

# KING COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW

*The Charter governs our County and is reviewed every 10 years.*



*The Charter Review Commission wants to hear from you about the changes it is considering!*



**IN PERSON:** Participate in one of four Town Hall meetings across the County: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/charter-review-commission.aspx>



**ONLINE:** Provide feedback by emailing us at [CharterReview@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CharterReview@kingcounty.gov) or visit the charter review website at [kingcounty.gov/independent/charter-review-commission](https://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/charter-review-commission)

## WHAT IS A CHARTER AND WHY DOES IT NEED TO BE REVIEWED?

Under Washington State law, counties can 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 1969.

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

## WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED?

- Removal process for **elected officials**
- Strengthening rights to **inquests**
- Adding to current **antidiscrimination language**
- Reestablishing the **County Sheriff** as an appointed position

*(See reverse side for more)*



**King County**

For questions and comments, contact [CharterReview@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CharterReview@kingcounty.gov)

# PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS INCLUDE



## INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS

Technical changes related to aligning the timelines in the Charter with changes in State election law, plus other clarifications to the process.



## OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT (OLEO)

Provide OLEO with subpoena power as one way to make sure OLEO can effectively carry out the mandates of the office.



## ADDITION OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CAREER SERVICE

Clarify which senior leadership positions are exempt from the career service system.



## REMOVAL PROCESS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Provide a process to remove elected officials that includes defining the standard of misconduct for removal, as well as the hearing process and voting procedures.



## COUNTY SHERIFF AS AN APPOINTED POSITION

Reestablish the Sheriff as an appointed position and promote integrity, impartiality, and professionalism by removing politics from the office of the Sheriff.



## ANTIDISCRIMINATION LANGUAGE

Specify non-discrimination on account of status as a family caregiver and honorably discharged veteran or military status.



## INQUESTS

Guarantee the right to counsel to families of the decedent when going through inquest process and clarify that an inquest should be done in the cases where a decedent has died in County custody.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING LANGUAGE

Eliminate the existing language that prohibits the sale of publicly owned land for less than market value. In 2018, WA state law changed to allow local governments to sell publicly owned land for less than market value for affordable housing purposes.



## TECHNICAL CHANGES

Updates language to resolve grammatical errors, be gender inclusive, and other non substantive amendments.

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