

# Charter Review Commission

Town Halls, June 1 & 2, 2021

# Town Hall Process and Contact Information

## Process

- ▶ State your name and island of residence
- ▶ 3 minute speaking limit
  - ▶ Commissioner O'Connell will act as timekeeper
- ▶ For written responses to your questions, please include your email in the chat
- ▶ Please be respectful of CRC members and members of the public.
- ▶ Please do not impugn other people's views.

## Contact Information

- ▶ [sjccharterreview@sanjuanco.com](mailto:sjccharterreview@sanjuanco.com)
- ▶ Charter Review Commission website <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1764/Charter-Review-Commission>

# 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.

# Charter Review Commissioners

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

# Proposed Amendments

1. Climate & Environment Office, Elected Commissioner and Advisory Committee
2. Declaration of Community Values
3. Creation of Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Commission
4. Coast Salish Acknowledgement
5. Term Limits for County Council Members
6. Initiatives & Referendums
  - a. Signature requirements
  - b. Financial limitation clause
  - c. Regulation of paid signature gathering
7. Office of Public Advocate
8. Updated Preamble
9. Charter Review Commission Budget and Provisions
10. Section on 'Non-Discrimination'
11. Ranked Choice Voting

# Creation of Climate & Environment Office and Elected Commissioner

## Issue

- ▶ San Juan County has had a difficult time prioritizing Climate Action and Environmental Protection due to numerous competing priorities on the County Council's agenda.

## Proposal

- ▶ The consolidation of existing staff, creation of an independently elected position solely focused on climate and the environment, being advised by a resident-led Advisory Committee will allow the County to take bold actions.

# Declaration of Community Values

## Issue

- ▶ The existing Charter does not address the importance of fundamental values that should be upheld by the County Government concerning the well-being of the residents of the County and the natural environment they live within.

## Proposal

- ▶ Include language capturing the County's commitment to a diverse community, resilient economy, flourishing ecosystem, and sustainable environment.

# Creation of Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Commission

## Issue

- ▶ SJC Resolution 31/2020 verbalized the County's commitment to a 'Safe and Inclusive Community'. Now is the time for the Charter to create the structure that will make this a reality.

## Proposal

- ▶ Establish a San Juan County resident-led Commission to review and advise all elected and appointed county officials on matters regarding justice, equity, and inclusion.



# Acknowledgement of the Relationship of Coast Salish People with the Land and Waters within San Juan County

## Issue

- ▶ San Juan County must acknowledge the First Peoples of these islands with honor respect.

## Proposal

- ▶ Include the following language in the Charter: “Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.”

# Term Limits for County Council

## Issue

- ▶ The Charter Commission felt that term limits were appropriate for the County Council.

## Proposal

- ▶ Set limits to three consecutive four-year terms
- ▶ Council Member can run again after sitting out one four-year term

# Recommendations

1. Tourism management plan, bringing Tourism Promotion into County, and use of Lodging Tax funds
2. Enhanced elections observations
3. Membership and functioning of Law & Justice Council
4. Implementation of Community Values Declaration throughout government
5. Online County Records transparency
6. Maintenance of County Personnel System by resolution instead of ordinance
7. Exempt individuals abide by same personnel procedures as County employees.
8. Clarification of administrative departments under Manager
9. Clarifying budget responsibility of the County Auditor
10. Online County budget access
11. County manager's deputy
12. Equitable and fair membership and appointments to resident committees.

# Tourism Management Plan and Lodging Tax Funds

## Issue

- ▶ County needs to complete tourism management plan.
- ▶ Community is concerned about the impact of tourism on the environment, scarce resources, and housing market.
- ▶ County could use lodging tax funds to support infrastructure and employee housing.

## Recommendation

- ▶ County needs to establish a tourism management plan based upon accurate metrics regarding the economy and the environment
- ▶ Internalize marketing and promotion as a County government function.
- ▶ The County Council should prioritize the use of Lodging Tax Funds for seasonal worker housing and the protection and maintenance of existing tourism infrastructure (such as County Parks)

# Membership and Composition of Law and Justice Council

## Issue

- ▶ Functioning of the Law and Justice Council of San Juan County can be more transparent, and the membership of the Council should be expanded to include residents.

## Recommendation

- ▶ Implement measures to increase the transparency and accountability

# Public Comment