

Executive Preliminary Charter Amendment Concepts – 10.24.2018

Note: These concepts are under review and development by Executive branch staff. Revisions, additions, or deletions may occur. Final Executive recommendations will be made to the Commission in the future.

Charter Section(s)	Preliminary Amendment Concepts
350.20.40 350.20.60	Clarify what employees are classified as career service
530	Clarify personnel rules apply to Executive branch employees and not Judicial or Legislative branches nor Prosecutor's Office employees
220.20	Clarify Council's ability to set compensation includes all pay items, including medical and leave benefits (Prosecutor's Office and Courts)
320.20	Delete obsolete Executive duty to serve on boards/commissions from county commissioner era
470	Allow leases of more than a year in operating budgets, not just capital budgets
310, 340.10	Add Elections, Sheriff, Prosecutor's Office, and judges to the list of county elected positions
350.20.40 898	Retitle "Sheriff's Office" from "Department of Public Safety"
470.20 470.30, 480 490	General clean-up and revision of budget related items and references: replace term "current expense" with "operating"; objects of expense; contingency appropriations; rewriting 470.20; delete 470.30, rewrite 480; delete 490
23.10.10	Allow enterprise funded surplus property to be sold for less than fair market value if being used for affordable housing if authorized by the state and any contracts related to the property
899	Conform Department of Public Defense bargaining language to the language for the rest of the Executive branch
320.20	Add Elections and Sheriff to the composition of the Executive Branch
340.40	Require Council confirmation only for department heads and chief administrative officer only
550	Exempt division and section heads from career service
550	Allow Council to designate additional career service exemptions

King County Charter Amendments				
Year	Subject	How proposed	Pass / Fail	Ord #
2016	Gender neutrality: Makes charter language gender neutral	Council	Passed	18316
	KC Prosecutor: Makes office of KC Prosecutor nonpartisan	Council	Passed	18308
2015	OLEO: Establishes civilian Office of Law Enforcement Oversight and a Citizens' Committee on Independent Oversight.	Council	Passed	18087
2013	DPD: Establishes Department of Public Defense, an appointed County Public Defender, and a Public Defense Advisory Board.	Council	Passed	17614
2010	Campaign receipts and expenditures: Specified that timely filing of a statement of campaign receipts and expenditures with the Washington state Public Disclosure Commission in accordance with RCW 42.17 satisfies the filing obligations of Charter Section 690.	Council	Passed	16885
	Add language to the Preamble specifying that insuring responsibility and accountability applies to "local and regional governance and services." It would also amend the current statement of purpose to "preserve a healthy environment" to read "preserve a healthy rural and urban environment and economy."	2007-2008 CRC*	Passed	16884
	Sheriff's Office: Require the Executive to provide for effective participation of separately elected county officials, including the Sheriff, in collective bargaining.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16900
2009	Charter Commission Procedures: Require the County Council to review and take action on all Charter Review Commission recommendations and clarify the Charter Review Commission appointment and confirmation process.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16547
	Open space: Establish an additional layer of protection for over 100,000 acres of county-owned, high conservation value open space property.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16600
	Transitory Provisions: Remove Charter language pertaining to the county's transition to a home rule charter government and consolidation with Metro.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16484
	Work programs and allotments	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16546
	Correct typographical error	?	Passed	16599
2008	Forecast Council: Established the Forecast Council and Office of Economic and Financial Analysis	Council	Passed	16207
	Nonpartisan offices: Made the offices of King County Executive, King County Assessor, and King County Council nonpartisan and established the nonpartisan selection of districting committee members	Initiative	Passed	I-26

	Rejecting I-26 and adopting an alternative		Failed--in committee? ? 8/19	16128
	Anti-Discrimination: Updates the Charter's anti-discrimination provision to prohibit discrimination based on disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression in county employment and contracting.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16204
	Budget Timeline: Provide the County Council with an additional 20 days to review the Executive's proposed budget, for a total of 65 days of review.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16208
	Citizen Initiative: Clarify the process by which citizens may amend the charter through initiative, including raising the signature threshold from 10% to 20%.	2007-2008 CRC	Failed	16221
	Qualifications: Permit the council to establish additional qualifications for the Assessor and Elections Director positions.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16206
	Regional Committees: Reduce the number of councilmembers on Regional Committees, and modify the authority of Regional Committees and their non-council Committee members.	2007-2008 CRC	Passed	16205
	Create elective office of county director of elections	Initiative	Passed	I-25
2004	Reduce size of KC Council from 13-9 , Alternative 1A	Initiative	Passed	14767
	Reduce size of KC Council from 13-9, Alternative 1B		Failed	14965
2003	Biennial budgeting	1996-1997 CRC	Passed	14758
2001	Free exercise of religion and absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship	Council	Passed	14206
1999	KC Council may submit ordinance directly to voters (new referendum right)	Council	Failed	13633
1997	Qualifications for county officers	Council	Failed	12852
	Ordinance approved by voters by initiative and referendum and revision after 2 years	1996-1997 CRC	Passed	12851
	Independent board of ethics	1996-1997 CRC	Failed	12848
	Vacancies in elective county offices	1996-1997 CRC	Passed	12847
	Contracts and procurement processes	1996-1997 CRC	Passed	12846
	Referendum and initiative in unincorporated areas	1996-1997 CRC	Failed	12845
1996	Elected sheriff		Passed	12301
	Redistricting every 10 years		Passed	12191
1992	13 member council, regional policy committees, initiative and referendum procedures	Council	Passed	10530

	Ordinance removing proposed charter amendment (ordinance 10212 adopted in 1991 for the 1992 ballot) from the general election ballot.	Council	N/A	10523
1991-1992	13 member council/intergovernmental committees (repealed by ordinance 10523)	Council	N/A	10212
1991	13 member council/intergovernmental committees	Council	Passed **	10065
1989	Campaign contributions	Council	Passed	8977
1988	Career service and exempt positions	1988 CRC	Passed	8651
	Contracts and competitive bidding	1988 CRC	Passed	8650
	County auditor	1988 CRC	Passed	8649
	Judicial administration	1988 CRC	Passed	8648
	Charter review and amendments	1988 CRC	Passed	8647
1986	Executive compensation		Failed	7765
1981	Political activities		Passed	5665
1977	Political activities	1977 CRC	Passed	3406
	Appeals for variance and conditional use permit decisions	1977 CRC	Passed	3405
	Age for holding elective office	1977 CRC	Passed	3404
1975	Districting committee		Passed	2494
	Non-partisan nominating and primaries and general election		Lapsed	2481
1971	Budget schedule, Council has 15 more days		Passed	981
	**Passed at ballot, but contingent upon passage of Prop. No. 1 - Metro Assumption that was defeated in non-Seattle KC.			



King County

Claudia Balducci

Councilmember, District 6
Metropolitan King County Council

October 24, 2018

Charter Review Commissioners,

Thank you for your participation in the Charter Commission. The Charter is foundational to County government and I appreciate your efforts to ensure it is a relevant and up-to-date guide that reflects the values and priorities of our residents.

As you continue your work, I would respectfully request you consider the following potential changes to the King County Charter:

- Update the charter sections pertaining to the referendum and initiative processes. Recent experience has demonstrated that the Charter is not written in a way that is accessible to the general public. In addition, some of the timelines in the Charter are ambiguous and others do not comply with State law. I do not seek any changes to the underlying logic of how initiatives and referenda are processed by the County; rather, I would like the Charter to be in synch with State law and County code and be written in language understandable to anyone who might want to undertake an initiative or referendum. I am working with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to draft an amendment for your consideration.
- I believe the Charter Review Commission should give high priority to proposals that increase transparency and effective citizen participation. To that end, you may want to also include the values of transparency in the preamble of the Charter.

I am looking forward to your final product. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Claudia Balducci
King County District 6



King County

Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Councilmember, District 4

Metropolitan King County Council

October 23, 2018

Dear Charter Review Commissioners,

I greatly appreciate the time and effort you are dedicating to the important business of updating the King County Charter. As you continue your work, I respectfully request you consider the following potential changes:

- Consider a process to give the cities a more effective voice in County operations. The existence of three separate regional committees, two of which have narrow responsibility, seems to hinder that effect. I suggest you consider having the Regional Policy Committee absorb the work of the Regional Transit and Regional Water Quality Committee and this new committee meet twice a month—the same as other standing Council Committees.
- I believe that a hallmark of open and transparent operation of government is that elected officials work together and be seen communicating in a public manner. Over the last several years, the “budget message” as required by the Charter has become less about communication between the Council and Executive and more about an opportunity to highlight Executive proposals. I believe that opportunity should be taken by the Executive, but that a budget address to the Council is also a key piece of interaction between the branches. I request you consider recommending the budget message be modified to include a “budget address at a County Council meeting.”
- The County Council is prohibited from originating an appropriations ordinance except in emergencies, which is an understandable budgetary control. However, when it comes to the Capital Budget, the Council is prohibited from making any changes to a project without a specific request from the Executive. This allows the Executive Branch to continue with a project, even with changing circumstances, without the Legislative Branch having a say. I suggest the specific prohibition be eliminated.
- Labor trafficking is an economic calamity and there are often few or no repercussions to entities found to have violated these laws. In much the same way that Title 8, Section 40 prohibits the County from contracting with entities that do not share our anti-discrimination policies, I suggest you consider recommending a prohibition on



King County

Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Councilmember, District 4

Metropolitan King County Council

procurement with any business entity that has been convicted of a labor trafficking-related offense.

- I believe the structure of the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight needs to be improved by strengthening the language around independent investigations and access to information. OLEO's ability to communicate with the public about its work must also be addressed to truly provide the transparency upon which its mission is based. In addition, I believe the role of the Community Advisory Committee needs to be made consistent with its current duties. Finally, I request that the Director's term be changed to five years from four, making the position consistent with the Ombuds.'

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please contact me with any questions or needs for clarification.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County Council – District Four



King County

Dave Upthegrove
Councilmember, District 5
Metropolitan King County Council

October 22, 2018

Charter Review Commissioners,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work on behalf of the residents of King County. I am aware that sitting on a board or commission, especially such a large one, takes a considerable commitment of time. I want to thank you for that effort.

As you continue your work, I would respectfully request you consider the following potential changes to the King County Charter:

- My personal experience has been that the Regional Committee process has been inefficient and ineffective – and I would strongly encourage you to look at difference strategies to improve coordination and communication between King County and our city partners.

Thanks for your consideration, sincerely,

Dave Upthegrove
King County Council
District 5



King County

Kathy Lambert

Councilmember, District 3

Metropolitan King County Council

Charter Review Commissioners,

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a member of the Charter Review Commission. We are fortunate to have the input of such an intelligent and diverse group of citizens as we explore the potential updates to our county charter.

As you continue your work, I would respectfully request you consider the following potential changes to the King County Charter:

- Establish a formal process whereby Councilmembers can register employee performance concerns with the county Executive.
- I have several potential changes relating to the budget process:
 - Require the Executive to personally present the biennial budget to council;
 - Require Council consultation prior to appropriating any unspent fund balance;
 - Allow Council to initiate non-emergency supplemental appropriations.
- Prior to collective bargaining agreement negotiations, require the Executive to work with the Council on more specific and timely general parameters and goals of bargaining.
- Establish an appropriate level of law enforcement officer work experience as a condition of running for or holding the position of sheriff.
- Establish a charter process for filling vacancies in Councilmember offices.
- Establish a process to increase faith based organization contracting opportunities.
- Change the charter review commission appointment process to allow each Councilmember to directly appoint a commissioner, and require at least one member of the commission to be from an unincorporated part of King County.
- Establish a process for rating and reporting on county services provided to unincorporated areas of the county.

Thank you for your consideration and again, thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lambert
King County Councilmember
District 3