the gathering of the very type of information this position is intended to obtain. Very little action since then has been taken in response to that recommendation and the out-of-date date information referred to in that recommendation is even more out of date. The DRMT is composed of representatives from the City of Sequim, Clallam County, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Sequim Dungeness Water Users Association, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many public interest groups.

2.

Input: The proposed amendment creates a new bureaucracy.

Comment: The proposed position would be filled by one person, or a group of people, in response to a request for bids for a personal services contract. This would not be a position within the Clallam County Personnel System but would simply be a contract position filled much as an architect would be chosen by the county for the construction of a building. Its annual cost would be limited to one County Commissioner's salary but could well be much less than that

if civic-minded citizens chose to submit a bid approaching the cost of a volunteer organization.

3.

Input: All the county needs is a Water Advisory Committee.

Comment: A new advisory committee would require county staff time to plan for and coordinate its meetings; the committee would need space in which to meet; and the members' expenses for attending the meetings would need to be paid for by the county. The proposed specialist position would more efficiently gather the information for a sum certain without requiring county facilities and with a minimum of county staff time. A new advisory committee would be duplicative of an advisory committee that already exists for a significant portion of the county - the Dungeness River Management Team. And the task at hand is to gather the type of information already recommended by that advisory committee, and similar information that is needed throughout the county.

4.

Input: We don't know how much this position would cost.

Comment: The cost could very probably be less than the cost of one County Commissioner's salary. With an increasingly dire water supply situation being brought upon the county by climate change, and with inadequate and out-of-date information available to make decisions regarding water supply, the cost of not having this position and obtaining the necessary information will far exceed the cost of this position. We do know the maximum cost of this position, and it will be for less than not having this position.

5.

Input: The county can't afford this position.

Comment: The county's Current Expense budget for 2025 showed a beginning fund balance of \$13,404,238 and an ending fund balance of \$14,131,926. That means there is a surplus for rainy day situations of

over \$13 Million dollars and growing. The 2025 county current expense fund budget is \$56,589,541.

The annual cost of the Water Resources Specialist is limited to one County Commissioner's salary which is about \$125,000. The argument that the county can't afford this position implies that working to assure that our water resources can meet our future needs is not worth (a) less than 1% of the current expense fund surplus budget and (b) less than one-fifth of 1% of the current expense fund budget.

The county has 445 employee positions funded from the current expense budget. The argument that the county can't afford this position, is to argue that this position is the least important of the 445 positions funded by the current expense budget.

This just can't be. Our priorities must place this position towards the top of the list. Water is just that important for our well-being, and with increasing demands being placed on a decreasing water resource we must rise to the occasion and prioritize this position. The use of rainy-day funds, or the prioritization of the Water Resources Specialist over other positions, is more than justified for the future where the lack of rainy days is even more of a problem for our society than "rainy days" were said to be in our past.

6.

Input: This position would manage water resources.

Comment: Those making this assertion are relying on incorrect assertions based on the original title of this position – water steward, a position that in some contexts is recognized as having management authority. That this position will not have management authority has been explicitly and repeatedly expressed in both the proposed amendment and in the discussions regarding the proposed amendment. Continuing to argue this is misrepresenting the purpose and role of this position to the public.

7.

Input: We should just make a recommendation to the county commissioners.

Comment: The current county commissioners, despite the recommendation of the Dungeness River Management Team discussed above made three years ago, have not created a position such as this. In fact, they have removed a staff hydrogeologist from studying the general issues this position would study, and have re-assigned that person to a specific project that does not generate the information this position would develop. Even if the current county commissioners would decide to fund this position, future boards would not be bound to do so absent a provision requiring the position in the charter.

8.

Input: The tasks this position would fulfill are not well defined.

Comment: As spelled out in the proposed charter amendment the specialist would analyze and quantify Clallam County's water resources for sustainability and availability in all geographic areas of the county. The data needed to accomplish this task are well understood – climate trends, snow field and glacier melting trends, precipitation trends, surface water flows, ground water levels, aquifer recharge trends, and the like. Much of this data is available or could be made available from existing organizations and facilities. The tasks are to assemble and keep this information up to date in a central depository so that all the entities managing our water resources have ready access to that. Specific details of the data to be collected would be spelled out in the solicitation for bids to be developed by the Director of the Department of Community Development, and would undoubtedly change from time to time as the needs of the county change.

9.

Input: The proposed charter amendment is too long.

Comment: The existing charter language creating the position of the Director of the Department of Community Development has 198 words. The existing charter language regarding the County Administrator has 261 words. The proposed charter amendment has 250 words, which is close to the length of these other charter provisions. But most importantly, the proposed charter amendment has been drafted to answer what would be legitimate concerns of the public if left unanswered. That is worth the extra words.

10.

Input: Why the personal services contract method of filing this position?

Comment: Many citizens have expressed a concern to make sure that politics does not bias the information to be gathered. Hiring the Water Resources Specialist via a personal services contract with a definite term and explicit requirements, and having the bids reviewed by an ad hoc committee, are intended to remove this position from political interference as much as possible.

Based on the above comments, the Water Committee hopes the members of the public opposing the proposed amendment will reconsider their position and at least agree that the public should decide this issue by having the proposed charter amendment placed on the ballot in a general election.

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Proposed Charter Amendment Calling for the Retention of a Water Resources Specialist by the
Department of Community Development

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The considerations expressed in Finding 1 above, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing groundwater wells.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. The considerations expressed in Findings 1 through 3 above have made it increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Although there is a lot of water data for Clallam County, critical parts of it are old and out of date; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfil existing water rights that exist on paper. There is a great need for continued work which leverages on prior studies and incorporates new information to provide Clallam County with the information necessary to plan for our future water supplies.
6. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do county-wide, comprehensive water planning, but all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.

7. In 2018, Clallam County shifted its water resources science expertise from a general role to specific projects. This disrupted the continuity of the County's water resources data acquisition, analysis, and sharing. Both efforts are important, and each effort can help the other. The County is the government authority in the best position to provide the expertise to address county-wide water data needs.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding a third paragraph to Article IV, Section 4.25, Director of the Department of Community Development, said third paragraph to read as follows:

The Director shall retain, through a personal services contract bidding procedure, a Water Resources Specialist, with the necessary knowledge of water-related technologies and data storage to determine trends in water resources, availability, and sustainability in all areas of the county. The position would have no water management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Bids shall be ranked by an ad hoc Committee comprised of the Director; the head of the Department of Public Works; one person from the Environmental Health Section of County Health and Human Services Department; three citizens selected by the Director; and one citizen selected by the Board of County Commissioners. The bid price may be considered in the ranking, but shall not be determinative of the ranking of a bid. This position shall be contracted for two-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring. As used herein, Specialist may include an individual or an entity with individuals having the necessary qualifications. The Specialist's position need not be filled unless the annual cost of the winning bid is less than the annual salary of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and

2. For the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 8:14 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #7569 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Eric
Last Name	Fehrmann
Email	efehrm_3@hotmail.com
Phone	13608093716
Subject	Charter Amendment
Comments	CRC CHARTER AMMENDMENT Commissioners I am requesting the Clallam County Charter Review Commission to consider an amendment to the Charter requiring a thirty minute time period, at the end of the Clallam County Commissioner regular scheduled meetings, for commissioners to take, and answer, questions from the attending public (in person or virtually). Presently, the public is allowed three minutes to address the commissioners, but no answers to public inquiry are required to be given by commissioners. I believe this would improve relations and provide more transparency and trust between the public and the commissioners. Thank you for your consideration Eric Fehrmann

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:12 AM
To: zElections
Cc: Gores, Loni; Fisch, Susan
Subject: Charter Ballot Measure Resolution CRC2025-001
Attachments: Charter Ballot Measure Resolution CRC2025-001.pdf

Elections:

Please see attached Resolution cover sheet and Charter Review Commission Resolution CRC2025-001. Per the Elections Guide for Jurisdictions & Candidates it directs us to submit to elections@clallamcountywa.gov

I will also deliver the cover sheet, original Resolution, and 5 copies to Shoona. Per the Clallam County Code 37.10.020 it directs us to file the full text of the proposed amendment and 5 copies to the Clallam County Auditor.

Please confirm receipt.

Thanks, Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Resolution Cover Sheet

Please include this form with each resolution.

Name of District: Charter Reivew Commission

District Address: 223 East 4th Street, Ste. 4, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Date of Election: November 4, 2025

Contact Person/ Title: Susan Fisch - 2025 Charter Review Commission Chair

Contact Phone: 303-241-0992 Email: Susan.Fisch@clallamcountywa.gov

Attorney for District: Duncan Fobes, PBFL - Patterson Buchanan Fobes & Leitch, Inc., P.S.

Attorney Phone: Cell 206-418-9783 Email: dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com

Work 206-462-6704

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): Ballot measure for proposed amendment to the Clallam County Charter

Please state the pass/fail requirement for this measure (simple majority, supermajority, 60% plus validation, etc.) as determined by your legal counsel:

Simple majority.

Questions?

Clallam County Elections Division

Phone: 360-417-2217

Email: elections@clallamcountywa.gov

DUPLICATE

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number CRC 1

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that state law precludes him from serving as ex-officio coroner.
3. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
4. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
5. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
6. The Clallam County Charter Review Commission desires to amend the Clallam County Charter by removing the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, thereby removing the responsibility for performing those duties, or having those duties performed, to the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training and credentials to serve as the coroner.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, of the Clallam County Charter be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as

DUPLICATE

such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this 23rd day of June, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.



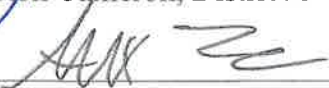
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair



Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner



Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

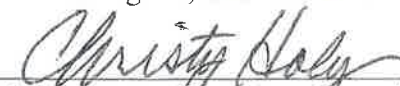


Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

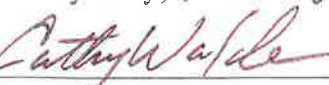
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner



Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner



Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner



Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

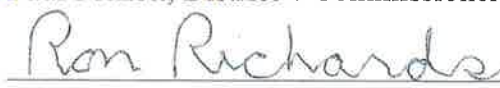


Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner



Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner



Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner



Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner



Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner



Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

DUPLICATE

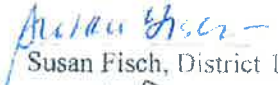
such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. (~~The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.~~)

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

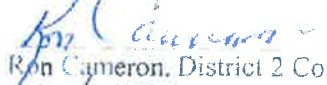
Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

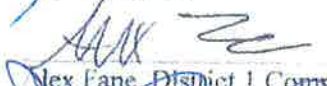
1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this 23rd day of June, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.


Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

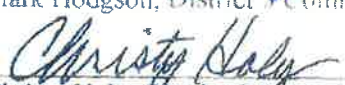

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

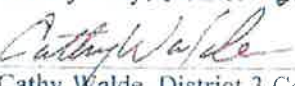

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

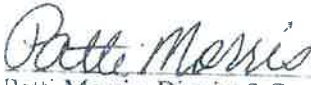

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner


Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner


Mark Hodgson, District 1 Commissioner

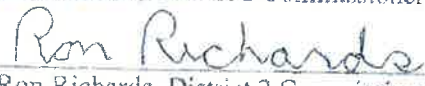

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner


Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner


Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner


Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner


Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner


Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner


Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner


Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner


Jeff Tazzer, District 1 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Meeting Notice - July 9
Attachments: 07-09-25 CRC Water Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Water Committee meeting notice for July 9:

- 1) Water Committee meeting notice on July 9 at 9 a.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on July 9, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

July 9, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting
- First Public Comments
- Review and edit drafts of Amendment and Recommendation
- Develop presentation to next Charter Review Commission meeting
- Second Public Comments
- Next steps
- Adjournment

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: FW: Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement- Proposed Amendments
Attachments: Procedures for Proposed Amendments

Chair Fisch has asked that I forward the email below as an FYI.

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 1:16 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement- Proposed Amendments

Can you please send this email chain to the entire commission. FYI only.

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Riggs, Shoona <shoona.riggs@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement- Proposed Amendments

Shoona,

Please see email below that the Chair of the Charter Review Susan Fisch sent over regarding the process of submitting items for the ballot.

The CRC is proceeding pursuant to RCW 29A.32.241 and 29A.36.071 and CCC sections 37.01.020-37.01.060 and Clallam County Charter 11.20.10 as it relates to our submission of proposed Charter Amendments to be placed on the ballot. The steps we are taking are as follows:

1. We follow our by-laws which outline how we vote on a proposed amendment.
2. If we vote to forward an amendment, we follow CCC 37.10.020 which requires us to file the full text of the proposed amendment and 5 copies of the same with the Clallam County Auditor. We must also submit a resolution coversheet. The Charter states that the amendment shall be filed and registered by the Auditor and submitted to the voters. Neither the CCC or the RCW require us to submit a ballot title or explanatory statement.
3. Once we submit the full text of the amendment, 5 copies and the resolution coversheet, the Auditor transmits them to the Prosecuting Attorney for preparation of the ballot title and explanatory statement. The Prosecuting Attorney has three days to complete them per the CCC. RCW 29A.32.241, 29A36.071 and CCC 37.10.030 state that the Prosecuting Attorney prepares the ballot title and explanatory statement. (see pages 5 and 7 of the 2025 Election Guide for Jurisdictions and Candidates in Clallam County)

In the case of the Coroner Amendment, our Prosecuting Attorney's office has conflicted off all work on the issue. As a result, Administrator Mielke asked conflict counsel, Duncan Fobes, to write the ballot title and explanatory statement. He has done so. Mr. Fobes or Administrator Mielke can provide them to the Auditor.

Can you also forward Ron Richard's February 24th email (forwarded to the entire CRC on 2/25) entitled "Procedure for Proposed Amendments" to the Auditor.

Susan Fisch

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:41 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Meeting Notice July 10
Attachments: Committee Notice Ethics 7-10-25 Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Ethics Committee meeting notice for July 10:

- 1) Ethics Committee meeting notice on July 10 at 12 p.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on July 10, 2025 at 12 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

July 10, 2025 at 12 p.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Report on research from Attorney and other Counties
- Review and discussion of current Clallam County Ethics Code.
- Amendment discussion and strategy
- Discussion on task assignments – Updated and new tasks if any
- Public comment
- Next meeting

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Gores, Loni

From: Ozias, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 11:48 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Boards and Committees doc
Attachments: Boards and Committees.docx

Loni,

This is for inclusion in the next CRC packet since I will be unable to attend their next meeting in person to discuss the various Boards and Committees on which I serve.

Thanks,

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

** Please note my new email address: mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov*

** This correspondence may be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.*

Commissioner Mark Ozias
Board and Commission Engagement
Report to Clallam County Charter Review Commission
July 2025

Following is a list and description of the various Boards, Commissions and/or Committees on which I sit, along with a brief explanation of the importance of each based on my experience and perspective. I hope this is helpful in your deliberations.

Washington State Association of Counties

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is the state association that serves and supports counties. All counties pay annual membership dues, which comprise the majority of WSAC's revenue, and every County Commissioner and/or County Councilmember in the state is a member. WSAC supports counties in a wide variety of ways, including:

- Providing annual training for all newly-elected county officials (not just Commissioners.)
- Providing regular networking, training and learning opportunities for a wide variety of county officials.
- Coordinate nominations and appointments to state Boards and Commissions.
- Provide professional and administrative support to a variety of related affiliate organizations such as the WA Association of Public Health Officials and the WA Association of County Engineers.
- Administer contracts on behalf of state agencies, such as a Department of Commerce program aimed at energy efficiencies for county-owned buildings.
- Providing business solutions to assist counties with specific needs (Cashvest, utilized by our Treasurer, would be one example.)
- Staffing and coordinating a number of regional and/or issue-specific caucuses, such as the "Timber Counties Caucus" of which Clallam is an active member. Commissioner Johnson sits on the Timber Counties Caucus for our Board and can provide you with additional detail on the importance of this work.
- Staffing and coordinating an ongoing legislative advocacy effort, both at the state and federal levels. The nature of this legislative advocacy has to do with items that are priorities for all counties, and every county member participates in determining priorities for the Association to support, primarily through the Legislative Steering

Committee. Recent examples of legislative advocacy relevant to Clallam County at the state level include the extension of the revenue stream that supports our “Opportunity Fund” and behavioral health legislation that helps maintain local decision-making; federal-level examples include advocacy for key revenue streams like “Payment in Lieu of Taxes” and the Medicaid waiver that will allow counties like ours to begin billing Medicaid for certain health care expenses that are currently the responsibility of local taxpayers.

WSAC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members (Commissioners and Councilmembers) elected by the membership; the WSAC Board has balanced membership representing all geographic regions of the state as well as counties of all sizes.

I have served on the WSAC Board of Directors for a number of years and am currently WSAC’s First Vice President, after being voted in to this position by the membership. WSAC’s Executive Team includes the Immediate Past President, the President, the First Vice President and the Second Vice President. The same person generally serves all four years in rotation to promote continuity. With this construct in mind, I would serve as the WSAC President in 2026 and as the Immediate Past President in 2027.

While membership on the WSAC Board is not a requirement of the job, a well-functioning and strong state Association is very important to the success of all counties and to the vast majority of countywide elected officials and this can only be the case if a wide variety of Commissioners and Councilmembers volunteer their time and energy for this purpose.

I believe that it would be doing the residents of Clallam County a disservice should their elected Commissioners not be allowed to participate in and support leadership of the State Association. We would have less of a voice, less opportunity to advocate for our needs, and less chance to promote causes that are important to our residents. Conversely, when Clallam County Commissioners are present and engaged in WSAC – whether that be through participation in the Timber Counties Caucus, participation in the Legislative Steering Committee or via Board leadership – we have the opportunity to ensure that the needs, perspectives and priorities of our residents and our region are considered at every level of operation.

North Olympic Development Council

The North Olympic Development Council (NODC) is our regional economic development district for Clallam and Jefferson Counties as defined by the federal Economic

Development Administration. Every region in the country is represented by a federal regional economic development district. In this capacity, one primary role of the NODC is to create and maintain a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, an effort that occurs every five years with annual updates.

The NODC performs a variety of other important roles as well. For example, the NODC has managed Clallam County's Broadband Action Team which works to coordinate broadband funding opportunities with projects in this county. The NODC has historically worked regularly in the agriculture and small farms sector, such as providing targeted business development expertise or capacity assistance to local farms. The NODC hosts our region's annual Energy Resilience Summit which brings together a wide variety of federal and state funding partners along with local planners and elected officials to think creatively about how our county and our region can improve our energy self-sufficiency. This annual Summit has resulted in a variety of benefits to our county, including a partnership with the University of Washington that engaged graduate students to design and spec out a "microgrid" design to support a key emergency management asset.

The NODC serves as the fiscal sponsor for the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network which is one of ten "Local Integrating Organizations" for the Puget Sound Partnership, an agency of Washington State. A primary role of these integrating organizations is to develop regional Action Agendas that help local policymakers understand what kinds of strategies are important to consider implementing to help foster the long-term recovery of the Puget Sound, which is considered our nation's largest estuary. It is important to note that neither the Strait ERN nor the NODC actually establishes or sets policies; this is done by elected policymakers at the local, state and federal levels.

The NODC is tasked with managing the single largest component of our regional (Clallam and Jefferson Counties) Recompete program and it is anticipated that this will be a primary focus of work throughout the next five years.

The NODC membership is varied, and includes elected officials from almost every municipal government organization in Clallam and Jefferson Counties including PUDs, city governments, tribal governments, county government, hospital districts and the Ports. It also includes representation from the business community and individual members.

All members pay annual dues, the purpose of which is twofold: The base organizational funding provided by the federal EDA requires local match, and most other organizational

funding is tied to a specific grant and/or deliverable which makes unrestricted revenue extremely important for organizational flexibility.

While it is not a requirement that I serve on the NODC Board, it has generally been agreed-upon that the two county organizations have the largest and most broad-based constituencies of any member and therefore should always hold key leadership roles. Therefore it has been most common over the course of time for either a Clallam or a Jefferson County Commissioner to serve as Chair, with other Board seats occupied by a variety of other members ranging from City Council members to Port Directors to PUD Commissioners to local business owners. I serve as Chair this year, and it is anticipated that Jefferson County Commissioner Heather Dudley-Nolette will serve in this capacity next year.

The NODC is a vital regional organization. In addition to all of the responsibilities outlined above, the NODC also serves as our only de facto “Council of Governments” (or regular forum for elected officials from multiple local governments to meet and share information/ideas.) It would be extremely detrimental for Clallam County to cede our leadership role.

Salish Behavioral Health Associated Services Organization

The Salish BH-ASO is one of nine regional BH-ASOs in Washington state. These are unique organizations that hold responsibility for the provision of behavioral health crisis services, as well as managing a variety of Medicaid and non-Medicaid programs and services. More recently, the Salish BH-ASO was tasked with administering funding flowing from opioid lawsuit settlements to regional governments like Clallam County.

The Salish BH-ASO serves Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties. As the largest county, Kitsap is the administrative home of the Salish BH-ASO. The Executive Board, which is responsible for approving all organizational spending (among other things) is comprised of one Commissioner from each of the three counties, along with a Tribal Council member from any Tribe in the region, with the Director of the Olympic Community of Health serving as a non-voting member.

This organizational structure requires the participation of County Commissioners and is outlined in an interlocal agreement between the three counties.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans much of the WA coast and serves a variety of important functions. Marine science and learning are the heart of OCNMS' operations, including a very long-running marine conditions data set provided by a buoy network and serving as a "sentinel site" for ocean acidification. There are also more than 200 historic shipwrecks contained within the boundaries of the Sanctuary.

The OCNMS Advisory Committee is comprised of a broad range of representatives from federal and state agencies, educators, marine industry representatives and local elected leaders. The role of this group is to provide advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent and to provide feedback on workplans and Sanctuary priorities.

I currently hold the local elected representative seat, with Jefferson County Commissioner Heather Dudley-Nolette serving as alternate. Serving in this capacity is not required of a County Commissioner, though Commissioners have traditionally filled this seat given our broad and countywide responsibilities. There is great value in having regular exposure to, and interface with, this diverse group of Advisory Board members and I am able to provide them with regular updates about important projects or initiatives in Clallam County.

Dungeness River Management Team

Operating since the 1980's, the Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) is a partnership of individuals and stakeholders working together to develop and pursue implementation of locally based, long-term solutions to Dungeness Watershed management issues.

Because the Dungeness basin represents the east side of Watershed Resources Area 18 (WRIA 18), one of 16 basins in the state listed as critical for low flows, the DRMT also serves as the East WRIA 18 watershed council, promoting flow restoration and wise water use. The DRMT has been nationally recognized for cooperative resolution of these issues, and it functions as an important, ongoing forum for communication, coordination and information sharing. The DRMT meets openly each month to discuss these issues, listen to public concerns, and cooperatively exchange ideas about watershed management.

I currently hold the Clallam County seat on the DRMT, at the request of the Department of Community Development and in coordination with Director Emery. There are two Clallam

County alternates who are Community Development staff members to ensure a close connection between DCD and the DRMT.

While it is not required for an elected official to represent Clallam County on the DRMT, there is certainly great value in NOT delegating this role solely to staff as there are often policy and project-focused discussions that take place, not to mention the importance of the educational and learning opportunities to inform important decision-making.

I think an argument could be made for either the DCD or a County Commissioner to serve in this role; regardless the most important thing is to ensure regular communication and information-sharing between these elected officials since both play an important role in planning and policy-making.

Clallam Transit

A public transportation benefit area (PTBA) is a Washington State Special Purpose District whose sole function is to provide public transportation in a designated area. The Clallam County PTBA, with the trade name Clallam Transit System (CTS), was formed on July 24, 1979. Voters of Clallam County subsequently approved the collection of a sales tax not to exceed 0.3 percent (0.3%) of one cent (\$0.01) to fund the transportation services provided by Clallam Transit System.

Clallam Transit has a governing Board of eight elected officials, two each from Clallam County and the cities of Port Angeles, Sequim and Forks, plus a designated non-voting union representative.

The role of the CTS board is to provide high-level oversight and guidance to the General Manager and leadership team. This includes financial oversight and participation in the development of various Transit-specific planning documents; over the course of time it has also resulted in the development and implementation of creative new ideas such as The Strait Shot (providing service across county lines to the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal) and more recently Interlink service in Sequim and Forks.

Sequim-Dungeness Chamber of Commerce

While I am not a member of the Sequim-Dungeness Chamber of Commerce, the District 1 County Commissioner is considered an ex-officio member of that organization's Board of Directors. I attend most monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, in part to provide brief

updates about Clallam County and in part to listen and learn about trends and events in the Sequim-area business community. I am not a voting member of this Board, and while attendance is not a requirement for Commissioners it is an important connection to the local community.

Board of Health

All three Commissioners serve on the Board of Health, which by statute also includes broad representation from health providers and Tribal and local government officials. The purpose of the Clallam County Board of Health is to supervise all matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people of Clallam County and to comply fully with the requirements of all applicable chapters of Title 70, Revised Code of Washington.

The Board of Health shall:

- Collect, analyze and disseminate to the community in a timely manner, through the Clallam County Health and Human Services Department, information about community health conditions, risks and resources, and the availability of resources to address identified problems.
- Enact such rules, regulations and policies as are necessary to preserve, promote and improve the health and behavioral health status of Clallam County residents, and guide the allocation of appropriate and necessary public health resources.
- Assure that necessary, high quality, effective foundational public health services are available for the protection of the people of Clallam County, including the control and prevention of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within the county.
- Provide for the prevention, control and abatement of nuisances detrimental to public health.
- Enforce, through the Health Officer, the public health statutes of the state and county.
- Establish fee schedules for issuing and renewing licenses and permits, or for such other services, as are authorized by the law and rules of the State Board of Health.
- Assure that environmental health issues address clean water, septic, and clean air.

While the BOCC is often the body that is ultimately empowered to take action on items related to the above responsibilities, we appreciate learning from and leaning on the expertise provided by this broad group of professionals.

Internal Boards

I serve on a variety of internal, county-specific Boards such as the Animal Solutions Committee, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. I don't believe these are relevant to the CRC's conversation but should the Commission wish a more detailed explanation of any or all of these internal Boards I would be happy to accommodate any request.

Alternates

I did not list any of the external, or internal, Boards or Committees for which I am the designated alternate as my assumption is whichever Commissioner serves as primary will discuss their role with the CRC.

Community Organizations

I serve on the Board of Directors for two nonprofit organizations in our community, namely the Sequim Food Bank and the Olympic View Community Foundation. Neither of these Board volunteer positions is connected to my role as Clallam County Commissioner.

There is no funding nexus or relationship between Clallam County and the Olympic View Community Foundation.

Clallam County has facilitated periodic funding to the Sequim Food Bank through a variety of funding sources. Examples would include investments of ARPA dollars as part of our COVID response strategy to bolster food bank infrastructure across the county and work through the WSU Extension to obtain state and/or federal funding to support the purchase of locally-grown produce for food bank usage.

When the Board of Commissioners has engaged in decision-making relating to the Sequim Food Bank, I have either acknowledged my volunteer role on the Food Bank Board of Directors and/or recused myself from a vote by the BOCC. I have no personal financial interest in or benefit from the Sequim Food Bank nor any of its programs or initiatives, which I understand from the Prosecutor's Office would be required for a conflict of interest to exist in this type of circumstance.

In my opinion it would be both a shame, and very short-sighted, to deny elected County Commissioners the opportunity to serve on community non-profit Boards. Not only is this a vital way to ensure that Commissioners have at least some understanding of needs in the community but also a way to help provide the nonprofit community with insight into important trends and events that might be occurring countywide.

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Friday, July 4, 2025 10:37 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposal to return to nominating/electing Board of Commissioners solely by district

Hi Loni, please send to all 15. Thanks.

Dear CRC Executive Committee: Please add this item to the upcoming agenda. Thank you, Jeff

A proposal to amend 2.20 of the Clallam County Charter submitted by Jeff Tozzer

Proposed Ballot Measure:

ADDITION TO ARTICLE II Section 2.20

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Charter, concerning the election of County Commissioners. County Commissioners will be nominated and elected solely by the voters of their represented district.

Explanatory Statement – In Favor of District-Only Voting for County Commissioners

- **Ensures Fair Representation by Region**

Clallam County is geographically, economically, and culturally diverse. Each district — from the rural West End to urban Port Angeles and growing Sequim — faces distinct local issues. Electing commissioners by district allows each region to select a representative who best understands and advocates for its specific needs.

- **Restores Voter Control Within Districts**

Under the current system, candidates must win a countywide election—even though they are running to represent a single district. This allows voters from outside a district to override the will of that district’s own residents, diminishing local control and community voice.

- **Reflects the Will of the People**

In 2025, a Charter Review Commission community survey of over 1,400 participants found 74% in favor of returning to district-only elections. Voters have made their preferences clear.

- **Corrects a Confusing and Flawed System**

The 2020 charter amendment created a hybrid system: commissioners are nominated by district but elected countywide. This structure is confusing to voters and undermines basic principles of local representation.

- **Protects District 3 and Other Minority-Voice Regions**

Rural and remote areas such as District 3 (West End) are especially vulnerable under the current

system. In recent elections, there has been credible concern that the outcome was decided by voters in other districts, not the residents the commissioner was meant to represent.

- **Dispels Common Myths**

- *Myth: Countywide elections ensure countywide thinking.*

Fact: All commissioners must follow the county charter and represent the entire county by law. District-only voting doesn't limit that—it ensures authentic local representation within that framework.

- *Myth: It's like electing the governor—everyone gets a say.*

Fact: No one votes for legislators outside their district. Local district voting is the norm for fair representation in nearly every level of government.

- **Promotes Accountability and Clarity**

District-only voting makes it clear: if you live in a district, you vote for your commissioner. It enhances accountability and simplifies the process for voters.

Conclusion:

Amending the Charter to allow both nomination and election of County Commissioners by district strengthens democracy, aligns with voter intent, and ensures all parts of Clallam County have an equal and authentic voice.

The CRC is not *deciding* to return to nominating and voting for the Board of Commissioners by district; it is deciding to *allow* the people of Clallam County to choose.

New Section 2.20 will read:

The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of three members. The Commissioners shall be nominated **and elected solely by the voters of their represented district** for a term of four years as provided in this Charter. (~~Delete “by the voters from each of the three districts and elected by the voters countywide”~~)

I move to amend Section 2.20 of the Clallam County Charter to return to the nomination and election of County Commissioners solely by the voters of their represented district.

Submitted by Jeff Tozzer

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Friday, July 4, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposal to prohibit BOCC from serving on NGO boards that benefit from County

Hi Loni, could you please distribute this to all 15? Thanks, Jeff

Dear CRC Executive Committee:

Please add this item to the upcoming agenda. I respectfully request approximately 5 minutes to present each of my two agenda items (5 minutes twice).

Thank you,
Jeff

A proposal to create Section 2.11 of the Clallam County Charter submitted by Jeff Tozzer

Proposed Ballot Measure:

ADDITION TO ARTICLE II, Creation of Section 2.11 – Qualifications

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Charter, concerning ethical restrictions on County Commissioners. No County Commissioner shall serve on the board of a nonprofit organization that receives direct funding, contracts, or in-kind support from the County.

Explanatory Statement – In Favor of Prohibiting Commissioners from Serving on Certain Nonprofit Boards

Protect Public Trust, Eliminate Conflicts of Interest

County government must serve the public—not private boards. Yet under current rules, County Commissioners can sit on nonprofit boards that receive funding or benefits from the very government they help control. That’s a textbook conflict of interest.

This amendment fixes that. It would prevent Commissioners from serving on the boards of any nonprofit that receives county money—whether through grants, contracts, or in-kind assistance. Commissioners must choose: represent the public, or represent the nonprofit—not both.

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), which advises Washington governments, warns against this exact problem. MRSC notes that nonprofit board membership can trigger violations of conflict-of-interest laws, particularly when funding or contractual decisions are involved. It urges transparency, abstention, and, in many cases, avoidance altogether.

Likewise, the National Association of Counties (NACo) emphasizes that county leaders must avoid any situation that compromises their obligation to the public good. Even unpaid nonprofit board service can blur loyalties.

This amendment isn't about punishing civic involvement—it's about drawing a bright ethical line. When commissioners vote on budgets, contracts, or grants, we must be 100% sure they're doing so without bias or split allegiances.

Imagine if a judge also served on the board of a law firm appearing in their courtroom. We'd call that unethical. The same logic applies here.

Good governance demands independence. This simple amendment ensures elected officials serve only one master: the people.

New Section 2.11 Will Read (addition):

No County Commissioner shall serve as a board member, officer, or trustee of any nonprofit organization that receives direct financial compensation, contracts, grants, or in-kind benefits from Clallam County. If a County Commissioner is selected, appointed, or elected to such a position, they must resign from either the nonprofit or their public office within 30 days. Failure to do so constitutes a disqualifying conflict of interest.

Motion:

I move to add Section 2.11 to the Clallam County Charter to prohibit County Commissioners from serving on the boards of nonprofit organizations that receive direct funding, contracts, or in-kind support from the County.

Submitted by Jeff Tozzer

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 11:19 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Re: Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement- Proposed Amendments

Hi Everyone,

I think it is defensible under the Charter that only one copy of our resolution need be delivered to the County Auditor, but since the County Code requires five copies, I see no reason to not supply five copies. It would perhaps be prudent to amend the code to comply with the one copy wish of the Auditor.

I think it is also clear under the Charter and the Code that the Auditor is the one to involve the Prosecuting Attorney in drafting a ballot title.

Ron Richards

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Morris, Patti <patti.morris@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement- Proposed Amendments

Chair Fisch has asked that I forward the email below as an FYI.

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

The CRC is proceeding pursuant to RCW 29A.32.241 and 29A.36.071 and CCC sections 37.01.020-37.01.060 and Clallam County Charter 11.20.10 as it relates to our submission of proposed Charter Amendments to be placed on the ballot. The steps we are taking are as follows:

1. We follow our by-laws which outline how we vote on a proposed amendment.
2. If we vote to forward an amendment, we follow CCC 37.10.020 which requires us to file the full text of the proposed amendment and 5 copies of the same with the Clallam County Auditor. We must also submit a resolution coversheet. The Charter states that the amendment shall be filed and registered by the Auditor and submitted to the voters. Neither the CCC or the RCW require us to submit a ballot title or explanatory statement.
3. Once we submit the full text of the amendment, 5 copies and the resolution coversheet, the Auditor transmits them to the Prosecuting Attorney for preparation of the ballot title and explanatory statement. The Prosecuting Attorney has three days to complete them per the CCC. RCW 29A.32.241, 29A36.071 and CCC 37.10.030 state that the Prosecuting Attorney prepares the ballot title and explanatory statement. (see pages 5 and 7 of the 2025 Election Guide for Jurisdictions and Candidates in Clallam County)

In the case of the Coroner Amendment, our Prosecuting Attorney's office has conflicted off all work on the issue. As a result, Administrator Mielke asked conflict counsel, Duncan Fobes, to write the ballot title and explanatory statement. He has done so. Mr. Fobes or Administrator Mielke can provide them to the Auditor.

Can you also forward Ron Richard's February 24th email (forwarded to the entire CRC on 2/25) entitled "Procedure for Proposed Amendments" to the Auditor.

Susan Fisch

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 11:40 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies
Attachments: Proposed Charter Amendment for Responding to Government Land Acquisitions.pdf

Loni: Please include this message to the CRC and the attached proposed charter amendment in the agenda packet for the CRC's next meeting. Thank you. Ron

Fellow Members of the 2025 Charter Review Commission:

As I said I would do at our last Charter Review Commission meeting, I have redrafted a proposed amendment requiring the Board of County Commissioners to respond to requests from state and federal agencies for comments on proposed acquisitions of lands by those agencies that would affect the County's taxing, legislative, regulatory, and/or law enforcement jurisdiction.

This proposed amendment is self-explanatory but very important portions of it (1) require the Clallam County Comprehensive Plan to be amended to include standards under which the County would respond to those requests and (2) and establish that those standards shall allow for the responses to include a recommendation that the transfers or acquisitions be denied, granted, or conditioned; they shall address both the positive and/or the negative impacts, as the case may be, of such transfers or acquisitions on the county's interests; and they shall consider the factors which the State or Federal agencies give weight to in approving such transfers or acquisitions.

This proposed amendment is as neutral on its face as I believe any amendment regarding this subject could be. It neither encourages nor discourages support or opposition to any proposed land acquisition. It is intended only to require responses and to establish standards to guide those responses.

In my opinion, any responsible county government needs a procedure like this to address this type of issue. In this regard I would encourage you to listen to the discussion that took place among the Clallam County Commissioners at its June 2, 2025, work session. The video of this meeting can be found at [Commissioner's Work Session • Agendas & Minutes • CivicClerk](#). I think it can fairly be said that the comments in this meeting indicate the County Commissioners and the Director of the Department of Community Development agree this type of procedure is needed.

The discussion begins at approximately the 22-minute mark in the context of considering how to respond to a request from Washington State Parks for comments on a proposed land acquisition by State Parks. Significant comments thereafter include:

1. A comment by County Administrator Mielke that this issue is being addressed by the Charter Review Commission, and that the county should probably have some talks put together on how to respond to such requests; and
2. A question from Commissioner Ozias to Director of the Department of Community Development Emery as to whether the Comprehensive Plan is the appropriate location for

standards guiding these responses, and the response from Mr. Emery that he believes the Comprehensive Plan is the appropriate location; and

3. A statement from Commissioner Ozias that jurisdictional issues, as well as tax impacts of such land acquisitions, are important; and
4. A statement by Commissioner French that if you don't know the big picture policy it is extremely hard to respond to requests like this.

In anticipation of an issue being raised that if the Commissioner's are considering doing this, why should we proceed, let me say that I think the raising of this issue in the CRC is what got the Commissioner's to begin thinking about this in the first place; that the requirement in the proposed charter amendment that the pertinent standards be included in the Comprehensive Plan would give those standards more legal clout than they would have in the absence of the requirement being in the charter; and most importantly that the inclusion of this provision in the Charter would bind future Boards of County Commissioners that might not otherwise think the way the current Commissioner's appear to think from the remarks made in their work session. This is the essence of what the charter form of government is intended to do – to allow the people a voice in establishing rules that the county government is required to follow until the charter is amended or repealed and to not have those rules wax and wane as one Board of County Commissioners replaces another.

The changes made in this draft I think satisfy the two potentially significant concerns (general applicability and time required for amending the comprehensive plan) raised by Deputy Prosecutor Boughton in his report to us last week and I believe it is time to move this proposed charter amendment forward. Accordingly, I would request the Charter Review Commission approve this as a final draft and proceed to schedule a final vote at a subsequent meeting scheduled by the Commission with notice given to the public at least three days before the subsequent meeting.

Sincerely,

Ron Richards,
District 2 Charter Review Commissioner

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Procedures for County Responses to
Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. From time to time, State and Federal agencies ask Clallam County whether it has any concerns regarding the acquisition by those State and Federal agencies of land within the County's taxing, legislative, regulatory, and law enforcement jurisdiction.
2. Such acquisitions can result in the loss, to various degrees, of the County's taxing, legislative, regulatory, and law enforcement jurisdiction.
3. These requests occur, for example, when Washington State Parks wants to acquire land for park purposes, and when Indian Tribes ask the Bureau of Indian Affairs to acquire land in trust for Tribal Trust Land or Reservation purposes.
4. Historically, Clallam County has not responded to many of these requests, and it has no formal standards on which it should base any response.
5. The land acquisitions by these state and federal agencies could have positive or negative impacts on Clallam County. For example, the acquisition of land for a state park could result in increased tourism and more tax revenue from sales taxes tourists pay and increased real property taxes from any economic opportunities the state park might generate outside the park boundaries. These factors could offset any lost revenue from the State Parks land being removed from the county tax base, but might come with an environmental impact inconsistent with county land use policies.
6. Also for example, the acquisition by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of property for Tribal Trust Land could result in economic opportunities only available to Tribes or Tribal Citizens. This could result in economic benefits to Clallam County offsetting the lost tax revenue from that property. On the other hand, the inability of Clallam County to enact land use controls on Tribal Trust Lands could result in development on those lands inconsistent with adjoining properties within county jurisdiction and adversely affect the value of those adjoining properties.

Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions
by State and Federal Agencies - 1

7. The many and various ways such acquisitions could positively or negatively affect Clallam County's future, or the many and various ways in which any negative effects of such acquisitions could be mitigated through conditions imposed on such acquisitions, dictate that the county should study the potential impacts of such acquisitions; develop standards under which such acquisitions are supported, or opposed, or conditioned; and respond to those requests for comments from the state and federal agencies seeking to acquire the property. It is important that Clallam County base any comments on well thought out and considered standards which have been developed through an orderly process such as can be provided through the procedures for amending the County Comprehensive Plan.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article VIII – The Public Interest, a Section 9.00: Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies, to read as follows:

Section 9.00: Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies

1. The Board of County Commissioners shall be required to respond to all requests from State and Federal agencies for comments on the potential impact of transfers or acquisitions of land to or by those agencies where such transfers or acquisitions would affect the County's taxing, legislative, regulatory, and/or law enforcement jurisdiction. No later than July 1, 2027, the County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to add a section setting forth standards under which the Board of County Commissioners must base its responses required by this section. Those standards shall allow for the responses to include a recommendation that the transfers or acquisitions be denied, granted, or conditioned; they shall address both the positive and/or the negative impacts, as the case may be, of such transfers or acquisitions on the county's interests; and they shall consider the factors which the State or Federal agencies give weight to in approving such transfers or acquisitions.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Gayle Baker <gaylebaker7458@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 10:59 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Clallam County Charter Commission

To every member of the 2025 Clallam County Charter Commission Board and for public record:

I am totally against your creation of a water steward.

This position is not needed, it is an additional burden (water steward salary, staff, office space, etc.) on us already overburdened tax payers, and goes against the obvious will of the people who you swore to serve!

Gayle Baker
Sequim, WA

Gores, Loni

From: Jodi Dotson <jdotson_99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: I opposition to water steward

You don't often get email from jdotson_99@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I oppose the water steward position. I do not find enough evidence that this is necessary. Clallam county doesn't have the funds for a full time position besides I do not agree to have a person telling me how to use my water. You say it is not that but we all know that is exactly what you people are aiming for more control. I vote NO!

Jodi Dotson
Port Angeles

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Tjjj <tjjj@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 2:04 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water steward

You don't often get email from tjjj@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am opposed to a water steward without additional transparency on the existing coverage.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Pepai Whipple <pepalapu@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 5:31 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward & needless spending of tax dollars!

Dear Charter Commissioners,

"I'm against the creation of a Water Steward in Clallam County".

- No justification (we already have the data they are claiming we need)
- In a time of budget shortfalls, they are creating a new full time position with staff and needed office space at tax payer expense
- Lack of transparency - to date no details have been provided to justify this position.

We are sick and tired of the needless spending this County keeps handing out looking for ways to justify spending tax dollars.

Regards,
Thomas & Pepai Whipple

Sent from my iPhone

Gores, Loni

From: Dennis Funston <djfunston@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 6:02 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: water steward

You don't often get email from djfunston@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not create water steward position.

Gores, Loni

From: jtgraham <jtgraham@olypen.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 7:09 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: RE: Water Steward

You don't often get email from jtgraham@olypen.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
I'm against the creation of a Water Steward in Clallam County

Sent from my Galaxy

Gores, Loni

From: CHARLES SCHULTZ <cjschultzs@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 8:08 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC

You don't often get email from cjschultzs@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I think is about time for the County commissioners to start listening to the voters of this county. We already have a bloated government which does not have the need let alone the funds to add the Water Steward position! Stop spending money the county doesn't have!
We the voters of Clallam County so no to this unnecessary added post!

Regards

Charles J Schultz Sr

CJSE LLC
CJS ENTERPRISES
162 Lotzgesell Rd
Sequim, WA 98382

mailing address:

Charles J Schultz Sr
P O BOX 7
Carlsborg, WA 98324
cjschultzs@me.com
903-780-8504

Gores, Loni

From: Pamela Caldwell <pandmcalldwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 8:41 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water

Stop with the water steward proposal! The majority do NOT want it, drop it!

Pamela Caldwell

Gores, Loni

From: Sarah <triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:11 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Written Public Comment for July 14 CRC Meeting – In Support of District-Only Voting

Dear Ms. Gores,

Please include the following as written correspondence for the July 14, 2025, Charter Review Commission meeting. I intend to appear in person to provide a read-aloud version of this comment. However, should circumstances prevent me from attending, I respectfully request that this be entered into the official public record on my behalf.

Dear Charter Review Commissioners,

My name is Dr. Sarah Huling, and I am a resident of District 3 on the West End. I am submitting this correspondence as public comment in support of the agenda item proposing an amendment to Section 2.20 of the Clallam County Charter to return to the nomination and election of County Commissioners solely by the voters of their respective districts.

At a recent meeting, a public commenter stated that district-only voting had already "struck out" and should not be revisited. I respectfully disagree. If civic progress ended after a few failed attempts, we would not have secured women's suffrage, the Civil Rights Act, the ADA, Native American voting rights, or the GI Bill. These fundamental rights were earned through persistence and repeated advocacy, not easy wins:

- **Women's suffrage**, which struck out in Congress for over 40 years before the 19th Amendment finally crossed home plate.
- **The Civil Rights Act**, which faced filibusters and missed signals for decades before finally scoring in 1964.
- **The ADA**, which sat benched by special interests until it cleared the bases in 1990.
- **Native American voting rights**, thrown out at the state level again and again—even after citizenship—until the 1960s.
- And **the G.I. Bill**, which almost got shut out in committee, but was driven home by the American Legion in the bottom of the ninth.

These weren't walk-offs. They were hard-fought innings. But they changed the game—because people kept stepping up to the plate, refusing to leave the field.

I also want to acknowledge the legacy of Norma Turner (the public commenter), whose decades of work for rural equity have made a lasting impact on the West End. While I deeply respect her contributions, I was surprised by her recent opposition to restoring district-only voting. Although all three commissioner districts are equal in population, the current hybrid model still allows voters from population centers outside a district to override that district's preferred candidate in the general election. That undermines the principle of true local representation.

The proposed amendment language addresses this concern directly:

“This allows voters from outside a district to override the will of that district’s own residents, diminishing local control and community voice.”

In a 2025 CRC survey of over 1,400 county residents, 74% supported returning to district-only elections. This is a clear mandate in favor of fairness, accountability, and restoring confidence in the representational structure of our county.

Some have compared commissioner races to countywide executive roles like the sheriff or governor. But commissioners are not executives; they are district-specific representatives. Just as we do not vote for legislators outside our state or congressional districts, we should not be deciding who represents another district on the county commission. That is not how representative democracy is designed to function.

This isn’t just a rural issue. In fact, Washington’s three largest Home Rule Charter counties, King, Pierce, and Snohomish, all use district-only voting for their council seats. These counties adopted it because it promotes balanced governance, accountability, and a clear connection between elected officials and their constituents.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to advance the proposed charter amendment as written:

Charter Section to Amend: Article II, Section 2.20

Current language to remove: “nominated by the voters from each of the three districts and elected by the voters countywide”

Proposed replacement language:

“The Commissioners shall be nominated and elected solely by the voters of their represented district for a term of four years as provided in this Charter.”

This is a simple, clean, and voter-aligned solution. Most importantly, by advancing this item, the Charter Review Commission is not imposing a change; it is giving the public an opportunity to decide this question on the November ballot.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to fair representation in Clallam County.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sarah Huling, EdD, MBA

District 3 Resident – Forks, WA

Triple S Consultants, LLC

triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com

Gores, Loni

From: Carolyn Gray <carolyngray777@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 6:13 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water steward

 You don't often get email from carolyngray777@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am against creating a water steward. There is no justification for this position at tax payers expense. Tired of increased taxes to pay for unnecessary pet projects.

Thank you
Carolyn Gray

Gores, Loni

From: Esther Littlejohn <esther@olypen.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 6:50 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water steward

[You don't often get email from esther@olypen.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please don't let a water steward position be formed . We need people that are personally affected by this to make these decisions such as farmers and local landowners. Someone that's not in the pocket of the tribe.

Sent from my iPhone

Gores, Loni

From: Dan Blevins <dblevins@olypen.com>
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 8:38 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water

[You don't often get email from dblevins@olypen.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please vote on this water steward county doesn't need it.
Respectfully Dan

Dan Blevins
Port Angeles, WA
360-808-3097
Sent from my iPhone

Gores, Loni

From: Jeanie M Brown <justjeanie0077@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC

You don't often get email from justjeanie0077@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Having lived in Sequim since 1977, I've had the privilege of witnessing its growth and the enriching cultures that have come to our community. It's truly heartening to see how we've evolved together. However, I have concerns about foreign involvement in our electoral processes. It feels unsettling to think that outside nations could influence our elections or provide financial support to our elected officials. I believe it's important that we maintain the integrity of our democracy and ensure that decisions affecting our lives are made by those who truly represent us. The decision-making power of a sovereign nation like Jamestown should be restricted.

All the residents in our small community are in agreement, yet you continue to disregard our wishes. I hope this email finds you well And its intent goes a long way. Thank you

Gores, Loni

From: Hillway, Ian
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Fisch, Susan
Cc: dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com; Gores, Loni; Kuss, Lorrie
Subject: Clallam County Charter Review Committee Proposition No. 1 Ballot Title
Attachments: Ballot Title Approved Letter.pdf; Coroner Ballot Measure and Explanatory Statement - Duncan Fobes 7-7-25.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter and final ballot title for Clallam County Charter Review Committee Proposition No. 1. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Also, please remember, if FOR or AGAINST committee paperwork has not been turned in before the August 5 deadline, our office will reach out to the public for volunteers.

Thank you!

Ian Hillway | pronouns: he/him/his

Elections Manager

223 E. 4th Street, Room 42 | Port Angeles, WA 98362

📞 360.417.2217

Public Records Disclaimer: Pursuant to the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56), this e-mail is a public record and may be considered subject to disclosure to a third-party.



Clallam County Auditor's Office Elections and Voter Registration Division

Shoona Riggs, Auditor

223 E 4th St, Room 042 ✧ Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: 360-417-2221 ✧ Fax: 360-417-2312

Email: elections@clallamcountywa.gov

July 11, 2025

Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Sent Via Email

To whom it may concern,

Per RCW 29A.36.080, I have enclosed a copy of the approved ballot title for Clallam County Charter Review Commission, received on July 10, 2025, from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for the 2025 General Election.

If any persons are dissatisfied with the ballot title for a local ballot measure that was formulated by the city attorney or prosecuting attorney preparing the same, they may at any time within ten days from the time of the filing of the ballot title, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, appeal to the superior court of the county where the question is to appear on the ballot, by petition setting forth the measure, the ballot title objected to, their objections to it, and praying for amendment of it per RCW 29A.36.090.

If there are any additional questions regarding this ballot title, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ian Hillway

Elections Manager

ian.hillway@clallamcountywa.gov

Encl. (1)

Gores, Loni

From: Geoffrey Fox <benefitplans@att.net>
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 4:46 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC Our county does NOT need a water steward

You don't often get email from benefitplans@att.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Lisa Millar <lisa.millar.wa@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2025 8:48 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water czar, No thank you!

You don't often get email from lisa.millar.wa@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The charter review asked the county about a water czar and the final data shower a 74% of county said No. No more control of water. No Indian control, when the tribes don't follow the rules. No water steward position, the county is broke, poorly managed by commissioners and we can't afford another deficit encourage by a select few on the charter review who do not respect the people's wishes.

I ask you to say no to a water steward.

Respectfully,

Fred and Elizabeth Millar

Gores, Loni

From: ahlburgkaj@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 10:56 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: RE: Public comment to Charter Review Commission

You don't often get email from ahlburgkaj@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

P.S.: Please also place on the ballot the proposal to elect County Commissioners by district. It was overwhelmingly supported by those responding to your survey, and would end the effective disenfranchisement of 3rd District voters, who have very different issues and opinions from those living in the East End of the county. Just because a past vote on an issue went a different way in the past is not a sufficient reason not to place it on the ballot again when a strong majority of voters demand doing so. We have periodic Charter reviews precisely to allow us to try things and, when they don't work out as well as the voters hoped, revisit them.

From: ahlburgkaj@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 10:49 AM
To: Loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov
Subject: Public comment to Charter Review Commission

Dear Charter Review Commissioners,

Please follow the results of your survey and place the proposed Charter Amendment that would bar commissioners from serving on nonprofit boards that receive county funds on the ballot. It received overwhelming support, almost 3:1, from over 1,000 respondents to the survey.

Please also follow the results of your survey and do not place the proposed Charter Amendment that would create a "Water Steward" position within county government. It was resoundingly rejected in the survey 70/30. It could lead to more government control over our water supply, something inimical to our country lifestyle. We have seen in the Dungeness Basin how increased government control can lead to well metering and mitigation fees

Kaj Ahlburg
4513 Mount Pleasant Road
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 565-1146
ahlburgkaj@gmail.com

Gores, Loni

From: Marg <marg@sequim.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Comment for the Charter Review Commission

To the Clallam County Charter Review Commission:

Right after my husband and I submitted our survey answers, we had second thoughts about voting for countywide voting for Clallam County Commissioners. I think that when I voted for that (on the survey), my response was out of selfishness. Simply stated, I like to vote!

I like to feel like my vote counts. But, then, I thought about the individual County Commissioner districts. Why should people in Sequim and Port Angeles tell the Westend who their County Commissioner should be? Why should people in Forks and Sequim tell the people of Port Angeles who their County Commissioner should be? Why should the Westend and people in the Port Angeles area tell people in Sequim who their County Commissioner should be?

I even mentioned to friends that I felt that Butch (Clarence) and I had answered that survey question incorrectly. I know that a survey response cannot be changed, once submitted. But, I thought I should relay to you that both Butch and I wish we had answered differently.

It will be interesting to see which charter amendments will be on the ballot.

I regret that I cannot be on the Zoom for your meeting tonight.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Marguerite A Glover
marg@sequim.com
360-461-3365
103 Pond Lane
Sequim WA 98382

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 1:00 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Richards, Ron; Holy, Christy; Sarmiento, Nina
Subject: CRC Water proposed Charter amendment
Attachments: Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Water Resources Specialist Step_2_draft_rev 14July 2025.pdf

Loni,

This version has a couple typos and formatting issue corrected, and is more accurately the version the Committee passed.

Could you send this to the commission by email and provide printed versions at the meeting?

Thanks!

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Proposed Charter Amendment Calling for the Retention of a Water Resources Specialist by the
Department of Community Development

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The considerations expressed in Finding 1 above, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing groundwater wells.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. The considerations expressed in Findings 1 through 3 above have made it increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Although there is a lot of water data for Clallam County, critical parts of it are more than 10 years old, and in some cases over 20 years old; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfill existing water rights that exist on paper. There is a great need for continued work which leverages on prior studies and incorporates new information to provide Clallam County with the information necessary to plan for our future water supplies.
6. A strategic investment in one position collecting and consolidating data will avoid potential future costs caused by case-by-case decision-making by multiple contractors using limited data, or by responding to shortages in water supply.
7. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do county-wide, comprehensive water planning, but

all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions. The County is the government authority in the best position to assist all water management entities across the county with up-to-date water resources data.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding a third paragraph to Article IV, Section 4.25, Director of the Department of Community Development, said third paragraph to read as follows:

The Director shall retain, through a personal services contract bidding procedure, a Water Resources Specialist, with the necessary expertise to collect, analyze and provide water resources data to all entities managing water resources in the County. The position would have no water management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Bids shall be ranked by an ad hoc Committee with seven members comprised of: three county employees, one from Department of Community Development; one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Environmental Health Section of County Health and Human Services Department; two citizens selected by the Director; and two citizens selected by the Board of County Commissioners. The bid price may be considered in the ranking, but shall not be determinative of the ranking of a bid. This position shall be contracted for four-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring. The Specialist's position need not be filled unless the annual cost of the winning bid is less than the annual salary of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Duane Benedict <dubeben@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:32 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC

You don't often get email from dubeben@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear CRC Board and County Commissioners:

I have lived in Clallam County for 73 years and I have never seen such discord here as there appears to be now. I have never been involved or much cared to be involved in politics but I must now say how I feel.

I was in local law-enforcement for 28 years. As you are aware, the police have been and are under intense scrutiny all the time. Law-enforcement officials must maintain impartial approaches to their jobs and their private lives to do their jobs correctly. This approach absolutely must apply to all elected officials of this county and country. They must be transparent and avoid all appearances that could be construed to be a "conflict of interest". What I have seen and been made aware of regarding decisions being made by members of the CRC and of the County Commissioners does not reflect this. This must be corrected so that any decisions made fall within those parameters.

I implore all of you to listen to the people's voices and opinions, not just ignore them. You know who you are so I will not start naming people. Please think about what you're doing as your decisions will be affecting our county for years!

There must not be conflicts of interest. Impartiality is a must! Being transparent is a must! What has been happening is not good and if it continues it's going to raise up and bite all of us.

Than you for your time.

Sincerely,
Duane Benedict

Gores, Loni

From: Patrice Johnston <patricejohnston1953@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 3:18 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Charter Review Commission - proposal re nonprofit board membership

Dear Ms. Gores,

Please distribute my comments to the commission members at your earliest convenience.

After reviewing Commissioner Ozias's summary of the boards he serves on, it is clear why **the proposal to prohibit elected officials to serve on nonprofit boards is misguided**. The organizations he is involved with, either as an official part of his duties as a commissioner and/or as a member of the community, cover a broad range of issues, including environmental concerns and social services needs in the community. In addition, organizations like the Washington Association of Counties provide crucial training and professional development opportunities that individual counties cannot provide on their own.

By participating in these organizations, elected officials have access to current information that will inform their decision-making and make them better public servants. In addition, they are able to form relationships with people in the community and around the state who are knowledgeable about those issues and can act as a resource to help solve problems.

As Commissioner Ozias pointed out, there is a simple and time-proven solution when a matter comes before an elected body where a member of that body has a relationship that may give an appearance of bias or partiality - the member can recuse him or herself.

Elected officials cannot live in hermetically sealed bubbles, nor should they. They should be active members of their communities, interacting productively with local, state, national and international organizations. As with campaign contributions, the law and common sense require simply that affiliations and donations be disclosed. That is the answer for this **non-problem**, and I ask the commission to **vote NO** on this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patrice Johnston
Sequim

Gores, Loni

From: Shelley Taylor <shelley@overthemoon.me>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Public comment to Charter Review Commission

A friend, whose well-informed opinion I respect, passed their comments on to me and I concur completely; so I am reiterating these comments and wish them to be entered into the public record.

Dear Charter Review Commissioners:

Please follow the results of your survey and place the proposed Charter Amendment that would bar commissioners from serving on nonprofit boards that receive county funds on the ballot. It received overwhelming support, almost 3:1, from over 1,000 respondents to the survey.

Please also follow the results of your survey and do not place the proposed Charter Amendment that would create a "Water Steward" position within county government. It was resoundingly rejected in the survey 70/30. It could lead to more government control over our water supply, something inimical to our country lifestyle. We have seen in the Dugness Basin how increased government control can lead to well metering and mitigation fees.

Please also place on the ballot the proposal to elect County Commissioners by district. It was overwhelmingly supported by those responding to your survey, and would end the effective disenfranchisement of 3rd District voters, who have very different issues and opinions from those living in the East End of the county.

Just because a past vote on an issue went a different way in the past is not a sufficient reason not to place it on the ballot again when a strong majority of voters demand doing so. We have periodic Charter reviews precisely to allow us to try things and, when they don't work out as well as the voters hoped, revisit them.

Shelley and Greg Taylor
Port Angeles
360.477.9371