

PROCESS COMMITTEE ISSUES

Updated May 26, 2021

Issue	Proposal	Findings
Revise the preamble to the Charter.	<p>Delete current preamble and replace with: PREAMBLE</p> <p>We, the people of San Juan County, Washington, establish this Home Rule Charter, securing for ourselves the rights granted by law and the responsibilities of self-governance.</p> <p>All persons within our county are equal under the law and afforded equal protection under those laws.</p> <p>We recognize the interdependence between a healthy community, a resilient economy and a vibrant natural world, and acknowledge our place as part of the natural world.</p>	<p><u>Committee action to recommend to the CRC was approved April 20, 2021</u></p> <p>The existing Preamble to the Home Rule Charter sets out the County's intention to take control over its own local government to the extent allowable under Washington's Home Rule Charter provisions. It is important, however, for the Preamble to also set the tone for the Charter by including equal protection under the laws for its people and by recognizing the entitlement of Nature to survive and to thrive.</p>
Add a definition of Nature.	<p>Nature: a universal, interdependent, regenerative, self-regulating and evolving system, governed by immutable physical laws.</p>	<p><u>Committee action to recommend to the CRC was approved April 6, 2021</u></p> <p>Given the importance of the concept of Nature to some of the proposed amendments to the Charter, it was necessary that anyone reading the Charter down the road would understand with exactitude what the Commission meant when it used the word.</p>
Revise Section 9.22 - Charter Budget and Provisions	<p>Delete Old Section 9.22 and replace with: CRC Budget and Provisions</p> <p>(1) The County Council shall provide to the CRC reasonable funds, staff, facilities, and services appropriate to an elected County agency.</p> <p>(a) Provisions shall be made in the budget for expenditures of the CRC during its scheduled term of office. Funds shall be provided to the CRC that are commensurate with the expenditures of the preceding CRC, plus an allowance for inflation. Should the funds provided prove to be inadequate to the task, the Commission may ask the County Council for additional funding, which may be provided at the Council's discretion.</p> <p>(b) The County Manager shall provide an adequate space in person and/or virtual space for the Commission to conduct all of its meetings. The County Manager shall also arrange for the technical support the CRC needs to do its business, including adequate staff support and communications between its members and with the public. Within the first week following the certification of the election of the CRC members, the County Manager will meet with the new Commissioner receiving the most votes and relate the details of the provisions made for the Commission, as set out above.</p> <p>(2) Members of the CRC shall serve without salary, except that they shall be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.</p>	<p><u>Committee action to recommend to the CRC was approved April 27, 2021</u></p> <p>When the present HRC Commission set up shop, it took weeks for the funding and logistics for the operation of the Commission to be put into place. Given the immediacy of the task before it, the Commission was handicapped in its efforts to hit the ground running and make the most of its time. With this new budgeting and provisions amendment, the Commission will have in place what it needs to operate shortly after the certification of the election of the new Commissioners.</p>
Recognize the values held by San Juan County inhabitants, for protection and preservation of the natural world.	<p>Add a section at the beginning of the Charter, after the Preamble:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Declaration of Community Values</p> <p>The People of San Juan County, Washington declare our commitment to a diverse community, sustainable economy, and flourishing ecosystem and climate.</p> <p><u>Community:</u></p> <p>We value a vibrant, inclusive, just, and diverse community that fosters peace, mutual tolerance, and respect for each other's dignity, privacy, freedoms, and responsibilities, including the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of the region's indigenous peoples. We also recognize that affordable, accessible, and high quality healthcare, education, and housing are the foundations of community resilience and stability.</p>	<p>Committee action to recommend to the CRC was approved ...</p> <p>It is important for members of a community to agree upon and understand what its common values are. It is also important for the local government which is empowered by that community to understand the values it is to employ when it does the People's business. It is important for those values to provide a yardstick with which to measure the success of the local government and indeed, the success of the community as a whole, in living up to its highest aspirations. By becoming enshrined in the County's principle document, these values are permanently held up to us all as our explanation to ourselves of who we are.</p>

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Declaration of Community Values, Continued --		
<p>4) Recognize the values held by San Juan County inhabitants, for protection and preservation of the natural world.</p>	<p>Add a section at the beginning of the Charter, after the Preamble:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Declaration of Community Values</p> <p>The People of San Juan County, Washington declare our commitment to a safe and inclusive community, resilient economy, flourishing ecosystem and sustainable environment.</p> <p><u>Community:</u></p> <p>We value a vibrant, inclusive, just, and diverse community that fosters peace, mutual tolerance, and respect for each other's dignity, privacy, freedoms, and responsibilities, including the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of the region's indigenous peoples. We also recognize that affordable, accessible, and high quality healthcare, education, and housing are the foundations of community resilience and stability.</p> <p><u>Economy:</u></p> <p>We value an economy that encourages sustainable growth and development within our agricultural, tourism, and other sectors, while creating viable livelihoods for community members, improving the food security of our county, and encouraging the conservation of resources and the minimization of waste.</p> <p><u>Climate and Ecosystem:</u></p> <p>We value the natural world and beauty that surrounds us, and the climate and ecosystems of our county, including the air, water, soil, and the region's remarkable biodiversity. We recognize the need for responsible stewardship of our county for the good of both our community and nature, including the protection and preservation of public lands and undeveloped lands and the strong enforcement of codes and regulations.</p>	<p>Committee action to recommend to the CRC was approved 5/26/21.</p> <p>It is important for members of a community to agree upon and understand what its common values are. It is also important for the local government which is empowered by that community to understand the values it is to employ when it does the People's business. It is important for those values to provide a yardstick with which to measure the success of the local government and indeed, the success of the community as a whole, in living up to its highest aspirations. By becoming enshrined in the County's principle document, these values are permanently held up to us all as our explanation to ourselves of who we are.</p>
<p>5) Recommendation to Council:</p>	<p>We ask the County Council and the rest of the San Juan County government to be mindful of these values and to consider them in every legislative, executive, and administrative action they take and to periodically report to the People how those specific actions comport with the values expressed here.</p>	