

Snohomish County Charter Review Commission

March 25, 2026

Minutes

Present:

Chair Brett Gailey

Vice-Chair Mark James

Commissioner Rob Toyer (remote)

Commissioner Don Vanney

Commissioner Jennifer Gregerson

Commissioner Demi Chatters

Commissioner Shawn O'Donnell

Commissioner Janelle Cass (remote) *arrived at 5:38pm*

Commissioner Patrick Decker

Commissioner David Preston

Commissioner Amanda Dodd

Commissioner Ben Mahnkey (remote)

Commissioner Dale Kaemingk

Commissioner Carolyn Eslick (remote)

County Auditor Garth Fell

County Treasurer Brian Sullivan

Peter Condyles, Commission Coordinator

Benjamin Goodwin, Commission Legal Counsel (remote)

Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

Elena Lao, Deputy Clerk of the Council

**See names below for those who provided public comment*

1. Call to order

Chair Gailey called the meeting to order at 5:30pm in the Jackson Board Room.

2. Roll Call

The Commission Coordinator called the roll; 13 members were present.

Commissioner Vanney made a motion to excuse Commissioners Cass, and McGee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chatters, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gailey announced that while he plans to resign as Mayor of Lake Stevens, he intends to stay on as Chair of the Commission until the sale of his home.

3. Public Comment

Public comment was provided by the following:

Abi Ludwig (remote)- Representing Standing for Washington
Kathryn Lewandowsky (remote)
Eric Bidstrup- Representing FairVote Washington
Holly (no last name given)
Janice Greene- Representing OneVoice Snohomish

4. Approval of Minutes- March 11, 2026

Commissioner Vanney made a motion to approve the March 11 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Preston seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. Topics of Discussion

Commissioner Chatters made a motion to reorder the agenda to review new proposals before previously advance proposals with the exception of proposals 6 and 13 as the presenters on those proposals needed to leave for another meeting. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

a. Updated Procedures

Commissioner Vanney made a motion to update the Rules & Procedures to reflect a new seven vote threshold for a proposal to move to legal review. Commissioner Decker seconded the motion, and it carried with thirteen commissioners voting in favor and two abstaining.

b. Draft proposals

i. Previously advance proposals

1. Proposal 6 related to utilizing ranked choice voting for Charter Review Commission elections

County Auditor Garth Fell gave a presentation on how ranked choice voting has worked in the City of Portland Oregon, and how Snohomish County could transition to this method of voting. Commissioners asked Auditor Fell a number of questions related to ranked choice voting and then had discussion amongst themselves.

Commissioner Chatters made a motion that proposal 6 be advanced for further study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and it failed with four Commissioners voting in favor, and ten against.

2. Proposal 12 related to utilizing ranked choice voting for all county offices

The Commission discussed the proposal by Commissioner Dodd. The Commission did not take a vote on the proposal.

3. Proposal 13 related to funding the offices of Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Superior Court

County Treasurer Brian Sullivan gave a presentation on this proposal that he had requested be considered by the commission. Commissioners asked Treasurer Sullivan a number of questions related to his proposal and had discussion amongst themselves.

Commissioner Decker made a motion that proposal 13 be advanced for further study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and it carried unanimously.

ii. **New proposals**

1. Proposal 7 related to criteria used by the County Assessor when determining property values

The Commission discussed the proposal by Commissioner Preston. There were a number of questions related to how the county currently values properties, and what state law says on the subject. The Commission requested that the County Assessor attend the next meeting to give her opinion on this proposal.

Commissioner Decker made a motion that proposal 7 be advanced for further study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaemingk, and it carried unanimously.

2. Proposal 8 related to limiting the number of offices a county elected official or employee can hold.

The Commission discussed the proposal by Commissioner Preston.

Commissioner Chatters made a motion that proposal 8 be advanced for further study. Commissioner Mahnkey seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dodd made an amendment to the motion to add the words “outside employment” instead of “another elected office”. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Chatters.

Commissioner Mahnkey made a friendly amendment to the amendment to add the words “full time” before “outside employment.” Commissioner Dodd accepted the friendly amendment. The amendment failed with six Commissioners voting in favor, and eight voting against.

Commissioner Dodd made an amendment to strike the words “county employees”. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Gregerson. The amendment failed with a tied vote of seven to seven.

The Commission then voted on the original motion from Commissioner Chatters to advance Proposal 8 for further study. The proposals carried with five Commissioners voting in favor, and nine against.

3. Proposal 9 related to the duties of the County Auditor

The Commission discussed the proposal by Commissioner Decker.

Commissioner Decker made a motion to advance proposal 9 for further study. Commissioner Preston seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Meeting Frequency

Chair Gailey asked the Commission if they would like to begin meeting weekly to ensure they finish their work in time for the May 29 deadline. Majority of the Commissioner spoke against meeting weekly but instead favored having longer meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday.

7. Other Business

Coordinator Condyles reminded the Commissioners to pick up their oaths of office forms, and that the next meeting would be at the Mill in Lake Stevens.

8. Adjourn

Commissioner Vanney made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chatters, and it passed unanimously. The Commission was adjourned at 7:27pm.