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Charter Review Commission

Town Halls, March 12 & 13, 2021

What is the Charter?

Section 1.30 – Construction

The power of the County shall be liberally construed; it is intended that this Charter confer the greatest power of local self-government on the people of San Juan County consistent with the State Constitution. Specific mention of a particular power or authority shall not be construed as a limitation on the general power of the County, but shall be considered as an addition to and supplementary to or explanatory of the powers conferred in general terms by this Charter.

"Home Rule" Charter Form

Article 11, section 4 of the State Constitution was amended in 1948 to provide the option for counties to adopt "home rule" charters to provide their own form of government that may be different from the commission form prescribed by state law. Home rule charters can provide for any county officers deemed necessary to perform county functions, but they cannot affect the election of the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court, and the justices of the peace, or the jurisdiction of the courts. As outlined in the constitution, the charter process involves electing a group of 15-25 freeholders who are responsible for developing a proposed charter that is voted on by the electorate.

18 elected Charter Review Commission members

Sharon Abreu

David Anderson

Bill Appel

Janet Brownell

Kyle Davies

David Dehlendorf

Paul Dossett

Jane Fuller

Patty Garcia

Tony Ghazel

Richard Grout

Liz Lafferty

Robert O'Connell

Kevin Ranker, Chair

Olivia Roseberry, Vice Chair

Maureen See

Anne Marie Shanks

Tom Starr

8 Sub-Committees

- ▶ Charter Review Process, Bob O'Connell
- ▶ Climate & Environment, Anne Marie Shanks
- ▶ Elected vs. Appointed officials, Maureen See
- ▶ Elections, Tony Ghazel
- ▶ Governance, Dave Anderson
- ▶ Initiative & Referendum, Patty Garcia
- ▶ Justice & Equity, Jane Fuller
- ▶ Operations, Paul Dossett

Top Committee topics to review

Charter Review Process --

- ▶ Tourism/Vacation Rentals
- ▶ "Rights of Nature“, Southern Resident Killer Whales, Local environmental zoning
- ▶ Individual rights/protections/funding for Comprehensive plan

Climate & Environment -

- ▶ Create an independently elected Climate Commissioner
- ▶ Create office of Climate & Resiliency

Elected vs. Appointed officials --

- ▶ Should County Manager remain an appointed position
- ▶ Consolidation (or not) of Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor
- ▶ Sheriff, elected or appointed

Elections --

- ▶ Greater transparency of elections observations

Top Committee topics to review, cont'd

Governance --

- ▶ Clarify the relationship between the County Manager and County Council
- ▶ Island(s) self-governance / local control
- ▶ Function of citizens' committees; how they best serve the public & county government

Initiative & Referendum --

- ▶ Electronic signatures
- ▶ Broaden rights of initiative

Justice & Equity --

- ▶ Create an independent Citizens' SJC Law and Justice oversight body
- ▶ Create a County Government more representative of the diverse population of this County and exhibits equity, diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination

Operations --

- ▶ Consistent Personnel Manual, Policies
- ▶ Public Records
- ▶ Elected and Department head salaries

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

*Commission Chair will call upon audience members
to share their thoughts*

e-mail the Commission at sjccharterreview@sanjuanco.com

Charter Review website

[https://www.sanjuanco.com/1764/Charter-Review-
Commission](https://www.sanjuanco.com/1764/Charter-Review-Commission)