



Freeholders

Candidate Informational Forum

WELCOME!

Introductions



Presenters:

- **Philip Morley, County Administrator**
- **Donna M. Eldridge, County Auditor**
- **Karen Cartmel, Chief Deputy Auditor / Elections Coordinator**



What is Home Rule?

- Ability to customize county form of government
- Does not change county roles/authorities
- New governance form is specified in a Charter
- Charter must be approved by the electorate
 - Passed by a simple majority (50% + 1)
- If approved, we become a “Home Rule” County

Six Home Rule Counties



- King County (1968)
- Clallam County (1976)
- Whatcom County (1978)
- Snohomish County (1979)
- Pierce County (1980)
- San Juan County (2005)

Home Rule Effort



- Election of Freeholders referred by Petition – July 2013
- First time question is going to the voters to become a Charter County – November 2013 General Election ballot.
- First Freeholder Election for Jefferson County
- Five (5) Freeholders for each Commissioner District – total 15



2013-14 Freeholders

- Referred by Petition, filed with County Auditor
 - “Freeholder” comes from the State Constitution
 - 15 Freeholders will be elected on Nov. 5, 2013
 - 5 from each Commissioner District
 - Qualifications
 - Registered Voter, resident five years preceding their election & lives in Commissioner and Freeholder District
- Singular constitutional duty



Board of Freeholders

- Collectively the 15 Freeholders constitute a Board of Freeholders (BOF)
- BOF convenes within 30 days after elected
- Budget: No budget at this time
- Extension of county government, thus....
 - Open public meetings, open public records and conflict of interest

2013-14 Process



- Freeholders take office Nov. 27, 2013
- Meet as board no later than Dec. 27, 2013
- BOF disbands once charter submitted
 - or by June 30, 2015 (whichever comes first)
- Proposed Charter published four times before election in two (2) legal newspapers
- Approval by election majority (50% plus 1)
 - Countywide vote (not just unincorporated areas)



Perspectives

- No charter form serves as a “standard” model for all counties
 - other county charters in Washington, provide a starting point for BOF
- Charter is not an answer for all issues
 - People, not structure, resolve our issues



Freeholder Elections

Qualifications



- Registered Voter
- Resident of Jefferson County for past 5 years
- Live in the Commissioner and Freeholder District filing for



Candidate Filing Period

- Aug. 14, 15 & 16, 2013
 - 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Two ways to file for office
 - In person
 - By Mail
- No Provisions for withdrawing during a Special 3-day Filing Period



How to file for office

- Declaration of Candidacy form
- Filing Fee - \$25.00
 - Unable to pay, Filing Fee Petition signed by registered voters within the district equal to the number of dollars of the filing fee. This must accompany the Declaration of Candidacy form (needs 25 valid signatures)
- Public Disclosure Commission forms
 - C-1 (Candidate Registration Form)
 - F-1 (Personal Financial Affairs Statement)
- Lot Drawing after 4:30 p.m., August 16th

Guidelines Packet



- What's in the Packet?
 - General Guidelines
 - Declaration of Candidacy form
 - PDC Flyer – Starting Off on the Right Foot
 - C-1 Candidate Registration
 - F-1 Personal Affairs Financial Statement



Voters' On-Line voter Guide

<https://wei.sos.wa.gov/county/jefferson/en/pages/onlinevotersguide.aspx>

- No cost to include statement / photo
- Not a requirement
- No Deadline
- No limit on words – *word doc format*
- Photo Specifications – *jpeg format*
- Ways to submit your information
 - Using the link provided in email when filing; or
 - Send to karenc@co.jefferson.wa.us



And the winner is ...

- Three districts – 5 “positions” in each
 - Top vote getter in each position wins
 - Certification on Nov. 26 (begin term Nov. 27)
 - Ends June 30, 2015, or at charter submission
- Board of Freeholder Initial Chair selection
- First meeting must be held within 30 days
 - Staff will work with initial chair to convene BOF
 - Oath of office at beginning of first meeting

Questions ?



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