



CITY OF EVERETT
Charter Review Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

2930 Wetmore Avenue, 10th Floor Conference Room

Public Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501043827>

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Welcome from Council President Schwab
5. Community Outreach: Public Hearing March 26th Update
6. Article 11.2 Initiative Thresholds
7. Article 2.2 Eligibility to Hold Office
8. Article 8 Civil Service
9. Article 3.2 Council Meetings
10. Article 4.2 Appointive Office
11. Article 7.5 Library Director
12. Parking Lot Review

Charter Review Committee Web Page: <https://www.everettwa.gov/630/Charter-Review-Committee>
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Project title: Briefing on Article 2.2 Eligibility to Hold Elective Office

Agenda dates:

Briefing 02/26/26
Continued to 03/12/26
Action

Attachments:

NA

Project summary background:

Article 2.2 reads:

No person shall be eligible to hold elective office unless he or she shall have been a registered voter and resident of the City for a period of at least one (1) year next preceding his or her election, and, for Council positions elected from Council districts, a resident of an applicable Council district, for a period of at least six (6) months prior to the primary election date preceding his or her election.

In 2025, a question regarding this language was raised during the election for Council District 4. Staff can develop a recommendation on how this language should be changed to provide clarity moving forward.

Committee member Rubio Proposal

“No person shall be eligible to be a candidate for or to hold elective office unless he or she has been both a registered voter of the City and a resident of the City for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election.

For Council positions elected from Council districts, the person must also have resided within the applicable Council district for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the primary election.”

Rationale: 1. Drafting Clarity: The phrase "next preceding" reflects archaic drafting conventions. Compound sentence structure may allow interpretive ambiguity. Modernized phrasing improves readability without altering substance. 2. Structural Ambiguity: Existing text blends city-wide and district requirements in one sentence. Separation improves clarity for candidates and election administrators. 3. District Representation: Extending district residency from six months to one year may strengthen representative legitimacy. Encourages demonstrable community connection. 4. Timing of Qualification: Clarifies that eligibility applies both at candidacy filing and during service.

Committee member Bolerjack Recommendation

“...for Council positions elected from Council districts, a resident of an applicable Council district, for a period of at least one (1) year prior to the primary election date preceding his or her election.”

Rationale: The difference between six months and one year is meaningful in becoming acquainted with a new community, which is relevant to representing the members of that community. A full year also makes it more difficult for someone with political aspirations to choose their district and potential voters – rather than the other way around – with little notice and based predominantly on sheer opportunism, all without meaningfully diminishing who might seek office.

Council Vice President Rhyme Proposal

“The Charter should explicitly state that a candidate must either:

- Be a city resident for one year (or six months for districted council seats) prior to the primary, **and** be a registered voter for any length of time prior to filing; or
- Be a city resident for one year (or six months for districted council seats) prior to the primary, **and** also be registered to vote for one year (or six months for districted council seats)

Requiring a full year of voter registration would effectively bar individuals under from running for office, which appears unnecessarily restrictive and, I would assume, unconstitutional.

I suggest that the requirement that elected officials "remain city residents" should be clarified to mean full-time residency, explicitly prohibiting snowbird or part-time residency arrangements.”

Recommendation (action requested of Committee): Discuss the different proposals that have been presented. Approve a motion to request development of a policy proposal on Charter Article 2.2 Eligibility to Hold Elective Office.

Project title: Article 3.2: Council Meetings

Agenda dates:

Briefing 03/12/26
Action

Attachments:

NA

Project summary background:

The Charter currently requires that the Council conduct 48 meetings per year and sets up a procedure for how to conduct meetings in the absence of the Council President. Staff recommends 46 meetings per year to allow for flexibility in scheduling.

Additional Information

Council Vice President Rhyme submitted a suggestion for this section:

3.2.1. Minimum Number of Meetings

“Please consider reducing the required number of meetings from 48 to 46 (or fewer). With holiday cancellations (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's), the current requirement allows little flexibility and may result in meetings with minimal substance, wasting staff time and city resources.”

3.2.2. Presiding Officer Clarification

“The Charter states that if the president is absent, meetings are presided over by "a member of council selected by a majority". In practice, the vice president typically presides. The language should reflect current practice, with majority selection occurring only if both the president and vice president are absent.”

Recommendation (action requested of Committee):

Discuss these proposals and approve a motion to request development of a policy proposal on Charter Article 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

Project title: Article 4.8 Department of Parks and Recreation – Director

Agenda dates:

Briefing 03/12/26
Action

Attachments:

NA

Project summary background:

Section 4.8 requires the city to have a Parks and Recreation Department. The City currently has a Parks and Facilities Department with these responsibilities, but no Parks and Recreation Department.

Recommendation (action requested of Committee):

Determine whether this section should be removed or modernized to fit current practice.