

## King County Charter Review Commission

### 1.16.2019 - Timeline and Decision-Making Overview

#### **TIMELINE OVERVIEW:**

##### **January 2019:**

- Complete initial outreach
- Compile internal and external stakeholder concepts

##### **January 23-February 27, 2019:**

- Commission prioritizes and scopes potential charter amendment concepts into initial list for public feedback

##### **February 27-March 27, 2019:**

- Commission shares draft amendment concepts with public for comment
- Hold 3 public meetings in South, East, and North King County

##### **March 27-April 15, 2019:**

- Commission finalizes recommended charter amendments

##### **April 15, 2019-May 15, 2019:**

- Commission drafts, reviews and finalizes recommendation report that includes recommendations to be delivered to the County Council for consideration

##### **End of May 2019:**

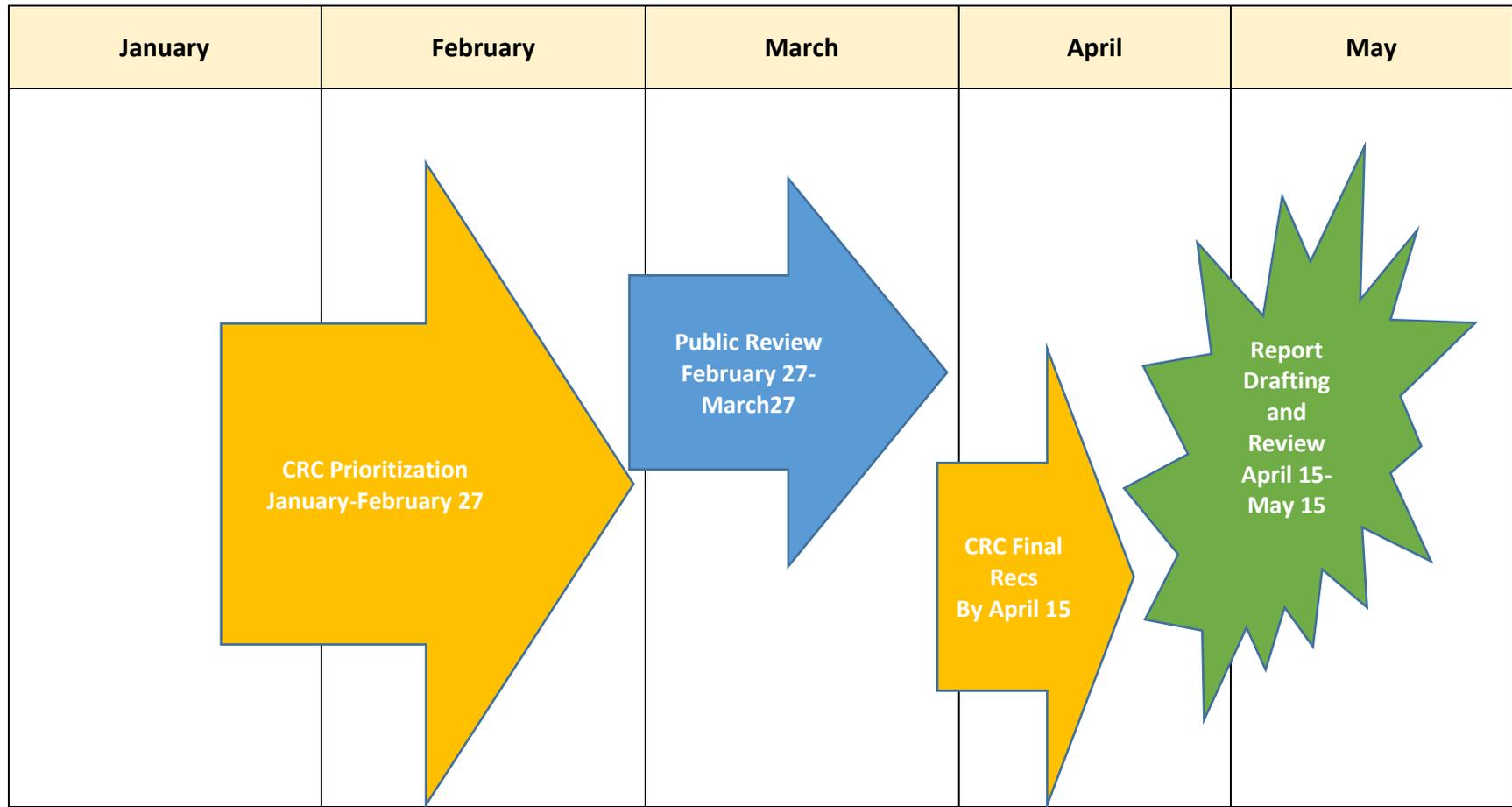
- Final report sent to County Council for consideration

#### **DECISION MAKING OVERVIEW:**

- At the 12.19.2018 meeting, Commissioners adopted a motion to adhere to the timeframe outlined above
- The Commission expressed interest in taking up or down votes on prioritizing or striking amendment concepts from the tracker in order to begin whittling down the list for public review
- Many Commissioners expressed interest in considering whether a potential amendment on the tracker would be best addressed through a charter amendment or through an ordinance as a method of decision-making
- The Commission agreed on prioritizing the amendment tracker by the end of the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting in order to begin public review in February 2019
- The Commission agreed to hold three public meetings over the month of February, 2019 to take their public review draft out to communities in South, North, and East King County

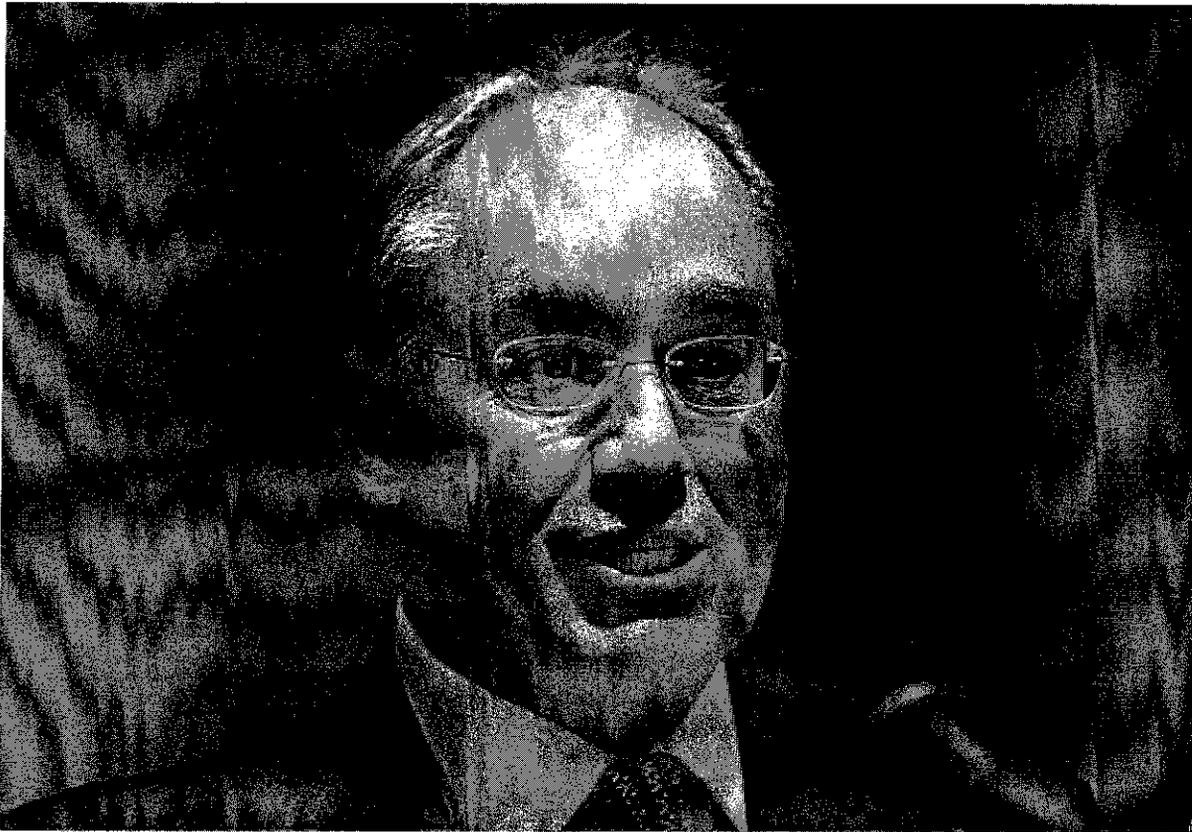
King County Charter Review Commission  
Recommendation Timeline  
DISCUSSION DRAFT 11.28.18  
Updated 1.16.19

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# ***Maine Republican Drops Challenge to State's New Vote System, Conceding House Race***

Representative Bruce Poliquin of Maine said he was dropping his legal challenge and conceding to his Democratic opponent, Jared Golden. Credit Robert F. Bukaty/Associated Press



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**By Kate Taylor**

- Dec. 24, 2018

Representative Bruce Poliquin of Maine, the only Republican House member from New England, said Monday that he was dropping his challenge to the state's ranked-choice voting law, conceding that he lost his seat to his Democratic opponent, Jared Golden.

His decision means that Mr. Poliquin, a two-term incumbent, was the first choice of the most voters on Election Day in Maine's heavily rural Second Congressional District but loses his race in the first federal general election decided by ranked-choice voting.

Under the system, voters can rank the candidates instead of just picking one. If no candidate gets a majority of the first-choice votes, the candidate who came in last is eliminated and those votes are redistributed to voters' second-choice candidates. The process keeps going until someone has a majority.

In Mr. Poliquin's race, there were two independent candidates, in addition to Mr. Poliquin and Mr. Golden. Although Mr. Poliquin led on Election Day, he did not receive a majority. When the two independent candidates were eliminated and their votes redistributed, Mr. Golden won by roughly 3,500 votes out of more than 280,000 originally cast.

The decision in Maine means Democrats picked up 40 seats in this year's House races with one, the disputed election in North Carolina's Ninth District, still to be decided.

A week after the election, even before all the ballots had been counted, Mr. Poliquin sued Maine's secretary of state, seeking to stop the vote count and challenging the constitutionality of Maine's system, which voters approved in ballot measures in 2016 and 2018.

After Mr. Golden was declared the winner based on unofficial results, Mr. Poliquin amended his lawsuit to demand either that the election be decided based only on the first-choice votes, or that the results be tossed out and the election held again. Mr. Poliquin was joined in the lawsuit by three other voters from the Second District.

On Dec. 13, a federal judge rejected Mr. Poliquin's arguments, saying that he failed to see how the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights were violated by the ranked-choice system and that, Maine voters having approved the system, he was not empowered "to second guess the considered judgment of the polity on the basis of the tautological observation that RCV may suffer from problems, as all voting systems do."

It had been unclear whether Mr. Poliquin would appeal the judge's decision until Monday, when he said on Twitter that he was throwing in the towel.

Mr. Poliquin wrote that he had been contacted by hundreds of Maine voters who expressed "grave concerns" about the ranked-choice system, which he described as a "black box computer algorithm." But he added that he had concluded that "it's in the best interest of my constituents and all Maine citizens to close this confusing and unfair chapter of voting history by ending any further legal proceedings."

"Although we may disagree on the issues, I wish Jared Golden personally the best during the coming term," he wrote.

A version of this article appears in print on Dec. 24, 2018, on Page A16 of the New York edition with the headline: Maine Republican Concedes, Ending Voting Law Dispute. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)