



AGENDA

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

223 East 4th Street, Room 160
Port Angeles, Washington
November 10, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Notes for the Audience

- Assistive listening devices are available. Please notify Clerk before the meeting if you would like a SoundMate personal listening system.
- Please utilize the public comment sign-up sheets located at the front door.

****ATTENTION****

Charter Review Commission meetings will also be available virtually at:

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

This meeting can be viewed on a live stream at this link: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/669/Live-Archived-Meetings-Online>

Public comment can be directed to the Clerk at 360-417-2256 or Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting Minutes October 27, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Please limit comments to three minutes

CORRESPONDENCE/PETITIONS

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Ethics Review Board proposed amendment (Step 2): Commissioner Cameron
- Lands Acquisition proposed amendment (Step 2): Commissioner Richards

REPORTS

- Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA for the Meeting of November 10, 2025
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING AT A
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING:**

- Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on general items may do so during the designated times on the agenda.
- Members of the public wishing to comment at the public hearing are asked to sign in on the sheet provided giving their name, address and topic.
- Public comment is limited to 3 minutes for each speaker subject to the Commissions concurrence.
- Speakers, generally, will be heard in the order they signed up. All comments must be made from the speaker's rostrum and any individual making comments shall first state their name and address for the official record.
- General comments, applause, booing from members of the audience are inappropriate and may result in removal.

These guidelines are intended to promote an orderly system for conducting a public hearing so that each person has an opportunity to be heard and to ensure that exercising their right of free speech embarrasses no one.

Note: Written testimony presented by members of the public during the meeting is considered a public document and must be submitted to the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission. Copies of public documents from meetings are available by contacting the Public Records Department.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dates are subject to change as needed. For most up to date meeting information visit the Clallam County CivicClerk Portal at: <https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

- November 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- December 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- December 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Draft Minutes October 27, 2025



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 27, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jim Stoffer, Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Patti Morris, Ron Richards, Rod Fleck, Bill Benedict, Mark Hodgson, Ron Cameron, Paul Pickett, Chris Noble, Christy Holy Cathy Walde, and Nina Sarmiento.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: Tozzer moved to add a discussion item regarding CRC security and possible OPMA violations, Walde seconded, motion failed
(3 voted in favor and 12 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to end the debate on adding a discussion item regarding CRC security and possible OPMA violations, Stoffer seconded, motion passed
(12 voted in favor and 3 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes October 13, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on the Lands Acquisition proposed amendment, meetings schedule
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Ethics proposed amendment, Lands Acquisition proposed amendment, remaining CRC meetings
- Dr. Sarah Huling, District III, commented on Ethics proposed amendment, Lands Acquisition proposed amendment

CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Commissioner Tozzer, Commissioner Richards, Clallam County Elections and Clerk Gores (see attached).

BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Ethics Review Board proposed Charter Amendment (Step 2): Commissioner Cameron**

Fisch reminded the Commission that the Ethics Review Board proposed amendment is at step 2. She read the following into the record:

Proposed amendment:

Clallam County Charter, Article VIII – The Public Interest, Section 8.100, Ethics Review Board - Establishment and Purpose, be added to read as follows:

Section 8.100. Ethics Review Board – Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section 8.110. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, one from each of the county commissioner districts.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of October 27, 2025
Page 2

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section 8.120. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- County Auditor*
- County Treasurer*
- County Assessor*
- County Director of the Department of Community Development*

(b) The order of making appointments shall be determined by lot and each official will make one appointment in turn, repeating the order after each official has made an appointment to the Ethics Review Board.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 8.110.

(e) Any decision may be appealed subject to the rules established by the ethics board for an appeal.

Section 8.130. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

- 1. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.*
- 2. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction.*
- 3. Conduct impartial reviews.*
- 4. Issue written findings publicly upon completion of review.*

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring after this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by a person or persons having first-hand knowledge of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

- 1. Have direct knowledge of the alleged conduct; and*
- 2. Believe the charge or charges to be true and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.*

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section 8.140. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of October 27, 2025
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Cameron briefed the CRC Commissioners on the Ethics Review Board proposed amendment. CRC Commissioners provided pro and con feedback on the amendment.

ACTION TAKEN: Fisch moved to add the Ethics Review Board shall determine the rules of procedure for receipt, review and appeal of complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics, Stoffer seconded, motion passed
(15 voted in favor and 0 voted opposed)

Cameron clarified that the amendment proposed by Fisch will be placed under Section 8.130 Duties and Procedures (a) as item number 1 and the rest of the items will be renumbered to item numbers 2-5. Fisch had no objections.

ACTION TAKEN: Fleck moved that the previous section 8.130 (a) numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 become numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5, Richards seconded, motion passed
(15 voted in favor and 0 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Hodgeson moved to strike E from section 8.120 Appointment of Members, Fleck seconded, motion passed
(15 voted in favor and 0 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Fleck moved to table to next meeting on November 10, 2025, Fane seconded, motion passed
(13 voted in favor and 2 voted opposed)

The Ethics Review Board proposed amendment will be on Step 2 at the next meeting on November 10, 2025. Fleck and Tozzer will work on an amended draft.

CRC recessed at 6:48 p.m. and reconvened at 6:52 p.m.

• **Lands Acquisition proposed Charter Amendment (Step 1): Commissioner Richards**

Fisch reminded the Commission that the Lands Acquisition proposed amendment is at step 1. She read the following into the record:

Proposed amendment:

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.*

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of October 27, 2025
Page 4

Richards briefed the CRC Commissioners on the Lands Acquisition proposed amendment and requested that the amendment advance to Step 2 at the next meeting on November 10, 2025.

- **Meeting Schedule: Commissioner Morris**

Morris briefed the CRC on the meeting schedule for the next 2 months. She recommended the Commission end their service on November 24, 2025, meeting. CRC Commissioners held discussion.

ACTION TAKEN: Sarmiento moved to make the last meeting on December 8, 2025, Morris seconded, motion failed

(7 voted in favor and 8 voted opposed)

ACTION TAKEN: Hodgson moved to call the question, Noble seconded, motion passed
(15 voted in favor and 1 voted opposed)

REPORTS

- **Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch**

Fisch noted that Gores will be issuing out a press release for the Board of Commission seeking volunteers to serve on the "For" and "Against" Committees for the BOCC Town Hall Amendment. If CRC Commissioners would like to serve on one of those committees, they can contact Gores.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on Ethics Review Board proposed amendment
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Ethics Review Board proposed amendment, ballot proposals 2026, meeting dates
- Norma Turner, Port Angeles, commented on Ethics Review Board proposed amendment

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ethics Review Board proposed amendment – Step 2
- Land Acquisition proposed amendment – Step 2

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved:

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting – October 27, 2025

Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent, Abstained

	Motion to end the CRC on December 8, 2025 - Sarmiento
Susan Fisch	N
Bill Benedict	Y
Jim Stoffer	Y
Jeff Tozzer	N
Alex Fane	Y
Ron Cameron	N
Pattie Morris	Y
Chris Noble	N
Paul Pickett	Y
Ron Richards	N
Rod Fleck	N
Mark Hodgson	N
Christy Holy	Y
Cathy Walde	N
Nina Sarmiento	Y
Yes	7
No	8
Abstained	
Pass or Fail	Failed

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	Eric Fekema	Eric Fekema	Seagrass
2	Ed Bowen	Ed Bowen	POB 111 CB
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
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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	<i>Eric Felton</i>	<i>Eric Felton</i>	<i>Sequim</i>
2	<i>Ed Bowen</i>	<i>Ed Bowen</i>	<i>POB 111</i>
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Fisch, Susan; Noble, Chris; Hodgson, Mark
Subject: CRC Agenda Item: Ethics Committee Resolution
Attachments: Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Establishing a Code of Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board.pages

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Loni and Executive Committee,

Please add attached resolution to the upcoming agenda for Step 2.

Thank you,

Jeff

Couldnt open the
attachment. TOZZER
Will resend

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:10 AM
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: CRC Lands Committee Meeting Notice/Agenda - October 23
Attachments: 10-23-25 CRC Land Acquisition Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice for October 23:

- 1) Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice on October 23 at 11 a.m. at BOCC Small Conf Room 150.

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 Land Acquisition Committee has scheduled a Land Acquisition Committee meeting to be held on October 23, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Land Acquisition issue raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment or recommendation.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 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/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345

Dated 21st day of October, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Gores". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lori Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

**Clallam County Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee Meeting
October 23, 2025, at 11 a.m.
Board of Commissioner Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port
Angeles, WA**

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Discussion of Trust Land Transfer Impacts
- Consideration of Next Recommendation to Charter Review Commission on Proposed Lands Acquisition Amendment
- Public Comment
- Scheduling Next Meeting, if any

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 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/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 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: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:52 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC Ethics text + new attachment
Attachments: Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Establishing a Code of Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Loni, thanks for letting me know. I'm pretty bad a computer stuff but I tried to attach it in a word-friendly format and I also copied the text. I appreciate it! Jeff

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number ____

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of Ethics
for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board

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

1. The citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their elected officials.
2. The County Code includes a Code of Ethics applicable to all county personnel, including elected officials, but it includes no mechanism for the review of ethical concerns involving elected county officials.
3. The establishment of an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter, Article VIII – The Public Interest, Section 8.100, Ethics Review Board - Establishment and Purpose, be added to read as follows:

Section 8.100. Ethics Review Board — Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section 8.110. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, one from each of the county commissioner districts.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section 8.120. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- County Auditor
- County Treasurer
- County Assessor
- County Director of the Department of Community Development

(b) The order of making appointments shall be determined by lot and each official will make one appointment in turn, repeating the order after each official has made an appointment to the Ethics Review Board.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 8.110.

(e) Any decision may be appealed subject to the rules established by the ethics board for an appeal.

Section 8.130. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

1. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.
2. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction.
3. Conduct impartial reviews.
4. Issue written findings publicly upon completion of review.

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring after this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by a person or persons having first-hand knowledge of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

1. Have direct knowledge of the alleged conduct; and
2. Believe the charge or charges to be true and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section 8.140. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Subsections 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

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

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

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of
Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board

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

1. The citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their
elected officials.
2. The County Code includes a Code of Ethics applicable to all county personnel,
including elected officials, but it includes no mechanism for the review of ethical
concerns involving elected county officials.
3. The establishment of an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public
confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the
Clallam County Charter, Article VIII – The Public Interest, Section 8.100, Ethics Review Board
- Establishment and Purpose, be added to read as follows:

Section 8.100. Ethics Review Board — Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of
violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section 8.110. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, one from each of the county
commissioner districts.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms
determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county
office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section 8.120. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials. The offices eligible to
appoint are:

- County Auditor
- County Treasurer

Draft Ethics Amendment – Tozzer 10-21-25

- County Assessor
- County Director of the Department of Community Development

(b) The order of making appointments shall be determined by lot and each official will make one appointment in turn, repeating the order after each official has made an appointment to the Ethics Review Board.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 8.110.

(e) Any decision may be appealed subject to the rules established by the ethics board for an appeal.

Section 8.130. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

1. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.
2. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction.
3. Conduct impartial reviews.
4. Issue written findings publicly upon completion of review.

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring after this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by a person or persons having first-hand knowledge of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

1. Have direct knowledge of the alleged conduct; and
2. Believe the charge or charges to be true and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section 8.140. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

Draft Ethics Amendment – Tozzer 10-21-25

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Subsections 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.

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

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

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:00 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Cameron, Ron; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Land Acquisitions Proposed Charter Amendment
Attachments: Proposed Charter Amendment for Responding to Government Land Acquisitions.pdf

Hi Loni,

As we just discussed in today's Land Acquisitions Committee meeting, the committee would like the following recommendation, passed today on a 3 to 0 vote by the Committee, considered at the next Charter Review Commission meeting as a business item:

"(We agree) to forward to the Charter Review Commission a recommendation that the proposed Land Acquisition charter amendment as last considered by the Charter Review Commission be reconsidered at the Stage 1 level and submit that no changes are necessary."

I believe the attached document represents the proposed amendment as last considered by the Charter Review Commission.

Thank you for helping us,

Ron

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.

Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies - 2

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: Gores, Loni
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:52 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: FW: CRC 2026 Ballot Submission - BOCC Town Hall Meetings
Attachments: CRC2025-003.pdf; Resolution Cover Sheet - BOCC Town Hall Meetings 2026 Ballot.pdf

Forwarding 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: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:37 PM
To: zElections <elections@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: CRC 2026 Ballot Submission - BOCC Town Hall Meetings

Elections:

Please see attached Resolution cover sheet and Charter Review Commission Resolution CRC2025-003. 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. Let me know if you need anything else from me at this time.

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

Resolution Cover Sheet

Please include this form with each resolution.

Name of District: Charter Review Commission

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

Date of Election: 2026 November Election

Contact Person/ Title: Loni Gores - Charter Review Commission Clerk

Contact Phone: 360-417-2256 Email: loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov

Attorney for District: Dee Boughton - Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney

Attorney Phone: 360-417-2720 Email: dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov

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

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number 3

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Requiring County Commissioner
District Town Hall Meetings

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

1. All county residents deserve meaningful opportunities to connect directly with their elected County Commissioners, to ask questions, raise concerns, and to stay informed about county decisions by having their questions responded to by their County Commissioner. Such a dialogue is essential to ensuring decisions reflect the needs and values of the people.
2. Holding town hall meetings outside of regular working hours would give people working regular working hours a better opportunity to participate in such town hall meetings.
3. Many counties in Washington and around the country already hold regular town hall meetings as part of good government practices.
4. The Clallam County Charter currently does not require County Commissioners to meet with the public in their Districts outside of regular Board meetings, which are typically held in Port Angeles. That leaves many residents, especially those residents in rural or outlying areas, feeling disconnected from their local government.
5. Creating a requirement that each County Commissioner conduct at least one town hall meeting per year in their County Commissioner District would help give all voters a fair and consistent opportunity to be heard, and to have their District County Commissioner respond to their questions.
6. Creating a requirement that all County Commissioners conduct at least one town hall meeting in each district would further help give voters a fair and consistent opportunity to be heard, and to have all County Commissioners respond to their questions.
7. These town hall meetings would strengthen trust in government, increase public participation, and lead to more responsive and thoughtful policymaking.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article II – Legislative and Executive Branches, a new Section 2.50, Commissioner District Town Hall Meetings, to read as follows:

Proposed Charter Amendment Requiring County Commissioner District Town Hall Meetings - 1

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

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 13 day of October, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Voted no
Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane
Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

See attached
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy
Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

See attached
Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Voted NO
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Abstain
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

See attached
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Excused
Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jim Tozzer
Jeff Tozzer, District 4 Commissioner

See attached.
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

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.

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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 13 day of October, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Voted no
Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane
Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

William R Fleck
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy
Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris
Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Voted no
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Abstain
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ronald N. Richards
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Excused
Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer
Jeff Tazzer, District Commissioner

Cathy Walde
Cathy Walde (Oct 21, 2025 15:46:13 PDF)
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: zElections
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 8:54 AM
To: Gores, Loni; zElections
Subject: RE: CRC 2026 Ballot Submission - BOCC Town Hall Meetings

Good morning Loni,

I am acknowledging the receipt of the documents you sent in for the 2026 General Election for a proposed charter review amendment regarding commissioner district town hall meetings.

Our initial review of the provided paperwork indicates that we are currently missing the Explanatory Statement and the For and Against Committee Form from the list of required items on page 14 of our Jurisdiction Guide.

Our Jurisdiction Guide for next year is still under revision but our deadline for these materials is expected to be August 4, 2026. I do understand that the Charter Review Commission disbands at the end of the year, so that may create a need for the paperwork to be submitted earlier while that body is still in session. Please consult your PA regarding this possibility and applicability.

Please note that if the Charter Review Commission chooses not to appoint members to one or both committees, the form should still be submitted. If by the deadline, the form does not have any members for one or both committees, the Auditor's office will attempt to find interested parties to create them.

Thank you,

Ian Hillway | pronouns: he/him/his



Election Confidence Team

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.

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:37 PM
To: zElections <elections@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: CRC 2026 Ballot Submission - BOCC Town Hall Meetings

Elections:

Please see attached Resolution cover sheet and Charter Review Commission Resolution CRC2025-003. 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. Let me know if you need anything else from me at this time.

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*

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 12:53 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Fisch, Susan; Noble, Chris; Hodgson, Mark
Subject: CRC Request for Discussion: Agenda Procedures and CRC Security

Hi Loni,

Could you please forward to all 15? Thanks.

Dear Executive Committee,

I wanted to follow up regarding the agenda. I had requested that an item titled **“CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations”** be included, but it does not appear on the agenda. This is not the first time one of my requested items has been omitted without communication, and I believe it would be helpful for the full Commission to review the proper procedure for adding agenda items to ensure consistency and fairness.

For example, during the March 24 meeting, Commissioner Jim Stoffer added an item titled **“Potential Violations of the OPMA and First Amendment”** at the beginning of the meeting, after being prompted by Chair Fisch. The Chair then asked if there were any objections, and, hearing none, allowed it to be added to the agenda. Since this addition occurred before the first public comment period, it allowed for public discussion on that topic. One attendee, Patrice Johnston, even delivered a detailed, prepared statement on those issues, suggesting that the topic may have been anticipated in advance.

That meeting marked the beginning of what I perceived as a coordinated effort by Chair Fisch and Commissioner Stoffer to target me personally and to propose bylaw amendments limiting my personal right to Free Speech.

I share the public’s concern that this Commission, which was intended to operate with equal authority among fifteen co-commissioners, has at times concentrated influence within a small group. Our focus should remain on the public interest—not personal or political agendas.

In addition, I continue to have serious questions about the **security presence** at our meetings. We have been told there is a “threat” significant enough to justify taxpayer-funded private security, yet commissioners have not been informed of the nature or source of this alleged threat. I also find it concerning that one commissioner has publicly stated he will “take measures to protect himself.” In a designated weapon-free facility, this raises understandable questions about what those measures entail and whether they comply with the rules that apply to all participants and members of the public.

Accordingly, I am respectfully requesting that the topic of **CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations** be formally added to this agenda for open discussion. I ask only to be treated fairly and impartially by my fellow commissioners, consistent with the oath we each took to uphold the public trust.

Appreciatively,

Commissioner Jeff Tozzer

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:37 AM

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: Request to Add Agenda Item – “CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations”

Forwarding for Tozzer.

“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: Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:15 PM

To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Cc: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item – “CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations”

Hi Loni, please forward to all 15. All documents associated with this agenda item are included in this email. Thanks.

Dear Executive Board,

I am again formally requesting that the following agenda item be added to the upcoming Charter Review Commission meeting:

Agenda Item: CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations

This discussion is necessary due to events stemming from the July 14th public comment by Eric Fehrmann, subsequent email exchanges, and testimony given by County Administrator Todd Mielke on September 22, 2025.

Questions That Require Commission Discussion

1. •

What **specific threat** did Commissioner Stoffer perceive on July 14?

2. •

When Stoffer said he would “take steps to protect myself,” does that include **carrying a weapon** in a weapon-free zone?

3. •

Why was security **not present at CRC meetings** before July 14 if risk was known?

4. •

Why is security **not present at all public meetings** on county property if it is now deemed necessary?

5. •

Was **OPMA violated** by arranging security without deliberation or approval from the full CRC?

6. •

Do these actions comply with **CRC bylaws**?

7. Is Chair Susan Fisch also unilaterally **removing the second public comment period** at Commissioner Stoffer’s request? If so, does this also constitute a violation of OPMA and our bylaws, given that the Commission has again not been consulted?

Timeline of Events

- **July 14, 2025** – During public comment, Eric Fehrmann criticizes Commissioner Stoffer.
- **July 16, 2025** – Commissioner Stoffer emails the Executive Board requesting security and states he will “take steps to protect myself.”
- **July 16, 2025** – County Commissioner Mark Ozias forwards Stoffer’s concern to Sheriff King and Administrator Mielke, requesting security at CRC meetings.

- **July 17, 2025** – Sheriff King contacts Security Services NW and arranges for security specifically for CRC meetings.
- **July 17, 2025** – CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirms to Commissioner Stoffer that security will be present “from this point forward.”
- **September 22, 2025** – Administrator Todd Mielke testifies that security was not specifically requested for the CRC, but was instead due to a standing county contract.

This sequence shows that security was in fact arranged as a direct result of Stoffer’s request, contrary to Administrator Mielke’s public testimony.

Full Testimony of Administrator Todd Mielke (September 22, 2025)

*With regard to this issue I received emails saying, ‘Could you tell me what the policy is for the county providing security in the courthouse?’ And yes, there was an evening here, maybe more than one, where I think people got a little bit excited, perhaps raised their voice, gestured, things like that, but **that issue was not specific to that**. It was: could you tell us what the policy is of the county for security.*

There’s a state law that says we must control access to the courts. So, weapons are banned in the courts. So, there’s an ongoing debate about what constitutes ‘the courts’ in any courthouse. And so, we have been going through this, we have been talking about moving the county courthouse to a single point entry security system. That’s been going on for the entire two years I’ve been here.

Typically, security in the court building, courthouse building, is done by the Sheriff’s Office through corrections officers. We have had a significant shortage of staff in that position and so for the last two years the county has hired an outside security firm providing security services in the courthouse. Where that would normally have been done by corrections officers. So, we’ve been doing that. And we switched vendors here recently, about three months ago. And so, we continued to go through and explore this.

*Our contract states that we will provide security — our contract with the vendor, Security Services Northwest, currently is that they will provide security services anytime the building is open to the public. In addition to that, very recently, we had the superior court bench, the presiding judge of the superior court bench, who made a proclamation under GR39, general rule— I believe it’s 39. And they have as judicial branch the ability to do that where they proclaim that the entire building, not just second floor where the courtrooms are, but **the entire building would be considered ‘weapons free.’***

*Again, so there’s this ongoing debate of, is a weapon only a gun? No, not under the statutory definition. And so, the County continues to move forward. We continue to have a contract for security system services. It starts at 7:30 in the morning and, per the contract, is they will be available any time the public is in the building. And so, **it’s not specific because ‘Oh, Charter Review Commission’s meeting tonight’**. It’s, ‘Do we have any public meetings in the building tonight?’*

And so that is the issue, it’s for protecting the building because the idea is that someone could come in and plant a weapon and come back tomorrow. And so once again, under statutory provisions we’re required to protect this building and the courts. So that is why they’re here. It is a public meeting. Therefore, the contract says they will participate and be available during any time the public is in the building. And so that is what we do.

But also, as we are witnessing, unfortunately political discourse has changed greatly in the last several years. I've spent a lot of years as an elected official. Political discourse has changed; we've certainly seen it in the last couple of weeks on the national level. And so, the issue is we want to make sure people, when they come to the courthouse, feel safe. And we never know what may or may not happen. But we don't want to be in a position to the best of our ability about saying we should have done this, or we could have done that. So, we're doing the best we can to protect the public for participating in public meetings in this building. So that is what we're doing.

*Nobody directed us to do anything. If anything, what it caused us to do, is review our current policies and our current contract is with Security Services Northwest. And do a better inventory of when the public is in this building. I think a lot of people want to point to one evening that got people maybe a little tense, but **that's really not it.***

That would be reading far, far too much in to the fact that security's been here for two years. They start at 7:30 in the morning. We're just being much more careful, especially now that the superior court has proclaimed that this building is weapons free and they expect the Board of County Commissioners to enforce that proclamation, so that's what we're doing."

[Commissioner Ron Richards noted that the security presence was not the result of random contract enforcement, but rather a direct result of Stoffer's requests and the subsequent email chain.]

*Mielke continued: "He [Commissioner Jim Stoffer] was one of multiple people who raised the issue that they felt things crossed the line. Other people did review the video. I will say that I reviewed it a couple of times, I came to a different conclusion the second time I reviewed it that then I did the first time. I know the Sheriff and some members of the Sheriff's office reviewed it. Commissioners reviewed it. And the **request to me was to work with the Sheriff to review our current policies** about how we were utilizing our contracted security services at times when the public was in the building. That was the request.*

But again, services were already under contract. I think the question is, 'When and how is the contract contemplated utilizing those services?' The contract states services will be available anytime the public is in the building... security is here to protect all of you. As well as the audience, and my staff. It's a public meeting.

This testimony is **contradicted** by the email chain, which shows Stoffer requested security, Ozias relayed that request, Mielke was directly involved, and Fisch confirmed the arrangement.

OPMA Concerns

The email chain shows that **security decisions were discussed and implemented outside of a properly noticed public meeting.**

- Commissioner Ozias (a County Commissioner) and Administrator Mielke engaged directly with Sheriff King and a private security contractor on behalf of the CRC.
- CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirmed new security arrangements to Commissioner Stoffer without informing or involving the full Commission.

This raises significant concerns:

- **Bypassing the full CRC** in making substantive decisions.
- **Failure to deliberate in a public meeting**, which is required under the Open Public Meetings Act.
- **Chair Fisch's role** appears to go beyond administrative coordination and enters into unilateral decision-making, which violates both the spirit and possibly the letter of OPMA.

Requested Action

I am asking the Executive Board to:

1. Add **"CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations"** as an agenda item for our next meeting.
2. Ensure that all commissioners have access to the Fehrmann public comment, the July 16–17 email chain, and Administrator Mielke's September 22 transcript in advance.
3. Provide time for a full and transparent Commission discussion on these issues.

Thank you,
Jeff Tozzer
Charter Review Commissioner

Below is an evidence packet prepared for discussion under the requested agenda item: **"CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations."**

It includes:

1. The July 14th public comment by Eric Fehrmann.
2. The July 16–17 email chain involving Commissioners Stoffer, Fisch, Ozias, Administrator Mielke, and Sheriff King.
3. A summary of contradictions and questions for the Commission to resolve.

Section 1: Public Comment (July 14, 2025)

Speaker: Eric Fehrmann

***Eric Fehrmann:** "The person's name is Jim Stoffer. That's who goes after people at a church and tries to get them kicked out of a volunteer role."*

***Commissioner Stoffer:** "Chair?" (interrupting)*

***Fehrmann:** "I'm not supposed to mention any names, is that right?" (referring to a proposed rule by Stoffer and Fisch to not allow public commenters to address commissioners individually)*

Fehrmann (continuing): “We went through that before. I’m saying it, and I’ve said it.”

Commissioner Stoffer: “Chair?” (again trying to interrupt)

Fehrmann: “I’m speaking right now, so you better tell him to shut up. It’s my turn at this microphone and I’ve got three minutes, and I’m gonna speak, and then he can say whatever he wants to. Don’t interrupt me again. You have run this meeting like—anyway. You say that you want to hear from the people. The people come up here, they give you 74 percent of them say, ‘No, they don’t want a water steward’—bam—you shove it through. You get another 74 percent, or whatever, that says they want to have meetings with the commissioners where they can talk to us and they come up here and say, ‘No, we can’t afford it. We can’t afford to pay the staff.’”

Fehrmann (continuing): “I tell you what, I’m going to volunteer right now. I will learn what this staff position is and I’ll take care of it for nothing. How’s that? If I need more people, I’ll get them. Because we get enough people in this county that can come up here and run it, where they don’t come out of their pocket, so there’s no excuse. You guys are a joke. There’s a few of you on here with some common sense, but you,” (pointing to Stoffer), “are just a rotten S.O.B. and I’m not gonna back off so now go ahead and spew some more crap.”

Chairwoman Fisch: “Mr. Fehrmann, that’s enough.”

Fehrmann: “I’m not the one who started swearing up here, it was one of your members,” referring to the two times Commissioner Paul Pickett had called another commissioner an asshole.

Section 2: Email Chain (July 16–17, 2025)

Summary Timeline

- **July 16** – CRC Commissioner Jim Stoffer emails the Executive Board requesting security, stating he will “take steps to protect myself.”
- **July 16** – County Commissioner Mark Ozias forwards Stoffer’s request to Sheriff King and Administrator Mielke, explicitly asking for security at CRC meetings.
- **July 17** – Sheriff King engages Security Services NW to provide security for CRC meetings.
- **July 17** – CRC Chair Susan Fisch replies to Stoffer confirming that security will be present “from this point forward.”

Full Email Texts:

From: Stoffer, Jim

To: Fisch, Susan; Hodgson, Mark; Noble, Chris

Cc: Stoffer, Jim

Subject: CRC Meeting Procedures

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 6:56:18 AM

Importance: High

Greetings Executive Board,

The Commission has experience several disruptions over the last several months during our Commission meetings. These disruptions have grown with toxic bullying harassing behavior, attacking several Commissioners with verbal threats. This is not ok, and I urge you to take action at protecting the meeting space and the proceedings.

We have no idea if some of these folks are not carrying a weapon of some sort. Each meeting is growing worse.

Recommendation:

1. We need security presence during our meetings.
2. Drop the 2nd Public Comment period from the agenda; it just opens the door to attacks and disruption.
3. When the disruption occurs, immediately call a recess, you can do that.

I will be taking steps to protect myself; but I urge you three as the elected Executive to take steps as well.

Thank You

Jim Stoffer

From: Ozias, Mark

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 2:13 PM

To: Mielke, Todd ; King, Brian

Cc: Fisch, Susan

Subject: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello Todd and Brian,

I would appreciate it if we could do what is necessary to ensure that a security officer can be present for all future meetings of the CRC. If this will require additional budgetary authority from the BOCC then I will work with you to advance the necessary process.

Thank you,

Mark Ozias

From: King, Brian

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:34 PM

To: Joe D'Amico

Subject: RE: Security Services for Clallam County Fair

Joe,

I now have an additional request from the BOCC to cover future Charter Review Commission Meetings. I still need to get those dates which are in the evenings.

Do you want me to work with Ken on that?

Brian J. King

From: Joe D'Amico

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:53 PM

To: King, Brian

Subject: RE: Security Services for Clallam County Fair

Sheriff,

Sounds good. You can send the dates and time to me for now.

This way, I can include operations, scheduling, and billing.

Thank you,

Joe

Respectfully,

Joe D'Amico, President

Security Services NW Inc.

From: Fisch, Susan

To: King, Brian; Ozias, Mark; Mielke, Todd

Cc: Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:13:44 PM

All:

Thank you for working on this so quickly.

Susan Fisch

From: "Fisch, Susan"

Date: 7/17/25 12:35 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Stoffer, Jim", "Hodgson, Mark", "Noble, Chris"

Subject: Re: CRC Meeting Procedures

All:

I have been copied on emails between Commissioner Ozias and Sheriff King about

security at CRC meetings. Sheriff King is working on this and sounds confident that Northwest Security Services will be present from this point forward.

Susan

From: Mielke, Todd

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:38 PM

To: King, Brian; Ozias, Mark

Cc: Fisch, Susan ; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Thank you, Brian.

I believe Security Services Northwest will need to be briefed about the nuances of differentiating between someone exercising their freedom of speech and when their messaging becomes threatening. If you get a chance, please review the video at the end of the most recent meeting and the comments/messaging by Eric Fehrmann. Several people have reviewed the video and believe this line was crossed...especially when considering the combination of shouting, swearing, calling out one of the commissioners by name, and gestures. The video would probably be a good reference in the discussion with Security Services Northwest. "Threatening a public official" is addressed in state statute and should probably be considered in preparation for attending these meetings.

Regards,

Todd

Todd Mielke

County Administrator

From: King, Brian

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:04 PM

To: Ozias, Mark ; Mielke, Todd

Cc: Fisch, Susan ; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello everyone,

I am in conversation with Security Services Northwest and have provided them the Charter Review Commission meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. While its not "finalized" I do think they will be able to make it happen.

Given current projections I believe the Sheriff's Office will be able to absorb these costs in jail underspend.

I will let you know once I get the final confirmation.

Brian J. King

From: Ozias, Mark

To: Mielke, Todd

Cc: King, Brian; Fisch, Susan; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:56:51 PM

Thank you Brian!

Mark O

From: Stoffer, Jim

To: Fisch, Susan; Hodgson, Mark; Noble, Chris

Cc: Stoffer, Jim

Subject: RE: CRC Meeting Procedures

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:08:54 PM

Thank you

Jim Stoffer

From: Mielke, Todd

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:43 PM

To: French, Mike; Johnson, Randy; Ozias, Mark; Cc: Gores, Loni; Boughton, Dee; Reno, Jay ; King, Brian

Subject: FW: Security at CRC Meetings

Hi everyone,

Commissioner Ozias forwarded this information (please see the link in his e-mail) to me and I thought it might be a worthwhile conversation to have given the amount of public testimony we receive at a variety of County meetings and the apparent increasing intensity of public comment at the Charter Review Commission meetings.

Please let me know if you would like me to explore this further, and if we should schedule this for a Work Session perhaps in August.

Thank you,

Todd

Todd Mielke

County Administrator

From: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:18 PM

To: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Todd, perhaps it would be helpful for us to establish some more formal rules:<https://mrsc.org/stay-informed/mrsc-insight/july-2020/when-1st-amendment-rights-public-meetings-clash>

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

From: Gores, Loni

To: Cc: Subject: Date: Mielke, Todd; French, Mike; Johnson, Randy; Ozias, Mark

Boughton, Dee; Reno, Jay; King, Brian

RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Monday, July 21, 2025 2:05:30 PM

Here is the link to the video. The comment started at 3:43:05 into the video.

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3116/media>

From: Johnson, Randy

To: Mielke, Todd

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 2:44:10 PM

As I stated earlier, I believe that we need security at the meetings due to instances like this.

Todd,

Randy

From: Mielke, Todd

To: Johnson, Randy

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 3:10:56 PM

Hi Randy,

In the last comments I received from the Sheriff, I believe the Sheriff's Office has now advised our security firm to be present at the CRC meetings. I'm expecting to see someone starting at the next meeting.

The link forwarded by Commissioner Ozias provides suggestions on how we can update County policy regarding “acceptable behavior” in public meetings. The MRSC information gives guidance on how to balance preserving a person’s right to free speech with maintaining order at meetings. It suggests including language to clarify prohibited ‘actions’, such as “raising your voice”, “yelling”, “aggressive gestures”, “singling out an individual” versus addressing your comments to the overall body, etc.

My question to the BOCC is whether you would like to have a discussion during a Work Session about updating County policy utilizing some of the suggestions and language presented by MRSC, including more specific language regarding acceptable versus unacceptable behavior/communication.

Thank you,

Todd

From: Mielke, Todd

To: Dennler, Bonnie

Subject: FW: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:56:24 AM

Attachments: image001.png

Good morning, Bonnie.

I’m forwarding this as an FYI. It would involve updating our county policy regarding public meetings, specifically addressing allowable behavior at public meetings by both the audience and participants. There’s a link in the e-mail from Commissioner Ozias that you might want to take a look at when you have time. It’s guidance that attempts to balance First Amendment rights with the ability to maintain decorum in meetings. It suggests specific language in the policy such as prohibiting certain ‘behaviors’ such as raising one’s voice, shouting, aggressive gestures, addressing the ‘body’ versus any individual, etc.

Commissioner Ozias appears to be suggesting that we update our policy and make it more specific.

I'm hoping to solicit input from the other two.

Regards,

Todd

Todd Mielke

From: Shore, Lorraine

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 8:56 AM

To: Mielke, Todd

Cc: King, Brian

Subject: Security request for Charter Review

Hi Todd,

Jim Stouffer 360-775-XXXX called and requested security at their Charter Review Commission meetings. He said he feels threatened by public commenters who have used profanity directed at him during the meetings. He feels Loni is in a poor position if a safety issue arises. I told him I would pass on his concerns to you as the BOCC would have to make the decision whether to provide security. He would like you to give him a call to discuss this. Let me know if there is anything you need from me.

Thank you,

Lorraine Shore, Undersheriff

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:14 PM

To: Biasell, Elizabeth <elizabeth.biasell@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: RE: Charter review meetings

Charter Review is held on the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m. The meetings have lasted between from 1 to 4 hours this year (so far).

The Charter Review Commission is authorized until December 31, 2025. The August 28 meeting was 58 minutes long. So, from 5:30-6:30. Here is the link for the recording for that meeting that shows the meeting was only 1 hour long NOT 2 hours.

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3119/media>

The August 11 meeting was 46 minutes long. Here is the link for that recording:

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3118/media> *So again it was only 1 hour long NOT 2.*

I'm not sure if they get paid for the time, they wait for the meeting to start or not (4:30-5:30 p.m.). I guess that is probably in their contract.

Section 3: Contradictions & Concerns

- The **emails** clearly show that security was requested by Commissioner Stoffer, forwarded by Commissioner Ozias, acted upon by Sheriff King, and confirmed by CRC Chair Fisch.
- Administrator Mielke's testimony denies this sequence, claiming security was present solely due to a standing contract.
- CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirmed the arrangement privately to Stoffer without bringing the matter before the full Commission.
- In addition to confirming new security arrangements outside of a public meeting, it appears Chair Susan Fisch may also be unilaterally removing the **second public comment period**, at Commissioner Stoffer's request. If true, this would be a second example of substantive decision-making without the knowledge or approval of the full Commission.
- Commissioners have no way of knowing when or why these changes are being made, because we are being cut out of the process entirely.

Potential Issues Identified:

- Administrator Mielke's testimony is contradicted by the written record.
- Chair Fisch's private confirmation to Stoffer indicates that CRC security arrangements were handled outside of a public meeting.
- This raises possible **violations of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)** and **our bylaws**, as substantive decisions were made without the knowledge or involvement of the full Commission.

This packet is submitted to ensure all commissioners have the same factual record before our discussion.

Respectfully,
Jeff Tozzer
Charter Review Commissioner

Resolution Cover Sheet

Please include this form with each resolution.

Name of District: Charter Review Commission

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

Date of Election: 2026 November Election

Contact Person/ Title: Loni Gores - Charter Review Commission Clerk

Contact Phone: 360-417-2256 Email: loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov

Attorney for District: Dee Boughton - Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney

Attorney Phone: 360-417-2720 Email: dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov

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



2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number 3

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2025

CLALLAM CO AUDITOR

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Requiring County Commissioner
District Town Hall Meetings

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

1. All county residents deserve meaningful opportunities to connect directly with their elected County Commissioners, to ask questions, raise concerns, and to stay informed about county decisions by having their questions responded to by their County Commissioner. Such a dialogue is essential to ensuring decisions reflect the needs and values of the people.
2. Holding town hall meetings outside of regular working hours would give people working regular working hours a better opportunity to participate in such town hall meetings.
3. Many counties in Washington and around the country already hold regular town hall meetings as part of good government practices.
4. The Clallam County Charter currently does not require County Commissioners to meet with the public in their Districts outside of regular Board meetings, which are typically held in Port Angeles. That leaves many residents, especially those residents in rural or outlying areas, feeling disconnected from their local government.
5. Creating a requirement that each County Commissioner conduct at least one town hall meeting per year in their County Commissioner District would help give all voters a fair and consistent opportunity to be heard, and to have their District County Commissioner respond to their questions.
6. Creating a requirement that all County Commissioners conduct at least one town hall meeting in each district would further help give voters a fair and consistent opportunity to be heard, and to have all County Commissioners respond to their questions.
7. These town hall meetings would strengthen trust in government, increase public participation, and lead to more responsive and thoughtful policymaking.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article II – Legislative and Executive Branches, a new Section 2.50, Commissioner District Town Hall Meetings, to read as follows:

Proposed Charter Amendment Requiring County Commissioner District Town Hall Meetings - 1

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

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 13 day of October, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Christy Holy
Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Voted no
Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

See attached
Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Voted no
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane
Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Abstain
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

See attached
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

See attached
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Mark S. Hodgson
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Excused
Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer
Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

See attached.
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

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 13 day of October, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Voted no
Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Jon Cameron
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane
Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

William R Fleck
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark S. Hodgson
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy
Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris
Patti Morris (Oct 15, 2025 20:57:11 PDT)
Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Voted no
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Abstain
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ronald N. Richards
Ronald N. Richards (Oct 14, 2025 08:46:12 PDT)
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Excused
Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer
Jeff Tozzer, District 4 Commissioner

Cathy Walde
Cathy Walde (Oct 21, 2025 15:46:13 PDT)
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Correspondences end page

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Ethics amendment

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board

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

1. The citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their elected officials.
2. The County Code includes a Code of Ethics applicable to all county personnel, including elected officials, but it includes no mechanism for the review of ethical concerns involving elected county officials.
3. The establishment of an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter, Article VIII – The Public Interest, Section 8.100, Ethics Review Board - Establishment and Purpose, be added to read as follows:

Section 8.100. Ethics Review Board — Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section 8.110. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, one from each of the county commissioner districts.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section 8.120. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- County Auditor
- County Treasurer

Draft Ethics Amendment – LG 10-31-25

- County Assessor
- County Director of the Department of Community Development

(b) The order of making appointments shall be determined by lot and each official will make one appointment in turn, repeating the order after each official has made an appointment to the Ethics Review Board.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 8.110.

~~(e) Any decision may be appealed subject to the rules established by the ethics board for an appeal.~~

Section 8.130. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

- ~~1. Determine the rules of procedure for receipt, review and appeal of complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics~~
- ~~1.2. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.~~
- ~~2.3. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction.~~
- ~~3.4. Conduct impartial reviews.~~
- ~~4.5. Issue written findings publicly upon completion of review.~~

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring after this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by a person or persons having first-hand knowledge of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

1. Have direct knowledge of the alleged conduct; and
2. Believe the charge or charges to be true and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section 8.140. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the

Draft Ethics Amendment – LG 10-31-25

county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

The 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Subsections 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.

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

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

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Land acquisition amendment

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.

Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Procedures for County Responses to Land Acquisitions by State and Federal Agencies - 2

Draft Lands Resolution – Richards – 10-23-252

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