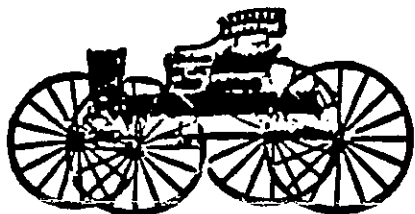


WHY CHANGE SPOKANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT?????

1889



1989



WHAT DOES HOME RULE CHARTER MEAN TO - - -

Spokane City Residents--- A more efficient County government and better cooperation among all agencies.

Spokane Valley, West Plains and the Suburbs--- Better representation and a more effective response to problems.

Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Millwood and other Small Towns in Spokane County--- An opportunity to co-operatively address community problems while not losing municipal authority.

Rural Spokane County--- Better representation and the ability to use the initiative and referendum.

**WE ARE ALL PART OF SPOKANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT!!!!
ISN'T IT TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE???**

Already 5 counties in Washington State have adopted County Home Rule Charters. While each county has structured a charter for specific local needs, all have the following in common:

1. No new taxing authority was created!
2. Separation of the Administrative and legislative areas.
3. Local powers clearly defined.
4. More flexibility in handling citizen's business.
5. Citizens increased their role in local decisions.
6. Power was provided by the initiative and referendum process.

WE NEED A COUNTY CHARTER!!!

TEN REASONS WHY.....

1. Government by the people
Is local government more responsive if it is written by and for the people?
Spokane County voters could write a Charter to fit Spokane County needs.
2. Representation
Do 3 County Commissioners give adequate representation to 350,000 people?
It takes two of them to make a quorum or to make a decision. How well are you represented?????
3. Administrative Efficiency
Is administrative efficiency possible when some department heads are elected and some appointed?
Elected officials may claim responsibility to the voters instead of an administrative authority.
4. Orderly Change
Should Spokane County Government be able to change to fit changing needs?
Most County Home Rule Charters include an amending process.
5. Services and Planning
Could county planning and provision of services improve if the basic government is more simple and efficient?
A County Home Rule Charter could simplify the administration and be more open to the people.
6. Right of Self-determination
Should Spokane County continue to operate under an out-dated form of government?
The Washington Constitution provides a choice for change to a County Home Rule Charter which 5 Washington counties have adopted.
7. Financial Authority
Does it make sense to keep county finances operating under a system which the State Auditor has analyzed and found inefficient?
A County Home Rule Charter could modernize the method of financial accounting and reporting.
8. Citizen Participation
Should citizens have the right of initiative and referendum?
A County Home Rule Charter could include these.
9. Checks and Balances
Should the 3 County Commissioners continue to have power to make laws, enforce laws and hear citizen appeals on them?
A County Home Rule Charter could separate these powers.
10. State Domination
Should the State Legislature continue to make decisions for local government?
A County Home Rule Charter could authorize many functions which now must be requested, from the state.

STEPS TO GET A CHARTER....

1. **CITIZENS SIGN THE PETITION**
First, sign the petition for the election of a Board of Freeholders to draft a proposed Charter. About 10,000 signatures are required.
2. **CITIZENS THEN ELECT FREEHOLDERS**
At election time citizens vote for the creation of a Board of Freeholders, and then vote for the most qualified freeholder candidates.
3. **CITIZENS INPUT CONCERNS**
You will have a chance at open meetings to express your ideas. So Freeholders will draft a charter that meets our needs.
4. **CITIZENS VOTE ON THE COUNTY CHARTER**