

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

905-A KING COUNTY COURTHOUSE-SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98104-MA 2-5900

July 18, 1968

Dear King County Citizen:

Last November the voters of King County elected a board of fifteen Freeholders to prepare and propose a home rule charter for King County. Over the past seven months, the Board of King County Freeholders has met frequently to study the present operation of King County Government, to listen to the advice of experts in the field of local government, to study experience of other home rule counties throughout the country, to listen to the views of interested citizens and organizations and to deliberate upon all of the major decisions affecting the structure of county government. The attached draft represents the present status of the Freeholders' work. It is a working draft, and is subject to further revision before its final adoption by the Freeholders and submission to the voters at the November, 1968 general election.

You are urged to study this draft and make your suggestions known to us. A public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m., July 31, in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse to give any interested individual or representative of an organization an opportunity to comment upon this draft. Further hearings will be scheduled as necessary to give everyone an opportunity to be heard.

The Board of Freeholders will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. To insure that your recommendations are considered by the Freeholders, we would request that you either plan to attend one of the public hearings or submit your suggestions in writing to the Freeholder office, Room 905A, King County Courthouse. If you prefer, you may telephone the office at MA 3-5556 or MA 2-5900, Ext. 557.

Your recommendations should be submitted as soon as possible, as the Charter must be presented in final form early in September in order to be certified to the November ballot.

We shall look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS


RICHARD R. ALBRECHT, Chairman

RRA:hg

Attachment

PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT

KING COUNTY CHARTER

July 18, 1968

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PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, promote the general welfare and secure the benefits of home rule and self government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

ARTICLE 1

POWERS OF THE COUNTY

Section 110. General Powers.

The county shall have all of the powers which it is possible for a home rule county to have under the state constitution.

Section 120. Intergovernmental Relations.

The county may, in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its functions and services, agree by contract or otherwise to participate jointly or in cooperation with any one or more other governments, governmental agencies, and municipal corporations, including the right to share the costs and responsibilities of such powers, functions and services.

Section 130. Construction.

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended

from time to time. This charter and the ordinances enacted hereunder shall supersede special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter and ordinances to the extent permitted by the state constitution.

Section 140. Name, Boundaries and County Seat.

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed.

ARTICLE 2

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 210. Composition.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the board of county commissioners.

Section 220. The Board of County Commissioners.

220.10. Composition and Terms of Office.

The board of county commissioners shall consist of nine members. The county shall be divided into nine districts, and one commissioner shall be nominated and elected by the voters of each district. The term of office of each county commissioner shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

220.20. Powers.

The board of county commissioners shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The board of county commissioners shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt

budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to prescribe their duties; and shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence, provided, that the subpoena power of the board of county commissioners shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances being considered and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel.

220.30. Organization.

The board of county commissioners at least once a year shall elect one of its members as chairman, shall be responsible for its own organization and for the employment and supervision of those employees which it deems necessary to assist it or individual county commissioners in the exercise of their legislative powers and shall appoint a clerk to maintain its records.

220.40. Rules of Procedure.

The board of county commissioners shall adopt by ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings and hearings and the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of ordinances. All meetings shall be open to the public, and a verbatim public record shall be kept of each meeting and the votes taken therein.

220.50. Relationship With Other Branches.

The board of county commissioners and the individual commissioners shall not, except through the enactment of ordinances, issue orders to any officer, agent or employee of any other branch of the county government.

Section 230. Ordinances.

230.10. Introduction and Adoption.

Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be introduced by any county commissioner or by initiative petitions. At least seven days after the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its adoption or enactment, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing after due notice to consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a minimum of five votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

230.20. Executive Veto.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the county executive shall have the right to veto any ordinance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its adoption or enactment by the board of county commissioners. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners, veto the ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners with a written and signed statement of

the reasons for his partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the board of county commissioners may override the veto or partial veto of an appropriation ordinance by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six votes.

230.30. Effective Date of Ordinances.

The effective date of an ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, shall be forty five days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance.

An ordinance which is not vetoed or the approved portions of an appropriation ordinance which has been partially vetoed shall be deemed enacted on the date that it is approved by, or ten days after it is presented to, the county executive. An ordinance which is vetoed or the vetoed portions of an appropriation ordinance shall be deemed enacted on the date that the board of county commissioners overrides the veto or partial veto. An ordinance which has been submitted to the voters by referendum or initiative shall be deemed enacted when it is approved by the voters. An ordinance which is not subject to the veto power of the county executive shall be deemed enacted on the date it is approved by the board of county commissioners.

230.40. Emergency Ordinances.

Any proposed ordinance may be enacted as an emergency ordinance if the board of county commissioners finds as a fact, and states in the ordinance, that an emergency exists and that the ordi-

nance is necessary for the preservation of public peace, health or safety. A minimum of seven votes shall be required to enact an emergency ordinance, and unless it is an appropriation ordinance it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive and shall be effective on the date of its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance..

Section 240. Referendum and Initiative.

240.10. Referendum.

Enacted ordinances except as provided herein may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the board of county commissioners prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance subject to referendum shall not become effective until it is approved by the voters. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the next special or general election occurring more than forty five days after the petitions are filed. If approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the ordinance shall become effective forty five days after the date of the election.

An emergency ordinance, an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions, or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

240.20. Initiative.

Ordinances may be proposed by filing with the board of county commissioners petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The board of county commissioners shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted as provided in Section 230 within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred and thirty five days after the petitions were presented or at an earlier election designated by the board of county commissioners. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum. If the board of county commissioners rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute or amended ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute or amended ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall be given the choice of adopting one of the ordinances and rejecting the other or of rejecting both ordinances.

If it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the ordinance shall become effective forty five days after the date of the election.

240.30. Referendum and Initiative Petitions.

All referendum and initiative petitions shall be sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval of the clerk of the board of county commissioners as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. At any time more than forty five days prior to a referendum or initiative election, the sponsor or a majority of the sponsoring committee may withdraw the petitions by filing with the clerk of the board of county commissioners a signed statement asking that the referendum or initiative petitions be withdrawn setting forth the reasons for the withdrawal. The filing of such a request shall cause the petitions to be of no force and effect, and the referendum or initiative election shall be cancelled.

Section 250. County Auditor.

The county auditor shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners and shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a current post audit of the financial operations of the county government and shall consult with the office of budgets and accounts concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch.

Section 260. Office of Citizen Complaint.

The board of county commissioners shall establish an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaint shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county and any witness shall have the right to be

represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in his own behalf.

ARTICLE 3

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 310. Composition and Powers.

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners and the members of boards and commissions except: the board of county commissioners, the board of appeals and the personnel board. The executive branch shall have all executive powers of the county under this charter.

Section 320. County Executive.

320.10. Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive compensation at least one and one half times the compensation paid to a county commissioner.

320.20. Powers and Duties.

The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all executive power of the county which is not expressly vested in other specific officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments es-

established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners; shall be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, but if more than one county commissioner was required to serve, the board of county commissioners shall appoint a county commissioner or county commissioners to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the board of county commissioners an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary, including proposed ordinances; shall prepare and present to the board of county commissioners budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the board of county commissioners comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners except as otherwise provided by this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments; and shall have the right, subject to approval by a majority of the board of county commissioners, to arrange for one or more functions of the county to be performed by an independent contractor or to be performed in cooperation with, or by, other units

of government and to arrange for one or more functions of other units of government to be performed by the county.

Section 330. County Administrative Officer.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer who, under the general supervision of the county executive, shall assist him, shall supervise the administrative offices and shall perform such other duties as are delegated to him by the county executive.

Section 340. Appointments, Confirmation and Removal.

340.10. Appointments by the County Executive.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and the members of all boards and commissions.

340.20. Appointments by the County Administrative Officer.

The county administrative officer shall appoint the chief officer of each administrative office.

340.30. Appointments by the Chief Officers.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department.

340.40. Confirmation.

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. The appointments by the county administrative officer shall be subject to approval by the county executive.

340.50. Qualifications.

The county administrative officer and the chief officers appointed by either the county executive or the county administrative officer shall be appointed on the basis of their abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience concerning the duties of the office to which they shall be appointed.

340.60. Removal.

Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not subject to the provisions of the personnel system may be removed at any time by the officer who appointed him except that a member of the personnel board and the board of appeals can be removed only by a majority of the board of county commissioners as provided in this charter.

Section 350. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

The executive branch shall include the following administrative offices and executive departments:

350.10. Administrative Offices:

350.10.10. Office of Budgets and Accounts.

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made.

350.10.20. Office of Personnel.

The office of personnel shall have the responsibilities estab-

lished by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to it by the chief administrative officer.

350.10.30. Office of Data Processing.

The office of data processing shall establish and maintain a modern system for processing information in accordance with the needs of county government and shall provide data processing services for all branches of county government.

350.10.40. Office of County Property.

The office of county property shall assign the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall maintain all property unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by this charter, by ordinance or by the county executive and shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property.

350.10.50. Office of Purchasing.

The office of purchasing shall contract for all public works which are not performed by county employees and shall purchase all real and personal property purchased by the county. Whenever the value of the property to be purchased or the contract to be entered into exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars, competitive bids shall be obtained and the property purchased or the contract awarded according to the procedure established by ordinance. Competitive bids shall not be required to contract for professional services, to purchase real or personal property limited to a single source of supply, in other instances as established by ordinance where the price should be negotiated or in the event of an emergency.

350.20. Executive Departments.

350.20.10. Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation

The department of public works, utilities and transportation shall administer the construction and maintenance of the county road system and related facilities and shall be responsible for flood control, garbage disposal and other public works and utilities.

350.20.20. Department of Public Safety.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail, shall investigate deaths and shall be responsible for civil defense. An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the department of public safety.

350.20.30. Department of Public Health and Welfare.

The department of public health and welfare shall administer all health and welfare programs under the control of the county including all medical services necessary to assist the department of public safety.

350.20.40. Department of Records and Elections.

The department of records and elections shall record, file and register all documents presented to it which by general law may be recorded, filed or registered to provide constructive legal notice, and all other documents specified by ordinance and shall maintain the county archives to store all county records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current operation of county government, shall be responsible for the registration of voters in unincorporated areas of the county and shall conduct all special and general elections held in the county.

350.20.50. Department of Finance.

The department of finance shall collect and invest all county revenue and shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts.

350.20.60. Department of Parks and Community Services.

The department of parks and community services shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreational facilities and programs and shall be responsible for open space development and other community services.

350.20.70. Department of Planning.

The department of planning shall prepare and present to the county executive and the board of county commissioners comprehensive master plans; shall advise all agencies of the county on planning and related activities of the county with state, regional, municipal and other county planning agencies; shall maintain a current file of plans, zoning ordinances, official maps, building codes, and subdivision regulations; shall assist the office of budgets and accounts in developing capital improvement programs and capital budgets; and shall perform other related duties assigned to it by ordinance or by the county executive.

350.20.70. (a) Comprehensive Plans.

The department of planning in cooperation with private organizations and all agencies of county government shall prepare and recommend to the county executive and the board of county commissioners for adoption by ordinance: (1) a county plan for the physical development of the county including recommendations: for the most desirable

value of all taxable property within the county in accordance with the state constitution and general law. The department of assessments shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the board of county commissioners.

350.20.90. Department of Judicial Administration.

The department of judicial administration shall be administered by the superior court clerk who shall be appointed by the county executive from a list of three or more nominees submitted by a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration shall maintain the official court files, records and indexes necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the court system and shall perform such other duties assigned to it by a majority of the superior court judges in the county.

ARTICLE 4

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 410. Presentation and Adoption of Budgets.

At least seventy-five days prior to the end of each fiscal year, the county executive shall present to the board of county commissioners a complete budget and budget message and proposed current expense and capital budget appropriation ordinances and proposed tax and revenue ordinances necessary to raise sufficient revenues to balance the budget; and at least forty-five days prior to the end of

use of land and density of population, for the location of public buildings, for a system of public ways and other public facilities, for the location of public and private utilities, public housing, drainage facilities and concerning other matters beneficial to the county; (2) an official map of existing rights-of-way and open spaces and proposed modifications; (3) regulations concerning the planning and subdivision of land; and (4) zoning plans including zoning maps and regulations.

350.20.70. (b) Zoning Applications.

The department of planning shall receive and consider all zoning applications. It shall make the initial decision concerning all applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits, and its decisions shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals. It shall consider and make recommendations to the board of county commissioners concerning all applications for rezoning or original zoning.

350.20.75. Department of Building.

The department of building shall be responsible for the issuance of building permits and shall administer and enforce building codes, zoning ordinances, fire regulations and other codes and regulations assigned to it.

350.20.80. Department of Assessments.

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall be elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county assessor shall determine the assessed

the fiscal year, the board of county commissioners shall adopt appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances for the next fiscal year. If appropriation, tax or revenue ordinances have not been adopted within forty-five days after the county executive has presented the proposed appropriation ordinances, the proposed appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive shall become effective on the forty-sixth day as if they had been enacted by ordinance.

Section 420. Budget Information.

At least one hundred and thirty-five days prior to the end of the fiscal year, all agencies of county government shall submit to the office of budgets and accounts information necessary to prepare the budget.

Section 430. Contents of Budget.

The budget shall be balanced; shall include all funds, revenues and reserves; shall be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense and shall include supporting data deemed advisable by the county executive or required by ordinance; shall indicate as to each program, project or object of expense the actual expenditures of the preceding fiscal year, the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested appropriations for the next fiscal year; and the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years.

Section 440. Budget Message.

The budget message shall explain the budget in fiscal terms and in terms of the goals to be accomplished and shall relate the

requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

Section 450. Copies of Budget.

Copies of the budget and budget message shall be delivered to the clerk and each of the members of the board of county commissioners, and prior to the public hearing on the budget copies shall be available for public inspection. Prior to the public hearing on the budget, the budget message and supporting tables shall be furnished to any interested person upon request and copies of the budget shall be furnished for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

Section 460. Consideration and Adoption of Appropriation Ordinances.

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearing on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The board of county commissioners in considering the appropriation ordinances proposed by the county executive may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditures of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the county executive. The appropriation ordinances adopted by the board of county commissioners shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves; and the board of county commissioners may (by motion) alter the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the county executive only upon a minimum of six votes or to the extent

that the board of county commissioners creates additional sources of revenue which are not included in the tax and revenue ordinances proposed by the county executive.

Section 470. Additional Appropriations.

470.10. Contingency Appropriations.

The appropriation ordinances shall include contingency funds. Contingency funds shall not be expended unless the office of budgets and accounts certifies in writing that sufficient funds are available and the board of county commissioners adopts an additional appropriation ordinance after being requested to do so by the county executive.

470.20. Emergency Appropriations.

In the event of a public emergency, the board of county commissioners may adopt an emergency appropriation ordinance after being requested to do so by the county executive. An emergency appropriation ordinance may appropriate contingency funds, revenues received in excess of the revenue estimated in the budget presented by the county executive and funds from any other source available to the county in an emergency.

470.30. Additional Capital Budget Appropriations.

The board of county commissioners shall not adopt an additional or amended capital budget appropriation ordinance during the fiscal year unless requested to do so by the county executive. The request of the county executive shall include the written recommendations of the department of planning.

Section 475. Work Programs and Allotments.

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation

ordinances, each agency of county government except the board of county commissioners shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and, when requested to do so by the agency whose funds will be affected, the county executive may allot, realLOT and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, when requested to do so by the agency concerned, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.

During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the board of county commissioners when requested to do so by the county executive, may adopt an ordinance to transfer appropriations between agencies of county government; but a capital budget project shall not be abandoned thereby unless its abandonment is recommended by the department of planning.

Section 480. Lapses of Appropriations.

Unless otherwise provided by the appropriation ordinances, all unexpended and unencumbered appropriations in the current expense appropriation ordinance shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year. An appropriation in the capital budget appropriation ordinance shall lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three years.

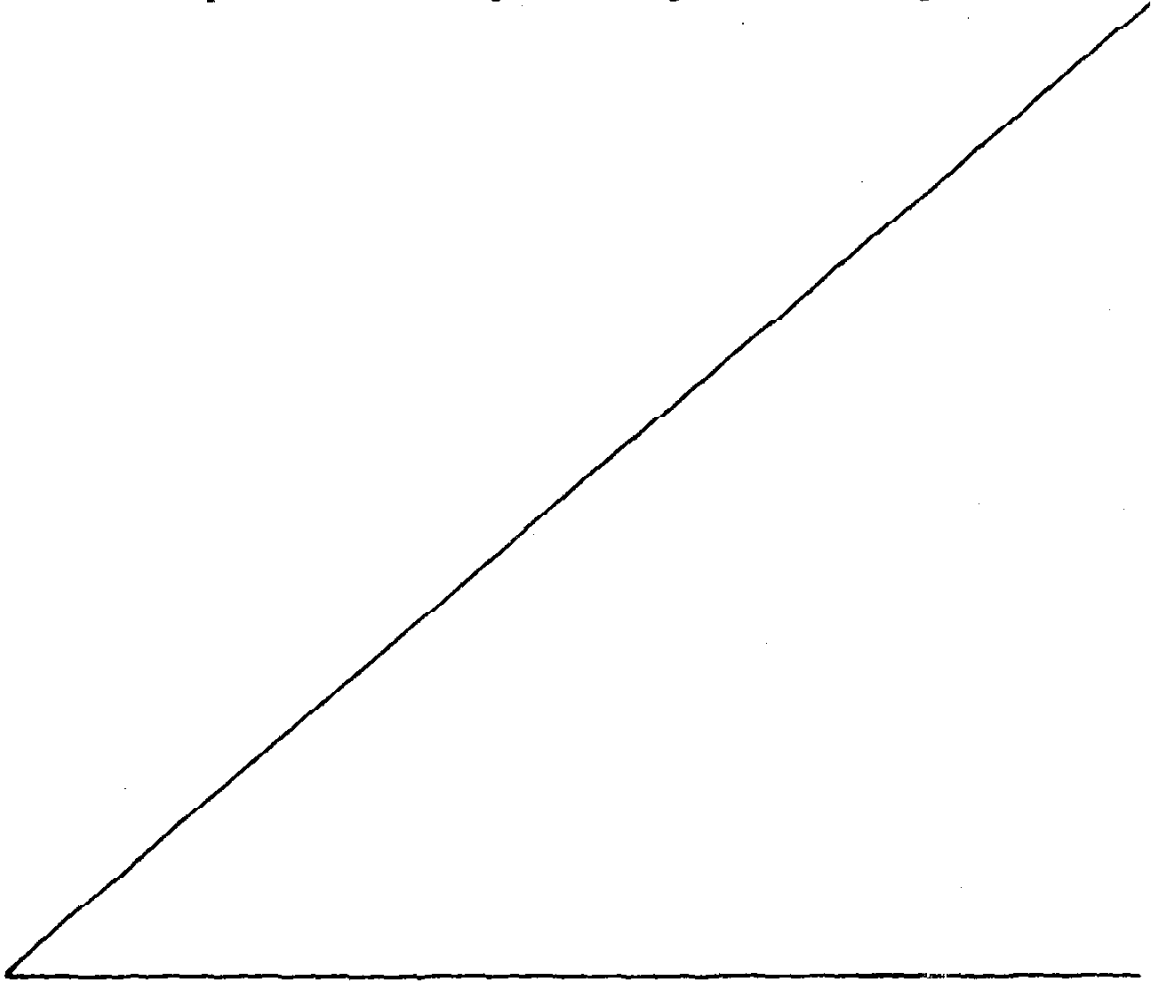
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Section 490. Interfund Borrowing and Reimbursement.

One agency of county government or fund may reimburse another agency or fund for services rendered; and the board of county commissioners when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to provide for temporary inter-fund borrowing.

Section 495. Illegal Contracts.

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance any contract in



excess of an appropriation or allotment shall be null and void; and any officer, agent or employee of the county knowingly responsible shall be personally liable to anyone damaged by his action. The board of county commissioners when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance permitting the county to enter into contracts requiring the payment of funds from appropriations of subsequent fiscal years, but real property shall not be leased for more than one year unless it is included in a capital budget appropriation ordinance.

ARTICLE 5

THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Section 510. Purpose.

The county shall establish and maintain an effective personnel system for the county which will assure: recruitment, selection and retention of county employees on the basis of merit; the development of a county career service; promotion on the basis of demonstrated ability; and compensation and personnel practices which will keep the county system competitive.

Section 520. Office of Personnel.

The office of personnel shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the board of county commissioners by ordinance. The office of personnel shall prepare and present proposed personnel rules to the county administrative officer and the county executive who shall present a proposed ordinance establishing the personnel rules to the board of county commissioners which shall adopt the ordinance with or without amendments.

Section 530. Personnel Rules.

The personnel rules shall provide for: the classification of all employed positions based on the duties, authority and responsibility of each position with adequate provisions for reclassification of any position whenever warranted; a pay plan for all county positions; methods for determining the merit and fitness of candidates for appointment or promotion; policies and procedures concerning reductions in force and removal of employees; hours of work, attendance, regulations and provisions for vacations and sick leaves; policies and procedures for persons holding provisional appointments; policies and procedures governing relationships with employee organizations; policies governing in-service training; grievance procedures; procedures for disciplinary actions; penalties for violation of the provisions of Section 560; and other related policies and procedures.

Section 540. The Personnel Board.

There shall be a personnel board composed of five members, four of whom shall be appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. One member of the personnel board shall be elected by secret ballot by the county employees who are members of the career service. A personnel board member shall serve a five year term and until his successor is appointed, with one member being appointed each year. A majority of the board of county commissioners, but not the county executive, may remove a personnel board member for just cause after written charges have been served on the personnel board member and a public hearing has been held by the board of county commissioners.

The board of county commissioners may provide for the compensation of personnel board members on a per diem basis.

The personnel board shall report at least once a year to the county executive concerning the operation of the personnel system with any recommendations it may have for its improvement.

Any member of the career service may appeal to the personnel board from any action pertaining to the methods of examination, certification or preparation of eligibility lists, from any suspension for more than sixty days, reduction in rank or pay or removal and from any allocation or reallocation of positions. The personnel board shall hold a public hearing to consider an appeal and shall issue such order as it deems proper including but not limited to the restoration of rank or pay with or without loss of benefits and pay and the allocation and reallocation of positions. The decision of the personnel board shall be final unless reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 550. Positions Exempt from the Personnel System.

The following positions shall be exempt from the career service: all elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the board of county commissioners; all officers appointed by the chief executive or the county administrative officer including the members of all boards and commissions; one administrative assistant each for the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county auditor, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office and for each board and commission; four supervisory deputy assessors;

one confidential secretary each for the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified herein; court commissioners, bailiffs, clerks and personal secretaries serving in the offices of the superior court judges and justices of the peace; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; election precinct officials and all persons serving the county without compensation.

Section 560. Political Activities.

A county employee employed in a position covered by the career service and the county administrative officer shall not engage in any political activity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office.

ARTICLE 6

ELECTIONS

Section 610. Qualifications.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each county commissioner shall be a resident of the district which he represents.

Any change in the boundaries of a county commissioner's district which shall cause a county commissioner to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

Section 620. County Executive and County Assessor.

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing with the election of 1971. The nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

Section 630. County Commissioners.

630.10. Districts.

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine.

630.20. Nomination and Election.

The nomination and election of county commissioners shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing in even numbered districts with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election of 1973. The nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

630.30. Districting.

630.30.10. District Boundaries.

The boundaries of each district shall correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and shall be: drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

630.30.20. Districting Ordinances.

A districting ordinance shall be enacted by a majority of the board of county commissioners in 1971 and at least every five years thereafter. If the population of the districts are approximately equal, the boundaries shall not be changed. If the size, shape and population of the districts comply with the requirements of this charter, the board of county commissioners shall enact an ordinance retaining the district boundaries without change. A districting ordinance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

630.30.30. Districting Committee.

If the board of county commissioners does not adopt a districting ordinance during the first four months of any year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the county executive shall appoint within thirty days a districting committee of at least five members subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners which shall provide for their compensation. No more than a simple majority of the committee shall be affiliated with the same political party. The districting committee shall present its districting recommendations to the board of county commissioners within four months after the committee has been appointed and confirmed.

630.30.40. Consideration by Board of County Commissioners.

The board of county commissioners may either accept, modify or reject the recommendations of the districting committee. If its recommendations are rejected, the committee may, but shall not be required to, present alternate recommendations. If the recommendations are neither accepted, modified nor rejected within sixty days after they are presented to the board of county commissioners by the districting committee, they shall become effective on the sixty first day after their presentation as if they had been enacted by ordinance.

630.30.50. Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance

If the board of county commissioners fails to enact a districting ordinance during the year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the compensation of the county commissioners shall be suspended from the first day of January of the next year until a districting ordinance is enacted. Upon enactment of a redistricting ordinance, the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the county commissioners who would have received it but for the suspension.

Section 640. Commencement of Terms of Office.

The terms of office of elected county officers shall commence on the date specified by general law for public officers elected at city general elections.

Section 650. Recall.

The holder of any elective office may be recalled in accordance with the provisions of general law.

Section 660. Vacancies.

660.10. When Vacant.

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the in-

cumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the board of county commissioners; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office.

660.20. Appointment or Special Election.

Vacancies in an elective office shall be filled by a majority of the board of county commissioners or, in the event of a vacancy in the office of county commissioner, by a majority of the remaining county commissioners. Appointments shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant. The board of county commissioners may make a temporary appointment to fill a vacated office and schedule a special election to fill the vacated elective office.

Section 670. Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures.

Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall, within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an itemized statement with the department of records and elections, on forms to be furnished by the department of records and elections, showing all campaign contributions and pledges made to him or upon his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him or on his behalf. Such statement when filed shall be a public record. The board of county commissioners shall by ordinance prescribe the form

of such statement. Violation of this section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

ARTICLE 7

BOARD OF APPEALS

Section 710. Composition, Appointment, Removal.

The board of appeals shall be composed of seven members appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. Each member of the board of appeals shall serve a seven year term and until his successor is appointed with one member being appointed each year. A majority of the board of county commissioners, but not the county executive, may remove a board of appeals member for just cause after written charges have been served on the board of appeals member and a public hearing has been held by the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall provide for the compensation of the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

Section 720. Powers.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the department of planning and from any valuation by the department of the county assessor. The board of county commissioners may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive department or administrative office. The decision of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 730. Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules

of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board; specifying the types of evidence which will be considered by the board in reaching its decisions; guaranteeing the right for all parties to examine and cross-examine all witnesses; providing for the procedure to be followed in the conduct of its hearings, for written transcripts to be kept of all testimony and argument, and for copies to be furnished to any interested party at cost upon request; providing for the issuance of its orders and its reasons therefor in writing; and for a permanent and properly indexed record to be kept of its decisions.

ARTICLE 8

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 800. Amendments to the Charter.

The board of county commissioners may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring more than forty five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general law. The proposed amendment shall become effective forty five days after it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue.

Section 810. Severability and Construction.

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable,

it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provision of this charter. The provisions of this charter shall be liberally construed to provide for the efficient and businesslike management of county affairs.

Section 820. Conflict of Interest.

820.10. Prohibitions.

An officer or employee of the county shall not receive or have directly or indirectly, any financial interest in any sale to or by the county of any services or property, except in his official capacity as a representative of the county, and shall not receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any service or thing of value from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally or accept any gift from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county.

820.20. Exceptions.

The board of county commissioners may adopt ordinances providing for individual exceptions to the prohibitions by specifically authorizing a county officer or employee to own stock in certain corporations and to establish or maintain a financial interest in certain businesses dealing with the county on condition that full disclosure be made to the board of county commissioners and that the board of county commissioners finds that the stock ownership or financial interest does not violate the public interest.

820.30. Penalties.

The board of county commissioners shall adopt an ordinance

specifying the civil and criminal penalties for the willful or negligent violation of the prohibitions by any county officer or employee and shall also adopt an ordinance establishing civil and criminal penalties for any person, firm or corporation doing business with the county which offers, pays, refunds, or rebates any part of any fee, commission or other form of compensation to any county officer or employee except in his official capacity as a representative of the county.

Section 830. Public Inspection of Public Records.

All official acts and documents except those which have been specifically prepared for use by the county in court proceedings, criminal and law enforcement files of the department of public safety and those which would invade a person's right of privacy shall be open for public inspection; and the officer, department, agency, board or commission having custody and control of public records shall upon request supply certified copies of the records requested for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

Section 840. Anti-discrimination.

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of age except by minimum age and retirement provisions, sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation; and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm or corporation which discriminates on the basis of age except by minimum age and retirement provisions, sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation.

Section 850. Delegation of Authority.

Any power or duty of a county officer except the veto power of the county executive may be delegated by that officer to another officer or employee under his control and supervision; provided, however, that the delegating officer shall continue to be responsible for the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty delegated. The board of county commissioners shall not delegate its legislative power except to the extent that it delegates to a county officer the authority to promulgate regulations in accordance with adequate standards established by the board of county commissioners.

Section 860. Inapplicable References in the Constitution or General Law.

Whenever a general law which has not been superseded by this charter or the ordinances enacted hereunder, or the state constitution, refers to an agency or officer of county government, it shall be deemed to refer to the agency or officer designated by the board of county commissioners or in the absence of such a designation to the agency or officer designated by the county executive.

Section 870. Additional Compensation.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter.

Section 880. Compilation and Codification of Ordinances.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the board of county commissioners shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law

and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the board of county commissioners and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The board of county commissioners shall also provide for an annual supplement.

Section 890. Employee Representation.

The board of county commissioners may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate, or provide for the selection of, the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

ARTICLE 9

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

The provisions of this article relate to the transition from the existing form of government to the form of government established by this charter; and where inconsistent with the foregoing articles of this charter, the provisions of this article shall constitute exceptions.

Section 910. Effective Date and Elections.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969. Special elections held in accordance with general law for the election

of partisan county officers shall be held to elect the first county executive, county assessor and county commissioners to be elected after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries shall be held on February 11, 1969, and the election shall be held on March 11, 1969. Until they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the county commissioner districts shall be as follows:

[The Board of Freeholders is, at this printing, considering initial interim districting. The decision of the Board of Freeholders will be published at a later date.]

Section 920. County Commissioners.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to remain as a county commissioner on the board of county commissioners established by this charter and shall represent the commissioner district established by this charter in which he resides on the date when this charter is adopted in which case a special election for the first county commissioner for that district shall not be held.

Section 930. County Assessor.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county commissioner, the county assessor elected at the general election in 1966 shall be entitled to remain as the county assessor established by this charter in which case a special election for the first county assessor after the adoption of this charter shall not be held.

Section 940. Commencement and Terms of Office.

The terms of office of officers elected at the special election on March 11, 1969, and the county commissioners or assessor elected at the general elections in 1966 or 1968 who remain as commissioners or assessor in the offices established by this charter, shall commence on May 1, 1969. The terms of office of the county executive, the county assessor and county commissioners representing even numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1971 and have qualified. The terms of office of county commissioners representing odd numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1973 and have qualified.

Section 950. Compensation.

The county commissioners and county assessor who take office, or continue in office, on the effective date of this charter shall receive during their first term of office under this charter the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners and county assessors, respectively. The county executive who takes office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during his first term of office under this charter one and one-half times the compensation paid to a county commissioner. Thereafter all compensation shall be established by the board of county commissioners by ordinance.

Section 960. The Personnel System.

960.10. Personnel Board Members.

The original members of the personnel board shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following

terms: one for a six year term, one for a four year term and one for a two year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a six year term.

960.20. Effective Date.

The county executive shall present to the board of county commissioners a proposed ordinance containing a comprehensive set of personnel rules as soon as possible, and the effective date of the personnel system shall be no later than January 1, 1970. Prior to the effective date of the personnel system, each employee shall be appointed, promoted, suspended and removed by the officer in whose office he serves.

960.30. Positions Exempt From the Personnel System.

For the first two years after the effective date of the personnel system and thereafter until changed by ordinance, the following positions in addition to those specified in Article 5 shall be exempt from the career service: physicians, surgeons, dentists, interns, student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

960.40. Elective County Officers.

Every elected county officer whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the rate of compensation specified by general law for the office which he held on the effective date of this charter until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter; and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an

administrative position covered by the personnel system subject to all of the rules of the personnel system except those concerning initial appointment.

960.50. County Employees.

A county employee employed in a position covered by the career service on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to that position subject to all of the personnel rules except the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed without just cause prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to the position in which he was employed on June 1, 1968, if it is covered by the career service. If a position is not covered by the career service, the employee shall have the right to be appointed to a position covered by the career service which is as nearly comparable as possible to his former position.

960.60. Sheriff's Civil Service System.

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the adoption of this charter. At the end of two years, the board of county commissioners may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel board established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the personnel board shall not decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees

covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law.

Section 970. Board of Appeals.

The original members of the board of appeals shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a seven year term, one for a six year term, one for a five year term, one for a four year term, one for a three year term, one for a two year term and one for a one year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a seven year term.

Section 980. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

For a period of two years after the effective date of this charter, the board of county commissioners shall not abolish, combine or divide the administrative offices and the executive departments specified in this charter and shall not transfer the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another, except that the board of county commissioners may adopt an ordinance to combine the department of planning and the planning function of the office of budgets and accounts and to combine the department of finance and the accounting function of the office of budgets and accounts.

Section 990. Transition.

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed

or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All boards and commissions to the extent permitted by the state constitution are abolished as of the effective date of this charter unless re-established by ordinance. All ordinances and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

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A SYNOPSIS OF THE DRAFT
HOME RULE CHARTER

As of July 18, 1968

ARTICLE 1 - POWERS OF THE COUNTY.

The principle of local determination is indicated by the 21st Amendment to the Washington Constitution adopted in 1948. The Amendment provides for a charter which allows a county to establish its own government, subject to the Constitution and laws of this state. The draft Charter recognizes the growing importance of governments working cooperatively together on mutual problems.

ARTICLE 2 - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:

- a. Creates a nine-member board, with membership drawn from districts of approximately equal population on a partisan basis, elected for a four-year staggered term.
- b. Establishes policy and confirms appointments of department heads selected by the Executive.
- c. Recognizes right of Referendum and Initiative by the people.
- d. Provides for an auditor appointed by the Board to conduct post-audit of the financial operations of the executive and other branches of county government.
- e. Provides for an office of citizens' complaint to investigate alleged inefficiencies and individual problems relating to inadequate county services.

ARTICLE 3 - THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- a. Provides for an elected chief executive on a partisan basis for four years.
- b. Provides for an elected assessor on a partisan basis for four years.
- c. Establishes a Chief Administrative Officer with professional qualifications to supervise administrative offices.
- d. Establishes departments and offices on a functional basis, supervised by experts in specialized fields of public administration.
- e. Creates a separate department of judicial administration for the maintenance of court records and official documents.

ARTICLE 4 - FINANCIAL PROCEDURES:

- a. Establishes tight budgetary controls over all county expenditures.
- b. Requires annual budget message establishing programs to be carried out during the year.

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- c. Establishes work programs and allotments as necessary tools for efficient control of departmental expenditures.

ARTICLE 5 - PERSONNEL SYSTEM:

- a. Creates a five-member Personnel Board for the purpose of hearing employee grievances and assisting the executive on personnel matters.
- b. Creates a career service for the purpose of recruiting and retaining employees on the basis of merit and proven ability.
- c. Provides assurance that county employees employed before June 1, 1968 will be allowed to continue in the career service.
- d. Prohibits employee political activity for any one seeking an elected county office.

ARTICLE 6 - ELECTIONS:

- a. Provides for elections filling positions for commissioners, executive and assessor after the adoption of the Charter.
- b. Establishes procedures for revising commissioner districts after the 1970 census.
- c. Requires disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures of each candidate.

ARTICLE 7 - BOARD OF APPEALS:

- a. Establishes a seven-member board of appeals to hear tax appeals, zoning variances, conditional use permit requests and other appeals from orders of an executive department.
- b. Provides for quasi-judicial procedure in hearing all appeals.

ARTICLE 8-GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- a. Provides for the disclosure of any financial conflict of interest a county officer or employee may have.
- b. Provides for public inspection of all records and files contained in any county department or office.
- c. Provides that no individual may be discriminated against regarding employment based on sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation.

ARTICLE 9 - TRANSITORY PROVISIONS:

- a. Establishes initial compensation for county commissioners, county executive and county assessor.
- b. Allows for integration of sheriff's civil service system at the end of two years.
- c. Allows for merger of planning and budget function and finance function any time after the passage of the Charter, recognizing new trends in management.

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