

Part II

Sec. I

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Alternate Provision  
on Redistricting

430.30. Districting.

The boundaries of county commissioner districts shall be reviewed by the board of county commissioners in 1971 and at least every five years thereafter. Consideration shall be given to geographic and economic units, municipal and election precinct boundaries and all available data and sources of information indicating the nature and location of the population of the county. The boundaries of county commissioner districts shall be retained or redrawn to produce districts approximately equal in population and composed of natural geographic units. The territory of each district shall be compact and contiguous; and its boundaries shall follow, as nearly as practical, the boundaries of established census tracts.

District boundaries shall be retained or redrawn by an ordinance enacted by a majority of the board of county commissioners, and a districting ordinance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. If the size, shape and population of each district complies with the requirements of this charter, the board of county commissioners may enact an ordinance to retain the district without change.

430.30.10. Districting Committee.

If the board of county commissioners does not adopt a districting ordinance during the first four months of any year in which this charter requires it to review the district boundaries, 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. Subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners, the committee may retain professional assistance. The committee shall present a districting plan to the board of county commissioners within four months after the committee has been appointed and confirmed. The board of county commissioners may either accept, modify or reject the districting plan. If it is rejected, the committee may, but shall not be required to, present an alternate plan. If the districting plan is neither accepted, modified nor rejected within sixty days after it is presented to the board of county commissioners by the redistricting committee, it shall become effective on the sixty first day after its presentation as if it had been enacted by ordinance.

430.30.20. Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance.

If the board of county commissioners fails to enact a districting ordinance during the year in which this charter requires it to review district boundaries, 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. As soon as a districting ordinance is enacted, the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the county commissioners who would have received it but the suspension.

Alternate Provision  
on Redistricting

430.30. Redistricting.

430.30.10. Redistricting Committee.

The boundaries of the county commissioner districts shall be reviewed in 1971 and at least every five years thereafter by a committee of at least five members who shall be appointed by the chief executive 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.

430.30.20. District Boundaries.

The districting committee shall be appointed and confirmed within thirty days after the first of the year in which the county commissioner district boundaries are required to be reviewed by this charter, and within four months after its appointment and confirmation it shall present a districting plan to the board of county commissioners.

The committee in reviewing district boundaries shall consider geographic and economic units, municipal and election precinct boundaries and shall use all available data and sources of information indicating the nature and location of the population of the county. It shall propose districts which are approximately equal in population, and composed of natural geographic units. The territory of each district shall be compact and contiguous, and its boundaries shall follow, as nearly as practical, the boundaries of established census tracts. The committee, subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners, may retain professional assistance.

430.30.30. Consideration by Board of County Commissioners.

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

District boundaries shall be retained or changed by an ordinance enacted by a majority of the board of county commissioners. A districting ordinance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. If the size, shape and population of each district complies with the requirements of this charter, the board of county commissioners may enact an ordinance to retain the district boundaries without change.

430.30.40. Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance.

If the board of county commissioners fails to enact a districting ordinance during the year in which this charter requires it to review district boundaries, 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. As soon as a districting ordinance is enacted, the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the county commissioners who would have received it but for the suspension.

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AREA CODE 206  
MU. 2-3333

June 27, 1968

Board of King County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Freeholders:

Enclosed is the latest proposed draft of the charter. This draft incorporates all of the changes included in the substitute pages to the first draft as well as other language changes and all of the changes which have been approved by the freeholders at the deliberative sessions. However, the changes in the competitive bidding provision have not yet been included.

We have also enclosed a new redistricting provision which has alternate subsections 430.30.30. The first alternate provides for a redistricting committee to be appointed and to present its proposal to the board of county commissioners which can then either accept, amend or reject the proposal. The second alternate allows the board of county commissioners to enact a redistricting ordinance during the first four months of the year and then provides for the appointment of a committee if the board has not acted. Presumably, a variation of one of these provisions will be approved at the next deliberative session and will be included in the draft which is circulated prior to the public hearings.

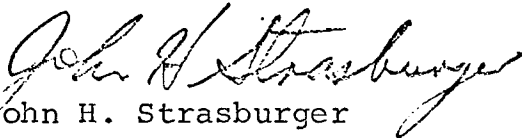
The last deliberative session raised the question of what would happen if the department of public safety failed to call an inquest to investigate any death involving an employee of that department. One statute indicates that the University of Washington will provide toxicological services as requested by the county prosecutor. However, the statutes do not require either the coroner or the prosecutor or any other officer to conduct an inquest or an investigation concerning any death. Therefore, since there was general concern that there might be a conflict of interest on the part of the department of public safety in conducting an inquest to investigate a death concerning one of its own employees, I have included a mandatory provision in section 350.20.20 requiring it

Board of King County Freeholders  
June 27, 1968  
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to do so. An alternate provision would be to grant the county executive the right to convene such an inquest.

It is presumed that this draft will be essentially the same as the draft which will be printed and circulated to the public prior to the public hearings. Therefore, it is requested that each freeholder carefully examine its language to make sure that we have not inadvertently misconstrued the decisions which the freeholders have made to date.

Sincerely yours,

  
John H. Strasburger

JOH:dvc  
Enclosures

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PROPOSED DRAFT

KING COUNTY CHARTER

June 27, 1968

## PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to obtain the benefits and responsibilities of home rule and self-government in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington and to create an efficient form of county government which will serve our present and future needs 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. 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 130. 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 conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records and other evidence; and shall have the

power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to prescribe their duties.

220.30. Organization.

The board of county commissioners 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 and to supervise its staff.

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 to guarantee ample opportunity for the people to be heard and adequate consideration by the board of county commissioners. 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, by the county executive

or by initiative petitions. 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. 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 or veto the ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his 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, the board of county commissioners may override the veto 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 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 shall be deemed enacted on the date that the board of county commissioners overrides the 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 ordinance 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 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 abllot 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.

*Time requirement* → 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 canceled.

Section 250. County Auditor.

The county auditor shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners and shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an annual audit of the operation of county government; shall consult with the office of budgets and accounts concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch; shall make any limited and periodic audits which he deems necessary; and shall perform any other duties assigned to him by the board of county commissioners.

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 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, and if more than one county commissioner was required to serve, 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 performance and line item budgets and budget messages 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 have had prior administrative experience in either private or public organizations and shall be appointed on the basis of their abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience.

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 person who appointed him except that the members of the personnel board and the board of appeals can be removed only by a majority or by the board of county commissioners as provided in Articles 5 and 6.

Section 350. Executive Offices and 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 established 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 purchase, or shall establish the rules and procedure for purchasing by others, all real and personal property acquired by the county and shall use competitive bidding whenever practical.

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 in cooperation with all agencies of county government shall prepare and propose comprehensive plans, including capital improvement plans, for the present and future development of the county. The department of planning shall receive and



consider all zoning applications. Its decision concerning applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals, and it shall make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on all applications for rezoning or original zoning. All capital improvement projects shall be submitted to the department of planning before they are submitted to the board of county commissioners.

350.20.75. Department of Buildings.

The department of buildings shall be responsible for the issuance of building permits and shall administer and enforce building codes, 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 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 ex-

