

Part I

Sec. 5

Part 2 of 2

For Presentation to  
THE BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

7 August 1968

My compliments. The preliminary draft of a charter for King County is excellent. It obviously represents a well-reasoned and thorough effort. It provides a forward-looking and flexible organization that will be representative and responsive to the needs and requirements of our changing times.

You have deliberately provided for the separation of powers so vital to the preservation of our system of representative democracy. My purpose is to present for your consideration a refinement in the separation of duties between the Administrator and the legislative body.

I am convinced that the most efficient, responsive and flexible government is obtained when the legislative body establishes on at least an annual basis the objectives, purposes and goals of County government. These can then be implemented in the form of authorized plans, programs, services and policies.

*along with their relative priorities.*  
As a practical matter, the Administrator is in a better position to initiate these. To give the legislative body equal footing, it must have the duty by charter to contract for its own advice and counsel. Independent consultants must be available on such matters as the Law, administrative organization, performance and efficiency evaluation, fiscal accounting and controls as well as personnel policies and practices.

The Organization to administer county government must be responsive to changing plans, programs, services and policies. To make the Administrator totally responsible, he must have the ability to organize and reorganize employees, equipment and emphasis of the County government effort. He must be free of the internal politics and one-upmanship involved in requesting ordinance-approval from the legislative body each time he wishes to make an organization change. He must be free to win or lose at the polls on the basis of his administrative leadership, abilities and performance.

Two other practical problems are present when the administrative organization is rigidly defined by charter or ordinance. As a function of a department becomes obsolete or falls way down the list of priorities, there is tremendous natural reluctance to abolish the function and reorganize the department even when this becomes highly desirable. Organization and procedures become-- too soon--inflexible and unresponsive when they are rigidly defined.

Priorities are extremely important toward achieving the first of the three efficiencies of government. Priorities assist in answering such questions as:

Are the most important, necessary and desirable jobs being done?

Are we doing some jobs that we could probably do without?

The second efficiency involves doing the approved job in the easiest and least expensive manner. Involved here are the organization, direction, coordination and procedures as well as use of equipment and office space. The legislative body must have independent advice and council to evaluate how well the Administrator is doing at this second kind of efficiency.

The third efficiency involves County employees. Jobs are only done by individuals. Are these individuals well trained? Are they stimulated and challenged by the assignments given? Are they able to develop and advance to their best capabilities? The legislative body must have independent advice to successfully answer these questions.

In summary, the organization structure must not be rigidly defined by charter or ordinance. The legislative body must have the tools to establish and evaluate the performance, efficiency and direction of County government.

In conclusion, the charter is a credit to each of you.

*Frank Matz*



## WASHINGTON STATE CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
L. Joe Miller  
City Manager,  
City of Bellevue

August 7, 1968

Board of King County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington

Gentlemen:

Inasmuch as I will be absent from the County at the time of your second hearing, I am taking the liberty of writing my comments and offering them for the Freeholders' consideration.

On the whole, I think the charter is of unusually good quality and the Freeholders are to be commended. The residents of King County will be most fortunate if this document is placed before them.

I will mainly comment on those things which I think need additional improvement, but this is not to suggest that my primary reactions are negative. As a City Manager I was disappointed in the Freeholders' decision to recommend an elected executive. From a realistic point of view, however, I must admit that the residents of King County are probably not sufficiently prepared to accept an appointed executive inasmuch as there has been no work-up by the press and there would, of course, be violent objection by the entrenched political parties. I think that the provision for the elected executive has been well handled and the administrative official will be a useful technique although it should not be considered as a substitute or the counterpart of a county manager.

My one general reaction to the charter is that it contains some redundancy and includes items such as Section 120 which is already provided by general law. I think it is a mistake to unduly lengthen the charter by the inclusion of unnecessary material.

Section 130 is an excellent idea to clarify the type of legal construction that the charter involves. I would strongly urge reconsideration of the composition of the legislative branch. I think nine members is the proper number but I hope that you will drop the idea of nine separate legislative districts. I would strongly suggest that there be five legislative districts and four commissioners at large. Even in the case of the District Commissioners, I would urge that nomination be by district, and election at large.

I am apprehensive about Section 220.50 in that it appears to permit the commissioners to issue any kind of order to the other branches so long as it is done through an ordinance. I suggest that additional wording be supplied to indicate that the commissioners cannot enter into purely administrative affairs even through the enactment of ordinances.

I note in Section 230.10, and also in other sections, that no account has been taken for the handling of routine ordinances, including those which are non-discretionary. This section requires that public hearings be held on all ordinances and elsewhere the charter provides that all ordinances require 45 days before taking effect. There is also provision for submitting all ordinances to the referendum procedure. I think each of these provisions is inappropriate with respect to routine or nondiscretionary legislation and unduly and unnecessarily prolong the legislative process. A case in point is the provision in the state law that requires the County Commissioners to pass an ordinance affecting the annexation of an unincorporated area to a city or town. If such an annexation has already been approved by the electorate, the county legislative authority has no discretion in this matter and it would be meaningless and unusually harmful to require the hearing and a 45-day delay. It would also be a serious mistake to permit such a measure, once it has been approved by a majority of the voters involved, to be brought back to the electorate through the referendum procedure which requires only ten per cent. I think it is inappropriate, if not illegal, to provide for the veto of such measures by the county executive.

There are probably a host of other nondiscretionary matters handled by the County Commissioners. I think the handling of the executive department has been very well thought out and should provide a most important structure. I also like the proposed method of handling some of the implications and think it will go a long way towards streamlining this often cumbersome procedure.

Section 475 provides that the County Executive may transfer certain current expense appropriations when requested to do so by the agency concerned. I suggest that you drop the requirement that the agency must request it inasmuch as the executive should have the power to over-rule his department heads on such matters.

Section 490 provides for inter-fund borrowing and requires the approval of the County Commissioners. I suggest that the executive have this power if the term of the loan does not extend beyond the end of the fiscal year.

Section 540 provides for the hearing of appeals and authorizes the court to reinstate employees, etc. I did not observe any reference to standards with respect to either the removal or discipline of employees or the decision by the Board to overrule the appointing authority. I think it is appropriate to define these rules in a charter or to at least make reference to the standards against which the system will be administered.

Section 560 prohibits political activity on behalf of candidates and I suggest that it also includes a ban of activity against candidacys.

Section 630.30.50 provides for suspension of commissioners' compensation upon failure to redistrict. As I read it, the commissioners ultimately get their money back. This does not seem entirely realistic and I would suggest that the provisions be tightened up to provide for an earlier suspension of compensation with no return.

Section 660.10 lays out provisions for declaring a commissioner's office vacant under certain conditions. I would suggest that you add to the list of causes repeated unexcused absence (either 3 or 5) without permission. I would suggest that 660.20 be revised to provide that elected officials or those appointed to unexpired terms serve only until the next election, irrespective of the length of the remainder of the term.

Section 820.10 is too tight to be realistic. Some provision should be made for county officials to be permitted to accept very small gifts such as lunches, dinners, etc. This section would appear to prohibit a free cup of coffee.

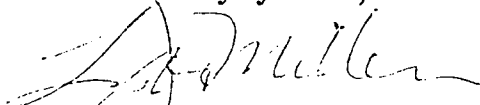
Section 840 on anti-discrimination should contain a prohibition against discrimination for political reasons.

Section 970 of the Board of Appeals provides for 7-year terms which, in my opinion, is too long for membership on such a board. In the first place, it will be difficult to get people to accept such a long assignment and second, it is too long to wait for a bad choice to expire. Four-year terms would, in my opinion, be adequate.

Section 980 provides for the reorganization of the administrative offices and executive departments and various shifting of powers and duties. No mention is made of the executive who should be involved in these changes. He does, of course, have a veto which offers him some protection but I would suggest that no changes of this kind be permitted without the executive's consent.

Again, let me commend the Freeholders for the excellence of their draft. My comments have been offered in the spirit of contribution for what they might be worth and certainly not as an expression of criticism and dissatisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Joe Miller".

L. Joe Miller  
President

LJM:fs

5503-20th Ave. S.  
Seattle, Wash. 98108  
August 14, 1968

The King County Freeholders.

Dear Sirs:

You, the King County Freeholders, have reached tentative agreement to elect future County Commissioners by district. The only reasonable validity for such election is to reflect composite community interests.

The line you propose between Districts 5 and 7 on your plan reflects neither community or neighborhood lines. It is strongly against the identity of the long established community known as Beacon Hill. It serves Rainier Valley no better. Even within neighborhoods it separates the smaller affluent section, from which the neighborhood might expect to draw its candidates, from the larger mass.

As I will refer to census tracts, I am compelled to point out two present tracts are totally misleading. Industrial encroachment has reduced Tract O-3 to a ribbon without relevancy. Its abolition is overdue. Tract P-2 is in need of division in Rainier Ave. S. I believe the separation between Second Hill and Beacon Hill obvious. For these reasons I use my own arbitrary estimate for Beacon Hill, placing that portion of O-3 east of the Freeway and south of S. Dearborn St and that portion of P-2 west of Rainier Ave. S. upon Beacon Hill. For fuller use I would suggest prorating the portions of these tracts entailed divided by precincts.

Were some reason to exist to compell lateral division across Beacon Hill and Rainier Valley, the transferring of Tract R-2 (1964 pop. estimate, 7,600) into District 5 and Tract Q-3 (1964 pop. estimate, 6,200) would preserve neighborhood unitier, not totally crippling either politically.

Such transfer serves no more than imesiate neighborhoods and is not adequit to serve the interests of Beacon Hill or Rainier Valley.

To serve Beacon Hill, it all should be extracted from District 5 to augment District 7. To serve Rainier Valley, it all should be extracted from District 7 to augment District 5. (Considering its size I propose no revision of District 6.) I believe the total population shift reasonable, a S. Dearborn St (approximating)-Rainier Ave. S-Empire Way S. line augmenting District 5 by perhaps 4,000 persons at the expense of District 7.

District 7, as proposed, being largely West Seattle, includes 15,800 persons upon Beacon Hill and 17,200 persons in Rainier Valley. Neither community could carry weight in a district of 130,000 persons. Estimating, District 5, as proposed, includes 13,000 persons upon Beacon Hill and 15,400 persons in Rainier Valley. Again neither fractured partial community could carry influence in a district of 130,000. The cumulative result is both Southeast Seattle communities are silenced in your proposed Commission. Were Beacon Hill combined to represent 28,800 persons and Rainier Valley to represent 32,600 persons, each could earn a just weight in district matters.

I do not wish to sound punitive. I believe it a fact unreasonable proposed district lines soured both Beacon Hill and Rainier Valley upon the last proposed County Charter revision. This proposal, as published in the Seattle Times, appears more irrelevant. Visually, your proposed south boundary to District 5 appears as the carving of a knife passing through a slab of butter creating "the handle to defeat the charter."

I trust this letter may prove of service to your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,  
*C. A. Custer, Jr.*  
Charles A. Custer, Jr.,  
Boundary Chairman,  
CUB-H  
(Committee to Unify  
Beacon Hill)

1306



August 17, 1968  
1210 - 5th Ave. N.  
Renton, Wash. 98055

Board of King County Freeholders  
Room 905 - A  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Wash.

Certified Mailing No. 560317

Attention: Chairman R.R. Albrecht

Executive Secretary P. Meyer

Gentlemen:

Appreciation is hereby expressed for and receipt of your complimentary letter of Aug. 9, 1968 is hereby duly acknowledged.

In connection with the Congressional Studies being made in the State of Washington, there has been disclosed a condition of apparent lack of full understanding of respect for and enforcement of the Constitutional Rights of the People of the United States. Also, there exists an apparent lack of full understanding of the legal liabilities of persons --- holding public offices in the State --- who commit acts of "deprivation of Constitutional Rights under color of law".

Accordingly, the attached Memorandum has been prepared --- based on a preliminary study --- and same is being presented to enlighten all members of the Board in their final draft deliberations.

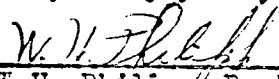
This Memorandum relates to the question of constitutionality of Sec. 630. 20 (located on page 26 of the Working Draft - King County Charter) re: NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS --- Partisan County Officers.

The latter part of the Memorandum sets forth the Federal Statutes in re: "Constitutional Rights enforcement".

To insure timely and prompt delivery of the Memorandum for your scheduled Monday meeting of the entire Board, this Memorandum has been transmitted by Certified mailing.

It is respectfully requested that a careful deliberation be accorded to the material presented in the attached Memorandum, which has been submitted as a "public service" to the Board and the People of King County.

Very truly yours,

  
W. H. Philipp, Participant in Congressional  
Studies on Constitutional Rights &  
Judicial Improvements.

Encl: Memorandum

P.S. Gradually, it is being "driven home to persons holding Public Offices" that U.S. Taxpayers --- having been denied and deprived of Constitutional Rights, meaning, denied the rendition of Governmental Services by Public Officers or Employees --- do resort to reprisal action in the form of "failure to make a full self-assessment of their Federal Income Tax Liabilities". No one pays for a service, private or public, that is not rendered. Field studies in this State have so disclosed such reprisal action by U.S. Taxpayers, so aggrieved. Pursuant to sec. 5 of the 14th Amendment, it is an obvious responsibility and obligation of the Government of the United States to enforce the Constitutional Rights of the People of the United States, when so denied by State action.

1000

1307

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the Board of King County Freeholders  
Room 905-A  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Wash. 98104

Certified Mailing No: 560317

RE: Preliminary Working Draft - King County Charter

Page 26 -- Section 630.20 Nomination and Election -- Partisan County Officers

Since the matter of drafting and enacting of laws falls within the scope of Congressional Studies pertaining to Constitutional Rights, a preliminary study was made on the question of the possibility of Section 630.20 being "repugnant" to the State Constitution, Art. 1, sec. 12 -- "SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES PROHIBITED", sec. 19 --- "FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS", and Art. 11, sec. 4 --- "COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION, re: mandatory compliance with State Constitution".

It is to be granted that by a mere casual reading of State Law, RCW 29.18.020 --- "PARTISAN PRIMARIES", ONLY, major political parties may participate " --- would appear to be supporting authority of law to propose Section 630.20, supra.

But, a careful study of the construction of said statute raises the question of whether it "squares with the State Constitution", specifically, Art. 1, sec. 12, which mandates no law shall be passed ---- which includes the drafting of a County Charter --- granting special privileges, which it is obvious on "its face" that State Law, RCW 29.18.020, <sup>does not, as of 1907.</sup> The construction of the statute prescribes "ONLY ( that is discriminatory construction) THE NAMES OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES SHALL ( that is mandatory in its discrimination against other minority political parties or persons, and mandatory in the enforcement of the exercise of the so granted special privilege) BE ENTITLED TO APPEAR UPON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT AFTER THE CANDIDATES AFFILIATED THEREWITH. THE NAMES OF NO OTHER POLITICAL PARTY SHALL APPEAR THEREON. ( that is barring all others from participation unless they submit to an affiliation with a major political party)

On its face, is not this statute an "obvious denial and deprivation of the 14th Amendment EQUAL RIGHTS exerciseable by all other political groups and all other citizens, severally, who desire to exercise their Elective Franchise, as prescribed by U.S. Civil Code, Title 28 U.S.C. 1343 and State Const. Art. 1, sec. 19 - "ALL ELECTIONS SHALL BE FREE AND EQUAL", as mandated by Art. 1, sec. 29 - CONSTITUTION MANDATORY ?

Yet, can it be ignored that such construction of RCW 29.18.020 does abrogate and abolish the "constitutional guarantee of FREE AND EQUAL ELECTIONS", and does grant SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, which are specifically PROHIBITED by Art. 1, sec. 12.

It is this kind of "legislated" discrimination in favor of particular persons or group of persons as against others in like circumstance, material to their rights, that fall within the prohibitions of the "Equal Rights" and "Equal protection of the law" Clauses of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

In regards to the enforcement of 14th Amendment Rights, the following United States Supreme Court decisions are cited, as supporting authority, namely:

- VIRGINIA v. RIVES, 100 U.S. 313
- BAKER v. CARR, 369 U.S. 186
- ALLGEYER v. LOUISIANA, 165 U.S. 578
- UNITED STATES v. CRUIKSHANK, 92 U.S. 542
- TRUAX v. RAICH, 239 U.S. 33
- SHELLEY v. KRAMER, 334 U.S. 1

In light of the above material, and a re-examination of "grant of authority," set forth in express words of Art. 11, sec. 4. (second paragraph) "Any County may frame a "Home Rule" charter for its own government subject to the Constitution" (meaning, not repugnant to the Supreme Law of the Land, as expressed by Art. 1, sec. 2, to be the Constitution of the United States, so mandated by Art. 1, sec. 29.) does it not warrant the Board's re-consideration and re-drafting of Section 630.20 -- NOMINATION and ELECTION of County Officers --- in order to comply with the prohibitions of State Constitution, as set forth above ?

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's position in re: "the right of every person to be informed of his Constitutional Rights", it must not be overlooked that this, also, pertains to the "right of each person or persons --- acting under color of law --- to be informed of his or their Civil and Criminal liabilities for any act or acts constituting "denial and deprivation of Constitutional Rights of any person or persons" and "impairing, obstructing or defeating the lawful functions of the Governments of the United States, pursuant to its Constitutions". The applicable statutes are, namely; Title 42 U.S.C. 1983 - "Civil action for deprivation of Rights"; Title 18 U.S.C. 242 - "Deprivation of Rights under color of law"; Title 18 U.S.C. 371 - "Conspiracy - two or more persons -- impairing, obstructing, or defeating lawful functions of Constitutions protecting Constitutional Rights."

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that each member of the Board of King County Freeholders be so informed of their Constitutional Obligations so that each will give due deliberation to the importance of adopting a process for the nomination and election of County Officers that will "guarantee free and equal rights"

to all persons, regardless of political or non-political affiliation, to file a Declaration of Candidacy for any Public Office so created under said King County "Home Rule" Charter.

Let it not be overlooked that the State Constitution, Art. 1, sec. 1 specifically, confers "all political powers to be inherent in the People of the State of Washington". Therefore, all public offices, created under any "Home Rule" charter pursuant to such exercise of said political powers, is the property of all of the People, and each, severally, has the inherent right to file a declaration of Candidacy for any public office so created. Art. 1, sec. 3 -- PERSONAL RIGHTS -- guarantees the exercise thereof, as well as the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution under the "liberty to contract" clause.

DATED this 17th day of August, 1968.

Respectfully submitted as a "public service to the members of the Board and the People of King County,



W.H. Philipp, Participant in Congressional Studies on  
Constitutional Rights & Judicial Improvements.

P.O. Address: 1210 - 5th Ave. N.  
Renton, Wash. 98055

3/0

# King County Harborview Hospital

325 9th AVENUE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104 • MUtual 2-3050

August 14, 1968

Mr. Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary  
Board of King County Freeholders  
905 - A King County Court House  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Thank you for your call on Tuesday regarding the relationship of the County Hospital System to the Board of King County Freeholders. This is to confirm the invitation to you to attend the Board of Trustees' meeting on Thursday, August 22, 1968, at 1:00 P.M. in the Board Room here at Harborview Hospital. The subject material regarding the Freeholder Proposed Charter, as it relates to public health, will be placed as number one item on the agenda. It is understood that Mr. Albrecht may accompany you to the meeting.

From an administrative point of view, it would appear to me that it would be wise to clarify the relationship of county health responsibilities so that the funding processes may be developed as appropriate. The King County Harborview Hospital continues to operate under the Statutes of the State of Washington, Chapter 36.62, as passed in 1931. This allows for the passing of bond issues for a county hospital and the appointment of a Board of Trustees by the Board of King County Commissioners. Any change in the organization of the county would, therefore, seem to have some impact on the organization of the hospital. Although the chapter allows for the allocation of up to two mills for the operation of the hospital, this was revised in the 1950's when the care of the indigent changed from a county to a state responsibility. However, the law still states that the hospital is to take those who do not have the ability to pay, but by a change in regulations the hospital does not have the funding for this.

With the advance of Federal programs in the area of Medicare, and also Medicaid, the funding of the hospital became more complicated. There is no longer an umbrella budget such as the hospital had. Effective July 1, 1967, the hospital (1) is being paid for services rendered to the medically indigent on a cost basis and (2) received a biennial state appropriation to continue the operation of the hospital as a teaching resource for the University. It was also effective July 1, 1967, that a contract commenced between the Board of

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: PETER J. EMT • CECIL E. JENKS • RICHARD KLINGE  
MAX R. NICOLAI • ROBERT OLSON • LESLIE C. ROBERTS

1311

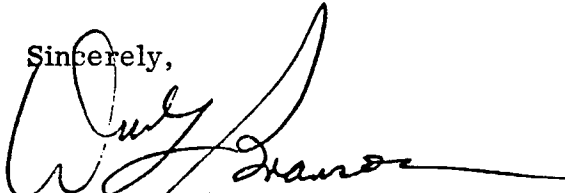
Page 2  
Mr. Paul Meyer

August 14, 1968

Trustees of the hospital and the Board of Regents of the University of Washington for the University to manage the hospital under the policies of the Board of Trustees. This contract, which is for the biennium 1967 to 1969 will be up for reconsideration when the Legislators meet early next year.

I believe this very brief summary of the hospital activities is enough to indicate that the hospital probably has more than a passing interest in any change in county government. I will look forward to meeting you at the Board of Trustees' meeting and hope that the above information will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. L. Branson", written in black ink.

WM. L. BRANSON  
Administrator

WLB/kw  
cc: Mr. Olson

1312

August 15, 1968

Mr. Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman  
Board of King County Freeholders  
905-A King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

I have seen a copy of your proposed King County Charter, as released under the date of July 18th, 1968. The paragraph on Page 14 stating:

"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", has attracted our attention.

I am cognizant of your sincere desire to streamline and improve the present King County government set-up. There is a real need for a change in the present arrangement. However, a couple comments and questions come to mind, and I will ask them.

(1) It is our understanding that the use of the term "welfare" is not synonymous with the time-honored functions of "Public Assistance" as now performed by the King County Welfare Department. We do not have the staff or would I be enthusiastic to attempt to administer the "King County Welfare Department" if this were the intention of the freeholders. Therefore, I suggest deletion of "and welfare", the section to read Department of Public Health.

(2) Does this simple paragraph, 350.20.30, abolish the Firland Tuberculosis Hospital Board? This Board was created by State Statute in 1945 in order to (a) enable a combination of separate and competing city and county tuberculosis hospitals, placing them under one unified county board. (b) To remove the service of TB patient care from the direct administration of the Board of County Commissioners. It was the conclusion of the 1945 Legislature that patient care and politics don't mix--so the creation of the Firland Board as a buffer has been very helpful during these years since 1945. I would regret to see it eliminated or at least some kind of an advisory committee would be a minimum to replace it.

Regarding the King County Hospital, you may receive a communication directly from the King County Hospital Board, or from their business manager, Mr. William Branson. I am sure that the abolition of this Board will leave a vacuum that is important to be filled.

In summary, in my opinion the laudable attempt to be brief--as exemplified in 350.20.30, leaves a framework so thin that very important health functions of the future

Mr. Richard R. Albrecht

August 15, 1968

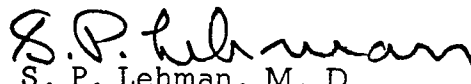
Page Two

may not be cared for as well as in the past. I would be happy to learn more of your ideas. I understand that you hope to have a release date of September 4th for your Charter and begin to push your community-wide educational campaign at that time.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with representatives of your Freeholders the place of the Health Department in the Charter, elimination of "welfare" and also the subject of elimination of the Firland Board.

Thank you for the opportunity for discussions and I realize that the time is growing very short.

Sincerely yours,



S. P. Lehman, M. D.

Director

Seattle-King County Dept. of Health

PL:jsw



Re: King Co. Charter:

23425 - 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. So.  
KENT, Wash. 98031.  
August 16, 1968.

To the 15 Freeholders:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been noted that the United States Supreme Court has handed down a new one-man-one-vote decision since you began your labors on the proposed King County Charter. The new ruling is reported to require the extension of the one-man-one-vote rule to all the Local Governments (Counties, Cities, etc) in the United States as well as to the Congressional Districts.

Some of us believe that the most efficient way to conform to this new ruling is by providing that County Commissioners be elected at large by numbered Position, as the County Judges and Seattle Councilmen now are, rather than by Districts; the lines of which would need to be redrawn and reestablished prior to every County election.

It is also believed that if there are to be nine Commissioners, it would be better to have three year terms of office, and annual elections, with three Commissioners coming up for election each year. Thus the Ballots could be kept shorter than now, and the Public constantly alerted to its duties of informed voting. Public ignorance and apathy are the greatest dangers to be faced in our republic.

One thing not mentioned in my letter of February 21<sup>st</sup> was this: Might it not be well to provide that the County Grand Jury shall meet at regular intervals to inquire into what is going on, rather than on rare occasions as currently done?

Respectfully submitted

CHARLES R. STARK - 1315

Mr. Wilton M. Whisler  
121 South 168th  
Seattle, Washington 98148  
August 20, 1968

Board of King County Freeholders  
905-A King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Attention: Mr. Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

The efforts and dedication required of each of you in developing the current draft for a King County Charter are not, I'm sure, fully realized by many of the electorate. My hat is off to you. You are to be commended for the comprehensive work you have done.

In reading the draft I received on attending the hearing on July 31, several questions arose. They are:

1. In Section 240.10, page 6 (3rd line from bottom), should not the intent or scope of the word "support" be made more explicit?
2. In Section 350.10.10, page 12, should not "the prescribed accounting procedures to be used by the county" be subjected to more than one person's prerogative; e.g., commissioners. I'm sure the Municipal Finance Officers Association has some publication of a system of accounting recommended for local governments. National uniformity can, as you know, be a both a boon and a bane.
3. In Section 470.20, page 20 (and perhaps elsewhere), what constitutes an emergency and whose responsibility is it to determine when an emergency exists?

NOTE: A current issue is a good example. The commissioners had to declare an emergency existed in order to hold a special election for the stadium bonds and all other issues voted on last February.

4. In Sections 630.30.10 and 630.30.20 page 27, should not the limits on permissible differences in district population be explicit? What is or is not "approximately equal"?
5. In Section 670, page 29, is an itemized statement of contributions, pledges, etc. meant to be an itemization by categories or by individual contributions. To me, the first is of little value, the latter is impractical. Perhaps only contributions exceeding a specified total from a single individual should be itemized; others lumped. Such a limit should apply to individuals' contributions through special committees and organizations as well; that is, contributions to a committee or organization on behalf of a candidate should be subjected to the same requirement. Then how do you prevent circumvention by several contributions to different committees or organizations, when each contribution is less than the limit for itemizing. Also, does reporting amounts serve any real purpose, or is the names of the donors the really pertinent information?

