

# Frequently asked questions

What is a county charter freeholder?

The office of freeholder is a temporary, nonpartisan elected position. Freeholders will be asked to draft a charter about how county government is structured. Once a home rule charter for Clark County is submitted by the freeholders, it will be placed on a ballot for public vote.

How many county charter freeholders will be elected?

There are three county commissioner districts in Clark County. Each district will have five (5) freeholder positions open for filing. Voters will be asked to vote for one freeholder for each position in their commissioner district in the November 5, 2013 General Election. The candidate with the most votes for each position will be elected. A total of 15 freeholders will be elected.

What are the requirements I must meet to file for a county charter freeholder?

Candidates must reside in the same commissioner and freeholder district in which they file.

Candidates for freeholder positions shall be qualified registered voters.

Candidates must have resided in Clark County at least 5 years preceding the election.

When can I file for county charter freeholder?

**By Mail:** Filing must be received in Elections Department no earlier than Monday, July 22, and no later than Friday, August 9.

**In Person:** 8 a.m., Monday, August 5, to 5 p.m., Friday, August 9.

**Online:** 9 a.m., Monday, August 5, to 4 p.m., Friday, August 9. Filings with the Auditor's Office can be made at <http://clarkvotes.org>.

If I change my mind, can I withdraw my declaration of candidacy?

Yes, you may withdraw your declaration of candidacy by 5 p.m., Monday, August 12. You must file a signed withdrawal request with the Clark County Elections Department at 1408 Franklin St., Vancouver.

In what order will the candidates be listed on the ballot?

After 5 p.m., Friday, August 9, 2013 the Elections Department will hold a lot drawing to determine the order freeholder candidate names will appear by position, within each commissioner district.

Is there a fee for filing for freeholder office?

No.

Will I be paid if elected as a county charter freeholder?

No. The position is voluntary.

If I am currently an elected official or am running for another office this year, may I file for position of county charter freeholder?

Yes. Because the office of freeholder is a temporary elected position, you may appear on the ballot as a candidate for another position, or currently hold another elected position.

What do I need to submit for the voters' pamphlet?

If you wish to be included in the voters' pamphlet, you must submit your photo and your candidate statement of 100 words or less. Detailed information is in the 2013 Freeholder Candidate Guidelines that will be available soon, on the Clark County Elections website at <http://clarkvotes.org>.

What are the deadlines for submitting my photograph and candidate statement for the voters' pamphlet?

They must be received by our office by 5 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2013.

Do I have to submit a photo and statement for the voters' pamphlet?

No. It is not a requirement. Your name will be printed in the pamphlet, with or without your photo and statement.

How do I to file my candidate photo and statement?

Statements and photographs may be submitted either in person or by email. Candidates also have the opportunity to submit a statement and photograph through the online candidate filing system. During filing week, a link to the online candidate filing system will be located on our website at <http://clarkvotes.org>. If submitting materials electronically, please contact the Elections Department and confirm receipt.

When will county charter freeholders assume office?

Freeholders begin their term of office November 27, 2013. The Board of Freeholders will schedule and hold a public meeting within 30 days after their term begins.

What is the term of this office?

Freeholders shall be elected to a term of office beginning November 27, 2013 and ending December 31, 2014, or at submission of a draft charter for a public vote, whichever comes first.

If a county charter freeholder cannot serve the term elected, how would the vacancy be filled?

Vacancies for the position of county freeholder shall be filled by a person qualified for the position who is appointed by majority action of the remaining county freeholders.

What are the requirements of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), once I have filed for office?

You are required to file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) and the Candidate Registration (C1). You can obtain forms or file online at [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov). A candidate who plans to raise and spend more than \$5,000 or accept more than \$500 from a single contributor will have to file additional contribution and expenditure reports. You will need to contact the PDC for further information.

If I am already an elected official or if I am running for a different office this year, do I still need to complete the PDC forms as a freeholder candidate?

Yes.

What is the Elections Department contact Information?

Clark County Elections Department  
PO Box 8815  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver WA 98660  
(360) 397-2345  
<http://clarkvotes.org>