



Local Position of LWVCLA Regarding the Clallam County Home Rule Charter

Updated May 15, 2008

- All legislative powers of the County shall continue to be vested in the elected County Commissioners who should be viewed as “the public face” of the County government. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for determining County policy and should be principally a legislative, rather than an administrative, body.
- Insofar as permitted by State law, all County elected officials should be non-artisan, including Commissioners.
- In the current system of three County Commissioners, the Commissioners should continue to be nominated by district and elected at large.
- In order to improve geographic representation and possibly provide a broader range of ideas and opinions, the number of Commissioners should be increased when warranted by a larger population.
- The County Administrator should be a professional administrator, subject to appointment, removal and general supervision by the Board of Commissioners. Administrative responsibilities are the purview of the County Administrator, enabling the County Commissioners to focus on their legislative and policy-setting responsibilities.
- Clallam County should move toward adoption of the council-manager form of government.
- Administrative departments should be headed by appointed (not elected) officials bearing the necessary skills, training and competency to assure that the County’s policies, programs and responsibilities are carried out in a professional, cost-effective manner.
- The Charter provision that the Prosecuting Attorney serves as ex-officio coroner is no longer acceptable as presently implemented. At a minimum, the County Commissioners are urged to work with the affected departments and agencies to develop a system which will assure that death investigations are conducted by qualified medically-trained professionals in a consistent, timely manner.
- The people are entitled to clear and complete information concerning the powers reserved to them, as well as the limitations on those powers. The limitations on the local initiative and referendum processes as stated in the Charter should be amended to include (as stated in the County Administrative Code) “those which do not conflict with the federal and state constitutions, the laws of the State of Washington or the County Charter.” Furthermore, citizens should have made available to them a packet containing all necessary information regarding the initiative, referendum and recall procedures.

NOTE: *This position was originally adopted by the LWVCLA in 2002, subsequently reaffirmed at annual meetings, and amended in 2008 to acknowledge goals which had been accomplished.*