








Charter Freeholder

Dist	Pos	Notes	First	Last	Reason you are running	Election vs Appt of Co Admin	How many commissioners	No. of Comm vs budget	Initiative & Referendum
2	1		Jamie	Hurly	I believe in good government. Any organization - government, private, non-profit, etc. should periodically evaluate how it operates and consider what is and what is not working. State law allows this review but requires the consent of the people. The process is designed to be democratic and reflect the wishes of the people.	I believe the administrator should serve at the will of the commissioners.	Whether the number should be increased would be up to the entire freeholder's board to decide and ultimately the voters of the county. However, a county with more than 400,000 residents and diverse industries and communities suggests that a larger board is worth close examination. The county population is well past what the state requires for consideration of an expanded county commission. If it was expanded, a five-member board would reflect many city councils and school boards. A five-member board is less likely to become polarized and more likely to reflect the various interests of the county.	If the freeholders' board proposed expansion of the county commission to five, I would not favor cutting current commissioners' salaries and benefits to make up the difference. The needs of a growing county (which can be better accomplished with good government) would not diminish the demands on the commissioners. In fact, they would be better able to serve their constituents if their districts were smaller. That would be worth the increased costs. I would rather see their salaries and benefits frozen for a few years to buffer the effects of the increased cost.	The sheer number of advisory votes on the November ballot already suggests that several layers of government in the state are not working well. Elected officials have a duty to represent the interests of their constituents. They also have an obligation to stand on the right side of history on controversial issues - even if the honor in taking such a stance might be politically costly. So no, we don't need initiatives and referendums at the county level. We need good, honest, thoughtful commissioners who can work together to improve the quality of life here for all of us.
2	1		Diana	Perez	I decided to run for Freeholder because it is nonpartisan, voluntary, and involves working in a team environment. I felt I had the skills necessary to contribute towards developing a Charter and knowledge in public involvement.	My initial thoughts are for appointment. However, I believe in the process of weighing out the pros and cons of different alternatives before making an informed final decision.	I believe the number of commissioners needs to be a reasonable number that reflects the population. Given that current governance in Clark County is the same as it was when first established and that current population size is significantly different from inception, it is time to increase the number of commissioners.	Increasing current budget should not be the only solution to supporting 5 county commissioners. I believe there are other options to consider.	I believe in the power of the people at both state and local level to directly exercise authority to enact and repeal laws.
2	1		Cheryl	Bledsoe	I have always been a student of political process. As the Emergency Manager for Clark County and its 7 cities, I value open and fair processes that connect great ideas with resident feedback. And I am running for Freeholder, District 2, Position 1 because I want to be involved in the charter-writing process to ensure that we provide for participatory democracy. Currently, legislation at the Commissioner level is driven by the agendas and interests of the commissioners and/or what gets on their radar. This is subject to abuse on both sides of the aisle because it depends on the agendas and interest of whomever is in office. Whether it be 2 Republicans or 2 Democrats, this process is open to the winds of political change at every level.	I am still researching this issue on election vs appointment. I am supportive of the separation of powers (meaning that the legislative authority of the Commissioners be split from the executive authority of the County Administrator) as it allows for some checks and balances that don't currently exist. I have begun researching how the other 6 charters work in Washington State and will be interested in learning about how the residents in each of those 6 counties feel about their charters (and specifically this issue of election of the County Administrator). I am, of course, concerned that an elected administrator adds yet another political agenda to the mix, but am interested in ensuring checks and balances of powers.	There are surely some interesting conversation to be had about this issue. Upon initial glance, I believe that Clark County has grown significantly since it established 3 commissioners. I believe our county population was 11,000 people at the time. At over 435K in population, the various cities are developing their own identities and may not be as clearly represented in the current structure. For example, East Vancouver (my district) also includes Camas & Washougal which are busy developing their city-based identities. Likewise, Battle Ground to the north is developing a city identity that may be quite different from Ridgefield & La Center. Upon initial glance, I think 5 commissioners makes a lot of sense to ensure that our urban areas feel just as represented as our rural communities. It may be hard to accomplish that with just 3.	I would support a governing process that adequately represents the communities and allows for clear involvement of the people. Budget issues are always complex ones. If you are asking if I would oppose 5 commissioners solely on budgetary grounds, that answer would be no. I would need to examine the cost-benefit analysis before I could adequately judge this issue.	Yes because I support a clear process for an involved democracy. When people have good ideas, they should solicit support of the community and if that support is present, the issue should be placed on the ballot for the registered voters to weigh in. Of course, this type of process also comes with price tags attached and the cost-benefits of such a system should be reviewed by the elected Freeholders in order to evaluate if this makes sense for our county.

2	1		Rob	Perkins	In short, to give back. My upbringing here in Clark County was service oriented, with family and church emphasizing the need to contribute by volunteering time and talent in careful pursuit of good causes.	I think there are advantages and disadvantages to election vs. appointment which the freeholders must examine carefully. What is more important is that we find a way to introduce a system of checks and balances to county governance which corrects or mitigates the structural problems we have today.	There should be at least five members on the Board of Commissioners. The current three-member commission is not representative of the nearly even urban/rural and conservative/liberal divisions at work here in Clark County. Further, our population is about double what it was when I finished high school in the 1980s. It's time to recognize the population and demographics with a larger Board of Commissioners.	The current schedule of salaries comprises 0.04% of the county's full budget; it's a larger concern to me that the budget doesn't balance. More commissioners can mean a lighter workload for each commissioner. I support the cost of more commissioners against the workload of the commissioners.	Yes. I intend to propose or support a lawful initiative and referendum power for the county.
2	1		Nan	Henriksen	My number one reason for running to be a freeholder is to be an ethical, unbiased and analytical part of the process. My top priority is to use my talents and past experience to listen to all ideas, have honest dialogue with the other freeholders and then be a strong advocate for the plan that will provide the most effective and fair governing of Clark County.	I believe there should be separation of legislative and administrative functions. I plan to listen to and carefully evaluate all ideas and research for various ways to best achieve this separation that would provide the most effective, fair government for Clark County.	I am not decided on what an ideal number of County commissioners would be. Current circumstances may be an indication that the way the current board is structured is not ideal for providing effective and fair government. I am open to all ideas that would promote open and goal-oriented governmental representation.	I would support a possible increase in the county budget if it were part of a well thought out plan that created a higher level of effective representation and governance. Again, I am not committed to any specific plan of action and would hope that all freeholders would begin the process receptive to many possibilities.	I worry about the potential for abuse and over use of the initiative and referendum processes. However, I would certainly be open to looking at the issue fully and can see beneficial uses of the initiative process.
2	1		Thomas	Hann					
2	1		Joel	Littauer	I want to become a freeholder in order to help write a county charter that provides representation adequate for the number of residents in Clark County, diversity of ideas and balance of power, a charter that dilutes the power of the current commissioners.	A county executive should be elected, not appointed. We have seen how the appointment process is susceptible to abuse in the current political environment.	With more than 433,000 residents in Clark County, we should have 5 elected commissioners.	I do support the idea of 5 elected commissioners. The current proposal is for no increase in total compensation. However, as a freeholder, I would agree to a proposal to increase the county budget to fund 5 commissioners and an elected county executive if it were necessary to achieve consensus.	I do support initiative and referendum at the county level if those processes are made widely accessible.
2	2		Esther	Schrader	I want to be part of the process in finding the best possible system of governance for Clark County.	I like the idea of electing a County Executive because he/she would be answerable to the voter, not to the BOCC alone.	I believe that 3 Commissioners is inadequate for the size and complexity of our county. 5 is probably sufficient. I would be open to discussion on this point, along with many others.	Yes, if that is the only way it will work. I believe there are solutions available that would not increase the county budget, however.	Definitely.
2	2		Tracy	Wilson					
2	2		John	Bryden					
2	2		Lloyd	Halverson	Continued public service.	Let the freeholder committee benefit from research and discussion, and then recommend to the voters a package of reforms.	More than three. Let the freeholder committee hear the merits of five or seven, and then recommend.	For a more effective commission, overseeing a very large budget, if necessary, I would support an increase in the commissioners budget. A more effective Commission and Executive will result in more efficient operation.	support
2	2		Ken	Kakuk					

2	2		Debbie	Abraham	Initiative and Referendum. I believe that Clark County residents should have the power to directly influence the decisions of county government.	My reservations for the election of this position are financial. I believe that there are different skill sets for politicians and administrators and while sometimes a person has both, I worry we would be paying for the politician and then paying for the administrator as well to actually do the work. (Although I also suspect what we'd pay an elected official would be substantially less than we pay a professional administrator: a certain irony with that). That said, the separation of powers for executive and legislative functions has served this country pretty well--especially at the local level. That separation would necessitate more transparency and more accountability. I believe the purpose of creating a new charter is to restore and enhance both the public's trust in government as well as our ability to influence the decisions made on our behalf and I think a county executive position advances both of those goals. So with some reservations, in the end, I do support the creation of this position.	5 Commissioners. I think it is ridiculous that two commissioners cannot talk outside of a public meeting because that constitutes a quorum. I also think that diluting the power of 3 commissioners will give more power back to the voters. Given the size of Clark County, having each commissioner represent about 90,000 people is more accountable than 150,000.	I do not believe we should increase the amount of money spent on the salaries of county commissioners. I believe that current salaries are too high, so dividing that amount among 5 still provides an adequate compensation level for a full-time position.	Absolutely! It is my primary reason for running for freeholder.
2	3		John	Burke					
2	3		Liz	Pike	My top priority as a Freeholder is to make sure the process is fair and that citizens of Clark County will have their voices heard. If elected, I pledge to represent the community values of citizens of the 2nd Commissioner District in all freeholder deliberations. As an elected State Representative who regularly communicates with thousands of Clark County residents, I hear over and over again that citizens are tired of being ignored by politicians who think they know what's best for them. As an elected State Representative, I have a proven track record of listening to the people I serve and advocating on their behalf. The Columbia River Crossing is an excellent example of politicians ignoring the will of the people, in favor of their own political ideology. I am committed to represent the citizens' point of view so that on important projects in our community, the people are never ignored again.	Much more research needs to be done to identify if a county executive system is best for Clark County. Armed with the facts, I will present all options of a county charter to the community and find out if it's something the citizens have an interest in pursuing. The citizens' voice must be heard in this important freeholder process.	I would favor an expansion from three to five commissioners if it makes fiscal sense and if it is the desire of the citizens I represent.	I would favor an expansion from three to five commissioners if it makes fiscal sense and if it is the desire of the citizens I represent.	Every County Charter that has been adopted in Washington State has included the power of initiative and referendum process. My Olympia research tells me this power is limited to issues not pre-empted by state law so there are few instances where Washington courts have allowed citizens to exercise successful initiative and referendum powers.
2	3		Russell	Boten	Too many Clark County employees can tell me to the nickel what their pensions will be but not the last time they actually helped a citizen.	Appointment by a board of commissioners likely to produce better results than a popularity/money contest.	Five. Increase. But make the positions with as little compensation as possible.	Leading question, but no?	Yes, opportunity to correct actual (or perceived) mistakes by elected or unelected officials.

2	3		Judie	Stanton	To work with other freeholders and interested residents to draft a charter that will be enthusiastically approved by the voters at the 2014 General Election.	A more effective county government can be achieved by creating a balance of power between those who set policy and the day-to-day administrative functions that implement the adopted policies. In my opinion this can best be done, as it is in some other Washington counties, by changing to an elected executive who is accountable to the residents of the county.	When I ran for my first term as county commissioner in 1996, I said I believed that we should have more commissioners to better represent the growing diversity of views in our county. I am even more convinced of that need today. The "right" number in my mind will be partially dependent on whether the positions are full-time or part-time. If the freeholders settle on full-time commissioners I would advocate for five. If the board agrees on an elected county executive and determines that the legislative responsibilities can be handled by a part-time board I would prefer seven.	No, I do not support spending more for five commissioners. Actually the reason I did not sign the petition to simply go from three to five commissioners is that the number was the only question. The home rule charter process will enable the freeholders to discuss, and recommend to the voters, the number of commissioners as well as their compensation. I believe we can achieve a more representative, accountable and effective government for the same price we're paying today. If the decision is to move to five full-time commissioners I would take the current total compensation and divide it between the five.	Yes. Giving residents the right to bring forth initiatives and referenda by petition would give us a stronger position to make change, creating a government that is closer to the people and, therefore, more responsive and effective.
2	3		Jim	Martin	Clark County voters will have an opportunity to decide how they want the County government to be responsive to their needs. The experience I bring from other advisory bodies will benefit the process.	The County Administrator should be an expert in a field of public administration, appointed by the elected County Commissioners. There is a potential for political wrangling if the County Commissioners and an elected County Administrator have opposing views.	Snohomish County has 5. I think we should expand to at least that number with a mechanism to increase later as population increases.	Currently we have 3 Commissioners representing all of the county, I propose additional Commissioners be added to better represent clearly defined districts in the County. The current salary poll should be divided among them, so no increase in the budget.	People's direct influence on the Government is the initiative and referendum process which I support.
2	4		Dimitry	Mishchuk					
2	4		Paul	Dennis	To assist the citizens of Clark County in developing a local Home Rule (or constitution) that will provide the necessary checks and balances to minimize the abuse of power and create a highly effective/efficient governing body.	I believe the most effective structure is one that separates the executive, legislative, and judicial powers. If the governing body that creates policy and laws is the same as the body responsible for carrying out policy and laws, there will be a higher propensity for abuse of power. I also think it is important that the daily operations of a public agency be ran by a professional to ensure that public services are properly delivered. I think the voters should ultimately determine the appropriate form of government.	I think we should go to five (5) commissioners as this will increase the difficulty of any one person being able to dominate public policy and daily operations. Also, our county has grown tremendously over the last 30 years, both in numbers and diversity; creating two additional district could assist in providing for broader representation.	I do not think the county budget should be increased solely for establishing two additional county commissioner seats.	There are arguments for either side. I think it could be an effective means for voters, but there should be a threshold for submitting initiatives/referendums to the voters so that they don't feel overwhelmed and so that public services are not held hostage to special interest groups. Every voting cycle cost the tax payers. I've seen communities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on special interest initiatives, which diverted dollars from public services.
2	4		Roger	Neilson					
2	5		Bentley	Brookes					
2	5		Tony	McMigas					

2	5		Adam	Baldwin	<p>For the once in a life time chance to make the county government more transparent to the people as well as to empower the people to take a more active role in the governance of the county.</p>	<p>I am totally opposed to the Progressive era ideology of a century ago that advanced the idea that we should replace the Jeffersonian/Jacksonian amateur citizen activists that have served this nation so well with so called technocratic experts with master's degrees in public administration and other such non-sense. A century ago I can see how people could have been persuaded with such an idea that a skilled expert would make better governing decisions than an amateur citizen activist. Looking back in hindsight, it is clear this progressive era faith in the technocrat has proven to be a disaster. One has to look no farther than the Federal Reserve System to see what a disaster faith in so called experts has been for our nation. A great example of Technocrat vs. amateur citizen activist is the city police chief being appointed vs. the county sheriff being elected. I have observed that county sheriff departments do a better job at respecting civil liberties than city police departments. County sheriffs elected by the people cannot afford to displease the people the way an appointed city police chief can. So yes, I favor popular election fo the County Administrator (Executive), instead of paying some technocrat a bloated salary to do what in my opinion is typically a less satisfactory job than the amateur citizen activist.</p>	<p>In my candidate statement I stated I favor increasing the number of county commissioners from three to five. Due to being limited to a mere 100 words I simply could not elaborate. I do support increasing the County Commissioners from three to five, but in my ideal vision of Clark county I would like to increase the County Commissioners from three to six with each County Commissioner only being elected by the citizens residing in the County Commissioners respective districts. Unlike now were the citizens of the whole county vote for all three County Commissioners at large. In addition I would want an elected County Executive to make up the seventh County Commissioner who would be elected at large by all citizens of Clark county. I wish to see term limits imposed on Clark County Commissioners and the County Executive. A citizen should be able to serve for up to two terms and then their time of civic duty is over. Power corrupts and the longer a politician stays in political office in this country the more corrupt they usually seem to become. Term limits on County Commissioners I believe would reduce the level of political corruption within Clark County. Serving in an elected office should not be a career or a profit making venture as it so often appears to be the case in this nation today. As many citizens as possible should serve in the elected office, serving in an elected office is supposed to be a civic duty not a career. In addition I would like to see Clark County Commissioner meetings held in a more geographically central location within the county so no Clark County Citizen has to drive substantially much further than any other citizen of Clark County to attend a Clark County Commissioners meeting. I favor requiring County Commissioner meetings to be held in the evening when citizens are more likely to be able to attend.</p>	<p>I favor cutting county government spending elsewhere to make up the difference. Cutting County Commissioner and appointed technocrats salaries would be a good place to start. Ultimately I would favor increasing tax revenue if it came to it if insufficient cuts could not be made in the county budget. I feel very strongly that government at the bare minimum must provide for citizen representation, fir and transparent elections, courts, police, and defence; everything else government does is a luxury. If government cannot provide the previous listed services successfully I don't see by what right that government ought to exist at all. So if it came down to it I am in favor of raising revenue to provide for the salaries of any new County Commissioners.</p>	<p>County initiative/referendum is the most important reform that must be included in the new county charter. Nothing in any new county charter I feel will do more to empower the citizens of Clark County than including citizen initiative/referendum in the new county charter. I hope the citizens of Clark County veto come election time any new county charter the county Freeholders propose that does not include initiative/referendum if it should come to that.</p>
2	5		Marc	Boldt	<p>I feel I know county and state government and can make a difference.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I'm open for discussion.</p>	<p>I'm open for discussion</p>	<p>Yes</p>

2	5		Jake	Smith	<p>My reason to run as a freeholder candidate is that I want to get the youth (18-29) involved in our government process. I believe I am the youngest candidate for freeholder (age 21, turn 22 in December). Our youth can be inspired by government officials and movements. This is proven by the Ron Paul movement, which I was a proud part of. I supported this congressman and his fight for liberty at the federal government level as Ron Paul rallied against the establishment and status quo. Another example of a movement that was inspired by our youth was Occupy Wall Street, which mostly had 18-29 year olds frustrated with the status quo as well as the March against Montezano, where young citizens frustrated with the lack of accountability in GMO's as well as President Obama sneaking a bill that protects Montezano. Young voters are a block I am interested in as I am a part of that voting block.</p>	<p>This can be a really complex question. Questions I have in regards to this are: 1) How long will the county administrators term be? Will it be a 4 year term or an 8 year term? Is this position term limited? I know Washington State does not have term limits but we cannot term limit the state reps, congress, senators and the state wide offices as it is beyond the scope of the freeholders. I am an advocate for term limits. My question is are we allowed to term limit city council, commissioners and employees? 2) We know Bill Barron is retiring in the fall. However, how long can we keep his seat open for? 3) In the event the administrator resigns or passes away, who will be the next in line? Will we appoint, then do an election similar to when Jim Jacks resigned in 2011? I remain neutral on this stance. I am opening to listen to ideas (if elected to freeholder) to other freeholders and constituents of our area. This idea, while I remain neutral on it, might be considered a debatable topic.</p>	<p>I am fine with the 3 commissioners. I do think if citizens want to expand the board to 5, it should be addressed via I and R and for it to be amended, require a super majority (either 3/5 or 2/3 to pass) for it to be enacted since we are changing the government. It is similar to providing a constitutional amendment (United States). It requires 2/3 in both chambers and 2/3 states to ratify an amendment. Furthermore, since I am one citizen</p>	<p>I would not support this decision as the question did not present a cost breakdown regarding this decision. Several questions I have in regards to the answer: 1) What will be the salary if we expand to 5? Will it be the \$100,000 or \$60,000? I do not support cutting persons salaries by that much. 2) What is the benefit breakdown cost. 3) How will this be funded? Clearly, if we could not keep fire station 6 open and could hand Elie Kassab a tax abatement and police station for cheap, why should Clark County build a ballpark? I believe in a priority spending approach. The idea of adding 2 new commissioners is like buying 2 brand new cars. However, if I am unable to make housing payments (let's say for example) and am unable to cover bills, then 2 cars does not seem like a good idea. Police and Fire stations come first, not tax breaks or handing Kassab a building for cheap.</p>	<p>Yes, The initiative and referendum process are wonderful tools in regards to issues that the state legislature is unable or unwilling to pass or repeal. Charter schools passed in WA. state. Liquor privatization, marijuana legalization and simple majority for school bonds have passed this way when the legislature would not bring it up for debate or pass it or when it was vetoed. Laws have also been repealed this way (candy tax). The 2/3 tax rule, which would not be considered for debate under a democrat trifecta (when a party controls both chambers and the governors mansion) managed to be passed by the people. The state legislature meets for only a limited amount of days and don't have time or resources to write county level I & R for all 39 counties in the state.</p>
2	5	Property of MADORE	Chuck	Miller					