2021 San Juan County Charter Review Commission Resolution

WHEREAS, Section 9.20 of the San Juan County Home Rule Charter calls for the election of a Charter Review Commission (the “Commission”) periodically after the Charter’s adoption; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of San Juan County called for this election of the Charter Review Commission to be held as part of the November 2020 general election; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, 18 duly qualified citizens were elected as Charter Review Commissioners (“Commissioners”) according to the laws of Washington State, by the voters of San Juan County, for a term of up to one year, certified by the Auditor, and took an oath to serve according to law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission met frequently in publicly advertised meetings using virtual meetings platforms from January through November 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Commission received input from several hundred San Juan County residents during their public meetings, several town halls and through personal communications; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an exhaustive review of the suitability and adequacy of the Charter and the system of government it established, to the needs of San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, the Commission interviewed elected officials and employees past and present, county leaders from other Washington State charter counties, deliberated on the material aspects of the Charter, caused official minutes of those meetings to be produced, and drafted official findings; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s own discussions and proposals influenced meaningful County Council actions and progress; and

WHEREAS, based upon the foregoing, the Commission adopted the Findings attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, acting on the Findings at its open public meetings on June 30, July 7, and July 12, 2021, the Commission approved the submission of six proposed amendments for the 2021 General Election and on November 29, 2021 the Commission approved for the submission four proposed amendments for the 2022 General Election, as described below, with the final form for each proposition attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 9.32 of the San Juan County Charter, that the Charter Review Commission submitted the following proposed amendments to the San Juan County Council for submission to the voters for the November 2021 general election after the County Council filed these amendments with the County Auditor, in accordance with applicable law:

Proposition No. 1 – Repealing the existing Preamble to the County Charter, adding an acknowledgment to the Coast Salish people, adding a new Preamble, and adding a Declaration of Community Values;

Proposition No. 2 – Amending the County Charter to include term limits for Council members;

Proposition No. 3 – Establishing a climate and environment commission;

Proposition No. 4 – Amending certain requirements concerning initiatives and referendums;
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Proposition No. 5 – Providing new language in the Charter that concerns nondiscrimination in the exercise of powers and performance of county duties;

Proposition No. 6 – Establishing a justice, equity and inclusion commission.

AND, IN ADDITION, the Charter Review Commission submits the following final proposed amendments to the San Juan County Council for submission to the voters for the 2022 General Election, after County Council files these amendments with the County Auditor, in accordance with applicable law:

Proposition No. 1 – Establishing a new position of Public Advocate for the purpose of helping citizens navigate the San Juan County systems;

Proposition No. 2 – Amending language in the County Charter to provide clarification regarding budget provisions for the Charter Review Commission (CRC), staff support requirements, and further resolution regarding the term length, procedures and duties of the CRC, and the role of the Prosecuting Attorney;

Proposition No. 3 – Amending the current voting rules to include Rank Choice Voting;

Proposition No. 4 – Amending signature requirements concerning initiatives and referendums.

AND, IN ADDITION, the Charter Review Commission submits a list of eight important recommendations to the County Council and where appropriate, other County elected officials for their thoughtful and immediate consideration:

Recommendation No. 1 – Consideration of the San Juan County Community Values in all Legislative, Executive and Administrative actions;

Recommendation No. 2 – Concerning Public Access to County Financial Information;

Recommendation No. 3 – San Juan County’s Personnel Manual (Section 8.20 Exemptions) should apply to all employees of San Juan County whether elected or appointed;

Recommendation No. 4 – Ensure Transparency and Community Participation on the Law and Justice Council;

Recommendation No. 5 – Improve the process and transparency for Citizen Appointments;

Recommendation No. 6 – Creating a more sustainable Tourism model that benefits all residents, communities and the environment;

Recommendation No. 7 – Concerning making Public Records available.

Recommendation No. 8 – Non-Discrimination Section of the Charter
AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Commission be and is hereby authorized and directed to transmit to the San Juan County Council a copy of this Resolution certified as true and correct for such action by that body as may be necessary to fully and lawfully carry out the purposes of this Resolution. The 2021 San Juan County Charter Review Commission, upon a majority commissioners signing this resolution & submitting its final recommendations with this Resolution, will conclude its term of office and work in accordance to Section 9.20 of the San Juan County Charter.

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2021 by the members of the Charter Review Commission,

Maureen See, District 1 Date 11/29/21
Kyle Davies, District 1 Date 11/29/21
Tom Starr, District 1 Date 11/29/21
Patty Garcia, District 1 Date 12/1/21
Paul Dossett, District 1 Date 11/29/21
Dave Anderson, District 1 Date 11/29/21
David Dehlendorf, District 1 Date 12/3/21
Richard Grout, District 1 Date 12/13/21
Bill Appel, District 1 Date 12/1/21

Olivia R. Knoellinger, District 2 Date 11-29-21
Janet Brownell, District 2 Date 11-29-21
Kevin Ranker, District 2 Date 11-29-21
Anne Marie Shanks, District 2 Date 12/1/21
Sharon Abreu, District 2 Date 12/1/21
Tony P. Ghazel, District 2 Date 12/6/21
Jane Fuller, District 3 Date 11-29-21
Liz Lafferty, District 3 Date 12-13-21
Bob O'Connell, District 3 Date 12-6-21
Attachments:

**General Election Ballot 2021**
- Proposed Amendment No. 1
- Proposed Amendment No. 2
- Proposed Amendment No. 3
- Proposed Amendment No. 4
- Proposed Amendment No. 5
- Proposed Amendment No. 6

**General Election Ballot 2022**
- Proposed Amendment No. 1
- Proposed Amendment No. 2
- Proposed Amendment No. 3
- Proposed Amendment No. 4

**Recommendations**
- Recommendation No. 1
- Recommendation No. 2
- Recommendation No. 3
- Recommendation No. 4
- Recommendation No. 5
- Recommendation No. 6
- Recommendation No. 7
- Recommendation No. 8