

## RESPONSES TO ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

	Views	Responses
Vietnamese	12	0
Ukrainian	8	0
Somali	11	0
Russian	10	0
Arabic	13	0
Amharic	12	0
Korean	14	0
Traditional Chinese	12	0
Spanish	11	0
English	198	21

### Question 1: Change to Government Structure

Increase the income limit for the senior exemption to property taxes.
Unincorporated area residents are not heard.
Public comments are ignored by the KC Council.
Solid waste should be restructured to include wastewater, recycling and garbage
Emphasis should be placed on providing higher quality services without higher taxes
More votes for the rural area.
More emphasis on first responders and infrastructure
Less emphasis on programs enabling drug use
More funding to clean up homeless encampments.
More security in parks.
Infrastructure before progression.
Recognize and obey federal law.
Increase council back to 13 due to population increases.
Police and Fire response.
Cap property taxes when owner reaches 65.
Have 5 councilmembers appointed by region (one from Seattle, one from eastside, etc.)
Prohibit hiring of campaign staff as county staffers.
Better management of public defense.
Drive leadership for taxes for homelessness services.
Should be a county-city liaison position.
Should be 5 part-time councilmembers who hire a county manager. No elected positions beyond that.

### Question 2: Adequate Checks and Balances

Seniors need property tax relief now
KC Councilmembers should have to recuse themselves from any decision involving a firm or company that has made a campaign contribution
King County departments should not be allowed to issue permits to other departments.
County cares more about special interest than citizens.
Rural areas are dominated by the Seattle liberals.
Seattle makes all the decision.
County isn't responsive to citizens being fed up with homelessness and encampments

## RESPONSES TO ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

When contacting the county you don't get responses
The County should have an information channel like a mailer to tell people what's going on
Seattle has too much control.
Council shouldn't have voted to rescind the head tax.
Town halls are antiquated. Do more digital and electronic outreach.

<b>Question 3: Transparency and Accountability</b>
Where do my property tax dollars go? Crisis for Seniors.
King County departments often police themselves. Example. Solid waste doing its own testing of cedar hills.
Taxes are added for things I do not believe help the county.
Listen to the people in the rural area more.
Mayor of Seattle decides and KC blindly follows.
Should be an audit of how corporate interests influence policy.

<b>Question 4: Efficiency in Government Services</b>
Property taxes are too high. What do I receive for this outrageous amount?
Recycling should be improved.
Unincorporated area is the "stepchild" of KC residents
Have senior centers use donated food.
Have fewer employees on a roads job.
Outsource more work to the private sector.
More financial responsibility through outcomes based services.
More mental health screenings.
Decrease policy and fire response times.
Enforce laws better.
KC should provide a more holistic approach to addressing homelessness.
County should contract with nearby cities for services. Give the extra money to the cities.

<b>Question 5: Additional Feedback</b>
Lower income criteria for senior exemption.
KC constantly puts corporations over the ESJ principles.
KC Council should have to
Section 840 should be amended to state that all county services are provided with non-discrimination
Have fewer councilmembers from Seattle and more from rural areas.
Reduce burdens on small businesses.
Split KC up.

# KING COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW

## BRIEF OVERVIEW

Thank you for joining us today and for participating in the charter review process.

### What is a Charter and why does it need to be reviewed?

Under Washington State law, counties are allowed to become “Home Rule” by enacting a charter which sets forth how the government should be structured and run.

A “charter” is similar to a “constitution” for local governments. The King County Charter was first adopted in 1970.

Every 10 years, the charter requires a “Charter Review Commission” to review the charter and recommended changes. The Commission is an independent body, appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council.

## How can I provide input?

**At this meeting:** At this meeting you can address the Charter Review Commissioners directly on areas of interest. Each person testifying will be given two minutes to address the Commission.

**Online:** Read more about the King County Charter and join our **online town hall** at: <http://bit.ly/kcharter>



**King County**

## AREAS CURRENTLY UNDER CRC CONSIDERATION

1

### Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement

The County has a civilian-led Office of Law Enforcement Oversight with the ability to investigate and report on certain events and areas of the operation of the King County Sheriff’s Office. Should the official powers of the office, as described in the charter, be expanded to include subpoena power and/or other improvements to give the office more ability to investigate and report?

2

### Which County Officials Should be Elected?

The County has a number of positions that are elected positions, meaning the public directly chooses the person to fulfill the role. Should these positions continue to be separately elected or should an official be chosen through a more traditional job application process?

3

### Public Financing of Campaigns

Mounting a successful campaign for office can sometimes be an expensive undertaking. Currently candidates must raise all campaign funds themselves. Should the County have some form of public financing of campaigns for County Council or other County elective offices?

4

### Surplus Land for Housing

The County holds a large number of properties throughout the County. Typically, when those properties are no longer needed, they are sold to the highest bidder. Should the County consider selling property for less than fair market value when the law allows and the purchaser commits to using the property to build affordable housing?

5

### Representation of the Deceased Family in Inquests

In King County, when a member of law enforcement is involved in a fatality, a process called an inquest is held. This process operates similar to a trial, but the goal is to establish facts, not innocence or guilt. The families are provided with legal representation according to county code, but that is not a right established in the County Charter. Should this guarantee be elected to the County Charter?

6

### Ranked Choice Voting

Currently all county elections are decided by the use of a primary election to narrow candidates down to two that then face each other in the general election. Ranked Choice Voting is a method for selecting the winner of an election based upon the ranked preferences of the voter. Voters in ranked choice elections are asked to rank their candidates from top to bottom instead of just choosing one. The lowest vote getting candidates are then eliminated and second choices are used until a candidate has a majority.

7

### Size of the County Council

Currently the County Council has nine members. The size of the Council was reduced from thirteen down to nine in 2005. The population of the County has grown significantly since then. Should the Council be increased in size? Reduce in size? Should at large members be added?

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