



Snohomish County Charter Review Commission

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: January 6, 2006
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Review of County Charter Begins

The Snohomish County Charter Review Commission will hold its first meeting the night of January 11th in Everett. The newly elected commission will meet for the first time at 6:30 p.m. in Public Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 on the first floor of the county's new Administration Building located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave. in Everett.

The first meeting of the commission will be convened by Mike Cooper, former legislator from the 21st legislative district. The county's charter, its governing document, calls for a review of the charter every ten years by an elected commission. It states that the meeting will be convened by the commissioner who receives the most votes in the election. One of the first orders of business for the commission will be to select a permanent chair.

The commission will meet, take public testimony, and make recommendations for any changes to the charter. Those changes must be approved by the voters. For any recommended changes to be on the November 2006 ballot, the commission will have to conclude its work by the beginning of August.

There have been two charter review commissions prior to this one. The first met in 1986 and recommended five changes to the charter and one was approved by the voters. The second met in 1996 and made eight recommendations to change the charter. Six were approved by the voters.

The Charter Review Commissioners are elected from within county council districts. The three who received the most votes in each district were elected. They are:

District One: Kim Halvorson, Gail Rauch, and Ryan Larsen.

District Two: David Simpson, Diane Symms, and Christine Malone.

District Three: Mike Cooper, Eric Earling, and Renee Radcliff Sinclair.

District Four: Mark Bond, Barbara Cothorn Hawksford, and Jim Kenny.

District Five: Kristin Kelly, Wendy Valentine, and Rick Ortiz.

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