Charter Review Commission Questions

Responses for Ian Goodhew

1. The charter currently invests significant power and authority in the legislative branch of government including power and oversight of many components of the executive branch. That balance has been struck over time and for good reason, however the charter review process might present the opportunity to make adjustments that would provide executive branch agencies needed flexibility in order to carry out those agencies’ respective duties. The implementation of a biennial budget process for example may or may not have created the need for such flexibility in executive authority. If confirmed to the review committee this is one area of interest I would suggest the committee explore.
2. As the county continues to grow, the regional approach to government as constituted in the county charter should be reviewed and possibly expanded into additional policy arenas. Recent events around the specific issues of homelessness, mental health and chemical dependency could benefit from an explicit designation of these issues in the form of regional policy boards. The council and executive have led on similar issues in the past with this approach to government and could lead again on the new challenges we face as a county.
3. The only perceived conflict I can identify is the fact that I currently represent the UW Medicine health system and its various entities at the federal, state and local levels of government relations. This includes representing the executive leadership of Harborview Medical Center, which is owned by King County but is staffed and operated by UW Medicine personnel. The operation of Harborview Medical Center is governed by an operating agreement negotiated by the Executive and Council and UW Medicine. I do not believe my participation in the charter review process would be directly impacted by my representation of the executive leadership of Harborview Medical Center and UW Medicine. However I would make my position known in writing to my fellow review committee members and I would recuse myself form any discussion that would directly impact the operation of Harborview Medical Center.