

**DRAFT
PROPOSITION 7**

**(Issue Nos. 48: Housekeeping Election Issues:
Charter Amendments Proposed by Public)**

A. Proposed Ballot Title:

The Snohomish County Charter Review Commission proposed amendments to the Snohomish County Charter concerning various elections provisions. This measure would amend certain election provisions to ensure compliance with recent changes in state law and would also clarify certain election procedures. Should this proposal be:

Approved.....

Rejected.....

B. Charter Amendments Required:

Section 4.10 Election Procedures

Except as provided in this article, primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of county officials.

Section 4.30 Qualifications — Limitations

Each county official holding an elective office shall be, at the time of appointment or election and at all times while holding office, a citizen of the United States over the age of twenty-one, a county resident for the three years immediately prior to filing for or appointment to office, and a registered voter of the county. No person shall be eligible to be elected to more than three consecutive full terms for any office. For the purposes of this section, different positions on the county council shall not be considered different offices.

Section 4.60 Districting Committee

Within thirty days after each federal decennial census data is received from the state redistricting commission or its successor, a five-member districting committee shall be appointed. The county council shall appoint four persons to the committee, two from each major political party from a list of five submitted by the party's central committee, the four to appoint the fifth who shall be chair. Members of the districting committee shall serve without salary but shall be compensated for reasonable-out-of-pocket expenses. The districting committee shall within thirty days of its appointment, meet and appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a redistricting plan. If the districting committee is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master within thirty days, the county council shall appoint a districting master.

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Deleted: nominating
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Deleted: Section 4.20 Independent Candidates ¶ On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate in a major political party primary, anyone qualified to assume office, if elected, may file a declaration of candidacy as an "Independent". ¶ Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall be placed on the primary ballot under the title "Independent". ¶ Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy for a county office as an independent shall not be a candidate for any political party in that primary or in the succeeding general election and shall pay the filing fee required for a declaration of candidacy for a major political party primary. ¶ The candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for independent candidates for an office shall be placed on the ballot at the ensuing general election under the heading "Independent"; provided, however, the candidate receives at least the percentage required by state law of the total vote cast for that office. ¶
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Section 4.70 Districting Plan

Within one month after appointment, the districting master shall draw a districting plan for the county which shall be submitted to the committee for adoption. Following public hearing at least one week in advance, the districting committee shall adopt the districting plan within thirty days as submitted or as amended by four affirmative votes of the committee members. Upon adoption, the plan shall be filed with the county council by the districting committee. No later than the first day of June following the receipt of the census data from the state, the county council shall adopt by ordinance a districting plan.

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Section 4.80 Vacancies

An elective office shall become vacant on the death, resignation or recall of the official or if he ceases being resident of Snohomish county or is absent from the county for thirty consecutive days without being excused by the council. The council shall fill a vacancy from a list of three people submitted by the county central committee of the party which the official in office immediately prior to the vacancy represented. In the event that the official in office immediately prior to the vacancy was a non-partisan candidate, the vacancy shall be filled by the council.

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Vacancies in elective office shall be filled at the next November general election, unless the vacancy occurs after the last day for filing declarations of candidacy, in which case the vacancy shall be filled at the next succeeding November general election. The person elected shall take office upon certification of the results of the election and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacated office. Until a successor has been elected and certified, a majority of the council shall fill the vacancy by appointment. All persons appointed to fill vacancies shall meet the qualifications for office set forth in this charter.

Section 8.70 Amendments by the Public

The public may propose amendments to the charter in accordance with this section. The petitioner shall first file the full text of the proposed amendment with the officer in charge of holding elections who shall give the proposed amendment a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the amendment, and shall transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten working days of the filing date, shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed fifty words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement which shall be the ballot title. The prosecuting attorney shall file the ballot title with the officer in charge of holding elections, who shall provide notice of the ballot title to the petitioner. The ballot title shall be subject to appeal in accordance with state law. Within fifteen working days after the ballot title is filed with the officer in charge of holding elections or, if the ballot title is appealed, within five working days after a final decision of the court, the officer in charge of holding elections shall confer with the petitioner to review and establish the form and style of the amendment petition as required by such officer.

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The petitioner shall have one hundred twenty days from the day after such officer confers with the petitioner as to form and style of the amendment petition to collect the signatures of the registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than twenty percent of the number of votes cast in the county in the last governor's election. Each

petition shall contain the warning clause prescribed by state law, the full text of the proposed amendment and the ballot title.

The officer in charge of holding elections shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if it is validated, submit the proposal to the people at the next general election being not less than **one hundred twenty** days from the submission of the petition for signature verification.