

From: [Nicholson, Mac](#)
To: [Steadman, Marka](#)
Cc: [Logsdon, Kristina](#); [Hamacher, Pat](#)
Subject: FW: Charter Review Commission questions
Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 9:33:27 AM

Responses from Toby Nixon

From: toby@tobynixon.com [mailto:toby@tobynixon.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Nicholson, Mac <Mac.Nicholson@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Charter Review Commission questions

Hi, Mac. Here are my answers to the three questions.

Best regards,

-- Toby

ANSWERS BY TOBY NIXON

1) What are your views on the powers of the branches of King County government as set forth in the charter? Would you make adjustments or suggest changes and if so, what changes do you believe may be warranted?

I do not see any fundamental problems with the allocation and balance of powers of the branches of King County government. Of course, I am willing to listen to and consider any proposed changes or adjustments objectively.

2) Considering our region's population growth and the regional response that will increasingly be necessary to respond to associated challenges, what changes, including additional powers or changes in state law (if necessary), would you suggest to help the county address what it will likely face in the next 25-50 years?

As you may know, I have been a proponent of dividing King County into two or more counties to make it more manageable, given that it is now larger in population than 15 states. Such a proposal is not likely to be well-received through the charter review process. An alternative proposal would be to significantly increase the size of the county council and make it a part-time body similar to the state legislature, with smaller and more manageable districts having more discrete and homogenous constituencies that may result in more diverse viewpoints being represented on the council, but this is also not likely to be favorably received. In any case, I'm clearly open to somewhat radical proposals! Aside from that, I note that Section 120 of the Charter gives the county broad powers of intergovernmental relations to collaborate with other governments; many of the regional responses to population growth could be accomplished by interlocal agreements established by ordinance rather than requiring changes to the Charter or state law. Of course, I am willing to listen to and consider any proposed changes or adjustments objectively.

3) Please list any actual or perceived potential conflicts of interest you may have associated with this appointment or its underlying duties. How do you intend to address these conflicts?

I do not have any conflicts of interest as defined in RCW 42.23 or Section 820 of the Charter. I do serve

on a city council and would pay particular attention to proposals that would affect the relationship between cities and the county. I am also keenly interested in government transparency and accountability as president of Washington Coalition for Open Government and would pay particular attention to proposals to enhance the transparency and accountability of the county government, although I do not have any specific proposals in that regard at this time. I do not consider either my role as a Kirkland city council member or as president of WCOG to be a conflict of interest.