



King County

# Charter Review Commission

## 2007-2008

### Meeting 1 - Meet and Greet Session

Seattle Municipal Tower, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor

5:00pm-7:00pm

February 27, 2008

Co-Chairs: Gov. Mike Lowry and Lois North

**Recognizing Forty Years of Good Governance**

# Agenda

- **Introductions to Charter Review Commission CRC, Leadership, and Staff**
- **Introduction to the Charter Review Process**
  - What is the King County Charter? What are the amendment requirements?
  - History
  - What is the Commission's Mission?
  - What are Charter Review Issues?
  - What is the Commission's end goal
- **Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review Process**
- **Next Steps:**
  - Issue scoping process
  - Work-plan and timeline
  - Meeting Rules
    - Voting on issues
    - Roberts Rule of Order Logistics
  - Sub-committees/Potential assignments
- **Bios of Staff**
  - Bios of Charter Review Staff
  - Bios of Council Liaison Staff/Prosecuting Attorney Staff

# Charter Review Commission Team and Staff

- There are three groups that comprise the Charter Review Commission Team:

## Charter Review Commission

- Gather and Reviews Charter and Identifies Issues for Consideration – Drives the entire project
- Co-Chairs: Governor Mike Lowry, Lois North
- **Please see list in binder for each name on commission**

## Executive Staff Support

- Provides key analysis and support to the commission
  - Logistical support
  - Recording minutes of meeting
  - Research and analysis
- **Staff includes:** Mark Yango, Charlotte Ohashi, Third TBD
- **Bios are included in the Appendix**

## Council and PAO Staff Support

- Provides key oversight and legal support
- **Staff includes:** Rebecha Cusack (Council), Nick Wagner (Council), Mike Sinsky (PAO)
- **Bios are included in the Appendix**

# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- What is the King County Charter?
  - A charter for a home rule county is a basic blueprint for government. Much like a constitution, it lays out the county's fundamental structure, powers and duties. Charter provisions are **subject to laws of the United States and State of Washington.**
  - Beyond the Charter, specific actions of government are spelled out through ordinances (council-adopted laws), motions (council directives without the force of law) and rules (agency regulations implementing or interpreting county laws). All county ordinances, motions, rules and other actions must be consistent with the basic guiding legal framework of the Charter.
  - The Charter provides the basic long-term structure reflecting core values of checks and balances, accountability, and merit, to promote an effective, efficient and responsive government.

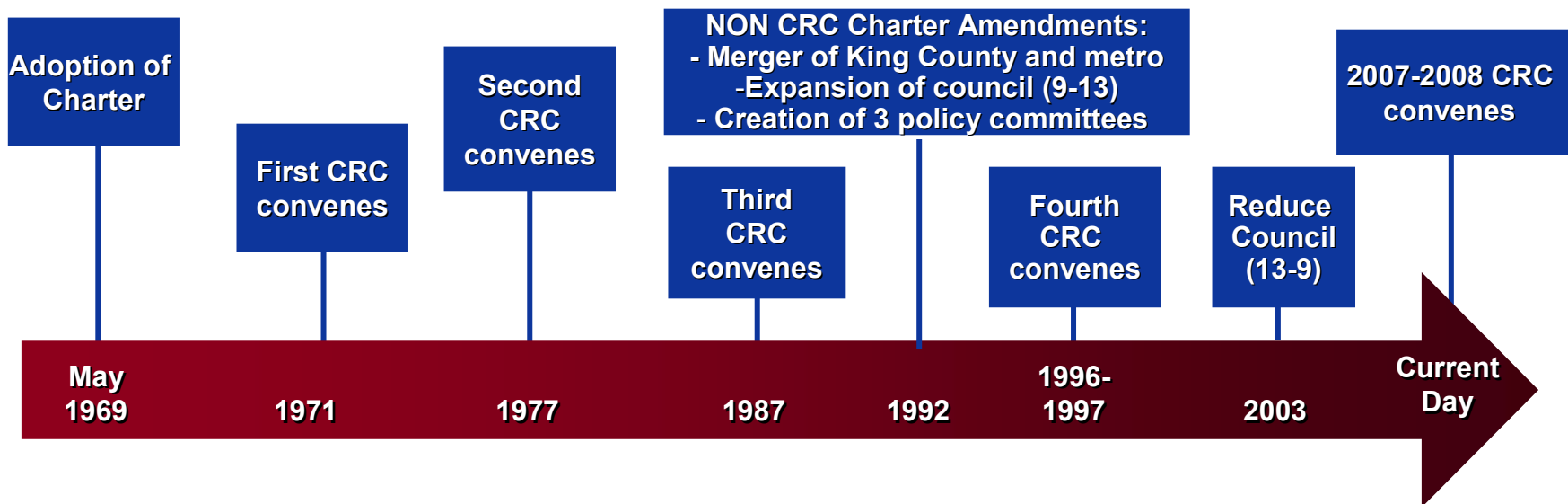
# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- Charter Review and Amendment Requirements?
  - The King County Charter must be reviewed at least every ten years to ensure that it continues to reflect fundamental public values
  - The Charter must continue to function as an effective guide to King County government operations in light of changed circumstances and revisions to the federal and state laws that affect King County's changing population
  - The Charter empowers only the council to place charter amendments on the ballot. Ordinances placing charter amendments on the ballot are not subject to executive veto or repeal by citizen referendum

# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

## ■ History

- The original freeholders of the King County Charter included the charter review process in the charter itself so that a group of independent citizens have an opportunity to do a periodic check-up on the basic framework of county government
- The freeholders' charter proposal was placed on the November 1968 ballot and was approved by the voters. It took effect on May 1, 1969.
  - Most of the changes until the early 1990's were relatively minor adjustments to the charter. The timeline below can give you a brief sense of charter milestones



# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- The mission of the CRC:
  - Review all existing provisions of the charter and develop recommendations for any technical amendments to improve the operation of County Government
  - Review all existing provisions of the Charter and develop recommendations for any necessary structural changes to improve the organization of County government; and
  - Assess King County's role as a regional and local government and to recommend any necessary amendments to improve the County's ability to deliver regional and local services
    - Currently, King County provides services to 367,000 residents in the unincorporated/rural areas
    - This is the second largest jurisdiction in WA State next to Seattle

# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- What are Charter Review Issues?
  - The following criteria generally describe a Charter issue:
    - **Charter-Only Solution**: The problem can only be solved by changing the Charter.
    - **Long-Term**: The problem exists or will exist over the long term and is not the result of a specific, immediate problem. The solution will hold up over the long term and through changing circumstances.
    - **Core Values**: The problem concerns the Charter's core values of checks and balances, accountability, and merit.
    - **Process, Not People, Oriented**: There is an appropriate distinction between the details of a process and how people carry out the process (e.g. the charter requires a comprehensive plan, but cannot ensure that the plan is a good one—that depends on all those who are part of the plan's development, from citizen to staff to Executive and Council).



# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- What is the Commission's end goal?
  - The Commission will organize their own work program, time line, and general procedures.
  - **At the end of their deliberation, the Commission will present the County Council with a written report that includes any suggested Charter amendments. The council reviews these recommendations and determines by ordinance which amendments are to be submitted for Public vote in the November 2008 general election.**
  - The Charter Commission dissolves after the election.

# Introduction to the Charter Review Process

- Meeting Rules:

- **Voting Procedures:** In past commissions, voting on issues was conducted by a simple majority

- **Roberts Rule of Order:**

- In the past, Roberts Rules of Order were used to provide common rules and procedures for commission deliberation and debate. The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership. The right of the majority to decide is complemented by the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved.
- *More specificity on Roberts Rule of Order can be found in the binder*

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review Process

- State of King County in 1996-1997
  - King County Charter had been in existence for nearly three decades and County government had recently consolidated with the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Water and Transportation).
  - Local governments were increasingly pressured to fund services previously provided by state and federal government programs.
  - Rapid population growth was creating pressures on the county to meet regional demands of urbanization, while providing local services to rural populations.

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review Process

- Issues were divided into three working committees. Examples of Charter issues by each category are provided below:

**Regional Committee**

- Regional committees
- Planning committees




**Structural/Org. Committee**

- Sheriff Responsibilities
- Appointed/elected positions
- Partisan/non-partisan offices
- Vacancies in office
- Judicial administration
- Balance of power
- Council procedures



**Technical/Operational Committee**

- Charter amendments
- Charter review
- Initiatives and referendums
- Inquest procedures
- Personnel issues
- Budget
- Ethics



*The handout in the binder will go into further detail on committees and issues*

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review Process

- Results of the 1996-1997 King County Charter Review Process
  - The Commission divided its recommendations into four categories:
    - Priority Charter Amendment – [Establish an initiative process to amend Charter]
    - Overarching Amendments
    - Technical Charter Amendments
    - Ordinance changes
  - In total, there were 10 proposed Charter amendments and 3 proposed ordinances that went before council
    - Of the 10 proposed Charter amendments, five amendments made it onto the ballot
    - All three ordinances did not go to the ballot

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review- Proposed Charter Amendments recommended by Comm.

<i>subject</i>	<i>Ordinance/Motion</i>	<i>Status</i>
Establish an initiative process to amend the charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. 97-406 – An ordinance proposing to amend the King County Charter to authorize proposed amendments to the charter to be submitted by initiative petition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. A vote failed to move it out of the COW and to the full Council.</li> <li>Motion 10337 approved to begin discussion in April 1998</li> </ul>
Modify Regional Committee Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed ORD. 97-0409 - An ordinance proposing amendments to the King County Charter relating to regional committee; authorizing regional committees to introduce proposed ordinances relating to regional matters; permitting alternate to regional committees to vote; identifying powers and duties of regional committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced in 1997. Assigned to COW. No action taken</li> <li>Motion 10337 approved to begin discussion in January 1998</li> </ul>
Create an Independent Ethics Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King County Ordinance No. 12848 – An ordinance proposing amendments to the King County Charter concerning ethic; creating an independent board of ethics; creating an independent board of ethics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. Placed on Nov. 4, 1997 ballot. Failed.</li> <li>Charter Amendment No. 4 – Ethics Board mandated in charter</li> </ul> <p>Yes – 151,979 – 48.91 No – 158,775 – 51.09</p>
Establish whether The Exec., Council, and assessor positions Should be partisan or nonpartisan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed ORD. No. 97-411 – An ordinance proposing to amend the King County Charter related to election procedures; providing that county elective positions shall be nonpartisan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced in 1997. Assigned to COW. No action taken.</li> <li>Motion 10337 approved to begin discussion in April 1998</li> </ul>

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review – Proposed Charter Amendments recommended by Comm.

<i>subject</i>	<i>Ordinance/Motion</i>	<i>Status</i>
Establish procedures for interim Assessor, Sheriff, and Executive until statutory process can be carried out for replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KC Ord. No. 12847 – An ord. proposing to amend the King County charter regarding filling vacancies in elective county offices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. Placed on Nov. 4, 1997 ballot with no opposition statement. Passed.</li> <li>Charter Amendment No. 3 Interim Elected Officials Yes – 253,634 78.6 No – 69,045 – 21.4</li> </ul>
Increasing the monetary value of public works projects carried out by county work forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No.: 97-401 – An Ord. proposing to amend the King County Charter regarding contracts and procurement processes; authorizing he increased use of county employees on county road projects; authorizing the use of procurement processes established by ordinance or general law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. Placed on Nov. 4, 1997 ballot with no opposition statement. Passed.</li> <li>Charter Amendment No. 2 Day Labor Yes – 200,109 65.64 No – 104,730 – 34.36</li> </ul>
Establish Assessor Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No.: 97-403 – An Ord. proposing amendments to the King county charter related to qualifications for county officers; authorizing additional qualifications to be established by ordinance for the assessor; amending section 630 in article 6 of the charter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. No action taken</li> <li>Motion 10337 approved to begin discussion in April 1998</li> </ul>

# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review – Proposed Charter Amendments recommended by Comm.

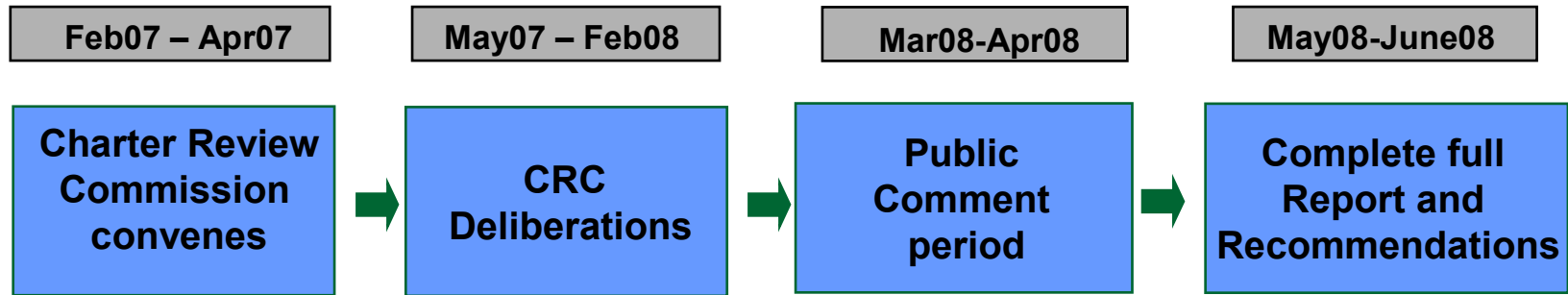
<i>subject</i>	<i>Ordinance/Motion</i>	<i>Status</i>
Allow biennial budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No. 97-402 – An ordinance proposing to amend the King County Charter to authorize the county council by ordinance to provide for biennial budgets; amending article 4 of the charter to add a new section 405;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. No action taken.</li> <li>Motion 10337 approved to begin discussion in April 1998</li> </ul>
Clarify the method for determining the number of signatures for unincorporated area initiative and referendum petitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No.: 97-400 – King County Ordinance no. 12845 – An ordinance proposing to amend the King County charter related to referendums on and initiatives proposing ordinances which are effective only in unincorporated areas of the county</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. Placed on Nov. 4, 1997 ballot with opposition statement. Failed.</li> <li>Charter Amendment No. 1 Changing the method for calculating unincorporated area petition signatures Yes – 144,403 – 45.74 No – 171,279 – 54.26</li> </ul>
Authorize revisions to laws enacted by initiative or referendum after two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No. 97-408. – Ordinance No. 12851 – An ordinance proposing to amend the King County Charter related to ordinances approved by the voters by initiative and referendum; authorizing the county council to amend or repeal such ordinances after a two-year period from the effective date of the ordinance and to amend such ordinances during the two-year period by a two-thirds vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. Placed on Nov. 4, 1997 ballot with opposition statement. Passed.</li> <li>Charter Amendment No. 5 council power to modify law enacted by initiative or referendum Yes – 193,084 – 63.86 No – 109,259 – 36.14</li> </ul>



# Executive Summary of the 1996-1997 Charter Review – Proposed Ordinance Changes recommended by Comm.

<i>subject</i>	<i>Ordinance/Motion</i>	<i>Status</i>
Create a task force to develop a charter amendment proposal for an unincorporated legislative body and to revise the method of electing the county council for placement on the 1998 ballot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No. 97-0412 – An ordinance establishing an unincorporated Area Governance and King county Elections Task Force to consider representation of unincorporated areas of King County and models of electing a regional council and to submit recommendations to the Metropolitan County Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced. Assigned to COW. No action taken.</li> </ul>
Create a subarea planning commission for unincorporated areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ordinance language offered due to number of alternative arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have been addressed in discussions of 97-0412.</li> </ul>
Extend the amount of time for initiative and referendum signature gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prop. Ord. No. 97-0405 – an ordinance relating to initiative and referendum petitions; revising the time limits for filing signatures of registered voters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced in 1997. Assigned to COW. No action taken.</li> </ul>

# Next Steps: Proposed Work-program/Timeline



**Key Activities:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Planning meeting</li> <li>■ Internal/External Scoping process             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Outreach process</li> <li>■ Briefing from key interest groups</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Form subcommittees:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Technical Issues</li> <li>■ Structural Issues</li> <li>■ Regional Issues</li> <li>■ Public Outreach</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Establish meeting dates</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feb 27, 07 – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Subcommittee complete work for full commission meetings</li> <li>■ Committee meetings to review results</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feb 28, 08 – Deadline for subcommittees to complete work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Commission hold public hearings in various locations throughout County</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Apr. 15, 08 – Deadline for preliminary findings from public comment period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Commission adopts final report and recommendations</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ May 15, 08 – Deadline for staff to finalize CRC documents (reports, draft, ordinances, etc.)</li> <li>■ May 30, 08 – Executive Transmits CRC report and recs to Council</li> <li>■ Aug 14, 08 – Council Action (84 days before general election)</li> <li>■ Nov. 08 – General election</li> </ul>
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## Next Steps:

### ■ Issue Scoping Process:

- The 1996-1997 Charter Review Commission considered nearly 35 issues. The Commission decided not to act on six issues; and set aside 16 issues for consideration. Issue papers were prepared for all issues except those that were set aside unless the Commission specifically requested that an issue paper be drafted
- The Commission conducted a rigorous public outreach process gathering issues from 30 community and special interest groups including:
  - King County Council
  - City of Seattle
  - Cities (Suburban Cities Association)
  - Unincorporated Areas (Unincorporated Area Council – UAC)
  - League of Women Voters
  - Municipal League
  - County Agencies
  - Who else??
  - Over 400 copies of the charter were distributed
- A separate outreach committee was developed for this purpose

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## Next Steps:

- **Issue Scoping Process:**

- How would this commission like to proceed with their outreach process?
  - Do you want to use the same approach?
  - Do you want to expand on it?
  - How would you like to engage the public?
  - What other groups should we approach?

## Next Steps:

- Sub-Committees/Potential Assignments
  - Get familiarized with contents of binder
  
  - Start thinking about what sub-committee you would like to serve and if you would like to chair that sub-committee
    - Technical Issues Committee
    - Structural Issues Committee
    - Regional Issues Committee
    - Public Involvement Committee
    - Unincorporated Area Committee
  
  - Next meeting?
    - Communication of materials via email and website – [www.metrokc.gov/exec/charter](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/charter)
    - Photos on the website?
    - Parking vouchers
    - Clarify roster information
    - Collect appointment forms

# Appendix: Bios of Charter Review Staff

## **Charter Review Coordinator: Mark Yango**

Mark recently received his Masters in Public Administration from Baruch College, The City University of New York through the National Urban Fellows program. The National Urban Fellows (NUF) prepares men and women with diverse backgrounds to be leaders in government, non-profit and private sector businesses to sustain and enhance urban communities.

During his Fellowship, Mark spent nine months in the Executive's office as an Executive Fellow and coordinated initial stages of the KingSTAT performance measurement pilot, helped District Court develop a framework for their performance management process, and many other projects large and small where he prepared talking points and conducted policy analysis. Mark served as a King County Fellow from the fall of 2005 until late spring in 2006.

Prior to his work with King County, Mark was a management consultant for 7 years in the private sector. He spent the majority of his consulting career with Towers Perrin, LLC. At Towers Perrin, Mark was a Performance Management and Compensation Consultant. He helped many Fortune 500 clients maximize their performance through efficient and effective use of their Human Resources programs.

Mark received his undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago where he majored in Public Policy. He was selected to participate in the University of Chicago Barcelona Program where he spent a semester in Spain studying Western History and Intensive Spanish.

Beyond his work and academic accomplishments, Mark has always been very involved in his community in such groups as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and numerous Asian Pacific Islander/Filipino service organizations.

He can be reached at [mark.yango@metrokc.gov](mailto:mark.yango@metrokc.gov) or (206) 296-4628.

# Appendix: Bios of Charter Review Staff

## **Charter Review Program Analyst: Corrie Watterson Bryant**

Corrie is a recent graduate of the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. She specialized in environmental policy and natural resources management. While at the UW, she worked with a faculty committee to create a successful proposal for a new graduate program in conservation. She also conducted a yearlong assessment of Seattle's food system for the City of Seattle, with an interdisciplinary team.

Before entering graduate school, she spent two years as an administrator and political associate with the SEIU Washington State Council, a political division of the Service Employees Union. At SEIU and previously at Moxie Media and Washington Conservation Voters, she built organizational capacity, staffed boards, directed technology initiatives, and helped to run political campaigns.

Corrie graduated with a BA in Law, Letters, and Society from the University of Chicago. She worked as a computer systems administrator for six years in Chicago, New York City, and rural Wisconsin (on the Lac Courte Oreilles tribal reservation).

She moved to Seattle in 2001 and plans to spend the rest of her life here. Corrie and her husband love hiking in the mountains, walking in Seattle's beautiful parks, and participating in local politics. She may be reached at [corrie.watterson@metrokc.gov](mailto:corrie.watterson@metrokc.gov) or (206) 910-7636 (cell).

# Appendix: Bios of Charter Review Staff

## **Charter Review Administrative Assistant: Charlotte Ohashi**

Charlotte Ohashi has over 20 years of experience in administrative support services in both public and private sector. Char began her stint with King County during Gary Locke's administration and was fortunate in being kept on in Ron Sims' administration. She has enjoyed working closely with elected and appointed officials, department directors, division managers, stakeholders, interested parties and even constituents. Char has also worked in the private sector as a purchasing agent.

She is active in her community, Char serves as an Executive Boardmember on a performing arts non-profit organization and as an Executive Boardmember and committee co-chair for a non-profit organization building a community cultural center. She is also a member of a performing arts group and teaches classes.

But, her passion is being a "couch potato" enjoying surfing channels on the television, jigsaw puzzles, and Sudoku.

Char can be reached at [Charlotte.Ohashi@metrokc.gov](mailto:Charlotte.Ohashi@metrokc.gov) or (206) 296-4051.



# Appendix: Bios of Legislative Staff

## **Council Liaison: Rebecha Cusack:**

Rebecha has been a Washington resident since 1991, beginning her county employment with the King County Office of Management and Budget, prior to joining the Metropolitan King County Council staff in 1994. During her tenure with the Council she has worked in a variety of positions including working on issue such as growth management, housing, environment, budget and special projects.

Prior to her relocation to Washington state, Rebecha lived and worked in Alaska. She is a proud alumnus from the University of Alaska, with post-graduate policy studies at Duke University in Raleigh, North Carolina. While in Alaska she worked for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and the Office of the Governor.

She may be reached at [rebecha.cusack@metrokc.gov](mailto:rebecha.cusack@metrokc.gov) or [206] 296-0330.

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# Appendix: Bios of Legislative Staff

## **Council Co-Liaison: Nick Wagner**

Nick is lead staff to the Council's Committee of the Whole, which considers complex legislation and policy issues of interest to the entire Council. Before joining the Council staff, Nick had practiced law for more than 25 years in a variety of subject matter areas. He is also a mediator and arbitrator. Nick and his family have lived in Seattle since 1980. He can be reached at [nick.wagner@metrokc.gov](mailto:nick.wagner@metrokc.gov) or 206-296-1679.

# Appendix: Bio of Prosecuting Attorney Staff

## **Deputy Prosecuting Attorney: Mike Sinsky**

Michael Sinsky was born and raised in Milwaukee Wisconsin in a family of seven brothers and one sister. He received his B.A. from Boston College in 1981, then spent one year as a Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Portland Oregon.

He graduated from New York University School of Law in 1985 and then served as a Law Clerk with United States Court of Appeals - Second Circuit. Thereafter, Michael worked with a Legal Services office in Upstate New York focusing on issues relating to homelessness.

Since 1989, he has happily worked as a King County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, representing, at some time or another, virtually every branch and office of county government. He currently resides in Seattle with his wife and three daughters.

He may be reached at [mike.sinsky@metrokc.gov](mailto:mike.sinsky@metrokc.gov) or (206) 296-9015.