

Kirke Sievers, Chair
Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller
Everett, WA 98201

July 26, 2006

The 2006 Charter review Commission has completed a thorough review and analysis of the Snohomish County Charter over the past seven months. Today we are transmitting to you a letter asking to submit five ballot propositions to the voters. In addition, as a part of the transmittal letter signed by all 15 commissioners we are asking that you take a careful look at several items the commission felt warranted possible code changes. We will also be sending a separate communication to you and Executive Reardon regarding a needed future charter amendment dealing with continuity of government in an emergency.

Here are a few highlights of our work;

We held 22 meetings including 5 outreach meetings in each county council district. Meetings were held in Mill Creek, Edmonds, Snohomish, and Arlington as well as Everett.

Each elected official in the county was invited to speak and the public was invited to comment at every meeting. The outreach meetings were solely for the purpose of gathering public comment.

We established a web site with access to an online survey. The survey questions were changed on a weekly basis as issues developed. All of our minutes and research materials were posted on the web site for maximum transparency. There were over 300 respondents to our surveys.

We maintained a large stakeholder electronic mailing list including; League of Women Voters, political parties, labor unions and the media.

Editorial columns, written by commissioners, were published throughout the county in weekly and daily newspapers; as well as having editorial boards with the daily papers.

As a result of our outreach and public comment 57 issues were brought forward for consideration. After our initial round of discussion the commission moved 14 issues forward for staff research and deliberation by the commission. The five ballot measures we are submitting are a result of careful consideration and spirited debate.

Our work has been an educational process that represents the value of our democratic process. We believe the results of this process will give the voters an opportunity to amend our charter in a way that makes our county government more accessible, effective and accountable.

In closing I would like to thank the county staff; in particular John Chelminiak, Peter Camp, and Kathy Bratcher for their time mentoring and patience as the process moved forward.

Sincerely

Mike Cooper; Chair
2006 Snohomish County Charter Review Commission