

KETCHIKAN CHARTER COMMISSION

AGENDA STATEMENT

NO _____ H-2 (I) _____

MEETING OF June 18, 2004

ITEM TITLE	Amend Section 15.02 - Election
SUBMITTED BY	Harriett Edwards, Borough Clerk

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Borough Clerk, Harriett Edwards, has made suggestions to amend the Draft Charter in a number of different areas.

Article XV, Section 15.02 reads:

Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the municipality at the next regular or special election occurring more than forty-five days after the adoption of the ordinance, the final report of the charter commission, or certification of the initiative petition. A notice containing the full text of each proposed amendment shall be published.

Clerk Edwards The wording should be changed to: "Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the municipal at the next regular election after the adoption of the ordinance, the final report of the charter commission, or certification of the initiative petition." She added that amending the charter is a major occurrence and should not be made in haste. Traditionally, the voters are more aware of the issues and there is greater voter participation in the regular election.

City Clerk, Katy Suiter, responded with her thinking on the issue. Ms. Suiter said Harriett is correct that larger voter turnouts happen during the October elections. However, the Assembly (and voters, should an initiative be filed) need the latitude to be able to set the date when it would be most appropriate for an election on a charter change to occur. She said she would suggest the following: "Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the municipality at the next regular election, or at the next special election occurring more than forty-five days after adoption of the ordinance, the final report of the charter commission, or certification of the initiative petition."

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move to amend Article XV, Section 15.02 by changing the wording of the paragraph to that indicated in bold on page two (2) of this agenda statement."

After reading Ms. Suiter's suggested wording, Ms. Edwards said that upon reflection she would like to change her comments about amendment of the Charter. She said

Katy's point is well taken; however, she would change the 45 days to 70 days in order to allow time for Department of Justice pre-clearance which is required for any special election. The pre-clearance process takes a minimum of 60 days. The extra days would allow time to draft the pre-clearance document and also time to fully advise the public about the amendment(s). It would also be within the election time frame allowed for initiatives (usually not more than 75 days after certification).

Her suggested wording for this section reads, "**Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the municipality at the next regular election, or at a special election occurring more than 70 days after adoption of the ordinance, the final report of the charter commission, or certification of the initiative petition. A notice containing the full text of each proposed amendment shall be published.**"