

## Proposed Charter Problems

Cost savings do not exist under the proposed charter. Refer to the attachment "TOTAL COST UNDER CHARTER". Administrator costs 2 years ago in like size counties of Polk and Benton averaged \$191,000.00. With current salary and benefit increases in place, puts the average right at \$200,000.00. This is the original number Kate Marquez used in her analysis.

New medical coverage costs because of the "Affordable Care Act", are now at \$30,000.00. The travel expense cost of \$37,000.00 is the actual cost with current Commissioners in place, under the proposed charter. This number does not include **any** out of county travel costs. The charter language states "**shall reimburse**", not can reimburse, which is very specific legal language. The charter does **not limit or cap** any travel expenses. This is done only by the Budget Committee, of which 3 of the 6 members are the Commissioners.

Addition staff costs are now estimated at \$150,000.00, since Kate Marquez compares Klamath County with Jackson and Deschutes Counties as great successes, both of these counties have 5 additional staff, (also both counties have 3 full time commissioners).

The bottom line is, under the proposed charter, there is an additional yearly cost of \$198,888.00. With declining revenues,

these additional costs have to be achieved thru reductions in other County Departments. Do you want to cut Public Safety, Public Health or other departments? All these numbers come straight from the Association of Oregon Counties statistics and personal conversations with Commissioners and County Administrators throughout the State.

**“This proposal will never work with Klamath County’s make up”**, was a very common comment from County Commissioners and their staff from all over the state. There are a few counties in Oregon with one full time and two part time commissioners and only 2 counties with 3 part time commissioners. These are Jefferson and Wasco County. Their population base is 21,720 and 25,213. Their yearly salary is \$38,569.00 and \$30,616.00 plus **full benefit packages!** Both of these Counties have a third the population base of Klamath County and a drastically higher pay schedule for their 3 part time Commissioners. Around the State of Oregon, this proposal is classified as “a poverty scale” proposal.

The County’s report “Hiring a County Manager”, is a 3 year old, out dated, first draft study written by one county employee which had never been vetted by anyone else. The county employee was also interested in applying for this very job. He left the state in 2013 before any scrutiny or input was sought.

This proposed charter and administrator is being compared to the large successful corporate model. I don't know about you, but I certainly do not want to surrender public input, participation and local accountability for a dream of great financial success. These corporations are often ruled as a dictatorship with zero input or accountability. Also how many Solyndra and Enron examples are out there in the Corporate world? Do you see yourself sitting down and having a personal discussion with Warren Buffett?

A Charter form of government is not necessary to hire a County Administrator. Klamath County has had County Administrators in the past and it did not work. Look at the recent nightmare scandal of an example in Lane County dealing with a very qualified County Administrator. I was told Siskiyou County had 5 County Administrators in a 7 year period. So much for the dream of stability in County Governance, with the proposed charter.

Also, refer to the attachment from the Association of Oregon Counties which details statistics from all 36 Oregon Counties.

All these statistics and documents have been offered to Kate Marquez on 3 different specific occasions. First, during her comments at a regular Commissioners Tuesday Public Meeting, second at This Week in Klamath County cable TV show and third at a Soroptimist forum, held at Reames Country Club. All

three times she did not accept the documents. I fully believe in doing my homework which includes studying the other side of any issue. I am also willing to share my homework.

Leslie, I know you and the League of Women Voters endorse the charter proposal, but I know you also encourage open and frank discussion on any and all issues. I was disappointed to learn the LWV would not do a forum on this important local issue because of their endorsement of the charter. I do appreciate your willingness instead to send this letter to all your contacts explaining the other side, since you already sent out a letter to the LWV and Klamath Sustainable Communities, from Kate Marquez in support of the charter.

Thanks again for you're sending this letter quickly with the ballots coming out very shortly. This gives balance to the political nature of organizations.

Tom Mallams

## TOTAL COST UNDER CHARTER

|                                                                                                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Part time Commissioner Cost                                                                       | \$72,000.00         |
| Proposed Administrator                                                                              | \$200,000.00        |
| Medical Coverage                                                                                    | \$30,000.00         |
| Travel Expense- does not cover out<br>of county travel,(Salem, Washington D.C. other counties, etc) | \$37,000.00         |
| Additional Staff 1.5 FTE                                                                            | \$150,000.00        |
| <b>Total Cost Under Charter</b>                                                                     | <b>\$489,000.00</b> |

Total Current Cost \$290,112.00

**Additional Cost  
Under Charter** **\$198,888.00**

Higher cost & still left with 3 part time  
Commissioners