

Regional Governance Subcommittee – Regional Committees  
2007-08 Charter Review Commission

Goals	Proposal	Rationale
<b>Increasing the authority of Regional Committees</b>	Allow each Regional Committee to select its leadership (SCA, et al.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Move toward greater independence from Council oversight.</li> </ul>
	Allow each Regional Committee to develop its own work program (SCA, et al.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Move toward greater independence from Council oversight; and</li> <li>- Empower committees to work from their own agendas.</li> </ul>
	Mandate full King County Council consideration of and vote on all legislation recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comply with the Charter provisions that require the full council to refer back to Regional Committees any amendments the council intends to make to legislation reviewed or proposed by a committee prior to Council taking action (270.30); and</li> <li>- Address concerns expressed by public regarding possible “pocket vetoes” of initiatives proposed by Regional Committees.</li> </ul>

<b>Making the Regional Committees more representative</b>	Reduce the number of King County Council seats (SCA, Bellevue, Seattle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate sufficient representation of cities and sewer districts;</li> <li>- Council's position is already given special weight since it is the final arbiter of RC recommendations</li> <li>- Lighten the demands on the nine Councilmembers.</li> </ul>
	Make Regional Committee membership population proportional (SCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enable representation of the subunits of King County</li> </ul>
	<b>City of Bellevue Representation</b>	
	Give Bellevue a seat on the Regional Committees (Bellevue, Seattle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is the second largest city in King County;<sup>1</sup></li> <li>- It is a unique municipality distinctive from the suburban cities</li> </ul>
	Do not give Bellevue representation as a voting member of the Regional Committees (SCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This would dilute the power of the SCA.</li> </ul>
	<b>Snohomish County Representation (RWQC)</b>	
	Maintain current level of sewer district representation on the Water Quality Committee (Sewer Districts, SCA, Bellevue, Seattle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enable effective citizen representation as well as the intent of KCC 270.20 (Composition of Regional Committees)</li> </ul>
	Add representation of south Snohomish County, possibly reducing sewer district representation on the Regional Water Quality Committee (DNRP, Bellevue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include representation of areas served by King County's sewage treatment capital expansion and operation; and</li> <li>- Increases in share of sewer service provided to Snohomish are projected over the next 20 years</li> </ul>
	Prohibit Snohomish County from having a voting seat on the Water Quality Committee (Sewer Districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Giving another county representation and authority in King County's legislative process is contrary to state law (Chap. 35.58 RCW);</li> <li>- Service to Snohomish County is a function of contract negotiations; county should not have a vote on a committee that makes recommendations to Council on matters involving negotiations with Snohomish County.</li> <li>- Sewer district populations will increase significantly while Snohomish County service will be nine percent by 2030.</li> </ul>
	Add tribal representation to one or more Regional Committee(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tribes have compelling interests in some of the issues addressed by Regional Committees, including water quality and open space.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Bellevue supports a charter amendment that will designate cities with populations at or above a certain threshold as metropolitan cities.

<b>Other proposals for changing Regional Committees</b>	Adopt variable treatment of each of the committees (Seattle)	- Each subcommittee has unique functions and objectives; a one-size-fit-all approach to their composition and operation may limit their effectiveness.
	Require Council to establish clear criteria for dual referrals consistent with the intent of the Charter provisions for the Regional Committees	- Eliminate dual/multiple referrals of proposed legislation to more than one committee.
	Assign review of policies and standards for levels of local services in urbanized unincorporated King County to the Regional Policy Committee (SCA)	- Facilitate phasing out of the subsidy of services to urbanized, unincorporated King County provided by the taxpayers and rate payers of cities; and - Decrease or eliminate the subsidy to these areas in order to encourage approval of annexation measures.