

Part 2

Sec. 2

SEP 12 1958

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

2177

**A KOMO News
Northwest Feature
By BRIAN JOHNSON**

The voters of King county will have their opportunity to vote on a charter this November 5th. It is not a new charter. It will be the first charter King County has ever had.

The State of Washington has never cut the umbilical cord as far as its 39 "children" are concerned. The state has adopted the philosophy of mother knows best, and the counties have been placed in the position of running to Olympia to get permission to tackle each of the new problems which seem to multiply daily.

Washington's constitution, in short, provides that the state is the repository of all powers. The Legislature can grant to the counties those rights and powers which in its judgment it feels the counties should have.

The problem this philosophy has created is partly financial. The revenue system for the counties was established by the State Legislature. A certain portion of the property tax revenue was set aside for the counties, and certain duties were spelled out which could be met within the financial limitations imposed. With each passing year the local problems have multiplied and new duties have been assigned to the counties, while the funds for providing the services have not been forthcoming.

The second problem created is an outgrowth of the financial squeeze. If the counties are assigned duties by the Legislature without additional funds, then existing services have to be restricted. The counties cannot assign higher priority to local matters they feel warrant immediate action.

The paternalism of the State of Washington has created a number of restless counties. The 21st Amendment to the State Constitution provides one solution. Home rule.

Home rule is basically an extension of the federal system. The U. S. Constitution reserves certain rights and duties to the federal government, and the rest are open to the states. Home rule for the counties would accomplish the same thing at the

local level. Counties would have the power to pursue all avenues of endeavor not reserved by the state or the federal government.

To achieve this home rule the counties must draft a charter. This requires that the counties put their own house in order before assuming self-government.

The charter to be placed before the voters this November attempts to make the commission more representative of the people — by enlarging the county board from three to nine and instituting the ward system of representation.

It attempts to balance powers by establishing an elected executive, rather than placing all powers in three men.

It attempts to give the people a voice by establishing an office of citizen complaints and the powers of referendum and initiative. And it attempts to eliminate the idea that the county is the home of political power and patronage by establishing a merit system and by making many county offices appointive rather than elective.

The charter speaks to many of the significant weak points of what Commissioner John Spellman has referred to as a Horse and Buggy, archaic system of county government.

But there is a major problem left unresolved. If the county government is restructured and made more responsive to the will of the people, how has this resolved the financial problems?

It is possible that efficiencies in the new county government will create some surplus. But if the new revitalized county government is to assert itself, obviously there will be a need for more operating capital. Should the county voters support the charter and call for streamlined, modernized and more innovated county government, the problem will be a real one.

The fifteen citizens of King County who drafted the charter have made an important contribution. The Legislature cannot consider itself off the hook because the people want home rule. And home rule will be hollow unless the county is given adequate state financial support, or the ability to levy taxes on the local level.

Seattle, Wash.
Shopping News
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

SEP 9 1968

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Now The Charter Must Be 'Sold'

A new charter is ready for King County ... but is King County — and more specifically its voters — ready for a new charter?

We sincerely hope the voters of the county will demonstrate their readiness when balloting day rolls around November 5.

The 15 elected members of the Board of King County Freeholders have accomplished a minimiracle in bringing forth a charter proposal upon which all could substantially agree. At least the agreement was such that there was no necessity for a minority report.

The charter isn't a perfect document, and the freeholders who drafted it probably would be the first to agree. Nonetheless, it is a consensus document hammered out in the best traditions of crucible democracy.

The freeholders, we believe, have created a good product. They still, however, have their work cut out for them. The freeholders are about to set forth to "sell" their product to the community at large.

That may take a considerable amount of salesmanship.

The long months of charter preparation — and there are some radical departures in it — produced no civic uproar in connection with what should be included in the document and what should be left out. The freeholders have worked in the spotlight of the news media. Their deliberations and decisions have been reported with frequency and at length.

The last time an effort was made to give King County a modern charter — some 17 years ago — it fell before a determined campaign by some in government who saw their interest imperiled.

This time, apathy may be the charter's biggest enemy. There is fear that the mass of voters will not trouble themselves sufficiently to learn about the charter and what it

Freeholders Complete New Charter

King County Freeholders have completed a proposed charter for the county's government and were scheduled to present it to the County Commissioners today for placement on the Nov. 5 ballot. A simple majority of voters would make it law.

The proposed charter, designed to modernize the structure of King County government, was approved by the 15 bipartisan elected Freeholders unanimously — an act few thought was possible with a document which could have been loaded with political controversy.

The relatively brief charter (46 pages) would make sweeping changes in the county's government, including the election of a strong county executive, council of nine members (nominated and elected in their own districts on either a partisan or an independent basis), with most other county offices appointive. Exceptions would be the county prosecutor, judges, county school superintendent, and assessor, who would continue to be elected.

SEP 11 1938

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Chamber Manager Altman Resigns; Ed Munro Visits

White Center Chamber of Commerce President Bob Carley announced at yesterday morning's meeting that Chamber Manager Les Altman has submitted a letter of resignation, effective the end of September. After a short discussion, it was moved and passed with regret that the resignation be accepted.

The Chamber also decided to delay hiring another manager for the time being while assessing the financial situation of the body.

Altman later said he expected to become distribution manager of The NEWS on October 1.

Earlier, King County Commissioner Ed Munro discussed several matters with the Chamber, including the delayed widening of S.W. Roxbury Street, the proposed county charter and the proposed multi-purpose stadium's location in downtown Seattle.

Munro had little he could add on the Roxbury situation, stating, "As I pointed out the last time I was here, we (King County) are ready to go as soon as the city is."

He indicated several factors that have contributed to the slow construction start, including the inherent coordinating relays caused when more than one governmental body is involved in a project; the seeking of Urban Arterial funds, and a cost figure that has been revised upward.

Commenting on the charter proposed by King County Freeholders, he said that, under it the commissioners would vanish into thin air, "and that's good."

Under a charter type of government, Munro explained that King County would get new governing powers — explaining that today it doesn't even have

his full support overall because it contained provisions allowing for easy amendments.

"It still doesn't make any sense to me," Munro said in reference to the designation of a Seattle Center site for the proposed county stadium.

After hiring consultants who indicated that either of the two south sites were most satisfactory, Munro said that it was nonsense to propose spending 15 to 20 million dollars more to make a downtown site equal to the south sites. He said that his stand for a south site had nothing to do with "south vs. central" and that if the central site stands, "the taxpayers still have to pay for it."

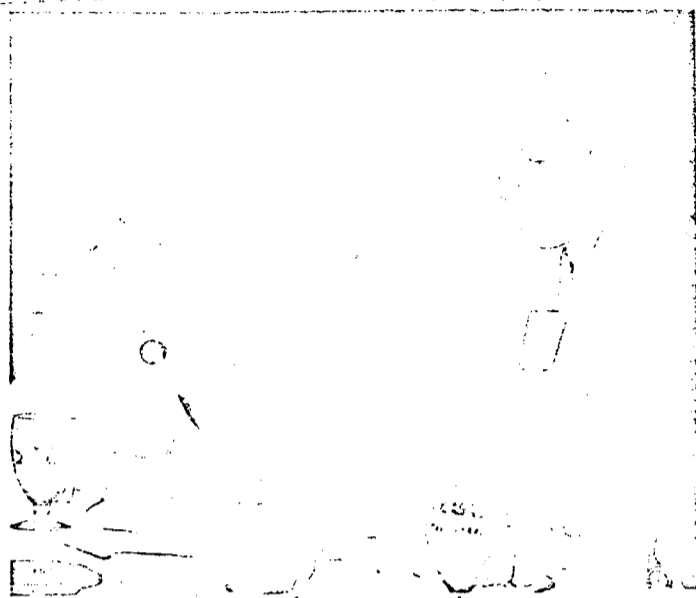
Munro said that the extra cost would have to be paid by the public — through raising the B&O tax, the cost of admissions and so forth, and regardless of anything else, a

stadium in the Seattle Center area would compound an already acute traffic problem.

Finally, Munro said that getting the stadium downtown is merely another attempt to revive the core city of Seattle and he might yet be able to kill it; "All I need is one vote!"

President Bob Carley reminded the Chamber that the area bus committee would meet next Monday evening at the High Point Community Church to hear from the Transit Commission. Then he asked Munro about the possibility of getting improved public transportation in the county areas.

Munro replied that county transportation is under control of the state, but indicated that approval of the proposed charter might give the county some power over its mass transportation problems.



Ex plain Proposal

A team of three freeholders, Mrs. Virginia Gunby, James Curran and Richard Albrecht, explained the main points in the proposed King County charter at a meeting sponsored by League of Women Voters Wednesday in Kent.

Home Rule Charter Offers Efficiency, Team Tells LWV

Changes offered in the proposed King County Home Rule Charter for a more efficient method of handling the county's \$20 million business were reviewed by three freeholders at an informational meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters Wednesday at Meeker's Landing in Kent.

The meeting, the first joint session ever sponsored by Renton, South King County and Highline leagues, featured brief talks by three of the 15 freeholders who adopted the proposed charter in September, unanimously recommending its adoption by the voters Nov. 5.

The three — Richard Albrecht, chairman; Virginia Gunby, secretary, and James Curran — also answered questions posed by league members, and political reporters, Virginia Burnside of Auburn Globe-News, Kent News-Journal and Renton Record-Chronicler; Marcia Blue of Highline Times and Ray Kelley of Federal Way News.

Commissioners Hamstrung

Curran, former Kent councilman, pointed out county government has been hamstrung by three commissioners acting both as a legislative body, and as executive or administrative.

"It's one of the reasons the county government has been unable to cope with the tremendous expansion and problems we have in this county and one of the reasons freeholders propose a single chief executive," he said. The legislative body of nine councilmen will be the policy-making, policy-formulating body of the county.

"One of the major complaints we got at hearings was the feeling of people that they were not being properly represented," Curran noted. "Consequently, the nine councilmen, the nine separate districts, each represented by a councilman who is full time and adequately paid for the service he's going to render."

"We've eliminated substantially all commissions. We expect the legislative body to perform the functions that need to be performed that were performed by commissions.

"We hope this council will have time to participate in and formulate and aid in the long-range solution to the problems of this county. We are not solving that by charter, but we hope that by getting this quality form of government we will have people who will aid ultimately in solving our problems and eliminating the many forms of government in this county."

Compromise Document

Albrecht urged his listeners to keep in mind the proposed charter is a compromise

personnel system and gathering information for proposed budgets, he said.

"We have established a department of judicial administration, which basically would perform the functions now performed by the superior court clerk with the head of this department appointed from a list of three submitted by superior court judges."

Smooth Transition

The transitory section of the charter provides a basic organization for carrying out the business of the county during the first two years of the charter, Albrecht said, and Mrs. Gundy emphasized the section is "like a two-stage rocket," with the initial thrust separated from the main body of the charter in May of 1971, leaving only the basic document.

Albrecht pointed out the charter provides basic guidelines for the hiring, firing, promotion and demotion of employees based upon merit and performance, leaving the rest to rules adopted later by ordinance. These rules guarantee a right of appeal before a five-member board, including one member elected by the employees themselves.

People Important

"A concern for the people is interwoven into the fabric of all parts of the charter," Mrs. Gunby said.

Significant provisions to protect the public's interest include a fiscal watchdog to report on the operations of the chief executive, a complaint office, a conflict-of-interest ordinance, more detailed disclosure of campaign expenses, a clause for limited political activity, an anti-discriminatory section, and increased opportunity for non-partisan type participation in county government.

"If the independent candidate who files for office receives at least 20 per cent of the votes cast in the primaries, the one receiving the plurality of the majority, as the case may be, the independent nominee's name will be placed on the general election ballot," Mrs. Gundy said.

"The charter reserves the right for initiative and referendum to the people and the provisions are more valuable because of their availability. For the first time the people in any county in Washington will have this alternative available to them to protect against undesirable legislation and also to allow citizens to prepare their own legislation if they so wish. Referendum of an ordinance to the voters may be petitioned by eight per cent and an initiative by 10 per cent of those voting in the preceding election for the county executive."

Needs Public Help

With little fanfare, Washington State's Constitutional Revision Commission has been pumping along throughout the summer in an effort to come up with a document that could be the basis for much-needed modernization in government.

Gov. Dan Evans appointed the 18-member commission last May. He asked the commission to offer recommendations to him by November 15. These recommendations the governor could either put before the Legislature which convenes in January or have them available when, as and if a constitutional convention is called.

So far, the governor-appointed commission headed by Dr. C. Clement French, retired president of Washington State University has spent most of its effort mulling proposals to revamp the executive branch of government.

Reports indicate — not surprisingly — that commissioners have taken a position which greatly strengthens the office and power of the governor.

The tentative draft for the executive branch reportedly recommends elimination of all elective state officers . . . except the governor. Under this arrangement, the Legislature would have broad power to detail the type of administrative arrangement the governor would head. With another swing of the pendulum, the tentative proposal would give the governor authority to change the administrative setup — subject, however, to a veto by a majority of both houses of the Legislature.

The presumption is, apparently, that the department heads would be appointed by the governor under this arrangement and be confirmed by the Senate. It was reported, additionally, that the commission hadn't so far spelled out the appointment procedure in detail, partly on the theory that the way should be left open for the Legislature to create additional elective posts if such were deemed necessary.

The Constitutional Revision Commission so far hasn't held any public hearings. Dr. French said the commission probably will hold such hearings at the time it undertakes to spell out the part of a constitution dealing with taxes.

We would like to suggest that the commission ought to back up a bit and schedule some public hearings to get the widest possible range of views on how the executive department could best be set up.

The group wrestling with changes for the state constitution might well take a leaf from the book of the King County Board of Freeholders. The freeholders — elected rather than appointed — scheduled numerous public hearings and public meetings throughout the county in an attempt to gather all divergent views of what a new King County charter should be.

The freeholders got those views . . . and they recently came up with a charter

SEP 13 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

30 years too late

New Charter Is Outdated For Present-Day Needs

2177
The County Freeholders have completed their work and have unanimously adopted a new charter for King County. It will be on the November ballot for voters' approval.

The Freeholders spent many long hours drafting the new document and have, from first glance, developed a charter which will strengthen country government. It creates a strong executive department, gives better representation, and separates the executive/legislative functions. The Freeholders should be thanked for all the time and labor they have spent preparing the document.

as
I
see it
Philip
Bailey

The only thing wrong is that such an approach to metropolitan government is already outdated. While King County voters are passing on this measure, voters in Oregon will be voting on a constitutional amendment which will lead to the consolidation of the governments of Portland and Multnomah County.

Oregon voters are expected to approve the amend-

Continued on Page 4

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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Freeholders favor council from gov't.

The Snohomish County Board of Freeholders, at their meeting Wednesday, September 4, again interviewed attorneys seeking a legal adviser position in their charter construction.

At the business meeting, the subjects taken up were taken from the agenda. The first was the size of the council, and it was decided that due to present growth of the county, five councilmen would not be inadequate. The council made a firm vote for seven councilmen.

The Freeholders also separated the legislative from administrative by voting to have an executive department headed by a chief executor, who will be elected.

A GIRL was born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis Hawkins of 11700 36th Dr., N. E. Marysville, August 13, at Providence Hospital in Everett.

A GIRL was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole of 1614 1th St., Marysville, August 13, at Everett General Hospital.

ment by a large majority, and the Portland Metropolitan Study Commission is drafting enabling legislation which would allow consolidation of the two entities. I would think that Portland and Multnomah County are headed in the right direction. We are asked to approve a charter which cannot meet the needs of the coming years.

It seems nearly incomprehensible that we should saddle ourselves with a new county charter at this time, when every metropolitan need cries out for an area solution. Law and order is the tocsin now being sounded by all, but here we have a police department and a sheriff's office both working expensively and often at cross purposes. Taxes now are sliced up between cities and the county, often in a hodge podge manner. The question of highways and roads, to say nothing of rapid transit, can certainly only be solved on a county-wide or larger area. There is duplication in the school system, health, and engineering departments, to say nothing of planning, parks and recreation, and in the executive and legislative functions of the two present governments.

It is hard to oppose the proposed charter, for it will hopefully give us a better county government. But if it is the wrong approach to modern needs, it might be better to reject it, and work towards a modern, streamlined, consolidated government.

If Portland and Multnomah are ready, we are too. ✓

Allen & _____

2/17/77

Question About That Charter 2/17/77

Presumably the proposed New King County Charter will be debated exhaustively before it is put to a vote. There are a number of points to be at issue.

For instance, Richard Albrecht, Freeholders chairman, has been quoted as follows:

"It (the Charter) will provide better administration for the county, with executive functions of the executive officer separated from legislative functions of the council." (The proposal is to elect an executive, as well as members of a nine-place council.)

It appears to us that such a system will insure that both proposed executive and council members will at all times be deeply involved in politics. There will be continuous struggle to "control" the council, also to insure that the executive acts sympathetically to the controlling council members.

Further, there is nothing in latter day Congress, State Legislature or City Council experience to indicate that such a council will mind simply its legislative chores. Rather, all signs indicate it would interfere with, if not actually direct, administration, and perhaps unduly influence executive actions.

We hope a way will be found completely to bar county councilmen from any but legislative activity. They should have to do with policy, nothing more. ✓

-Shoreline Concurs

2177. Municipal League Endorses Charter

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, today welcomed the Municipal League's endorsement of the proposed county charter.

CODE-S, Shoreline Community Council also voted its support for the charter which will be on the November 5 general-election ballot.

The Municipal League's board of trustees voted unanimously Monday to endorse the home-rule charter and to actively support its passage.

"THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE commends the freeholders for the task they have performed," the trustees' resolution said.

Albrecht said, "I take it as recognition on their part that they see the charter as an improvement over our present form of county government."

The proposed charter is different in two main areas from what the league had recommended. The league had recommended appointment of the county assessor and

nomination by district, but election county-wide, of county councilmen.

Besides the chief executive and nine councilmen, only the assessor would be elected under the charter. The charter also calls for election of councilmen from districts.

DESPITE THIS, a league spokesman said, the league felt the charter is a definite improvement over the present form of county government.

The league had not taken a position on whether county

government should be partisan or non partisan and whether the chief executive should be elected or appointed. County government would remain partisan under the charter.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the league's county government committee, told the trustees the league has been interested in a change in county-government structure since 1944. The league was active in the constitutional amendment of 1948 that allowed counties to draft home-rule charters.

2177 Charter Officially Makes November Ballot List

Each commissioner praised the freeholders for a job well done in drafting the King County Charter, a document designed to modernize county government, as they approve the home-rule charter for the November ballot Monday.

It's up to the voters now, but for six months the charter was in the hands of the Board of County Freeholders, who worked long hours studying the present system and drafting an outline "that will provide hope for the 20th Century," freeholder chairman Richard Albrecht said in presenting the charter to the commissioners.

All 15 freeholders have signed the charter. The "home-rule" provision lies open to voters Nov. 5.

South District Commissioner Ed Munro offered commendation on a difficult task well done. He realized compromise was necessary on the part of the freeholders. "I do not agree with all parts of the charter, and I doubt if any of you would have written it exactly as it is."

Albrecht, with seven other freeholders present for the formal presentation of the charter, referred back to December when the board had first met with the commissioners. "At

that time we didn't know what the contents of the charter would be... but we did have the goal of submitting our work this year."

"We organized the freeholders," he said, "... then learned about the present system, sought out the problems of other counties and conferred with experts across the nation." "Each freeholder was informed; then the deliberation began."

After the first draft was completed the freeholders sought the advice of King County citizens at hearings. Many sessions followed as the charter was pulled into final shape.

The freeholders unanimously approved the charter last week.

Albrecht said King County people are ready for Home Rule, whereby they can have charge of their own government.

The charter generally provides for a system of checks and balances between an elected executive and a board of nine councilmen, elected by district. The executive has a veto power.

The full-time councilmen will receive \$18,000 per year. The executive's salary will not go over \$27,000. A redistricting provision of the charter requires redistricting of the nine

council units every five years according to population.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office, only indirectly affected by the charter since it is a direct agent of the state, and the assessor, judges and the superintendent of schools remain elective offices under the charter.

Other business carried out by the commissioners Monday:

Set a hearing for the proposed County Traffic Code for Oct. 7.

Set an appeal hearing Nov. 21 for a Riverton Heights developer seeking reversal of a recent Planning Commission decision refusing a maximum density apartment rezone. A \$5 million apartment complex is proposed for the property.

The nine acre site at 42nd S. and 4th Ave. S., between S. 136th (if extended) and S. 138th was qualified by the commission as not meeting County Comprehensive Plan criteria for the maximum density zoning. The owners will attempt to show how the development does fall within county standards.

Accepted the valuation certificate reflecting that the assessed valuation of property in King County, as of Dec. 31, was \$2,015,124,666.

A CHARTER FOR KING COUNTY

How Executive Would Be The Mayor' County Government Needs—Albrecht

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the board of Freeholders, in answering questions from the press last week regarding the executive post created by the proposed Charter for King County, said: "Yes, the executive would be the mayor of the county." But instead of an autonomous, he continued, "I would refer to the post as one with sufficient authority and responsibility so the elected

executive can run on his own." He must have the influence to direct the mounting complexities of the county toward effective government. Studies done on home-rule counties in the country during the six-month preparation of the charter revealed that a strong executive is usually included in the government form. Albrecht, along with free-

holders Virginia Gunby and James Curran, was speaking in a room full of League of Women Voters members from south county groups at Meeker's Land Inn, Renton, Wednesday. The luncheon meeting, with a two-hour charter program, was the first time the Highline, South County and Kenton Leagues had met jointly.

Three members of the press from south county publications quizzed the freeholders in a half-hour session. The questions did not, however, seem geared to pick the document apart in the "Meet the Press" fashion. In the words of Virginia Burridge, county reporter for Fourrier's Valley newspaper, "It's hard to pick apart something of which you're in favor."

Other members of the press were Ray Kelley, managing editor of Des Moines and Federal Way weeklies and Maria Blue, county reporter for Associated Weeklies papers.

During the meeting many phases of the charter were explained. The Freeholders finished the document at the beginning of the month, and the County Commissioners adopted it September 9 for inclusion on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Albrecht urged the audience of 100 women: remember the nature of the board of Freeholders when you read the charter and come to the sections you don't agree with. Group-misses were made on many points by the 15 freeholders, who represent many political views.

But in Mrs. Gunby's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that's what the charter is all about."

Checks and Balances The new charter would establish executive and legislative branches of King County government to replace the quasi-administrative-legislative-judicial function of the present three county commissioners. The charter includes a system of checks and balances. The head of the Department of Judicial Administration, the superior court clerk, will be chosen by the county executive from three names submitted by a majority of the Superior Court judges. "This," said Albrecht, "is an illustration of the 'separation of powers' in the system. He [the executive] would be to furnish services to other departments of the government. The executive appoints

County charter ready for vote

After nine months of intensive work, the board of King County Freeholders developed a proposed county charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 Freeholders September 6.

The proposed charter was submitted September 9 to the King County Commissioners who placed the proposed charter on the November 5 General Ballot.

The Freeholder office, located in Room 505-A of the King County Courthouse, will continue to be staffed through the November election to answer inquiries and provide a clearing house for information in connection with the charter, according to Richard Albrecht, Freeholder chairman.

Printed copies of the proposed charter will be available for distribution to organizations and citizens of the county after Friday, September 20. Requests for copies may be made directly to the Freeholder office by telephoning MA-5500, ext. 557, or MA-5556.

All. P. C. A. Est. 1858

Seattle, Wash.
U. District Herald
(Cir. W. 23, 103)
SEP 18 1968

46th District GOP To Hear Frank Ramon

William H. "Skooter" Elin, President of the 46th District Republican Club announces the following programs of current interest for the September and October meetings.

On Monday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Chief of Police Frank Ramon will speak on Law Enforcement in The State Area.

On Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary of the Free Holders will speak. The Proposed County Charter which will appear on the November Ballot.

The Club meets at the Lake City Community Center, 1531 5th St. and all interested Republicans are invited to attend.

This Reform Effort Needs Public Help

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The group wrestling with changes for the state constitution might well take a leaf from the book of the King County Board of Freeholders. The freeholders — elected rather than appointed — scheduled numerous public hearings and public meetings throughout the county in an attempt to gather all divergent views of what a new King County charter should be.

More Good Than Bad in Charter Plan

ONE impression which takes form from reading over the proposed King County charter is that the freeholders who drafted it did a more than passable job of combining old-fashioned horse sense with idealistic theories on governmental structure.

To do this, they drew on the advice of old professionals in government administration and political scientists as a means of producing a document to provide the county with a modern structure of legislative and executive government while having a reasonable chance of weathering the test of the electorate at the polls in November.

The freeholders obviously compromised on the matter of the county assessor. Political scientists would have made the position appointive in hopes of securing technically qualified assessors. But since this would have re-created the issue which was largely responsible for defeat of another proposed county charter in 1952, the office of assessor was left elective.

The political Achilles' heel of the charter, if there is one, is the provision to establish a nine-member county council, or legislative branch, with each member receiving \$18,000 annually.

THEN, IN ORDER to insure the proper separation of the powers of the county council and the county executive officer, the freeholders adopted some restrictive language to require the councilmen to keep their cotton-picking fingers out of administrative matters. The restriction is a good one.

Yet it leaves one wondering just what the nine county councilmen are going to do with the time on their hands at \$18,000 annually. Clearly, a nonsalaried board would have been more palatable to the electorate and there would be less meddling by councilmen in administrative matters.

But should discontent over a salaried county council restricted mainly to policy-making be reasonable grounds for dumping the whole charter? This is the question which citizens should weigh carefully in the weeks until the election.

When the proposed charter is compared with the existing structural setup in the county government, the document offers many betterments.

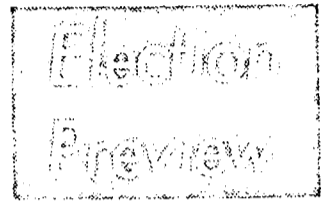
PROVISION is made to install the people's rights of initiative, referendum and recall, an office of "citizens' complaints," more meaningful board of appeals for property-tax evaluations, a county-wide personnel system, a ban on political activities by county employes where it might pertain to county elective officers, and a tough requirement for periodic reapportioning councilmen's districts.

Perhaps having in mind the unwillingness of the State Legislature to comply with the constitutional mandate for reapportioning itself every ten years, the freeholders prescribe penalties if the county council fails to do so every five years.

The freeholders decreed that failure to redistrict would result in withholding the county councilmen's salaries until they redistricted—at which time they would get only half their salaries for the period they procrastinated.

The most attractive features of the charter, of course, are in seemingly routine requirements for budget making, centralized administration of executive and other business-management functions which should meet the desires of political scientists if not those of the old political pros who may like things the way they are now.

NATURALLY, these business-administration betterments hold very little political sex appeal because of their



Charter Plan Gets League OK

By Our County News Bureau
The proposed new county charter passed a major hurdle Monday night when it won the unanimous approval of the ward of trustees of the Seattle-King County Municipal League.

to help assure voter approval of the new charter at the polls November 9. He said the League will co-operate with Paul Friedlander, a member of the Board of King County Freeholders who is co-ordinating the effort with a citizens' committee now being formed.

The new charter was approved last week by the League's committee on King County government that was specially created to make recommendations to the freeholders as to what should be included in the charter and to study the document once it was completed.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the committee, stated that the group's endorsement also was unanimous.

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
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Overlake Associated GOP Women To Meet

The first meeting of the 1968-69 season for the Overlake Republican Women is scheduled for Monday at 10:30 a.m. at The Barb Restaurant with a no-host luncheon to follow.

James O'Conner, attorney, who has announced his candidacy for the chairmanship of the King County Republican Party will be the speaker.

O'Conner is president of the King County Young Republicans

and a member of the King County Board of Freeholders. He has held a post of precinct committeeman in King County and was a member of the 1968 King County Rules Committee at the Republican convention.

All interested Republican women from the area are welcome to attend the meeting and luncheon.

Additional information may be obtained by calling A Jess Ramaker, SH 6-4190.

