

SAN JUAN COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

PROPOSITION NO. ____

Concerning the Climate and Environment Commission

The San Juan County Charter Article 4 – Administrative Departments shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 4.60 – Climate and Environment Commission

- 1) The people of San Juan County establish the San Juan County Climate and Environment Commission to advance climate action, the protection of our environment, and the implementation of San Juan County Resolution 20-2020 by providing oversight and support to San Juan County’s department responsible for environmental stewardship and reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The San Juan County Resolution to Respond and Adapt to Climate Change, 20-2020, charges the County with the responsibility of leading the community in reducing its carbon footprint and adapting to changing ecological and economic conditions. The resolution targeted building management, transportation and fleet/equipment, green purchasing and waste management, environmental restoration and health, and green energy production and independence, along with the encouragement of individual practices to promote sustainability. The Climate and Environment Commission will provide a mechanism for citizen engagement and transparency in the County's efforts to address climate change and protect our natural environment.

- 2) The Climate and Environment Commission is hereby established and includes nine members who are not county employees. The County Council shall appoint the membership of the Commission. The Commission will select a chair from its membership to manage operations and communications and the Commission shall meet on a monthly basis at the direction of the chair. All members of the Commission shall be residents of San Juan County with the exception of the Coast Salish member. All members shall be registered voters, with the exception of the Coast Salish member and the youth member if that person is under the age of eighteen (18). Members shall serve four-year staggered terms. The Commission established by this Charter shall supersede any previous commission/s created to advance climate action, the protection of our environment, and the implementation of San Juan County Resolution 20-2020 and/or advise the department with these responsibilities.

3) One person shall be appointed from three of the four following entities:

- The Marine Resources Committee
- The Salmon Recovery Committee
- The Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- The Agricultural Resources Committee

4) Additional members of the Commission shall include:

- A representative from an environmental nonprofit organization based in San Juan County
- A professional contractor with experience in residential construction
- A youth (age 16-25 inclusive) who is active in climate change and environmental protection activities
- An enrolled member of a Coast Salish nation or tribe who is not necessarily a resident of San Juan County
- Two members serving at-large

5) The Commission shall have oversight over the department in San Juan County responsible for environmental stewardship and reducing and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Oversight is defined as the duties and responsibilities described herein. The Commission will review the activities of said department and recommend executive or legislative action to support the implementation of San Juan County Resolution 20/2020, and ensure conformity with Charter, county, state, and federal laws and regulations concerning climate change and environmental protection. The Commission shall conduct all searches and vet future candidates for the director position and make a recommendation to the County Council. The Commission shall be funded with an appropriate budget and shall be given support from County staff, including the staff of said department to:

- Develop and update annually a Climate and Environment Action Plan
- Conduct monthly public meetings with the director in an oversight role for the department
- Release annual updates to the public on the implementation of the Action Plan, including progress, or lack of progress resulting from the activities of County departments and elected officials