

**A HOME RULE CHARTER  
FOR KING COUNTY  
BY THE BOARD OF  
KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS**

**1969**

KING COUNTY  
CHARTER

1968

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment 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, and 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 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. Branch county offices may be established by ordinances.

## **ARTICLE 2 THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

### **Section 210. *Composition.***

The legislative branch shall be composed of the county council.

### **Section 220. *The County Council.***

#### **220.10. *Composition and Terms of Office.***

The county council shall consist of nine members. The county shall

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

**220.20. Powers.**

The county council shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The county council 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; except as otherwise provided herein shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities; shall adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans including improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; 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 and to administer oaths, but the subpoena power of the county council shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances which are being considered by the county council, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. The specific statement of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the county council.

**220.30. Organization.**

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

**220.40. Rules of Procedure.**

The county council 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 in the form, and for a reasonable period of time, as provided by ordinance.

**220.50. Relationship with Other Branches.**

The county council and the individual councilmen shall not

interfere in the administration, and shall not 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 councilman or by initiative petition. At least seven days after the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its adoption or enactment, the county council shall hold a public hearing after due notice to consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a minimum of five affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

**230.20. Executive Veto.**

Except as otherwise provided in 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 county council. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto the ordinance and return it to the county council 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 county council 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 county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

**220.30. Emergency Ordinances.**

Any proposed ordinance may be enacted as an emergency ordinance if the county council finds as a fact, and states in the ordinance, that an emergency exists and that the ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions. A minimum of seven affirmative votes shall be required to enact an emergency ordinance; and unless it is an emergency appropriation ordinance, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

**230.40. Referendum.**

Except as provided herein, an enacted ordinance may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the county council prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than eight 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 to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the special or general election occurring more than forty-five days after the petitions are filed.

An appropriation 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; an ordinance proposing amendments to this charter; an ordinance providing for collective bargaining; an ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement; an ordinance providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees; or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

**230.50. Initiative.**

Ordinances except ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees may be proposed by filing with the county council 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 county council shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted 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 thirty-five days after the petitions are filed or at an earlier election designated by the county council. 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 county council rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall first be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall first be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for either, then the ordinance receiving the majority

of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither ordinance shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

**230.60. Referendum and Initiative Petitions.**

The county council shall establish by ordinance the form to be used for 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 county council as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. Within five days after the form of the proposed petitions is submitted to him, the clerk of the county council shall return it to the sponsor with an indication of his approval or with a detailed written explanation of his objection to the form.

**230.70. Effective Date of Ordinances.**

Except as provided herein, the effective date of an ordinance shall be ten days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance may be subjected to a referendum as provided in Section 230.40 and if a proposed referendum petition is submitted to the clerk of the county council as provided in Subsection 230.60 prior to the tenth day after its enactment, the effective date of the ordinance shall be forty-five days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance is subjected to referendum, it shall not become effective until after it is approved by the voters. If it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the effective date of an ordinance which is subjected to referendum or proposed by initiative, or a substitute ordinance proposed by the county council as provided in subsection 230.50, shall be ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. The effective date of an emergency ordinance shall be the date of its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance.

An ordinance which is subject to the veto power of the county executive and 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 county council overrides the veto or partial veto. 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 county council.

**Section 240. Motions.**

The county council may pass motions to confirm or reject appointments by the county executive, to organize and administer the legislative branch, to make declarations of policy which do not have the force of law and to request information from any other agency of county government. Motions shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive, and the county council in passing motions need not comply with the procedural requirements for the introduction, consideration and adoption of ordinances.

**Section 250. County Auditor.**

The county auditor shall be appointed by a majority of the county council, shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a current post audit of the financial operations of the county government, shall review and report to the county council concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs and operations of the county and shall consult with the county executive concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch. Annual audits shall continue to be performed by the state in accordance with general law.

**Section 260. Office of Citizen Complaints.**

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaints 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 county council and the members of boards and commissions except 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 councilman.

**320.20. Powers and Duties.**

The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other specific elective officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council; shall be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the country; 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 county council shall appoint a councilman or councilmen to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the county council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary; shall prepare and present to the county council 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 county council 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 county council except as otherwise provided in 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; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

**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 and the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and shall appoint the members of all boards and commissions except as otherwise provided in this charter.

**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 and shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and employees to positions covered by the career service.

**340.40. Confirmation.**

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. 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 a member of the career service may be removed at any time by the officer who appointed him, except that a member of the personnel board or the board of appeals may be removed only by a majority of the county council as provided in this charter.

**Section 350. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.**

The executive branch shall be divided by the county council by ordinance into administrative offices and executive departments.

**350.10 Administrative Offices.**

The administrative offices shall consist of those agencies of the executive branch which provide administrative services for the various agencies of county government.

**350.20 Executive Departments.**

The executive departments shall consist of the department of assessments, the department of judicial administration and those agencies of the executive branch which are primarily engaged in the execution and enforcement of ordinances and statutes concerning the public peace, health and safety and which furnish or provide governmental services directly to or for the residents of the county.

**350.20.10. Department of Assessments.**

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county assessor shall be elected by the voters of the county unless general law shall provide otherwise, and his term of office shall be four years. 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 county council.

**350.20.20. 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.

The department of judicial administration 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 by the county council.

**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 county council a complete budget and budget message, 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 thirty days prior to the end of the fiscal year, the county council shall adopt appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances for the next fiscal year. (Ord. 981; 9/13/71)

**Section 420. Budget Information.**

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

**Section 430. Contents of Budget.**

The budget 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 shall include the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. The expenditures included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

**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 councilman. 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 and shall be available for public inspection.

**Section 460. Consideration and Adoption of Appropriation Ordinances.**

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the county council 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 county council in considering the appropriations 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 county council shall not exceed the estimated revenues

of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the county council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the county executive by reestimating the amount by motion passed by a minimum of six affirmative votes or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive.

**Section 470. Additional Appropriations.**

**470.10. Contingency Appropriations.**

The appropriation ordinances shall include contingency funds which shall not be expended unless the county executive certifies in writing that sufficient funds are available and the county council adopts an additional appropriation ordinance after being requested to do so by the county executive.

**470.20. Emergency Appropriations.**

The county council may adopt an emergency appropriation ordinance which may appropriate contingency funds, revenue received in excess of the revenues estimated in the budget and funds from any other source available to the county in an emergency.

**470.30. Additional Capital Budget Appropriations.**

The county council shall not adopt an additional or amended capital budget appropriation ordinance during the fiscal year unless requested to do so by the county executive.

**Section 475. Work Programs and Allotments.**

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council 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 the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, 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 county council 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 executive department responsible for planning.

**Section 480. *Lapses of Appropriations.***

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

**Section 490. *Interfund Borrowing and Reimbursement.***

One agency of county government or fund may reimburse another agency or fund for services rendered, and the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to provide for temporary interfund borrowing.

**Section 495. *Illegal Contracts.***

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, any contract in excess of an appropriation 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 county council 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 to the county 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. *Administration.***

The county executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the county council by ordinance. The county administrative officer shall prepare and present proposed personnel rules to the county executive who shall present a proposed ordinance establishing the personnel rules to the county council 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 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 relationships with employee organizations; policies governing in-service training; grievance procedures; procedures for disciplinary actions for just cause; 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 county council. One member of the personnel board shall be elected by secret ballot by the county employees who are members of the career service according to the procedure established by ordinance. A personnel board member shall serve a five year term and until his successor is appointed or elected, with one member being appointed each year. A majority of the county council, 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 county council. The county council 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, appointment or promotion; from any suspension for more than sixty days, reduction in rank or pay, or removal; and from any classification or reclassification of positions. The personnel board shall hold a public hearing to consider an appeal and shall issue such orders 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. Career Service Positions.**

All county employees and officers shall be members of the career service except those in the following positions: all elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the county council; the county administrative officer; the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office; the members of all boards and commissions; administrative assistants for the county executive and one administrative assistant each for 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; a chief deputy for the county assessor; one confidential secretary each for the county executive, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified herein; all employees of those officers who are exempted from the provisions of this charter by the state constitution; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; administrative interns; election precinct officials; all persons serving the county without compensation; physicians; surgeons; dentists; medical interns; and student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

**Section 560. Political Activities.**

"The political activities of county employees and offices shall be governed by the applicable provisions of state law. A member of the career service may be elected and serve as a precinct committeeman without violating the provisions of this section. A member of the career service may file for a compensated elective office, but he shall take and be granted a leave of absence until the date of the election.

**ARTICLE 6  
ELECTIONS**

**Section 610. Election Procedures.**

Except as provided in this Article, the nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

**Section 620. Independent Candidates.**

On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate in a major political party primary, anyone qualified to assume office if elected may file a declaration of candidacy as an "independent." (Ord. 3406; 9/23/77)

Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall be placed on the primary ballots under the title "independent"; and, if the total number of votes cast for independent candidates for an office is equal to at least twenty percent of the total number of votes cast for that office in the primary, then the candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for independent candidates for that office shall be the independent nominee for that office and shall be placed on the general election ballots under the title "independent."

Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall not be a candidate for any political party in that primary or in the succeeding general election and shall pay the filing fee required for a declaration of candidacy for a major political party primary.

**Section 630. 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, at least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each councilman shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a councilman's district which shall cause him 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 640. County Executive and 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 for the county assessor and with the election of 1973 for the county executive.

**Section 650. Councilmen.**

**650.10 Districts.**

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

**650.20. Nomination and Election.**

The nomination and election of councilmen 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.

**650.30. Districting.**

**650.30.10. 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.

**650.30.20. Districting Committee.**

During the month of January, 1981, and by January 31st of each fifth year thereafter, a five-member districting committee shall be appointed. The county council shall appoint four persons to the committee, two from each of the two major political parties, the four to appoint the fifth who shall be the chairperson. The districting committee shall within 30 days of their appointment meet and appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the districting committee is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master within 30 days, the county council shall appoint a districting master by March 31st of that year. (Ord. 2494; 9/15/75)

**650.30.30. Districting Plan.**

The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the county which shall be submitted by May 1st of the same year to the districting committee for adoption with or without amendment. The districting committee shall adopt the districting plat within fifteen days. Upon adoption, the districting plat shall be submitted to the clerk of the county council by the districting committee. The plan shall become effective upon filing. (Ord. 2494; 9/15/75)

**Section 660. Commencement of Terms of Office.**

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

**Section 670. Recall.**

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

**Section 680. Vacancies.**

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent'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 county council; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office; provided, however, that an elective county office shall not become vacant as the result of a criminal conviction or declaration of incompetency until the conviction or declaration has become final and is no longer subject to appeal.

**680.10. Election or Appointment to Fill Vacancy.**

A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as provided in Sections 620 and 630. The term of office of an officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he is elected and qualified.

A majority of the county council may temporarily fill a vacancy by appointment until the vacancy has been filled by election or the successor to the office has been elected and qualified.

**Section 690. 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 executive department responsible for conducting elections showing all campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material made to him on 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 county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form of such statement. A willful 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 county council. Each member of the board of appeals shall serve a four year term and until his successor is appointed. Two members shall be appointed each year; except that every fourth year, only one member shall be appointed. A majority of the county council, 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 county council. The county council shall provide for the compensation of the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

