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PART II

SEC I

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King County. Freeholders.  
Minutes and records. Part II:  
Sec. 1; Chronological catalogue  
of newspaper clippings, October  
15, 1970 - September 11, 1968.

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# The Seattle Times

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Founded August 10, 1896

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1967

*Frank Rab*

## For Better County Government:

# Nonpartisan Elections

THE TIMES agrees with the position taken by the Municipal League last week — that King County officials should be chosen in nonpartisan elections.

There is more than ample evidence locally to support the Municipal League's generalized declaration that:

*"Most American counties are under partisan government and their record isn't too good. A majority of cities are under nonpartisan charters and their standards of service efficiency are generally better than those of counties."*

We are not going to hold here that Seattle's nonpartisan elected municipal government is a paragon of efficiency. But when it is compared to King County's partisan-elected government, the city government here is far superior.

THE King County government has been rocked in recent weeks by disclosures of scandalous inefficiency and lack of diligence in managing the business of the taxpayers and in providing first-grade public services within its jurisdiction. This negligence has occurred over a long period of time. It embraces a span of time when both Republicans and Democrats have been in charge of the county commission.

Hence, the Municipal League is clearly on the right road to improved efficiency and reform when it advocates that the commission of freeholders to be elected November 7 provide in the county charter for nonpartisan elections as a substitute for the present system of partisan elections.

The Times believes, however, that nonpartisan elections alone will not be enough. Civil service

also should be established in the county government—as it now exists in the Seattle municipal government—if the evils of the political spoils system are not to take further tolls in county inefficiency.

AGAIN, we do not hold that a civil service is without disadvantages. But when we compare the ravages of the spoils system in the county over many years with the stability of employment of career personnel in the municipal government, the city looks awfully good.

*The rule in county government has been that employes there can count on their tenure only as long as they play the political game of their elective superiors, and this often includes payments into political funds from pay levels that are small enough anyhow.*

The Seattle municipal employe enjoys the dignity of political independence and does not have to dig into the family purse to help his boss get votes in order to insure his own tenure.

IT is the average citizen, however, in terms of the level of taxes he must pay and the level of services he may receive, who is the biggest loser from the county government's political spoils system. The turnover of personnel in the county government is much higher than in city government, and that takes a huge toll in efficiency.

Therefore, The Times will advocate, during the convention of freeholders who will draft a county charter, that the county political spoils system be attacked with nonpartisan elections and civil service.

## Controls Voters Should Retain

IT struck us during the recent county freeholder election campaign that an oversimplified fascination was attached to the desirability of a "short" election ballot.

*Indeed, there are too many elective state and city offices listed on the voting machines each time an election rolls around. Ballots can and should be shortened by elimination of offices that perform only ministerial functions as contrasted to policy-making and administrative duties that require the ability of judgment not precisely defined by statute.*

Yet, we believe that the ballot-shortening process could be carried too far by those who draft the new county charter—so far that the administration of county affairs would become so centralized that officials would be irresponsible to the electorate in areas where the people can and should make decisions.

**C**LEARLY, it is axiomatic that county commissioners must continue to be elected, and that the number on the board should be enlarged in a framework in which that body serves largely as a legislative and policy-setting group. A county administrator also should be provided, to be elected directly by the people or by the Board of Commissioners.

*We doubt if the electorate, even for the sake of a county home-rule charter, will be willing to relinquish its prerogative of selecting the assessor at the ballot box. To make this office appointive would be to place the power to establish levels of property taxation in the hands of officials who establish the spending levels.*

The proposed county charter submitted to the electorate in 1952, we well recall, was defeated largely on the issue of removing the election of the assessor from the people to the Board of Commissioners. The freeholders will be well advised to avoid this boobytrap, which surely would make their efforts fail of ratification by the voters who will make the final decision.

**M**OREOVER, we would not like to see the offices of auditor and sheriff removed from

conclusively that the "watchdog" office of auditor must be strengthened and maintained as an independent arm of the electorate to guard against mismanagement and the threat of corruption. Under no circumstances should the Board of Commissioners be permitted to appoint its own tethered "watchdog."

*Our reasons for favoring retention of the elective office of sheriff are these: In most Seattle municipal elections, especially when the office of mayor is at issue, the Police Department and law-enforcement generally—including the element of "tolerances" which city officials say do not exist—often become the "tail that wags the dog."*

Election-time controversy over the Police Department, in which the mayor names the chief, too often subordinates other and more important municipal election issues. Moreover, we have seen evidence often enough of a corrosive influence of "pinball" and other monies flowing into municipal election campaigns because in reality the mayor, City Council and Police Department hold the powers to establish the "tolerance" policies that wink at activities of doubtful legality.

To make the office of sheriff appointive, we suggest, would expose the Board of County Commissioners even more than at present to those corrosive influences that pay the piper in the form of election contributions from those who benefit by the county's system of tolerances.

**T**HE offices of county clerk and treasurer are largely ministerial and could be made appointive to shorten the ballot. Clearly, the clerk—whose duties mainly concern custody of court records—should be named by the Superior Court, as the clerk of the State Supreme Court is named by that body.

The office of coroner, we believe, should be made a part of a medical-examiner system and taken off county election ballots. The freeholders, we hope, will give consideration to transferring the administration of the King County Airport to the Port Commission as a matter of efficiency and joint operation with Sea-Tac. It is completely illogical to have two agencies of gov-



PI-12-7-67  
**Freeholders**

**Will Meet**

**January 3**

King County freeholders will meet January 3 in the County Courthouse to set up their permanent organization, Richard R. Albrecht, temporary chairman said last night.

The 15 freeholders, elected in November to draft a charter to submit to the voters for the operation of the county, met Tuesday night to form a temporary organization.

ALBRECHT was elected temporary chairman; Simon Wampold temporary vice chairman, and Mrs. Virginia Gumby, secretary.

Wampole also was named chairman of a rules and organization committee to recommend what the permanent organization will be.

Jack Geoffrey was named to head a housekeeping committee to obtain staff and facilities for the group.

~~Shepherd 5/29/67~~  
**Freeholder Vote**  
**OK, Says Carroll**

King County Prosecutor Charles Carroll issued a legal opinion stating county commissioners have authority to call a primary election for the nomination of freeholder candidates. The freeholders would draft a new county charter to be placed before the voters.

1-4-68 SEATTLE TIMES-

# Freeholders Adopt Bylaws; Division Is Clear

A division in the King County Board of Freeholders was clearly defined last night as the board adopted rules and bylaws to govern the drafting of a county charter.

**THE PROPOSED** amendments were backed by Don McDonald, Robert Eberle and Howard E. Bothell.

McDonald and Eberle contended the amendments were needed to prevent a "dictatorship" by the chairman, require a two-thirds vote

win confidence of the voters and provide for hearings in various parts of the county.

Members of the majority argued that the bylaws already contained adequate protections against "dictatorship," that committees could be established as needed and that a two-thirds approval requirement might block adoption of any charter.

In other action, the board

voted to ask the King County Commissioners for more than \$75,000 to finance its operations in the next 10 months.

**THE BUDGET** request contained about \$22,000 for an executive director and secretary, \$10,000 for printing the completed charter and a \$20,000 fund to finance expenses of county government experts with whom the board might want to consult.

However, the freeholders said all of the appropriation might not be spent. Expenditures would be governed by the same rules county agencies follow in spending tax money, they said.

Over an objection by McDonald, the freeholders voted to make their temporary officers the permanent officers of the board. They are Richard R. Albrecht, chairman; Simon Wampold, vice

chairman, and Mrs. Virginia Gunby, secretary.

Tentative plans were discussed for holding board meetings throughout the county to give residents a chance to be heard, and for a series of indoctrination meetings with county officials.

The next board meeting will be at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday in Room 402, of the courthouse.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1968



## Split On Charter Possible

By HERB ROBINSON  
Associate Editor, The Times

The split in the King County Board of Freeholders which came to light during last week's organizational meeting raises the possibility that voters may be asked to consider alternate provisions in a proposed county charter.

During last week's action to adopt bylaws and rules to govern the writing of a charter, argument developed over a plan to require a two-thirds vote of the freeholders for approval of a final draft.

The two-thirds-vote proposal, advanced by Don McDonald, Robert Eberle and Howard E. Bothell, was beaten by majority members, who expressed belief that such a requirement conceivably could produce a stalemate that would block the adoption of any charter.

Elected last November, the 15 freeholders are to draft a charter that would involve sweeping changes in county government and then submit it for voter approval. The present plan is to offer a charter proposal in the November general election, but there is no strict time limit. A freeholders' commission elected in 1950 did not complete its work until two years later and the charter it placed on the ballot was rejected.

In the new freeholders' commission, the presence of a minority group that has expressed concern over "dictatorship" by the majority suggests that unanimous agreement on a charter will be difficult to achieve.

It is conceivable that the dissenters will write a minority report. Although the minority could not submit a separate charter proposal in a single package, the State Constitution provides that alternate articles or propositions may be presented for the choice of the voters and may be voted on separately without prejudice to the others.

**OUTLOOK:** It is expected that there will be general accord among the freeholders on such matters as the enlargement of the Board of County Commissioners, creating the post of county administrator, civil service for county employees and others.

The critical issues that could result in the submission of alternate charter provisions involve which presently elective county offices should be abolished or made appointive, and whether all county offices should become nonpartisan.

Considerable argument has developed already on the partisanship issue and there are strong feelings on both sides of the question of whether such posts as sheriff, auditor and assessor should be filled by appointment or be subject to periodic election.

The board's next meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow in Room 402 of the Courthouse.

# Freeholders Want Executive Director

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Appointment of an executive director for the King County Board of Freeholders is essential, most members of the board agreed last night.

A six-member committee will begin screening applicants for the job even though the Board of King County Commissioners not yet has appropriated funds for it.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, appointed himself to the committee along with Simon Wampold, vice chairman, and James N. O'Connor, Robert J. Block, Paul Friedlander and Terry McKenna. Albrecht will be ex officio chairman of the group.

**THE AIM IS TO BE** ready to make the appointment as soon as the commissioners

act on the freeholders' request for up to \$75,000.

Albrecht said the commissioners have indicated they will act favorably on most funding requests.

Wampold said that while the freeholders will make the policy decisions on drafting a County Charter, the executive director will do the all-important research.

Don McDonald, one of several freeholders opposing the hiring of an executive director, said the voters gave the responsibility to the 15 freeholders. If research is required, he said, it should be obtained by hiring consultants for specific projects.

Robert Eberle and Howard E. Bothell said they also oppose hiring of an executive director, for whom a salary range of \$16,666 to \$20,000 a

year has been proposed.

**FREEHOLDERS** received an opinion by Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll stating that the commissioners and not the freeholders would hire an attorney for the freeholders. Carroll said that because the prosecutor's budget does not provide for such an attorney, the commissioners would have to contract with a law firm and obtain approval of the contract from a majority of the Superior Court judges.

The freeholders will meet again January 31.

Albrecht is arranging a series of orientation meetings with county officials for the interim. The board already has met with the clerk, assessor and election officials. The next study session will be Saturday, with the sheriff.

# County to Provide \$42,200 for Work Of Charter Group

STimes

1-28-68

By JERRY BERGSMAN

King County officials will provide freeholders with up to \$42,200 for staffing and supplies this year, The Times learned yesterday.

The freeholders, who will draft a County Charter, had sought appropriations of up to \$77,000.

But Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders, said he feels the county has made fair provision for the group.

THE MONEY would be for 10 months. This assumes that a charter will be presented for voter approval in November.

The county will provide space for the freeholders on the ninth floor of the Courthouse. The county will contract for the services of an executive director instead of hiring one full-time.

In addition, commissioners will give consideration to hiring an attorney when one is proposed. Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll has said that a contract for legal services would have to be approved by a majority of the Superior Court judges.

THE COUNTY will furnish office equipment, supplies and printing. Contingency funds will be provided as requested.

Freeholders were told that expenditures should not exceed these amounts:

\$15,000 for an executive director; \$5,700 for a secretary, \$2,500 for extra help; \$10,000 for an attorney; \$1,500 for printing, and \$7,500 for advisory fees.

Freeholders plan to contract for studies that would be paid for out of contingency funds.

Originally, the freeholders were considering spending \$16,600 to \$20,000 for an executive secretary and \$20,000 for an attorney. They had asked \$20,000 for contingencies and \$10,000 for printing.

tation meetings. They met yesterday with Stanley Gallup, manager of Boeing Field, and representatives of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

There have been proposals to consolidate the two airfields under the Port of Seattle.

WAMPOLD SAID the freeholders are continuing orien-

# Meyer to Direct Freeholders

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The County Board of Freeholders today recommended to the Board of King County Commissioners that Paul R. Meyer, for more than three years assistant executive director of the State Association of County Commissioners, be hired as the freeholders' executive secretary.

Meyer, 31, said he would be able to report for work next week.

Rihard R. Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, said he will recommend the commissioners approve hiring Meyer on a 10-month contract at \$1,500 a month.

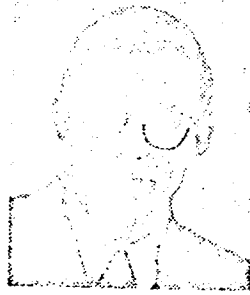
**THE FREEHOLDERS** hope to place a proposed new charter on the November ballot.

Appointment of an executive secretary has been seen as the first big step toward developing a charter. The freeholders also will seek college students to serve as part-time assistants without pay.

Terry McKenna, a freeholder, is in charge of finding interested students.

A paid legal adviser will be hired.

A committee interviewed nine applicants for executive secretary.



PAUL R. MEYER

Meyer, a native of Elma, Grays Harbor County, was reared in Tacoma. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington. He attended the U.W. Law School one year. He is a captain in the Army Reserve and served in budgeting and administration for Army intelligence while on active duty.

**MEYER SAID**, "If this charter is successful it will point to a whole new direction for county government in this state. New attitudes will develop. Out of this a new shape of county government will evolve."

Albrecht said Meyer will ties and gather information.

coordinate the group's activities. With an executive secretary,

Albrecht said, the freeholders will be able to schedule public hearings and meetings as well as develop work schedules.

Meyer said he will evaluate home - rule charters in other parts of the country.

He said he will take a neutral position on all questions so he can point out the advantages and disadvantages of various charters.

The policy decisions will rest with the freeholders although Meyer would assist in the formal drafting of a charter.

## Freeholders

### Name Executive

County Freeholders recommended yesterday that Paul Meyer, 31, be hired as Freeholders' executive secretary.

County Commissioners were asked to employ Meyer for 10 months at \$1,500 monthly.

Meyer is assistant executive director of the State Association of County Commissioners.

Bellevue, Wash.  
American  
(Cir. W. 12,641)  
FEB 14 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE:

# Freeholder Charter Ready In November--Wampold

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Voters of King County turned out in record numbers for a special election Tuesday to endorse many forward-looking issues of the Forward Thrust package.

(If this is an indication that the citizens of Washington's most populous county have indeed decided that it is time to look into the future . . . and to do something about it now . . . then they will be interested in another issue which plans for the great future of King County, the Freeholder Charter which will probably be ready for their approval in November.

(In approving many of the Forward Thrust proposals, the voters still kept an eye on their pocketbooks. A majority of the issues passed . . . but less than half the money asked for was approved, since the rapid transit issue failed, a \$385 million item in the \$820 million package.)

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By JACK YEAROUT

Since last September, 15 elected freeholders have been going through the organizational processes of developing a new governmental charter for King County.

The deliberations have been very time consuming . . . rules of procedure had to be adopted, a \$45,000 budget had to be approved by the King County Commissioners, and an executive secretary had to be agreed upon by the majority of the committee.

By Wednesday of last week this had all come to pass . . . and a Bellevue man has been playing a major role in these tedious procedures, which will lead to the development of a charter which will streamline King county government.

Simon Wampold, Bellevue attorney, is the Eastside's representative on this council of freeholders. As chairman of the rules committee he was largely responsible for the by-laws under which the freeholders now operate. He is also vice-chairman of the 15-member freeholder committee.

Soft spoken, (his voice reflects his home state . . . he was graduated from the University of Alabama) he reiterated his original stand on what he thinks should be included in the charter. He is hopeful that the new charter will lead to the establishment of a county manager or administrator; a legislative body of education



SIMON WAMPOLD  
Bellevue Freeholder

Meyer, who was elected unanimously by the freeholders last Wednesday.

Meyer, a former assistant executive secretary of the state's county commissioner association, brings vast experience in the types and the operation of types of county governments. A public administration major, Meyer will be going into teaching following the completion of this \$1,500 a month position with the freeholders.

Much of the groundwork has been laid for the new executive secretary. The freeholders

have met every Saturday and one night a week with county officials, to orient themselves with the present county government. They also met at 7:30 a.m. weekly to screen and meet the eight applicants for the executive secretary job.

"We plan a series of public hearings throughout the county to find out what the people think should be in the charter," Wampold said. "I have been promised that one of the first of these important hearings will be held in Bellevue."

Among the items in the budget allowed by the commissioners was a \$10,000 item for an attorney and \$7,000 for "outside experts." Instead of traveling throughout the country to see how other model county governments operate, the freeholders will have the experts come to them in their offices on the 7th floor of the County-City building.

Wampold contributes all time required for freeholder meetings, but he does enjoy one remuneration . . . he gets free parking at the county-city building.

## King County Freeholder Tells of Work

What the board of directors of the King County Freeholders have done to "tool up to do the job" was explained to a community planning workshop Friday at Pacific Lutheran University.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the King County Freeholders, said his group hopes to complete its job of preparing a proposed new charter for public vote by the end of 1968.

"Up to this point, we have been electing officers, hiring a secretary and sort of tooling up to do the job ahead," Albrecht said.

The King County Freeholders were appointed last November and held their first meeting in December.

Albrecht was the featured speaker at the all-day PLU conference held on campus. The conference is the third of four planned for this school year by PLU to look into the problems and functions of local government in this area.

## Cooperation Stressed At PLU Meeting

By HOWARD FERGUSON

The resources of universities are "committed to the needs of the community," Tacomans attending a Pacific Lutheran University sponsored community planning workshop were told Friday.

Dr. Thomas H. Langevin, PLU's academic vice president, told some 75 community and business leaders that he sees more cooperation in the future between schools and local government to "find the answers to the many pressing problems that we have."

He added:

"We here at the university are committed to the needs of the community."

Langevin's remarks opened the one-day workshop, the third of four such affairs planned for this school year by the university.

Dr. Lowell W. Culver, PLU assistant professor of political science and chairman of the workshop, reported on the actions of the first two workshops, during which elective and appointed officials discussed various forms of local government.

Culver said "we have to watch what takes place in King County, what happens there will have a great effect here. The choice is yours — we still have time to plan for coordinated growth rather than a chaotic type of growth."

Featured speaker was Richard R. Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders.

Albrecht told of the work of the Freeholders since they took office late last year.

Albrecht said the Freeholders hope to have their job completed before the end of 1968. Their final proposal for a new King County charter will then be put before the voters, he said.

Also speaking was State Rep. Slade Gorton, Seattle.

PI 2-23-68

## Director Picked For County Post

John N. Porter, former director of the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, has been offered the \$20,000-a-year job of King County administrator, The Post-Intelligencer learned last night.

County Commissioner John D. Spellman proposed Porter's name a few days ago to his fellow commissioners, it was learned. Both Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro were agreeable to the choice of Porter.

Porter, up to last night, had not notified commissioners of his decision, but is expected to do so today.

2-23-68 S. Times

## Porter Agrees To Be County's 1st Administrator

By JERRY BERGSMAN

John Porter, 41, former executive director of the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, today agreed to become King County's first administrator.

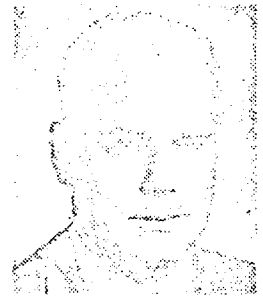
Commissioner John T. O'Brien, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, said Porter will begin work by April 1, or sooner if he completes his work with the Consulting Services Corp. of Seattle and St. Paul.

Porter has been director of the firm's governmental services work since leaving the conference post last year. He had been with the conference since 1962.

O'Brien said the salary will be \$24,600 a year.

O'Brien said the positions of county personnel director and budget analyst will be filled now that an administrator has been chosen.

The personnel director and budget analyst will serve



JOHN PORTER

under Porter, who will oversee the activities of all county departments headed by appointed officials.

Porter, a native of Detroit with bachelor's and master's degrees in urban planning from the University of Washington, has served as planning director of Chelan and Spokane Counties.

Porter endorsed the idea of a merit system for county employees and said it could be put into effect in a few months after a personnel director is named.

2-23-68 S. Times

## New Deputy Director Appointed For Puget Sound Conference

Einar M. Syvertsen, Snohomish County Planning director, has been appointed deputy director for planning of the Puget Sound Governmental Conference.

Syvertsen, 38, succeeds Rudolf Gast, who resigned at the request of the conference executive director, Robert McAbee.

Syvertsen was assistant director of the conference from 1960 to 1962 and has been in the Snohomish Coun-



EINAR M. SYVERTSEN

ty post since 1966. He also is an instructor in the Universi-

ty of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

He received a bachelor's degree from Franklin (Ind.) College in 1957 and a master's degree in urban planning from the U. W. in 1964. A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Syvertsen is the father of two children.

He will assume the \$17,000-a-year post April 1. The appointment has been confirmed by the conference executive committee.



# Clash Between Freeholders, Commissioners Seen Over Atto

By JERRY BERGMAN

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders, said he would oppose accepting any attorney other than the one recommended by the County Commissioners.

A six-member selection committee has been interviewing attorneys and will make its recommendation to the freeholders.

The possible clash arose when Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, said he would oppose accepting any attorney other than the one recommended by the County Commissioners.

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that elected department heads will want to bring their employees under it."

Otherwise, a merit system would affect only 1,000 employees in appointed departments. The county has 2,300 employees.

Hammond said not more than one per cent of the employees are hired with political consideration and those are for top positions. "He is quick to note, even under a civil-service system the top posts would be excluded."

Hammond said state laws should be changed to allow counties to adopt performance budgets and include steps in pay scales. He said the present system prevents the hiring of some employees at lower wages than those with years of experience.

Leroy B. Johnson, county purchasing agent, said large

## Board of Freeholders Picks Attorney

The firm of Short, Crossman & Cable will be recommended to the Board of King County commissioners to handle legal work for the Board of Freeholders.

Commissioner John Spellman said today he expected the commissioners to approve hiring the firm in view of the near unanimity of the freeholders in making the choice.

Spellman said the decision probably will be made Monday. A majority of the Superior Court judges then would have to approve the contract for it to take effect.

THERE WAS some feeling among the freeholders at last night's meeting, however, that it was premature to name an attorney.

JOHN STRASBURGER, 30, a member of the firm, would have the chief responsibility for handling the work. Others in the firm who will participate are Philip Offenbacher, Robert E. Hansen, Mrs. Joan E. Ferrell, and Donald W. Ferrell.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the 15 freeholders, said seven of the 15 freeholders

are attorneys and the drafting stage has not been reached. But Louis North, freeholder, said it would be advantageous to have an attorney not involved in the policy decisions.

The six-member selection committee was unanimous in its choice. Of 15 freeholders, 13 were present and 12 approved the selection. McDonald voted against it.

Strasburger, a native of Dallas, received his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1961 and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University school of advanced international studies. He was in the top 10 per cent of his law class. Strasburger has been in private practice in Seattle since 1964.

# County Changes

Some basic changes in the administration of King County government are in the offing which, theoretically at least, will improve the efficiency of the governmental machinery.

John Porter, former executive director of the four-county Puget Sound Governmental Conference, will become the county's first administrator, at a salary of \$24,600 a year, by April 1. He will be joined shortly by a new personnel director and budget analyst.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll has produced an opinion that the county commissioners may, under state law, establish a merit system for county employes under a p p o i n t i v e department heads. A merit system, however, cannot be made compulsory for departments whose chiefs are elected, according to the prosecutor.

Indications are that the commissioners will adopt a merit system and this coupled with Porter's appointment and those of a personnel director and budget analyst should free the three commissioners for more effective performance at the policy making level.

A REMAINING weakness in the county system, we believe, will be the lack of a merit program in the county's elective departments, where the hiring and firing of employes have been imbued with politics. This is among the areas that should receive attention from the freeholders engaged in drafting a new county charter.

## Ex-Dallas Man to Handle Freeholder Legal Tasks

A lawyer who came to Seattle four years ago from Dallas, Texas, will be recommended to the county Board of Freeholders tonight as the attorney to handle its legal responsibilities in drafting a new county charter.

He is John Strasburger, Bellevue, who was the unanimous choice of the freeholders' attorney-selection committee.

Strasburger, 30, is a member of the Seattle law firm of Short, Cressman & Cable. His selec-

tion, which is expected to be approved by the full group tonight, was a turnaround for Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll. Carroll had sought to preserve a degree of control over actions of the freeholders through selection of an attorney of his own choosing — preferably a deputy prosecutor from his own staff or a former deputy.

The selection also was a surprise to all three county commissioners, each of whom had favorites waiting in the wings they probably would have pushed if they had been consulted.

Despite this, it is expected all three commissioners will concur in Strasburger's nomination, which is considered likely at tonight's meeting. Strasburger has not taken part in political activities since moving to Seattle.

## Freeholders Huddle

King County freeholders exposed some of their thinking on writing a county charter last night by discussing possible advantages of enlarging the present three-man Board of Commissioners.

County Commissioner John Spellman, present as an invited guest, was used as a sounding board.

He said he thinks the state legislature will come up with some form of municipal government for counties at its next or following session.

BEFORE questioning Spellman, the freeholders voted to recommend to the commissioners the employment of John Strassberger of the Seattle legal firm of Short, Cressman & Cable as counsel to the freeholders.

The commissioners will have to get final approval from the county's superior court judges, after negotiating with the law firm.

SPELLMAN, one of a series of public

officials the freeholders plan to interview, said he likes the present system of electing commissioners from a specific district but with all county voters participating. He advocated retaining this system, on the present partisan basis, if the board is enlarged.

"As to the numbers game, I have no fixed opinions," he said. "It wouldn't do to make it too cumbersome — initially, certainly no more than nine members, and maybe less."

The commissioners, he said, could find plenty to do as full-time legislators for the county.

"I do favor also a strong county executive elected on a partisan basis, if an employee merit system goes with it," he said.

He suggested the county executive probably should be paid \$24,000 or \$25,000 a year, or somewhere in that range.

"The municipal system has prestige and recognition by the people," he said.

# County Commissioner Sees Airport-Merger Study

By JERRY BERGSMAN

County Commissioner John Spellman predicted yesterday that the Puget Sound Governmental Conference will study the possible merger of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Boeing Field.

Spellman had asked the conference to include the merger proposal in an airport study. No decision has been announced, but Spellman said he understands the study will be made.

Spellman spoke to the Board of County Freeholders last night. John T. O'Brien, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, had to postpone his appearance because of day-long air-pollution-control hearings.

**"THERE SHOULD** be some coordination between the two air fields," Spellman said. "A very likely way to do it is by combined management."

Spellman said the merged fields could be under the

Port of Seattle or some other agency. He dismissed the idea that the county could take over because, he said, the county then would have to develop an expert staff.

Paul Friedlander, a freeholder, accused the Boeing Field management of harassing The Boeing Co., one of the tenants. Friedlander obviously referred to Stanley R. Gallup, airport manager.

Gallup today said: "Mr. Friedlander is misinformed. The airport management is doing everything it can to cooperate with all tenants and obtain a reasonable rental on taxpayers' property."

Spellman said, "I'll say this: The present airport administration is doing a better job than the previous administration."

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders,

contended the county should decide if Boeing should receive special treatment because it is the chief employer in the county.

Spellman said that decision may be made in connection with renegotiation of the Boeing lease at Boeing Field. But, he said, the renegotiation could end up in arbitration. Lease negotiations involving more than 5 million square feet have been under way since July.

**SPELLMAN** said he favors a single road district. "I think we will merge the two road districts; I predict we will this year," he said.

Spellman said, "It is anticipated that in addition to business management and coordination, the county administrator will be an idea man, someone who will

study the present performance and make recommendations not only on personnel but methodology."

Spellman endorsed the present system of nominating commissioners by districts and electing them at large, and supported the idea of a strong elected county executive and retention of the political system as long as it is joined by a merit system for personnel.

"I don't see any particular reason why the assessor should be elected," Spellman said. "I would like to see some uniformity in assessments."

Counties should offer the same municipal functions as cities, he said. In the next few years the legislature will allow this as well as lay the groundwork for a metropolitan county, he predicted.



## *From The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY*

2177  
We feel it is time for the new Executive Secretary to say a few words. Up to now he has been striving hard to "learn the ropes" and prepare to take over the reins from a predecessor who literally devoted a lifetime to local government, becoming one of the recognized experts in the nation on the practical workings of city and county and other local public activities. To follow him is anything but easy or simple.

However, after much experience in moving into new situations in different places throughout the world the learning and taking over of a new and different job was not an unfamiliar experience. The unusual part was having several months to learn from the departing expert, rather than trying to learn and at the same time catch up on current business because the predecessor was long gone. The learning period was most welcome and we tried to take full advantage of it.

To say the least we are honored and pleased to have been selected for such an interesting and challenging job in an organization that plays such an important role for the citizens in the area. There is certainly no lack of challenging projects and issues to get our teeth into; the principal concern is being able to get to them all. We will do our best.

What are some of the important things that must be done? High on the list must be a vigorous campaign to get word about the League and its operations to a greater number of citizens many of whom could profit greatly from League activities and at the same time contribute to good local government. Particularly there are many new people in the area and many young comers in all categories of occupation who have had little opportunity to learn about what we are doing. The League affords an excellent opportunity for them to become involved in any of a number of efforts to help solve some of the critical problems of local government. I urge each League member to look about and select good prospects. A phone call to the League office is all that is required to have an envelope of material about the League on its way to each of them.

Of extreme and immediate importance is the need to assist the Mayor, the City Council and other officials in solving the minority problems. This requires the sincere interest and special effort of all of us. League committees already have begun work on some of the problems. Because time is of the essence they will move as rapidly as possible.

Also of immediate concern is the drafting of a report that can be used by the Freeholders in their charter drafting task. Consideration of this report will be the primary business of the Board of Trustees at a late February meeting.

Forward Thrust proposals approved by voters will be closely followed up by future committee action. The League intends to do its best to scrutinize the implementing provisions as they unfold to insure citizens get the most for their money.

This and preceding issues of the Municipal News have emphasized the need for continuing attention to our crime and delinquency problems. Subcommittees of our Public Safety Committee have just reviewed their priorities and are moving quickly to study these problems and make recommendations.

One committee has begun to study Tax Exemptions and will

# Freeholders Hear Of County Problems

King County's freeholders last night heard the three-man county commission system described as an unmanageable "troika that can't give adhesive direction."

Dick Trowbridge, who was budget director for former County Commissioner Scott Wallace, told the freeholders:

"My experience led me to believe the county government structure is woefully inadequate to meet the needs. It could plan itself silly but too often was unable to translate plans into effective action."

HE SAID the Board of County Commissioner's organization compared poorly with that of the City of Seattle and Mayor Dorm Braman's office, due to the difference in structure.

Trowbridge suggested a commission with from five to nine members, together with an elected county administrator.

The latter recommendations were similar to those of the Seattle Municipal League, contained in a 12-page report given the freeholders.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the league committee on King County government, said the report was the result of a year's work by league members.

The freeholders meeting at the courthouse took the report under study and will hold discussions on it with league representatives at future meetings.

THEY WILL start drafting a charter for the county when hearings are completed.

The Municipal League recommended a larger county commission and hiring of a "strong, overall administrator."

The administrative and legislative powers and functions should be separated, the report said.

It suggested the expanded commission should be large

enough to provide adequate representation for all citizens but small enough "to be workable, as well as not excessively expensive."

It also should have an odd number of commissioners, to prevent a deadlock, the league advised.

The report urged appointing, rather than electing, a number of county officials, including:

Croner — "Since (his) functions are administrative, the office should not be elective. The medical examiner system . . . should be investigated."

Sheriff — Policy-making exercised by the office should be transferred to another official or the commission. Many of the record-keeping functions should be transferred to a records department.

County Clerk — Should be appointed by the courts.

Assessor — Administrator should appoint, with commission approval.

Auditor — Commission should appoint; non-fiscal functions should be done by other administrative officers.

Treasurer — Administrator should appoint.

ALSO RECOMMENDED was a single county personnel system, directed by the administrator, with merit and retirement systems.

The league took no position on partisan or nonpartisan county elections but said that if partisan elections continue, the personnel system is vital. A full-time budget director, appointed by the administrator, was advised, in order to prepare an integrated plan for submission to the commission.

# O'Brien Asks Sweeping County Reforms Ahead of Freeholders

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau  
King County Commissioner John O'Brien threw a block-buster to the county freeholders, now drafting a new charter, Tuesday with announcement he would submit a county reorganization plan of his own to

his two fellow commissioners for approval and immediate implementation.

At the same time, the commissioners moved closer to the hiring of a nationally reorganized expert in the field who will decide by Friday whether he will accept the new county post of administrator that was offered to him yesterday.

O'Brien told this newspaper in an exclusive interview he did not intend to short-circuit the work of the freeholders.

## Vote Test Ahead

"But we must remember their work — in whatever final shape it takes — must face the voters for final ratification. We have no assurance at this time such approval will occur," he said.

O'Brien emphasized it was the desire of all three commission-

ers not only to increase the efficiency of county government but to achieve new economies based on the consolidation of the if possible. He said he was county's two present road dis-

optimistic his new reorganization plan would meet basic approval by his colleagues on the board, paving the way for its early adoption.

The O'Brien plan primarily evolved around a reorganization of the administrative portion of the county government and would not alter the status of present county officials. It would create a new department of Public Works responsible for operation of the county's sanitary sewers and all present engineering functions.

## Chief Selected

It would also include the airport, which is now an independent department, within its framework. Likely head for the new bureau, if and when it's approved, is present King County Engineer Jean DeSpain.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kent, Wash.  
News-Journal  
(Cir. W. 8,681 Paid 4,519 Free)  
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More About —

## O'Brien

(Continued from Page 1)

announcement that the proposed reshuffling could be accomplished without disturbing the work of the freeholders, and hopefully, could be included in the final charter draft to be submitted to the electorate.

## Freeholder Surprised

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the board of freeholders, taken by surprise at the O'Brien move, said he would be delighted to meet with the commissioners, hopefully before county implementative action.

"Naturally, the freeholders are concerned that we draft as good a county charter as possible. If Commissioner O'Brien's plan can improve our present county government, we will be delighted to consider its merits in our deliberations," he declared.

# Freeholder Unanimity

King County freeholders exposed some of their thinking on writing a county charter last night by discussing possible advantages of enlarging the present three-man Board of Commissioners.

County Commissioner John Spellman, present as an invited guest, was used as a sounding board.

He said he thinks the state legislature will come up with some form of municipal government for counties at its next or following session.

BEFORE questioning Spellman, the freeholders voted to recommend to the commissioners the employment of John Strassberger of the Seattle legal firm of Short, Cressman & Cable as counsel to the freeholders.

The commissioners will have to get final approval from the county's superior court judges, after negotiating with the law firm.

The freeholders, a 15-member nonparti-

san group, voted unanimously to hold their scheduled March 5 meeting on March 6 after it was pointed out that Republican precinct caucuses are slated for March 5. Unanimity sprang from Democratic members' trust that reciprocity would be forthcoming should events require it.

SPELLMAN, one of a series of public officials the freeholders plan to interview, said he likes the present system of electing commissioners from a specific district but with all county voters participating. He advocated retaining this system, on the present partisan basis, if the board is enlarged.

"As to the numbers game, I have no fixed opinions," he said. "It wouldn't do to make it too cumbersome — initially, certainly no more than nine members, and maybe less."

The commissioners, he said, could find plenty to do as full-time legislators for the county.

## A Man County Can't Afford to Lose

EVERY county should have a William B. Kirk. And King County is fortunate to have him. Kirk has just suggested that his \$12,000-a-year position be abolished.

Kirk says the functions of his office, that of county veterans' aid administrator, can easily be absorbed by some other office, presumably at a sizable saving.

*The Board of King County Commissioners, which may want to accept Kirk's recommendation, might be well advised to keep Kirk on the county payroll for evaluating the necessity of some other county functions.*

Anyone who, as Kirk did, concedes that his office expense is not justified by the service to be rendered is worth his weight in taxes to the public.

# Veterans' Aid Distributes Lowest Amount, Says Kirk

2177  
William V. Kirk, county veterans'-aid administrator, said yesterday that the lowest amount of money ever distributed to veterans in King County was given out last year.

Kirk made the statement before a freeholders' meeting in which he recommended that his position of veteran's aid administrator be abolished.

STATE LAW requires that one twentieth of a mill to one and one-fifth mills be set aside for soldier's relief. King County assesses the lower figure, which raises \$95,000. Administrative costs of the office come from other funds.

Last year, Kirk said, \$58,682 was distributed to veterans for emergency aid. That was \$15,643 less than the previous year, he said.

Kirk, who took office March 1, 1967, said the reduction was made despite the fact that more than one-third of the total was distributed in the first two months of last year by the previous administration.

Unexpended funds return to the expense fund, Kirk said.

Kirk gave these reasons for the reduction.

Growth of the economy meant there were fewer in need.

**ENFORCEMENT** of a one-year residency requirement. "Although it is impossible to state the exact percentage," Kirk said, "it appears that better than 50 per cent of the new contacts aided under the previous administration were not eligible under the residency requirement."

Dropping of rent subsidies toward veteran's halls rentals for some organizations. In some cases, Kirk said, these had been paid improperly. The soldier's relief fund had paid \$180 a year toward hall rental for veteran's organizations, Kirk said. In some cases, they were not eligible, he said. This was discovered late last year.

Kirk said the amount spent on this was \$6,995 last year, a drop of \$790, but he said it will be reduced more this year.

Shifting of the emphasis to obtaining employment for needy veterans. "We feel that our responsibility is to provide aid and it is our feeling that the greatest aid we can provide is to find the veteran gainful employment." He said work was found for 3,099 men last

year. If they had received only minimum aid for provisions instead, \$31,764 would have been distributed, he said.

Kirk contended the administrative cost of the office is out of proportion to the services performed. He said the 1968 budget was reduced \$4,142 because of a retirement. The job will be absorbed by the existing staff he said. Kirk said the budget can be cut still more next year.

## Kirk Reports to Freeholders

## Veterans' Aide Feels He's Not Needed

2177  
By JERRY BERGSMAN

William V. Kirk, county veterans'-aid administrator, recommended yesterday his \$12,000-a-year post be dropped.

The suggestion was made at a meeting of the board of freeholders. Kirk then made public his annual report to John T. O'Brien, chairman of the Board of King County

Commissioners.

Kirk said the functions of the office can be absorbed by another county department. He did not have any immediate recommendations, but a freeholder, Don McDonald, raised the idea of creating a department of social services.

By establishing guidelines and enforcing state laws,

Kirk said, the amount of aid given has been reduced. He was highly critical of some veterans' organizations.

Kirk said: "It is the feeling of numerous veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in particular that whatever we receive in the soldiers relief fund should be expended."



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2177

## Freeholders Want Clos

By JERRY BERGSMAN

In six days, the County Board of Freeholders will go to Portland to learn how it was done.

That is, the freeholders will meet with the chief architects of a Multnomah County home-rule charter approved by a slim margin in 1966.

Then the King County group will go to Multnomah County's chief executive to ask how the charter is working.

This is not the first time King County has traveled the road to "home rule" government. A charter election was held in 1952. It had taken a board of freeholders two years to draft a charter. It took the voters one day



ED MUNRO

to turn it down by a 2-to-1 margin.

The failing effort, in which opponents lashed at the idea of having a county administrator because he would be a "czar," delayed county reform for more than a decade. A number of factors, including an apparent breakdown in county administra-

tion, revived the attempt two years ago.

Now, a 15-member group — seeking to learn from the mistakes of the past — plans to have a charter ready for submission to voters in the fall.

It is becoming apparent that the freeholders will call for splitting policy-making functions from administration. Most likely they will propose a Board of County Commissioners responsible for legislative functions and a county executive for administration. Under the present system the commissioners are deeply involved in administration.

But, should the executive be appointed or elected?

Ed Munro, veteran county

commissioner who is president of the National Association of Counties, says:

"There has to be a single executive and I think he ought to be elected because I'm of the opinion that any man who is ruling us should not be free from our being able to decide whether he should stay there or not."

County government has been traced to the shires of England 1,000 years ago.

That basic system — embracing judicial, police and public-works functions — was carried to the United States with the British colonists. With the system came the theory that county government merely was an arm of state government.

Despite the demands for new services that gave im-

## Framers of Present City Charter Recall E

By DOUGLAS WILLIX

Changes made over the years in the Seattle City Charter — the city's "constitution" — have been barometers of changing tides in the political and economic views of the voters.

The City Charter was approved at the polls March 12, 1946, replacing a charter of 1896 which had become entirely outmoded.

"IT WAS an experience to be treasured" says Charles T. Oliver, one of the 15 freeholders who framed the city document.

"We had some most enjoyable and lively sessions, with no verbal holds barred," Oliver, who retired recently as executive secretary of the City Retirement System, recalls.

Oliver remembers one of the little battles he lost. He had pressed for changing the spelling of controller to

comptroller for the city post.

"But I got outvoted and we still have the old-time spelling, which I think is obsolete," Oliver observed.

But this was a minor item in discussions which led to the document under which most of the city government still operates.

"We strengthened the mayor's hands and made other changes which have contributed greatly to more efficient functioning of the city," declares Alfred J. Westberg, attorney and a former freeholder.

Lawyers point out that the term "freeholder" means the holder of a freehold estate in land or other property. At one time in American history, a voter had to be a "freeholder."

The Charter was approved by a vote of 60,251 to 25,065.

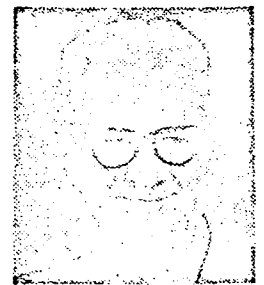
The freeholders had been elected March 13, 1945, from among 70 who filed for the



ALFRED WESTBERG

BESIDES Oliver and Westberg they were Victor Zednick, long-time state legislator and secretary of the Elks Lodge; Charles W. Doyle, labor official; Henry W. Cramer, attorney and now a King County Superior Court Judge; Carroll Carter, King County Treasurer and Democratic politician with a gift for colorful phrases.

Walter L. Wyckoff, building-company officer and City Planning Commissioner; M. O. Anderson, automobile dealer; F. I. Howard, auto-



CHARLES OLIVER

mobile dealer who had been a state legislator; George W. Roberge, secretary of the City Board of Public Works; Howard G. Costigan, representative of liberal groups during the 1930s who had been president of the Washington Commonwealth Federation.

Henry W. Parrott, attorney; Lyle F. Wilson, investment banker who now is a member of the Transit Commission; Fred C. Becker, insurance executive, and Hilda Hanson, leader in the Con-

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# Freeholders Approve King County Charter (Page 1)

BY DARRELL GLOVER

A county charter giving King County government its first major overhaul in 100 years was approved unanimously yesterday by the County Freeholders.

The 46-page document streamlines the operations of county government and creates a strong office of an elected county executive. It also provides for a nine-member county council to be elected on a partisan basis.

Under the proposed charter, most present elective offices would become appointive.

The 15 freeholders who have worked on the charter since last January will submit the charter to the county commissioners at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

Commissioners will be asked to place the charter on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. It requires a simple majority vote for adoption.

KING COUNTY has never had a charter outlining its government.

Richard R. Albrecht, Freeholder chairman, said:

"This is a step in evolution of better government for King County. The charter will give more representation to King County voters, especially those not in incorporated cities."

Freeholders took pains to make the county executive's office powerful. The executive was given the power of veto over "any ordinance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance" in the charter.

A county administrative officer would be appointed by the executive and serve as his assistant.

THE PROSECUTOR, assessor, judges and superintendent of schools would remain elective offices.

Councilmen would be paid \$18,000 per year. The county executive's salary is not to exceed \$27,000 a year.

Councilmen would be nominated and elected in their own districts. Under the present system, the three commissioners are nominated in their districts but are elected county-wide.

Albrecht pointed out that the legislative functions of the council are separated from the functions of the executive officer in the charter. He commented:

"There are a lot of things in county government not getting done now because no one has time to sit around and think about what should be done."

ALTHOUGH they continued partisan government, the Freeholders did not rule out independent candidates for office.

An independent could still file for election and his name would be placed on the primary ballot.

The charter directs the council to enact a county redistricting ordinance every five years and provides for penalties of loss of pay for councilmen if they fail to act.

Councilmen are also directed by the charter to adopt a conflict of interest ordinance for county officers or employees.

Every 10 years the charter would be reviewed to make necessary changes or improvements.

A PERSONNEL system for county employees is outlined in the charter to assure "recruitment, selection and retention of county employees on the basis of merit."

# Freeholders Shape Efforts To Gain Public's Approval

Paul Friedlander, Seattle business leader and member of King County Board of Freeholders, was named Friday to head the freeholder effort to win voter approval of the new charter. The action came at a wind-up meeting at which freeholders took steps to phase in their operation with that of a citizens' group now forming to inform the public about what the charter contains and why.

The body also voted to seek approval of the Board of King County Commissioners to spend the remaining \$6,000 left from their \$11,500 original appropriation on printing and administrative expenses in connection with distribution of the charter.

Before the group adjourned, a special resolution commending chairman Richard Albrecht, who, in turn, told freeholders "we're just beginning our work."

Albrecht noted that "the draft charter does not reflect the personal view of any one of the Freeholders. Rather," he said, "it represents a composite view of what the freeholders as a board have concluded is in the best interests of King County and will provide to King County an improved local government. We hope that each of the King County Commissioners will recognize it as such, and welcome it as the framework for improved county administration and will actively support its adoption by the voters of the county."

The charter will be formally presented to commissioners tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

## King County Charter Vote Set Nov. 5

County Commissioners received a proposed King County charter from the Freeholders yesterday and directed it be placed on the ballot for a vote of the people Nov. 5.

The commissioners also set Oct. 7 for a public hearing on a county traffic code similar to the state's.

If adopted, fines collected for traffic violations on county roads would go to the county instead of to the state.

Commissioner John O'Brien will leave tomorrow for New York with Mayor Dorm Brame and attorney James Ellis, principal architect of the Forward Thrust program.

They will seek a favorable interest rate on the \$30 million first block of Forward Thrust bonds soon to be sold.

## Freeholders' Achievement

King County's 15 elected freeholders have scored a truly remarkable achievement in reaching unanimous agreement on terms of the proposed county charter, to be submitted to voters in November.

There was a broad spectrum of political and ideological philosophy represented among the freeholders and the charter reflects considerable compromise. The fact that the finished product carries no minority report brightens the document's prospects of voter approval.

Freeholders' Chairman Richard Albrecht has earned special praise for his success in reconciling the differences between his 14 freeholder colleagues.

NOW, IT IS up to the county's voters to familiarize themselves with provisions of the proposed charter. Copies of the charter are expected to be made available to the public by the county soon. Every voter has a responsibility to cast an informed ballot on this issue of tremendous importance to the structure and quality of King County government.

# Charter Adopted

## County Freeholders

### Do the 'Impossible'

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of County Freeholders accomplished the "impossible." It adopted a proposed county charter yesterday without dissent.

When the 15-member board first met December 5, it was badly split. From the beginning, there was speculation the members not only never would agree but that there probably would be a minority report on a charter.

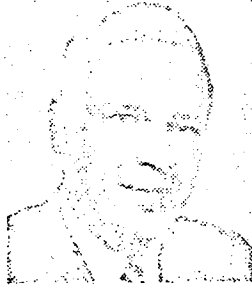
It did not happen. During the course of 55 meetings and some 200 hours of meeting time, the split healed, compromises were made and agreement was reached.

Freeholders give a large part of the credit to their chairman, Richard Albrecht. They meant it when they adopted a special resolution yesterday praising him.

THIRTEEN of the 15 freeholders voted "aye" on the motion to adopt the charter.

Paul Friedlander one of those who was absent, later signed the resolution. James Curran was expected to do so by Monday.

Friedlander was appointed coordinator to represent the freeholders with any citizen group formed to support the charter.



RICHARD ALBRECHT

Albrecht said the freeholders will not be discharged until after the election. He said the state constitution requires freeholders to prepare and propose a charter and propose means to inform the public of its contents. No additional meetings are expected after tomorrow, however.

Albrecht said he met with John T. O'Brien, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and set up a meeting Monday at which the commissioners will be asked formally to put the charter on the ballot.

Albrecht said \$4,500 will be needed to print 30,000 copies of the charter for distribution. Of this sum \$1,500 already is budgeted.

The freeholder office will remain staffed until after the election. This, Albrecht said, will facilitate the printing and distribution of the charter and provide a source of additional information to voters.

Albrecht wrote the commissioners:

"The draft charter does not reflect the personal views of any one of the freeholders. Rather, it represents a composite view of what the freeholders as a board have concluded is in the best interests of King County and will provide to King County an improved local government.

"We hope that each of the King County commissioners will recognize it as such. We hope you will welcome it as

the framework for improved county administration and will actively support its adoption by the voters of the county."

FIRST THE freeholders adopted a resolution thanking the county officials, citizen groups and press for their help. Then, on a motion by Simon Wampold, Albrecht was given special credit for holding the group together to draft "a compromise document in the best tradition of the democratic process."

Jack Geoffroy moved for the adoption of the charter and was seconded by Mrs. Lois North. The resolution recommends that the ballot title read: "Shall the proposed home-rule charter for King County providing for separation of legislative and executive powers and for improved administration be adopted?"

Albrecht urged the freeholders to provide the "same dedication to inform the public of the contents as you did in drafting the charter." And he urged the cooperation of citizen groups.

Terry McKenna, who had planned to make a final effort to reduce the number of councilmen from nine to seven, but felt it was too late to accomplish it, said he voted for the Charter even though there are a number of things in it each freeholder does not favor as an individual.

He would have voted for seven councilmen last week, providing the eighth vote needed to make the change, but was unable to attend the meeting.

The charter calls for election of a chief executive, nine county councilmen representing districts and the assessor. All other officials would be appointed either by an administrative officer or chief executive with confirmation by the county council in some cases.

## Freeholders' Public Service

THE proposed King County charter adopted last week by the Board of County Freeholders does not dovetail completely with the individual views of any one of the 15 freeholders.

Neither—as comments in these columns have made clear—is The Times in accord with all of the provisions of the document to be submitted to King County voters November 5.

There ought to be unanimity throughout the county, however, on one point: The freeholders have performed an out-

standing public service.

Since December 5 the board has held 55 meetings amounting to some 200 hours of unpaid labor. In addition, the individual freeholders have devoted uncounted hours of study and thought to the project. Theirs was no glamour job, but a tedious task with little personal acclaim attached.

*Whatever the fate of the proposed charter at the polls, Board Chairman Richard Albrecht and the other freeholders merit the public's thanks for their selfless efforts.*

MAR 3 1938

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## It's All Very Stimulating

Announcement by John O'Brien, county commissioner, that he will submit a county reorganization plan to his fellow commissioners is most stimulating and certainly will be welcomed by all residents of the county if O'Brien has some good new ideas.

Perhaps O'Brien and his fellow commissioners will be stimulated by the fact that 15 charter freeholders, tried and true, are deliberating and debating the merits of a new charter for King County. No doubt the action of the freeholders had some effect on O'Brien and, in essence, stimulated him to plan his own reorganization.

May we congratulate the commissioner for this move and hopefully add that any action taken by the county commissioners might also stimulate the county freeholders. A little competition in good government will not hurt anybody.

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## Commissioners OK Trip for Freeholder.

County commissioners yesterday authorized expenses of \$198 for the King County Freeholders to go to Portland next Saturday to study Multnomah County's new charter.

In other actions, the commissioners:

—Approved hiring of John H. Strasburger as the Freeholders' legal counsel at \$24 per hour.

—Authorized expenses of \$460 each for the prosecutor and two deputies to attend the conference of the National District Attorneys Association at New Orleans, La., next Tuesday and Wednesday.

—Continued a public hearing on county regulations for massage and sauna parlor operations until April 8.

—Asked the prosecutor for advice on purchase of property between King County Hospital and the freeway for parking space.

## County Affairs 2177 Lawyer For Freeholders Is Approved Tentatively

The board of King County Commissioners tentatively approved yesterday the hiring of a lawyer to handle legal work for the freeholders who are redrafting the County charter.

The board agreed to hire the firm of Short, Cressman & Cable. John Strasburger, a member of the firm, will handle the freeholders work.

Strasburger will be paid \$24 an hour and other members of the firm at lesser rates, with total payments not to exceed \$10,000.

Before the contract is signed, however, the prosecutor was asked to check it and obtain the approval of the majority of Superior Court judges. The law requires the judges to approve such a contract.

MAR 7

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## County Revamp Offered

John O'Brien, chairman of the King County Board of Commissioners, last night presented freeholders with a plan for streamlining county government.

O'Brien said the operation of the county could be broken down into five divisions and recommended posts to head the divisions. They are:

BUDGET Analyst, County Administrator, Personnel Director, Public Works Director, and Service Director.

O'Brien, however, said he thinks there is a need for full-time commissioners.

He said there should be at least three commissioners and not more than five.

"I DON'T think we should have government by committee," O'Brien said.

The commissioner said all but two of the county offices should be elective.

O'Brien said the County Clerk should be appointed by the Superior Court and that the Superintendent of County Schools should also be appointive.

## Freeholders Call Public Hearings

Two public hearings to gather information from individuals and groups have been scheduled by the County Board of Freeholders.

The first will be held at 10 a. m. Saturday in the County Courthouse. It will seek suggestions on a county legislative body, including the size, composition of members, how they should be selected, duties and whether they should be partisan or nonpartisan.

The board is studying how to separate the county's legislative and administrative functions.

The second hearing is set for 7:30 p. m. April 2 in the Bellevue Public Library. The subject will be the chief executive, his duties and the office's relationship to other county departments.

Comments on other aspects of a proposed home-rule charter for county government will be encouraged, but those appearing at the hearings will be requested to confine their remarks to the subjects under discussion and to submit written statements outlining their views on other matters.

Other public hearings are expected to be called later.

## set 2 forums

Citizens will be able to speak out on proposals for changes in King County government at two "community forums" scheduled by the 15 county freeholders.

The first is slated for 10 a. m. this coming Saturday at the King County Courthouse in Seattle. The second is set for 7:30 p. m. April 2 at the Bellevue Public Library.

At the forums citizens will be able to express their views on "certain elements" of a county charter the freeholders are working on, said Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary.

"The March 16 (Saturday) forum will concentrate on the

legislative body, its size, composition, selection and duties. The April 2 forum will concentrate on the chief executive."

Meyer said subjects to be considered at subsequent forums will be announced later.

Meyer said, "All major functions of the county have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county."

The freeholders were elected last November to draft a charter for modernization of county government. That charter will be subject to a vote of King Countyans.

3-10-68

# County Charters Should Be Simple, Freeholders Told

By JERRY BERGSMAN  
Times Staff Reporter

PORTLAND — A county charter is a constitution that should deal with the structure of government and not legislative matters.

Orval Etter, a veteran with the Bureau of Municipal Research in Oregon who served as legal aide or consultant to each of the Oregon counties that drafted charters, made that plea for brevity and simplicity in charter drafting.

The Board of King County Freeholders traveled here yesterday to learn the techniques of drafting a charter and to find out how they work. The full-day session was in the Multnomah County Courthouse.

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY** adopted a charter in 1966. It provides for a strong executive who is elected as chairman of the five-member board of commissioners. He appoints all department heads with the approval of the board.

M. James Gleason, chairman, was a commissioner before and after the charter went into effect. He is in his 20th year. With a few exceptions, Gleason considers the Multnomah County charter a model. He would have preferred more flexibility in creating and financing special districts to provide water and sanitary facilities.

Bud Kramer, who worked for the Association of Oregon Counties, on the staff of the Multnomah County Board, as an aide to Gleason, and now serves as the county's chief of central services, states flatly: "The charter has improved county government."

Ken Tollenaar, for seven years executive secretary of the Association of Oregon Counties and now with the Bureau of Governmental Research in Oregon, outlined the history of charter devel-

tion. I cannot see one iota of difference between the parties on county functions."

**GLEASON** also opposed creation of commissions and boards. "I think government by committee is the poorest and weakest kind of government we can have."

"When various boards and committees are appointed, the commissioners are, in effect, trying to spread the onus of making decisions," he added.

When the legislative and executive functions are divided, Kramer said, the commissioners still should be full-time because part-time officials not fully aware of day-to-day operations are not in a position to vote on problems of county government.

3-10-68

# Elected County Executive Best, Freeholders Told

By JERRY BERGSMAN  
Times Staff Reporter

PORTLAND—An elected county executive to handle administration was given a strong endorsement here yesterday.

It made a lasting impression on members of the King County Freeholders, many admitted later. The freeholders came here to learn how county charters were drafted, adopted and now work in Oregon counties.

M. James Gleason, chief executive and chairman of the Multnomah County Board, urged that the administrative officer be elected. He said:

"It is possible to find a technically trained person but it is not possible, as a rule, to find a technically trained person who has his roots in the community . . . and I think this is absolutely necessary."

**IN ADDITION** to being elected, the executive should have a voice in the legislative body, either with a vote or veto power to make his decision known both to the board and the electorate, Gleason added.

The freeholders learned these other points:

There is a trend in county government toward fewer elected officials, but those elected are partisan.

Charters should be brief, simple and allow flexibility.

**FREEHOLDERS** should

make their major decisions before attempting any charter drafts.

The experience in Oregon counties shows no trend on why a charter passes or fails. And it appeared to make little difference whether a large campaign was mounted for or against a charter, or if there was any campaign at all. Eleven counties submitted charters in Oregon and four were approved.

The main thing is for freeholders to tell their story by telling the public what it is and what they hope it will do, the King County group was told.

(See Page 11 for other details.)

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side of page.



# THE TRANSITION TO

charter government was relatively smooth, Kramer said. The fact that four of the five board members were commissioners at one time or another before the charter both helped and hindered them had to revise their thinking to recognize they no longer were both administrators and legislators, he said. The revision of thinking goes even deeper.

County reform is required to serve the urban areas, Gleason said. In charter government, there must be a reversal of thinking. Instead of counties being allowed to do only those things the Legislature specifically allows, Gleason noted, officials must consider that counties may do anything unless specifically prohibited.

But, Eiter said, the charter should not spell out in detail what some persons consider safeguards. For example, he said, the procedures for applying special assessments should be left to the governing body. The board must give adequate notice and hold public hearings before this type of legislation is approved.

**TOLLENAAR** said the trend in county government is toward appointive rather than elective department heads. Three or four counties elect officials on a partisan basis and all are making strides toward a county executive, usually elected, he said.

Gleason said he believes elected officials should be partisan.

"Partisanship has to start some place. Being nonpartisan makes it much easier for the incumbent to be elected because he does not get the caliber of opposition," he said.

Partisanship, Gleason said, brings an interchange of ideas, and competition brings out the best. But, he added, "the day after elec-

MAR 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## It's Your 'Leverage,' And Best Used Now!

There aren't too many of this kind of opportunity that come along, so you might consider keeping Saturday morning available.

On that day — starting at 10 o'clock — you'll have an opportunity personally to tell the 15 freeholders you elected last fall what kind of a county government you think we ought to have. The freeholders will listen to your views in the Courthouse.

The 15 freeholders have been charged (by you who elected them) with the responsibility of drafting a new King County charter. Whatever the freeholders come up with will be submitted to the voters of the county for acceptance or rejection, presumably next fall. This is the second time around on the charter-rewriting effort . . . the first try was dumped unceremoniously by the voters some 10 years ago.

It is expected the freeholders will hold a series of public hearings to get the views of all interested before the freeholders begin the not-inconsiderable task of committing to paper their convictions about the future course of county government. The Saturday session will be the first of the series; the second has been scheduled April 2 in Bellevue.

The Saturday "community forum" is to concentrate on the county's legislative body. Questions for which answers are sought include the future body's size, composition, how it is to be selected and what duties will be assigned to it.

Freeholders arranging the public session said comments on other aspects of the charter will be encouraged. However, it was pointed out that persons appearing Saturday will be requested to concentrate on the matters concerning the county's legislative body. Those who wish to outline their views on other county charter matters will be asked to submit those statements in writing.

The freeholders have been meeting semiweekly to learn about present county government, interview more than 30 county department heads and build a base of knowledge from which they eventually can project the new image of a charter that will be adequate for the 1970s.

They even found occasion for a junket to Portland, Ore., to see how Multnomah County had made out in its first year under a "home-rule" charter.

But most of you readers won't have to travel anywhere near as far as Portland to get in your two-bits worth. It's not far to Third Avenue and James Street, the forenoon starting hour is reasonable . . . and the freeholders really need your advice.

## Freeholders Cool Towards 'Bill of Rights'

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The County Board of Freeholders shows little enthusiasm for writing a preamble, or county "bill of rights," for the charter it will propose to voters.

The general attitude seems to be that a preamble would have no positive effect and only would detract from the charter's basic function of establishing a framework of government.

A PREAMBLE could include a statement on human rights, including open housing.

But most of the freeholders said they could see no real purpose in such a statement because it would have no legal effect.

Jack Geoffrey said a general statement would have to include "thousands of things, including open-space goals." It would serve little purpose, he said, "unless we were trying to design a catch-all to attract votes and endorse motherhood."

A preamble could backfire, Lyle R. Schneider said. The omission of any "right," he said, could be construed as meaning the freeholders condemned the "right."

Richard Albrecht, of the freeholders, said in discussing open housing:

"That sort of legislation belongs in a county resolution or in a legislative process but not in a charter. It would not add anything and

I don't think it would be appropriate."

Simon Wampold saw "nothing wrong with a general statement."

He said, however, the freeholders are not a legislative but a constitutional body designing a framework of government.

"Regardless of whether you're for it (open housing) or against it," Wampold added, "that is a legislative matter and not one for the charter."

HOWEVER, Robert Block said he felt a statement on equal rights and opportunity could be included.

Terry McKenna was another who felt the idea of a preamble should not be dismissed outright. "We should take a good look at this," he said. "We should listen very carefully at these public hearings."

Norman Ackley said: "Some of these things are awfully important." In light of possible federal legislation, however, Ackley did not see much need to write a human-rights position into the charter.

James P. Curran said: "I don't really think a preamble would do any good. It has no legal effect. It is not something that can be used as a tool."

State and federal constitutions already cover areas that a preamble would touch upon, Virginia Gunby said.

Kent, Wash.  
News-Journal  
(Cir. W. 8,681 Paid 4,519 Free)

MAR 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## All About Politics Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE



### Freeholders Eye Olympia?

### Updating the Commissioners' Race

#### Briefly Noted

If Kenneth Rogstad, King County Republican chairman, has it right, four Valley-area freeholders may make a try for the upcoming legislative seats in their respective districts next fall.

These include Howard Bothell, Auburn car dealer, and Terry McKenna, Kent airline pilot, who are considering running for House seats in the 47th Legislative District, and Bob Eberle, a former legislator, who is considering either a try at the 41st Legislative District House race, or, possibly, challenging Brock Adams, Seventh District Democratic congressman.

Rogstad, despite his focus on the running battle he's had over the where, when, and who of Republican precinct caucuses, has been spending a considerable amount of time attempting to fill the Republican legislative ticket.

Besides freeholders interested in House seats, Rogstad reports several others eyeing the race in the Valley's three legislative districts. These include Art Krauser, former Republican area chairman, and Jim Atterbury, Boeing engineer, both of whom are considering the House race in the 30th District. In the 41st, George Clarke and Brian J. Lewis, Republican incumbents, are considering a try at the new senatorial seat due to be filled next fall. So far, Rogstad says, no other Republican except Eberle is on the horizon in the House.

Three other candidates besides Bothell and McKenna are reported to be considering the House race in the 47th District. These include James Topham, who ran previously; Hal Edgar, and Auburn insurance man, and Art Thompson, a Boeing engineer.

Democrats seem to be slower in lining up potential candidates. According to Jeanette Williams, County chairman, only one Democratic possibility has emerged in the 30th: Georgette Vally, a former Legislator, and, possibly Alva Long, Auburn Attorney. No Democrats have surfaced to challenge Republican control in the 41st or incumbent Democratic control in the 47th to date, she says....

The eagerness of a great many persons to file for freeholder — an unsalaried post with lots of work attached — could be explained, Ed Munro, Second District commissioner, wryly observed last week, as their interest in greater, political horizons. Makes sense since legislative seats are a traditional first step in political careers.

#### UPDATING THE COMMISSIONERS' RACE....

With Dave Mooney's fund-raising dinner due next weekend, the former Kent Mayor's campaign to wrest the Democratic nomination from Munro is off and running. So far, Mooney seems to be the only opposition to appear on either ticket. Rogstad is talking to possible challengers, but to date no Republican, apparently aware of Munro's smashingly successful double-shifted dinner last month in Seattle, seems too eager to make the race.

In the Central District, Rogstad still is optimistic. John O'Brien, board chairman, will run again, but insiders think the affable Commissioners has his eye on other things — among them, a possible connection with big-league sports. That is, after the new stadium is officially in the works and the big leagues have exercised their options. O'Brien is well liked among his Courthouse colleagues and would be a cinch to hold his seat if he decides he wants it after all.

Whether O'Brien is in the race or not, Democrats are eyeing possible candidates for their sides of the ticket, including, Charles (Streetcar) Carroll, a city councilman, who polled a staggering victory in Seattle's municipal elections; M. J. R. (Mel) Williams, county treasurer, who has established a reputation for deft handling of his county job; and James Dore, Seattle district judge. Dore has been mentioned as a Demo possibility for other spots in the past...whether he would make a try this time would probably depend on the opposition and available financing. Look for a possible surprise entry in the person of an aide on the Seattle municipal scene. It's under wraps now...but Seattle's Mayor Dorm Braman's decision on another term (chances are it's yes) will be a factor.

#### BRIEFLY NOTED....

Robert Kull, Demo State Chairman, back tomorrow after spending last week in Washington, D.C., conferring

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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Leave the Commissioners The Way They Are: O'Brien

John O'Brien, chairman of the Board of King County Commissioners, joined the parade of county officials appearing before the freeholders last week to discuss what they should do about his job. The group is engaged in writing a new county charter.

If he has his way (and his words were well-heeded Wednesday night) he'd leave things in the County Commissioners' office pretty much as they are.

In the process, he predicted it might be necessary to adopt a "Metro" approach to the problems of solving surface drainage — now plaguing many portions of the Valley floor.

Lamenting the failure of the Forward Thrust proposal to provide funds for storm drainage, O'Brien said the county has insufficient funds to handle the job that needs to be done...even with available funds from other governmental levels.

"It may not be another Metro as we now know it, but I believe we should explore the same type of basic regional approach to solving this urgent problem," O'Brien stated.

As for the job he's held for the past eight years, he has some pretty specific ideas as to how the freeholders should tackle it.

He believes no less than three commissioners (at present) and not more than five would be sufficient to handle the county's business...that they should be full-time officials elected county-wide and they should be elected on a partisan basis.

In fact, the former big league sports champ said, he is of the opinion all county offices except the clerk and superintendent of schools could and should be elected, including the coroner.

"There's always an element of politics in government...and making the elections non-partisan won't remove it," O'Brien, notably apolitical, stated. He did observe however, that he was of the belief there was not as much of the spoils system in King County politics as most people imagined, stating that he, a Republican, had on many occasions made long-service awards to county employees surviving at the Court House because of merit, not politics.

O'Brien said many of the administrative problems now concerning the three commissioners would be eliminated by

the arrival of John Porter, the county's newly-appointed administrator reporting for work April 1. Porter is likely to help O'Brien put into effect the latter's administrative reorganization plan announced several weeks ago.

Surprisingly, in view of the fact they are concerning themselves with the problem of how best to streamline the county's administrative functions, freeholders had little to say about the O'Brien plan other than to question him closely concerning his feelings of a larger board of commissioners with purely legislative functions. At present, the Board serves in executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial functions.

"I feel a larger board could result in individual commissioners protecting the interests of a particular segment of the county," he stressed. "As the board is presently constituted, I think all three commissioners work for the best interests of all the county despite the fact they are elected in the primaries from one specific district."

O'Brien said if he had his choice he would delegate some of the commissioners' present duties — including bid openings, and rezoning appeals. As for the length of commissioners' terms, he believed the present four-year term was reasonable.

"Actually, that's not as long as it seems. When you're sitting there, it seems to come every two days," he quipped.

O'Brien noted there were at least 30 persons employed by King County who receive more than the \$15,000.

MAR 6 1968

## Ex-Dallas Man to Handle Freeholder Legal Tasks

A lawyer who came to Seattle four years ago from Dallas, Texas, will be recommended to the county Board of Freeholders tonight as the attorney to handle its legal responsibilities in drafting a new county charter.

He is John Strasburger, Bellevue, who was the unanimous choice of the freeholders' attorney-selection committee.

Strasburger, 30, is a member of the Seattle law firm of Short, Cressman & Cable. His selection, which is expected to be approved by the full group tonight, was a turndown for Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll. Carroll had sought to preserve a degree of control over actions of

the freeholders through selection of an attorney of his own choosing — preferably a deputy prosecutor from his own staff or a former deputy.

The selection also was a surprise to all three county commissioners, each of whom had favorites waiting in the wings they probably would have pushed if they had been consulted.

Despite this, it is expected all three commissioners will concur in Strasburger's nomination, which is considered likely at tonight's meeting. Strasburger has not taken part in political activities since moving to Seattle.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

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## A REPORT

The 15 King County freeholders have been meeting twice weekly to learn more about county government.

All major functions of the county have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county.

Building a base of knowledge about the existing operation of county government is as important as knowing what new form of government will work best. Included in the process of building a better system will be a visit to Multnomah County, Oregon, to study how Oregon's largest metropolitan center has fared with a year of home rule under its governmental belt.

The freeholders, at their last business meeting on February 28th, adopted a future work schedule which includes two community forums — the first to be held

on March 16th at the King County Courthouse, and the second on April 2nd at Bellevue's Public Library.

At the community forums, citizens of King County will be able to express their views to the freeholders about certain elements of the charter. The March 16th forum will concentrate on the legislative body, its size, composition, selection and duties.

Comments on other aspects of the charter will be encouraged, but persons appearing at the forum will be requested to concentrate on the legislative body and to submit written statements outlining their views on other matters.

The April 2nd forum will concentrate on the chief executive. Subjects to be considered at subsequent meetings will be announced later.

Des Moines, Wash.  
Des Moines News

MAR 13 1968

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Community Forums Set By Freeholders

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# City County Governm



FREEHOLDERS LISTENED INTENTLY AS MRS. LUDWIG LOBE, RIGHT  
Terry McKenna, Jim O'Conner, Lyle Schneider, Bob Block, Jim Curren, Virginia Gunby, Do

# Governmental Merger Urged on Freeholders

## Ed Munro For Unity

County Commissioner Ed Munro yesterday urged freeholders to consolidate city and county government in King County.

Munro spoke prior to the freeholders' first in a series of public forums designed to give groups and individuals the chance to air their views on a new county charter.

"There should be but one governing body in King County," Munro said.

"You should be bold in your approach. Consolidation is coming, whether you people do it or not."

**ASKED IF** the freeholders had the power to consolidate government as he suggested, Munro replied:

"You can get remedial legislation from the state legislature if necessary."

Munro suggested a legislative body of at least nine members, drawing a salary of a minimum of \$1,000 per month, and an elected executive officer with a salary of at least \$20,000 per year.

"These salary figures are absolute minimums," he said. "I'd like to see them a lot higher."

The commissioner proposed also that the officials be partisan, full-time, serve four-year staggered terms and be nominated by their districts and elected by the county as a whole.

**TO SOLVE** the problem of elimination of jobs now held by elected county and city officials, Munro suggested those officials be appointed to the legislative body until their terms of office expire.

"This is a concession to political reality," he said.

At the open forum, speakers representing major organizations—and a few who spoke only for themselves—recommended expanding the legislative body. The general feeling was that a three-man board of commissioners could not adequately serve the county.

Nine members was the figure most agreed upon, but that ranged upward from 11 to one proposal for 32 or 50.

**ORGANIZATIONS** heard from included the League of Women Voters, the Municipal League, Shoreline Community Development Council, Vashon Civic Association, Associated Clubs of the North End and the Federal Way Community Council.



—P-I Photo by Howard Staples.

AS MRS. LUDWIG LOBE, RIGHT, OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOLD OF HER GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
Block, Jim Curren, Virginia Gunby, Don McDonald, Chairman Dick Albrecht, Jack Geoffroy, Lois North, Simon Wampold, Howard Bothel, Norman Ackley.

Seattle, Wash.  
U. District Herald  
(Cir. W. 25,105)

MAR 13 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1898

## Freeholders Plan Forums

The 15 King County freeholders have been meeting twice weekly to learn more about county government.

All may functions of the county

have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county.

The Freeholders, at their last business meeting on Feb. 28, adopted a future work schedule

which includes two community forums—the first to be held on March 18th at the King County Courthouse, and the second on April 2nd at Bellevue's public library.

MAR 17 1968

Allen P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Commissioners' Election by District Backed

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Election of county commissioners by districts yesterday got its strongest boost so far in the development of a county charter.

Lack of representation in county government was the chief complaint from many of those who spoke at a public hearing before the Board of Freeholders. Nomination and election of commissioners by districts was seen as the answer.

Commissioners now are nominated by district but elected in county-wide balloting.

SEVERAL freeholders support the district — representation plan. Don McDonald and Norman Ackley both are giving consideration to provisions that would place commissioners in the same boundaries as state legislators.

This hearing, on the function and form of a county legislative body, was the first of several the freeholders plan.

Richard Albrecht, chairman, said the second will be held on a county administrator at 7:30 p. m. April 2 in the Bellevue public library. Others will be scheduled on county-elected officials, finance and budget procedures, a personnel system, and initiative, referendum and recall procedures.

Community clubs yesterday were concerned mainly with lack of representation in county government.

Jim Haase, of the Federal Way Community Club, contended "the fact we are seeking incorporation as a city makes it obvious we feel more representation is needed."

Mrs. Miner Baker of the Community Development Club of Shoreline, Robert Van Devanter of the Vashon Civic Assembly, and Glenn Battson of the Associated Clubs of the North End, were in agreement.

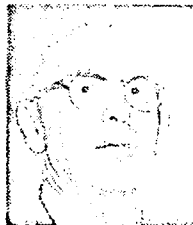
Art Brown, a systems analyst at the Boeing Co., and a member of the Municipal League and Community Development Club of Shoreline; Frank Matz, a civil engineer and Municipal League member; and Dr. Brantley Holt, Jr., a member of the Municipal League, strongly endorsed a districting plan.

THE Municipal League had supported nomination by districts and county-wide elections.

Brown contended district elections would promote responsiveness by making the commissioner more accessible to the people he represents, increase the probability of representation for unincorporated areas and



MRS. LUDWIG LOBE



GLENN BATTSON



MRS. MINER BAKER

public watchdog was the answer, but now "believes what really is needed is more representation." Dr. Holt supported formation of a legislative body of 50 members, contending "squabbles are an important part of government."

PARTISANSHIP also was

at issue. Mrs. Ludwig Lobe of the League of Women Voters called for non-partisan government. Battson, Brown and Matz supported partisan politics.

But George Mack and Gordon Conger of the Municipal League saw another alternative: They suggested parti-

san elections with a provision to allow a candidate to run as a non-partisan. At the request of the freeholders, they agreed a Municipal League county-government committee would study the plan further to determine how it could be put into effect.

27

# Continue With Elective Sheriff, Porter Urges

Sheriff Jack Porter today strongly urged that his position continue to be elective.

Porter suggested, however, that a county manager could be given authority to direct the fiscal and record-keeping functions of the Sheriff's Department.

"In this manner, Porter said in a statement for the County Board of Freeholders, "we would have an expert in business matters directing the normal business functions of the department and an expert in police administration directing the many functions of law enforcement."

By controlling budget planning, office equipment, purchasing, computer work and vehicle-equipment management, the county manager "could coordinate these activities with those of other county departments and thus assure an economical and effective county-wide operation," Porter said.

The elective sheriff, he said, would make policy decisions affecting law enforcement.

A survey by the National Municipal League of 41 counties with appointed county managers shows that 40 of them have elected sheriffs. The exception is Multnomah County in Oregon, which the freeholders will visit Saturday.

Porter quoted Peter J. Pitchess, elected sheriff of Los Angeles County, as saying:

"There is no officer in county government who has a greater responsibility or who more directly touches the lives, rights and liberties of individual citizens than the sheriff."

Porter said policy decisions touch on such things as the method of handling juveniles, use of time, assignment and demeanor of deputies and prisoner-rehabilitation programs.

If administration for the

Sheriff's Department were to be placed in the hands of a business administrator, "the final authority for all decisions would rest in the hands of a man who is not elected by the people and responsive to their wishes and, more importantly, a man who would be totally without any experience, training or edu-

cation in law-enforcement administration," he said.

Porter said a sheriff needs to have experience in law enforcement and police administration and a close contact with the community and its leaders "to insure that community needs are reflected in the decision-making process."

## Munro Proposes Relief For 3-16-68 Abolished County Jobholders STILES

By JERRY BERGSMAN

County Commissioner Ed Munro suggested today that any elected official whose job is abolished by a Charter should be made a commissioner on an expanded board.

The novel proposal was made to the Board of Freeholders, which is drafting a Charter. He said this should happen if there is an elected executive and Council.

"If you make them (other elected officials) appointed," Munro said, "let the incumbents be members of the Council on the first round." This would run until the end of their present terms, in 1971.

Munro, president of the National Association of County Officials, was quick to point out that this provision would not affect him. His term expires this year.

"I DON'T THINK you have any more right to abolish their jobs than they have to abolish yours," Munro said. He also noted that the elected officials' experience is needed and that all received high ratings from the Municipal League.

To pass a Charter, some concessions must be made to "political reality," Munro added. "I don't think this is much of a concession," he said.

Munro's main point was that the freeholders should be bold in their approach and consolidate government. He feels only one government should operate in King

federal governments as an equal partner."

THERE ARE legal questions about this approach, he conceded, but said action can be taken by the 1969 Legislature to solve that.

Except in improvement of the chain of command, efficiency will not be increased merely by shuffling offices around, he said. Consolidation of government is required.

"It's coming," he contended. "If not by you, then by the next (group of freeholders)."

Munro called for an elected executive, full-time, partisan commissioner with four-year terms and a legislative body expanded to at least nine members. He said partisan elections tend to move elections away from popularity contests and reduce the power of the bureaucracy.



Seattle, Wash.  
Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)  
MAR 1 8 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1900

# Municipal League Recommends Appointing

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Appointment of all county officials except the commissioners and possibly the county administrator was recommended today by the Municipal League.

The league, in a report to be submitted to the County Board of Freeholders tonight, made no recommendation on whether the offices should be partisan. The freeholders are drafting a charter to change the structure of county government.

THE LEAGUE called for separation of the legislative functions, expansion of the Board of County Commissioners to at least seven members, creation of a personnel system under the county administrator and an ombudsman to be a watchdog for the public.

The recommendation on election of county officials applied to existing positions. No recommendation was made on the position of county administrator. John Porter has been appointed to that new post and will take office March 25.

The report calls for provisions for recall of elected officials and for the initiative and referendum processes.

The report follows a year-long study under Gordon Conger, chairman of the league's County Government Committee. It is aimed at providing information without trying to do the freeholders' job for them, a league spokesman said.

Parts of the report are so interrelated, the spokesman said, that any change in one provision would require a review of the others.

THE LEAGUE said that with independently elected officials, each acting sep-

arately and establishing his own methods of administration, "an over-all goal is difficult to establish. Coordinated effort or planning also is difficult to achieve."

"King County is not likely to escape from new and larger demands for services for programs. With its present structure, King County is poorly equipped to anticipate, plan for and perform the tasks and functions necessary in the years ahead."

The league said the administrator should have veto power over legislation. He would be the central authority responsible for administration.

THE EXECUTIVE, the report said, would coordinate all county services, develop cooperation between departments and with other agencies, eliminate administrative duplication and recommend policies, programs, priorities and objectives.

The league outlined alternate county-manager plans in which the administrator is appointed by and responsible to the legislative body and in which the executive is elected. However, the league made no choice is made between the two.

While the prosecutor's office is constitutional and cannot be changed by charter, the league recommended administrative and legislative bodies be authorized to employ their own legal advisers. The prosecutor now provides legal service for all county departments.

The league called for appointment of the coroner, sheriff, clerk, assessor and treasurer.

The clerk should be appointed by the courts, the

league said. The assessor should be appointed by the administrator with approval of the legislative body, it said. The league called for study of a medical-examiner system to replace the coroner.

THE LEAGUE contended assessed valuation is a matter of judgment, but that the assessor is not involved in

making policy. It called for splitting the auditor's functions into nonfiscal jobs, to be done by the officers responsible to the administrator; pre audit functions of checking expenditures before they are made by the departments involved, and post-audit functions by an auditor appointed by the legislative body.

The sheriff's policy-making

responsibility involving the level of law enforcement should be transferred to an elected county executive or the legislative body, the league said.

Commissioners should be full-time, nominated by district and elected at large as they are now, according to the league.

A personnel system under the administrator would

## Most County Officials

The league called for creation of a public information office under the administrator and a separate department to handle inquiries and complaints of citizens. The ombudsman, citizen-protection, would be politically independent, detached from government and authorized to inquire into administrative shortcomings.

IT CALLED for a fiscal system that would allow a budget director, appointed by the administrator, to prepare an integrated budget, long-range capital improvement plans and budgets stressing performance goals.

bring uniform personnel standards to county government, the report asserted. It would rely on merit in hiring, promotions, salary and assignments; provide training and evaluation of employees; a method of hearing grievances, and a retirement system.

The league outlined the advantages of both nonpartisan and partisan offices and

MAR 14 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Urged To Study Program Budgets

A single administrative head and a budget that details programs rather than number of employees were listed last evening as needs for county government.

Richard Trowbridge, who was budget director for former County Commissioner Scott Wallace and before that a Courthouse reporter for The Times, made these suggestions to the Board of Freeholders.

Commissioner Ed Munro will speak to the freeholders at 9 a.m. Saturday before a public hearing on a county legislative body. The hearing will be in Room 402 of the Courthouse. Henry Sidel, also a former budget director for Wallace and now an aide to United States Representative Brock Adams, is scheduled to speak next month.

Freeholders are holding hearings and orientation sessions in preparation for drafting a county charter.

Trowbridge, who now has an administrative position at the University of Washington, said the county's structure is the root of many problems. The county cannot translate plans into effective action because the "present structure does not provide adequate management," he said.

"The fact so much does get done is a tribute to the dedication of the county employees," he said in calling for a single administrator.

Under the existing plan

commissioners are involved both in making laws and administering them.

Trowbridge urged performance budgets that pinpoint plans, long-range budgets, full-time commissioners and election of the executive.

There was a sharp exchange between Don McDonald, a freeholder, and Gordon Conger, chairman of the Municipal League's County Government Committee.

The league submitted recommendations on county reorganization but did not take a stand on whether the elective offices should be partisan. McDonald demanded to know why the league had

backed from a position of endorsing nonpartisan politics on the local level.

Conger said: "It is fair to say there was no unanimity on whether partisan or nonpartisan government served the interests of local government in the best way. We considered the values of both."

It was felt, he said, that partisan politics in local government is important by providing groups that take stands on issues and assist in the orderly solution of problems. But, he added, "it was felt that historically in King County political parties have not played an active role in this process."

Bellevue, Wash.  
American  
(Cir. W. 12,641)

MAR 7 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Bellevue Community Freeholder Forum April 2

When the 15 King County Freeholders met February 28 they adopted a future work schedule which included two community forums.

One of them will be held April 2 in the Bellevue Public Library.

At these community forums King County citizens will be able to express their views to the Freeholders about cer-

tain elements of the new charter they have been charged to present to the voters in November.

The Bellevue forum will concentrate on the chief executive who will administrate the new county government under the charter.

An earlier meeting on March 16 will be held in the King County Courthouse. This forum will be concerned with the legislative body of county government, its size, composition, selection and duties.

Comments on other aspects of the charter will be encouraged, but persons appearing at the forum will be requested to concentrate on the announced subjects of the meet-

ings, and will be asked to submit written statements outlining their views on other matters.

Seattle, Wash.  
Aurora Shoreline Journal  
(Cir. W. 27,300)

MAR 13 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Set Community Forum

King County citizens will be able to express their views on a contemplated new charter during a "Community Forum" 9 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at the county courthouse in Seattle.

The forum will concentrate on the legislative body, its size, composition, selection and duties. Citizens appearing at the forum can submit written statements on other topics which will be covered at subsequent forums.

The "Chief Executive" will be considered at the April 2 forum in Bellevue's public library. Subjects

The group has interviewed 30 department heads of the county and visited Multnomah County in Oregon last Saturday to study "how Oregon's largest metropolitan center has fared with a year of home rule."

The freeholders office is Room 905. A in the King County courthouse

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

# County Administrator--Elect or Appoint?

This letter refers to your May 6, 1968, editorial, "Freeholders' Dilemma," wherein you recommended that the proposed King County Administrator be elected with certain stipulations. These were minimum education and experience levels. You, also, suggest that residency requirements be liberal so that people throughout the country could be candidates.

As an interested observer from a distance I cannot help but feel your recommendations, although well meant, are unworkable. How many educated, experienced people would leave a job in Seattle, let alone Kansas City, San Diego or Cincinnati, to run for election in Seattle?

Dave Rowlands, City Manager of Tacoma, has been suggested for the position. Do you think he would quit his job to go to Seattle to campaign for the position? He would have no organization or campaign funds to help him. If he didn't quit his present job, he certainly would be fired.

WOULDN'T IT BE much better to have an appointed, qualified administrator, not with minimum qualifications, but with the best qualifications that could be obtained? I assume if he didn't work out, he could be fired at any regular meeting just like any city manager.

You state that there should be a separation between the legislative and administrative functions. Any appointed administrator feels a strong obligation to go along with the body that appoints him, but a professional

administrator, who plans to make this his life's work, feels a higher trust to truth, honesty, the public's good and himself and would rather be fired than to betray that trust.

There are many appointed county administrators, particularly on the East coast and in California, who have shown this to be the best form of county government. The appointed administrator works well in cities, port authorities, hospitals, public utility districts, school districts, and in water and sewer districts. Why not with counties?

DONALD D. HERRMAN, CITY MANAGER,  
City of Port Angeles

MAR 19 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Unsound County-Government Plan

THE Municipal League gave unsound advice to the King County freeholders last week when it recommended the appointment of all county officers except commissioners and perhaps the county administrator.

It would be unsound for the proposed county charter to permit the Board of Commissioners to appoint the auditor who would check the commissioners' conduct of county business. The auditor's office must maintain its independence and be responsible only to the electorate.

*The office of assessor also must be*

*maintained as an independent, elective branch of county government to keep the powers of setting levels of property taxation separate from the expenditure powers of the commissioners. Otherwise, property taxes would take off like a rocket.*

The Municipal League's recommendations for appointive office may look good in theory. But they surely would be proved faulty in practice. If the freeholders should follow the League's advice, their proposed charter doubtless would be defeated at the polls—as it should be.

Seattle, Wash.  
Post-Intelligencer  
(Cir. 198,812 Sat. Mor. 184,332  
Sun. 239,092)

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

MAR 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Acts On Loitering

A county ordinance making it a misdemeanor to loiter under suspicious circumstances was adopted Monday by county commissioners.

In other actions, commissioners:

— Referred to the county park department petitions by 3,316 voters asking that a public swimming pool be built at Issaquah under the Forward Thrust program.

— Referred to budget directors petitions by 1,857 residents of the Federal Way area calling for enactment of a dog-leash law for the county.

— Appointed Douglas Warne of 12548 SE 73rd St., Renton, a Kent school teacher, to the King County Fair Board.

— Approved hiring of John H. Strasburger as attorney for the Freeholders at \$24 an hour up to a ceiling of \$10,000.

MAR 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Meeting Officials From Other American Countries

By Our County News Bureau public hearing will be held in the Valley cities. The first was held Saturday in the King County Courthouse and the second will be held April 2 at the Bellevue Public Library.

The freeholders have been interviewing numerous county officials during the past weeks, including Ed Munro, county commissioner, who appeared before them Friday.

This will be the freeholders' opportunity to consult with national leaders in county government, Albrecht declared.

Among those who will be meeting the board are William Allen, chairman of the Toronto (Canada) Council, Bernard Hiltenbrand, executive director of the national association of counties, and Ed Michaelian, county official of Westchester County, New York.

The freeholders are meeting on a twice-a-week schedule on a stepped-up work program before writing their first charter draft. Those still to be interviewed include Ralph Stender, deputy clerk of the county commissioners, and Henry Seidel, budget director for Scott Wallace, former county commissioner, and administrative assistant to Congressman Brock Adams.

Albrecht said no decision had been made as to whether a third

Bellevue, Wash.  
American  
(Cir. W. 12,641)

MAR 21 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Public Forum Here April 2

The second in a series of public forums will be held by the King County Freeholders at the Bellevue Public Library on April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The forum will concentrate on the subject of the chief executive.

The first forum, held last Saturday in King County Court

House, concentrated on the county legislative body, focusing on such issues as its size method of selection, partisanship versus non-partisanship compensation and duties.

# Munro Pitches Freeholders

By VIRGINIA BUCKSIDE  
Our County News Bureau  
The dean of the county's area-wide problems on an area-wide basis.  
Board of County Commissioners and an acknowledged national authority on how counties should be operated last week met with county freeholders to discuss what he felt should be in the new county charter.

As far as Ed Munro is concerned (and his words carry weight because he's also president of the potent National Association of Counties) freeholders have nothing to lose by being bold about their job.

"It's not going to be easy to pass this charter no matter how good it is," he declared. "You might as well make it as far reaching and as efficient as you can."

Munro counseled board members they should strive to achieve unity in local government which, he said, does not exist in its present fragmented county council, or whatever, state. To do this, he said, freeholders should consider a nine members elected in the

primary election by district and at large in the general election as at present. They should be paid no less than \$1,000 monthly, and should serve staggered terms for four years, Munro said.

The commissioner emphasized that an adequate salary be paid to the county's legislative body.

Seattle, Wash.  
Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 210,329)  
MAR 20 1968  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## 'Job Insurance' for County Politics

RECOGNIZING that a modernization of King County government might well result in abolition of several elective positions, Commissioner Ed Munro has suggested that any official whose job is eliminated become an automatic member of an enlarged Board of Commissioners.

Among various proposals now under study by the Board of Freeholders, such elective posts as clerk, treasurer, coroner and the like would either be eliminated or be made appointive.

Because a county charter is still some time off, however, all elective offices will be filled in the normal fashion in next November's general election. Munro thinks those men who will be dismissed of their jobs if a county government

county reorganization plan is approved within the next few years should serve as commissioners at least until their normal terms expire in 1971.

This proposal involves mixed blessings. From a practical standpoint, the prospect of a Court House structure might help to neutralize any political opposition from incumbent officeholders toward a county-government overhaul. Such opposition was a factor in the voters' rejection of a charter plan offered in 1952.

Yet elected officials are accustomed to risking their jobs at intervals and what Munro is suggesting would be a novel form of "unemployment insurance" for politicians who would find themselves heading nonexistent units of county government.

Munro proposed that presently elected county officials become automatic members of the county's new legislative body until their term of office expires. As to whether these officials should be elected or appointive, he said there should be some concession made to the realities of political life.

"There are places where you can make political concessions and it seems to me this is one of them. There are others where no such concessions can or should be made," he warned.

Munro said he favors some sort of county personnel system, but he said efficiencies and economies in county government occur not so much from a merit or civil-service system as the result of activities of the county's top administrators.

At the public hearing following Munro's remarks, most of the speakers favored an enlarged county legislative body whose sole function would be to legislate county business.

At present, the Board of County Commissioners combines administrative, legislative and quasi-judicial duties.

Effective Body Asked  
Mrs. Ludwig Lobe, representing the King County League of Women Voters, called for an elected legislative body of between five and 11 members to be elected on a partisan basis.

Others who appeared in-lives or spokesmen from Valley the cities present at the sparsely attended hearing. A second public hearing has been scheduled for April 2 at the Vashon Civic Assembly, and the Associated Clubs of the North End.

There were no representatives in the Valley.

## Freeholders Listen

# Full-Time Officials Needed for County

By JERRY BERGSMAN

County commissioners should serve full-time even if they are restricted to legislative functions, the Board of King County Freeholders was told yesterday.

Elton Haut, a political-science teacher and part-time county commissioner from Washington County, Oregon, said failure to provide for full-time, well-paid commissioners is the major weakness in his county's charter.

THE WASHINGTON County charter restricts the pay to \$150 a month, Haut said, and this makes it a "class commission" although "democracy demands that the broadest segment of the population be represented."

Freeholders heard strong pleas for an appointed administrator, a well-organized campaign to promote the charter they will draft and appointment by the commissioners rather than the administrator of key officials.

Washington County, with 130,000 population, is west of Portland. It has a number of cities, including Beaverton and Hillsboro, but no central core city.

Others who spoke here yesterday were Mrs. Barbara Wilcox, a former Washington County Commissioner and now executive secretary of Oregon Gov. Tom McCall's Committee on Intergovernmental Coordination; Washington County Commis-

sioner Clayton Nyberg, and Dick Milbrodt, county manager.

MRS. WILCOX said it is important to have commissions and boards in advisory capacities but questioned the concept of the planning commission.

Simon Wampold, a freeholder, favors abolishing the planning commission and having appeals go directly from the technical staff to the county commissioners.

Mrs. Wilcox supported the concept. Noting that the county commissioners have the final say on zoning anyway, Mrs. Wilcox described the planning commission as a buffer between the public and elected officials.

HAUT, NYBERG and Milbrodt all supported the idea of an appointed rather than elected administrator. They said appointment makes the administrator responsible to the board, prevents one man from becoming too powerful and provides the opportunity to recruit professional people.

An elected executive, Haut added, would have to surround himself with professional people anyway, making his position either superfluous or disruptive. "The important thing is to get professional management into the system," he said. "The way to get it is through an appointed manager."

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

MAR 20 1968

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## King County To Host National County Meet

By Our County News Bureau County installations.

King County will play host next week to the Western Regional meeting of the National Association of Counties, Ed Munro, King County commissioner and national president of NAVC announced Tuesday.

More than 600 elected county officials are expected to be present at the four day meet, Munro said. Among those who have accepted an invitation to speak are Senator Warren G. Magnuson, who will address the conference at a luncheon Monday, and Gov. Dan Evans.

The meeting will begin with a reception Sunday night at the Space Needle and will end Wednesday following a luncheon at the Olympic Hotel.

Munro said a special go-see tour is being planned for conference members of several King

County installations. Notably on the tour will be the garbage-compacting mole now nearing completion and Metro sewage treatment facilities.

A special meeting of the national NACO officials with King County Freeholders is also on the agenda, Munro said.

The Western Division of the National Association of Counties is the only regional organization within the association, he pointed out. The group meets yearly to discuss special problems of the west that stem in large part from the fact that about 50 per cent are owned by the federal government. This large portion of federal ownership presents special problems to the West in terms of solving water needs and the problems of forest and grazing land management, Munro noted.

# Freeholders Get First Hand Report on H

BY CHARLES RUSSELL

Seattle, Wash. Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
270,329)

King County Freeholders received a first-hand report on how the home rule charter adopted by Washington County, Ore., in 1963 is working out.

It came from Washington County Commissioners Clayton Nyberg and Eldon Richman. They work only

afternoon.

WASHINGTON COUNTY has five elected commissioners. They work only afternoons. They are vested in the

of those who prepared the charter. Here to attend the Environmental Pollution Conference of the Western Association of Counties, the District of Columbia, the Association of Counties, the four met with the freeholders for two hours yesterday afternoon.

part time at the job and are paid \$150 a month each. Milbrodt, the full-time county administrator, is appointed by the commissioners. His salary is \$16,200 a year.

In Washington County, only the sheriff and the commissioners are elected. All other county officials are appointed.

MILBRODT explained the manager works for the board. He thinks this is as it should be; otherwise a county manager would have "too much power."

board of commissioners. The commissioners make policy; the administrative official carries it out," Mrs. Wilcox told the freeholders.

MILBRODT said, "I'm on tap but not on top." All department heads, except the sheriff, report to the board of commissioners through the county manager. Department heads are appointed by the board and are exempt from Civil Service.

IN MILBRODT'S VIEW, the form of county government is not as important as the competence of the people doing the jobs.

He said he believes a county administrator or manager should be appointed rather than elected. He thinks an appointed executive working for an elected board can do a better job of running the county than an elected official who has to run for office. Some of the elected officials are elected by the county, some by the county board.

# Freeholders Urge Board of Nine Commissioners

By JERRY BERGSMAN  
Partisan county government and election by district of an enlarged board of coun-

ty commissioners is the probable form a home-rule charter will take. In its first policy discus-

sion, the King County Board of Freeholders yesterday voted strongly in favor of those positions.

begin work on a formal draft.

The near-unanimous vote was a surprise. Only a few major questions still remain.

The members had been divided on electing commissioners by district, but the vote for it was 10 to 3.

The freeholders agreed the board of commissioners should be expanded from three members to nine, that they should continue as full-

time county officials and that nine districts should be formed. A key question to be answered is whether the freeholders will attempt to create those new districts. Four-year staggered terms were favored.

A hearing on the form and duties of a chief executive will be held at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Bellevue Public Library.

(See Page 25 for details.)

Seattle, Wash.

Times

(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

MAR 31 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Interrelations Hold Up Final Charter Decisions

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Interrelations of charter provisions are a major reason the Board of County Freeholders cannot take final positions at this time.

An example arose on the question of at-large election. While the freeholders finally agreed yesterday to election of commissioners by district, some freeholders expressed reservations because they felt some representation should be at-large.

The compromise was to vote for election of commissioners by district on the assumption an executive will be elected at large. The question of an executive has not been discussed, but a decision to appoint an executive would result in changes of position on election of commissioners by district.

THE ANSWERS given yesterday to some questions are not likely to be changed later. The 13 members present were unanimous for partisan county government. They agreed without dissent to four-year terms. Eleven favored staggered terms.

Only Lyle Schneider and Paul Friedlander did not attend the meeting. Schneider wrote a letter, however, and where his position was clear his vote was recorded.

Don McDonald took the position that the freeholders should not include in a charter either the commissioners' salary or whether commissioners should be full

time. He contended the commissioners should decide by establishing their own salary if they are to serve full time.

Norman Ackley also opposed full-time commissioners, contending they will have so little to do that they will project themselves into administrative work which the freeholders plan to confine to an administrator.

The freeholders finally voted that if they do feel it necessary to mention a salary, it will be that provided by state law. Commissioners pay will go up from \$15,000 to \$18,000 in 1969.

REDISTRICTING in a y end up being the major decision facing the board. A number of members contended any attempt to redistrict will jeopardize adoption of a charter.

If no boundaries are established the board would have three elected from each of the existing county-commissioner districts, create automatic machinery for redistricting and let the nine commissioners establish nine districts after a transition period.

Others favor creation of automatic machinery for redistricting, but believe the freeholders should draw nine boundaries as part of the charter.

The redistricting question was one factor in opposition to proposals by McDonald and Ackley that the number of commissioners be set at 16, conforming to legislative

districts. James P. Curran said a charter would be in jeopardy in South King County if that was done because that area is not happy with the legislative districts.

Simon Wampold agreed, adding that boundaries conforming to state legislative districts would insert state issues into county election campaigns. Mrs. Lois North, involved in state legislative redistricting, agreed, but noted that the background and tradition of our community suggests the number of nine county commissioners. Most city councils have nine members.

Still to be decided are the questions of establishing a merit or civil-service system for employees and which, if any, of the new independently elected county officials will be appointed under charter provisions.



(Continued from Page 4)

little and too late. Organizational efforts began on his behalf in Seattle the day after his announcement, but without some kind of agreement between the two candidates, preference of the Washington Democratic delegation may look like this: McCarthy, Johnson, Kennedy . . . in that order!

### Rosellini to Run Again

Informed sources last week were circulating the story Albert D. Rosellini, former two-term governor defeated in 1964 by Gov. Dan Evans, has definitely made up his mind to make another try at his old job. The only thing that isn't known, it is reported, is when the ex-governor will make his intentions formally known. Al has been building up the same kind of state-wide backbreaking schedule he maintained in his previous campaigns . . . with reports from the hustings he is being well received. So far both of his primary opponents, Attorney General John O'Connell and State Senator Martin Durkan have been confining themselves mainly to state issues, but Rosellini, with his instinct for the political jugular, has been slashing at what Evans, in Rosellini's eyes, has failed to do . . . notably in the field of taxation and state institutions. Rosellini will make much of Evans' increase in the sales tax — unnecessary in Rosellini's view. In the slow-burn department: O'Connell, for whom Rosellini has no particular affection since the 1964 campaign, and Durkan . . . both of whom could lose, along with Rosellini, in a three-way race against Evans. One thing seems certain: The slow and deliberate Democratic quadrille marking the campaign of both declared candidates will get some fast rock and roll from the "give-'em-hell" type of campaigning Rosellini is noted for.

### Briefly Noted

Insiders Report That Freeholders are reaching a few key decisions anent the new county charter: A county executive of some kind; an enlarged, full-time well-paid legislative body elected on a partisan basis, and partisan elections for county officials who are not appointed. The group, apparently, is in no mood to take on the wrath of both political parties . . . each of which likely would go all out to defeat a charter setting up a nonpartisan form of county government . . . Brock Adams, meeting with members of the 31st, 35th, and 47th Legislative Districts recently at Renton Inn, hardpressed to defend his freshly announced support of Kennedy when reminded from the audience of his ride with Johnson in 1964 . . . Supporters of Both Dave Mooney and Ed Munro are wondering if Mooney intends to keep his campaign to unseat incumbent Commissioner Munro on the constructive plane he promised in light of his remarks at a fund-raising dinner on his behalf at Meeker's Landing . . .

## Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

### Freeholders Eye Olympia?

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customers and Mrs. B. Tanewasha, Auburn, will describe Muckleshoot tribal customs. Members are asked to bring Northwest Indian artifacts for display. Refreshments will be served.

1 and 2 bedroom units, furnished and unfurnished, from \$15. Carpets — appliances, total electric wiring, includes pool, service rooms, sauna, and children's play area. Fenced golf & country club nearby. Follow signs to Fairwood, south of Renton off Maple Valley Highway. AL 5-9870

MAR 24 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Left Behind

### All About Politics

Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

#### Rockefeller Out For Good?

Washington State's infant Draft Rockefeller movement (most localized in King County) was nipped in the bud by Thursday's bombshell from New York's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Most experts had predicted his declaration of candidacy a foregone thing . . . now the way is paved for a Nixon slate both county- and state-wide. Even with Rockefeller in the race, Nixon had been assured of at least 16 of the state's 24 Republican delegates. Now it's likely he will capture the entire delegation. That is, if forces boosting Nixon are genuinely boosting Nixon. There's some speculation here and in Olympia the Nixon boom is part cover for a move to support California's Governor Reagan. Whether this develops or not, there's strong sentiment in King County for Reagan as vice president . . . as precinct caucus polls showed two weeks ago.

If Rockefeller is genuinely out of the presidential race or merely out of the primaries (everyone of which he had a good chance to lose) there's still hope among many Republicans in the county that some kind of long-shot might result in a convention draft for Rocky. They reason that only through a Rockefeller candidacy can there be some real hope of achieving a dialogue on the Vietnam issue . . . and other pressing, domestic issues. As of now, with Nixon and Johnson both taking similar hawkish positions on the conduct of the war, there is a good chance voters may have no genuine choice at least on this issue next November. Likely next move on the part of Nixon now that Rockefeller has officially declared himself out: A dovish trend with some spelled-out details on how he plans to end the war.

#### Postscript on the Week That Was:

One of the noticeable side effects in King County of the rapid-fire series of events culminating in the entrance of Senator Robert Ken-

MAR 10 1968

P.C.B. Est. 1888

### All About Politics

Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

#### Freeholders Eye Olympia?

#### Updating the Commissioners' Race

#### Briefly Noted

If Kenneth Rogstad, King County Republican chairman, has it right, four Valley-area freeholders may make a try for the upcoming legislative seats in their respective districts next fall.

These include Howard Bothell, Auburn car dealer, and Terry McKenna, Kent airline pilot, who are considering running for House seats in the 47th Legislative District, and Bob Eberle, a former legislator, who is considering either a try at the 41st Legislative District House race, or, possibly, challenging Brock Adams, Seventh District Democratic congressman.

Rogstad, despite his focus on the running battle he's had over the where, when, and who of Republican precinct caucuses, has been spending a considerable amount of time attempting to fill the Republican legislative ticket.

Besides freeholders interested in House seats, Rogstad reports several others eyeing the race in the Valley's three legislative districts. These include Art Krauser, former Republican area chairman, and Jim Atterbury, Boeing engineer, both of whom are considering the House race in the 30th District. In the 41st, George Clarke and Brian J. Lewis, Republican Incumbents, are considering a try at the new senatorial seat due to be filled next fall. So far, Rogstad says, no other Republican except Eberle is on the horizon in the House.

Three other candidates besides Bothell and McKenna are reported to be considering the House race in the 47th District. These include James Topham, who ran previously; Hal Edgar, and Auburn insurance man, and Art Thompson, a Boeing engineer.

Democrats seem to be slower in lining up potential candidates. According to Jeanette Williams, County chairman, only one Democratic possibility has emerged in the 30th: Georgetown Vally, a former Legislator, and, possibly Alva Long, Auburn Attorney. No Democrats have surfaced to challenge Republican control in the 41st or incumbent Democratic control in the 47th to date, she says.

The eagerness of a great many persons to file for

needy into the presidential race is the developing consensus among Democrats here who want the U.S. out of Vietnam . . . and quick. The amazing McCarthy strength was unpredicted by county leaders even a month ago, and Kennedy's candidacy, with his identical position on the war issue, will do nothing to diminish the strength of growing opposition to the war policies of President Johnson.

Others, including Publisher John Fournier writing in the nation's capital, report that Kennedy's declaration can only encourage Republican hopes for capturing the presidency next fall. Agreeing is Republican Chairman Kenneth Rogstad who declared Friday the Kennedy candidacy has done nothing but increase Nixon's chance of winning. "Any time Democrats tear themselves up only helps Republicans. In this case, the entrance of this petulant youth into the Democratic Party sweepstakes will further rupture the already split fabric of Democratic unity."

What Kennedy's announcement means in terms of the state's 45-member delegation that will head for the Democratic National Convention in August is not so easy to assess. Organization Democrats (including State Chairman Robert R. Kull) are still predicting LBJ will control a majority of the party's delegates. So far, most of McCarthy's strength in Washington State is centered in the urban counties, but if the momentum his supporters exhibited in local precinct caucuses continues through the convention process, this could be enough to control the delegation both on the east and west side of the mountains.

As for Kennedy stampeding the county convention in June, don't be too sure! At least in this state and perhaps in the county, he may be too

(Continued on Page 5)

freeholder — an unsalaried post with lots of work attached — could be explained, Ed Munro, Second District commissioner, wryly observed last week, as their interest in greater, political horizons. Makes sense since legislative seats are a traditional first step in political careers.

#### UPDATING THE COMMISSIONERS' RACE....

With Dave Mooney's fund-raising dinner due next weekend, the former Kent Mayor's campaign to wrest the Democratic nomination from Munro is off and running. So far, Mooney seems to be the only opposition to appear on either ticket. Rogstad is talking to possible challengers, but to date no Republican, apparently aware of Munro's mashingly successful double-shifted dinner last month in Seattle, seems too eager to make the race.

In the Central District, Rogstad still is optimistic. John O'Brien, board chairman, will run again, but insiders to think the affable Commissioners has his eye on other things — among them, a possible connection with big-league sports. That is, after the new stadium is officially in the works and the big leagues have exercised their options. O'Brien is well liked among his Courthouse colleagues and would be a cinch to hold his seat if he decides he wants it after all.

Whether O'Brien is in the race or not, Democrats are eyeing possible candidates for their sides of the ticket, including, Charles (Streetcar) Carroll, a city councilman, who polled a staggering victory in Seattle's municipal elections; M. J. R. (Mel) Williams, county treasurer, who has established a reputation for deft handling of his county job; and James Dore, Seattle district judge. Dore has been mentioned as a Demo possibility for other spots in the past...whether he would make a try this time would probably depend on the opposition and available financing. Look for a possible surprise entry in the person of an aide on the Seattle municipal scene. It's under wraps now...but Seattle's Mayor Dorm Braman's decision on another term (chances are it's yes) will be a factor.

#### BRIEFLY NOTED.....

Robert Kull, Demo State Chairman, back tomorrow after spending last week in Washington, D.C., conferring with officials of the Democratic National Committee. For the record, this is first time in history the party picked up expenses for such a meeting of all the nation's state chairmen... John J. O'Connell Attorney General ended a long spell of no-speech fund-raising dinners ten days ago with a remarkably toned-down attack on the present administration. Some who've heard him in his more fiery moments hoped he'd open up...but the rapidly climbing John chose to play it cool.... Meanwhile, Gov Dan Evans, same place (Olympic Hotel Grand Ballroom) one week later, toolled up the campaign to an overflow crowd of Republicans. Among the out-of-state VIPs honoring Evans: Colorado's Gov. John Love. Republican County Chairman Rogstad's joint suit with three other county chairmen to revise the structure of the Republican State Central Committee gets an assist from across the aisle: He's retained the firm of Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, & Tausend. Tausend, incidentally, is one of the sparkplugs in the O'Connell campaign and a fast-rising young Democratic attorney.... Still hush-hush, insiders report the team of site consultants now at work to determine where the new stadium should be put favor not a location in downtown Seattle, nor the Valley, but, in all places, Factoria! Seattle minded members of the stadium commission might find themselves winding up refusing to take the recommendations of their expensive experts!

# County Road Consolidation Report Ignored by Commissioners

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"Consolidate the road districts" is the key recommendation in a recent consultant's report to King County Commissioners on the County's Road Engineering Department, but the recommendation has to-date been ignored by the Commissioners.

Nearly three months ago the report, by John A. Donaho & Associates, Inc., urged a number of changes be incorporated in the operation of the Engineering Department with consolidation of the north and south road districts being the one most important improvement. The report said, "At the present time the two road districts operate independently of each other and semi-independently of the County Engineer and his staff. This organizational arrangement flies in the face of sound management principles and deprives the county government of developing a first class department to perform vital services for the community."

## Department of Public Works

The report went on to say that many discrepancies in administration are the result of having two separate road districts. "The major recommendation of this report is that the existing organizational concept of the County Engineer and staff and two road districts be replaced by a Department of Public Works."

The consultants said the Department of Public Works should include two staff sections; one for personnel, training, safety and public relations and the other to include account, budgeting, data processing and office staff. The department

should also include five line divisions dealing with maintenance and sanitary operations, engineering services, contracts and standards, and traffic services and building inspection.

## Other Consolidations

Other major recommendations by the consultants were the absorption of the present independent Sanitary Operations Department into the new Department of Public Works and also the establishment of a Department of Public Safety to handle all county licenses and inspection functions and also to provide a comprehensive public safety program.

(Continued on Page 19)

# County Road Consolidation Needed

(Continued from Page 17)

for county residents. It was also recommended the present flood control operation be abolished as a separate division with these functions being carried by other sections.

Donaho noted that nine years ago, in March 1959, his firm submitted to the Board of County Commissioners a report entitled, 'An Administrative and Organizational Study of the Road Engineering Department.' The consultant noted that very few of the recommendations carried in that report were implemented.

## New Developments

The present report states that two important factors have developed since the 1959 report:

1. The accelerated urbanization in the western section of King County has resulted in increased demands for county services. The report said, "results have been less than satisfactory, sometimes producing unwarranted annexations of incorporated areas and/or the creation of special districts — sewer, water, drainage, and so forth." In light of this the report recommends the restructuring of the present Engineering Department to carry the responsibility for all of the county's public work functions.

2. The second consideration concerns the Freeholder's Commission and their drafting of a charter for King County. If this charter is approved by voters it will undoubtedly affect most county departments and functions. Donaho said the recommendations in the report were designed to complement and not conflict with matters to be considered by the Freeholders.

## County Fiscal Failures

The Donaho report noted that studies conducted by their firm in 1959 and '60 dwelt at some length on the deficiencies in county budget and accounting practices. The current report noted that few of the recommendations nine years ago were incorporated. The report said in part, "The failures of the county to develop an adequate government-wide budget system and a supporting accounting system stand out as prime deficiencies in the administration of King County government." The report said that some of the problems are compounded by the failure of the county to have a county-wide data processing plan and also "The situation is made further complex by the independent status of the county auditor who is the official bookkeeper of the county. The consultants further concluded that even with the unwieldy structure of government that King County presently has it is possible to develop effective budget and accounting systems.

## County Competes With Business

which were clearly of a construction nature." This report recommended the county stick to a policy of public administration that "government perform services with its own forces only when it can be clearly demonstrated that those received through the avenue of private enterprise are inadequate or too costly." The report said there were indications that county crews are presently engaged in more construction work than they were when this study was made in 1959. The report said, "One superintendent estimated that about 80% of all work classified as construction in his district is completed by force account (county personnel)."

The report pointed out another inadequacy in road district operations by showing that one district administered maintenance activities on a day-by-day basis. The foreman in this district generally scheduled their crews' work only one day in advance and an attempt by the County Engineer's staff to develop a program of scheduling work activities one week in advance met with complete resistance in this district.

## Equipment Mismanagement

The Donaho study of King County road districts further went on to state that substantial economies might be realized in the purchasing and utilization of equipment. The report said, "It was previously pointed out that no controls have been exercised in the purchase of new or replaced equipment." And the report also noted that with the present "policy of county forces performing most of the road construction work has resulted in the necessity of the purchase of expensive equipment and many of these machines are used on a seasonal basis."

The study showed that each of the road districts develops its own fleet of equipment and the same pattern of independent operations was also clearly evident at each of the district's equipment maintenance shops. "Again, there is little or no exchange of personnel, tools, materials or experience of equipment practices."

Continuing in its recommendations on road district operations the study admonished the department's car-pool operation, "With very few exceptions the cars are assigned to persons rather than a department or county-operated pool. While many of these assignments appear to be justified there are significant number of cases where it is difficult to understand why an employee is permitted unlimited use of a county vehicle.

## Consolidation A Must

Donaho said that many of the failures noted in the study were a direct result of the present system of two road districts. The district

first class department to perform vital services for the community. Consolidation of the two road districts is the only answer, the report said. Donaho went on to state that two road districts should be replaced by a Department of Public Works that would include the administration of a personnel merit policy for selecting and retaining department employees.

## Commissioners Fail To Act

County Engineer Jean DeSpain said, "I'm ready and anxious to meet with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the entire study." DeSpain said, "I'm very much in favor of a single district."

The survey by John Donaho & Associates, Inc. of the King County Road Engineering Department was submitted to the King County Commissioners on January 8, 1968. The Commissioners had taken no action on the survey by the time this issue of the "NEWS" had gone to press — almost three months later.

2177

MAR 25 1938

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Efficiency

The most sensitive subject under study by the 15 freeholders elected to draft a home rule charter for King County government is that of appointive versus elective offices.

Throughout the country, the accepted trend in governmental reform is toward fewer elected officials and more appointive officers responsible to a single administrator who, in turn, must answer to a single elected legislative body. The sound theory is that a governmental unit's comprehensive planning and policy making are most efficient when lines of authority are direct and sharply drawn.

The problems posed by a raft of independent elected officials within the same governmental unit are exemplified by King County's existing system. In addition to the three elected county commissioners, who have a hodgepodge of administrative and legislative functions, there are seven other independently elected partisan officials, each autonomous and each with his own policy making power and method of administration. This makes coordinated county programs difficult to achieve and is expensive.

**FREEHOLDER** recommendations to reduce the number of county elective offices, however, are likely to meet resistance because partisan political strongholds at the courthouse would be abolished in the process. Some elective offices must be made appointive, though, if county government is to be strengthened and modernized.

Certain to receive considerable attention from the freeholders are recommendations offered by the Seattle-King County Municipal League, which has submitted a comprehensive report following a year-long study.

The League proposes a charter provision for a single executive or administrator, to coordinate all county programs and services, under a single legislative body. The presently elected positions of assessor, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, auditor and clerk would be made appointive.

**IN THE CASE** of the auditor, it has been argued that he should remain independent of the other branches of government in order to insure objectivity in his perusal of county business operations. The role of watchdog over expenditures, however, is amply filled by the State Auditor's Division of Municipal Corporations which checks the books of the county auditors. Further, the Department of Elections is under the auditor's wing. Without casting aspersions on the conduct of the office by incumbent Auditor Botby Morris, it seems poor practice to have elections supervised by partisan office holders.

As for the other five offices, we agree with the Municipal League that there are no compelling reasons for retaining them as elective positions either.

It may well be that the freeholders will have to compromise in this touchy area of eliminating elective offices, in order to win a majority of voter support for a new charter. Any such compromises, however, should not be so broad they obviate the goal of a modernized and efficient county government.

MAR 31 1938

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## 9-District County Favored

King County's freeholders yesterday tentatively agreed the new county government should have nine full-time commissioners, elected by district on a partisan basis, with salaries of at least \$18,000.

The consensus of the freeholders, who met at the County Courthouse, was that the county commissioners' terms should be four years and staggered.

It was the first expression of the board's views on the county charter that the freeholders will start drafting about May 1. They hope to submit the charter to voters in the November elections.

In future hearings, the freeholders will decide whether the county executive, or administrator, as well as department heads, should be elected or appointed.

Seattle, Wash.  
Post-Intelligencer  
(Cir. 198,812 Sat. Mor. 184,332  
Sun. 239,092)

MAR 27 1938

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## Freeholders Hear of Oregon

Oregon's Multnomah County has made as much progress in 14 months under its home rule charter as it previously did in five years. King County's Freeholders were told last night.

M. James Gleason, Portland, chairman and elected administrator of the five-member Multnomah County Commission, said:

"We have one voice, one policy."

Gleason advised electing the county administrator and about five or seven commissioners to handle legislative functions.

HE SAID all his department heads except the auditor are appointed and this system works well.

The Oregon official also recommended a flexible charter to allow setting of policies as the new board proceeds with its duties.

Edwin G. Michaelian, elected executive of Westchester county, just north of New York City, seconded Gleason's suggestions.

Both men said the county administrator should not be brought in from outside — that he must know and understand the area.

**MICHAELIAN** said his county adopted a charter in 1934 but that due to traditional makeup, the governing body has 45 members. He said he would favor a commission of about 11 members for King County.

"You're in the same throes as we were in 1934, except the population explosion has hit you," Michaelian explained.

Six of Snohomish County's Freeholders sat in at the meeting, in the Olympic Hotel.

37A

# County, Not City, May Be Tomorrow's Government; National County Head

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

Those who think county government is an archaic holdover from the horse and buggy age are dead wrong.

This was the categorical statement last week of Bernard Hillenbrand, executive director of the National Association of Counties which wound up a three-day western regional meeting in Seattle.

And to make his point, Hillenbrand advanced some facts and figures to prove that if there was to be one government at the local level, recent trends indicate it could well be county, rather than a city government.

Item: County government is growing nationally at a rate of 6 per cent yearly-compared to a 5 per cent yearly national growth rate for cities.

Item: County budgets have been going up about 12 per cent yearly, with last year's monies spent by counties totaling \$11 billion.

Item: Counties are one of the biggest businesses in the country, employing 1,100,000 persons in 1967.

Hillenbrand is in a position to know. He's presided

over the explosive growth of the 16,000 member NACO since 1957. But before that, he was on the other side of the fence as the assistant director of the National League of Cities.

"The national trend is toward a much wider use of the county to provide area services on an area basis, such as mass transit, public health, public housing, airport facilities, air and water pollution control and the like," Hillenbrand pointed out.

"In fact, the county is becoming the city of tomorrow.

"The evolving and merely important role of counties is not without its problems," he warned. The restriction placed on local government by state constitutions and legislative action must be eliminated . . . notably the inability to levy differential tax rates.

He said counties, particularly King County, must find some satisfactory way to consolidate the myriad number of special taxing districts which remove local control from the voters and give it to absentee bond holders for an indefinite period of time.

Hillenbrand also was critical of most counties' lack of some kind of executive, which he regards as the focal point for administrative direction.

"Washington State has done pretty well in this regard, by limiting the number of county commissioners to three, but most county governments also have some kind of elected or appointed administration," he said.

Highly aware of the King County Board of Freeholders, now writing a new county charter, Hillenbrand said he was pleased at the logical, systematic way the group is proceeding about its business, "I'm impressed with their methodology," he observed.

He noted that nationwide that nearly a dozen new charters have been enacted in populous counties that involve major governmental change for millions of people.

Some of these changes, he observed, include provisions for an appointed county executive, but most new charters in the nation's large counties provide for an elected executive.

Hillenbrand said in most of the new charters the size of the legislative bodies depends on local tradition. One county in New York, he said, had 38 commissioners, which has now been reduced to 24.

Although NACO has no official position on what position county government should take, Hillenbrand strongly urged the county's freeholders to provide for full-time, well-paid county legislators.

"For the good of our democratic tradition, it is necessary that a cross section of the electorate be in a position to run for, and win, these positions. There must be an adequate pay scale to permit the average salaried person to do this. Otherwise, county government will be turned over to those who can afford the job," the youthful, forceful executive declared.

Hillenbrand was strong in his praise for the growing, co-operative role now emerging in many cities and counties, including King County.

"I don't know if this increasing co-operation will ever produce a governmental merger at the local level, or even if it is needed," was his comment.

"Significantly, for those who like to place the cities and counties in a hostile, competitive relationship, we are finding that many local problems can be solved without interfering with existing local levels of government.

Which to Seattle's Mayor Dorm Braman, cast in an increasing role of mutual planning and problem solving

APR 3 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Elected County Executive Debated

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Whether a county administrator should be elected or appointed was debated at a public hearing last night.

It was the second hearing called by the King County Board of Freeholders in its efforts to draft a county charter. The hearing was in the Bellevue Public Library. A hearing on a county personnel system will be held April 18 in the Kent City Hall.

Kenneth Rogstad, county Republican chairman, called for an appointed administrator. Patrick McGillis, representing the Democratic Central Committee, urged that the administrator be elected.

**OTHERS ENDORSING** an appointed county executive were Mrs. Harold Mozer of the League of Women Voters; R. J. R. J. R. Kerterson, Bellevue Area Self Improvement Council; Joe Miller, Bellevue city manager; Jim Vaux, former Kirkland mayor, and J. I. Windley, chairman of the 33rd District Republican Club.

Supporting an elected executive were Jim Haase of the Federal Way Community Council, Inc.; Mrs. Winifred Heiser, East Lake Sammamish Property Owners; Vi Gould, real-estate developer and opponent of rapid transit, and Frank Macmillan, civil engineer and Municipal League member.

The Municipal League did not take a position.

**EVERYONE** Agreed that the executive should be separated from the legislative branch. The granting of veto power was endorsed by most of those who wanted the executive elected.

Rogstad contended that election of an administrator would dilute the power of the Board of King County Commissioners, which he said should be directly responsible to the people.

Miller contended: "It is a little more sure to hire a good man than to elect one." He said the appointed manager would have no allegiances or debts resulting from a political campaign; would not have a divided interest between government and his business; would be nonpolitical, and would stand between the department heads and the legislative branch.

**SAID** An administrator elected county-wide would provide a check and balance against commissioners representing districts.

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Partisan Politics Urged

Republican and Democratic Party leaders agreed last night. They both urged the King County Freeholders to retain partisan politics in the election of officials.

Kenneth Rogstad, county GOP chairman, said the new county legislative body should have nine members elected on a party basis from nine different legislative districts in the county.

**HE CAUTIONED** that a county executive should have his term of office and duties restrained by the fundamental power of the legislators.

Rogstad said that many of the traditional functions of Congress have been eroded by executive invasion of these grounds.

On the other hand, Patrick McGillis, representing the King County Democratic Central Committee, while agreeing with the partisan choice of nine legislators, said the executives should have some "veto power" with a four-year term of office and a salary between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year.

Although many of the

presently elected county officials essentially perform ministerial duties and could be appointed, he urged that the auditor, sheriff and assessor should continue to be elected directly by the people.

He also suggested that a four-year residence in the county be required for the candidates for the executive post.

**THE FREEHOLDERS**, who held the meeting in Bellevue to give their study of a proposed charter a broader geographic exposure, interrupted both speakers with numerous questions.

Another speaker, James Haase, a Pacific Northwest Bell management employee representing the Federal

Way Community Council said the executive should have the authority to hire department heads but only with the confirmation of the county legislators.

He said his group felt that the legislators should number between 13 and 15 members.

The only supporter of the non-elected county management type of administration was Joe Miller, city manager of Bellevue.

Seattle, Wash.

Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 5 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

### Correction:

Mrs. Winifred Heiser of the East Lake Sammamish Property Owners Association supported the concept of an appointed county administrator when she spoke Tuesday at a public hearing of the King County Board of Freeholders.

It was reported erroneously in the Times yesterday that Mrs. Heiser supported an elected administrator.



Seattle, Wash.  
White Center News  
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

APR 3 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## COUNTY MUNICIPAL LEAGUE REPORTS TO FREEHOLDERS

2177

By Terri Todd

In a report to elected freeholders, the Municipal League of King County has prepared an information and recommendation starting point in the preparation of a Home Rule Charter for King County.

The result of a year-long effort, the report contains a study of the existing county government structure, as well as possible alternatives with their advantages and disadvantages. The 50 league member volunteers were divided into subcommittees: Finance, County Commissioners, Independent County Offices and Comparative County Government.

As a preface to their six general recommendations, the committees cited various problems which they feel warrant a new charter. County Commissioners, for example, have both legislative and administrative powers and duties. There are seven other independently elected officials with administrative duties and five independently appointed administrators. Each acts independently and each establishes his own methods of administration.

The resultant situation is that an overall goal or set of

objectives is hard to establish and harder to administer.

Following are general improvements suggested in the report:

1. Separate administrative and legislative functions.

2. Increase the number of legislators.

3. Create a strong, overall administrator.

4. Create modern procedures for fiscal planning and management.

5. Provide better methods for individual citizens to present ideas and complaints, as well as identify with and feel a part of their government.

6. Provide for long-range planning and goals.

As to specific suggestions, the report began by recommending that a provision be made for a single executive or administrator. Presently, there is no central authority responsible for the entire county government operations.

The 10 elected administrators receive their basic direction

and guidance from the State Constitution and laws.

According to the league report, the administrative requirements imposed on the Commissioners, along with the independent authority of the other elected officials, have "virtually prevented the commissioners from looking at the total operations of the county and establishing policy and direction for it."

The report recommended that the position of an administrator be established, separate from the legislative body and with the authority to coordinate and be responsible for the total county government operation.

Two forms of basic structure that provide for a single administrator were considered by the league. These were the council-manager system and the elected chief executive. In the case of the council-manager system (county manager plan) the body is elected and has power to appoint an administrative manager. It also approves the budget and other plans submitted by the manager.

In the second type of basic structure, the elected chief executive mode, the citizens

elect the executive separately and at large. This system is used in Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York and Wisconsin.

In their evaluation of the independently elected offices, the league suggested that the office of coroner, sheriff and Superior Court clerk be appointive rather than elective.

With reference to the offices of county commissioners, the league recommended that the number of commissioners be increased and their administrative functions be transferred to the office of the administrator, the single head executive heretofore mentioned.

The league further advised that commissioners be elected at large rather than by districts so that "The most interested and capable individuals may be elected regardless of where they live in the county."

In the issue of partisanship, the league suggested that either the elections be non-partisan or allow candidates to choose between party identification or non-partisanship.

In reference to personnel system policies, the league suggested that a single county personnel system be developed

which will achieve the following:

1. Place the personnel office under the direction of a county administrator.

2. Rely on merit in all hiring, promotions, salary increases and assignments.

3. Provide for the training and periodic evaluation of individual employees.

4. Consider complaints of individual employees.

5. Provide an employee retirement program.

Commenting on the independently elected fiscal officers, the league recommended that the assessor, the auditor and the treasurer be made appointive offices and appointments made by the legislative body.

The Home Rule Charter, the league suggested, should be simple, short and provide for the greatest possible administrative and legislative flexibility.

Seattle, Wash.

Times

(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 2 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Redistricting Provision

2177  
YESTERDAY'S Supreme Court decision extending the "one man, one vote" principle into counties and municipalities should be of guidance to freeholders writing a King County charter.

The freeholders now are discussing whether their proposed slate of nine commissioners should run for offices by district or at large. Commissioners now represent districts but run for office at large.

In light of the Supreme Court decision, the freeholders should write into the charter adequate provision for redistricting at frequent intervals to correct inequalities in shifting population totals.

That must be done because experience shows that elected officials, once in office, are extremely reluctant to adopt any redistricting process that might reduce or eliminate their political or economic power.

# FREEHOLDER MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

case, he should not be a voting member of the tentative 11-man board of commissioners. However, if the chief executive is elected, then he should have veto powers, the Muni League believes.

The Municipal League thought such an office should have a minimum salary of \$25,000, and that the executive should be allowed to appoint and remove heads of all county departments.

Mrs. Harold Mozer spoke for the King County League of Women Voters. This group wanted policy-making jobs elective, and thought the chief executive job should be appointive by the commissioner or legislative body, have no vote and no veto powers.

Partisan politics came into the meeting with the oratory of Kenneth Rogstad, chairman of the Republican Central Committee.

He said his organization agreed with the Freeholders on election of a larger number of commissioners, and that these elected officials should each represent a restricted constituency and not be elected "at large" by the county as a whole. He felt that this would give closer control of county government to the voter. His group wanted the executive position filled by appointment by the elected commissioners.

Following Rogstad's rather lengthy talk, Simon Wampold, Bellevue, vice chairman of the Freeholder board, had this to say:

"As a Democrat, I find myself in the unfortunate position of agreeing with much of what you had to say. I am also agreeably surprised that you do not have horns, after seeing some of your press releases."

Patrick McGillis then spoke for the Democratic Central Committee, and said that this organization hoped that county government would continue to be partisan, to reflect the majority feeling of the people. He recommended that the chief executive be elected for a four-year term, with a \$20-\$25,000 salary for the office, that he be required to live in the county at least four years before running for the job. He should not be allowed to hire and fire all department heads (auditor, and assessor offices at least should be elective) but he should have some veto power.

L. Joe Miller, Bellevue city manager, said he came to the

meeting to "share my prejudice with you." In his opinion the ultimate thing to do was to appoint the executive, searching out an experienced, educated county manager.

Freeholder Wampold said that the board had been told that a shortage of qualified county managers existed, and that among other objections to this appointive position were the opinions of Multnomah County (Oregon) officials that such an outsider would have no knowledge of local problems and no prestige to offer when seeking Federal helps.

Miller denied that any of these points were true, and urged that the board not make the executive head of county government an administrative assistant to the chairman of the board of commissioners. He was also against small districts or constituencies for elected commissioners, feeling that they should be elected by the county at large.

Mrs. Winifred Heiser of the East Lake Sammamish Property Owners asked for 9 to 12 commissioners, elected by districts and not at large. Her group wanted the county auditor, clerk, assessor, prosecutor and even the county engineer elective offices, and even felt that METRO should be "answerable to the people" and under county commissioner control.

R. E. Kesterson, speaking for the Bellevue Area Self Improvement Council (BASIC) said that this group's survey showed that Bellevue people favored the manager-commissioner form of government, but that the October questionnaire included no questions which would indicate whether the executive should be elected or appointed.

Ken Windley of the 33rd District Republicans, said his group wanted the executive appointed . . . and that he should have specialized training and education. However, he would have no vote, no veto powers, his tenure of office and his salary would be at the discretion of the commissioners, as would his hiring and firing of department heads be subject to commissioner approval.

It was Vick Gould, final speaker and the only individual who was speaking for himself, who urged the Freeholder board to "give us some kind of safety valve" with regard to the ex-

Seattle, Wash.  
Argus  
(Cir. W. 7,210)

APR 5 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888  
Freeholders Move

Dear Sir: 2/77

It may be of interest to Argus readers to know that the Everett Freeholders have used up 4/6ths of their span of life and accomplished 9/10ths of the job they were created for.

Everett voters have a new county charter to vote on, about twice weekly for the past 13 weeks, the Freeholders have

This is a most compatible and well balanced group of responsible citizens. Its pattern of behavior and accomplishment could serve as an excellent example for your King County Freeholders who have been fighting one another since they started.

ROBERT M. HUMPHREY

Dear Sir: 2/77

The letter from Robert M. Humphrey (Argus, April 5) praises the Everett city freeholders and states that the King County Freeholders have been "fighting one another since they started." Mr. Humphrey is not only unaware of what the King County Freeholders have been doing, but he does not appreciate the value of the deliberative process.

Far from fighting one another, the Freeholders have cooperated with each other, with their staff and with

cutive head of the county government.

The Seattle real estate broker, speaking with a soft southern drawl, added a certain amount of levity to the meeting. He said that county government is a business, should be run by a hard, cold business head, and he urged that a vote of no confidence or a recall clause be written into the charter so that "if the rascal doesn't perform we can get rid of him."

The next Freeholder community forum will be held in Kent later this month.

county officials. Meeting twice weekly for the past 13 weeks, the Freeholders have attended faithfully and listened attentively as local officials, national experts and interested citizens described the organization and functioning of the present county government and proposed alternatives. Only after thus becoming better informed have the Freeholders begun to deliberate on the major issues to be dealt with in a county home-rule charter.

Mr. Humphrey states that the Everett freeholders are "a most compatible and well-balanced group of responsible citizens," suggesting that the King County group has none of these attributes.

Meaningful deliberation by responsible people requires, indeed depends upon, a thorough airing of all points of view. What better way to bring "Home Rule" to King County?

RICHARD R. ALBRECHT,  
Chairman, Board of King  
County Freeholders

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

APR 12 1968

(Cir. W. 7,210)  
Argus  
Seattle, Wash.

# Freeholders Slate Public Session in Kent April 18

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The King County freeholders now engaged in drafting a new county charter will take their work to the Valley April 18 when they hold a public forum in Kent City Hall to discuss a new personnel system for the county. The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The southeastern county meeting will be the third in a series of public hearings called to give local organizations and residents a chance to present their views to freeholders on what they believe should be incorporated into the new charter. The previous two meetings, including the one held last night in Bellevue, were concerned with the county's proposed legislative body.

In a consensus among the freeholders on the details of how this body should operate, all four of the Valley's representatives on the board were in unanimous agreement, Paul Meyers, executive secretary of the board, said Monday. These are Terry McKenna and James Curran, both of Kent, and Howard Bothell and Lyle Schneider, both of Auburn. Schneider made his position on the legislative body known by letter, Meyers said.

They favor a full-time Board of County Commissioners composed of nine members serving staggered four-year terms, the preliminary vote indicated.

Meyers noted that all favored the election of the newly constituted Board of King County Commissioners on a geographical and population basis that would follow the present commissioner-district division. Their decision was qualified, he said, in connection with the decision they must also make concerning whether the new county executive (which all favor) should be elective or appointed.

"If he were to be elected, then freeholders would probably prefer the election of commissioners by district; if the executive were to be appointed, then the

as elective officers . . . or even system; whether the county machinery for initiative, referendum, and recall should be abolished (as might be the case needs a county executive, and, if endum, and recall should be of the coroner); whether the so, whether he should be elected retained, modified, or eliminated; whether the county should have a personnel or appointed; and whether the ed.

Kirkland, Wash.  
East Side Journal  
(Cir. W. 3,188)  
APR 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders slate 2 more public forums<sup>2/77</sup>

The Board of King County Freeholders, who are drafting a charter for modernization of county government, will hold a third and fourth in a series of public forums at 7:30 p.m. April 18 in the Kent City Hall and April 24 at Shoreline High School.

The third will focus on a personnel system. The fourth will be devoted to new county departments and whether heads of these should be elected or appointed.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

APR 11 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Will Conduct Public Forums

The board of King County Freeholders will conduct the third and fourth in a series of public forums on April 18th at 7:30 P.M. in the Kent City Hall and on April 24th at 7:30 P.M. in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre". The April 18th forum will focus on the subject of a personnel system under the county charter, and the April 24th forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of departments should be elected or appointed. 2/77

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County Freeholders.

The forums have provided valuable assistance to the freeholders in assessing what the community would like to see in a new county government.

# Freeholders Get San Diego View

The recently-retired chief administrative officer of San Diego County, Calif., thinks the job should be done differently.

Thurlo w M. Heggland, who was county manager in the Southern California county for more than 17 years and retired just a week ago, spoke yesterday to the King County Board of Freeholders.

The freeholders are drafting a home rule charter.

SAN DIEGO County, he told them, is run by a five-man board of supervisors, which appoints a chief administrative officer.

The CAO carries out board policy. One of his myriad duties is to review and make recommendations on all departmental budgets.

The board of supervisors is both legislative and administrative.

"I would prefer that the supervisors do the legislative work and let the chief administrative officer do

the administrative work," Heggland said.

SOME OF THE freeholders suggested that giving the CAO so much power would almost create one-man rule in many areas of county government. Heggland admitted that many policy decisions were made by the supervisors on his recommendation.

"I don't think it would give one man too much power," Heggland said. "I told the board when I first took the job that any time three of the five disagreed with me on policy I'd step out of the job."

Heggland said that a charter review committee will recommend soon that five of seven county elective jobs be made appointive, only the sheriff and district attorney, of the seven posts, to remain elective.

HEGGLAND personally would go one step further and have the Sheriff appointed.

Seattle, Wash.

Times

(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 7 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Needs Manager Freeholders Are Told

2177

By JERRY BERGSMAN  
Thurlo w Martin Heggland, chief administrative officer of San Diego County 19 years until his retirement a week ago, yesterday supported appointment of a King County manager.

Heggland spoke to the Board of King County Freeholders, which is drafting a home-rule charter.

"People ought to want someone who is a qualified administrator and not someone who can win a popularity contest," he said.

HEGGLAND said he could work under an elected executive "but I honestly don't know if I could feel I had the same capacity and the same scope of office as when I left the office"

He said he would prefer to work for a board of county commissioners.

In San Diego County, with about the same population as King County, the administrator is appointed by a five-member board of supervisors. The board members are elected by district in nonpartisan elections and have both administrative and legislative functions. Seven other department heads are elected.

Freeholders plan to separate legislative and administrative functions and Heggland agreed this is preferable.

THE AUTHORITY of the administrator, he said, grows with the length of time he is in office. "Over a period of time, the administrator finds there is a real authority that accrues to the office whether it is spelled out in an ordinance or not," Heggland said.

Because many items are referred by the board to the administrator for analysis and recommendation, his office becomes involved in policy, he said.

The San Diego administrator reviews and makes recommendations on all budgets and must approve all new positions requested by elected and appointed officials.

The question of whether the official is appointed or elected makes little difference in the administrator's dealings with them, Heggland said.

Heggland supported the appointment of all officials except the sheriff and district attorney in San Diego County. He endorsed use of recruitment and promotion procedures or Civil Service but said top levels of departments should not be protected by it.

APR 11 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Affairs

# Mayor-Council Type Government Urged

By JERRY BERGSMAN  
A strong "mayor-Council" form of government on the

county level was proposed last night by Henry Seidel, a former county official who now is an aide to Congressman Brock Adams.

Seidel told the County Board of Freeholders, that the executive, or "mayor," should be elected because he will be the most powerful single influence on county government. Appointment of an administrator, Seidel said, would mean the administrative and legislative functions would not be separated.

SEIDEL ALSO said it is vital that the executive be allowed to appoint a legal counsel for himself and appointed department heads. The prosecutor's office now provides legal guidance.

Asserting that local government now is a hodge podge of overlapping subgovernments, Seidel said:

"If we can now disentangle ourselves from the suffocating governmental overlapping jurisdiction, there may be a chance that we can shape our environment so that we can live in a complex industrial society in peace and harmony with our environment."

Seidel was budget director for former commissioner Scott Wallace for six years before joining Adams' staff. Seidel contended there is

no practical way to establish one government for King County and he expressed the fear that abolishment of the various governmental units in a merger would form a structure too large for efficient management.

BUT, HE SAID, the engineer should have the responsibility of moving toward elimination of junior taxing districts providing municipal services such as water and sewerage.

He said counties should be granted powers to provide the municipal services or contract with other governmental units to manage the systems.

He called for election of a county executive and of a full-time, partisan, seven-member Board of Commissioners. Commissioners, he said, should be nominated by district and elected at large.

HE SAID the auditor, the prosecutor and a public defender in the prosecutor's office should be elected and all other county officials appointed by the executive. The auditor would have auditing functions only.

Seidel said the clerical work of the courts should be under the supervision of the executive so judges could spend all their time on judicial work.

He called for establishment of a joint county-city

jail, performance budgets instead of a line-item budget, a central personnel office that would put merit first in hiring and close cooperation and coordination of county government with Metro, the Port of Seattle and the Puget Sound Governmental Conference. He said Boeing Field should remain under county jurisdiction.

Ralph Stender, clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, supported the concept of an elected auditor as a check against the board. He outlined his duties, stressing that he is a deputy auditor although he serves as secretary of the board.

The freeholders are drafting a county charter for submission to voters in November.

Seattle, Wash.  
West Seattle Herald  
(Cir. W. 24,000)

APR 11 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Set Public Forums

The Board of King County Freeholders will conduct the third and fourth in a series of public forums April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kent City Hall and April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre."

The April 18 forum will focus on the subject of a personnel system under the county charter, and the April 24 forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of department should be elected or appointed

Seattle, Wash.  
Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 11 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Ask \$11,500 For Contingency Budget

The County Board of Freeholders today asked county commissioners to approve an \$11,500 budget for small expenses.

Richard R. Albrecht, chairman, said the freeholders have obtained testimony from leaders in county government at little expense, but that the board should be able to reimburse them for

travel and out-of-pocket expenses without delay.

He said the \$11,500 would pay for office supplies, telephones, postage, advisory services, extra help, fares and mileage.

The major expenses of the freeholders are for contractual services, including those of the board's executive secretary and attorney.

APR 9 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Floor Added To Planned New County Building

The Board of King County Commissioners has agreed to add another floor to the proposed administrative building at a cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000.

On the basis of Earlier plans, showing five full floors and three part floors, the cost would have been \$4.95 million. The plan change is based on proposals by the County Board of Freeholders to increase the number of county commissioners from three to nine.

Bids on the building are expected about June 1. Tenants in the block bounded by Fourth and Fifth Avenues and Jefferson and James Streets, site of the building, will be given notice to move by May 19 so that demolition can begin.

## County Annex Going Up

County Commissioners decided yesterday to add one more story to the projected administrative annex across 4th Avenue from the courthouse.

The additional floor, increasing the structure to nine stories, will add from \$300,000 to \$400,000 to the previously estimated \$1.95 million cost.

COMMISSIONERS said the decision was based on the possible enactment of a county charter and possible enlargement of the Board of Commissioners from three members to nine.

Demolition of the Holland Hotel and other buildings on the block will begin June 1.

Bids for construction of the new building will be called in July.

Construction will begin around Aug. 1.

Seattle, Wash.  
Times

(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## County Outgrows Building That Isn't

IN an exercise of bureaucratic foresight, the Board of King County Commissioners has authorized expansion of the proposed Courthouse annex to provide additional office space which the board expects will be needed if the county government is reorganized by adoption of a home-rule charter.

*The annex had been planned as an eight-floor structure. But with the freeholders favoring enlarging the Board of Commissioners from its present three-member size to nine, the annex is deemed (by the present board) to be too small.*

Hence the extra floor now authorized, in which the proposed nine-member board of commissioners might be housed in suitable fashion to match the penthouse quarters of Seattle's mayor in the not-long-ago completed Municipal Building.

The action by the commissioners proves anew a theory of political reali-

ties enunciated in Parkinson's laws—that the growth of government rises by a numerical factor greater than its responsibilities for governing.

Specifically, the commissioners must be convinced that the modernized government contemplated by the freeholders will be bigger county government. Otherwise, the older Courthouse and its annex—which supposedly was to accommodate future growth—would have filled the bill for the Utopian home-rule system now being devised. In short, the proposed annex is outgrown before it is built.

*This should surprise no one because no one ever heard of a modernized unit of government that didn't end up larger than the form it replaced.*

And, of course, the commissioners are assuring that in any future shortages of office space they or their successors will have ample space staked out for their convenience and comfort.

APR 10 1966

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Kent Freeholder Forum Will Study Personnel

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Our County News Bureau

The King County freeholders now engaged in drafting a new county charter will take their work to the Valley April 18 when they hold a public forum in Kent City Hall to discuss a new personnel system for the county. The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The southeastern county meeting will be the third in a series of public hearings called to give local organizations and residents a chance to present their views to freeholders on what they believe should be incorporated into the new charter. The previous two meetings, including the one held recently in Bellevue, were concerned with the county's proposed legislative body.

In a consensus among the

freeholders on the details of how this body should operate, all four of the Valley's representatives on the board were in unanimous agreement, Paul Meyers, executive secretary of the board, said last week. These are Terry McKenna and James Curran, both of Kent, and Howard Bothell and Lyle Schneider, both of Auburn. Schneider made his position on the legislative body known by letter, Meyers said.

They favor a full-time Board of County Commissioners composed of nine members serving staggered four-year terms, the preliminary vote indicated.

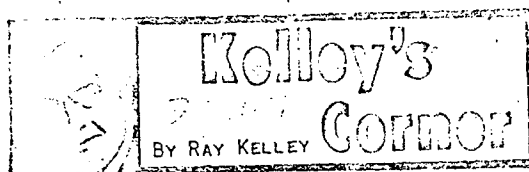
Meyers noted that all favored the election of the newly constituted Board of King County Commissioners on a geographical and population basis that would follow the present com-

missioner-district division. Their decision was qualified, he said, in connection with the decision they must also make concerning whether the new county executive (which all favor) should be elective or appointed.

"If he were to be elected, then freeholders would probably prefer the election of commissioners by district; if the executive were to be appointed, it was the feeling they would want to make some commissioners — or legislators — at large," Meyers said.

Apparently the entire group of freeholders, including the Valley representatives, is reluctant to embark upon any charter provisions that would require redistricting, although the charter probably will include machinery to set up a redistricting commission. Until then, it was likely that each present commissioner district would have three commissioners nominated and elected by district, the secretary reported.

Still ahead of the group are decisions on whether the county's other elected officials should be appointed or continue as elective officers . . . or even abolished (as might be the case of the coroner); whether the county should have a personnel system; whether the county needs a county executive, and, if so, whether he should be elected or appointed; and whether the machinery for initiative, referendum, and recall should be retained, modified, or eliminated.



At the risk of raising the hackles of trailer owners, it is gratifying to find a School Official willing to officially object to proposed mobile home developments.

I refer to a recent letter from Fife School Superintendent W. Carl Stegman to the Fife and Milton Town Councils in which he said:

"The board wishes to enter its strong objection to the opening of the area to mobile home developments because of the lack of property revenues available . . . both for school building purposes and school maintenance and operation requirements.

The board's feeling, Dr. Stegman said, is that such developments should be banned until appropriate mobile home tax revenues are provided the schools by the legislature.

The letter was prompted by plans for a \$1.8 million complex, Fife Gardens, to be located on 34 acres adjacent to the east side of the Fife Schools complex.

The school official contended that the developer should be required to designate a certain portion of his land for school use, either through a dedication or by selling it at no higher than the original cost.

The controversy over mobile homes in the Federal Way District on this same basis found no official support from our School Board despite the fact that it would have been of the utmost concern to them . . . as it is to the Fife Board.

\*\*\*

The Current Freeholder study of a new County Government structure for the voters next November appears to perhaps have created an undesirable reaction from the now governing body.

My point is that the County Commissioners have so far ignored a three month old consultants report recommending the consolidation of the two road districts as well as other consolidations in the framework of the present County government. Would it not seem that the Commissioners are awaiting the freeholder recommendations before they take action on this . . . and other problems . . . such as the dog leash law.

Yet, as pointed out in the Municipal News, the consultants report states that since 1959 two important factors

have been noted.

1. The accelerated urbanization in the western section of King County has resulted in increased demands for county services. The report said, "results have been less than satisfactory, sometimes producing unwarranted annexations of incorporated areas and/or the creation of special districts - sewer, water, drainage, and so forth." In light of this the report recommends the restructuring of the present Engineering Department to carry the responsibility for all the county's public work functions.

2. The second consideration concerns the Freeholder's Commission and their drafting of a charter. If this charter is approved by the voters it will undoubtedly affect most county departments and functions. The recommendations by the consulting firm were designed to compliment and not conflict with matters to be considered by the Freeholders.

This brings me back to recommendations made in this column in the past, not only consolidation at the top, but also consolidation of our present taxing districts, sewer, water, etc., with a good start made by the recent consolidations of the Federal Way and Lakeland Fire Districts and the pending merger of the Sylvia Pines and Des Moines Sewer District.

Our tremendous growth today and in the future demands that this be done to avoid duplication, which in turn brings unnecessary costs to the home - owner.

Locally, the other avenue will be incorporation, which, would I hope, accelerate these consolidations.

## 2 Aides Favor Elected Auditor

Two officials long familiar with county government agreed at a freeholder's meeting last night that the county auditor remain an independently elected official, not an appointee of county government heads.

Ralph J. Stender, veteran clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, responded in answer to a question that the auditor should remain an elected officer, free to examine the budget and all other fiscal functions.

Henry Seidel, who was budget director for the county for six years before becoming administrative assistant to Rep. Brock Adams in 1964, told the freeholders that "the auditor should remain an elected official for the reason that there must be an independent check of the accounting and business practices of the elected officials."

STENDER, himself a deputy auditor serving the commissioners as their clerk, was asked why commissioners shouldn't be allowed to appoint their clerk themselves. He answered that the clerk "must be free to tell them they're about to do something they can't do."

Stender added that he has been called an obstructionist for doing that at times during his 22 years serving the board. As to whether the commissioners' legal adviser should be an appointive or elective official, Stender responded he should be an independent official as he now is in the person of the prosecutor even though of the opposite political party.

Some commissioners might have tried to influence their adviser had he been their appointee, Stender pointed out. Seidel's recommendations differed from Stender's in that Seidel would have an elected county mayor given power to appoint the county's civil legal adviser.

He would also have the power to appoint the sheriff, treasurer and assessor although Seidel agreed the auditor should remain elected. He also recommended "a merit system for county employees, with hiring first on the basis of merit and second on the basis of politics."

He recommended the commissioners be their own planning commissioners with appeals being taken from their decisions to the courts.

The freeholders are receiving views of officials and citizens before drafting a charter for submission to the voters proposing a revamping of county government.



APR 14 1968

Renton, Wash. .  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

APR 14 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## But Why Nine On County Board?

The King County Board of Freeholders is beginning to get down to the nitty-gritty of decision-making in preparation for the drafting of a new charter to offer the voters in November.

One of the first "big" decisions came recently when the freeholders took a tentative position that the policy-making board of county commissioners should be enlarged from the present three members to nine members, each elected to a staggered four-year term by voters in the district he will represent.

While the proposal would continue commissionerships as a partisan office, it would offer a direct break with the present election system in which the three commissioners are nominated by voters in the district they represent but elected by all voters in the county.

Although no firm decision on this has yet been reached, it was considered likely that whatever type of a chief executive is provided for the county, such an executive would be elected at-large.

The question is bound to arise. Why should King County need nine full-time commissioners? That's six more than at present, in addition to the consideration being given for election of a chief executive. And that's a total of seven officials.

It's easy enough to understand the need for a board of commissioners larger than the present three. The burdens of the position have escalated. And a two-man majority — generally political — is not always the most desirable way of settling some of the weighty problems with which the commissioners must cope.

But why nine? Wouldn't five do? Or even seven?

Whatever the number, there apparently still remains the decision on how to set up the districts geographically.

One part of the apportionment problem — regardless of how many districts ultimately are involved — was put in focus Mon-

day by the United States Supreme Court.

The court in an historic 5-to-3 decision put local government under its one-man, one-vote rule as it derives from the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

As a practical matter, the ruling is interpreted to mean that each district of a whole which elects persons to public office must be nearly equal in population to all other elective districts of the whole. Thus, it would require that the commissioner districts of King County — whether there be three, five, seven or nine — be roughly equivalent to each other in population and, hence, voters. In this manner, the vote of a man in one district carries about the same "weight" as that of a voter in any other district. And that, in the view of the court, makes all men equal . . . one man, one vote.

Reapportionment, obviously, will be some time in coming about. There is, however, something the Board of Freeholders is now doing to continue to keep their deliberations at the grass-roots level.

The board has now scheduled one of its public sessions for the Valley, this to be in Kent City Hall on April 18.

The forum will be the freeholders' third public session, and basically will be keyed to discuss the possibility of establishing a new personnel system for the county in the new charter. Previous hearings were held in the Courthouse and in Bellevue.

The Kent hearing will give all residents of the Valley an opportunity to meet with the freeholders and give the officials the benefit of their grass-roots thinking concerning what should or should not be in the new county charter. The South County area is well and ably represented on the board, but undoubtedly there are many in the area who would welcome the opportunity to voice their opinions on charter revision . . . and to do it close to home.

Thanks, freeholders, for making it possible.

APR 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders To Meet In Kent Thursday

A public forum to discuss a new personnel system for King County will be held by freeholders at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Kent city hall.

The Kent meeting will be the third in a series of public hearings called to give local organizations and residents a chance to present their views to freeholders on the new charter provisions.

Previous meetings dealt with the county's proposed legislative

body, probably to be a full-time board of nine commissioners serving on staggered four-year terms and elected on a geographical and population district.

Burien, Wash.  
Highline Times  
(Cir. W. 9,200 Paid 1,700 Free)

APR 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Set Two More Public Forums

The Board of King County Freeholders will conduct the third and fourth in a series of public forums on April 18, 7:30 p.m., in the Kent City Hall and on April 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre."

The April 18 forum will focus on the subject of a personnel system under the county charter, and the April 24 forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of departments should be elected or appointed.

The first forum was held on March 16, concerning the legislative body; and the second forum was on April 2, and was devoted to the subject of the chief executive.

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County Free-

holders. 2177  
The first forum concerned the legislative body, and the second forum was devoted to the subject of the chief executive.

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County freeholders.

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders meet for final talks

The board of King County freeholders will conduct the third and fourth in a series of public forums Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kent City Hall and Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre." The April 18 forum will focus on the subject of a personnel system under the county charter, and the April 24 forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of departments should be elected or appointed.

The first forum concerned the legislative body, and the second forum was devoted to the subject of the chief executive.

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County freeholders.

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Request \$11,500 For Expenses

An \$11,500 budget for small expenses was requested by the County Board of Freeholders on April 11.

Richard R. Albrecht, chairman, explained that the freeholders have obtained testimony from leaders in county government at little expense, but that the board should be able to reimburse them for travel and other expenses without delay.

He pointed out that the \$11,500 budget would pay for fares and mileage, extra help, advisory services, postage, telephones, and office supplies.

At this time, the major expenses for the board are for contractual services, including those of the board's executive secretary and attorney.

Seattle, Wash.  
Northgate-North Seattle Journal  
(Cir. W. 25,240)

APR 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

The Board of King County Freeholders will conduct the fourth in its series of public forums at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Kent City Hall and at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday, April 24, in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre".

The April 18 forum will focus on the subject of a personnel system under the county charter; the April 24 forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of departments should be elected or appointed.

The first forum, March 16 concerned the legislative body; the second forum on April 2 was devoted to the subject of the chief executive.

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County Freeholders.

The forums have provided valuable assistance to the freeholders in assessing what the community would like to see in a

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Previous meetings dealt with the county's proposed legislative body, probably to be a full-time board of nine commissioners serving on staggered four-year terms and elected on a geographical and population district.

new county government. Approximately 60 persons attended the last forum April 2, and the freeholders anticipate greater public involvement as they begin their deliberations on the various areas of the charter.

All of the freeholders' deliberation sessions are open to the public.

APR 17 1968

*Allen's* P. C. B. Est. 1888

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Edmonds, Wash.  
Tribune-Review  
(Cir. W. 4,575)

*Allen's* P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Tax Reform PTA Topic

A panel of experts on Constitutional Revision and Tax Reform will be featured on the program of the PTA District 18 annual spring conference planned April 22 at Woodway High School, 23200 100th West, Edmonds.

Members of the panel will be Rep. Slade Gorton, member of the legislature from the 46th District and house majority leader; Senator Martin J. Durkan, ways and means chairman; and Mrs. Edmond H. Brand, first vice president of the League of Women Voters of Washington. Mrs. Douglas North, King County freeholder, will be moderator.

The speakers will tell what citizens can do to help bring about tax reform.

The evening will begin with registration and refreshments at 6:30 and the program and election of officers will be at 7:30.

Des Moines Journal  
Des Moines, Wash.  
Apr. 17, 1968

APR 17 1968

*Allen's* P. C. B. Est. 1888

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# Freeholders To Face Problem Of Personnel Tomorrow Night

By Our County News Bureau

One of the crucial decisions facing freeholders in their job of drafting a new county charter will be the subject of a public hearing slated for Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in Kent City Hall. That is the question of whether King County should adopt a personnel system to regulate the employment and conduct of the county's large work force.

Paul Meyer, executive officer of the Board of Freeholders, said the board would welcome the participation of individuals and spokesmen for community groups who wish to go on record on the subject. The hearing is the third in a series of four scheduled at key parts of the county to sample local opinion on how the new charter should be written, he said.

Meanwhile, freeholders continued their schooling in county government last week as they heard Henry Seidel, former budget director for ex-County Commissioner Scott Wallace and now aide to Seventh District Congressman Brock Adams, make suggestions for new directions in county government.

Among those proposals were that King County should be granted municipal permission to operate water systems, sewage systems, fire systems, and police departments; that King County should be granted authority to enter into contracts with other municipalities to manage their municipal systems, and that the functions of the planning department and the planning commission be assumed by the County Commissioners.

"The planning commission should be the county council," Seidel declared. "Since the county council is a legislative body, this function in reality is a legislative function. The council should also be a full-time body, as no other function of government will assume the importance to the people of the county in its environmental aspects than this function."

A strong supporter of Metro,

Seidel viewed its success in solving the problem of sewage disposal such that it may also hold the key to other problems as rapid transit.

Although the freeholders have not formally started the actual writing of the charter, a series of votes, the first on the composition and function of the Board of County Commissioners, have indicated a growing consensus

among the body. At the present time, it was learned, a vote on the functions of a county manager or mayor will be taken at an executive session this week.

Major split, and it appears to be an even one, is not whether the county should or should not have a manager, but whether the position should be elective or appointive.

Seattle, Wash.  
Northgate-North Seattle  
Journal  
(Cir. W. 25,240)

APR 17 1958

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## At Shoreline Next Week

# Public Forums Set On Charter

The Board of King County Freeholders will conduct the fourth in its series of public forums at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Kent City Hall and at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday, April 24, in the Shoreline High School "Little Theatre".

The April 18 forum will focus on the subject of a personal system under the county charter; the April 24 forum will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and the consideration of whether such heads of departments should be elected or appointed.

The first forum, March 16 concerned the legislative body; the second forum on April 2 was devoted to the subject of the chief executive.

Actual drafting on the charter will begin following the public forums and the deliberations by the King County Freeholders.

The forums have provided valuable assistance to the freeholders in assessing what the community would like to see in a new county government.

Approximately 60 persons attended the last forum April 2, and

the freeholders anticipate greater public involvement as they begin their deliberations on the various areas of the charter.

All of the freeholders' deliberation sessions are open to the public.

APR 17 1968

*Allan;* P. C. B. Est. 1888

**P, C, B.**

Est. 1888

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Seattle, Wash.  
U. District Herald  
(Cir. W. 25,105)

APR 17 1968

*Allen &* P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders

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Kent, Wash.  
News-Journal  
(Cir. W. 8,681 Paid 4,519 Free)

APR 21 1969

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

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The southeastern county public forum was third in a series of hearings called to give local organizations and residents a chance to present their views to freeholders on what they believe should be incorporated into a new county charter the free holders are drafting.

Except for Dave Mooney, former Kent councilman, all the speakers giving suggestions were from either Seattle or North King County.

Up for public hearing was the need for a personnel system. All of the groups represented agreed that there should be a system based on personal merit, that the top administrator of the system and the secretary be elected and that the system allow for hiring and firing of personnel by the executive, with a separate and private appeal board.

### Flexibility Urged

The personnel director should in turn be responsible to this executive, it was suggested, but the system must be flexible enough to allow for change when the executive is changed. Therefore, there would not be a complete personnel changeover every time a new executive came into office.

Most agreed that some restrictions should be placed in the charter about recruitment. Suggestions include residency and voter status but such restrictions should not be so selective as to ignore qualified persons.

Representatives of the 33rd District Republican Club said something should be in the charter stating that 10 per cent of the county employees should be Negroes or of a minority group.

Another speaker felt the county should not give special preferences to certain persons such as veterans. Some positions would go unfilled in preference to

acceptance of a poorly qualified veteran-wait extra points for military service.

### Mooney Offers Views

Mooney, who was not a scheduled speaker, said the county must be run as a business.

"To change politics and employees at the same time is not the most efficient way to run a business," he said.

Mooney said he didn't think three county commissioners could do the job as effectively as five men, but that as many as nine members serving staggered, four-year terms would not be necessary.

Other speakers suggested enlarging departments of the county and having a group of laymen over the various departments. This group would give the public a source of appeal other than the courts, when a particular department said "no" to a request.

The freeholders will offer their next public forum at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Shoreline High School. This hearing will be devoted to the subject of new county departments and whether heads of such departments should be elected or appointed.

APR 19 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Civil-Service-Type System For County Government OK'd

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A civil service-type system to bring qualified career employees to county government was endorsed last night at a public hearing held by the Board of Freeholders.

The hearing was in the Kent City Hall. Creation of a personnel system will be discussed by the freeholders April 27.

No one opposed the concept of a system to make qualified county employees secure in their jobs. Walter Barclay, who retired recently from the County Clerk's Office, blamed the lack of security for failure of the county to attract young people to government employment.

SEVERAL speakers said labor was opposed to civil service. But Art Kent, vice president of the Renton Division of the King County Labor Council, said, "all of labor is not against civil service."

State Representative Joseph L. McGavick, who participated in a study of personnel systems in the Legislative Council, proposed a civil service-type system. He said rules of the commission should be ratified by the county commissioners and said appeals' hearings by the commission should not be public.

Mrs. Billie Nichols, retired executive secretary of the Superior Courts and author of an initiative for county civil service, said the Civil Service Commission should

## The Seattle Times

- Sports
- Business
- Garden

FOURTH SECTION

Friday, April 19, 1968

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have control over drafting of rules. Mrs. Patricia J. Van Almkerk, president of the County Employees Association, also supported a personnel plan.

Pat Dillenburg, representing the 33rd District Republican Club, said, a merit system should contain a non-discrimination clause and provide that at least 10 per cent of those hired would be from minority groups.

OTHERS ENDORSED a non-discrimination clause but opposed a quota system for minority persons.

Helen Lea, a former biology teacher, urged that veterans not be given preference.

The League of Women Voters and the Kent Chamber of Commerce endorsed a merit system.

Other subjects brought these remarks:

Chet Wheeler, chairman of

the County Planning Commission, suggested lay commissions be used on a broader basis in county government so the public has "some place to go to get some relief." He said commissions should be created over the Engineering and Health Departments.

The Kent Chamber and Wheeler endorsed election of a county assessor. Wheeler also favored election of the sheriff. An appointed administrator drew the support of Wheeler, the chamber and Dave Mooney, former Kent mayor.

Contending that "the great need is the return of county government to the people," Mooney said geographic as well as population factors should be considered in drawing districts for county commissioners.

# Freeholders in Favor Of Elected Executive

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Creation of a strong mayor-council form of government at the county level was the position taken yesterday by the King County Board of Freeholders.

But the decision was a shaky one that could be overturned in favor of an appointed manager.

**THE FREEHOLDERS** voted 8 to 6 for the elected executive. A change of one vote could reverse the outcome.

A number of freeholders indicated they planned to push for that reversal.

Lyle Schneider, the only freeholder not present, had indicated earlier that he leans toward an appointed administrator. And Jack Geoffroy, who voted yesterday for an elected executive, said he would favor an appointed administrator if county commissioners are elected county-wide instead of by districts.

On March 30, the freeholders had voted strongly in favor of election of commissioners by district. But several indicated they would switch their vote on that position rather than lose in the method of selecting the administrator.

Simon Wampold gave notice he will ask later that the board reconsider county-wide election of commissioners in the hope a reversal will put Geoffroy on the side of an appointed administrator.

All positions taken so far are tentative, although one-sided votes have indicated a change will be difficult. The final decision will come when freeholders vote on written Charter provisions. So far, none have been put on paper.

**BECAUSE OF THE** serious split on the question of an executive, however, Richard Albrecht, chairman, indicated he will give everyone an opportunity to vote again on the positions taken so far.

By 11 to 2, the freeholders made it clear they want to

spell out, in the Charter, professional qualifications for an appointed manager under an elected executive.

The split that opened yesterday was the first in the freeholder deliberations since the early weeks of organization this year.

A number of attempts to delay taking a vote on the questions failed.

Wampold, Terry McKenna, Don McDonald, James Curran, Robert Eberle and Howard Bothell voted against an elected executive. But McDonald and Bothell are holding out for another alternative: Selection of a chairman of the board by and from among the elected commissioners.

This, they maintain, would keep the balance of power between the executive and commissioners equal.

Curran, McKenna and Wampold were the leaders in the effort to have an appointed administrator.

**CURRAN SAID** the elected executive would diffuse the responsibility between two sections of county government, the administrator and legislative body. He said neither would emerge as a strong leader.

Wampold contended the appointed administrator would be freed from "day to day petty politics and political chores" and provide the county with a professionally trained person to provide businesslike management.

An elected executive gives county government a political parity with city government, Robert Block argued. He called this important in providing lines of communication between the two.

Supporting an elected executive, Lois North contended the voters want control over those in office so responsibility is fixed. She said an elected executive will have a stake in the community, and election of one official in a county-wide campaign will provide a dialog on area-wide issues.

Albrecht said there is a need for people to identify with those responsible in government. He contended

the stage was set for an elected executive when the freeholders decided commissioners should be full-time and elected by district on a partisan basis.

Paul Friedlander argued that people have a right to vote for those who govern them.

**THE FREEHOLDERS** voted to give an elected executive the veto power, which can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the commissioners; that there should be no residency requirement beyond being a registered voter for the executive, and that the executive would run on a partisan basis for a four-year term and would have the power to appoint department heads.

Freeholders plan to determine what department heads will be appointed later. They also indicated they will decide if some department-head appointments should be confirmed by the commissioners.



APR 21 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

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Kent, Wash.  
News-Journal

(Cir. W. 8,681 Paid 4,519 Free)

APR 21 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Will Hear Consultant

By Our County News Bureau

The president of the Baltimore firm which has made several studies of King County government has been invited to speak to the Board of King County Freeholders May 4, Paul Meyers, executive secretary of the group, said Friday.

He is John A. Donaho, whose report on the reorganization of county government was released last month after several months under wraps.

The report, critical of various road district operations, had recommended the unification of the county's north and south road districts in addition to major restructuring of other departments in county government.

Among its principal proposals had been a Department of Public Works, embracing the county's present engineering department and including several other related functions, among these the county's sanitation operation.

The freeholders are scheduled to take a "consensus vote" on desirable administrative divisions within King County they will write into the new county charter May 11.

## Election Favored By Freeholders

In a back and forth, two-hour deliberation yesterday the Freeholders of King County voted in favor of chief executive of the county elected by the people rather than appointed.

"It must be stressed," said Chairman Richard Albrecht, "that all of today's decisions were tentative to the extreme."

THE PURPOSE of the courthouse meeting was to allow the freeholders to express their individual views to the others. The tentative vote favored an "elected" official 8 to 6 with one member absent.

The minority of freeholders favored the proposal that the executive, who may be loosely compared to a city mayor, be appointed by the elected legislators.

SIMON WAMPOLD, who favored appointment, said:

"The administrator should not be subjected to day by day politics and shouldn't be tied down to ceremonial functions," as would an elected official. "He should be appointed to manage the office in a business-like way. There's too much chance of the voters electing a 'political hack' who we would be stuck with for four years."

Those who favored election stressed the importance of the people's responsibility in deciding the leader. Said Paul Friedlander:

"The responsibility must be the people's. It's their right to elect their own administration."

Seattle, Wash.  
Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 23 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Schedule 2177 Public Hearing

The County Board of Freeholders will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow on selection of county department heads. The hearing will be in the Shoreline High School Little Theater.

The Freeholders, who are drafting a county charter, plan to determine their position on department heads May 11.

Several persons and groups already have expressed opinions. Some have called for election of all department heads and others have called for appointment of all.

Seattle, Wash.  
Times  
(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122  
Sun. 270,529)

APR 24 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Notes on the News 2177

● Although the King County Board of Freeholders is divided sharply on the question of whether it should recommend an appointive or elective county manager, the board generally is proceeding in its charter deliberations with a minimum of disagreement. At the time of the freeholders' election last year, there was conjecture that many members were so far apart on certain issues that the board might produce both a majority and minority charter report, for the voters' consideration . . .

● Seattle-area boosters of a future balanced transportation system, as opposed to unlimited expansion of the highway network, found encouragement in the Johnson administration's new legislative program submitted to Congress this week. Although more billions are being asked for expansion of the interstate-highway system, Transportation Secretary Alan S. Boyd also is recommending expansion of existing highways as an alternative to building new ones. And for the first time, Congress is being asked to help finance "fringe area" parking spaces on the outskirts of cities—if they are tied in with mass-transit systems . . .

● Washington State groups studying the growing juvenile-crime problem may watch with some interest a development in Arizona, where a law-enforcement committee has recommended lowering the age at which juveniles may be prosecuted as adults from 18 to 16 . . .

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

APR 21 1968

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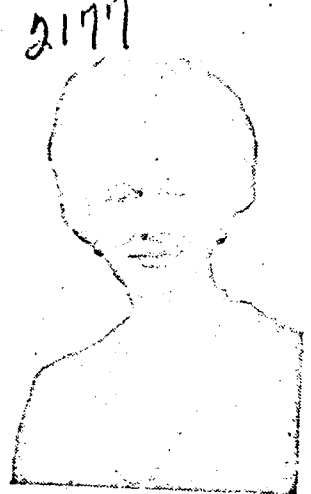
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Seattle, Wash.  
Ballard Tribune

APR 22 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## SEEKS SEAT IN 44th DISTRICT



LOIS NORTH, one of fifteen King County Freeholders elected last November, today announced her candidacy as a Republican for a 44th District seat in the State House of Representatives.

Mrs. North, wife of Douglass C. North, Professor at the University of Washington, has been a resident of the 44th District for ten years. The family lives at 10023 Vinton Court N.W. Three sons attend Crown Hill, Marcus Whitman and Ingraham High Schools.

Active in the League of Women Voters for fifteen years, Mrs. North was Legislative Chairman for the State League in 1961 and chairmanned the State League's committee for Initiative No. 211 in 1962 to redistrict and reapportion the State Legislature. She has served as president of the Seattle League of Women Voters from 1963 to 1966, and in 1967 was appointed by Governor Dan Evans to the Boundary Review Board of King County.

Mrs. North is a member of the 44th District Republican Club, Associated Republican Women of King County, Municipal League of Seattle-King County, Blue Ridge Community Club, P.T.A., and the University Congregational Church. A graduate of the University of California, she is also a life member of the U.C. Alumni Association.

As a former teacher of Social Studies in junior and senior high schools, Mrs. North states that her entry into State politics is an outgrowth of her interest in the activities of State government that affect local problems.

## Ombudsman Recommended

2177  
The Municipal League's report on Home Rule Charters was recently presented to the Freeholders (News March 13) and incorporated a provision for an Ombudsman. The report said, "King County government should communicate with its citizens. A department to handle inquiry and complaints should be created separate from a public information department."

The report went on to say that an Ombudsman is an individual professionally qualified, readily accessible, politically independent, completely detached from government and authorized to inquire into administrative shortcomings. "In nine countries this external critic has been very successful, principally as a means of establishing communication and understanding between an individual citizen and his government," the report said.

In the March issue of the National Civic Review Dr. Randy H. Hamilton, executive director of the Institute for Local Self-government in Berkeley, Calif., said, "Under today's urban conditions much of our population cannot obtain redress for many of its grievances (real or imagined). The complaint window in some City Halls is not well suited to handling today's complaints." Dr. Hamilton went on to say that today there is often a call for a third party critic to see that a complainant receives a hearing for his grievance and, if justified, a proper remedy. "The most popularly current model of the third party for this purpose, is the Ombudsman."

Hamilton went on to say that an Ombudsman is not a creator or critic of public policy but is an overseer of administrative decision-making.

Dr. Hamilton said, "One of the broadest categories of need are in the area of complaint against discretionary decisions wherein the citizen disagrees with the manner in which an official has exercised his discretion. He has no formal means of challenging it, or, at least, no inexpensive means."

(Continued on Page 28)

## An Ombudsman

It's a maxim that individual citizens can't fight city hall. Most citizens can't even find anyone at city hall to hear their complaints.

To remedy this sorry state of civic affairs, establishment of the position of ombudsman by units of local government is being advocated by growing numbers of students of government.

The ombudsman, a Scandinavian term, is a fellow of high repute on the public payroll who listens to and investigates the complaints of private citizens.

When an ombudsman finds that a complaint against a governmental agency has validity, he proposes a specific remedy to correct individual injustices or he recommends a change in the agency's procedures.

In European countries, where ombudsmen have been operating for many years, the ombudsman usually succeeds in effecting recommended changes because he has the weight of the public will behind him.

THE SEATTLE-KING County Municipal League has recommended to King County's board of freeholders that the board make provision for a county ombudsman when it drafts a proposed county charter. We think this is an excellent suggestion and we urge the City of Seattle also to consider establishment of an ombudsman, or his American equivalent.

Bellevue, Wash.  
Amer. Homemaker & Shopper  
(Circ. W. 20,029)

APR 25 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

EASTSIDERS EXPRESS VIEWS ON 9 COMMISSIONERS, EXECUTIVE:

## Freeholders Recommend Elected County Manager By 8-6 Vote

By JACK YEAROUT

The new King County "home rule" charter is slowly taking form under the watchful eyes of 15 elected Freeholders, who have spent countless hours meeting together to help shape its final draft for presentation to the voters of King County.

It is natural that questions should arise from among the voters as to "why" some of these early decisions have been made by the 15 member group.

The Bellevue American has selected from among the Freeholders the two representatives on the 15 member panel who reside on the East Side of Lake Washington to answer some questions pertinent to the charter. These two men are of opposite political beliefs, both successful in their own fields of endeavor. Simon Wampold, Bellevue attorney, is the only Freeholder from this district. Don McDonald of Bothell is a building contractor.

The questions posed to them were these:

Why nine full-time county commissioners? Is nine too large a number, and will this further political patronage? Would nine commissioners hinder or compound problems of a county administrator or manager, unless on a part-time basis, acting only as policy makers?

Will the charter be written so that it can be adapted later to a combined Seattle-King County government? What is home rule, and why do we want it?

Wampold explained the 9 full-time commissioner decision in this way:

"This is only a tentative decision, but one a majority of the Freeholders agreed upon. It is my opinion that (and the others were agreed on this) a part-time commissioner means part-time responsibility," the Bellevue attorney pointed out.

A commissioner who represents from 100,000 to 130,000 people should have a full time job meeting with this public and administering to their needs and concerns, was Wampold's way of putting it.

While he thought that three commissioners should be elected at large and six from their own districts, he agreed with his 15 counterparts that this new nine-member legislature for the county government would have its hands full with the responsibility of policy making for 1,000,000 people.

The Freeholders were unanimous in their opinion that



SIMON WAMPOLD  
Bellevue Freeholder

ible enough that it would be readily adaptable to such a "Pugetropolis" government, was the belief of the local Freeholder.

Wampold favors appointment of a qualified county administrator by the commissioners. This thorny question of whether this important office will be filled by appointment or election by the people was decided Saturday by the 15-member panel. It was the biggest and most controversial decision the Freeholders have had to make to this point.

In clearing up the "home rule" point, Wampold pointed out that state statutes have decided the form of county government, telling which officers shall be elected, etc.

Under the 21st amendment to the state constitution, passed a number of years ago by the legislature, counties were allowed to set up home rule by charter...but no county within the state has yet elected to do so.

Now, King County, for the second time, will attempt to form a charter, under the Freeholder system, to accomplish home rule. Snohomish County is considering the same step, but the Freeholders of that county are waiting to see what happens here.

Wampold brought up one interesting point in answering the questions about the county administrator. He revealed that the Freeholders had interviewed two outstanding men, one who runs San Diego County, California (about the same size as King County) and another who administers Westchester County, New York, a slightly larger county government.

"Both of these men are doing an outstanding job...Chief Administrative Officer Heggland of San Diego, an appointed official, and Ed Makallain, chief executive officer of West-

now running on a district basis, are elected "at large" by King County voters. This means that while they are designated as commissioners for given districts, they actually have a constituency of something like 1 million people. (This same area and constituency is cut up into three legislative districts)

As for the executive head of commission, it is McDonald's feeling that this man should be elected by and from among the commissioners themselves, designate him board chairman, president or whatever. He would be an equal among his peers, and it would be his duty to fill all administrative offices by appointment, with the approval of the remaining 8 commissioners. McDonald feels that such a role by a strong, elected leader, approved by his fellow commissioners, would eliminate rather than increase patronage.

Since the commissioner-selected chairman or president, in essence, by McDonald's thinking, would actually fulfill the position of a county executive, there would be no conflict of interest or duplication of duties. McDonald sees a chief deputy or executive assistant for the chief executive of county government, whose duties would be the "house-keeping" functions of county government, a sort of department head of general administration.

As director of this general administration department he would see to such things as courthouse construction, purchasing, motor pool, etc.

In McDonald's opinion, METRO and the Port of Seattle should become departments under the elected commissioners. Bonding capacity of these two now dependent districts would be retained by ex-officio membership of commissioners. Their administrative formation would remain the same.

The Bothell Freeholder is also of the opinion that the county assessor, auditor (with some additional functions) sheriff and coroner should remain elective offices...the coroner because of the legal aspects of his position, and of course the county prosecutor because of state statutes.

McDonald summed up his stand pretty well when he said "the people want to identify with their commissioner," and they



DON McDONALD  
Bothell Freeholder

readers concerning the new King County Charter... and especially would like to hear any recommendations from organized groups, political or otherwise, about how they think the charter should be written. Simon Wampold, Bellevue Freeholder, has agreed to answer all questions to the best of his ability, and will submit any ideas offered for the consideration of the Freeholder board.)

APR 25 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## B.A.S.I.C. Government Responses Studied

Results of the "government" section of the B.A.S.I.C. survey have been summarized by the government committee and were presented at the King County Freeholders meeting last month.

The committee is also studying the results in regard to annexation to the city of Bellevue to see if any patterns can be noted.

The responses show that the future structure of the city, county and metropolitan governments of the Bellevue area is not clear in the minds of residents of the area.

Half of the people feel a need to consolidate, but 23 percent see no need and 27 percent are undecided.

The direction of consolidation was not clear. With residents of incorporated areas about evenly divided between favoring the mayor-council form and the council-manager form of local government the undecided vote was enough to swing the vote either way.

County residents in the Bellevue area, the committee summary pointed out, show a greater preference for a manager-commission form of county government than a board of commissioners alone.

As to the type of metropolitan government preferred, the largest vote favored a single metropolitan government with direct representation from existing areas. But this was only 29 per cent of the total.

Sixty per cent of the area residents also said they are satisfied that their local government responds to most of their needs and desires.

However, 55 per cent admitted they were not really well informed about the powers,

responsibilities and limitations of their local government.

Bellevue area residents seem to be uncertain about the accessibility and willingness of their local government officials to communicate, the committee concluded. Although 38 per cent said yes the officials are accessible, an equal per cent were undecided.

Consequently the government committee suggested that the Freeholders may wish to consider some provision in the charter to encourage two-way communication between government and the citizens.

APR 24 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Civil Service- Approved For County

The King County Board of Freeholders recently endorsed a civil service-type system for bringing qualified career employees to county government.

The hearing was at Kent City Hall on April 18th. In their next meeting on April 27th, they will discuss the creation of a personnel system.

There was no opposition to the April 18th endorsement, which would help to make county employees more secure in their jobs.

The lack of present job security, complained Walter Barclay, who recently retired from the County Clerk's Office, is due to the failure of the county in attracting young people to government employment.

Several speakers blamed labor for opposing civil service, however, Art Kent, vice president of the Renton Division of the King County Labor Council, said, "All of labor is not against civil service."

State Representative Joseph L. McGavick, who participated in a recent study of personnel systems in the Legislative Council, proposed the civil service system. He said rules of the commission should be ratified by county commissioners and no appeals' hearings should be made public.

The Civil Service Commission should have control over drafting of rules, was a suggestion made by Mrs. Billie Nichols, retired executive secretary of the Superior Courts and author of an initiative for county civil service.

Other suggestions were that a merit system should contain an anti-discrimination clause and provide for at least 10 per cent of those being hired from minority groups. However, this 10 per cent quota later met with opposition.

It was also urged by Helen Lea that veterans not be given any preference.

The League of Women Voters and the Kent Chamber of Commerce also endorsed a merit system.

It was also suggested by Chet Wheeler, chairman of the County Planning Commission, the lay commissions be used on a wider basis in county government so the public would have "some place to go to get some relief."

The Kent Chamber of Commerce and Wheeler also endorsed the election of a county assessor, and Wheeler favored the election of the sheriff. An appointed administrator got support from Wheeler, the chamber, and David Mooney, former Kent mayor.

Mooney also contended that "the great need is the return of county government to the people," affirming that geographic as well as population factors should be considered in drawing districts for county commissioners.

APR 25 1933

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Remain Split on Status of Admini

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The split over whether a county administrator should be elected or appointed continued to plague the Board of Freeholders at a public hearing last night. 2177

Discussion at the hearing showed that the issue still is very much alive. Efforts will be made to reconsider the tentative position taken Saturday that the chief executive be elected. The vote then was 8 to 6.

Status of county department heads under a charter was the topic for the public hearing at Shoreline High School. But the question of the administrator kept coming up because of his relationship to department heads.

Speakers generally favored appointment of department heads now elected. In order not to jeopardize approval of a charter by voters, however, some felt the posts of assessor, auditor and sheriff probably should continue to be elective.

Lois North, a freeholder, contended voters can show disapproval of the executive only at the ballot box and that appointment of an executive blurs the separation of legislative and administrative functions.

Terry McKenna, another

freeholder, said appointment of an administrator is the only way to bring professional management to county government.

Robert J. Sill, president of the Community Council of Shoreline, said election of the auditor, assessor and sheriff should continue so that voters will not reject a charter. Ideally, he said, all should be appointed. He said the council feels the clerk and treasurer should be appointed and the coroner should be an appointed physician.

Sill said the council supported the concept of an appointed administrator, election of seven of nine commissioners on a partisan basis by districts and redistricting of commissioner districts by Superior Court judges.

"We feel the present system of electing some of the administrative department heads is a fundamental weakness of the existing form of county government," he said.

He said the position of not opposing election of the audi-

tor, assessor and sheriff was a "practical compromise on our part."

William Massey, assistant director of the Municipal League, repeated the league's position that presently elected department heads should be appointed.

Asked by Virginia Gunby, a freeholder, if he felt appointment of all department heads would jeopardize passage of a charter, Massey replied: "I think the climate for change is much better

now than it was in 1932 or 1962." In 1932, a proposed county charter was defeated by a large margin.

Art Brown, 16020 Densmore Ave. N., supported appointment of all department heads. He said the change might be easier to accept if the auditor was called the controller and the assessor was called the appraiser.

He contended all policy should be set by the legislative body rather than the department heads.

W. J. O'NEILL

APR 25 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

**Editorial:**

# Let's Appoint Our County Chief Executive

2/1/1

By JACK YEAROUT

Last Saturday 14 of the 15 elected Freeholders of King County, whose job it is to draft a new charter for home rule of this booming area, made a tentative decision on how the chief executive of this new governing body should be selected.

By an eight to six vote they said elect him in an at-large, bi-partisan election.

We say appoint him . . . and here's why.

The Freeholders have already agreed that up to nine county commissioners should be elected by the voters. While we are not entirely satisfied that all nine should be elected from nine different districts within the county, at least such a method of selection would be toward better representation at the grass roots level.

These nine, then, would be the policy makers for King County's new "home rule" government. To elect an executive head, county manager or whatever he might be called by the same voters would, in our opinion, be superfluous, and even further a reversion to more political patronage, exactly what this new charter is supposed to be steering us away from.

The decision is not a final one. It is our understanding that the one absent Freeholder expressed his thinking by letter to the group when he couldn't be at the Saturday meeting. He sided with the minority group, making the vote even closer at 8 to 7.

Oddly enough, the vote went against an appointive chief executive, even though public meetings and written recommendations from individuals and groups throughout the county have been heavily in favor of appointing a county manager.

As Simon Wampold, Bellevue's only representative on that Freeholder board puts it, "perhaps it's because the county manager system has never caught on like the city manager system."

It isn't too late to correct that assumption here in King County. Here are some factors to think about.

An elected chief executive has a potentially dangerous concentration of political power. By assumed mandate of the voters he would have control of appointments, services and millions of dollars of government funds. We needn't point out that this could encourage undesirable political consequences.

Then, too, elected officials are not always good administrators. Why not just hire a chief executive who has proven his ability to handle such a position in the first place?

Proponents of the elected chief executive will point out that because he is the voters' choice he will be more responsive to the public will. Is an elected executive likely to compromise on what he knows is best for the county in order to remain popular to get re-elected?

Leave the efficient management of this new government setup to a man who has had public administration training, and experience to prepare him for his position.

Here are some more arguments favoring the appointment of a county chief executive.

Delegating administrative responsibilities to a manager leaves the commissioners free to devote their time to policy and long range planning. The power of appointment to the manager lets him select assistants on merit and without regard to political connections. Any impropriety on the part of the manager can be readily checked by the commissioners.

Appointment of the chief executive does not seriously alter the basic democratic nature of county government. The elected commissioner board provides all necessary representation for the people . . . as a matter of fact, the appointive plan provides the combination of democracy plus efficiency.

And that's what this new charter is all about.

## Chamber Favors 9-Member Board For King County

Kent Chamber of Commerce submitted a 10-point recommendation last week for King County Freeholders to consider in drawing personnel regulations in the county charter.

The recommendations were made after research and study by the legislative affairs committee and adoption by the board of directors of the chamber.

The chamber went on record as favoring a nine-member, elected County Commission, to be limited to legislative functions and policy making.

The chamber also favors election by district of the County Commissioners for terms of four years, and proposes that the board appoint a county manager or administrator to carry out administrative duties designated by the commission.

Also recommended is a merit personnel system, to be administered by a department of personnel; and the only elective positions in the county to be the commissioners, county assessor and prosecuting attorney.

Denver Grigsby, chamber president, also urged that the county promote closer cooperation between local units of government, such as cities and Metro.



Seattle, Wash.

Times

(Cir. 226,374 Sat. 215,122

Sun. 270,529)

APR 22 1958

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Uncertain on County Personnel Setup

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of King County Freeholders yesterday indicated that a charter will contain a personnel system, but its substance remains a question mark.

The debate will center around whether a personnel system should be designed to assure county employees job security, or whether the emphasis will be on hiring high quality employees.

Actually, the freeholders want to assure both.

THE CONSENSUS points toward a separate personnel board that would carry out hiring and promotion policies. Whatever flexibility is given a chief executive remains in doubt.

A number of legal questions also will have to be settled. Not the least is whether a personnel system provided by charter will absorb the present civil-service program which includes sheriff's personnel.

Because of other commitments, a majority of the freeholders were absent. That assures at least one more session devoted to specific provisions of a personnel system.

There is disagreement over whether the charter

should be in great detail in connection with a personnel system. In other areas, the charter provisions would be skeletal to permit the greatest flexibility according to changing conditions. Several freeholders feel the personnel system should be spelled out the same way.

All decisions made at this point are tentative, pending the written charter provisions. But those made yesterday on the personnel system are not necessarily even a majority expression.

Eight of the 15 freeholders, a bare quorum, attended, but one had to leave before tentative votes were taken.

While it was generally agreed that a personnel system should exist to protect both the employee and public, there could be a debate over how much power the chief executive will be given to guide it.

FREEHOLDERS agreed a personnel system should include a separate personnel department and board, which should be appointed by a chief executive with confirmation by the county commissioners. Members of the board would serve four to six-year staggered terms, be paid on a per diem basis

and would number at least three.

Fairly certain to be included are provisions to ban discrimination based on race, religion, political activity or sex; to guarantee the right of the employee to appeal to the personnel board dismissal or disciplinary action, the right of the citizen to complain about employees, and a grandfather clause locking present employees into a job. The cutoff date for locking employees into a job is at issue.

Freeholders said establishment of a personnel policy would be in the hands of the board, but no vote was taken on who would recommend that policy. It was assumed by most that policy would be initiated by the chief executive or personnel director.

Five of seven freeholders felt the chief executive should appoint the personnel director. There was disagreement over which positions would be exempt from the personnel system, or if these should be spelled out in a charter.

Although freeholders agreed county employees should be allowed participation in political activity, the degree of participation re-

mained in doubt. Three were against any restriction; four wanted to limit employees so they could not participate in election of county officials. Present at the meeting were Richard Albrecht, chairman; Simon Wampold; Robert Block; Virginia Gunby; Lois North; James O'Connor; Norman Ackley, and Paul Friedlander. Friedlander had to leave before the vote.

MAY 1 1959

Hearing May 11

# Freeholders Considering 'Ombudsman'

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau  
An ombudsman for King County?

If some of the members of the Board of King County Freeholders have their say provisions for a special government official will be included in the charter now reaching drafting stage.

The matter has been officially set for consideration by the board May 11, but already the question of providing citizen redress has threatened through several discussions the freeholders have held about how King County's new government should be structured.

The concept of an ombuds-

man, relatively new to this country, originated in Sweden, where a national ombudsman is an important government official involved in many major challenges on behalf of citizen complaints.

Several ombudsmen exist in the United States, notably as an adjunct to the offices of some state attorney generals, but in no state does their authority rival that in Sweden.

Proposals for an ombudsman at the state level here in Washington were introduced into the last legislative session, but failed to survive the committee process. An ombudsman at the local level has been recommended by the Seattle-King County Municipal League, which made this comment in a report on home rule charters:

"King County government should communicate with its citizens. A department to handle complaints should be created, separate from other departments."

Just how freeholders will incorporate the concept into county government will be discussed next week, Paul Meyers, executive director of the freeholders group, said yesterday.

He said a mass discussion of the concept indicated there is already considerable board sentiment in favor of the concept, but that details of the powers of such an office would have to be worked out.

The municipal league has proposed that an ombudsman

be an individual professionally qualified, readily acceptable, politically independent, completely detached from government, and authorized to investigate administrative shortcomings.

Such an official, in the league eyes, would be not a creator or critic of policy, but a check on administrative decision making.

"One of the broad road categories of need is in the area of complaints against discretionary decisions, wherein the citizen disagrees with the manner

in which an official has exercised his discretion. The citizen has no formal means of challenging these decisions, or at least inexpensive means, the government watchdog-group believes.

In other places, the services of an ombudsman are performed at governmental expense, rather than at a cost to the person with a complaint.

That cost, and just how an ombudsman might be needed in King County, will be under discussion next week.

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19180)

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# Freeholders Hear Pros and Cons Looking for N

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Supporters of the medical-examiner system and those in favor of retaining a county coroner presented their positions to the County Board of Freeholders last night.

There was substantial agreement that both a pathologist and administrator are needed in a coroner's office. But the medical-examiner exponents contended the physician should have the primary responsibility, while Coroner Leo M. Sowers said the administrator and pathologist should divide the medical and administrative-legal areas equally.

SOWERS and Dr. Gale Wilson, chief pathologist, explained the coroner system. Dr. Lowell E. White, Jr., chairman of the King County Medical Society's legislative committee, and Dr. William J. Brady, pathologist-coroner of Multnomah County, endorsed the medical-examiner system.

Sowers pointed out that administrators are in charge of hospitals. Dr. Brady asserted the coroner makes medical decisions primarily and the administrator should be under him.

"The day of the lay elected coroner is past," Dr. Brady declared. "You have the opportunity to bring King County into the 20th Century."

Dr. Wilson, in his 33rd year as pathologist, contended that whether the title is medical examiner or coroner, the work, duties and ob-

ligations essentially are the same. He said a "medical examiner is submerged with paperwork and does few autopsies."

DR. WHITE said a majority of the 1,400 physicians in King County favor a medi-

cal-examiner. Sowers contended 300 doctors supported him in his election against a physician. Sowers said funeral directors and labor organizations also favor him.

There was a dispute over costs of the two systems. Dr.

Wilson said he reduced costs in his office and eliminated questionable practices. Dr. Wilson said he did 1,319 autopsies last year compared to 300 in Multnomah County.

William L. Kinzel, chief criminal deputy prosecutor,

and James E. Kennedy, chief civil deputy prosecutor, explained the functions of the prosecutor's office. Kennedy said the civil and criminal sections of the office have an overlap, particularly in the area of county police powers.

Kinzel and Kennedy noted that attorneys in each section assist in the other when they are needed. They said divorcing the civil from the criminal division would require increased staffs in both.

## A Case for Nonpartisanship

IN LEANING toward a perpetuation of partisan politics in the Courthouse, the King County freeholders are ignoring a major opportunity to achieve a genuine county-government reform.

During their deliberations to date, the freeholders have been talking in terms of a county charter that would provide for the election of officeholders running under political-party banners.

*Yet the arguments favoring non-partisan county government outweigh contrary contentions to such an extent that the charter-writers should give them the attention they deserve.*

Two dramatic illustrations of the advantages and drawbacks of nonpartisan-vs.-partisan local government are on view in two public buildings less than a city block apart.

In Seattle City Hall the nonpartisan municipal government operates efficiently and with a minimum of political influence. But in the Courthouse the ineptitudes of county government over the years clearly can be traced in part to the political-spoils system, which often has made county officials more responsive to their party organizations and supporters than to the public at large.

Since most local-government functions generally involve the making of administrative and policy decisions rather than the implementation of political philosophies, it is illogical to attach partisan labels to such offices as the sheriff, assessor and auditor.

*And there are particular values available in making the auditor's office non-partisan.*

Past experience elsewhere has shown that the party labels worn by auditors occasionally have colored the manner in which auditors have pursued their "watchdog" tasks. The "watchdogs" are tempted to be less watchful of government agencies supervised by officials of the same political faith.

Opposition from the politicians contributed to the defeat of a charter placed on the ballot in 1952, a reorganization plan that called for removing partisan labels from all county offices.

*There evidently is concern among the present freeholders that similar opposition might jeopardize the chances of the new charter proposal's being approved by the voters next fall.*

Our view is that the concept of non-partisanship is so desirable that the danger of political-party opposition is a risk well worth taking.

MAY 2 1968  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Sowers Opposes Examiner

BY DARRELL GLOVER

Coroner Leo M. Sowers told the Freeholders last night that a medical examiner system, replacing the present coroner's system in King County, was unnecessary.

Sowers said:

"I feel that I am just as capable and just as competent to do a job as well as any doctor."

Sowers was referring to the administration of his office. He said he administers and that Dr. Gale Wilson handles all matters of a medical nature, including autopsies.

WILSON observed his 33rd year with the coroner's office yesterday and said he has performed 15,895 autopsies in that time.

Dr. William J. Brady, coroner of Multnomah County in Portland, which operates on the medical examiner system, said he did not think there is any purpose in electing a coroner.

Dr. Brady said that since he instituted the medical examiner system in Multnomah County, the number of autopsies has increased sixfold and that costs have been decreased.

He recommended that the Freeholders "seriously consider adopting a medical examiner system" in King County and said that they have the means of making it a model system.

Dr. Lowell White Jr., chairman of the legislative committee of the King County Medical Society, told the Freeholders that both the King County Society and the State Medical Society favor the medical examiner system.

OPERATIONS of the prosecutor's office were explained to the Freeholders by Chief Civil Deputy James E. Kennedy and Chief Criminal Deputy William L. Kinzel.

## Notes on the News 2177

• When future freeways are built, they will have one distinct improvement over those already in existence. Recently adopted federal highway-safety standards rule out "left-hand" approach ramps like those found at several points on the Seattle freeway . . .

• The Olympia City Council has enacted a fair-housing ordinance and municipal officials in nearby Lacey and Tumwater are preparing similar legislation. But the action largely is symbolic. An informal check by Olympia newspapermen showed recently there are fewer than 50 Negro households in the entire Olympia area . . .

• Olympic Hotel officials doubtless wished the hotel had two grand ballrooms this week. Seven hundred persons filled the hotel's main ballroom Wednesday night for a dinner honoring the Rev. Dr. Elmer Christie, retiring as rector of Seattle's Epiphany Episcopal Parish. The space had been reserved ahead of the date set for the Seattle visit of King Olav V of Norway. As a result, a state-city dinner honoring the King, Wednesday night, which ordinarily would have been held at the Olympic, was scheduled instead at the Rainier Club, three blocks south . . .

• Dr. William J. Brady, a Portland physician who was elected Multnomah County coroner in 1964 on a platform of eliminating the office, has urged the King County Board of Freeholders to abolish the elective coroner in favor of an appointed medical examiner. The Multnomah County coroner's office will be absorbed into Oregon's statewide medical-examiner system next year. Contending that an untrained, elective coroner may have obligations to special-interest groups, Dr. Brady told the freeholders his opponent's major campaign contributions came from two funeral directors, three attorneys performing the coroner's estate administration and two physicians holding coroner's contracts for poison tests and autopsies . . .

• A report by The Times' Julie Emery has placed a useful perspective on the anti-war and draft-resistance protest directed against the University of Washington administration. About 75 students participated in the planning of the April Days of Protest and some 150 attended a meeting called this week to discuss the rejection of their demands by Dr. Charles Odegaard, U.W. president. But the university's enrollment is nearly 30,000. Small wonder that a protest-group spokesman complained that only "the same old faces" appear at meetings.

# Freeholders Hear Consultant Urge Strong Executive Head

By JERRY BERGSMAN

King County needs a strong executive head, John A. Donaho, a management consultant, told the County Board of Freeholders last night.

Donaho, who did a series of studies for King County 10 years ago and another on its engineer's office in the past year, chided county officials for failing to put into effect some of his key recommendations.

In King County, we know that in the past 10 years the county has failed to develop a personnel system or an adequate budget system," he said. "Thus, the charter should probably treat these areas in some detail."

DONAHO recommended the merger of the road districts in his latest report, but the commissioners have taken no action on that.

The consultant also criticized some tentative decisions the freeholders have made.

The board indicated it wants nine full-time commissioners elected by districts. It is split on the question of an elected executive or an appointed administrator.

But Donaho called for an elected executive and said commissioners should be

parttime, paid low salaries and elected county-wide.

Donaho contended high pay attracts "mediocrity" because local government cannot pay enough to get the top people. But low pay, he said, does attract top officials.

DONAHO recommended 5 to 11 commissioners, saying the board should be small enough to be deliberative but large enough to be representative. He said terms of office should not be staggered and no standing committees should be created.

He said:

"To have full-time councilmen or commissioners would create competitive power centers with the chief executive and create conflicts which would damage the orderly processes of government."

An appointed administrator does not fit the needs of King County, he said. An elected chief executive should be the center of all authority and responsibility for administration, elected at large and on a partisan basis, he said.

OTHER OFFICES now elected should be appointed, he said. The auditor, treasurer and assessor should be

appointed as part of a finance department, he said.

"You can't create policy or manage with separate elected heads," Donaho asserted. "Obviously, the executive can neither direct nor coordinate officers who do not report to him."

He contended King County not only is badly organized but not providing many services an urban county can best provide. He called for positive programs under top people in the fields of finance, personnel and purchasing and said an appeal board should be created to protect employe rights and to hear aggrieved employes.

The size of the United States was doubled when the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France in 1803.

MAY 5 1968

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## Editorial and Opinion

### 'Fight City Hall?' The Day May Come

English-language dictionaries often don't recognize the word. It's one, however, with which we're all going to become a lot more familiar in the near future.

The word is Ombudsman.

It's beginning to crop up frequently in conversations. A lot of folk think we should have one.

Probably we should. At least, we should employ one at county-level government and higher.

The Ombudsman is the man who gets paid to be in the middle. He's the one who helps interpret government to the citizen... particularly to the citizen who believes he's put upon and not getting a fair shake from his government.

Candidates for public office have been quick to find a need for Ombudsman. Some have fashioned a plank for their platform, proposing that - if elected - they will create an Ombudsman office. Additionally, the Municipal League of Seattle and King County proposed recently to the King County Freeholders that provision be made for an Ombudsman in the new county charter being drafted by the freeholders.

The belief is growing that government should be able to communicate better with the citizenry. Growing complexities point to the need for a special department to handle inquiry and complaints.

The Ombudsman is described as an individual professionally qualified, readily accessible, politically independent, completely detached from government and authorized to inquire into administrative shortcomings.

This middleman is not set up as a creator or critic of public policy. Rather, he becomes an overseer of administrative decision-making.

Dr. Randy H. Hamilton, executive director of the Institute for Local Self-government in Berkeley, Calif., said recently: "One of the broadest categories of need are in the area of complaint against discretionary decisions wherein the citizen disagrees with the manner in which an official has exercised his discretion. He has no formal means of challenging it, or, at least, no inexpensive means."

The value of the Ombudsman in such cases as that becomes obvious.

The aggrieved citizen can put his complaint before the third-party Ombudsman. Investigation by this middleman can point the way to a solution or compromise that probably never could be achieved by the parties to the dispute acting by themselves.

We've all heard the old lament that "You Can't Fight City Hall!"

Maybe... just maybe... the day will come.

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

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The value of the Ombudsman in such cases as that becomes obvious.

The aggrieved citizen can put his complaint before the third-party Ombudsman. Investigation by this middleman can point the way to a solution or compromise that probably never could be achieved by the parties to the dispute acting by themselves.

We've all heard the old lament that "You Can't Fight City Hall!"

Maybe... just maybe... the day will come.



## Freeholders' Dilemma

Perhaps the single most important question to be resolved by King County's 15 freeholders, who are drafting a new county charter, is whether the county's chief administrative officer is to be elected or appointed.

This is an issue on which the freeholders reportedly are divided, and it's small wonder. There are good arguments on either side.

If the county's chief executive were appointed by the elected commissioners, harmony between the administrator and the commissioners would be likely. Also, the chances are strong that the administrator would be well qualified because he would be hand-picked by supposedly knowledgeable elected officials.

If the administrator were elected, however, the legislative and administrative functions of the county would be separated and, because the administrator would be independent of the commissioners, there would be a healthy check and balance.

Such check and balance, we believe,

is essential. Therefore, we recommend that the administrator be elected, with certain stipulations.

One of the hazards inherent in electing an administrator is that an individual with high voter appeal and name familiarity but questionable qualifications might gain office. Therefore, we suggest that requirements for the office be written in such a manner as to help insure that the elected administrator is highly qualified.

**THE REQUIREMENTS** for office, for example, could set minimum education and experience levels. Residency requirements should be made liberal enough to give opportunity for election to qualified candidates from throughout the nation.

Finally, the salary of the county's chief administrator should be set high enough to attract outstanding candidates.

Adoption of these principles, in the opinion of The Post-Intelligencer, would provide a sensible solution to the freeholders' dilemma.

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# Ackley Hypothesizes Final County Charter

Norm Ackley reported to the White Center Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning on what the final form of the proposed King County Charter might take. He said it was expected that there will be nine County Commissioners and they will be elected by districts.

During the first such election, however, it may be expected that three commissioners will be elected from each of the present three districts, pending establishment of the three final district boundaries.

A new elective office, that of "Executive," is expected to be established to provide a county administrator. Commissioners would be relegated to legislative and adjudication duties.

He also said that most of the other present elective positions are expected to become appointive, or the positions will be eliminated under the new charter. Administrative and Personnel departments are among several new bodies to be formed. And Ackley said that, although it won't be in the charter, a Civil Service or merit type of county employment is expected to be established.

There is a "sharp division of thought among the freeholders as to whether or not the county Assessor and Sheriff should be elective or appointive systems. Mostly for political reasons, Ackley reported that these two positions are among the most controversial questions to be tackled by the freeholders in drafting the county charter.

Another guest speaker, Fred Bowan, spoke on the Jobs Now program as a volunteer

representative of the National Alliance of Businessmen. He stated that the objective of the program is to involve business in finding jobs for hard core unemployed persons and for disadvantaged youth.

He said that the Greater Seattle goal of this presidential program is to provide 2,800 summer jobs for the youth and 1,000 permanent jobs for the hard core unemployed.

"Employing them makes good economic sense," Bowan explained, because the public gets very little return when it supports them with public welfare funds.

Chamber Manager Les Altman told those at the meeting that this summer's July Jubilee in White Center shows promise of being one of the biggest and best celebrations to date.

He said one entry already has been received for the Queen's Pageant and many more are expected. He urged

this area's eligible young women to apply early to allow them to participate in the many exciting events being planned for the contestants for Miss White Center 1968-69.

Altman also said that the White Center Eagles are scheduling their annual Pancake Breakfast and Parade to coincide with the Jubilee. The Pancake Breakfast probably will be held on July 13.

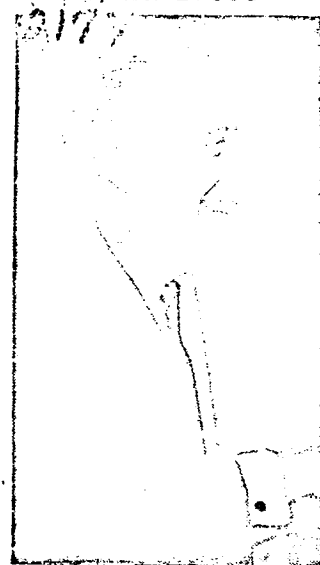
Other activities being discussed include a "greased pig" contest by Youth Betterment Inc., various "fun" booths run by local organizations, plus dog shows, rock hound shows and so forth.

Stan Bradley read a resolution proposed for adoption to the Associated Clubs of South King County. It states that fear of punishment and fear of publicity are chief deterrents to juvenile delinquency and crime and calls for giving full publicity to trials involving young people.

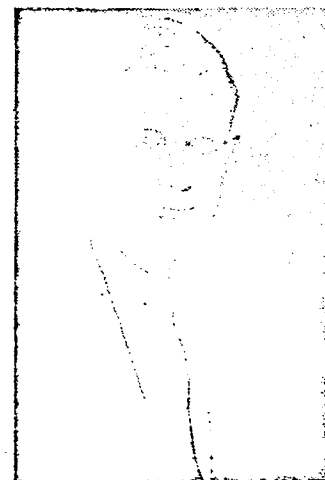
MAY 6 1968

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## Candidates



JOHN O'CONNELL



BOB EBERLE

Two recently-announced candidates for this year's elections are John O'Connell, Democrat, who will seek his party's nomination in the gubernatorial race, and Bob Eberle, Republican, who will seek the 7th District United States Congress seat currently held by Brock Adams. O'Connell formerly was Pierce County prosecuting attorney and now is state attorney general. Eberle is a former state legislator from West Seattle and now is a King County Freeholder.



MAY 8 1968

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## County Charter's First Draft To Be Completed by June 8

By Our County News Bureau

The first draft of the proposed county charter, to go to voters November 5, will be ready by June 8, Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the King County Board of Freeholders, revealed Tuesday.

Following this, a series of public hearings will be held throughout the county to obtain voter reaction before the charter is finally adopted August 24. The charter must be certified to Edward Logan, King County election superintendent, by September 21 in order to qualify for the general election.

Assuming passage of the charter, Meyer said the state constitution requires that election date be set immediately after the general election to select new county officials. Their election, however, may be held anytime within the following six-months period.

Present county officials, either holdovers or newly-elected commissioners, (including

both Commissioners John O'Brien and Ed Munro, if both run for re-election), will be dealt with in one of three ways, Meyer said. Freeholders will either retain them in their present office; retain them in their present office but make them advisory to the new legislative body, or terminate their service at the effective date of the charter.

The general feeling of the freeholders seems to be that the county's cadre of elected officials would prove valuable assets to the county in the early period following the governmental switch-over, Meyer reported, qualifying as he said this, that the charter must first be passed.

The matter has already been discussed among the freeholders and various public information campaigns are under consideration. Preliminary plans call for a first effort to reach the general public in September and October.

Meanwhile, freeholders are winding up their last two deliberative sessions, before Attorney John Strazburger translates their areas of consensus into legal parlance. At this point, consensus exists among the group that the charter include provisions for a full-time legislative body composed of nine commissioners paid not less than \$18,000 annually, elected on a partisan basis but nominated and elected by district. Freeholders also agree that the county's executive head should be elected at large on a partisan basis and that the county should establish a personnel system with both a personnel board and director.

Still pending are decisions on the county's other six elected officials, including the controversial posts of coroner and assessor. Meyer said a decision on their role in the new county charter would be reached Saturday.

## Freeholders To Push Amendment

King County's Board of Freeholders plans to take a new charter to the voters in November, the board's executive secretary reported at Pacific Lutheran University's Community Planning Workshop Friday.

Paul Meyer, administrative head of the freeholders, said that a rough draft of the proposed charter will be ready by the end of May and that a series of public forums will be held in July and August.

Speaking about the progress of the freeholders in King County, Meyers said they have met 34 times since their election less than a year ago.

"It is important to keep open the channels of information so that they (the county employees) can see that we are not creating a monster that they can't live with," Meyer said.

"An honest give and take with county department heads has resulted in remarkable frankness," Meyer said. "One department head even suggested that his position be eliminated," he said.



## Big Revision Of Districts Proposed

By HERB ROBINSON

Associate Editor, The Times

The boundaries of King County commissioner districts would be revised drastically under a proposed county charter being drafted by the Board of Freeholders.

Although several items remain open for additional study and discussion, the charter's provisions covering the make-up of a new Board of County Commissioners are reasonably firm.

As now envisioned, the charter would establish a full-time nine-member board, with the commissioners elected on a partisan, district-by-district basis.

To become effective, the new charter first must be approved by the electorate. The Times' Jerry Bergsman reported today that the freeholders plan to have a preliminary draft completed by early next month, with the final proposal ready in time for the November 5 general election. (Details, Page 13.)

If approved, the charter would establish nine commissioners' posts, with three being chosen from each of the existing North, South and Central Districts.

Once in office, the new commissioners would undertake reapportionment legislation, to define the boundaries of nine new districts on the basis of population.

Because redistricting is a potentially explosive issue, the freeholders' thinking has been that the path toward voter ratification of the charter would be smoother if the redistricting question were left to a later date—that is, until after the new commissioners are in office.

Nine new districts in place of the existing three, of course, would represent a radical departure from the structure of government with which King County residents now are familiar.

The three existing districts embrace large chunks of King County's 2,136 square miles.

Included in the Central, or 1st, District are Mercer Island and sections of Central Seattle lying roughly between Yesler Way and a line paralleling North, Northwest and Northeast 70th Streets.

The South, or 2nd, District includes parts of Southwest Seattle and such South End communities as Renton, Auburn, Kent, Federal Way and Enumclaw, plus the unincorporated territory eastward into the Cascade foothills.

Most of the major East Side cities—Bellevue, Kirkland and the like—are included in the North, or 3rd, District, which also embraces Seattle north or "above" the 70th Street line, the Bothell-Redmond area and a vast expanse of territory surrounding such areas as Snoqualmie, North Bend, Issaquah and Skykomish.

The break-up of these three large districts into nine smaller ones is a scheme substantially different from that envisioned in a proposed charter that was defeated in 1952.

The 1952 freeholders advocated enlarging the board to seven members, but splitting their constituencies into much larger blocs. Three commissioners would have represented all of incorporated Seattle, three others portions of King County outside Seattle, and the seventh would have been an "at-large" commissioner representing all of the county.

**COMMENT:** A reapportionment plan would receive wide support from residents in unincorporated areas of the county. They long have complained that the existing system robs them of adequate representation.

The argument has been that with only three districts in the county and with most of the population in the cities, it has been the "city" vote that carries the general elections.

One possible weakness in the charter now being drafted, however, is that the establishment of nine commissioners, each running in separate districts, would create a "ward" system in which officeholders might place their own constituents' interests above those of the county as a whole.

But the "ward" system has its advantages, too—notably, that it makes government more accessible and responsive to the citizens, a condition not now always prevalent at the Courthouse.

# Preliminary Draft of County Charter Scheduled by June 8

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of King County Freeholders plans to have a preliminary draft of a county charter in hand by June 8. This would mean a charter will be ready for submission to the voters at the November 5 general election.

A newly adopted schedule will allow the freeholders' staff three weeks to make the preliminary draft based on decisions of the freeholders.

Richard R. Albrecht, chairman, presented the revised schedule to the board members.

It calls for deliberation sessions Saturday and May 18, followed by the three-week period when Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary, and John H. Strasburger, attorney, will prepare the draft.

A MEETING also is scheduled next Tuesday night for officials of special districts, such as water, sewer and fire districts, to make presentations.

Meyer said one or more sessions will be held to refine the preliminary draft. August would be available for final deliberations and revisions.

If the charter drafting goes according to schedule, it will be adopted section by section in mid-August and adopted in full by the end of August. To be on the November ballot, the charter must be certified by September 21. But Meyer predicted the freeholders will complete certification by September 7.

Most of the major decisions have been reached on a tentative basis, but last-ditch efforts to change them could come when the preliminary draft is presented.

questions is whether the chief administrative officer should be elected or appointed. The board is split on the question although it stands now for an elected chief executive.

The board also has decided to have nine full-time commissioners elected by districts on a partisan basis. A

personnel system of some kind also is assured.

The next two deliberation sessions will be on which of the department heads should be elected and which should be appointed. A number of persons and groups are supporting retention of the assessor, auditor and sheriff as elected officials.

## Freeholders Favor Appointive Process

Nearly all of the now-elected King County officials should be appointed, the board of freeholders drafting a new county charter agreed yesterday.

But the county assessor should be elected, the freeholders indicated, during a meeting at the courthouse.

The charter would provide for appointment by the county legislative or executive branches, or both, of the auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff and treasurer.

The freeholders agreed

that "many of our professional and administrative leaders should be kept out of the political light."

THE "WATCHDOG" office of auditor must be "independent" of politics, the board pointed out. It also acceded to a request from Superior Court judges that they choose their own county clerk.

Further questions will be discussed next Saturday at a public session, also at the courthouse.

## Other Department Heads Appointive

### Freeholders Prefer

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The assessor will remain an elected officer under a tentative decision reached by the Board of County Freeholders yesterday. But all other presently elected department heads would be appointed in a county charter.

THE freeholders were nearly unanimous for providing initiative, referendum and recall procedures. They agreed an elected executive would prepare the annual budget.

This put the freeholders in the final stages of making major policy decisions before preliminary drafting of a county charter. Final decisions will be reached when the written charter provisions are adopted.

THE FINAL decisions before the first draft will be made Saturday. Then will come a three-week period without meetings to allow the staff to write the draft.

Decisions reached earlier call for election of nine commissioners from districts and a chief executive elected county-wide. The assessor also

would be elected county-wide. All would run on partisan tickets.

Freeholders made it clear they voted for an elected assessor to give a home-rule charter a fighting chance for approval by voters at the November 5 general election. Of the nine who voted for retaining an elected assessor, five indicated they felt the position should be appointive but that would jeopardize voter passage.

A MINORITY group held out for election of offices they considered law-enforcement and government watchdog positions, but they were outvoted 2 to 1. The charter will provide for appointment by the legislative body of an auditor limited to audit functions, the clerk by the Superior Court judges and the coroner, sheriff and treasurer by the chief executive.

### Elected Assessors

Robert Eberle disputed some of these decisions, contending the power being given an elected chief executive "was overwhelming" and could be balanced only if the legislative body is given more power to appoint.

MAY 12 1968

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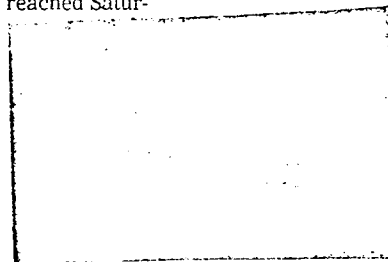
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## County Charter Ideas Advanced

BY FOREST WILLIAMS

Spokesmen for rural water and sewage districts last night urged the Freeholders not to incorporate anything in a proposed county charter that would allow the county to take over those districts.

(There are more than 200 local utility districts and other small units of government here — more than any other county in the nation except Chicago's Cook County.)

FRED Crawford, a commissioner of Newport Hills Sewer District east of Lake Washington, however said:

"If you have a department of the county whose sole responsibility is utilities, and it is managed by a professional, who keeps in close touch with the commissioners of the local utility districts, you might be able to do it better than we do.

"But I would not recommend such a change under the present county administration."

But most of the speakers seemed to share the view of Richard Murray, executive secretary of the Washington State Association of Sewer Districts, who declared:

"We feel that special districts should not be taken over by some super form of government (such as the county) with the idea that it could administer them better than do the local district commissioners."

**WATER DISTRICT**  
speakers echoed the theme of attorney Donald G. Holm of Renton, counsel for water and sewer districts, that their own commissioners are in close touch with local residents and are best able to do the administrative job.

Steve Kipper, treasurer of the State Association of Water Districts, asked:

"Can you imagine the ponderous form of government which would result if the county attempted to take over the water districts?"

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## Ombudsman, Mandated In Law, Held Still Needed

To The Editor:

Re: Freeholders considering Ombudsman.

Today, in many nations of the world, the concept of Ombudsman means a "guardian of the people's rights against the abuses and malfunction by governmental services are rendered by public employees, as required by Constitution and law.

Many people hold the opinion that the idea of the "Ombudsman" first came from the European countries. Yet the fact must not be overlooked that the farsighted framers of our Constitution of the United States recognized the importance of such a public office. Accordingly, in the drafting of the Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, those "founding fathers" established an "Ombudsman clause," which makes the office of the President the chief law-enforcement officer, who is directly responsible to the people.

The Constitution of the State of Washington also has an "Ombudsman clause". Article 3, section 5, likewise, makes the office of the governor an "Ombudsman." He, too, is charged with responsibility — "and he shall see that the laws are faithfully executed."

But, by the passage of time, the electorate has forgotten these constitutional safeguards. And, all too many elected President and governor, have just not bothered to carry out this "Ombudsman function," mainly for political reasons.

Thus, it is from this lack of enforcement of our Constitution and laws that many persons have adopted the concept that the Ombudsman "fights City Hall" for the "little guy."

Actually, it is the function of the Ombudsman to see that all ministerial duties of a public office are preformed in the precise manner and mode as mandated by the provisions of



our laws and Constitution.

Further, it should be noted that the Congress has enacted legislation, which, in effect, provides for an Ombudsman service. This is to be rendered by the United States District Courts, but congressional studies of the "field administration of this legislation" disclosed a malfunctioning and maladministration of this governmental service.

It is admitted that there is a real need for such Ombudsman service in every executive department of government, federal, state, county and city. He should serve as an "alter ego" of the chief executive to handle all citizen's complaints when any public employee fails to faithfully execute the ministerial duties of his office, as required by law and Constitution.

The enforcement procedure is relatively simple. When the Ombudsman established the validity of the citizen's complaint, and the offending public employee fails to comply with the Ombudsman's corrective order, the Ombudsman notifies the Surety holding the public official's bond and notifies the Auditor and the Treasurer to stop his voucher and pay check.

It must be recognized that our laws and Constitution, in part, constitute a "Service contract" between all citizens, collectively, and the citizen, individually. When the citizen has paid his taxes, he, therefore, acquires the right to demand the rendition of all governmental services, pursuant to this service contract.

Walter H. Philipp,  
1210 Fifth Ave. N.,  
Renton, Wash.

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# 2177 About Politics

## Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE



### A Rout En Route To Miami

King County conservative Republicans scored a rout at their county convention a week ago of the liberal armies of Gov. Dan Evans and state GOP Chairman C. Montgomery Johnson.

Evans' control of the Republican State Committee, which in turn sets the ground rules for the state convention June 21-22, appears to be shaky at this time. And a 7-7 division on the party's state executive board could throw control of the convention to the conservative wing of the party that now includes Pierce, King, Snohomish and Spokane counties. The matter is of significance not so much in terms of Evans being elected a delegate as it is on whether he will head the delegation to Miami and/or be a favorite son.

From what had been expected to be a colorless affair in Miami, the GOP national meet is now shaping to be one of the decade's big struggles. So far, many GOP leaders here want to remain neutral until it's a little closer to August 5. At this point, many seem to regard Reagan as a stand-by candidate if Nixon falters, but don't believe he will officially put himself into the race. Nevertheless, there is much undercover support for California's governor here that many believe would be of significant consequence if there's a deadlock between Nixon and Rockefeller.

\* \* \* \* \*

### McCarthy Was Future?

Undaunted by what happened in Indiana, McCarthy forces here still are optimistic their man intends to stay in the race. Several persons high in the McCarthy organization here report, however, they're not quite able to put down rumors the Minnesota senator may not go the distance. Mounting deficits, kids back in school, and some health problems forcing him to cancel some major speeches are fueling the rumors. They're also concerned their efforts here and his elsewhere may have leaked too soon. Meanwhile, Washington supporters have managed to send \$2,500 to Wisconsin, \$1,000 to Nebraska (watch what happens there Tuesday) and \$1,500 from Bellingham to Indiana. Also newsworthy: A pilot program of 200 college students who are in Oregon this weekend beating the drum for McCarthy in advance of the primary . . . and a Kennedy-McCarthy debate at the Seattle Center. The latter will be a beer bust and transmitted live (the

debate — not the beer) from the Center on the Irv Clark show on KING-TV.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Briefly Noted

Local Demos are busting their buttons over what could turn out to be successful efforts to snag Vice President Hubert Humphrey for their county convention June 1 . . . Freeholders to the Post . . . Robert Eberle, who will challenge Cong. Brock Adams; Lois North, Seattle housewife who has announced for the Legislature; and possibly Robert Block who is considering a spot on the county's new legislative body if the charter passes . . . Although many veteran political forecasters regard Governor Evans as pretty well sure of a second term, it's still no fun to have your man turned down at your own county convention: That happened to the liberal-minded governor at the Thurston county convention right in the Governor's backyard . . . State Demo Chairman Robert Kull also got a turn-down last weekend at Ocean Shores when he tried to get approval for a \$30,000 computer installation at headquarters . . . The party still is beset with financial problems . . . Same place: a move by former Demo State Chairman Herb Legg got no place when he tried for a delegate reallocation to the national Democratic Convention that would be more favorable to McCarthy . . . seems as if even the McCarthy people didn't want it, after all! New Demo comer to keep your eye on: Alan Munro, son of South District Commissioner Ed Munro, who survived a McCarthy majority to win the chairmanships of both the county and state platform committees drafting the party's state platform at Alderbrook Inn. Munro is a Humphrey supporter . . . According to Commissioner John Spellman, activities of the freeholders, leaving the future of incumbent county officials clouded at the least, is keeping candidates and money out of the race. Spellman says he doesn't blame potential aspirants if they decide against running twice! . . . The rejection by the Democratic State Committee last week at Ocean Shores of Initiative 224 is causing some not-so-slow burns on the part of both parties' county officials. The measure, sponsored by the Washington Association of County Commissioners to transfer 2 mills of the state property tax to the county and approved by members of both parties, would pour \$4,000,000 into King County alone.

# Freeholders Seek Appointive County Offices

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Tightening administrative control and obtaining highly qualified persons in county government were the aims of the County Board of Freeholders yesterday.

To this end, the board decided to recommend appointments of most county depart-

ment heads. Election rather than appointment of an assessor was based on what most considered the "political realities of obtaining charter approval." The vote for retaining an elected assessor was 9 to 2.

Richard Albrecht, Simon Wampold, Paul Friedlander, Jack Geoffroy and Lyle R.

Schneider conceded they were for an elected assessor mainly to save the charter's chances of passage in the November election. Terry McKenna, Howard Bothell, Robert Eberle and Don McDonald favored election without reservation.

James O'Connor and Virginia Gunby called for ap-

pointing an assessor to obtain technical skill.

**OF THE FOUR** absent freeholders, Robert J. Block called for appointing the assessor and Norman Ackley suggested another approach: Putting both methods on the ballot and giving the voters the choice.

Block and Ackley submitted their suggestions in writing.

James Curran and Lois North also were not present.

Wampold insisted appointment of an assessor would endanger charter approval. But O'Connor argued that position would not be a crucial factor and suggested the charter draft specify appointment of an assessor. Should the charter appear in jeopardy on the basis of public hearings, then the freeholders would have time to change it to an elective office, he said.

Both Friedlander and Geoffroy insisted appointment of an assessor was a major factor in the defeat of the 1952 charter proposal.

As long as the constitutional assessment level of 50 per cent of true value of property is not recognized, McKenna contended, the assessor makes policy. Until the legal assessment limit is reduced to 25 per cent, he added, the assessor is more than an administrator.

"The level of assessment, not the competency of the assessor, is the issue," McKenna declared.

Freeholders were unanimous for appointment of the treasurer and clerk. The only question at issue was

selected by the Superior Court judges or the chief executive. Freeholders chose the judges.

McKenna, Bothell, McDonald and Eberle held out for election of the coroner and sheriff. Schneider joined them on the coroner. Wampold, McDonald and Friedlander called for election of an auditor limited to financial audits.

**THE MAJORITY** felt, however, that the auditor should be controlled by the legislative body as a watchdog over spending of the administrative branch.

Recording functions of the auditor's office would be transferred to an administrative section.

McKenna put up a stiff battle for retention of an elected coroner, but was beaten by a 6-to-5 vote. Appointment was assured despite the close vote because two of those absent favor appointment. Freeholders decided no qualifications would be attached to the job so the charter will not call for a medical-examiner system. This would not prevent such a system from being put into effect, however.

Appointment of a sheriff was approved, 6 to 4. Two absentees also favor appointment.

Decisions on several other questions will be reached

Saturday. Three weeks then would be allowed for a preliminary charter draft which would be ready June 8. After refinements, public hearings will be held and the final charter adopted in August for submission to voters November 5.

In the final decision-making session Saturday, freeholders will discuss whether the charter should call for splitting the county into departments such as finance, public safety and public works. Final decisions will be made on a personnel system, discharging department heads, the role of advisory boards for planning and parks, and whether the charter will create a public defender system for those charged with crimes. The freeholders also will discuss again the question of whether a charter could authorize a chief executive to hire an attorney instead of using the prosecutor's office.



Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders To Consider Ombudsman

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Still to be decided are their final opinions on the initiative, referendum and recall, although discussion Saturday indicated the group wished these citizen-protection vehicles included in the first draft. Freeholders also will vote on the status of present county elected officials and whether the charter should include a public defender and a bureau or official to handle citizen complaints. The latter, known popularly as an "ombudsman," has considerable sentiment going for it among the group.

By a 9 to 4 vote, freeholders Saturday supported the concept of an elected assessor. The majority vote included Valley members of the board, all of whom were concerned that the matter of appointment versus election of the assessor not be the issue that torpedoes the charter. It has been widely regarded that the Board of King County Freeholders' decision in 1952 to make the assessor an appointive office helped to scuttle the county's first . . . and only . . . attempt to rewrite the charter.

On other offices, freeholders voted to appoint but not eliminate the office of coroner, with all other officials except the clerk to be appointed by the elected county executive. He, they decided, should be appointed by judges of the Superior Court. The group also voted to sharply limit the functions of the auditor to include only the conduct of post — and other audits.

## ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE

The "One-Man, One-Vote" concept applies to local elections as well as to those on the state level, ruled the U.S. Supreme Court. This could change ward boundaries in many of the nation's 20,000 local governments because previous decisions have indicated that no district may deviate even as much as 3% from the average district population. Switching to "at-large" elections may not be satisfactory either. Minority groups complain that their votes are swallowed up unless they can elect a representative from their district or ward. The King County Freeholders are presently in favor of election by district.

Seattle, Wash.  
Queen Anne Herald

MAY 15 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## LWV will study freeholders' task

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our country, and why? Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 21 to 23.

Magnolia-Queen Anne day unit will meet with Mrs. Raymond Dowling, 3219 37th Ave. W., AT 4-8258, May 21, 9:30 a.m. Magnolia-Queen Anne evening unit will meet at the home of Mrs. John Aldrich, 2415 Monta Vista Pl. W., AT 4-4661, May 24, at 8 p.m.

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

MAY 15 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

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# Freeholders Urged to Keep Special Districts Autonomous

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The need will continue for fire, water and sewer districts — particularly in expanding and developing areas — officials of such districts told the King County Board of Freeholders Tuesday night.

The officials pleaded that the status of the districts not be changed through the charter the Freeholders are drafting for submission to voters.

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It appears unlikely, however, that the Freeholders will attempt to eliminate the districts.

The efficiency of county government came in for heavy criticism by a number of special-district officials. They expressed a fear that a takeover by the county would mean poorer service and higher fees for taxpayers in the districts. King County has 35 special fire districts plus many sewer and water districts.

W. Ed Garner, executive secretary of the Washington

Fire Commissioners Association, predicted that most areas in Western King County will become incorporated within cities, but he said there will be a need for fire districts in Eastern King County many years.

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have water mains big enough or in sufficient number for fire control, Ely added.

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John Cartano, attorney for the Bellevue Water District, contended the special districts provide local control, responsibility and representation. He said transfer of control to county government would result in tapping water revenue for other uses.

"Studies show," he said, "that when a water system is made a part of a larger governmental organization, it frequently subsidizes non-income-producing departments of that governmental operation."

Don Holm, attorney representing water and sewer districts, contended the special districts are vital in expanding areas. If the area is completely developed and only maintenance is involved, he said, "it becomes quite immaterial who handles the operation, the county or a district." Holm called for preserving the right of taxpayers to expand a local facility.

# Freeholders Probe Elective Versus Appointive Offices

2197 A KOMO News  
Northwest Feature  
By BRIAN JOHNSON

The King County Freeholders are now in the final stages of drafting a new county charter (for consideration by the voters).

One of the major decisions was made over the weekend when the 15-member board considered the question of elective versus appointive offices. The tentative resolution of the question was to retain the county assessor's office as an elective position. To have the County Commissioners appoint a legislative auditor. The executive of the new county government would be charged with appointment of the coroner, sheriff, and treasurer. The judges of the Superior Court would appoint the clerk of the court.

All of these positions are now elective.

The elected positions would be the county administrator, the county commissioners, and the assessor.

The decision to retain the assessor as an elective post was obviously conditioned on the fact that many of the freeholders felt that making all of these positions appointive would jeopardize voter passage of the eventual document.

The decision to chop out most of the elected positions indeed met with a mixed reaction at County Hall this week. The basic argument is over whether the individual voter should have the right to pass judgement on the performance of each individual currently elected.

The other side of the coin is that with nine County Commissioners and a chief executive, who is elected, the voters have substantial control over their county. Thus many feel the administrative positions can be appointive without compromising the control people have over their government.

The assessor's office was maintained as an elective position because this is regarded as the office closest to the hearts or spleen of the electorate. But

many of the freeholders felt this position, too, should be appointive.

It was interesting to note the reaction of one county commissioner who favors retention of elective positions. He said there were "two positions which I feel could be better served by appointive officers." One was the clerk of the court, who the commissioner felt could be best chosen by the judges of the Superior Court. The second position was county superintendent of schools. This elective administrative position, the commissioner felt, could obviously be filled by a man chosen by the County School Board or other such agency. The freeholders are unable to speak on that position.

Another elective position is county prosecutor. There are many who feel it is somewhat strange for an officer of the court to stand partisan election, as he now does.

There is, of course, no such thing as Republican law or Democrat law. There is also an open question as to whether or not the prosecutor should be elected or chosen on the recommendations of the bar by the County Board.

But the freeholders were unable to consider that question, too. The freeholders said, "Many of our professional and administrative leaders should be kept out of the political light."

It is a question well worth discussing whether the prosecuting attorney and school superintendent should be kept out of the political light, partisan or non partisan.

If the voters of King county agreed with the freeholders' decision to transform many of the now elected positions into appointive positions, it might then be wise to study the 21st Amendment to the State Constitution which mandates that they put on blinders as far as the prosecutor and school superintendent are concerned. The 21st amendment forbids the freeholders from affecting the election of prosecutor or school superintendent.

## Freeholders Add New Vote to Majority Favoring Election of Chief Executive

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Efforts to reverse a tentative decision by county Freeholders in favor of an elected county chief executive appeared doomed to failure yesterday.

James P. Curran, one of those who had held out for an appointed administrator, announced he has switched to the majority side. The decision was made April 20 on an 8-6 vote. Now the lineup in favor of an elected executive is at least 9-5.

An effort to reverse the position is expected June 8 when a preliminary draft of the charter will be submitted to the board. But Curran's decision puts the success of the effort in greater doubt.

A NUMBER OF those favoring an appointed administrator have been attempting

to persuade those on the majority side to switch.

Jack Geoffroy, one of the Freeholders who voted for an elected executive but indicated he would favor an appointed administrator if commissioners were elected county-wide, since has made clear he does not plan to reverse his vote.

In effect, an elected executive together with a nine-member Board of County Commissioners would give the county the equivalent of a mayor-council form of government, similar to Seattle's.

Curran said: "After further reflection, study and consideration of the remarks of more recent speakers and, finally, in deference to the problem of getting the charter accepted by the people, I have concluded that the chief executive should be

elected in a partisan election, county-wide."

CURRAN SAID he always has felt calling for an elected executive would enhance prospects of obtaining passage of a county charter.

It has been decided tentatively that county commissioners should be elected from districts, a key consideration of several Freeholders in their decision to favor election of the executive as well. A number felt one county official should be elected county-wide so overall issues would be discussed in election campaigns.

Freeholders will have at least two chances to confirm or reverse tentative decisions. The first will be when the preliminary draft is discussed. The second will come when the final draft is approved section by section.

Those favoring an elected executive believed it would insure separation of the administrative and legislative branches, fix responsibility on a single elected officer whom the public could remove at the polling place and provide the county with a key official who lives in the community and has a stake in it.

ON THE other side, it was argued that an appointed administrator would guarantee professional management, maintain power in the commissioners instead of an executive and eliminate political patronage.

Several Freeholders have expressed concern that an elected executive would have overwhelming authority compared to the power given the commissioners.

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## Charter Provision

# Freeholders Agree to Give Job Security

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of County Freeholders yesterday agreed to give job security to county commissioners and other elected officials affected by a proposed charter.

The charter will switch county elections from even-numbered to odd-numbered years to focus attention on county officials in local elections.

These were among a series of decisions the board made in its last session before the staff prepares a preliminary charter draft for presentation to the board June 8.

The two county commissioners elected in November and the one holdover commissioner would become members of the proposed nine-member Board of Commissioners until their terms expire. If the charter is approved, Commissioner John Spellman will have two years left, and the two elected in November, four years each. Commissioners John O'Brien and Ed Munro are expected to seek re-election this year.

**ELECTED** department heads would receive the same salary they do now until their terms expire in two years. They also would be allowed to remain as county employees, although possibly in lesser job classifications than department heads.

Charter proposals call for election of nine commissioners from districts, a county executive and assessor, all on partisan tickets. It provides for appointment instead of election of the sheriff, coroner, clerk, treasurer and auditor.

county to operate utilities and establish branch courthouses throughout the county also will be considered later. Legal questions on each must be answered first.

**FURTHER** attempts will be made to retain the auditor as an elected official. Simon Wampold and Don McDonald suggested an elected auditor should be

responsible for fiscal audits and serve as a citizen complaint bureau. By 7 to 4, freeholders voted to provide some form of citizen complaint bureau, but details were left open.

James Curran said he will move later to include in the charter an enabling clause to allow the county to operate in the fields of water, sewer and fire protection services

and to establish branch offices, including Superior Court functions, outside the main Courthouse.

The effort to appoint an assessor was defeated 9 to 2. Virginia Gunby had proposed the assessor by appointment by the executive and run for election without opposition to allow the public to accept or reject the appointment. Motions to limit

the assessor to two four-year terms and change the name to appraiser also were beaten.

Commissioners will confirm executive appointments to head departments with direct service to the public but not those to head internal county operations. The executive will be allowed to fire department heads without appeal.

Freezing into office the county commissioners and giving permanent job security to present elected department heads were seen as ways to eliminate opposition to the charter and preserve continuity and experience in county government during the transition period.

As a starting salary, the board agreed the executive should earn 50 per cent more than the commissioners. That would place his salary at \$27,000 a year. After their first terms, commissioners will be allowed to set their own pay level.

**ATTEMPTS** to place restrictions on an elected assessor were defeated. Freeholders agreed to create some sort of public complaint bureau, placed qualifications on the referendum process and rejected establishment of a public-defender system for those charged with crimes.

Although freeholders defeated by a 6 to 6 split a proposal to allow appointment by the county executive of a legal department, outside the prosecutor's office, they voted 8 to 5 to prepare for later consideration a section permitting creation of the department by the commissioners. Whether the charter could create such a department is a legal question.

A tentative agreement was reached to take rezoning from the Planning Commission and give it to the county commissioners, but the whole question of establishing procedures for quasi-judicial functions will be considered later.

Provisions allowing the

# Bob Eberle to Seek U.S. Congress Seat in 7th District

Bob Eberle, King County Freeholder and Former State Legislator from West Seattle, announced today that he will seek the 7th District United States Congress seat currently held by Brock Adams.

Eberle, 33, a 7th District resident for the past 8 years, made his formal announcement before a meeting of West Seattle business and community leaders.

He assailed Adams' record in Congress as being one of appeasement in Viet Nam and a disciple of the "giant administration spending policies which have brought our nation to the brink of financial disaster."

Eberle expressed hope for successful negotiations on Viet Nam, but expressed doubt as to the competency of any administration-appointed negotiation team.

"I am concerned about the people who our government will be sending to that negotiating table," the Republican Congressional candidate said. "The record of the Democrat Party in the 20th Century, of starting wars and then losing the peace has been consistent and tragic."

"From Versaille to Viet Nam, that record of negotiations has been clear. We spill blood to win the war, only to suffer defeat and dishonor behind the closed door of the conference room," Eberle continued.

Eberle extended his attack of the Democrat administration to Bobby Kennedy, saying, "He proposes a one-way halt to our military effort in Viet Nam, he promotes supplying blood to the North Vietnamese, and he advocates forcing the South Vietnamese to accept into their government the representatives of their mortal foes to the North. He is proposing the same 'peace-at-any-price' that Neville Chamberlain purchased from Hitler at Munich."

"We cannot afford a United States Congressman from this 7th District who has echoed this same equivocating policy by saying, 'Senator Kennedy is the best candidate (for the Presidency) to bring about the new policies I have repeatedly ad-



Bob Eberle

vocated and thought necessary."

"Adams has supported trade with Red China. He has spoken out for the one-way, no-strings-attached cessation of bombing in Viet Nam. He has voted for and advocated the entire package of Kennedy-inspired 'pull-out, pack-up and ship-off' policies designed to stalemate our troops, suffocate our military ability, and stagnate our desire to win."

Eberle has taken a leave of absence from his job as Research Engineer at The Boeing Company to become "a working candidate." He is President of the Washington Young Republican Federation and as a Washington State Legislator from 1963 to 1965 he served on the Local Government, Highways and Commerce Committees and was Vice Chairman of the State Government Committee.

His civic activity memberships have included the Rapid Transit Committee of the Greater Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, the Mercer Island PTA, the Island Council Legislative Committee, the National Rifle Association and the YMCA Youth in Government Committee. He is an Instructor of the Boeing Public Affairs Class and was chosen a Freeholder from the Central District in last November's countywide election.

Eberle and his wife, Kay, a former teacher at Asa Mercer Junior High, have three children; Susan, 8; Dan, 4; and Jill, 1. The family attends Redeemer Lutheran Church.

## Mrs. North Quits Review Board

Mrs. Lois H. North resigned today from the King County Boundary Review Board.

Mrs. North, on the 11-member board since it was formed late last year, wrote Gov. Dan Evans that her campaign for state representative in the 44th District demands her full time and energies.

Mrs. North, a Republican, also is on the Board of Freeholders, which is drafting a charter. The Boundary Review Board acts on annexation petitions.

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By JERRY BERGSMAN

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It appears unlikely, however, that the Freeholders will attempt to eliminate the districts.

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## Unfounded Fears

Fears, expressed this week, that the new King County charter being drafted by freeholders might seek elimination or consolidation of rural water and sewer districts are unfounded fears.

Even if the freeholders desired to include provisions in the charter to eliminate such special districts, they couldn't do it. The reason is that such districts have been created by the State Legislature. In order for counties to take them over, new enabling legislation would need to be passed in Olympia.

So the county's water and sewer district commissioners can relax, for the present at least.

Since the subject has arisen, howev-

er, it's a good time to consider the eventual consolidation or elimination of some of King County's myriad of local utility and other special districts. There is a total of 189 local taxing districts within the boundaries of King County, second only to the number in sprawling Cook County in Illinois.

**MANY OF THE** county's special districts are administered efficiently and economically, yet we suspect there are a considerable number which are not and that their taxpayers would be better served by professional management on the county level.

It's a subject that deserves serious legislative study.

19 1963

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# "Short-Residence' Vote To Be New Factor In Fall Election

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau  
Voters in King County will cast at least 480,000 votes for President in November's presidential election, County Elections Supt. Ed Logan predicted Friday.

Logan made the prediction on the basis of an estimated registration which he expects will approximate 575,000 by the time books close October 5 for the general election. He said total votes cast usually amount to around 80 per cent of the county's registered voters.

At the same time, Logan revealed procedures by which new residents to the state may cast their vote for President. Washington State is now the 17th state which permits reduced residency requirements for a presidential election.

Under the rules to be announced soon by Secretary of State A. Ludlow Kramer, a presidential vote may be cast by any person who has lived in the state for at least two months prior to the general election. November 5, 1968, by requesting an affidavit from the secretary of state's office by midnight,

November 4. Kramer then returns a presidential and vice-presidential ballot by mail on which the voter may indicate his preference and return, again no later than midnight, November 4. Neither the application nor the ballot will need to be notarized, Logan said, although misstatement of residency constitutes perjury.

## Informational Campaign Due

In order that all new Washington residents will receive their ballot in time to have it processed, Logan said that political parties, candidates, and official election personnel would begin a large-scale public-information campaign immediately following the state primary September 17, urging that presidential ballot applications be filed early. Otherwise, Logan warned, late applications would not permit election officials to process requests.

Although it is expected that both political parties, groups and supporters of political candidates will stage a large registration effort this summer, it is unlikely their efforts will add more than 35,000 new registra-

tions to county books, Logan predicted. He said public interest in the recent Forward Thrust election had produced approximately 35,000 new registrations in King County, which, with the 5,000 persons who have registered since then, should add 75,000 new voters to election rolls.

The possibility that King County voters would face the lengthy ballot which confronted them in the Forward Thrust election was discounted Friday by the county election official. Logan said he will seek co-operation from local taxing districts, including port, school districts, and others, to place their financing measures on the primary ballot.

"We have no rubber ballot — and it looks now as if the general-election ballot could be a lengthy one if these bonding propositions are not handled earlier," Logan declared. He said he saw no problem in their validation, as the validating year necessary for many funding propositions would be based on ballots cast in an off-year election in which there was a

considerably smaller vote cast than could be expected even in this fall's primary election.

## Dozen State Issues

King County voters will vote on 12 state-wide propositions now certified for the general election ballot and four initiative measures Logan predicted also would appear. In addition, King County voters will vote on 22 positions for Superior Court, a Central and South District county commissioner, a state senator in the 1st, 41st, and 48th Districts, state representatives in all districts, two Justice Court Judges in Aukene and Skykomish, two municipal judges, and precinct commit-

Also headed for the general election ballot is the new county charter now being readied by the Board of King County Freeholders.

State-wide, voters will select one United States senator, seven congressmen, four judges of the State Supreme Court, 80 Superior Court judges, a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of

prisoners of public lands, and insurance commissioner . . . in addition to their party's nominee for President and Vice President which will head each party's slate on the voting machine.

King County voters along with others in the state will be deciding upon seven proposed amendments to the state constitution, including measures authorizing investment of public pension or retirement funds (SJR 5), the establishment of a court of appeals (SJR 6), the creation of a state building authority (SJR 17), authorizing two-year excess levies rather than one as at present, (SJR 23), and SJR No. 24 which would demand that all vacancies in county elective partisan offices be filled by a member of the same political party as his predecessor.

Other proposed amendments to the constitution include property assessments on recreational lands based on use (HJR 1), and a provision that public officials' salaries may be increased during their terms of office except those who fix their own salaries (HJR 13).

Three bond issues on which voters will choose includes \$25,000,000 for water-pollution control (Referendum 17), \$40,000,000 for outdoor recreational areas and facilities (Referendum 18), and \$63,000,000 for capital improvements at institutions of higher education and the State Department of General Administration and the Department of Institutions (Ref. 19).

Other state-wide issues to be on the ballot include an Initiative to the Legislature (No. 32) regulating the processing of state timber, and a referendum measure (No. 35) which would prevent an open-housing provision of a new state law from becoming effective.

The four initiative measures Logan felt would obtain sufficient signatures by July to qualify for the general election are Initiative 241 (calling a state constitutional convention), Initiative 242 (implied consent to evidence of liquor test), Initiative 244 (the transfer of two mills of the state property tax to the county to provide needed county funds), and Initiative 245 (reducing interest rates on revolving credit from 18 to 12 per cent).

## STREET ADDRESS CORRECTION NOTICE

KING COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
400 King County Courthouse  
MA 2-5900 Ext. 630

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery services, emergency services (sheriff, fire, ambulance, etc.) postal and other authorities require all residences to have correct addresses. It is necessary to change this address.

from \_\_\_\_\_  
(old address)

to \_\_\_\_\_  
(new address)

This change is effective immediately. We will notify the post office within 48 hrs. We will officially notify other agencies checked below within the next 10 days. You should also notify them sooner by phone.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone Co. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Election Dep't. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Light Co. | <input type="checkbox"/> Water District             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Co.              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer District             |

Ask your mail carrier for change of address cards to help you notify others.

## Get One of These?

If a person receives a notice like this in his door it means King County is changing the address of the house. About 1 hour in the afternoon the house is moved to the new address.

## Here's Election-Date Information You'll Need

(CLIP AND SAVE FOR REFERENCE)

- July 29 — Filing date for all candidates opens.
- August 2 — Last day for any candidate to file.
- August 9 — Last day political parties may fill vacancies where no filing has been made.
- August 16 — Last day to file for precinct committeeman.
- August 17 — First registration deadline: Last day to register in order to be eligible to vote at both the state primary and general elec-

- tions.
- September 17 — State primary election.
- October 5 — Final registration deadline: Last day to register in order to be eligible to vote at the state general election.
- November 4 — Last day to cast special presidential ballot for persons living in the state two months or longer; last day to cast absentee ballot.
- November 5 — State general election; U.S. presidential election.

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# County Elected Officials Safe Under Charter

BY WALTER A. EVANS

Elected King County officials would be retained under the proposed charter, freeholders decided yesterday.

By an 11-2 vote, the freeholders voted to incorporate county commissioners into the legislative body for the length of their unexpired terms, should the charter be approved by voters next November.

Elected county officers got an even better break.

IT WAS DECIDED to give them their remaining time in office at the same salary — even though they might be demoted — and to give them tenure after the expiration of their terms.

The tenure would be without regard to salary, however, and they would be paid for the duties performed.

Both decisions came after lengthy debate.

Another hot issue, the "ombudsman" idea, survived two attempts to shelve it and will go into the first charter draft with several alternative provisions. The "ombudsman" would handle citizen complaints.

THE EXACT form will be hammered out at subsequent meetings, but there were recommendations that the office be under executive, legislative and judicial arms of government.

All will be incorporated into the draft report and the final selection will be made after what promises to be hot and lengthy debate.

Names were assigned to the executive and legislative bodies.

The nine-member legislative body will be known as "commissioners" and the chief executive as the "county executive."

THE COUNTY executive's initial salary was set at 1½ times that of the commis-

(Page 7, Column 1)

## Charter To Keep Officials

(From Page 1)

sioners and the charter will provide that his salary at all times be at least a multiple of the commissioners' salaries.

The latter provision was passed 7 to 6 and only after Vice Chairman Simon Wampold changed his vote.

In other actions, the freeholders:

— DROPPED a qualification provision for the office of assessor and decided to retain that name rather than change it to appraiser. A motion to limit the assessor to two terms failed also.

— Directed the staff to prepare a charter with existing governmental agencies grouped into functional areas.

— Approved legislative confirmation of the county executive's appointments in the line function offices.

— AFFIRMED the county executive's right to dismiss department heads and squashed a motion to give a dismissed department head the right to a public hearing.

— Approved three referendum proposals which would pattern restrictions on referenda along state constitution lines; would require all referenda submitted by the commissioners to the people be first passed as ordinances, and would provide for referenda as the result of petitions signed by citizens.

— Passed a section which would attempt to abolish some statutory boards and commissions and transfer their functions to other branches of government.

— IN conjunction with the above, passed a section which would bypass the present planning commission and submit hearings on land-use directly to the legislative body and another which would set up a quasi-judicial review board.

— Dropped a plan to provide an office of public defender but okayed language that would permit its establishment by commissioners.

— Approved legislative review of personnel board policies.

— Decided to hold elections in odd numbered years.

ON ONE item, that of providing an independent legal department for the chief executive, the freeholders deadlocked at 6-6 with one abstention.

The matter was postponed indefinitely.

The freeholders will meet again June 8, at which time the first draft of the proposed charter will be discussed.

that train has passed

Argus 5-17-68

# County-City Should Merge; Freeholders' Job Obsolete

## Ideal Project for League of Women Voters

King County freeholders, elected to draw up a new charter for the county, have been meeting faithfully to do their job and the final draft will soon be ready. There have been long debates about the number of commissioners, whether or not some officials should be elected or appointed, and other equally obtuse problems.

as  
I  
see it  
Philip  
Bailey

Certainly the freeholders are doing a conscientious and workmanlike job, but we can't help wondering if they are not concerned with a plan that is outdated, outmoded and obsolete.

Today there are compelling reasons for the consolidation of governing bodies. First, of course, is the expensive and wasteful duplication of officials and employees, starting with law enforcement agencies, and running through the courts, fire departments, parks, planning, schools and so on, ad infinitum.

If these duplicated agencies made the problems easier of solution, they might justify their existence, but just the opposite is the case. Planning is a prime example. Proper use of land will become ever more important, and it will become increasingly necessary as population and industry expand. It must be accomplished on at least a county-wide basis, preferably a regional one.

### Only One Agency

Roads and highways should certainly be under the control of one central agency, not only to insure proper location of secondary highways and roads, but to avoid the duplication and expense of two engineering departments.

Sewage and garbage disposal is just another facet of government that requires area-wide planning and solutions.

Lethargy, resistance to change, tenure of existing office holders, will make consolidation difficult. But it seems inconceivable that voters will allow these difficulties to stand in the way of necessary changes which will insure more efficient and less expensive government.

Pressure for the change must come from the voters themselves, for those ensconced in office will never take the initiative, and will, on the other hand, fight valiantly for the status quo.

It would seem to me that an organization such as the **League of Women Voters** could and should take on the job of assembling the facts and figures necessary to obtain a clear cut picture of the savings and benefits from consolidated government. They could then present such a plan to the voters for approval. It would be a major undertaking, but one which would be of incalculable profit to the whole community.

We are, after all, in the jet age, not in the horse and buggy era, and our government should adjust to that reality.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

MAY 20 1968

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 18.

## First Of Series On FREEHOLDERS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the first in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to voters for their approval. The series is being written by Mrs. Evelyn Amyes, official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions.)

By MRS. EVELYN AMYES

Who are the King County Freeholders? A group of 13 men and two women elected from three districts in King County to write a charter. They serve without pay, working until the charter is completed and submitted to the voters for approval.

The term "freeholder" means an owner of a freehold — a piece of land which can be passed to heirs. The other uniquely high requirements met by the King County freeholder candidates were that they be qualified electors (registered voters) with at least five years' residence in the county.

Why does King County need a charter? To modernize government. The present form of county government was established 114 years ago by the Washington Territorial Assembly. In those pioneer days a county was thought to be an agency of the state needing few powers, since it would serve sparsely settled rural areas. The form of government established then is basically unchanged today.

In the years since 1854, the population has grown to more than a million. King County is now larger in population than nearly one third of the states of the Union. With more people crowding together, more problems have developed: problems of garbage, water supply, flood control, sewage, planning for orderly growth, and many others.

Because the county had few powers granted by the state to deal with these emerging problems, special districts have been formed. Today there are a total of 237 governmental units in the county, sometimes working in opposite

directions.

King County elects the three legislator-administrators (the county commissioners) and 34 other independent county officials. In addition there are appointed officials, boards, and commissions. Because there are so many, the citizen may become confused about whom to hold responsible for action or lack of action.

Many students of government believe that county structure should be simpler, more understandable, better able to solve problems, more responsive to the wishes of the people than the present organization of King County permits.

The State Constitution will allow us home rule to establish for ourselves the kind of government we want in King County if, and only if, we adopt a county charter. The Freeholders are now at work drawing up such a charter.

Future articles will report on the progress of the Freeholders.

# New Charter Held Periled By Appointive-Aide Decision

By Our County News Bureau

The chairman of the Board of King County Commissioners predicted yesterday a decision to make all county election officials but the assessor appointive could endanger the passage of a new county charter.

Members of the Board of King County Freeholders voted Saturday to make the county posts of sheriff, coroner, clerk, treasurer and auditor appointive positions.

Commission chairman John O'Brien declared their decision, contrary to the position he had recommended their taking, could interfere with the success of the initiative at the polls. He pointed out that such a move undoubtedly would cause opposition among the two political parties . . . a factor that helped cause the defeat of the county's only other charter effort in 1952.

This was corroborated yesterday by Kenneth Rogstad, King County Republican chairman, who said the freeholders' decision "only diminishes the voice the people have in their government."

"In this day of proliferating appointments of boards and commissions, the tendency is to move away from the direct control of the people over the affairs of state," he continued. "I am certain most Republicans would not care to sacrifice government by the people for uncertain efficiencies to be gained through appointing their major county officials."

Rogstad's Democratic counterpart, Mrs. Jeanette K. Williams, King County Democratic chairman, was unavailable for comment, although earlier she had declared herself strongly in favor of an elected cadre of county officials selected on a partisan basis.

Also in favor of retaining presently elected county officials on the same basis was South District Commissioner Ed Munro, who said he felt presently elected officials who have had long experience in county government and have received superior ratings for their performance by the Municipal League should be retained as elective officers.

"If the freeholders were going to abolish their offices as elective offices, I believe they should be appointed to the county's legislative body for the duration of their term," he declared.

Freeholders decided Saturday incumbent county elected officials would be allowed to re-

main as county employees for the two-year balance of their term, although possibly in lesser job classifications than department heads. They would continue to receive the same salary for the remainder of their terms.

Supporting the freeholder decision was Commissioner John Spellman, who said he intended to back the charter "all the

way" unless the charter is patently worse than what the county had now . . . and that, he declared, he could not see happening.

Freeholders also voted Saturday to switch county elections from even-numbered to odd-numbered years to focus attention on county officials in local elections. They also agreed to

create some sort of public complaint bureau and temporarily rejected establishment of a public-defender system for those charged with crimes.

They now have a three-week layoff while the first draft of the charter embodying their decision is being readied. It is expected to be ready for a first look June 8.

MAY 22 1968

## The Auditor and the Voters

2177  
IN advocating an appointive county auditor immune to the direct control of the electorate, the Board of King County Freeholders is inviting rejection of the county charter to be submitted to the voters later this year.

Among the tentative decisions reached by a majority of the freeholders to date is one to convert several elective county-government posts into appointive positions.

*Few would quarrel with the objective of "shortening" the overlong county-election ballot. But in their zeal to streamline the county administration, the freeholders tread unsound ground when they propose taking the auditor off the list of elective officials.*

Certainly the taxpayers will want to retain direct access to the office, which in its post-audit functions must serve as an independent watchdog over public expenditures. As long as the auditor remains elective, his sole responsibility is to the taxpayers. If the job became appointive, there would always be the possibility that the auditor's first loyalties might be to the official who gave him his job.

It is curious that the freeholders have grasped this issue as it applies to another position that must remain independent of pressures inside the Courthouse. Under the terms of the charter now being drafted, the assessor would remain elective. Thus, it is difficult to understand why the freeholders properly favor election of the assessor—the official who levies the taxes—but advocate appointment of the auditor—the official responsible for seeing that tax revenues are spent according to law.

*There have been enough recent examples of mismanagement in county government to warrant the view that the watchdog office of auditor not only must be strengthened and maintained as an independent arm of the electorate, but also be made a nonpartisan position free of political considerations in evaluating the conduct of various county agencies.*

A few members of the Board of Freeholders intend to make renewed efforts to keep the auditor's office elective. If they are unable to convince their colleagues of the merit of their point of view, the charter that is to be offered for the ratification by the voters will contain a major defect.

# FREEHOLDER SEES

## 'Bigger Voice' for Public

King Countians will have a bigger voice in county government if present proposals of the freeholders win approval.

This was emphasized by Donald N. McDonald, a North District freeholder, as he spoke to the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday.

Now being drafted by the 15 freeholders, a new county charter will likely call for a nine-member board of county commissioners, McDonald pointed out.

Districts for the nine commissioners have not yet been set.

No matter what the freeholders decide, their proposed charter will be subject to approval by voters of King County.

A majority of the freeholders agree the nine commissioners should be elected on a partisan basis, McDonald said. Non-partisan candidates are backed by too many small clubs and such, making their support "too diffused," McDonald told the chamber.

He predicted the local area

will be proposed as part of a commissioner district including the Northshore, Shoreline and part of the Lake Washington school districts.

The 15 freeholders, elected last year, are aiming for a vote on a proposed charter draft this coming November.

It has been decided the county should be administrated by an executive, McDonald explained.

This will make the administrator responsible to the people, providing a balance of power between the executive and legislative branches, McDonald said.

He added that he is in favor of electing the sheriff. Why elect the sheriff when police chiefs are appointed? many people ask, he commented. "We should have one elected police official if all the rest are appointed," is McDonald's reply.

McDonald wants the auditor elected — "He's a one-man jury making political decisions. If he feels the legislative branch is wrong, he can make changes as far as the people are concerned."

"I'm all for" making govern-

ment "for the people," even if this makes things more inefficient for "officials," McDonald stressed.

Asked about the "extracost" of having six more county commissioners, McDonald said, "The purpose of government is to represent the people. Even with nine commissioners, each will represent some 120,000 people.

Won't Seattle people outweigh the rest of King County? a chamber member asked. The nine-member commission presumably will be split four for Seattle and five for the rest of the county, McDonald answered. Commissioners would be elected by each district individually.

Now, there are two commissioners from Seattle (John Spellman and John O'Brien) and one from outside (Ed Munro of South County).

Bothell, Wash.  
Northshore Citizen  
(Cir. W. 3,479)

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholder D. McDonald Blasts 'Turnkey,' 'Moderate' Projects

Federal low-cost housing projects, like Shoreline's "turnkey," and a moderate-cost housing project proposed north of Bothell, were criticized by King County freeholder Donald N. McDonald as he spoke before the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday.

He emphasized that he was not disagreeing with the "social need" for turnkey projects aimed at providing low-cost housing for the elderly. But he felt the cost is far too high under the federally backed King County Housing Authority.

The same job could be done much cheaper by private enterprise, according to McDonald.

He pointed to the \$1,015,000 cost of the 70-unit turnkey apartments for the elderly, being built at NE 145th and 20th NE in the Shoreline area. He objected that this cost as much as \$18,000 or more a unit, is too high for a "low-

cost" project.

Satisfactory housing could be provided, at less cost, in privately owned apartment structures which are available in the North Seattle area, McDonald said.

He described the unsuccessful attempt to put a turnkey structure in Kenmore as a "fiasco" that wouldn't have hap-

pened if the area had had representation in county government. (He was referring to the fact that northern King County's representative on the county board of commissioners, John Spellman, is from Seattle.)

A construction company president much involved in political life, McDonald criticized a proposed "moderate-cost housing" planned-unit develop-

ment just north of Bothell a "lousy planning." The project would be in an area of high cost homes, McDonald protested.

The county planning commission has slated a May 28 hearing on the project. It would be 124 units just south of the county line between 100th and 104th Avenues NE.

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1883



Since I was quite small . . . and that has been too many years ago, I recall a part of a poem that went something like this . . . I don't care if he is a bound you quit kicking my dog around!"

Well sir, we have been "kicking" this dog leash law around for many weeks now after a concerted petition effort that spread from South King County to the Northern sector. With only token opposition, there appears to be wide agreement that some measures must be taken to control the cantankerous canines who seem to multiply almost as fast as rabbits and do twice the damage as well as posing threats not only to mail men and news boys but to children as well.

It is a problem faced eventually by every community once it becomes well populated. There are the usual two recourses, either the dog owner accepts the responsibility of controlling his pet, or laws must be enforced which will accomplish this purpose.

The matter was referred to the Commissioners who in turn referred it to the County Budget and Engineering Departments who in turn asked the Prosecuting Attorney for a ruling, who in turn . . . supposedly will have such a ruling at a meeting set up this Thursday between the department heads.

As Engineer Dave Robinson said the question will revolve over setting up dog control laws pertaining to certain districts and then determining who enforces these laws, the Sheriff's Department or Humane Society . . . and how will the enforcement be financed. He ruled out a County Wide dog leash law maintaining it would be too difficult to enforce, which seems rather ridiculous in that if the problem exists in the above mentioned areas it certainly must exist elsewhere.

If no funds are available for enforcement of the law, then it would be a mandate upon the County Government to provide these funds in the next budget.

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Of course this is typical of our entire County wide problem . . . lack of sufficient administration and insufficient funds to give representation to tax payers.

Perhaps the Freeholders form of government which most likely will call for dividing the county into districts with each to be represented by a commissioner might give us more voice in our county government.

However, there is no guarantee of this and thus the need for a strong look at in-

corporation, the right for self government, the opportunity not only to anticipate our problems but to work as one community toward solving them.

Briefly noted:

Your support is badly needed at Saturday's auction in the new Jefferson High School. I had an opportunity to see some of the merchandise to be auctioned and it is terrific from good TV sets to beautiful lamps. . . . and thousands of useful items. So, not only will you help your budget . . . but you will also help the new budget of the new student body at Jefferson High when it opens this fall, for the school must depend entirely upon outside funds to support its extra-curricular activities.

There are pro and con arguments regarding the proposed new County Traffic Code which would return all County law enforcement traffic fines to the County, where-as they now go to the State.

However, it must be pointed out that the traffic violation fines collected outside incorporated areas are disbursed by the State with one half going to county roads, one fourth to state parks and the remainder to promote highway safety.

MAY 15 1963

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 198

## Women Voters

Meet Tuesday 7:17

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholder making about government for our county, and why? Why for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator?

These questions will be discussed at the May 21 meeting of the West Seattle Unit. The meeting starts at 7:45 p.m. at the homes of Diane Young, 2642 42nd Ave. S.W., telephone WE 7-3399.

## To Discuss Freeholder Decisions

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our county, and why? Why, for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator? Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 2 to 23. Other Leagues in King County will discuss the same material during May.

Seattle, Wash.  
Beacon Hill News  
(Cir. W. 11,020 Free)  
MAY 16 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Women Voters

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our country, and why? Why, for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator?

Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 21 to 23. Other Leagues in King County will discuss the same material during May.

UNIT MEETINGS: Mt. Baker Day: Mrs. Nicholas Rees, 3901 S. Court St., PA 3-7509, May 21, 12:30 p.m.  
Mt. Baker Evening: call unit chairman for location, Mrs. John Weinberg, PA 2-6568, May 22, 8 p.m.

Seattle, Wash.  
Magnolia News  
(Cir. W. 7,333)

MAY 16 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders' Work Is LWV Topic

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our county, and why?

Magnolia - Queen Anne units of the League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings next week.

The day unit will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Raymond Dowling, 3219 37th W.; evening unit at the home of Mrs. John Aldrich, 2415 Monta Vista Pl. W., at 8 p.m. Friday, May 24.

## County Unit to Be Permanent

John Porter, county administrator, sees the Design Commission created for Forward Thrust projects as a permanent addition to county government.

Porter told the County Arts Commission yesterday the Board of County Commissioners has the option of asking the design group to review any capital-improvement project. The group

must review all those being funded by Forward Thrust Bonds.

The board Monday approved a resolution creating a seven-member group to recommend architects and review all plans for Forward Thrust projects. Porter said professional groups are submitting recommendations on appointments. Six members will be

architects, planners and engineers.

The Arts Commission agreed that the Design Commission will replace it in the checking of county projects. Although the Arts Commission never officially was asked to review plans, it requested briefings from architects for county Courthouse remodeling and expansion projects.

## Road-District

## Merger Approved

John T. O'Brien, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, said today the two county road districts will be merged Monday as the result of a unanimous vote of the board.

County Engineer Jean

DeSpain and John A. Donaho & Associates, Inc., management consultant, both recommended the merger to increase efficiency.

O'Brien said it is hoped the merger will be fully in effect within six months.

5-21-68 PI

# Freeholder Decisions

King County's freeholders generally have done a highly creditable job to date, in our opinion, in making basic decisions relative to the proposed new county charter to be submitted to voters next fall.

Several of the key decisions were made last Saturday, at the final freeholder meeting prior to the writing of a preliminary charter draft.

The freeholders agreed to shift county elections from even-numbered to odd-numbered years, to make the three holdover county commissioners automatically members of the new, enlarged nine-member board of commissioners, and to protect other elected county officials by guaranteeing them future jobs with the county.

The switch in election years makes good sense. It would mean that Seattle's municipal elections — for mayor, City Council and other city elective posts — would be held simultaneously with the county elections. This would tend to generate increased interest in both city and county races and it would produce less cluttered ballots in even-numbered years, when state and federal officials, including presidents, are elected.

It also is reasonable to retain those commissioners who are in office when the new charter becomes effective, until their existing terms expire. Two commissioners will be elected this November, under the existing system, and there will be one holdover.

We do have a single reservation, in regard to the county's other elected officials whose positions would become appointive under the new charter. The freeholders have agreed that the elected holdovers should be retained on the county payroll until their normal terms expire, at no decrease in salary. So far, so good.

WHAT WE question is the tentative decision to guarantee the present office holders lifetime county employment, though perhaps not as department heads. We don't believe the county should be held to any such long-term obligation if, for example, one of the holdovers were to perform poorly.

Obviously, the latter decision is designed to help thwart any incipient opposition to the charter that might be marshalled by the incumbent coroner, sheriff, clerk, treasurer and auditor, all of whose positions would become appointive under the new charter. The decision may be a necessary political expedient, but this makes it no less questionable.

On balance, however, the freeholders' decisions have been sound, including the decision that the chief county executive be elected rather than appointed.



MAY 16 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## LWV To Discuss Freeholders Work

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our county, and why? Why, for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator?

Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 21 to 23. Other Leagues in King County will discuss the same material during May.

The local is at the home of Diane Young, 2642 42nd Ave. S.W., (WE 7-3399), May 21, 7:45 p.m.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

MAY 16 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## What About Freeholders, New Charter?

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our county, and why? Why, for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator?

Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 21 to 23. Other Leagues in King County will discuss the same material during May. Interested women are invited to attend.

For information regarding the meeting times and places for neighborhood units call Mrs. James Tyler, EM 2-6498.

# P-I Weekly Poll

**T**HIS IS THE THIRD of The Post-Intelligencer's Weekly Polls. Today's poll deals with subjects that concern every resident of King County—the office of freeholder and the formation of county government.

The P-I Poll will be presented in each Sunday's paper. Results are published every Friday in The P-I.

Readers are requested to answer only one choice to each of the four questions.

Please circle the appropriate number in answering. This will speed processing on The P-I's computer.

As all replies must go to the P-I's data processing center by 10 a.m. Wednesday, please mail your poll by noon Tuesday.



A RECENT SESSION OF THE KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

### A—What is the primary job of a King County freeholder?

- 1—To write a county charter.
- 2—To outline the structure of King County government.
- 3—To set salaries of county officials.
- 4—All of the above.
- 5—None of the above.
- 6—No opinion.

### B—Do you think King County's chief administrator should be elected by voters or appointed by commissioners?

- 1—Elected by voters.
- 2—Appointed by commissioners.
- 3—No opinion.

### C—How much should the county's chief administrator be paid annually?

- 1—\$8,000 to \$10,000.
- 2—\$10,000 to \$15,000.
- 3—\$15,000 to \$20,000.
- 4—\$20,000 or more.
- 5—No opinion.

### D—At the present time there are no medical requirements for the office of county coroner. Do you think it should be necessary for the county coroner to be a licensed physician?

- 1—Yes.
- 2—No.
- 3—No opinion.

Mail by noon Tuesday to The Post-Intelligencer Poll Editor  
Post Office Box 2500, Seattle, Wash., 98111

## Walkout Hits County G. O. P. Finance Unit

By LYLE BURT

Times Political Reporter  
Long-standing dissension among King County Republicans has resulted in a mass resignation from the party's county finance committee, The Times learned today.

Although those involved were unsure about the exact number of resignations, it appeared that 11 persons had walked out in protest against county party operations headed by Kenneth Rogstad, county chairman.

Fred Baker, Seattle advertising-agency executive and one of those who resigned, said the action was taken last week. It stemmed, he said, from a feeling that the state party organization was not getting a proper share of funds raised in King County and because of unhappiness over a United States District Court lawsuit filed by Rogstad and others against the state organization.

The suit challenged the formula adopted by the State Central Committee for allocating state-convention delegates to each county. It was dismissed, but the court permitted it to be refiled with an amended complaint.

"ALL OF US (those who resigned) have done our damndest to try to work out the county-state impasse, but frankly have gotten nowhere," Baker said. "The lawsuit was the last straw."

Baker said the attitude of certain county Republican officials who "have no real interest either in the state party or the governor" forced the dissidents to

choose who they are for.

Members of the group support the state party organization and Governor Evans.

The group plans to announce later what course it will take.

Baker is co-chairman of Evans' campaign-finance committee.

William E. Boeing, Jr., chairman of the county finance committee, said he had received several letters of resignation, but said he did not feel the action would hinder the party's efforts in this year's campaign.

**BOEING SAID** membership on his committee had at times reached 60 or more, but only a relatively few had been active at all times.

"I disagree that the state has not been receiving its full share of funds," Boeing said. He conceded that the county organization was behind in its state quota but said a number of other counties were also. Funds raised independently in the county by the state organization have more than offset the difference, Boeing contended.

The finance committee will be reconstituted with about 20 members, the chairman added.

Those who resigned include Baker, Kenneth R. Fisher, Irvine B. Rabel, John H. Hauberg, Jr., Don Weaver, Ben Gardiner and Michael Dederer, according to Baker and John Barnard, Evans' state campaign chairman.

Rogstad could not be reached for comment.

## Carroll, Commission Clash on Obscenity

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A proposed resolution making the sale of indecent material to those under 18 a crime was referred to Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll for a legal opinion today.

But Carroll sent it right back to the Board of King County Commissioners.

**DESPITE** contentions by James E. Kennedy, chief civil deputy prosecutor, that the resolution has been checked by the prosecutor's office and found to be legal, the board returned it for an opinion on the constitutionality of one section. The section says it shall be presumed that the vender of material knows what it contains.

Commissioner Ed Munro voted against the referral, saying he would have preferred taking the resolution under advisement because he wants modifications in the text. Carroll had recommended its passage, saying it was patterned after a New York ordinance recently upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

Commissioner John Spellman moved to seek the opinion. Commissioner John O'Brien said later he voted with Spellman but had been prepared to adopt the resolution.

**CARROLL**, returning the resolution to the board, said the board had been informed that the resolution has been reviewed by at least eight lawyers in his office.

He added: "You were specifically informed at your meeting that in the opinion of our office the resolution is constitutional, and certainly we would not have transmitted it to you with the recommendation that it be passed without having first satisfied ourselves that it was constitutional."

Carroll noted also that he

had invited commissioners to ask questions but the commissioners did not schedule a conference to do so. He called the referral to his office "an exercise in futility because the resolution already has been carefully reviewed from that standpoint (constitutionality)."

Spellman asserted the United States Supreme Court had not ruled on the clause in the New York measure that presumed the seller knew of the contents.

**AT A PUBLIC** hearing today, a number of persons dealing with books, magazines and films spoke. They either opposed the resolution or sought modifications.

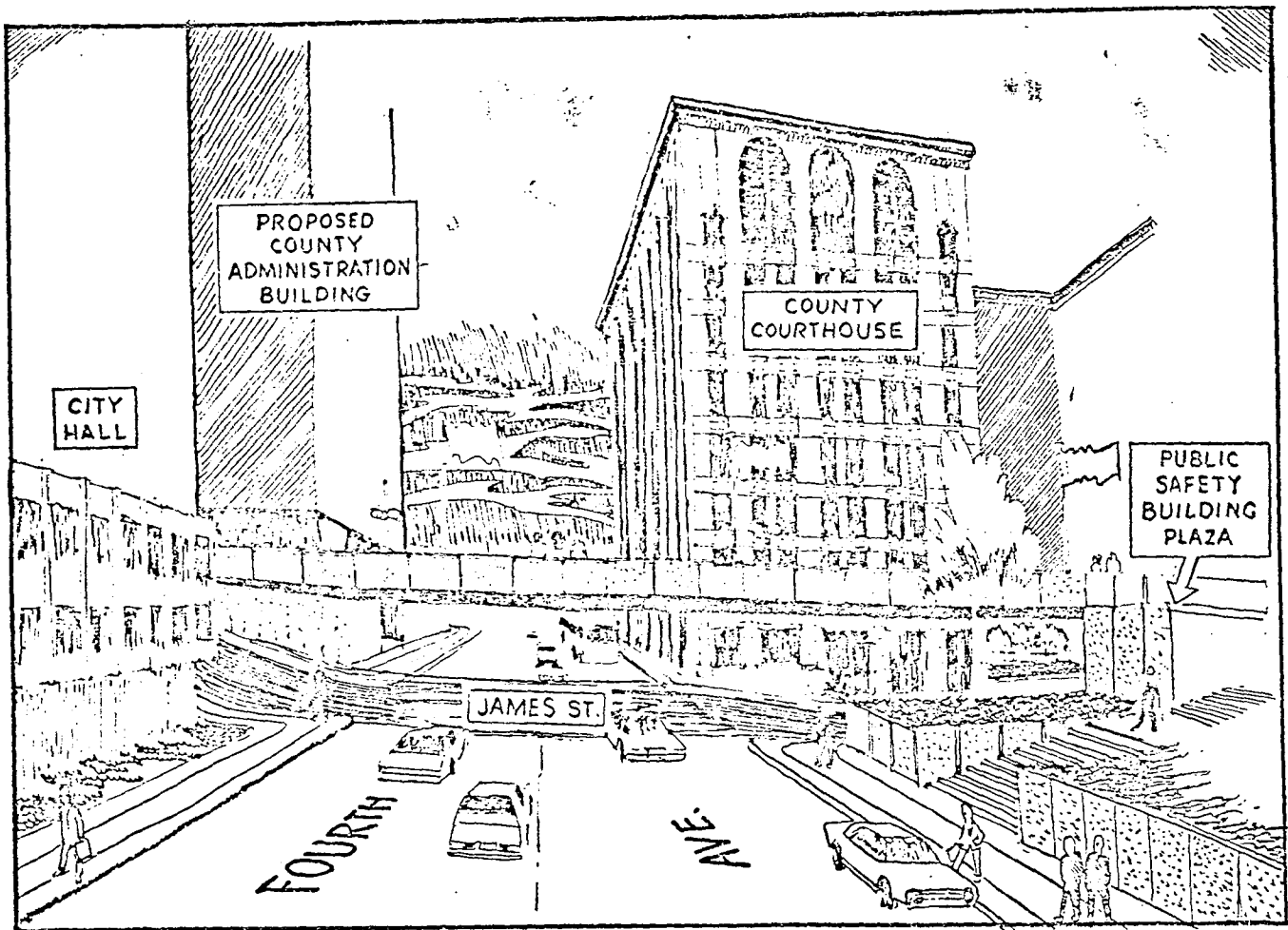
Burton Aldo, attorney for Riches & Adams, a distributor, contended that the resolution raises questions of free speech and free press, that it differs from the one approved by the court by setting the age at 18 instead of 17, and that the court had not ruled on the presumption clause.

Jay Adams of the same firm said it is impossible for a distributor to know the contents of some 12,000 releases each year. W. L. Gibbon, attorney for the Pacific Northwest Bobksellers Association, a retailer group, contended the association favored the law except for the presumption clause.

Fred Danz of the Sterling Theaters Co. suggested that the age limit be dropped to 16, that the definition of nudity be dropped because community standards change, and that the word "willfully" be added.

Mrs. Richard Young of the American Civil Liberties Union opposed it, saying these decisions should be left to parents.

O'Brien said he would move for passage of the resolution at this afternoon's meeting of commissioners.



ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN PLAZA WOULD COVER INTERSECTION OF FOURTH AVENUE AND JAMES STREET

An elevated plaza at Fourth Avenue and James Street connecting city and county buildings is under consideration by the Board of King County Commissioners and city officials.

John T. O'Brien, chairman of the board, yesterday said John D. Spaeth, city planning director, made the proposal. O'Brien said county commissioners would favor the plan if investigation shows it is feasible.

Harmon, Prey & Detrich, architect for the Courthouse

remodeling, has been asked to make a study, including a cost estimate. O'Brien said he hopes it will be complete in a month.

Craig Harmon, one of the architects, indicated to O'Brien that the project appears feasible from a structural standpoint.

## 4th and James Plaza Studied

The plaza, 14 feet above street level, would cover the intersection, connecting the City Hall and Public Safety Building with the County Courthouse and proposed County Administrative Building.

Entrances to the plaza would be off all the build-

ings, and stairs leading to the plaza from the street would be near the Public Safety Building and the County Administrative Building.

O'Brien said the project would be a further step in making the area a governmental complex. Costs would be shared equally by the county and city, O'Brien said.

The plaza would have trees, flowers and benches. An air well to provide light for the street would be in the center of the plaza.

# SEATTLE Post-Intelligencer

VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST

DAN L. STARR, Publisher

LOUIS R. GUZZO, Managing Editor

Established 1863

MAIn 2-2000

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1968

## Freeholder Decisions

King County's freeholders generally have done a highly creditable job to date, in our opinion, in making basic decisions relative to the proposed new county charter to be submitted to voters next fall.

Several of the key decisions were made last Saturday, at the final freeholder meeting prior to the writing of a preliminary charter draft.

The freeholders agreed to shift county elections from even-numbered to odd-numbered years, to make the three holdover county commissioners automatically members of the new, enlarged nine-member board of commissioners, and to protect other elected county officials by guaranteeing them future jobs with the county.

The switch in election years makes good sense. It would mean that Seattle's municipal elections — for mayor, City Council and other city elective posts — would be held simultaneously with the county elections. This would tend to generate increased interest in both city and county races and it would produce less cluttered ballots in even-numbered years, when state and federal officials, including presidents, are elected.

It also is reasonable to retain those commissioners who are in office when the new charter becomes effective, until their existing terms expire. Two commissioners will be elected this November, under the existing system, and there will be one holdover.

We do have a single reservation, in regard to the county's other elected officials whose positions would become appointive under the new charter. The freeholders have agreed that the elected holdovers should be retained on the county payroll until their normal terms expire, at no decrease in salary. So far, so good.

**WHAT WE** question is the tentative decision to guarantee the present office holders lifetime county employment, though perhaps not as department heads. We don't believe the county should be held to any such long-term obligation if, for example, one of the holdovers were to perform poorly.

Obviously, the latter decision is designed to help thwart any incipient opposition to the charter that might be marshalled by the incumbent coroner, sheriff, clerk, treasurer and auditor, all of whose positions would become appointive under the new charter. The decision may be a necessary political expedient, but this makes it no less questionable.

On balance, however, the freeholders' decisions have been sound, including the decision that the chief county executive be elected rather than appointed.

## Freeholders Favor Appointive Process

Nearly all of the now-elected King County officials should be appointed, the board of freeholders drafting a new county charter agreed yesterday.

But the county assessor should be elected, the freeholders indicated, during a meeting at the courthouse.

The charter would provide for appointment by the county legislative or executive branches, or both, of the auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff and treasurer.

The freeholders agreed

that "many of our professional and administrative leaders should be kept out of the political light."

**THE "WATCHDOG"** office of auditor must be "independent" of politics, the board pointed out. It also acceded to a request from Superior Court judges that they choose their own county clerk.

Further questions will be discussed next Saturday at a public session, also at the courthouse.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)

JUN 3 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1898

## Second In Series On FREEHOLDERS

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** Following is the second in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to voters for their approval. The series is being written by Mrs. Evelyn Amyes, official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions.)

**BY MRS. EVELYN AMYES**  
How should you go about writing a charter for a county which has never had one, in a state in which no county has yet adopted a plan for home rule?

That was the question facing the 13 men and two women who had qualified as land-owning, voting citizens of at least five years' residence in King County, and had been elected last November by the voters in their districts as Freeholders, charged with framing a charter for King County. (A charter is to a county what a constitution is to the state or the nation.)

Each of the Freeholders had shown considerable interest in the problems of county government by even filing for the unpaid positions. Many were concerned with the inability of King County to come to grips with modern problems such as the need for adequate roads or other transportation, waste disposal, public safety.

The Washington State

Constitution grants to counties only very limited powers. Any power not specifically mentioned in our nearly 80-year-old constitution cannot be assumed by a county until a law permitting that exact power is passed by the State Legislature.

League of Women Voters members have been fortunate in having available to them the intensive studies of King County government conducted by a league committee. League of Women Voters of Seattle produced the pamphlet "Study of King County Government" which has been used as a text by schools and civic groups within the county. But many people are involved with only a few agencies of the county. For them, King County government is like the fabled elephant examined by the blind men — one thought it was like a tree, one like a snake, one like a wall, and so on; none "saw" the whole elephant.

The Freeholders did not wish to be like the blind men, but rather they wanted to see the problem in its entirety. After selection of officers, and adoption of rules of procedure, the Board of Freeholders, acting as a committee of the whole, started to take a good look at the extent and function of the present branches and departments of King County government.

MAY 26 1969

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## A King County Sugar-Plum Tree?

King County freeholders are now nourishing and hope to bring to fruition the greatest sugar-plum political tree ever to be planted here. That tree will bear fruit to the tune of \$189,000 per year for "legislators and administrators to run King County government." This is one of the tentative decisions already made by the freeholders.

In checking on their tentative conclusions the board of 15 freeholders has been something less than nonpolitical in their deliberations. They have proposed to set up a board of nine legislators replacing the county commissioners at a salary of \$18,000 each per year, with election on a partisan basis.

Second in line in this spending program would be a salary one and a half times that of the legislators for a professional administrator. This amounts to \$27,000. Adding these together we get a grand total of \$189,000 per year for executive salaries.

There can be no objection to the \$27,000 salary for a competent executive administrator, but to pay \$18,000 each to nine separate "legislators" is really walking backwards in the scheme of governmental "modernization."

King County freeholders should take a leaf from the book of the Port of Seattle where the commission is presently operating a tremendous and growing business which is costing taxpayers \$1 per year in "salaries" for each of the commissioners.

King County did take a forward step in placing the King County Port Commission on a nonpartisan, nonsalaried basis. The results of this act have been nothing short of outstanding. King County Port Commission, which operates Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, is doing a magnificent job not only in managing affairs of this ever-growing institution, but also in saving taxpayers of King County a sizable sum of money.

It may be inequitable for laymen to work in government for no salary, but, thank goodness, there still are some dedicated citizens who will work and spend their time and effort for the benefit of the community without pay. Rewards are found in performing a service to local government.

One of the basic concepts of American government is that of localized participation by lay members without pay. This is best expressed in operation of school districts throughout the nation. None can say that this method of operation is unsuccessful.

There is much that the freeholders have done that is beneficial and of value and this we want to review later, but as a beginning evaluation it appears the group has not helped the cause of good government by substituting a sugar-plum tree for the basic concept of lay participation.

We doubt that the public will buy this type of "modernization" based upon the concept of an overpaid and overloaded system of nine partisan legislators.

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# New County Charter's Almost Done

By Our County News Bureau

A wrapup of the work produced by the Board of King County Freeholders in six months on the job was issued late last week by Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board. Included in his report were the major points of agreement on what will be in the new county charter, due for its first unveiling June 8.

In it are decisions involving the restructuring of King County in its legislative and executive functions, including a proposal to provide for a full-time legislative body of nine commissioners nominated and elected by district. This group would have only legislative responsibilities and would be paid a salary no less than that which AA-class county commissioners receive — which will be \$18,000 yearly after next fall's elections. Elections would be on a partisan basis.

Freeholders also decided the new charter should include a chief executive independently elected at large, also on a partisan basis, and that he should have on his staff a professional administrator who

for staff administration. The of the chief executive at one to that of county legislators.

In a third major decision, freeholders approved the creation of a personnel system for the county in a separate body apart from the executive and the legislature. The director of this system and the board's members should be appointed by the county chief executive, with the board's chief function primarily the hearing of grievances. Other policies involving hiring and examinations were judged to be an executive matter within the preview of the personnel director.

Some political activity should be allowed at the state or federal level, freeholders argued, but prohibited such activity for county employees. Those persons presently employed by the county, they felt, should have assurance of continued employment with the requirement they pass satisfactorily a job examination.

The present offices of assessor, auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff, and treasurer — presently all elective, would be (except for assessor) appointive offices under the new charter. Freeholders decided that all appointments are to be made by the county chief executive with the exception of an auditor, whose appointment will be made by the legislative body. All others will be confirmed by the legislative body.

Although freeholders agreed the charter should include additional provisions setting up initiative referendum and recall procedures and that there should be provision for an office to receive citizen's complaints, the precise nature of these proposals will wait until the first draft is approved.

Meyer said freeholders had met 35 times since December 5, 1967, to hold orientation sessions, deliberative sessions (at which votes were taken) and public forums. A new series of public forums is being planned throughout the county during July and August on the proposed charter, following which freeholders will again reconsider the charter. A final vote, based on a section by section analysis, will be taken by late August.

The charter is expected to be ready for ballot certification in September, permitting it to be placed on the November, 1968, general election ballot.

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## THE FREEHOLDERS REPORT MATURES

2177  
Most new life brought into this world begins with hesitant, searching steps. The fledgling Board of King County Freeholders made their initial entrance in this manner less than six months ago. But maturity came early, due primarily to the quality of the group. In the beginning the individual Freeholders sized up the arduous tasks ahead and were somewhat overwhelmed by the magnitude and complexity of the job of writing a home rule charter for the county. The natural way to proceed with a task of this nature is to find out what has been done before. Looking at the record in 1952 found the proposal for a home rule charter soundly defeated by the voters. Numerous reasons were given for this defeat. Some of the more popular ones were: The elected county officials fought it; the county employees fought it; political parties fought it; newspapers fought it, and with all that the voter obviously fought it.

With this background it is little wonder that the present Freeholders began their deliberations with some timidity. However, as the operations of county government were unfolded before them, the Freeholders, at first individually and then in groups, were made vividly aware of the need for major reform in certain areas. The evidence presented indicated that after more than 100 years many changes are in order and that half-hearted, compromising attempts at reform will not do the job.

King County voters elected the Freeholders to write a charter to provide home rule for King County citizens and anything short of that goal is a breach of the faith. It would be a grave and costly error if the Freeholders limited themselves on certain issues because they were afraid of voters rejecting the issue. If this charter is soundly structured and well conceived then the individual citizens and civic organizations and groups that work for community betterment will fall in line to inform voters and work toward its passage. The Municipal League is committed to this principle as are the other groups.

The climate for change is abundantly evident, with general community approval of such proposals as Forward Thrust and Open Housing. In addition to this the profile of our local population is becoming much younger and the local citizenry is being infiltrated by many newcomers that do not have a built-in reflex action against change.

Now that the Freeholders are beginning their preliminary charter drafting they might well be advised to wet their finger and put it to the wind, for the season's changing—the winds out of the north and around here that means clear skies and smooth sailing.

### WE APOLOGIZE

It was heatedly brought to our attention that figures used in this column in the May 13 edition of the NEWS were incorrect. The story concerning courthouse remodelling used the equation that one new courtroom is needed for every 40,000 increase in population. This equation is used by the Superior Courts and results in a projection for 26 total courtrooms by 1970, not 26 in addition to the present 20 in the courthouse. To extrapolate further this would require 31 total courtrooms in 1975 and 45 by 1985. There are presently 23 judges servicing the county.

## Freeholders Move Toward New Charter

A series of recommendations for a new King County charter have reached a point of substantial agreement on major revisions in the county's governmental structure among the King County Board of Freeholders.

The conclusions reached by the freeholders, elected last fall for the purpose of updating county government, include the election of a county administrator and a fulltime board of nine commissioners to replace the existing three-man board of county commissioners.

The new nine-man board would be nominated and elected by district on a partisan basis and would serve as a purely legislative body. Each would receive a salary of no less than \$18,000 annually.

A chief executive would be elected at-large, also on a partisan basis, at a salary ranging from \$18,000 to \$27,000 annually.

A COMPLETELY revamped personnel system would be set up, if the freeholders' recommendations are accepted at the fall elections.

Political activity at the state and federal levels would be per-

(Continued on Page 10)

### APPOINT ASSESSOR?

Editor, The Times: 2/77

I was encouraged by the forward-looking steps taken by the King County Freeholders when they tentatively agreed that most of the administrative heads be appointed. This would go far toward shortening the ballot, fixing responsibility on the chief executive of the county and improving coordination among the departments.

One more step in this area is required. For sound reasons the assessor should be appointed.

The job of assessor requires technical skills better assured by appointment. Election does not guarantee responsibility to the electorate . . . The independence with which the elected county assessor can operate has no parallel; checks and balances operating in other areas of government are nonexistent for the assessor.

An appointive assessor, however, would be directly responsible to the chief executive . . .

We hope for a truly viable county government, not just a token change.

—MRS. BRIAN SHERA, JR.,  
3751 N. E. 192nd St.

## Attorney Quits Post On Boundary Board

Alec Bayless, an attorney, has submitted his resignation to the King County Boundary Review Board.

His resignation leaves three vacancies on the 11-member board. It takes six votes of the eight remaining for affirmative action.

The board approves or rejects applications for annex-

ations and other boundary changes of taxing districts.

Bayless suggested the board "Could use one or more lawyers who would be sensitive to the over-all purpose and legislative intent of the act (creating the board)."

Bayless' term would have expired in September, 1970.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
22 5\* Fri., June 7, 1968

## Portable

## Planners Name New Chairman

Selection of architect Leon Bridges as chairman of the King County Planning Commission was announced yesterday. He succeeds Chet Wheeler, a real estate broker.

John Teutsch Jr., mortgage company official, was elected vice president, succeeding Vern Pickering. Duvall dairyman, Wheeler and Pickering continue as commission members.



# Freeholder Poll

## Produces Yawns

The important work of King County's freeholders, who are in the process of drafting a proposed charter for county government, evidently has produced yawns from most citizens.

At least that would appear to be the case, based on the limited response to The Post-Intelligencer's third weekly poll on issues of wide public concern. Only 76 readers responded to the poll, in contrast to more than 2,000 responses to the first poll, dealing with presidential candidates, and the second poll, which drew more than 1,000 responses on the state race for governor.

ASKED what is the primary job of a King County freeholder, those replying said:

To write a county charter .....	33%
Outline a structure of King Co. government .....	19%
Set salaries of county officials ..	0%
All of the above .....	42%
None of the above .....	1%
No opinion .....	5%

The preferred answer, of course, was "all of the above," in which 42 per cent correctly responded.

On the selection of a King County chief administrator the response was:

Elected .....	71%
Appointed .....	28%
No opinion .....	1%

Setting the chief administrator's annual salary drew this breakdown of replies in a sharp division of opinion:

\$8,000 to \$10,000 .....	5%
\$10,000 to \$15,000 .....	20%
\$15,000 to \$20,000 .....	36%

*Here are the results of the third weekly P-I Poll, questions for which were published last Sunday. Another in the series aimed at sampling the opinion of P-I readers will be published this coming Sunday.*

\$20,000 or more .....	30%
No opinion .....	9%

Comments from those who believe the administrator should receive more than \$20,000 included the following:

"HE SHOULD receive enough to keep him from petty graft," and "One really qualified should be adequately compensated."

On the medical requirements of the county coroner, the answers were:

Yes, should be a licensed physician .....	79%
No, should not be a licensed physician .....	20%
No opinion .....	1%

One reader who favors a change in the present system, which has no medical requirement for the office of coroner, declared:

"It's ridiculous to have anyone in that position but a licensed physician."

On the other side of the same issue, a reader said:

"The coroner is chiefly an administrator and an administrator need not necessarily be a medical doctor."

MAY 20 1968

P.C.B. Est. 1888

## All About Politics

Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE



### The November Story: Nixon and Humphrey

With just one more presidential primary to go, it begins to appear as if the choice, this year, for President will be between two vice presidents — one former, one present — and that, after all, there will be no new face in the White House.

Nixon's durable, commanding series of victories in the primaries (particularly in Oregon where his two major opponents campaigned expensively and unsuccessfully) points to the likelihood he'll get his party's nod at Miami August 5, probably by acclamation and possibly before the first ballot is even ended. The Rockefeller boomlet apparently proved that being an able governor doesn't necessarily add up to being a successful politician, and Reagan seems to have proved himself the party's top money-raiser rather than its top vote-getter. Both men, however, will be factors in Nixon's choice for running mate — not so much as a choice but their say-so on who it should be. One certainty: It won't be Washington's Gov. Dan Evans, despite Nixon's careful words in Olympia last week. When political deals are made at this level, it takes two to tango, and Evans, bespeaking the new young Republican image as he does, still doesn't have more than that to trade with.

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### McCarthy Due Here Wednesday

En route back to New York following the California primary Tuesday, Senator Eugene McCarthy will swing by Washington State Wednesday noon to shake hands with delegates to the Demo state convention and discuss his plans for the two and a half months leading up to the party's convention in Chicago.

Even if he loses to Kennedy Tuesday (and most polls show Kennedy slightly in the lead) his supporters here and elsewhere feel the thrust of McCarthy's campaign is such that he will play a key role in the power juggling leading up to the nomination.

McCarthy's campaign — and his Oregon victory last week — continues to confound the

(Continued on Page 7)

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We doubt that the public will buy this type of "modernization" based upon the concept of an overpaid and overloaded system of nine partisan legislators.

11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

# Freeholder Will Ask Board To Rethink Auditor Decision

Simon Wampold, county freeholder, said today he plans to ask the Board of Freeholders to reconsider its stand in favor of an appointive, rather than elective, county auditor.

Wampold contended the auditor "will need an independence which he can only achieve through election by the people."

By an 8 to 3 vote, the freeholders decided May 11 that

the auditor should be appointed by the county commissioners.

THE PRELIMINARY draft of a charter will be presented to the freeholders Saturday and at that time all decisions will be discussed again. Wampold said that since he will be out of the state most of June he would submit his ideas in writing through Paul Meyer, executive secretary.

"We have recognized in our deliberations that there is a need for an independent post audit review of county officials," Wampold said. "We have also expressed a consensus for some type of ombudsman or citizen-complaint review board."

He said an elected auditor could handle both tasks.

"The auditor should be the watchdog of the county and also the conscience of the county," Wampold said, "a one-man grand jury but without the evils attendant on periodically and hastily assembled grand juries as we have known them in the past."

WAMPOLD SAID a merit system for county employes should provide a speedy and simple way for a citizen to complain.

He said a merit system also should provide a method by which employment and job advancement would not depend solely on written examinations because many persons are not adept at taking these.

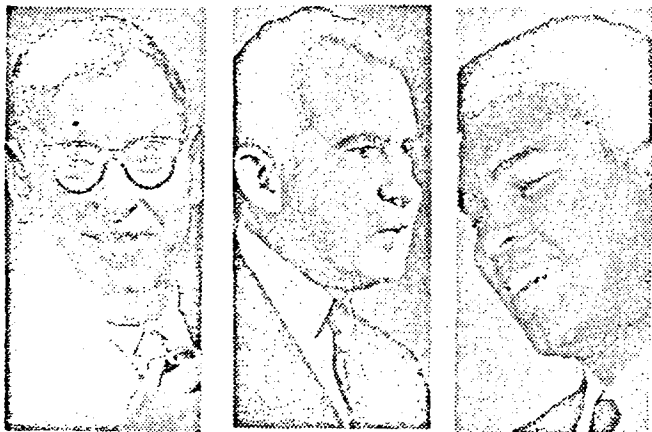
Recommendations of the official responsible for the office should weigh heavily in a formula to govern hiring and promotions, he said.

Wampold called for a personnel board which chiefly would hear appeals from employes. While a personnel board should set standards of employment practices, he said, it should not become an employment agency.

## Clip and Mail

## Letter To Servicemen

(This is a letter for servicemen to let them know what's going on here at home. It's no substitute for personal letters, so write your own letter, then clip this letter and inclose it with yours. This will be in each Sunday's Post-Intelligencer.)



DOUG WELCH

RICHARD NIXON

CASSIUS CLAY

SEATTLE, June 1—Most of the action this week was anywhere but in Seattle. It was a week with its voice muted by Memorial Day, a Memorial day more poignant than they are between wars. There was Seattle's annual Memorial Day parade along Fourth Avenue past Memorial Plaza at the Public Safety Bldg. This is where are lined the marble slabs with the 2,432 names of Seattle and King County's World War II dead. In the line of march and the best part of the 49-unit parade were B Company and D Company from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Advanced Training Brigade, Ft. Lewis. The marching infantrymen got a small hand from the small crowd, mostly, it appeared, because the majority of parade watchers didn't know these advanced infantry trainees from a Boy Scout troop.

An old friend of almost everyone, the P-I's Doug Welch, columnist and humorist summa cum laude, died at his typewriter this week, victim of a heart attack at age 61. He was a man of many talents and not the least of them was his ability to make people smile . . . anyone can make you cry but the man who creates true humor is priceless and there are few of him.

Politics is in the very air around here. The GOP right wing is still fighting with the moderates. The Demos are all fighting with each other depending upon their allegiance to McCarthy, Kennedy or Humphrey. Nixon came through this week to meet with his people and patted Gov. Dan Evans on the back by referring to him as a "possible" vice presidential nominee. Gov. Dan just smiled . . . he knows Nixon says it to all the boys.

Response to last week's P-I poll was a momuntal hohum. Previous polls have drawn thousands of answers a week. But the latest, concerning the freeholders who are writing a new King County charter to revamp county government, drew fewer than 100 returns. And most of those who responded were not quite sure what the questions meant. Actually, the work of the freeholders is going to affect the lives of almost 1 million persons during the next couple of decades.

Civil rights leaders and the Washington National Guard, headed by Maj. Gen. Howard S. McGee, got together at Camp Murray to work out a plan to improve the Guard's image among the state's minority groups. Chief result was a plan for aggressive recruiting of Negroes into the Guard.

A subdued Muhammad Ali, nee Cassius Clay, spent a couple of days here this week on behalf of the Black Muslims. Gone was the old flip, wisecracking man of heavyweight championship days. Instead, he was a serious and eloquent exponent of his views.

**ALONG THE WAY** — HMS Glamorgan, the Royal Navy's newest guided missile destroyer tied up at Pier 91 for a four-day visit on her way to her new station at Singapore . . . Maybe the National Science Foundation knows something we don't. It gave the University of Washington \$5 million to build an underground laboratory for earth science studies . . . Cliff Jorgenson and Earnest J. Hardman and their wives, of Federal Way, died when their Cessna 177 crashed in the west end of Snoqualmie Pass. Eight orphans . . . Little Willie John, the blues composer and singer who made more than \$100,000 a year at his peak, died in the state pen at Walla Walla of pneumonia. He was doing a stretch for a knife killing while he was playing here in 1965 . . . The motor ship Elwha, last of the state's four super ferries, will arrive in Seattle tomorrow from San Diego, after being delayed by coastal storms. The other three, Hyak, Kaleetan and Yakima were all back on their runs the last time we looked — about an hour ago . . . Speaking of storms, Seattle had better weather in March than it's been getting the past two or three weeks. Rain, you know, and lots of it.

U. W. Students

6-5-68

## Three Interns Hired For County Program

The groundwork for establishing a motor pool and program budgeting for King County will be laid in the summer. Data for creation of a personnel system could be an outgrowth.

These developments will begin when three graduate students at the University of Washington start work for the county Monday as interns. County Commissioner John Spellman said they will be supervised by County Administrator John Porter.

The three, recommended by Dr. Ernest Miller, director of the University's School of Public Affairs,

will be the first employed by the county under an intern program. Seattle has used interns in the past.

PORTER said the interns are Michael Fuson, 24, studying for his doctorate in political science; Clifford L. Stiltz, Jr., 23, now a law student with a master's degree in public administration and William M. Hinkle, 27, working toward his master's in public administration. All have prior experience working for governmental units on the West Coast.

Porter said Stiltz and Hinkle will continue to work part time after the summer vacation.

Fuson will be Porter's administrative assistant. Stiltz, who developed a manual on commercial haulers for the State Motor Vehicle Department in 1966, will work with department heads to develop program budgeting here.

The first step toward program budgeting was made this week when the planning department was granted an emergency appropriation based on a program-budget outline.

BY STATE law, county budgets are spelled out in line items that specify the salaries of each employee. In a program budget, the appropriation lists the operation in which the employee is engaged as well as other expenditures needed to carry out the project.

Porter said he will suggest that all appointed department heads submit program budgets for 1969. He said elected department heads will have an option.

In what could lay the groundwork for a personnel system, Porter said appointed department heads will be required to submit an organization chart that includes the title and job description of each employee. This will be for the program budget. Guidelines for job descriptions will be furnished the departments.

## Freeholders Want Consultant

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, said today he will propose that a consultant be hired to draw boundaries of county-commission-

er districts.

Freeholders have decided that the Board of Commissioners should be enlarged from three to nine members, all elected by districts.

A preliminary draft of a county charter will be reviewed by the board Saturday. The aim is to complete a charter in time to present it to voters at the November general election.

**FREEHOLDERS HAD** discussed allowing three commissioners to seek election in each of the existing three commissioner districts, with provision in the charter for establishing new commissioner-district boundaries later.

Under Albrecht's proposal, the commissioner-district boundaries would be established in the charter, which would provide for future re-districting.

Albrecht said he will pro-

pose that Raj Joshi, a specialist in population data analysis, be hired to draw the commissioner-district boundaries using guidelines established by the freeholders.

**JOSHI**, A partner and principal planner of Urban Planning & Research Associates, estimated the work would take five days and cost up to \$800.

In 1967, Joshi drafted a forecast of population distributor and employment showing the impact of a proposed rapid transit system. The work was done for King and Snohomish counties.

Joshi formerly was a planning consultant with the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Study and an associate planner in the County Planning Department.

He helped prepare Seattle's model cities application.

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## County Charter Showing Delayed Week by Death

By Our County News Bureau making the auditor an elected official, have been submitted. Unveiling of the proposed county charter scheduled for yesterday will occur next Saturday instead, Paul Meyer, executive secretary, said Friday. The delay was due to the death of Senator Robert Kennedy and to the need for additional language refinements on the document. The draft has been in the hands of freeholders since Tuesday, Meyer said, and some suggested changes, principally

making the auditor an elected official, have been submitted. Other changes have been mainly alterations in wording.

The proposed charter will be released officially for public scrutiny at Saturday's meeting. Public hearings and at least one more version of the document lie ahead before the charter reaches its final ballot form. It's scheduled to be before voters at the general election on November 5.

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# JEWS

REGULAR DELIVERY CALL MAIN 4-7722

## Freeholders Probe Elective Versus Appointive Offices

A KOMO News  
Northwest Feature  
By BRIAN JOHNSON

### What About Freeholders, New Charter?

What decisions are the elected King County Freeholders making about government for our county, and why? Why, for instance, would an elected county administrator be preferable or less desirable than an appointed administrator?

Seattle League of Women Voters and guests will discuss these questions at unit meetings May 21 to 23. Other Leagues in King County will discuss the same material during May. Interested women are invited to attend.

For information regarding the meeting times and places for neighborhood units call Mrs. James Tyler, EM 2-6498.

The King County Freeholders are now in the final stages of drafting a new county charter (for consideration by the voters).

One of the major decisions was made over the weekend when the 15-member board considered the question of elective versus appointive offices. The tentative resolution of the question was to retain the county assessor's office as an elective position. To have the County Commissioners appoint a legislative auditor. The executive of the new county government would be charged with appointment of the coroner, sheriff, and treasurer. The judges of the Superior Court would appoint the clerk of the court.

All of these positions are now elective.

The elected positions would be the county administrator, the county commissioners, and the assessor.

The decision to retain the assessor as an elective post was obviously conditioned on the fact that many of the freeholders felt that making all of these positions appointive would jeopardize voter passage of the eventual document.

The decision to chop out most of the elected positions indeed met with a mixed reaction at County Hall this week. The basic argument is over whether the individual voter should have the right to pass judgement on the performance of each individual currently elected.

The other side of the coin is that with nine County Commissioners and a chief executive, who is elected, the voters have substantial control over their county. Thus many feel the administrative positions can be appointive without compromising the control people have over their government.

The assessor's office was maintained as an elective position because this is regarded as the office closest to the hearts or spleen of the electorate. But

many of the freeholders felt this position, too, should be appointive.

It was interesting to note the reaction of one county commissioner who favors retention of elective positions. He said there were "two positions which I feel could be better served by appointive officers." One was the clerk of the court, who the commissioner felt could be best chosen by the judges of the Superior Court. The second position was county superintendent of schools. This elective administrative position, the commissioner felt, could obviously be filled by a man chosen by the County School Board or other such agency. The freeholders are unable to speak on that position.

Another elective position is county prosecutor. There are many who feel it is somewhat strange for an officer of the court to stand partisan election, as he now does.

There is, of course, no such thing as Republican law or Democrat law. There is also an open question as to whether or not the prosecutor should be elected or chosen on the recommendations of the bar by the County Board.

But the freeholders were unable to consider that question, too. The freeholders said, "Many of our professional and administrative leaders should be kept out of the political light."

It is a question well worth discussing whether the prosecuting attorney and school superintendent should be kept out of the political light, partisan or non partisan.

If the voters of King county agreed with the freeholders' decision to transform many of the now elected positions into appointive positions, it might then be wise to study the 21st Amendment to the State Constitution which mandates that they put on blinders as far as the prosecutor and school superintendent are concerned. The 21st amendment forbids the freeholders from affecting the election of prosecutor or school superintendent.

that train has passed *ARGUS 5-17-68*

## County-City Should Merge; Freeholders' Job Obsolete

### Ideal Project for League of Women Voters

King County freeholders, elected to draw up a new charter for the county, have been meeting faithfully to do their job and the final draft will soon be ready. There have been long debates about the number of commissioners, whether or not some officials should be elected or appointed, and other equally obtuse problems.

as  
I  
see it  
Philip  
Bailey

Certainly the freeholders are doing a conscientious and workmanlike job, but we can't help wondering if they are not concerned with a plan that is outdated, outmoded and obsolete.

Today there are compelling reasons for the consolidation of governing bodies. First, of course, is the expensive and wasteful duplication of officials and employees, starting with law enforcement agencies, and running through the courts, fire departments, parks, planning, schools and so on, ad infinitum.

If these duplicated agencies made the problems easier of solution, they might justify their existence, but just the opposite is the case. Planning is a prime example. Proper use of land will become ever more important, and it will become increasingly necessary as population and industry expand. It must be accomplished on at least a county-wide basis, preferably a regional one.

#### Only One Agency

Roads and highways should certainly be under the control of one central agency, not only to insure proper location of secondary highways and roads, but to avoid the duplication and expense of two engineering departments.

Sewage and garbage disposal is just another facet of government that requires area-wide planning and solutions.

Lethargy, resistance to change, tenure of existing office holders, will make consolidation difficult. But it seems inconceivable that voters will allow these difficulties to stand in the way of necessary changes which will insure more efficient and less expensive government.

Pressure for the change must come from the voters themselves, for those ensconced in office will never take the initiative, and will, on the other hand, fight valiantly for the status quo.

It would seem to me that an organization such as the **League of Women Voters** could and should take on the job of assembling the facts and figures necessary to obtain a clear cut picture of the savings and benefits from consolidated government. They could then present such a plan to the voters for approval. It would be a major undertaking, but one which would be of incalculable profit to the whole community.

We are, after all, in the jet age, not in the horse and buggy era, and our government should adjust to that reality.

## First Of Series *5-20-68* On FREEHOLDERS *S. SHAPPI NEWS*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the first in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to voters for their approval. The series is being written by Mrs. Evelyn Amyes, official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions.)

By MRS. EVELYN AMYES

Who are the King County Freeholders? A group of 13 men and two women elected from three districts in King County to write a charter. They serve without pay, working until the charter is completed and submitted to the voters for approval.

The term "freeholder" means an owner of a freehold — a piece of land which can be passed to heirs. The other uniquely high requirements met by the King County freeholder candidates were that they be qualified electors (registered voters) with at least five years' residence in the county.

Why does King County need a charter? To modernize government. The present form of county government was established 114 years ago by the Washington Territorial Assembly. In those pioneer days a county was thought to be an agency of the state needing few powers, since it would serve sparsely settled rural areas. The form of government established then is basically unchanged today.

In the years since 1854, the population has grown to more than a million. King County is now larger in population than nearly one third of the states of the Union. With more people crowding together, more problems have developed: problems of garbage, water supply, flood control, sewage, planning for orderly growth, and many others.

Because the county had few powers granted by the state to deal with these emerging problems, special districts have been formed. Today there are a total of 237 governmental units in the county, sometimes working in opposite

directions.

King County elects the three legislator-administrators (the county commissioners) and 34 other independent county officials. In addition there are appointed officials, boards, and commissions. Because there are so many, the citizen may become confused about whom to hold responsible for action or lack of action.

Many students of government believe that county structure should be simpler, more understandable, better able to solve problems, more responsive to the wishes of the people than the present organization of King County permits.

The State Constitution will allow us home rule to establish for ourselves the kind of government we want in King County if, and only if, we adopt a county charter. The Freeholders are now at work drawing up such a charter.

Future articles will report on the progress of the Freeholders.

## Mrs. North To Speak At Luncheon

Mrs. Douglass C. North will speak to the Mercer Island Federated Republican Women at luncheon beginning at 11:45 a.m. Monday, June 3, at the home of Mrs. C. A. Newell, 6043 78th S.E.

Mrs. North will discuss the proposed King County charter, and some of the ideas being advanced by the Board of County Freeholders, of which she is a member.

Mrs. North is a past president of the Seattle League of Women Voters, and is currently a candidate for the Republican nomination for State representative from the 44th legislative district.

Cost of the luncheon is \$1.50. The public is welcome. No babysitting service will be available at this meeting.

## Stadium Stand Is Approved

Mr. John L. Fournier,  
Editor and Publisher  
Dear John:

Thanks for sending me your editorial on "Let's Not Deceive Voters on the Stadium." I agree with you that we do have a problem in that \$40,000,000 will not provide parking for a stadium. \$40,000,000 will be needed for a covered stadium and the problem of parking will still exist.

Along side of that editorial you had another editorial on "A King County Sugar-Plum Tree." After I read it I certainly agree with your thinking that perhaps we could get the county commissioners to serve at \$1 per year. I will bring this up at the next Freeholders meeting which is this coming Saturday. Thanks for remembering me.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Friedlander,  
Member, Board of King  
County Freeholders.

Seattle, Wash.

Argus  
(Cir. W. 7,210)

JUN 7 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Letters to the Argus

Dear Sir: 2177

I disagree. The governments of King County and the City of Seattle should remain separate. In addition, the Freeholders have a most difficult, yet most necessary and urgent job to do and do well.

The Wall Street Journal on 3 October 1967 pointed out that the combined government of the County and City of Honolulu has all the problems of any big city in the U.S., and has the same lack of solutions. Many political scientists place the blame for these problems of cities on the patchwork of local governments. Consolidation they maintain will permit solution of these problems.

Honolulu has a consolidated government. According to the Journal, its worst problem is a lack of planning. Therefore, the Honolulu experience indicates that large, central governments do not provide "better" planning or "better" urban development.

To paraphrase Professor Robert Warren of the University of Washington (a political scientist) a central, combined government does not per se make master plans easy or workable. Small area problems remain the same regardless of the size of Government. In addition, big government is not necessarily efficient or coordinated. May I add, as an example, our Federal Government?

I request that you encourage the Freeholders to devise a simple, efficient and workable organization for our county. To quote the League of Women Voters, whom you have asked for help, "the unwieldy structure of county government makes it difficult for the citizen to understand, to vote intelligently, or to know whom he can contact for answers to his governmental problems."

FRANK MATZ

### Meeting Postponed<sup>2177</sup>

The County Board of Freeholders meeting scheduled tomorrow was postponed today because of the mourning for Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Richard Albrecht, chairman, said the meeting will be held June 15.



JUN 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Progress Report On Local Government

Presently numerous changes and improvements are underway in both city and county governments, but change for the sake of change is not necessarily desirable. We are interested in change for the sake of improvement and we believe that presently this is the brand that is being 'sold.'

Some citizens think that local government is stagnant, unbending, uninteresting and uninterested. This type of thinking has not always been without cause but credit should be given where it is due.

### CITY

Here are some of the changes for the better in Seattle which clearly show the responsiveness of the city government toward better administration.

1. In 1967 a highly select and well qualified committee of citizens appointed by the Mayor studied the City Charter and recommended a number of important changes which were received and analyzed by the city government and subsequently approved by the voters in November. They are in the process of being implemented and undoubtedly will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of city administration.

2. The city administration reacted promptly in the summer of 1967 to the increasing poverty and race problems and by developing some well considered actions helped calm an uneasy situation. Additional programs in this area have since been developed and major strides are being made toward permanent solutions to some of the problems.

3. A comprehensive survey of the Seattle Police Department has been made by the International Association of Police Chiefs, an organization with experienced and highly competent analysts. The findings of the study, when implemented, undoubtedly will result in an improved Police Department.

4. A job classification survey of over 10,000 positions in city government has been undertaken. It will go a long way toward updating many jobs because of changes in technology, systems and procedures, and in the operation of city departments.

5. Another highly select and well qualified committee of citizens is studying, in detail, the procedures and operations of the City Council with the objective of determining what changes could improve and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of that important and busy legislative body.

6. Finally, it must be recognized that the Forward Thrust proposals were developed under the sponsorship of both the City and the County government. Those proposals that were approved by the voters are being implemented with a cooperative effort in an attempt to give citizens the most for their Forward Thrust tax dollar.

### COUNTY

As of now we can't point to as many changes in the county government as we credit to the city, but there actually could be more by this time next year.

1. The action with potentially the greatest impact on county government is the preparation of a new County Charter by the fifteen Freeholders elected last November. They have spent much time and effort following a carefully considered and well organized program to come up with the most suitable and acceptable county government they can humanly put together. If this Charter is accepted by the voters in November it will bring much needed improvement to county government.

2. Forward Thrust of course was based to a large extent on proposals affecting the entire county and had strong county government support. The county is moving ahead promptly in implementing the successful proposals.

3. A big step in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the government of the county was the appointment of a County Administrator. This was an important and long overdue change.

4. Another improvement which undoubtedly will bring about greater efficiency was the consolidation of the two County Road Districts. This is another step forward.

It is good once in awhile to sit down, resurvey the situation and recognize the signs of progress and improvement. Everything isn't all bad. We do have many hard-working, dedicated people, in and out of local government, struggling to provide effective and efficient government. The Municipal League is dedicated to this endeavor.

## OMBUDSMAN

The concept of an "Ombudsman," to deal with citizen complaints has been gaining favor in many quarters by students of government. The League's King County Government Committee recommended the establishment of an Ombudsman's office in the charter now being drafted by the Freeholders. This recommendation appears to have caught the fancy of the Freeholders for they have incorporated the provision for such a function in their preliminary draft of the charter.

Studies of this approach in dealing with citizen complaints have been developed by the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California. A paper entitled "The Citizen and the Bureaucracy," it was noted that a paradox often develops, wherein the citizen seeks to control the bureaucracy that he has indirectly established to control, in part, his own activities. The paper describes and evaluates the role of the legislative branch as a "collective Ombudsman," and its continuing capacity to handle citizen complaints in the absence of new institutions.

The Institute of Government Studies has contributed several articles to the continuing study of the Ombudsman with the premise that the present social structure is essentially bureaucratic in both public and private sectors. The report says that public bureaucracies wield great power. They can be a source of abuse and injustice even assuming the best of motives since the frequency of contacts between a citizen and the government has increased.

The Ombudsman concept is practiced in several European countries with considerable effectiveness in some instances but has yet to be instituted on a large scale in this country. Critics of the proposal say that establishment of this new service would more than add to the already over-burdened operations of local government. A bill proposing an Ombudsman office be established for state government failed in the last session of the Legislature.

Proponents of the concept say that bureaucracies are so large and unwieldy and remote from the individual citizen that it is extremely difficult for him to know where to take his grievance.

COMMENT: Most people agree that some procedure should be established for servicing citizen complaints but the comment was made, by Herb Robinson in the Seattle Times, that another name should be offered up in place of "Ombudsman," which few people understand let alone are able to pronounce.

# Best's Moonlighting

The revelation that City Councilman Ted Best is on the payroll of the Washington Optometric Association, as its executive secretary, raises some serious questions regarding the salaries and responsibilities of elected public officials.

City Council positions, which command annual salaries of \$15,000, are supposed to be full-time jobs. It's difficult to believe that Best can devote a proper amount of time to the city while earning an extra \$5,400 a year from another employer.

Even assuming that Best, who we regard as an able councilman, is giving the city a fair shake, the question of ethics arises. We believe there is an inevitable conflict of interest when an elected public official accepts pay from a private source, particularly one which may have legislative goals.

The citizens of Seattle have a right to demand that their city councilmen

stick to their jobs as councilmen. Accordingly, they should be paid enough to preclude the necessity of their seeking outside income.

On the matter of salaries for public officials, the King County Board of Freeholders has recommended that county commissioners to be elected under the proposed new charter receive \$18,000 annually and the county's chief elected administrator \$27,000. The theory is that these salaries will be high enough to attract qualified candidates and to insure that they devote all of their working hours to the county. It's a good theory, and we subscribe to it.

IT MAY BE that the level of City Council salaries is due for a review. We think a reasonable argument can be made that councilmanic salaries should at least equal those of the county commissioners.

In the meantime, we suggest that Councilman Best halt his moonlighting.

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

MAY 26 1968

Allen P.C.B. Est. 1888

## New County Charter's Almost Done

By Our County News Bureau

A wrapup of the work produced by the Board of King County Freeholders in six months on the job was issued late last week by Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board. Included in his report were the major points of agreement on what will be in the new county charter, due for its first unveiling June 8.

In it are decisions involving the restructuring of King County in its legislative and executive functions, including a proposal to provide for a full-time legislative body of nine commissioners nominated and elected by district. This group would have only legislative responsibilities and would be paid a salary no less than that which AA-class county commissioners receive — which will be \$18,000 yearly after next fall's elections. Elections would be on a partisan basis.

Freeholders also decided the new charter should include a chief executive independently elected at large, also on a partisan basis, and that he should have on his staff a professional administrator who would be responsible for staff administration. The board pegged salary of the chief executive at one to one and a half times that of county legislators.

In a third major decision, freeholders approved the creation of a personnel system for the county in a separate body apart from the executive and the legislature. The director of this system and the board's members should be appointed by the county chief executive, with the board's chief function primarily the hearing of grievances. Other policies involving hiring and examinations were judged to be an executive matter within the preview of the personnel director.

Some political activity should be allowed at the state or federal level, freeholders argued, but prohibited such activity for county employees. Those persons presently employed by the county, they felt, should have assurance of continued employment with the requirement they pass satisfactorily a job examination.

The present offices of assessor, auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff, and treasurer — presently all elective, would be (except for assessor) appointive offices under the new charter. Freeholders decided that all appointments are to be made by the county chief executive with the exception of an auditor, whose appointment will be made by the legislative body. All others will be confirmed by the legislative body.

Although freeholders agreed the charter should include additional provisions setting up initiative referendum and recall procedures and that there should be provision for an office to receive citizen's complaints, the precise nature of these proposals will wait until the first draft is approved.

Meyer said freeholders had met 35 times since December 5, 1967, to hold orientation sessions, deliberative sessions (at which votes were taken) and public forums. A new series of public forums is being planned throughout the county during July and August on the proposed charter, following which freeholders will again reconsider the charter. A final vote, based on a section by section analysis, will be taken by late August.

The charter is expected to be ready for ballot certification in September, permitting it to be placed on the November, 1968, general election ballot.



## Publisher's Corner

by John S. Murray

2/77

Compiling the answers to the questionnaire that appeared in this column two weeks ago turned out to be a most enlightening experience. I asked for candid opinions and got them. They ranged from "You are doing a great job, keep it up," to "What have you ever done to deserve re-election?"

The first fourteen questions are from a questionnaire being used by many Republican candidates throughout the state. There will be an opportunity later to compare the thinking within the 36th district with that of other districts throughout the state. The last six questions were added to cover local issues and to get some idea of current thinking about the governor and myself.

Questionnaires such as this are most helpful to a representative and I certainly appreciate the efforts of those who took the time to fill them out and return them. I doubt that there are any two that give all the same answers. Adding them all together however, one gets a very good cross-section of the thinking throughout the district.

In almost all cases, my thinking and my actions in the legislature are in accord with the general thinking of the people I represent. Listed below are the questions, your answers and my answers to the same questions.

1. Are enough parks and recreational facilities being provided for our people?

Yes 28% No 56% No Opinion 16%

NO—Forward Thrust will be a great help but we still need the passage of the \$40 million state bond issue that will be on the ballot this fall. We must take action now to meet the tremendous demand of the immediate future.

2. Should Washington abolish capital punishment?

Yes 36% No 54% No Opinion 10%

YES—From a practical standpoint we do not have it now, nor does any other state. This week's Life Magazine points out that there are over 450 people in Death Row throughout the country but no one has been executed in the past year.

3. Do you favor a state income tax?

Yes 29% No 54% No Opinion 16%

Of those answering Yes some 9% favored a flat rate tax and 26% favored a graduated tax. Some people answered the question "No" and then marked one of the rates.

NO—An income tax should be imposed only as part of a tax reform package that will improve our total tax picture. See question No. 14.

4. Should special levies be eliminated as a regular method of financing public schools?

Yes 62% No 21% No Opinion 17%

YES—We must find a way to finance our public schools that is regular and dependable without sacrificing the quality of our education. Eliminating special levies will be impossible without major tax



# Commission-Unit Boundaries May Stay in Charter — Curran

Freeholders have decided tentatively to retain in a new King County charter the present three commissioner districts, with three commissioners to be elected from each district to create the nine-member board recommended.

James Curran, Kent attorney and one of 15 members of the Board of King County Freeholders, told members of the Kent Rotary Club at luncheon yesterday the commissioner-district decision is one of several incorporated into the first draft of a proposed new charter.

The actual draft will be unveiled for the first time at a meeting of the freeholders in the courthouse Saturday forenoon.

Before Curran's disclosure of the plan to retain the present boundaries for commissioner districts, there had been speculation in some quarters that it might be necessary to create nine new commissioner districts to provide that one commissioner be elected from each district.

For practical purposes, the present three commissioner districts split the county into a north district and a south district, with a third, or central district, embracing primarily the City of Seattle.

Curran prefaced his capsule preview of the first charter draft by pointing out that one of the first concerns of the charter drafters was to provide a way of separating the county commissioners' dual functions of policy-making and of administration.

To make that separation possible, the charter is expected to propose:

1. An elected county executive who would be responsible for county administration, and, operating under him, by appointment, trained departmental administrators.

2. Expansion of the Board of County Commissioners from three to nine members, all still elected on a partisan political basis with three to represent each present commissioner district. The expanded board then would function primarily as the policy-making body.

3. The number of elected county officials now serving primarily as administrators would be trimmed to two—the county assessor and the prosecuting attorney. Curran explained that state statute requires that the county prosecutor be elected.

Curran told his fellow Rotarians that the freeholders had made a special effort "to solve this county personnel situation."

"We adopted a personnel board with an appointed director of personnel," the attorney explained, "and we set up a merit system whereby persons can be procured on a system other than the spoils system."

The first draft of the proposed new basic law for the county also contains provisions which "enlarge the right of the people to challenge the law," Curran explained.

He said that in addition to retaining citizen rights to recall, the initiative and the referendum, the freeholders have put into the document a process whereby "people actually can submit an ordinance if they can't get it adopted any other way."

Another change, he said, will shift county elections to coincide with municipal elections.

Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of Freeholders, explained the background of the charter and discussion sessions in which the freeholders have engaged for several months. He also showed a short motion picture depicting various functions of county government throughout Washington State.

Meyer said the freeholders expect to have the new document ready for submission to voters at the November general election.

It is considered likely that several changes will be made in the first draft of the document after it is unveiled Saturday and before it is polished into final form for acceptance or rejection by the electorate.

# Commissioners May Be Kept In New Charter, Curran Says

Freeholders have decided tentatively to retain in a new King County charter the present three commissioner districts, with three commissioners to be elected from each district to create the nine-member board recommended.

James Curran, Kent attorney and one of 15 members of the Board of King County Freeholders, told members of the Kent Rotary Club at luncheon yesterday the commissioner-district decision is one of several incorporated into the first draft of a proposed new charter.

The actual draft will be unveiled for the first time at a meeting of the freeholders in the courthouse Saturday forenoon.

Before Curran's disclosure of the plan to retain the present

boundaries for commissioner districts, there had been speculation in some quarters that it might be necessary to create nine new commissioner districts to provide that one commissioner be elected from each district.

For practical purposes, the present three commissioner districts split the county into a north district and a south district, with a third, or central district, embracing primarily the City of Seattle.

Curran prefaced his capsule preview of the first charter draft by pointing out that one of the first concerns of the charter drafters was to provide a way of separating the county commissioners' dual functions of policy-making and of administration.

To make that separation possible, the charter is expected to propose:

1. An elected county executive who would be responsible for county administration, and, operating under him, by appointment, trained departmental administrators.

2. Expansion of the Board of County Commissioners from three to nine members, all still elected on a partisan political basis with three to represent each present commissioner district. The expanded board then would function primarily as the policy-making body.

3. The number of elected county officials now serving primarily as administrators would be trimmed to two—the county assessor and the prosecuting attorney. Curran explained that state statute requires that the county prosecutor be elected.

Curran told his fellow Rotarians that the freeholders had made a special effort "to solve this county personnel situation."

"We adopted a personnel board with an appointed director of personnel," the attorney

explained, "and we set up a merit system whereby persons can be procured on a system other than the spoils system."

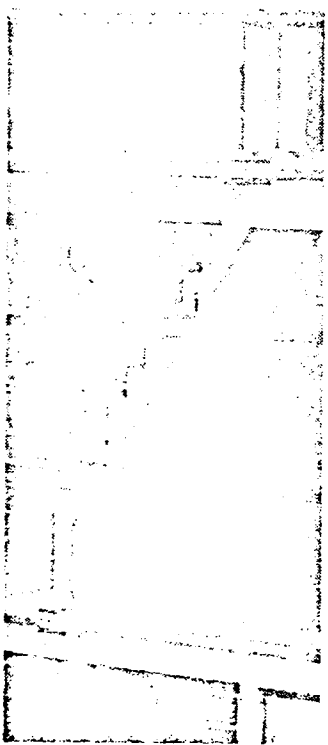
The first draft of the proposed new basic law for the county also contains provisions which "enlarge the right of the people to challenge the law," Curran explained.

He said that in addition to retaining citizen rights to recall, the initiative and the referendum, the freeholders have put into the document a process whereby "people actually can submit an ordinance if they can't get it adopted any other way."

Another change, he said, will shift county elections to coincide with municipal elections.

Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of Freeholders, explained the background of the charter and discussion sessions in which the freeholders have engaged for several months. He also showed a short motion picture depicting various functions of county government throughout Washington State.

Meyer said the freeholders expect to have the new document ready for submission to voters at the November general election.



What is this man doing?  
... Answer on Page 14.

The Board of County Freeholders agreed yesterday to hire John Donahoe & Associates, consultant, to critique the proposed county charter and make recommendations.

The consulting firm will be paid \$1,755. Work will begin immediately. Major provisions in the preliminary draft of the charter include:

**ELECTED OFFICIALS** — Nine county commissioners elected by districts, chief executive and assessor elected countywide, all partisan. Vacancies filled by a majority of commissioners or by special election if that route chosen by commissioners.

**ELECTIONS** — Charter goes into effect May 1, 1979, special primary election February 11, 1979, and special general election March 11, 1979, for county officials. Elections thereafter in odd-numbered years. Three present county commissioners and assessor continue in office until terms expire. Present elected officials whose offices are abolished or made appointive will continue on county payroll at present salary.

**COUNTY EMPLOYEES** — Employees covered by personnel system located into job if employed as of June 1, 1978. A personnel director appointed by a county administrator and five-member personnel board appointed by the executive

and confirmed by the commissioners must be appointed by June 1, 1979, and rules recommended by the personnel board must be approved by commissioners by January 1, 1979.

Charter gives employee right to appeal firing, promotion, suspension or other applications of rules to the personnel board. Exempt from coverage are elected officials, employees of county commissioners, appointed officers and aides of executive and administrative branch and officers, personnel secretaries to elected and appointed officials, court and hospital personnel. Charter would continue the sheriff's civil service system in force at least two years. Thereafter, commissioners are allowed but not required to place system under county personnel board.

**COMMISSIONERS** — Confined to policy making and confirming department heads appointed by chief executive. Appoints auditor and clerk to board.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH** — Includes executive administrator and assessor. Executive supervises administrative and executive departments, prepares budget, appoints administrator and has veto over legislation. Commissioners may override veto by vote of six commissioners.

Administrator appoints, with confirmation of executive, heads of budget, personnel, data-processing, building and purchasing departments. Executive, with confirmation of

commissioners, appoints directors of public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health and welfare, records and elections, finance, public services and recreation, planning and zoning, and court clerk.

**PAY** — Initially, commissioners and assessor will receive \$16,000 and chief executive \$27,000 a year. Later commissioners set salary.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** — Bans officers and employees from financial interest in services or property in which county has interest, or from accepting gifts, rebates or special services from firms dealing with county. Requires commissioners to adopt ordinance establishing civil and criminal penalties against employee and firms who violate prohibitions.

**POLITICAL ACTIVITY** — In effect bans "flower funds" and those covered by personnel system from political activity involving county elected officials.

**DISCRIMINATION** — Bans discrimination based on age, sex, race, national origin or religion in employment practices. Bans contracting with firms that discriminate.

**REFERENDUM, INITIATIVE, RECALL** — Provides for referendum and initiative by petition bearing signatures of registered voters amounting to 10 per cent of the number

voting in the preceding gubernatorial to 40,000 signatures now. Provides to citizens.

**APPEALS BOARD** — Established by board appointed by the executive, the commissioners, to hear zoning variance permits for land and against tax boards of adjustment and equalization appeals of orders of the executive requested by the commissioners.

**OMIBUSMAN** — Provides for appointment of a citizens-service officer and publicize recommendations make and publicize recommendations

**COMMISSIONER BOUNDARIES** — Provides for appointment of the citizens-member committee to review in 1979 thereafter the boundaries of county. Its membership cannot be more than 10 per cent. County commissioners either proposed boundary changes, but each executive would not have the veto power. (See Page 1 for other freeholder

## Elected-Auditor Plan Is Rejected

By JERRY HERSCOV

An effort to make the county auditor elected instead of appointed in a proposed county charter was rejected overwhelmingly yesterday.

The Board of County Freeholders voted 11 to 1 against making the auditor an elected official. Under the proposed charter the auditor will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to check the executive branch of government.

**BUT THE** freeholders did not make what amounts to a decision to draw specific boundaries in the charter for nine commissioner districts. They agreed to hire R. H. John, an urban planning consultant, to draft

proposed boundaries. His work should be completed early in July.

**FREEHOLDERS** hope to complete study of a draft Tuesday night, put it in final form by July 9, hold public hearings in mid-July, and adopt the final proposal by September 4. That would place the proposed charter on the November 5 general election ballot.

If approved, the draft calls for a special primary election of new officials February 11, 1979, and a general election March 11, 1979. The charter would go into effect May 1, 1979. (See Page 33 for other details.)

## Assessor Speaks to Freeholders

After a months tour of the county, the Snohomish County Board of Freeholders came home to the courthouse June 5 for their regular meeting.

Carroll L. Barlow, the county assessor, was the speaker on the agenda for the evening. For over two hours he discussed the operation of the assessor's office. He started with the field deputies and their appraisal problems and went on through to the final work done by the office staff. When he had finished, he answered all of the questions asked by the board of freeholders.

When Barlow was through, Dick Welch committee chairman, asked if anyone of the visitors had any comments they wished to make. Geoff Frey, mayor of Marysville, said that he wished to make a report on 150 people that he had pulled in the Marysville area. He said that the people had been very cooperative in favor of public officials.

All board meetings are open to the public.

## Ask The Freeholders

2177  
On June 25, voters of Everett will be asked to cast their ballots on the charter proposal developed by the Everett Board of Freeholders.

The proposal calls for establishment of a strong mayor-council government as opposed

to the existing commission form. A simple "yes" or "no" vote is required and a simple majority will decide the issue.

In an effort to assist voters in making a decision, the following questions and answers have been prepared. Persons wishing

answers to questions not included in this list may address them to "Ask the Freeholders" in care of The Herald and an effort will be made to publish a suitable answer.

Among questions prepared by the members of the freeholder board to cover basic provisions in the new charter are the following:

**Q.** What is the basic difference between the proposed city charter and the present charter?

**A.** The proposed charter will divide the administrative and legislative functions of city government between the mayor and the city council as compared with the present system where the commissioners function in both administrative and legislative areas.

**Q.** Is this division of administrative and legislative function really needed?

**A.** This division of power will parallel the division on the federal and state level. On these levels, we have seen the importance of having the legislative body review the policies of the administrative agency and either approving, modifying and rejecting them.

**Q.** What are the elected positions under the proposed charter?

**A.** The proposed city charter provides for election of a mayor who will be charged with the job of administering city affairs on a full time basis and election of seven part-time city council members who will deal with legislative matters only. The council will meet at least once a week (including one night meeting a month) or more if needed.

**Q.** Why has the mayor been given so much freedom in administering city affairs?

**A.** The freeholders felt that any person charged with full responsibility of administering a city the size of Everett should be given the authority to get the job done. The "tools to do the job." Anything less could result in excuses and alibies by a mayor for not getting a job done. Under the proposed charter, the mayor can and should be held responsible by the voters for the type of job he accomplishes in office.



## Freeholders Get Tough

King County Freeholders last night voted to put language into the proposed county charter which would stop the pay of county commissioners if they failed to redistrict.

This would mean that the pay of the commissioners would be held up each time they failed to comply with the charter provision requiring that the nine proposed

(Page 4, Column 1)

## 'Holders Get Tough On Remap

(From Page 1)

commissioner districts be redistricted every five years.

DON McDONALD, Bothell building contractor and a freeholder, said he liked that motion which was submitted by Norman Ackley, better than one previously offered. It would have provided that no county ordinances could be passed by commissioners until they had complied with the five-year redistricting requirement.

That proposal, McDonald said, "would mean county government would grind to a halt; it would mean anarchy."

McDonald pointed out that already the pay of judges of the courts can be held up if they do not decide cases, though this provision is almost never used.

Ackley said the pay-stopping provision should be highly effective in insuring redistricting, as, officials, like everyone else have to meet house payments and pay their bills.

ACKLEY had himself suggested that the judges of the Superior Court appoint a master of redistricting and that the master's redistricting proposal be submitted to the judges for approval. This proposal will be researched by the freeholders' staff.

On another matter, collective bargaining with county employes, no freeholders favored making it mandatory upon the commissioners; all favored making it permissive.

# Freeholders Bare Draft Of Charter

BY DON CARTER

King County's Board of Freeholders yesterday took the wraps off the first draft of a proposed county charter.

Hashing over major points of the 33-page document, members of the 15-man board indicated there would be many revisions before the charter is presented to county voters in November.

**THE PROPOSED** charter — as it stands now — would:

- Have the county governed by a nine-member legislative body, each member representing a separate district.
- Create an elected "executive" position parallel to that of the city's mayor.
- Give the executive authority to appoint an administrative assistant. The measure is a compromise between the mayor-council and city manager types of government.
- Provide machinery for periodic redistricting of the county.
- Eliminate the now-elective offices of auditor, clerk, treasurer and coroner. Assessors, prosecutors and superior court judges would remain on the ballot.

**MOST OF** the Freeholders appeared to agree on the basic structure of county government detailed in the first charter draft. All nodded assent when one member described it as "a more responsive government."

But the specifics may change considerably during the next few months. Freeholders have scheduled a half-dozen meetings before September. Next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 420, King County Courthouse.

Members differ on how many commissioners the

legislative body should include. Jim O'Connor said the nine-member body would be "too large — my constituents have complained about it." He suggested five or seven members.

Countered Robert Block:

"It should be on a parity with Seattle city government — the city has nine councilmen; we should have nine commissioners."

**BLOCK SAID** the Freeholders should make the charter "work toward a melding with city government." Having a nine-man commission would "accelerate dialogue" between the two, he concluded.

No matter how it turns out in final form, the charter proposal will doubtless contain some concrete rules for redistricting.

Block calls it "mandatory machinery."

Freeholders appeared eager to avoid the redistricting throes which have bogged many state and county governments since the Supreme Court's "one man-one vote" decision.

**THE GROUP** hasn't decided if it will provide new district lines in the November charter proposal. Mrs. Lois North suggested the charter vote should be free from "that emotional, political hot potato."

Presently, the charter draft provides that boundaries of commissioner districts be reviewed in 1971, and at least every five years thereafter. Redistricting would be done by a committee of five commissioners appointed by the chief executive.

But Freeholders hinted yesterday they might change the committee's composition. They debated having a committee of five — two appointed by each of the major political parties' central committees, with the fifth appointed by the chief executive.

**ROBERT EBERLE** favored the idea as "the best way of making redistricting bi-partisan without getting

All  
2177

About

## Politics

Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE



### A Rout En Route To Miami

King County conservative Republicans scored a rout at their county convention a week ago of the liberal armies of Gov. Dan Evans and state GOP Chairman C. Montgomery Johnson.

Evans' control of the Republican State Committee, which in turn sets the ground rules for the state convention June 21-22, appears to be shaky at this time. And a 7-7 division on the party's state executive board could throw control of the convention to the conservative wing of the party that now includes Pierce, King, Snohomish and Spokane counties. The matter is of significance not so much in terms of Evans being elected a delegate as it is on whether he will head the delegation to Miami and/or be a favorite son.

From what had been expected to be a colorless affair in Miami, the GOP national meet is now shaping to be one of the decade's big struggles. So far, many GOP leaders here want to remain neutral until it's a little closer to August 5. At this point, many seem to regard Reagan as a stand-by candidate if Nixon falters, but don't believe he will officially put himself into the race. Nevertheless, there is much undercover support for California's governor here that many believe would be of significant consequence if there's a deadlock between Nixon and Rockefeller.

\* \* \* \* \*

### McCarthy Has Future?

Undaunted by what happened in Indiana, McCarthy forces here still are optimistic their man intends to stay in the race. Several persons high in the McCarthy organization here report, however, they're not quite able to put down rumors the Minnesota senator may not go the distance. Mounting deficits, kids back in school, and some health problems forcing him to cancel some major speeches are fueling the rumors. They're also concerned their efforts here and his elsewhere may have leaked too soon. Meanwhile, Washington supporters have managed to send \$2,500 to Wisconsin, \$1,000 to Nebraska (watch what happens there Tuesday) and \$1,500 from Bellingham to Indiana. Also newsworthy: A pilot program of 200 college students who are in Oregon this weekend beating the drum for McCarthy in advance of the primary . . . and a Kennedy-McCarthy debate at the Seattle Center. The latter will be a beer bust and transmitted live (the

debate — not the beer) from the Center on the Irv Clark show on KING-TV.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Briefly Noted

Local Demos are busting their buttons over what could turn out to be successful efforts to snag Vice President Hubert Humphrey for their county convention June 1 . . . Freeholders to the Post . . . Robert Eberle, who will challenge Cong. Brock Adams; Lois North, Seattle housewife who has announced for the Legislature; and possibly Robert Block who is considering a spot on the county's new legislative body if the charter passes . . . Although many veteran political forecasters regard Governor Evans as pretty well sure of a second term, it's still no fun to have your man turned down at your own county convention: That happened to the liberal-minded governor at the Thurston county convention right in the Governor's backyard . . . State Demo Chairman Robert Hull also got a turn-down last weekend at Ocean Shores when he tried to get approval for a \$30,000 computer installation at headquarters . . . The party still is beset with financial problems . . . Same place: a move by former Demo State Chairman Herb Legg got no place when he tried for a delegate reallocation to the national Democratic Convention that would be more favorable to McCarthy . . . seems as if even the McCarthy people didn't want it, after all! New Demo comers to keep your eye on: Alan Munro, son of South District Commissioner Ed Munro, who survived a McCarthy majority to win the chairmanships of both the county and state platform committees drafting the party's state platform at Alderbrook Inn. Munro is a Humphrey supporter . . . According to Commissioner John Spellman, activities of the freeholders, leaving the future of incumbent county officials clouded at the least, is keeping candidates and money out of the race. Spellman says he doesn't blame potential aspirants if they decide against running twice! . . . The rejection by the Democratic State Committee last week at Ocean Shores of Initiative 224 is causing some not-so-slow burns on the part of both parties' county officials. The measure, sponsored by the Washington Association of County Commissioners to transfer 2 mills of the state property tax to the county and approved by members of both parties, would pour \$4,000,000 into King County alone.

## Freeholder Says County Aides Will Need Pay

John L. Fournier, Publisher  
Dear Mr. Fournier:

I appreciated receiving a copy of your May 26, 1968, editorial with respect to the preliminary decision by the Board of Freeholders to recommend a nine-member legislative body designed to operate on a full-time basis.

No one of the Freeholders has the authority to speak for the group, but I believe that my personal beliefs on this matter are representative of those of the majority of the board. We share completely your concern for the efficient administration of King County government on as economic a basis as is consistent with responsiveness to the people. I think that many of us hoped as we began our investigation of county governments that perhaps a part-time legislative body would be sufficient, and that the salaries necessary in order to attract competent people into full-time positions of government could be saved. However, I became convinced after listening to members of legislative bodies which were full-time and part-time that the part-time body could not perform functions adequately for a county of the size and nature of King County. One of the first things which appears to happen to counties with part-time legislative bodies is the development of overwhelming power in the hands of the administrative officer, whether he is elected or appointed. Strong opinions have been voiced to us, principally from the suburban parts of King County, to the effect that the people wished to have an elected representative with a sufficiently small constituency that he could be considered "Their representative."

I believe that if the legislators are part-time, the representation which they can give their

constituents is severely limited. Assuming that the county executive is to be elected (which I also believe to be necessary and desirable for King County), his authority and effective power in King County government would be close to total. In brief, what I am attempting to state as my belief is that, for the system of checks and balances to work, the components of the system must be of sufficiently comparable stature that one is not dominated by the other.

As the scope and importance of county government grows, I hope that the members of the legislative body will utilize well the opportunity they will have to become well informed and effective members of the county government. We have, as you point out, an outstanding Port Commission. We should be extremely grateful that men as fine as the current members of that commission are willing to donate their time.

James N. O'Connor  
1313 Washington Bldg.,  
Seattle, Wash.

## Freeholder Says County Aides Will Need Pay

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## Pro May Help Devise New County Charter

By Our County News Bureau

King County Freeholders may seek the advice of experts in the final stages of drafting the new county charter.

Under discussion is the employment of John H. Donaho, Baltimore consultant, to assist in the final deliberations before they OK the charter for the ballot next fall. Donaho, who has acted as midwife to 20 of 37 charters that have gone to the voters in the United States in the past 15 years, maintains an office in Olympia where he has been a frequent consultant employed on state governmental matters.

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2177

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## Women Offer Charter Proposals

A five-point program to set up county government in the proposed new charter was announced Tuesday by the Puget Sound Leagues of Women Voters.

The 1,000-member group called on Freeholders to provide:

—Legislation to achieve integration of services.

—A performance budget

of the county, with added information to make it more understandable.

—A county employees' merit system.

—That some elective positions be made appointive and settling uncontested positions in the primary vote.

—A home rule charter free of statutory law, an enlarged commission and strong county executive.

A LEAGUE guest made the news yesterday, also.

Mrs. Odette Guitard, assistant professor at the University of Aix-en-Provence in France, here to speak at Saturday's League of Women Voters International Affairs Institute, said she was "surprised" by the student rioting in her native country.

"The rioting took everyone by surprise — including the students," she said.

THE COMMUNIST student group was a stabilizing influence, she added, and termed the issues at stake in the rioting "absurd."

Mrs. Guitard will take over a post in August as the cultural attache at the French embassy in Ghana.

She is the first woman to hold such a position in a French embassy.

Distribution Starts Wednesday

# Preliminary Draft of County Charter Now Finished

By VIRGINIA RUTENSI  
Our County News Bureau

King County Freeholders got their first look yesterday at the preliminary draft of the county's new charter. They have been working on it for six months. The document will be ready for distribution to interested persons or groups after Wednesday.

If this first draft survives without major changes, it will go to voters November 5, and, if approved, King County will elect new government officials February 11, 1969, followed by a special general election March 11. King County will then inaugurate its first new government since 1853 on next May 1.

Before that, voters will get their say on the proposed document in four public hearings scheduled tentatively for July 9, 17, 23 and 31. Paul Meyer, executive secretary for the Board of Freeholders, announced.

The first will be held in the King County Courthouse at 7:30 p.m. The other three will likewise be evening hearings at three suburban county locations.

The charter draft calls for a board of nine county commissioners acting as a legislative body who will serve full time at a salary of \$18,680 annually. Discussion yesterday centered about draft recommendations that commissioners be selected by nine districts in contrast to three as at present. Also discussed was the desirability of reducing the proposed nine commissioners to seven or possibly five.

The county's other presently elected officials will all be appointive with the exception of the assessor, who will continue to be elected. By state law, the prosecuting attorney is required to be an elected county official.

The charter draft also proposes that a new elective officer be added to function as the county's chief executive at a salary 1½ times that of the legislators. Under his control would be the appointment of all presently elected county officials other than the assessor and prosecutor and the operation of all line agencies providing direct services to the public.

These agencies would include a department of public works and transportation, public safety, public health and welfare, records and elections, finance, public utilities and recreation, planning and zoning, assess-

ments, and judicial administration.

The charter draft also proposes retention of the newly created post of county administrator who would head up all staff services. Included would be an office of budgets and accounts, personnel, data processing, buildings and property, and purchasing.

A new redistricting committee would be created, charter draft proposes, to decide the question of commissioner-district boundaries — whether created before or after the charter is approved. King County also would function under a new personnel system complete with a personnel board, director, and merit system prohibiting political activity to all county employees except for state and federal political offices.

Provisions for referendum, initiative and recall procedures are likewise spelled out in the new charter draft which includes, also, a citizens' service bureau — a concept properly referred to as an ombudsman — to provide redress of citizens' rights against executive decisions.

Present county officials, in the first draft, will be

allowed to serve out their present terms of office. Incumbent county commissioners will serve as full members of the legislative body; others (with the exception of the assessor who will retain his present powers) will act as ex-officio staff members of their respective departments.

Discussion yesterday centered around the creation of nine commissioner districts . . . and whether they should be carved out before or after the charter gains approval. There is sentiment among some of the freeholders to retain the present three commissioner districts as they are presently aligned, with three commissioners to be elected from each of the three rather than one from each of nine districts as the first charter draft calls for. Freeholders also considered yesterday the question of shifting the appointment of the county clerk away from the Superior Court as is called for in the first draft and placing it in the hands of the county executive. Freeholders will continue their deliberations on the first draft Tuesday.

# Now Finished

allowed to serve out their present terms of office. Incumbent county commissioners will serve as full members of the legislative body; others (with the exception of the assessor who will retain his present powers) will act as ex-officio staff members of their respective departments.

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Discussion yesterday, districts and charter gains approval for nine commissioner districts after the freeholders as they be carved out before or after some of the freeholds as they There is sentiment among some of the commissioners thus to retain the present three commissioner districts from one for. are presently aligned, with three rather than one for. be elected from each as the first charter draft the question each of nine districts also considered county clerk away from and holders also consent of the county clerk draft and

Freeholders also recommend the court in the first draft and of shifting the appointment of the county executive. The Superior Court as is called for the county executive. placing it in the hands of their deliberations on the Freeholders will continue their deliberations on the first draft Tuesday.

The charter draft also proposes retention of the county administrator who would be in charge of the newly created accounts, personnel, data processing and purchasing.

A new redistricting committee would be created by charter draft proposals — whether created by King County or another district — before or after the charter is approved. The system complete before or after the charter is approved, and merit systems would function under a new director, and county employees would have personnel board activity to all offices.

[illegible]

side residents of the first class, present county officials, in the first class,

**BURNSIDE**

**VIRGINIA BUREAU**  
By VIRGINIA News Bureau  
Our County News first look yesterday.  
We got their first look yesterday.

Our County newsmen got their first look at the King County Preliminary draft of the county's new charter. The preliminary draft of it for six months. They have been working on it for distribution today at the preliminary meeting. It will be ready Wednesday.

[illegible]

County will then inaugurate its first new government on the proposed May 1.

Before that, voters will get their say on the proposed amendment since 1853 on next May 1.

document in four parts, Paul Meyer, clerk of the court, announced. The first will be held in the county locations. The second will be held in the King County Courthouse for July 9, 17, 23 and 31, Paul Meyer, clerk of the court, announced. The third will be held in the King County Courthouse for July 9, 17, 23 and 31, Paul Meyer, clerk of the court, announced. The fourth will be held in the King County Courthouse for July 9, 17, 23 and 31, Paul Meyer, clerk of the court, announced.

The first will be held at three locations. The other three will be held at three suburban county locations. The first will be held at three suburban county locations. The other three will be held at three suburban county locations.

[illegible]

Yesterday, ten commissioners were selected by nine commissioners to three as at present. Also discussed was the use of the assessors, other presently elected officials will be reduced to five.

The county's other presently elected assessor, who will continue to be elected by state law, all be appointed to be elected.

By state law, an attorney is required to be an elected prosecuting attorney who prosecutes that a new election

The charter draft also proposes that a new chief county official, prosecuting attorney, be added to function as the county's chief executive at a salary 1½ times that of the assessor. The draft also proposes that the appointment of all officials other than the assessor would be made by the county board of supervisors.

Under his control would be more than the executive at a county level. Other agencies presently elected county officials and the operation of public and prosecutor services to the department of health and providing direct services to include public health safety, public

Everett, Wash.  
Herald  
(Cir. D. 32,585)

JUN 19 1939

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Ask the Freeholders

2177

The following is another in a series of questions and answers prepared by former freeholders aimed at informing Everett voters about the provisions of the charter proposal submitted by the Board of Freeholders for election on June 25.

**Q.** Should we expect a higher caliber of candidate to run for offices as they are created under the new charter?

**A.** The authority vested in the mayor to really accomplish effective government and thus establish a record of accomplishment could and should bring into public office really capable men. This is coupled with the need for only one full time elected official versus three under the present system where each commissioner is really judged by the action of the other two rather than by his own record of accomplishment.

The council, being part-time, means that capable candidates from all walks of life and from any part of the city can participate in the future of the city. They need not give up their present occupation to do so. Salary for the mayor is \$20,000 a year and \$3,600 a year for the council members.

**Q.** How will the mayor and council be elected and for what period of time?

**A.** The terms of office for all candidates will be for four years with all officials elected at large and not by districts. The council

candidates will run by numbered positions, but the positions will not represent any specific area of the city.

If the charter is accepted in June, then at the general election in November four council candidates will be elected for three year terms and the mayor and three council members for five-year terms—for this election only. This sets up the staggered term of office for the council members insuring that at each subsequent election, there would be continuity of elected officials. Under the existing charter, all three commissioners come up for election at the same time. Thus, at one election, all experienced commissioners could be turned out of office at one time.

**Q.** Do the citizens, if they accept the proposed charter, retain basic protections that exist under the present charter?

**A.** The provision of "recall" of elected officials as well as the initiative and referendum remain basically the same as contained in the present charter.

**Q.** Why is it important to revamp the city charter at this particular time?

**A.** Following the direction of the voters of the city, which approved the freeholder proposal by a margin of better than 8 to 1, the freeholders determined that the present needs of the city, plus the pressing demands of the future required formation of an effective municipal government geared to cope with these demands.

By Our County News Bureau  
The Board of King County Freeholders Saturday announced it had retained two consultants to assist in decisions still to be made on the county's proposed new charter.

The first draft of the document will be available for public scrutiny Friday.

Pending a final decision on commissioner districts, the board retained Raj Joshi at a salary not to exceed \$1,000 to draft proposed commissioner district boundary lines on the basis of nine commissioner districts, and alternate proposals for a fewer number.

The board also announced the hiring of John A. Donaho & Associates, Baltimore consulting firm, at a fee not to exceed \$1,745, to work with the board during the next month. Donaho is expected to arrive in Seattle next week to begin work, according to Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board.

Meyer also said a decision would be announced soon on the date of three public hearings to be held in suburban locations to obtain public reaction to the charter's first draft. One of the hearings will be at a Valley location.



## Freeholder Offers 'Other Side' in County-Pay Issue

Mr. John Fournier, Publisher  
Dear Mr. Fournier:

Editorials are the Spice of Life

I read with care your editorial entitled "A King County Sugar-Plum Tree?" at the time it was published in the regular issue of your paper, May 26, 1968. Like wise, I reread it upon your forwarding it to me for my consideration.

I would like to submit to you some information that I feel might be of value and might give you cause to reconsider the judgment that was represented by the editorial. I think you must realize, John, that we did talk to many, many people across the United States in the field of county government and the decision which has tentatively been made to adequately pay the legislative council of the county government was not made without some justification.

In this regard, I suggest to you the City of Seattle pays its councilmen in a comparable position \$15,000 annually and expects them to devote full time. King County, with a population of 1,200,000, is larger in population than 15 of our states. Many of our states are now paying rather substantial salaries to legislators, as follows:

New Jersey, \$15,000; Massachusetts, \$16,800; Pennsylvania, \$24,000; New York, \$24,000; Michigan, \$25,000.

Multnomah County, Oregon, pays its five commissioners \$18,000 annually and they are full-time legislators.

As to the executive salary which has been tentatively set at \$27,000, consider these comparisons:

County	Population	Salary
Westchester County, New York	900,000	\$40,950
Duval County, Florida	455,000	\$30,000
San Francisco County, California	740,000	\$38,365
Davidson County, Tennessee	463,000	\$25,000

You suggest that the legislators of King County should be non-salaried, in effect, because the Port Commission is non-partisan non-salaried. Obviously the Port Commission performs a very limited function in comparison to a county or city. Secondly, the Port Commissioners are only on a part-time basis, all holding substantial jobs otherwise. It was the feeling of the Freeholders that it was most desirable to have the legislators of King County operating and available to perform their public function at all times and impose upon the legislative body certain functions which are now being handled by other non-salaried commissions. If we were to accept part-time legislators, obviously the salary could be reduced. However, we believe good government warrants full-time attention.

Please give some consideration to the findings of the Freeholders based on the tremendous hours that were put in by them trying to determine what is the direction in county government elsewhere across these United States. A vast body of material has been assembled by the Freeholders on which to base a new charter. This material is available in their office in the King County Courthouse and has been carefully considered by them.

Prejudgment of a single tentative decision of this group without the benefit at least of the first draft of the charter may not give full opportunity to full, fair and complete analysis of the end product.

James P. Curran,  
King County Freeholder,  
Kent, Wash.

## Experts To Help In Charter

By Our County News Bureau

The Board of King County Freeholders Saturday announced it had retained two consultants to assist in decisions still to be made on the county's proposed new charter.

The first draft of the document will be available for public scrutiny Friday.

Pending a final decision on commissioner districts, the board retained Raj Joshi at a salary not to exceed \$1,000 to draft proposed commissioner district boundary lines on the basis of nine commissioner districts, and alternate proposals for a fewer number.

The board also announced the hiring of John A. Donaho & Associates, Baltimore consulting firm, at a fee not to exceed \$1,745, to work with the board during the next month. Donaho is expected to arrive in Seattle next week to begin work, according to Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board.

Meyer also said a decision would be announced soon on the date of three public hearings to be held in suburban locations to obtain public reaction to the charter's first draft. One of the hearings will be at a Valley location.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)  
JUN 20 1956

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## 3rd Article On FREEHOLDERS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the third in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to the voters for their approval. The writer, Mrs. Amyes, is official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions.)

BY MRS. EVELYN AMYES

The Board of Freeholders has held more than 30 public meetings or public hearings to date, in order to gather information on what might be included in the charter, and then to come to preliminary decisions. These tentative agreements will enable the staff to assemble a first draft of the document.

This will make it possible to see each section in relation to the whole, as discussions leading to the next draft are held.

Many of the hearings were devoted to the officers of the present county departments and divisions. The visiting official was given an opportunity to present a short statement in which he would outline for the Freeholders the work for which his department was responsible, how it was organized, the size of its yearly budget, the number of its employees, and what changes, if any, he would like to see in the structure of government relating to his department.

Following the report, or sometimes interrupting it, any Freeholder present was allowed to ask any question he thought pertinent, to help clarify this facet of governmental organization.

All of the elected officials of the county except the judges and the prosecutor appeared before the Freeholders. Those officials were

exempt because their positions cannot be changed or made appointive by the charter. However, two deputies of the prosecutor did appear. Others who appeared before the board were a budget director for the commissioners, two former budget directors, the property agent, the purchasing agent, the manager of King County Airport, the manager of Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

Freeholders also heard the county engineer, the director of the sanitation department, the planning director, the superintendent of the Park Department, the superintendent of schools, representatives of some of the many special districts, the director of public health, and others.

For one meeting, all of the Freeholders went to Portland to talk with the Multnomah County Commissioners and others active in county government there. Until the adoption, less than two years ago, of its home rule charter, Multnomah County's structure, like King County's, was little changed from the pattern set in the old Oregon territorial days.

By going to Portland, the Freeholders as a group were able to talk directly with the people who had been most involved with the writing, adoption, and subsequent administration of a home rule charter in a neighboring state very similar to our own.

This trip was one of the two instances when the unpaid Freeholders have charged any personal expenses to the county. The total expenses, including travel and meals, for all fifteen Freeholders for that trip was less than \$200.

Everett, Wash.  
Herald  
(Cir. D. 32,585)

JUN 20 1956

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Ask the Freeholders

The following is another in a series of questions and answers to insure that qualified candidates can have this same authority with regard to most department

Everett, Wash.  
Herald  
(Cir. D. 32,585)

JUN 20 1956

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Vote Commission Said Too Small

Snohomish County freeholders last night voted tentatively to increase the size of the board of county commissioners.

Under the preliminary plan, the initial increase would be to five members with provisions to enlarge the body with population growth up to a maximum of nine.

Prevailing opinion was that the present three-member board is too small to provide adequate representation for a county of nearly a quarter million people. The freeholders also felt the work load of the county legislative body would grow rapidly during the next few decades.

There was also informal agreement at last night's meeting that the new county charter should provide the county with the broadest powers possible consistent with the state constitution.

The freeholders met Wednesday night with representatives of the Snohomish - Island County Fire Commissioners Association. Ed Garner, executive secretary of the State Association, told the board that there probably should be some reduction through consolidation in the number of fire districts in the county, but he expressed strong opposition to the concept of a single county fire district.

Fire marshal Bill Fenter filled

in the Freeholders on the work of his office.

The discussion of the legislative body will continue at the next meeting of the freeholders next Wednesday at 7:30. The sessions, held at the Agriculture building, are open to the public.

# Ask the Freeholders

The following is another in a series of questions and answers designed to inform Everett voters on the provisions of the freeholder charter proposal to be voted on June 25.

**Q. Does this new charter insure the voters of effective government?**

**A. In a single word, No!** There is no form of government, or charter or constitution that can guarantee this. The charter can serve only as a format for good government. It is the task of the voter to take a responsible part

in participation in municipal affairs to insure that qualified candidates are elected. The voter decides the fate of any form of government.

**Q. Has the mayor been given more or less authority under the proposed charter?**

**A. With regard to selection of department heads, the mayor will have — with two important exceptions — the right to appoint or remove department heads, subject to Civil Service provisions covering specific individuals. The commissioners**

now have this same authority with regard to most department heads.

The exceptions include the city attorney, whose appointment is made by the mayor and confirmed by the council, and the newly created position of chief administrative assistant, whose appointment or dismissal also must receive council approval.

With regard to financial matters, the mayor has been given less control in that the council will approve or reject the budget presented by the mayor. At present the commissioners establish their budget and then pass on it.

**Q. Why was it necessary to establish the post of administrative assistant to the mayor?**

**A. With complexities of modern municipal government, particularly in an area where the economy and population are booming, it would be impossible for one man — the mayor — to keep close touch on all details of the city's operation. Because of this, the freeholders included a provision in the charter to permit the mayor and council to appoint such an individual, one trained in municipal government, to assist the mayor.**

**Q. Why did the freeholders settle on a full-time appointed city attorney rather than having him elected?**

**A. Again, the complexities of modern municipal government requires that the city have full time access to competent legal aid. His appointment is made by the mayor and confirmed by the council. The salary will be negotiated. Making the position appointive helps to insure that the city will have a competent legal aid and not an individual who won a popularity race.**

**Q. What qualifications have been established for various department heads?**

**A. With the exception of the city attorney, who must be a member of the association, and the city engineer, who must be a registered engineer, no specific qualifications have been placed on any department head. It is assumed that the mayor, seeking to establish an effective team to administer municipal affairs, will pick qualified individuals to head various departments. For example, the man who heads the water department need not necessarily be an engineer so long as he is a good administrator who can effectively direct other qualified persons in his department.**

# 'Who Polices Police' May Delay Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Who polices the police is a question the County Board of Freeholders will study before completing a charter, it was decided last night.

Under the proposed charter, the sheriff and coroner both would report to the director of public safety. But Don McDonald, Freeholder, contended this would put the public-safety department in the position of investigating itself if a death involved a deputy sheriff.

The freeholders staff was asked to determine if the prosecutor or some other department would call an inquest under those circumstances.

**FREEHOLDERS** are trying to wind up their deliberations on the preliminary charter draft within a week. But they remain unsettled on two other questions. One involves the creation of automatic machinery to redraw county commissioner elec-

tion boundaries every five years. The other involves signature requirements for placing a referendum on the ballot.

The staff was asked to draft alternative redistricting provisions for consideration. One would allow the county commissioners to redraw boundaries, giving the job to a special commission if they failed. The other would assign the work directly to a special commission.

# Freeholders Lower Requirements For Initiative Measures

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Proposed requirements to place referendum and initiative measures on the ballot were reduced last night by the County Board of Freeholders, but some freeholders believe the board did not go far enough.

The board is in the final stages of putting together a preliminary draft of a county charter. It plans to complete the work tomorrow night.

Robert Eberle and Don McDonald led the battle to reduce the signature requirement for referendums and initiatives.

**THE FREEHOLDERS** agreed to change the base for obtaining signatures so the requirement is lessened.

The number of signatures required will be 10 per cent of the number of votes cast for a county executive in county elections instead of 10 per cent of the number cast for governor.

The governor's race drew 400,000 votes in 1964. Although it cannot be predicted how many votes will be cast for the new position of county executive, freeholders estimated it would be about 200,000.

Leaving the signature requirement at 10 per cent would mean signatures of 20,000 registered voters would have to be obtained to place a referendum or initiative on the ballot.

Eberle urged the requirement be 2 or 3 per cent.

**FREEHOLDERS** remained undecided on how to

appoint a committee to redistrict county-commissioner districts automatically, but did agree to put teeth into the redistricting requirement.

The staff is to make recommendations on how to establish a committee. The proposed charter tentatively calls for the chief executive to appoint one every five years.

A number of freeholders believe an ad hoc committee of prominent persons or a special master should be appointed to reduce political considerations.

Freeholders did agree that those responsible for finally adopting new boundaries should have their pay suspended if they did not do so within 30 days after new boundaries were presented.

**THEY ALSO** agreed the charter should specify that districts be contiguous and compact but defeated a proposal to require that population in districts not vary more than 5 per cent from the norm. Instead, the charter will state that the populations must be approximately equal.

Freeholders agreed that the charter will allow, but not require, collective bargaining with county employees.

There is some question on what state law requires in this area.

The charter will say that the county commissioners may assume or delegate the authority to be bargaining agent.

# Charter Proposals Approved

King County Freeholders last night voted that the building inspection function be removed from the Department of Planning in the proposed county charter and established in a separate Department of the Building.

It was pointed out that the volume of building permits now issued by the county is so great that a separate department is needed.

**THE FREEHOLDERS** also approved a proposal that the language of the charter be amended to substitute County Assessor for the Department of Assessments. Under the charter, the assessor will be elected by the voters.

They also voted, six to four, to exempt "up to four chief deputy assessors" from the personnel system or classified services set up by the charter. Instead they will be subject to general law provisions governing assessment personnel practices.

The freeholders set the first public hearing on the charter for July 7. Before that they will meet with John Donahoe, Baltimore consultant, who will put the charter in final shape for the November ballot.

### 3 counties look at 'home rule'

By Ted F. Berry

For 20 years Washington counties have been granted the same right of home rule as cities already enjoy, yet none of the 39 counties in the state has taken advantage of it. Today King, Snohomish and Clark Counties are considering it.

King County tried to set up a new charter in the 2-year period ending in 1952, when voters rejected it at the polls.

Authority for such a charter is provided in the 21st amendment to the state constitution, promoted by the State Grange and adopted in 1948.

It calls for county-wide election of 15 to 25 freeholders or registered voters, with 5-year residence in the county, to draft a charter for a new form of county government to replace the present combination of three commissioners and other elected officials.

**KING COUNTY** is well into the charter-drafting process and a board of 15 freeholders will present the document for adoption by the voters in November. Snohomish County elected its freeholders in February and Clark County reportedly is considering similar action.

The main outlines of the proposed charter have been described to Grange News by Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary to the board of freeholders. He is a former executive assistant to the State Association of County Commissioners. The association has taken no position on home rule as yet but is waiting to see how the King and Snohomish County proposals work out, Mr. Meyer said.

Tentatively the King County charter would create a checks-and-balances form of government with legislative functions in the hands of a seven-member board of commissioners, each representing a separate district and elected on a partisan ballot.

Administrative functions would be vested in an executive officer elected at large. He would have veto power over measures approved by the legislative body but they in turn could override with a two-thirds majority vote.

**SOME OFFICIALS** now elected, such as sheriff and auditor, would become appointive by the legislators. The assessor would remain elective.

Mr. Meyer answered criticism of an appointive auditor by saying that the county auditor is not a policy making officer but a "book-keeper" whose functions include record keeping, issuance of licens-

es and deeds, supervision of elections and writing of warrants. The real auditing of a county's business is done by the state Auditor's office, he said.

What are the advantages, if any, of a home rule county government?

Mainly efficiency, Meyer said. "We now have nine elected chiefs in the county including three county commissioners. All are independent of each other. It is very difficult to plan county business and budget, purchasing or personnel programs. Under the new charter they would have the same county personnel program for all departments, under civil service. There would be a director of personnel to assist the board in setting standards of employment, qualifications, tenure and employee rights."

**ANOTHER** advantage would be to give the county many decision-making powers which now rest with the Legislature only, Meyer said. In one instance a county had to lobby a bill through the Legislature in order to obtain authority for naming a county park, he explained. "The charter would free state legislators from a host of little details relating to counties," he said. "At the 1967 session, for example, there were about 600 bills directly or indirectly relating to counties. At least 300 probably could have been eliminated if all counties were under home rule."

All elective county officers can be made appointive under a home rule charter except the prosecuting attorney, superintendent of schools and judges, Meyer said. Most other county officers don't set policy but merely perform management functions, he said.

There is an "emotional fear that taxes will be doubled" if assessors are appointed, Meyer said, adding that this is groundless because the actual tax depends on the millage rate which is set by administrators, not assessors.

**WHAT ABOUT** rural represen-

tation in the legislative body under the Supreme Court's one-man-one-vote rule?

In metropolitan counties it might be necessary to make a pie-shaped districting with adjoining city and rural or suburban areas within the same districts, Meyer said. In such cases the city voters would make the decisions. It might work out, on the other hand, that the apportionment would create entirely separate city and rural districts, or the present three county commissioner districts might be retained.

Meyer said 40 counties have thus far adopted home rule charters in the United States. The movement is away from present over-complex governmental forms, he said.

"There must be a clearer separation of legislative and executive powers than we now have," he declared.

# The Seattle Times

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Founded August 10, 1896

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Elmer E. Todd, 1875-1962

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John A. Blethen, Publisher

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SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1968

## Don't Cripple Grand Juries: Watchdog Role Vital

**B**EHIND the smokescreen of a proposed "reform" of this state's grand-jury system lies the danger of weakening what the late Senator Kefauver once called "a weapon which is closer to the people than any other instrument of justice."

*A special committee of the State Judicial Council is urging that grand juries be empaneled in every county at least once a year. All well and good. That recommendation has substantial merit as a means of providing more effective assistance to law enforcement in curbing crime, particularly that of the "organized" variety.*

But in its next breath, the committee misfires badly. It also recommends that grand-jury responsibilities be confined to the criminal field. As Dean Leo J. O'Brien of the Gonzaga Law School, committee chairman, and his colleagues see it, the jury's watchdog function to explore non-criminal matters should be left to others—the state auditor, or some kind of ombudsman's office.

**H**ISTORICALLY, grand-jury investigations here have fulfilled two vital tasks — not only gathering evidence in situations suggesting criminal violations, but criticizing public officials whose conduct, while not warranting criminal indictments, amounts to laxity, dereliction or neglect.

The existing system is in need of overhaul. That is why the Judicial Council undertook its study at the behest of the Legislature. One improvement would be to establish further safeguards against unwarranted innuendos involv-

ing innocent persons involved in grand-jury investigations. It is worth noting that a new state law now provides that witnesses may have their attorneys accompany them into closed grand-jury hearings.

**A**NOTHER needed change is to establish more clearly the authority for grand juries to issue reports commenting upon the manner in which officeholders are discharging their trust.

*After a King County grand jury stepped on some sensitive political toes in an investigation two years ago, there developed in Olympia a move to cripple the grand-jury system by limiting its reporting powers. Fortunately, a jury-gagging bill was defeated.*

But the Judicial Council's special committee now would go even further, depriving the public altogether of its right to have grand juries scrutinize the administration of local-government affairs, unless criminal violations were involved.

**S**EVERAL years ago, New York State grand juries similarly were stripped of many of their powers. The result was so disastrous that public indignation resulted in a restoration of the system under which juries may make presentments against officeholders without indicting them for crimes.

*The necessary improvements in this state's grand-jury system can be achieved without repeating New York's mistake, an error that would be committed if the Judicial Council committee's advice should be heeded in the next Legislature.*

5 Times 6-25-68

## County Defends Arbitration In Rent Dispute With Boeing

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Superior Court was asked today to order The Boeing Co. to proceed with arbitration in its dispute with the county over rental charged for property in leases at Boeing Field.

James E. Kennedy, chief civil deputy prosecutor, asked the court to dismiss Boeing's challenge to the county's request for arbitration. A hearing was expected to be set for 2:30 p. m. Friday before Judge Lloyd Shorett.

Since last July, the county and Boeing have been negotiating on rental payments for 5.4 million square feet of space at the airport. The county originally requested \$843,712-a-year rental. Boeing now pays \$136,704.

**BOEING CONTENTS** the court should prevent arbitration because the county failed to give it a written request for renegotiation of the lease.

Kennedy said that a written request was made more than 30 days before the renegotiation period began July 1, 1967.

He also said the relief requested by Boeing would be in violation of the State Constitution and laws, that the company is in breach of the lease, and that Boeing is asking to pay in rent less than it would pay in property taxes.

Kennedy also said Boeing breached the lease by engaging in business as an oil company without obtaining a license or permit from the airport manager, failed to make reports of fuel activity to the airport manager, and sublet parts of the leased property without knowledge of the county.

**THE COUNTY** has a suit pending against the Texaco Co. and the Inland Transportation Co. to recover \$792,000

in charges on aviation fuel delivered to Boeing at the airport.

Kennedy contended the county is bound by law to take into account the fair market value of property when readjusting the rental under the 75-year lease. He said Boeing proposes to pay 1.6375 cents for each square foot of ground, including improvements.

"By contrast," Kennedy declared, "the taxes for the bare ground alone, as shown by the assessor's records and the affidavit of the chief deputy assessor . . . would be 2.2869 cents per square foot, or approximately half

again as much as petitioner proposes to pay in rent."

**KENNEDY SAID** that much of the area is covered with concrete and that taxes on a paved area would be about 4.19 cents a square foot.

Kennedy said the county has learned that Boeing sublet parts of the leased property to Western Hotels Industries Services, Inc., without permission. He said that through discovery procedures in its suit on the fuel charges, the county learned that Boeing has engaged in the oil-company business at Boeing Field since 1959.

## Boeing Aide Lauds Rapid Road Building

Despite highway-building progress, "growth continues with no letup in sight," John O. Yeasting, senior vice president of The Boeing Co., said here today.

"More work must be done," Yeasting said. "Our attention must be directed to traffic needs across Lake Washington . . . Planning must be underway for the Puget Sound area."

Yeasting spoke at a luncheon at the Hyatt House marking opening of the Foster interchange, a one-mile connection between the Freeway and the Duwamish River interchange of Highway 99.

Linda Andrews, Seafair queen, officially opened the \$3-million link by snipping a ribbon near the Interstate 5 end of the connection about 11:15 a. m. today.

Besides Yeasting, others attending the brief ceremony included Charles G. Prah, state director of highways; Thomas M. Forsythe, Tukwila city councilman; Repre-

sentatives Avery Garrett and Gary Grant of the 47th District, and John N. Rupp, a member of the State Highway Commission.

The opening of this interchange "will mean a significant time savings for employees traveling both north and south in this area," Yeasting said. It will be particularly important for Boeing employees assigned to the supersonic-transport program at the Developmental Center, he said.

Yeasting praised the State Highway Department for swift work in developing highways to serve the new Boeing-747 assembly plant at Everett. The Casino Road Freeway will link the plant with Interstate 5 by year's end, Yeasting said.

Yeasting also commended highway officials for the completion of the interchange along Interstate 405 that speeds traffic movement near the Boeing Renton plants.



# They Don't Have to Accept Site, But...

King County commissioners are not bound to accept the Stadium Commission's recommendation of a site for the multipurpose domed stadium — but they probably will.

John O'Brien and John Spellman yesterday threw cold water on hopes raised by Ed Munro.

Munro had said the county commissioners could refer the recommendation back to the Stadium Commission for "further investigation."

But O'Brien, a member of the Stadium Commission, said he sees no reason to hold up the decision unless the consultants request a delay.

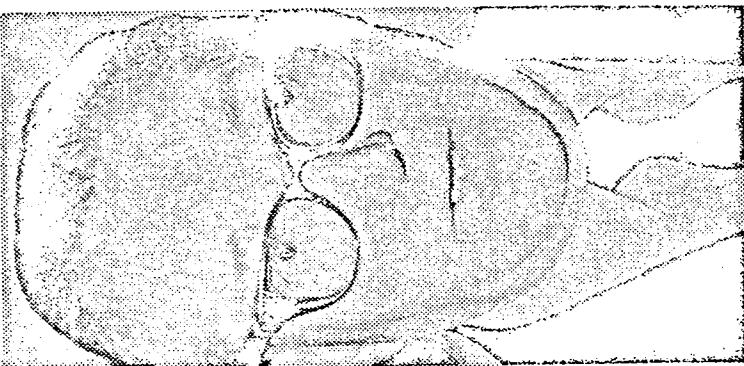
AND Spellman, another member, said he would vote for a delay "only if someone comes up with \$25 million or so for parking and access facilities."

Both have previously expressed their belief that the county commissioners are required by their original resolution to accept the Sta-



JOHN O'BRIEN

Sees no reason to delay decision



ED MUNRO

Hinted at "further investigation"



JOHN SPELLMAN

Vote hinges on \$25 million

dium Commission's site recommendation. The Stadium Commission meets at 11 a.m. today, with the declared intention of reaching a decision on the recommended site.

Consultants retained by the commission have recommended South Park.

Central Association, Greater Seattle and Seattle Chamber of Commerce have all asked that the decision be delayed to allow more study of other sites,

BUT THE City Council,

especially Seattle Center. The county commissioners' resolution authorizing the \$40 million stadium bond issue, approved by voters Feb. 13, says in part:

"The county shall acquire, construct and equip a multipurpose public stadium on a site within the county to be recommended by the Washington State Stadium Commission."

Spellman said yesterday that if the county commissioners do not accept the Stadium Commission's site recommendations immediately, they would have to refer it back for more documentation or an alternative site recommendation.

WHAT WOULD happen if county commissioners asked the Stadium Commission to take another look at its site recommendation and it came back with the same one?

Munro said, grinning:

"We don't necessarily have to build a stadium."

But Munro is not considered likely to reject the Stadium Commission's recommendation, particularly if it is for the South Park site favored by the consultants. That site is in Munro's district.

And he faces re-election in November.

# 4th Article In Series On FREEHOLDERS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the fourth in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to the voters for their approval. The writer, Mrs. Amyes, is official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions.)

By MRS. EVELYN AMYES

The limited budget of the Freeholders has not allowed them to visit officials in other counties, nor to bring many experts to Seattle for consultation. So far, a total of less than \$200 has been spent by the Freeholders to reimburse consultants for their expenses in traveling to Seattle, and no consultant has charged a fee.

However, during the six months the Freeholders have been meeting, other organizations have held conferences and have brought county officials (nationally recognized as outstanding) to the Northwest as speakers or participants. The Freeholders have taken advantage of their presence, meeting with them to exchange views on what can or should be done in county modernization.

Mr. Hillenbrand, director of the National Association of County Officials, and Mr. Allen, chairman of the Toronto Metropolitan Council, attended the Pacific Lutheran University Conference on County Government. They met with the Freeholders while at that conference. On another day, many Freeholders attended the all-day seminar on county government held at the University of Washington.

The National Conference of County Officers held recently at the Olympic Hotel, brought to Seattle Mr. Michaelian, executive of Westchester County, New York; Mr. Gleason, executive of Multnomah County, Oregon, and Mr. McDonald, member of the President's Board of Intergovernmental Relations. These men met with a combined group of both King and Snohomish

County Freeholders, giving their dynamic opinions of what county government is and should be.

Attending the same National Conference were four officials of Washington County, Oregon. They had been instrumental in the framing and later administration of the recently adopted charter for that county. They related their experiences in another Freeholder meeting.

When Mr. Donoho, management consultant from Baltimore, was in Seattle to give a lecture, he addressed the Freeholders. Mr. Donoho made a comprehensive survey of King County government for the Commissioners ten years ago.

The freeholders have listened, also, to the wishes of the citizens of King County. They have held four public hearings. These differ from public meetings in that the public may LISTEN at a meeting, but may TALK at a hearing.

To insure the best possible attendance by making the hearings convenient for the public, they have been held in four different places in the county. One was in Seattle, one in Bellevue, one in Kent, and one in Shoreline. The meetings were publicized in the papers, but written notices were also mailed to the more than 250 organizations and individuals who had expressed interest in being heard.

These included, among others, civic service organizations, political parties, legislators, governmental organizations within the county, labor unions, and community clubs.

Though each hearing had an announced subject, no person attending who wished to speak on another pertinent topic was refused.

The topic for the first hearing was the legislative function, for the second was the chief executive function. The personnel system was the topic for another hearing. The establishment of functional departments, and the question of appointing versus election of department heads was the topic of

the first mayor-council election in Everett's history following overwhelming approval of the freeholder charter proposal Tuesday.

The vote was 3,802 in favor and 409 against.

Five minutes after the polls closed on the special

Both engines of the aircraft faltered shortly after it took off from the airport at nearby Fullerton, according to Samuel Stewart, 32, a mechanic at the airport.

Stewart said the plane touched ground, and one engine seemed to regain power. The craft climbed to about 500 feet. Stewart said the pilot then tried to turn toward the side of the dead engine, apparently intending to enter the airport traffic pattern for a landing.

"The ship stalled, rolled over on its back and spun right into the ground," Stewart said.

Witnesses reported the falling plane was headed toward the

## First Public Hearing On Charter Set July 17

By Our County News Bureau

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Two other hearings in suburban locations have been scheduled for July 23 and 31, but meeting places have not been selected, he said. One of these hearings will give Valley residents an opportunity to tell freeholders what they like and what they don't like about their history-making effort.

If the charter is approved November 5, King County will have its first all new form of government in its history next May 1.

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# Everett Charter Change Accepted Wide Open Race Expected

(See additional Election News on Page 4A)  
Politicians old and new began scrambling this morning to organize forces for the first mayor-council election in Everett's history following overwhelming approval of the freholder charter proposal Tuesday.

The vote was 3,802 in favor and 409 against. Five minutes after the polls closed on the special election to decide whether a strong mayor-council government would take over from the commission form in December, candidates began announcing their intention to seek office in September and November.

Also apparently in the running early for mayor are Dr. William Lucas, P. Alexander, present safety commissioner and mayor who will seek the new strong mayor's role. He will be opposed by C. Arvid Johnson, freholder member and former mayor and commissioner. Johnson announced his intention to seek the office before returns had been received from more than five precincts.

Also apparently in the race are Dr. William Lucas, chairman of the board of freeholders, and State Sen. August Mardesich. Neither have made statements as to their intention to seek the new mayor's post, but both have been mentioned in numerous circles as possible candidates. School board member Robert Anderson also has been mentioned as a possible candidate.

At least one other member of the freholder board has indicated that he will seek election as a member of the new seven-man part-time council. Tom Callahan, long time Everett resident, announced after the polls closed that he would file in September for Position No. 1 on the new city council.

At least five other members of the freholder board have privately indicated that they would seek council positions.

Filing opens Monday, July 29 for the city's primary election on Sept. 17. Primary survivors will square off on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

While voting in Tuesday's election was comparatively light, it followed the trend established in the original freholder election when voters created the board by a vote of better than eight to one.

Voting in every city precinct ran heavily in favor of the charter proposal. In no precinct was there more than 30 votes in opposition to the measure which called for complete overhaul of the city government established in 1912.

Everett's city commissioners will operate city government until Dec. 5 when the new mayor and council will be sworn into office. Section 17 of the new charter provides for interim governmental operation between now and the date the new government takes effect.

The existing commissioners will establish the budget for next year's operations since the final budget must be approved in October — two months after the new mayor and council take office.

Everett city commissioners were not overly impressed by Tuesday's light vote. They indicated that the poor turnout perhaps showed that most city residents favored no change.

Shobomish County Auditor (Continued on Page 11A, Col. 2)

## Tuesday Vote Totals

Unofficial vote totals in Tuesday's special election were as follows:  
For the charter proposal: 3,802.  
Against the charter proposal: 409.  
For closing Spada Lake: 3,799.  
Against closing Spada Lake: 426.  
For Annexation to Everett: 112.  
Against Annexation to Everett: 626.  
For Assumption of indebtedness: 45.  
Against Assumption of Indebtedness: 383.  
For Sewer Revenue Bonds in Olympus Terrace Sewer District: 52.  
Against the revenue bond proposal: 26.



## Fate of Most Initiatives Uncertain

By HERB ROBINSON  
Associate Editor, The Times

Of the eight state-wide initiative proposals filed in Olympia earlier this year, only one stands a better-than-even chance of reaching the ballot next November 5, it appeared today.

The deadline for filing initiative petitions is midnight next Friday. State election officials say sponsors of all eight measures have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining the 100,022 valid signatures of registered voters required to certify each proposition to the ballot.

Prospects appear reasonably good for Initiative 242, which asks the voters to enact an "implied consent" law. It would provide that a motorist shall be deemed to have consented in advance to an alcohol-breath test if he should be arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

Sponsored principally by the Washington State Medical Association, Initiative 242 was in "trouble" for lack of signatures only two weeks ago. But the proponents have closed the gap and now have obtained more than 99,000 names on petitions. It is considered likely that they will bring in perhaps 115,000 signatures before the filing deadline.

(Initiative sponsors generally collect more than the prescribed number of signatures as a cushion against those that are thrown out because the signers were not legally registered voters.)

The fate of the other measures is much more uncertain. One signature drive that is lagging is that in behalf of labor-backed Initiative 245, which would fix a 12 per cent limit on interest rates charged on all credit purchases.

Two initiatives that appeared earlier to be likely entries on the fall ballot, because they enjoyed well-organized sponsorship, now are regarded as having only precarious chances of survival.

They are Initiative 241, which proposes the calling of a state-wide convention to draft a new State Constitution, and Initiative 244. The latter would shift from the state to the counties the authority to levy two mills of property taxes within the 40-mill limit.

While some sort of political miracle conceivably could rescue Initiatives 241, 244 and 245, four additional propositions must be considered moribund.

Two of them—Nos. 238 and 240—sought to abolish zoning regulations; No. 243 would have established new restrictions in the writing of life-insurance policies, and No. 239 was aimed at setting up mandatory civil-service systems for county employees throughout the state.

The fate of the county civil-service measure was sealed when the Board of King County Freeholders indicated that a county employees' merit system would be included in a charter now being drafted for voter ratification.

With King County's needs being given recognition in the proposed charter, county employees here were little disposed to work on the state-wide initiative. Without active support in King County, there was not much hope of sustaining the initiative in the 38 other counties.

**COMMENT:** The merits and demerits of the various initiatives to one side, there is at least one benefit in having only a few of the measures reach the ballot.

It is that a fewer number of issues will confront the voters next November.

In addition to electing candidates for federal, state and county offices, Washington voters will decide the fate of seven constitutional amendments.

## Expert Advises Strengthening Parts of Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of County Freeholders will redraft sections of a proposed county charter dealing with planning, budget and personnel.

The proposed new sections will be considered Monday night. In the meantime, John A. Donaho, a consultant, will work with the staff during the weekend to come up with the changes.

Donaho, who was hired to review the proposed draft, suggested at a meeting yesterday that those sections be strengthened. He said those sections in the proposed charter do "not yet deal with either the traditional or emerging concepts of governmental administration to an adequate degree."

HE SUGGESTED grouping of budget and planning to bring together both long-range physical and fiscal planning and the cost-benefit analysis of long-range programs.

He said the budget section should include requirements for a budget message by the county executive, prescribe the form of the budget, amending procedures and public hearings, require balanced budget and limitations on adding appropriations, borrowing and executing payments without an appropriation resolution.

He said the personnel board's rule-proposing authority should be limited to personnel matters of a non-financial character and duties should be largely to hear

appeals. Donaho urged the prohibition against political activity of county employees be broadened.

The charter now bans political activity only in connection with a county election officer.

**DONAHU CONTENDS** setting the pay of the county executive in relation to county commissioners cause problems. The charter requires that the executive be paid 50 per cent more than each commissioner. The county executive's pay should be in relation to the pay of his staff, Donaho said.

Donaho proposed that a zoning appeals board be empowered to hear appeals against denials of licenses, permits; that a zoning hearing officer be considered as a way of handling zoning change requests; that duties of an auditor appointed by the commissioners be spelled out, and that power be given commissioners to make inquiries or statements of public policy.

In all, he said, the charter substantially alters the present structure of government and provides for the separation of powers between the executive and legislative bodies, he said.

When the final draft is completed, public hearings will be held on the proposed charter. The plan calls for submitting it to a vote in the November 5 general election.

JUN 29 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Return To Drawing Board

BY DON CARTER

A top national consultant yesterday told King County Freeholders their basic ideas for a new county charter were fine, but some rough edges could use a little polishing.

So the freeholders scheduled another session for 7:30 p.m. Monday in the courthouse to hash over the refinements.

Freeholders will pay John Donaho, Baltimore, Md., management consultant, \$1,745 for the charter criticism. Donaho has done similar jobs across the country, including a 1958 survey of King County government.

Donaho told the freeholders he thought the charter's basic form of government would work.

ESSENTIALLY, the charter would eliminate King County's present three-commissioner governing body.

The troika would be replaced by a checks-and-balances scheme of a nine-commissioner legislative branch and a chief county executive.

Freeholders yesterday voted to consider Donaho's recommended overhaul of the charter's budget and fi-

nance, personnel and planning provisions.

Donaho called for budgeting procedures which would give county government a more responsive system of spending money. His eleven-point accounting plan would give the county a better financial rating, he noted.

The consultant asked freeholders to provide a personnel system which would allow more definite determination of pay and classifications. It should also provide definite channels for employee complaints.

FREEHOLDERS carried Donaho's personnel suggestions a step ahead and indicated they would seek a plan to insure quality performance of county employees. Member Simon Walpold said:

"We must work toward a merit pay system, where more weight would be placed on department executives' observations, and less on standardized written tests."

Donaho's ideas on county planning functions left the planning department in limbo. Monday, freeholders probably will decide on whether they want zoning

variation appeals heard by commissioners or an independent zoning commission.

OTHER revisions proposed by the Maryland consultant:

—Limit the number of employe positions given exemption from personnel procedures. "You've got to control political patronage — the county image would suffer if the public came into an office and saw a cigar-smoking 'Little Army' of politicians."

—Make the "Ombudsman" responsible to the legislative branch rather than the chief executive. "The Ombudsman's job would be to hear the citizen's complaints about the executive's work."

—Keep the charter flexible, by not detailing exact salaries, amount of experience required for potential executives, and other restrictive specifics.

The freeholders' new charter will be subjected to public criticism at a hearing to be scheduled in July.

Final public test will be at the polls in November, when voters are to decide whether they want the new brand of county government or the status quo.

JUN 30 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Prosecutor May Run Alone

If the proposed King County charter is adopted as it now stands, the prosecuting attorney would be the only partisan county officer running for election in even-numbered, off-year general elections.

This is because the freeholders intend to switch county elections to the odd-numbered years, the same as city elections, it was reported yesterday.

HOWEVER, the charter draft does not even mention the prosecutor because the State Constitution provides that a home-rule charter "shall not affect the election of the prosecuting attorney" and certain other non-partisan posts, such as the judiciary.

Some freeholders believe the election year for the prosecutor may be changed to agree with that of other county officials without violating the constitution. They are seeking legal advice.

## For First Draft Of New Charter

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Two other hearings in suburban locations have been scheduled for July 23 and 31, but meeting places have not been selected. These hearings will give residents an opportunity to tell freeholders what they like and what they don't like about their effort.

If the charter is approved November 5, King county will have its first all new form of government in its history next May 1.

Printed copies of the first draft of the charter are available to interested persons and organizations, Meyers said. They may be obtained in Rm. 905 in the courthouse.

# Freeholders Polish Charter

## Election Year For Prosecutor May Change

The County Board of Freeholders may consider what effect a proposed county charter will have on the Prosecutor's Office although the office was not even mentioned in the charter draft.

The problem arose when it was learned the prosecutor would be the only partisan county officer running for election in even-numbered off-year general elections. This happened when the freeholders transferred county elections to the odd-numbered years, the same as city elections.

**BUT THE SWITCH** affected only those positions specified in the proposed charter.

County officers, including the prosecutor, now seek election in even-numbered years. But the State Constitution provides that a home-rule charter "shall not affect the election of the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the Superior Court and the justices of the peace or the jurisdiction of the courts."

For that reason, the Prosecutor's Office was not touched or even referred to in the proposed charter.

Several freeholders believe, however, that the election year for the prosecutor may be changed along with other county officials without violating the State Constitution. They may ask their attorney, John Strasburger, to look into that.

**IN MAKING** the election-date change, the freeholders aimed to focus attention on county officers and county issues. They felt this could be accomplished better by having county officers seek election when they are in competition only with other local-election campaigns.

Some county officials now seek election at the same time as the President and state officials.

Should the proposed charter be left unchanged, the only partisan officials running in even-numbered off-year elections would be congressional and state-legislative candidates and the prosecutor. Three Supreme Court justices, justices of the peace and the superintendent of schools, all non-partisan positions, also are on the ballot.

Superior Court judges run the same year as the President and state officials.

King County freeholders polished up draft versions of their new county charter last night under the advice of national consultant John Donaho of Baltimore.

Sections on personnel were revised to keep rascality down in county government by limiting the number of jobs not under the county version of civil service and by making sure civil service folk don't take part in county politics.

procedure were gone over so everybody would know who was doing what to whom with the county's dollars.

The freeholders and Donaho wanted to make sure the budgets methods reflected financial reality while also being more flexible than present procedures.

Freeholders still are split on just how the county's planning office should function but everyone seemed to agree it would function plenty when it gets going.

**SECTIONS ON financial**

JUL 4 1958

Allen, P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Budget Procedure Change To Be Asked

Numerous changes in budget procedure for King County are expected to be proposed Monday by the Board of County Freeholders; among them spelled-out requirements for a balanced budget, public hearings, making copies of the budget available to the public, giving commissioners the power to subpoena witnesses at public hearings, and letting the chief executive veto portions of appropriation ordinances.

# Budget Rules Gains Approval

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A new and more detailed budget procedure for King County was approved tentatively last night by the Board of County Freeholders.

The budget section in the proposed county charter was drafted on the recommendation of John Donaho, a consultant. But several changes are expected to be proposed Monday.

The new section spells out requirements for a balanced budget, a budget message by the chief executive, public hearings, a contingency fund, making copies of the proposed budget available to the public at cost and a budget form to include programs, projects and objects of expense.

DONAHO SAID objects of expense are the same as line items that detail amounts for individual salaries, operations and capital expenditure.

James O'Connor, a freeholder, said he will move at the next meeting to allow the Board of County Commissioners to alter revenue estimates made by the chief executive. This is banned in the section now.

Freeholders also adopted new charter sections for personnel and planning.

On a motion by Paul Friedlander, a freeholder, the board agreed to require that personnel rules include a penalty for violation of a ban on political activity by civil-service employees of county elected officials. The section also prohibits "flower funds."

Simon Wampold, a freeholder, failed in attempts to detail in the charter that department-head recommendations on hiring, firing and promotion be given as much weight as written examinations. The new section calls for personnel rules to be adopted by the county commissioners while the earlier

sioners to ratification of rules proposed by a personnel board.

THE NEW SECTION also increases membership on a personnel board from three to five, four of them appointed by the chief executive and the fifth by a vote of county employees covered under the system.

The planning section adopted is substantially the same as one approved earlier. An attempt to give the county administrator sole power to appoint the planning director was defeated. The section now says he will make the appointment, with ratification by the commissioners. The freeholders agreed to provide a section to permit future merger of the planning and budget offices.

To be considered Monday are proposals to give commissioners the power to subpoena witnesses and documents at public hearings and to allow the chief executive to veto parts of appropriation ordinances.

## Freeholders Nix Ban On All Political Activity

By Our County News Bureau King County freeholders the group, said yesterday. The Monday night turned down a proposal made to them by John A. Donaho, Baltimore consultant they hired to assist in handling last-minute details of the new county charter, that county employees be banned from all political activity.

Instead, the draft limits political activity on the part of county employees only in connection with county campaigns.

Donaho also suggested strengthening provisions of the proposed county charter dealing with county budgeting, and has recommended that the personnel board's authority be limited to personnel matters of a nonfinancial nature — chiefly to hearing appeals.

Other suggestions made by the consultant included the proposal that a zoning-appeals board be empowered to hear appeals against denials of licenses or permits, otherwise the functions of the present Planning Department — a fast-growing, important factor in county government — should be incorporated into the charter in approximately the same fashion in which it operates now.

Freeholders will hold one more polishing session before the first public hearing, Paul

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Freeholders will hold one more polishing session before the first public hearing, Paul Meyer, executive director of the group, said yesterday. The hearing is scheduled for July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the King County Courthouse.



# Wider Disclosure Of Funds Eyed

2177  
By JERRY BERGSMAN

A county-charter provision requiring candidates for county offices to disclose campaign expenses for both primary and general elections will be considered by the County Board of Freeholders.

State law now requires that candidates disclose only expenditures for primary elections.

At a meeting last night, the board asked its staff to prepare a disclosure provision for consideration. The staff also was asked to study the effect of a provision in the draft charter to prevent county officials from accepting any gifts from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county.

**THE QUESTION** was raised whether this section would prevent campaign contributions.

Freeholders came close to winding up the details of the preliminary charter draft. The aim is to hold public hearings on it around the county July 31, August 7 and August 13. The freeholders would complete their work September 4 so the charter could be submitted to a vote of the people in November.

Plans call for completing the preliminary draft July 17 in preparation for the public hearings.

**FREEHOLDERS** last night approved charter lan-

guage giving the Board of County Commissioners the power to subpoena witnesses and documents. But after Simon Wampold, freeholder, expressed fears that this could result in assaults on the reputations of innocent persons, the board agreed to limit the subpoena power to situations involving ordinances under consideration and to require that witnesses be allowed legal aid.

The same limitation was added to language dealing with investigations by an ombudsman.

Attempts failed to reduce the proposed board of commissioners from nine to seven and the salary from \$18,000 a year to \$6,000. Freeholders gave the commissioners the right to make revenue estimates for budget purposes and gave the chief executive the power to make partial vetoes of appropriation measures.

**FREEHOLDERS** will require competitive bids on public-works projects exceeding \$2,500.

County commissioners will be given the opportunity to revise county-commissioner districts in 1971 and at five-year intervals thereafter. Should they fail to do it by the end of April of the redistricting years, then the chief executive would appoint five-member committee to recommend a redistricting measure.

# 'Holders Vote Subpoena Curb

Simon Wampold, a Seattle attorney charging that the 1966 King County grand jury "assailed individuals' reputations left and right but indicted no one," Monday night persuaded his fellow county freeholders to restrict the right of legislative subpoena under the proposed county charter.

He also succeeded in limiting the extent to which the citizens' service office—the ombudsman role — could force witnesses to testify.

**HOWEVER**, to win part of his battle to prevent the county commissioners from unlimited questioning of witnesses under oath, he had to accept a compromise amendment limiting use of the subpoena to witnesses testifying about a particular piece of proposed legislation.

Wampold said after the meeting he compromised because he felt he would have seen his original proposal defeated.

The freeholders did accept the right of summoned wit-

nesses to be accompanied by their attorneys. The ombudsman, who would have the power to investigate citizens' complaints against county officials and call witnesses, had his power of subpoena restricted by a provision now in force in the State of New York.

**THIS REQUIRES** that before any report of any inquiry is made public, three superior court judges must first pass on its merits. This would mitigate against "star chamber proceedings" which could blacken a defendant's reputation, he said, although the testimony well might be false.

Wampold heatedly told his colleagues:

"The last grand jury criticized (a certain individual) and damaged his professional reputation, and he was as honorable a gentleman as ever lived. I say it is wrong to give a legislature the power to blacken the reputation of an individual or an organization with no right of the defendant to answer or have a day in court."

## Kent Fund Event Set For Eberle

A fund-raising campaign dinner for Bob Eberle, Republican candidate for Congress from the 7th District, will be held Sunday evening at Meeker's Landing in Kent.

Eberle is a former state legislator and presently a member of the Board of King County Freeholders.

Cochairmen for "Dinner with the Eberles" are Bill Stinson, former 7th District congressman, and Alex Doner, South King County businessman.

Eberle was principal speaker at the Burien Fourth of July celebration and called for a "rededication of all Americans to the same spirit that prompted the signers of the Declaration of Independence 192 years ago.

"Make no mistake," the candidate continued, "the penalty for weakness is just as great today as it was 192 years ago. If we fail to protect the rights of all our citizens. . . if we fail our sons fighting freedom's battle in South Vietnam. . . if we fail the responsibility of enforcing law and order and defending justice. . . our penalty could be the loss of our freedom, if not our lives, fortunes and sacred honor."

Seattle, Wash.  
Aurora Shoreline Journal  
(Cir. W. 27,300)

JUL 10 1968

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## YR Endorsement For Lois North

The Young Republicans of King County have announced their endorsement of Lois North for the State Legislature, 44th District, Position No. 2.

Mrs. North, a King County Freeholder, is the only non-incumbent legislative candidate endorsed by the group, which recently announced its support of Governor Dan Evans, Secretary of State Lud Kramer, and five incumbent legislators from King County.

The Young Republicans of King County, the largest such group in the county, is comprised of men and women ages 21 to 40.

Seattle, Wash.  
Northgate-North Seattle  
Journal  
(Cir. W. 25,240)

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# Maps Show Two District Proposals for South King County

2177

See story on Page 3.

Two King County redistricting proposals — one of which would split the Valley's Renton-Kent-Auburn combination — are scheduled to be considered by the Board of King County Freeholders Wednesday night in the Courthouse.

Redistricting and decision on the number of King County Commissioners to be authorized in a proposed new county charter are among major decisions still facing the freeholders.

Maps prepared by an urban planning consultant offer a choice of seven or nine commissioner districts.

Freeholders had the maps for study at the weekend in preparation for the Wednesday decision meeting.

## Wraps Removed

Original plans of the freeholder organization had been to keep the maps "under wraps" until a public unveiling at the Wednesday night session.

This newspaper, believing residents of the South King County area have a right to know the options under consideration for their area, was successful in obtaining a set of the maps. Reduced versions of the charts are presented on this page.

The consultant's proposal for nine county commissioners puts Renton in a commissioner district separate from that which would embrace Kent and Auburn.

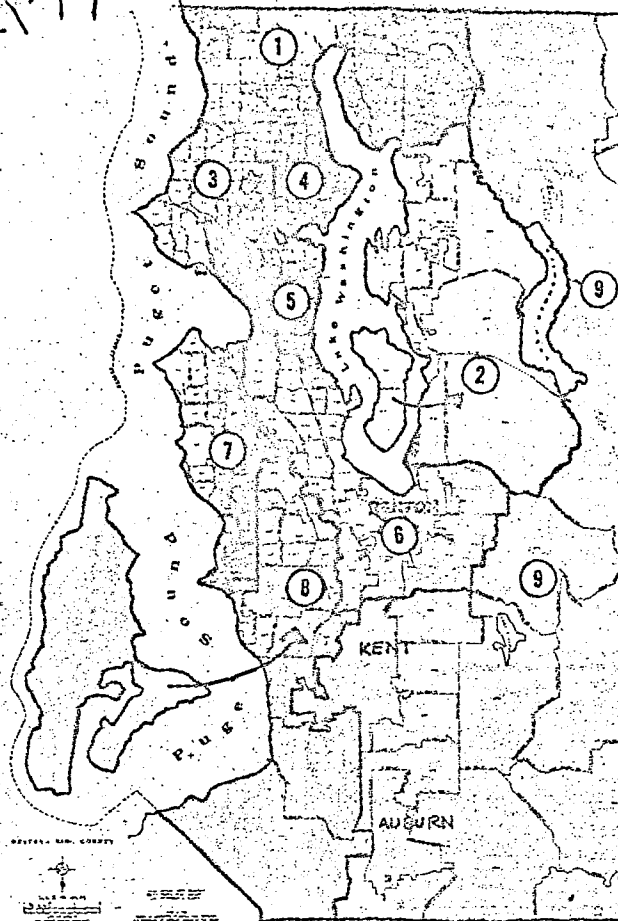
The proposal for seven commissioner districts leaves the three Valley cities in the same district.

The map of the nine-district proposal sets Auburn and Kent into a huge district that embraces virtually all of the east half of King County, bounded south and north by the Pierce and Snohomish county lines. Besides the two Valley cities, the proposed District No. 9 would include such towns as Redmond, Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Issaquah, Black Diamond and Enumclaw.

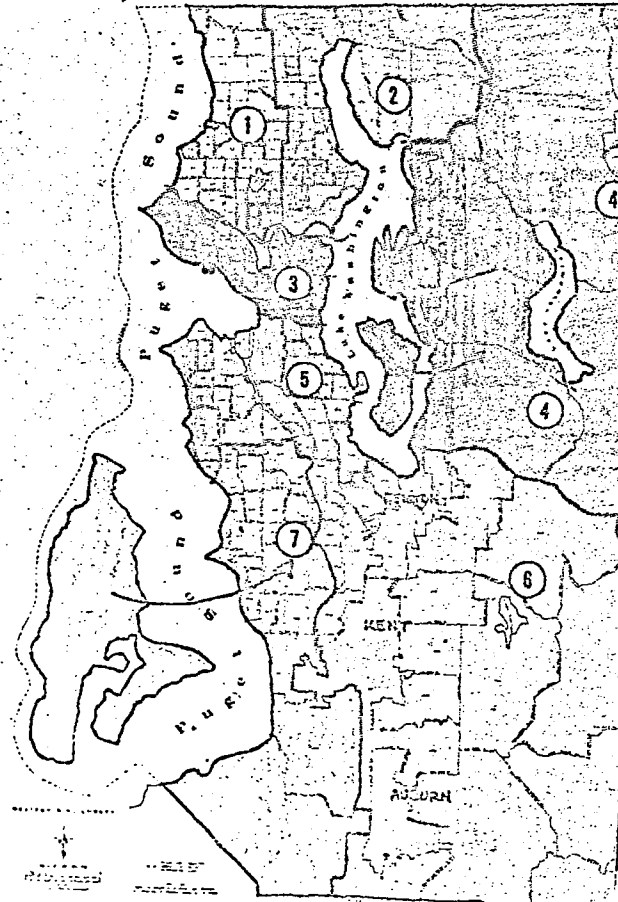
## District Bounded

The seven-district map shows the north boundary of District 6 at about Kennedy near the south end of Lake Washington, extending east along the Coalfield-Issaquah Road and South-east 180th Street. In this version, Renton and Tukwila are included in a district with Kent, Auburn, Pacific, Algona and Enumclaw.

Map for the nine-district plan has the west boundary of District 9 start at the Pierce County line at 51st Avenue South, move northerly along 68th Avenue South, follow in part the west Kent city limits, then north along the Russell Road to South 180th Street. The north boundary line then is extended east along South 180th Street, Southeast 174th Street and Potrovitsky Road to 140th Avenue Southeast at which point the line again turns north. From there the west boundary of District 9 extends roughly north along the Renton-Issaquah Road, along the west side of Lake Sammamish and along 140th Avenue Northeast to the Snohomish County line. East boundary of District 9 would be the summit of the Cascades and Kitsap County line.



Proposal For Nine Commissioner Districts



Proposal For Seven Commissioner Districts

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By Our County News Bureau

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Burien, Wash.  
Highline Times  
(Cir. W. 9,200 Paid 1,700 Free)

JUL 17 1968

Allen's P.C.B. PAID 1.00

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2/17

Board of King County Freeholders Chairman Richard Albrecht announced the first public hearing date on the charter for the county as Wednesday, July 31. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

The question of whether to have seven or nine commissioner districts, or to postpone redistricting of the county representation units until 1970 (per the new charter), will be deliberated by the freeholders at a work session tonight. The first draft of the charter in general will be considered, also.

All sessions of the board are open to the public. This evenings session begins at 7:30 in room 402.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussions at the hearings. A second public hearing has

tentatively been set for Aug. 7. The Board of Freeholders and staff have been drawing up the first charter for King for the past seven months.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The Board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft.

The freeholders expect to have the charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

## Freeholders Meeting Of Major Importance...

King County freeholders will meet tonight at the King County Courthouse to discuss changes and proposals for a seven-man board of commissioners and the redistricting of King County to fit such a plan. That the freeholders are going to take up a study or make a decision of a lesser number than nine which was originally proposed is indicative that they have received lots of reaction relating to the rather absurd nine commissioner plan. Seven is better but still too many; were they to reduce the number to five, it would still be better.

At any rate, the meeting tonight at 7:30 is a highly important one and as a public meeting it should draw a big turnout of those who are interested in the future welfare of the county.

As it now stands, the long sought final draft is far from finished. The freeholders will have to hurry if they are to complete a workable and acceptable piece of legislation before the deadline date of September 4.

\* \* \*

## County Charter Hearing Set

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, confirmed yesterday that a public hearing will be held on the preliminary county-charter draft July 31.

The hearing will be at 7:30 p. m. in Room 402 of the County Courthouse. A second hearing tentatively has been set for August 7.

Copies of the charter draft are being distributed to interested persons and to organizations and to all libraries in the county.

One attorney, Thomas J. ... of Auburn, Friday, termed both slanders to represent areas 12 times larger than others. Bothell is expected to find criteria for redistricting already favored up to now, Meyer the incumbent.

# Volley's 4 Freeholders Split on

**By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau**

Openly hostile to both plans are Howard Bothell, Auburn, and Terry McKenna, Kent.

A split between the four Val-both a seven-and nine man plan which free-Lyle Schneider, the seven-man members of the Board of redistricting tonight, that, of the two, might be satisfactory.

The meeting on the bombshell plan hinges on the vote. None, however, favor the main plan which would split the Valley into two sections, with the southern part incorporated into the county.

Valley into two sections, the southern part incorporated

action open to the freeholders — including the election of a nine-man Board of County Commissioners on the basis of the present three commissioner districts (as freeholders presently

The controversial question (over) postponing such a task will be examined tonight in touchy task of redistricting. several lights: The intrinsic Also slated for discussion is merits of the various courses of whether redistricting, as such,

Distilling Plant

Courthouse. The informed testimony of one or both of the groups which dominated proceedings at previous meetings will give the decision as to whether the charter faces the same fate as several of the other charters this fall as shareholders believe.

Valley freeholders believe the decision as to where the boundary lines should be drawn. The public hearings will give them a chance to be heard. Subsequent hearings to debate on the merits of the proposed boundary lines will be held at the discretion of the board.

ing the two proposals. Meanwhile, a first public hearing of the proposed charter, according to Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the group, will be held on the 10th of the month.

cause of this and in view of her untimely death, again at the potential public opposition to July 31 at 7:30 p.m., again at the

Plans Still Under Wraps, But...

# South End Freeholders Hit Proposal To Split Valley In County Redistricting

Maps, more details, Page 6.

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The deliberative calm which has marked most of the six-month work sessions of the Board of King County Freeholders is expected to erupt all over again Wednesday night when the board discusses two alternative plans for redrawing commissioner district lines.

Maps showing proposed boundaries for both a nine-man Board of County Commissioners and a seven-man body have been in the hands of the freeholders for the past three days, would provide for the Valley as of Auburn, Friday, termed both proposals "horrible," describing an area extending from the Bothell declared. "We have act-

ed on the premise that one of the objectives of our work is to make county government more responsible. How can this be accomplished when one commissioner represents a district by extending from the Pierce County line to the Snohomish County line?"

Bothell also objected to the political implications of both redistricting plans which would give, he said, Seattle control of the board to the exclusion of suburban interests. He pointed out, in addition, what he termed the inequities under both plans of a geographic division which would require two commissioners to represent areas 12 times larger than others. Bothell is expected to find

included in the charter's rough draft. Mainly these criteria de-mand that the new districts be geographically in harmony with election precincts, census tracts, municipalities, and that they provide compact, contiguous territories reflecting the area's economic and geographic units.

Both plans vary, population-wise, from a half per cent to one and a half per cent of each other, Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of freeholders, explained. And although the board has taken no formal position on whether the new charter will recommend a nine-man Board of County Commissioners as members have on September 9 to be OK'd for the November 5 ballot.

# Valley's 4 Freeholders Split on Districting Plan

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Our County News Bureau

A split between the four Valley members of the Board of King County Freeholders drafting a new county charter seemed in the making yesterday following publication Sunday exclusively in this newspaper of two proposed versions redrawing present commission district boundary lines.

Consultants have proposed

both a seven- and nine-man redistricting plan which freeholders will examine tonight. The meeting on the bombshell proposal will be open to the public at 7:30 o'clock in the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle.

Openly hostile to both plans are Howard Bothell, Auburn, and Terry McKenna, Kent, while James Curran, Kent, and Lyle Schneider, Auburn, feel that, of the two, the seven-man plan might be satisfactory. None, however, favor the nine-man plan which would split the Valley into two sections, with the southern part incorporated into a commissioner district extending from the Pierce County boundary on the south to the

Snohomish County line on the north. Freeholders may decide because of this and in view of

The controversial question potential public opposition to will be examined tonight in one or both of the plans, they would prefer to postpone until several lights: The intrinsic merits of the various courses of after the charter faces the action open to the freeholders — electorate the decision as to including the election of a nine- where the boundary lines should man Board of County Commis- be drawn.

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Battle lines already are form- hearings to debate on the merits ing here since publication at the of the proposed charter, accord- weekend of the proposed bound- ing to Paul Meyer, executive ary lines of the two proposals. secretary of the group.

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(Continued on Page 2)

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## Charter Plan Raises Constitutional Issue



To the Editor:

Your editorial aroused the curiosity of the undersigned to make a preliminary study as to "whether the planting of this Sugar Plum Tree" was a Constitutional act of the King County Board of Freeholders, or, whether it was an act of embezzling the inherent political power of people of the state (who were granted this Charter of Statehood by the government of the United States) by a minority group. Its present course of structuring a government with mostly appointive and partisan offices tends to imply that the future administration of King County government will be a "Sugar Plum" for a minority group or groups.

Consequently, it must not be overlooked that "Sugar Plum Trees" have to be planted on "solid legal ground," otherwise, they can not be fertilized and watered with "public funds," which can not be legally — although oftentimes are politically — expended for purposes not "authorized by law."

Accordingly, the issue is raised as to whether public funds can be expended to print the proposed Home Rule Char-

ter when provisions thereof do no "square with the Charter of Statehood." In order for the King County voter to cast an intelligent vote on an issue, he should be informed on many viewpoints.

W. H. Philipp,  
1210 Fifth Ave. N.,  
Renton, Wash. 98055.

Consultants have proposed both a seven- and nine-man redistricting plan which freeholders will examine tonight. The meeting on the bombshell proposal will be open to the public at 7:30 o'clock in the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle.

Openly hostile to both plans are Howard Bothell, Auburn, and Terry McKenna, Kent, while James Curran, Kent, and Lyle Schneider, Auburn, feel that, of the two, the seven-man plan might be satisfactory. None, however, favor the nine-man plan which would split the Valley into two sections, with the southern part incorporated into a commissioner district extending from the Pierce County boundary on the south to the Snohomish County line on the north.

The controversial question will be examined tonight in several lights: The intrinsic merits of the various courses of action open to the freeholders — including the election of a nine-man Board of County Commissioners on the basis of the present three commissioner districts (as freeholders presently favor) postponing until 1971 the touchy task of redistricting. Also slated for discussion is whether redistricting, as such, would impede the passage of the charter this fall as several of the Valley freeholders believe.

Battle lines already are forming here since publication at the weekend of the proposed boundary lines of the two proposals. Freeholders may decide because of this and in view of potential public opposition to one or both of the plans, they would prefer to postpone until after the charter faces the electorate the decision as to where the boundary lines should be drawn.

Meanwhile, a first public hearing on a preliminary charter draft has been scheduled for July 31 at 7:30 p.m., again at the Courthouse. The informed testimony by specially concerned groups which dominated proceedings at previous information-gathering hearings will give way at this and subsequent hearings to debate on the merits of the proposed charter, according to Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the group.

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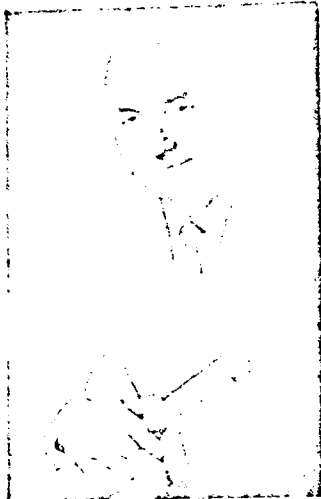
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## What's Going On Here!



Opinion and comment by  
the publisher —

—John L. Fournier

### Freeholders Meeting Of Major Importance —

King County freeholders will meet tonight at the King County Courthouse to discuss changes and proposals for a seven-man board of commissioners and the redistricting of King County to fit such a plan. That the freeholders are going to take up a study or make a decision of a lesser number than nine which was originally proposed is indicative that they have received lots of reaction relating to the rather absurd nine commissioner plan. Seven is better but still too many; were they to reduce the number to five, it would still be better.

At any rate, the meeting tonight at 7:30 is a highly important one and as a public meeting it should draw a big turnout of those who are interested in the future welfare of the county.

As it now stands, the long sought final draft is far from finished. The freeholders will have to hurry if they are to complete a workable and acceptable piece of legislation before the deadline date of September 1.

gest charter form, would include the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by the charter, or created by the board of commissioners.

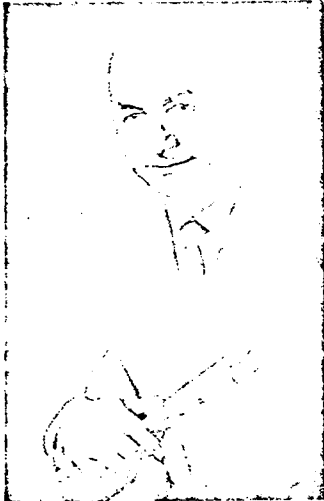
The county executive would have veto power over ordinances or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. Emergency ordinances could not be vetoed. He would be elected for a four-year term.

The county assessor, under the proposed charter, would continue to be an elective office. All other county officers presently being elected would be appointive by the executive officer, with the approval of the county commissioners.

JUL 18 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## What's Going On Here!



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## Freeholders Finish Draft Of New County Charter

The Board of King County Freeholders have issued a preliminary working draft of the new King County charter.

A preliminary draft of the new King County charter will get its first test at a public hearing July 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 402 of the County Courthouse.

The Board of King County Freeholders will consider the draft on which it and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has been tentatively set for August 7.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the preliminary draft are being sent to all interested citizens and organizations, and all libraries in the county will receive a copy.

In it they have recommended that the control of government

will be placed directly with the voters of this county.

They have made this plain with their recommendation that the county be split into nine districts, and that each district shall elect its own commissioner to represent them.

However, the Freeholders are not firm on this point, and a hearing was held last night in room 402 at the King County Courthouse to decide whether nine commissioners were necessary, or whether seven, with slightly larger districts, would suffice.

They have further expressed confidence in the voters of the county by making the office of the county executive elective by all of the people of the King County.

The commissioners, members of the legislative branch, will be elected for a four year term, if the charter is accepted in its present form.

The executive branch of county government, under the sug-

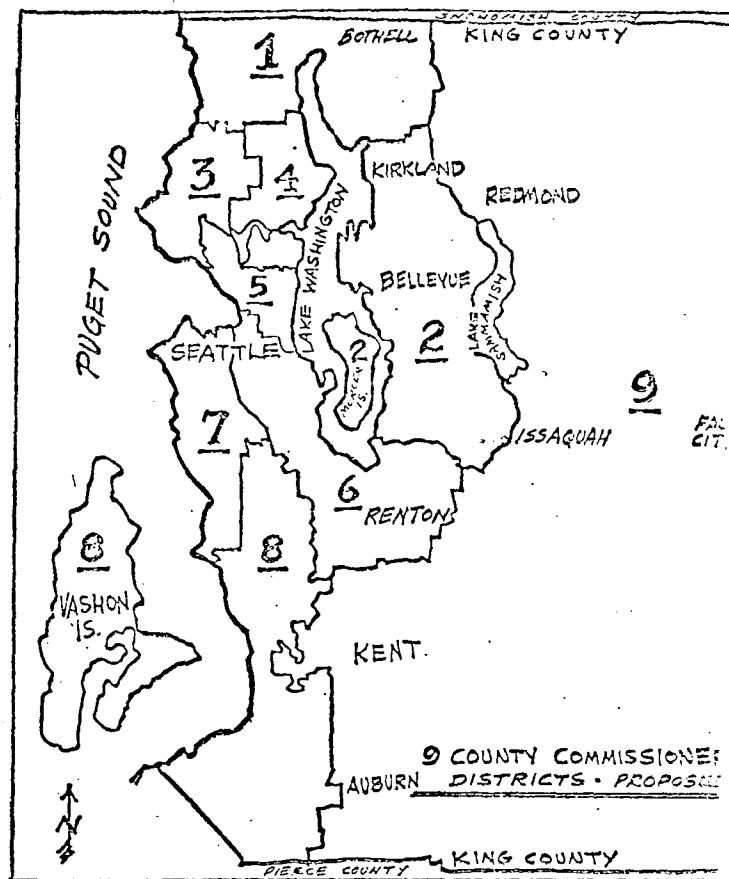
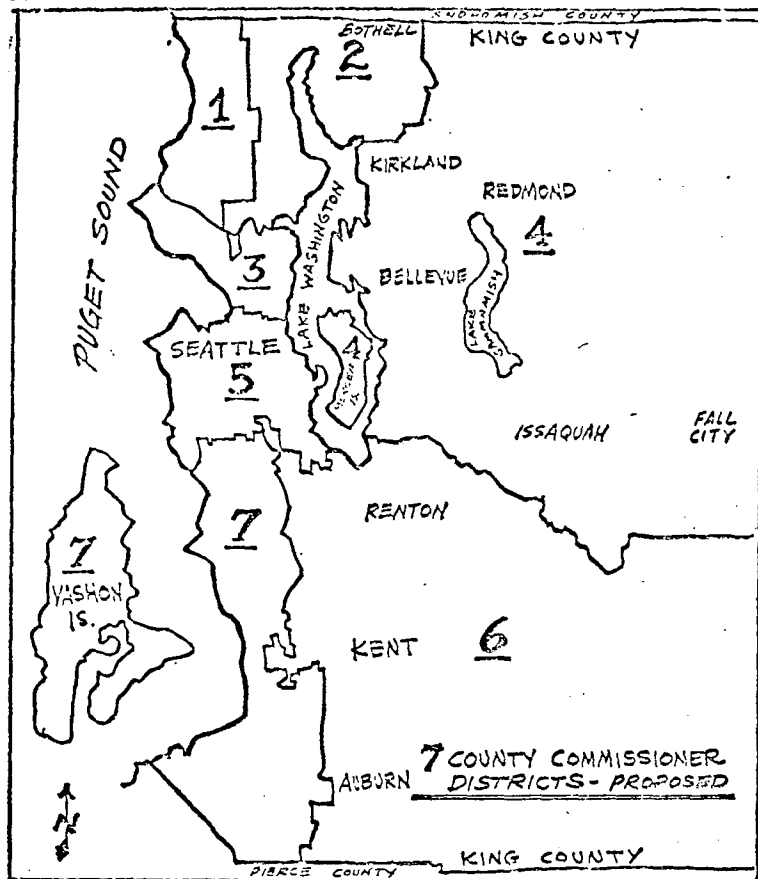
ing was in- South Africa d in the free he chance of

The rebels ousted the tall, 52-year-old president and threw out his cabinet, headed by Premier Taher Yahya, as "a bunch of illiterates." Then they elected Bakr, 32, a former premier, to the presidency.

Bakr was premier in 1963, when the Baath Socialist party ruled Iraq. Though a moderate, he was dismissed when Aref's

Department spokesman reported about 400 Americans live in Iraq. Most of them work in the oil industry.

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## KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS REVEALED ALTERNATE PLANS FOR RE-SHUFFLING COUNTY INTO NEW COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

One plan will be put before the voters in November, depending on constitutional size of proposed new board

# Reveal 2 Plans for Dividing King County

(From Page 1)

mon aspirations, common interests and common backgrounds."

Wampold also noted Democratic leaders had protested the districting plans would "make King County forever Republican."

Mrs. Lois North observed: "We could argue about districts until December." (The charter proposal must be submitted for the November ballot by early September).

She suggested the charter provide that three commissioners be elected at large

from each of the present three-commissioner districts. The charter draft now requires periodic redistricting and the commissioners would have to do it.

CHAIRMAN Richard Albrecht had his doubts: "If we can't do it, how do we expect nine commissioners to divide up their own districts?"

Freeholders also changed the charter draft to place more rigid controls on the county purchasing office.

The proposed charter will provide that the purchasing

least three bids, whenever possible, on all purchases of more than \$500.

Two public hearings have been scheduled for the charter drafts — July 31 and Aug. 7. Both will begin at 7:30 p.m.; the first will be in the King County Courthouse, and the second at Pacific Science Center's Eames Theater.

JUL 18 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Split On Dividing County

BY DON CARTER

King County Freeholders last night revealed two proposed plans for dividing the county into commissioner districts.

There will be plenty of arguments at future meetings, the group indicated, delaying districting discussions until a Monday meeting.

Proposed districting maps were devised by Rajanikant N. Joshi, a Seattle urban planning consultant hired by the group.

ALTHOUGH THE FREEHOLDERS have generally agreed upon a nine-commissioner nine-district legislative branch, several members are interested in a seven-commissioner plan. So Joshi was instructed to draw up both sets of maps.

Joshi said he had based the districts on April 1, 1968 population estimates, and had drawn lines along precinct and geographical borders as much as possible.

Freeholder Simon Wampold argued against the lines:

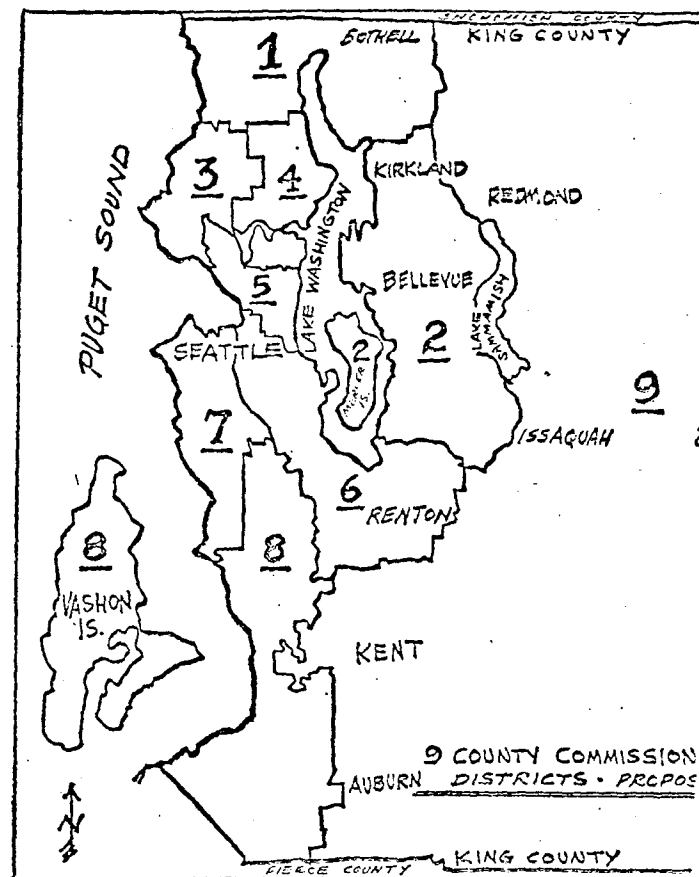
"I'm not sure Mr. Joshi has considered sociological and economic factors. Districts should be based on common interests, not just population."

HE CITED LUMPING Queen Anne, Magnolia and Central Area into one district of consideration for "com-

(Page 3, Column 3).

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least three bids, whenever possible, on all purchases of more than \$500.

Two public hearings have been scheduled for the charter drafts — July 31 and Aug. 7. Both will begin at 7:30 p.m.; the first will be in the King County Courthouse, and the second at Pacific Science Center's Eames Theater.

# Freeholders Hit Snag on County Redistricting

King County Freeholders last night dealt with an impasse on redistricting plan discussions by sending the hot political issue to a subcommittee.

Richard Albrecht, Freeholders' chairman, was instructed to appoint a committee of five to do the job of preparing new districting proposals for consideration by the entire 15-member board.

Albrecht said last night he would appoint the subcommittee as soon as possible, and he hoped it could develop some proposals within two weeks.

HE DOESN'T expect the proposals to be ready for the first public hearing on the Freeholders proposed county charter draft. That hearing is to be at 7:30 p.m. July 31 in the courthouse.

But Albrecht said the district plans may be included in the charter draft by an Aug. 7 hearing, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pacific Science Center's Eames Theater.

Last night the Freeholders were split on whether the districting proposal should be included in the charter or the job should be done later by the county commissioners.

SEVERAL MEMBERS

were concerned that any districting plan they develop will create enemies of the charter and hurt its chances of acceptance at the polls in November.

Member Paul S. Friedlander worried: "I don't want to stumble over this block. We're not going to please anybody with a redistricting plan."

But the majority of the board agreed with Albrecht, who said the Freeholders' failure to provide nine new districts as a basis for the new form of government would be "an abdication of our responsibility."

AT THE BASE of the districting discussions is a nine-district plan drawn by Rajanikant Joshi, a Seattle urban consultant hired by the board.

Joshi sliced the county into districts on the basis of population figures obtained from an April 1, 1968, estimate.

None of the Freeholders is very pleased with the plan.

Simon Wampold, an outspoken critic, argued that the plan didn't consider geographical, social and economic interests which should be unified in each district.

# Freeholders Hit at Politics

How many King County commissioner districts should there be and where should their boundaries lie?

The County Board of Freeholders grappled briefly with this politically important question last night, as alternate plans for nine-and seven-commissioner districts were presented.

Further discussion of the plans, drafted by Rajanikant N. Joshi, a Seattle urban-planning consultant, was postponed until 7:30 p. m. Monday.

TODAY, one of the freeholders, James O'Connor, president of the Young Republicans of King County, said he believes the plans are fair politically. He said the nine-commissioner plan might seem to give the Republicans a one-district advantage. The other plan, he said, might seem to give a one-district advantage to the Democrats.

Either plan, however, would provide enough swing districts to erase political advantage, O'Connor said.

But last night Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders, said he was told by Mrs. Jeanette Williams, chairman of the King County Democratic Central Committee, that either plan would make the county "forever Republican."

"THIS IS THE most important matter politically to come before us," Wampold

declared in moving that further discussion be postponed to enable study.

Mrs. Douglas North said: "We could argue about commissioner districts until December and not decide. This is too time-consuming."

The greatest challenge in redistricting, she said, is to represent adequately fast-growing South King County.

She suggested that the proposed county charter being written by the freeholders provide that three commissioners be elected at large from each of the present three districts, with provision for later redistricting. Now one commissioner is elected from each of the three districts.

Wampold found fault with any plan which would place in one district communities not linked economically and geographically and with common interests. He wondered why Joshi placed the central area and the Magnolia and Queen Anne Districts in one commissioner district. He also said Shoreline should be in one district.

MRS. NORTH told other freeholders the draft charter is too long and too specific. She led a move that erased a section concerning comprehensive plans. These were covered in another section, she said.

After criticism of the county purchasing practices was heard, the board changed the draft to provide that whenever the value of items to be purchased exceeds \$500, at last three bids be obtained, if feasible. The draft had set the money figure at \$2,500. The charter is to be refined and adopted by the freeholders the first week of September. This will permit submission to voters in November.

## County Needs Nonpartisan Board

THE BEST talking point for a non-partisan Board of King County Commissioners under a proposed county charter is the partisan political bickering over the boundaries of future commissioner districts.

*A hint to the wise usually is sufficient. There is more than a hint for the freeholders in the comments about the political advantages created either by a nine-commissioner or seven-commissioner board and the geographical makeup of the districts.*

Mrs. Jeanette Williams, chairman of the King County Democratic Central Committee, has expressed the belief either plan would make the county "forever Republican." James O'Connor, a freeholder and president of the Young Republicans of King County, is of a different mind, but he can see how the

nine-commissioner plan would give Republicans a one-district advantage on the board, while the other plan might favor Democrats to the same degree.

We realize the difficulties inherent in any apportionment scheme, and we sympathize with the freeholders over the complexities of trying to district the county so that all residents are served fairly on the board.

*Yet, it just seems that one major problem would vanish if the freeholders would remove politics from the commissioners' jobs and make the election nonpartisan, as is the case with the Seattle City Council.*

Rather than create a monster that would be an additional continual source of irritation between the Republicans and Democrats, the freeholders would be well advised to take the commissioners out of partisan politics.

## County Charter Hearings Scheduled

The public will have two chances to air opinions on a proposed King County charter before it goes on the November ballot.

King County Freeholders have scheduled two hear-

ings. They will be at 7:30 p.m. July 31 in the courthouse, and at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7 in Pacific Science Center's Eames Theater.

Freeholders were elected last November to shape a

plan to modernize the county's government, which since territorial days has been operating under state constitutional provisions.

The Freeholders' plan would replace the present

three-commissioner governing body with a system of checks and balances. County voters would elect a chief executive and nine commissioners, to establish an executive-legislative balance.

The charter proposal would eliminate a number of now-elective offices, placing them under a county personnel system.

Seattle's best-informed people read The P-I.



# Remodel Job For County

A \$30,000 remodeling of the county commissioners' auditorium in the courthouse was approved yesterday by Commissioners John O'Brien and Ed Munro.

Commissioner John Spellman objected on the grounds that further remodeling may be necessitated following adoption of a county charter.

A Sept. 10 rehearing of a rezoning application for an explosives plant on 250 acres of state-owned land near Preston, was ordered by the board. The Planning Commission will conduct the hearing at 1:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS agreed to put on the primary election ballot a proposal to lease 16 acres of Marymoor Park to Lake Washington School District for a high school site.

They also rounded out the Forward Thrust Design Commission with the addition of Lowell P. Mickelwait, Rowland Rose and John Esvelt. Mickelwait will be chairman of the seven member advisory group.

# GOP Moderate Aims at Rogstad

Republican forces trying to unhorse King County GOP Chairman Ken Rogstad last night trotted out their own candidate to succeed Rogstad.

He is Jams N. O'Connor, 32, Seattle attorney and president of King County Young Republicans.

O'Connor said he is seeking the job "not to exclude any group of persons from party affairs, but to end the present exclusionary policies."

**O'CONNOR'S CANDIDACY** is being advanced by a group calling itself the King County Precinct Project.

It has close organizational ties with the forces of Gov. Dan Evans, although O'Connor insists the two organizations are separate and distinct.

Robert W. Bratton, Evans' King County campaign chairman, heads the precinct project's steering committee.

They are engaged in a red-hot precinct-by-precinct battle to oust Rogstad and his allies when the county central committee reorganizes in December.

Latest figures available show they have filed more than 650 candidates for precinct committeeman since



**KEN ROGSTAD**

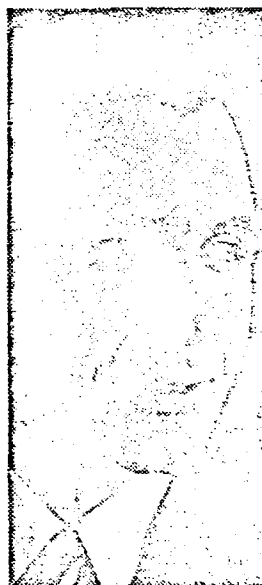
The chairman

the filing period opened Monday.

**BUT ROGSTAD** forces filed 960 the first day, and the Evans forces are scrambling to catch up. Their target is to file candidates in 1,500 of the county's 2,263 precincts.

Rogstad himself has n't said publicly whether he'll seek re-election to the post he has held for four years.

But he is unhappy with Evans' remarks at a June 27 news conference that he'd be surprised to see Rogstad run again.



**JAMES N. O'CONNOR**

The challenger.

"**THE GOVERNOR** hasn't consulted with me at all on this," Rogstad said afterward. "Fortunately it is not his choice or my choice, but the choice of elected precinct committeemen."

Rogstad was elected county chairman in 1964 over a candidate pushed by Evans and his legislative forces. Two years later he survived an attempt to oust him through a precinct committeeman election campaign.

O'Connor describes himself as a "middle-of-the-roader" who has supported "moderate" Republican candidates in the past.

"I am doing this because it needs to be done," he said. "People are fed up. They've had a bellyful."

5 Times - 8.1.68

## Election Scene

# O'Connor to Oppose Chairman Rogstad

by ANDREA VOGEL

Moderate Republican Precinct Project forces last night named James N. O'Connor as a candidate to oppose King County Republican Chairman Ken Rogstad in December.

O'Connor, 32, an attorney and president of King County Young Republicans, was named the project's candidate in the interest of seeking "greater party harmony." He will oppose Rogstad, should he run, for the county chairmanship at an organizational meeting December 14.

O'Connor, a Yale Law School graduate of 1959, has been active in Republican Party work since 1963.

"I'm convinced that I can bring harmony," O'Connor said. "If we're successful in my election as chairman there will come virtually au-



JAMES O'CONNOR

tomatically a feeling of singleness of purpose."

**BILL MUNCEY**, 39, of hydroplane racing fame, said in a statement he will announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor at 9:30 a. m. tomorrow.

Muncey, who has hinted at his candidacy for some time, said he will file in Olympia, tomorrow just before the deadline.

He will oppose Art Fletcher, the only declared Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, and Democratic incumbent John Cherberg.

If Muncey files, the Federal Communications Commission rules would not permit him to appear on television broadcasts of the Seafair hydroplane races Sunday without equal time being given his opponents by the station.

**DEPLORE** — State Senator Jack Metcalf, Republican candidate for United States Senator, today deplored the "mass absenteeism" in the Senate when a bill authorizing trucks on interstate highways was passed.

Metcalf said only seven senators were present to vote on the bill.

**WONDERING** — Seventh District Congressional candidate Robert Eberle, Republican, called on Congressman Brock Adams to "set the record straight" about reports that Adams had received "a \$500 campaign contribution in return for his vote supporting national trucking interests."

A spokesman for Congressman Adams termed the charge "the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," and said there has never been a vote taken on a bill involving trucking.

He said the bill referred to is now under study in the House Public Works Committee.

# To Discuss Charter

The Board of King County Freeholders chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the board on July 31st at 7:30 p.m. in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

Under consideration by the Board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the Board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hear-

ing has tentatively been set for August 7th. Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county. The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberating session of the Board will be on July 17th at 7:30 p.m. in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the Board are open to the public.

Seattle, Wash.  
White Center News  
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

JUL 10 1968

## Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1938 Public Hearings Set On County Charter

2177  
Board of King County Freeholders Chairman Richard Albrecht announced the first public hearing date on the charter for the county as Wednesday, July 31. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

The question of whether to have seven or nine commissioner districts, or to postpone redistricting of the county representation units until 1970 (per the new charter), will be deliberated by the freeholders at a work session tonight. The first draft of the charter in general will be considered, also. All sessions of the board are open to the public. This evening session begins at 7:30 in room 402.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussions at the hearings. A second public hearing tentatively been set for Aug. 7. The Board of Freeholders and staff have been drawing up the first charter for King for the past seven months. Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

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Seattle, Wash.  
West Seattle Herald  
(Cir. W. 24,000)

JUL 18 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Slate Hearing

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JUL 18 1968

JUL 18 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders hear Tacoma city manager

The Snohomish County Board of Freeholders resumed their weekly meetings after the Fourth of July holiday. Guest speaker of the evening was Mr. Dave Rowlands, City Manager of Tacoma. Rowlands gave a brief resume of his experience and places of employment before he came to Tacoma.

On the subject of manager government, he advocated: 1. An appointed manager by the board of commissioners; 2. A five man board as an ideal commission; 3. That the board of commissioners be part time; 4. That the manager should appoint all department heads and have the right to hire and fire the same.

Rowlands was definite on one point which was that the salaries of the manager's staff should be comparable to the community wage structure. This would induce good people to come in to county employment. He also feels that the county auditor's office could be abolished and that the work could be handled by appointed personnel.

The last half of the meeting was taken up with discussion on governmental structure. By a majority, the freeholder board voted to have a five man commissioner board elected by the people. This board would in turn appoint a county manager. All other elected offices would be appointed.

A screening committee was elected to interview and retain legal help to draft a charter.

HOUSE FINCH is a bird of farms, highways and inhabited areas wherever water is available.

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders take preliminary poll of members' opinions

Snohomish County Board of Freeholders took a preliminary poll of opinions at their meeting July 10, that showed a majority of the members favored appointment of county department heads. The board supports a county administrator selected by a five man board of county commissioners, also.

Dick Welch, chairman of the 15 member board elected February 6, 1968, reports that meetings are about at a half-way point, with another five or six months of weekly meetings expected before final recommendations may be made.

The board of freeholders has the responsibility of exploring the present county government and making recommendations for improvements. Any changes in government recommended by the freeholders would have to be voted upon by all county residents.

The freeholders meet each Wednesday evening at 7:30

p.m., in the county agriculture building. All meetings are open to the public. Welch says the freeholders want a substantial sample of public opinion and welcome all comments and ideas the public may present. For this reason the freeholders have held meetings in Edmonds, Monroe and Snohomish, trying to meet more of the public.

By state law the county court system, schools, and prosecuting attorney are out of bounds for any change by the freeholders. All other county offices are being investigated.

Through expert and non-expert speakers the board of freeholders has been advised (1) to keep the county officials elective; (2) to have the county officials appointed by the county commissioners; (3) to have only the coroner and county clerk appointive offices, etc.

Several suggestions that county officials drop their party affiliations in competing for elective offices have been made. Many suggestions to have separate legislative and administrative functions have been made and also that employees have some sort of civil service system or merit system implemented.

Consolidation of road districts has been strongly recommended and consolidation of some fire districts suggested.

The board will continue to have speakers from other counties and cities to learn how they have met their government problems. They also want the opinions of Snohomish County residents and urge anyone with an honest opinion about the government to step forward and be heard.

JUL 18 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Public Hearing On Charter Set By Freeholders

The "Working Draft" charter of the Board of King County Freeholders will be presented to the citizens of King County for the first time at a public hearing on July 31st at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

A second public hearing has been announced by Freeholder Chairman, Richard Albrecht, scheduled for Wednesday August 7th, at the Pacific Science Center's Ames Theatre, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The public will have an opportunity to attend either public hearing and present their views on the proposed charter. Any citizen who wishes a copy of the draft may call the Freeholder office at MA 3 5556.

Copies will also be available at the July 31st and August 7th meetings.

## Hearing on Charter Draft

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More About —

## All About Politics

(Continued from Page 4)

governor for the second time, former Gov. Albert D. Rosellini officially closed the door on any plans to make another try . . . Despite this, the former governor still commands a sizable fan club . . . many of whom told him so during the course of convention proceedings . . . Humphrey lieutenants, bitterly disappointed their leader was too ill to make the scene, have entered into quiet negotiations to bring the Vice President into the state within the next few weeks. Humphrey's absence was distinctly felt . . . his supporters would have liked to match their muscle with some of the steam shown by the opposition. As television viewers saw, there was none, despite the valiant last-minute efforts of Adlai Stevenson III . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

### Split Ahead Among Freeholders Over Charter Districting Plan?

Hopes that the 15-member Board of King County Freeholders would end up in unanimous endorsements of the final charter draft to be submitted to the voters November 5 seem out the window. So far, deliberations of the group have been accomplished without much public notice—and perhaps interest—but that ended last week with the unveiling of a controversial plan to divide the county into seven, and perhaps nine, commissioner districts.

The matter caused hot debate at last Wednesday's work session, and could end up causing enough storm to endanger (1) unanimous approval of their efforts by the freeholders themselves, and (2) eventual approval of the electorate. Many of the hard-working board (who have put in an estimated 150 man hours each on their nonpaying job to date) are in agreement about most of the charter's other provisions. But several, including two freeholders from the Valley area, are sufficiently hostile to the plan it could become a cause celebre within the board between now and the time the charter is slated for the ballot. The Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to have the final document before it September 9.

The divergence of views on the districting plan unveiled last Sunday in this newspaper was summed up last week by Lyle Schneider, Auburn attorney, and an Auburn automobile dealer, Howard Bothell . . . Said Schneider: "It could end up being one of the finest county charters in the U.S. . . . a national model for other counties to aim at!" . . . Said Bothell: "I don't like it!"

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# All About Politics

Notes and Comment

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE



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### Freeholder Committee To Plot County Districts

A five-member committee of the Board of King County Freeholders will be appointed in a day or two to draw up a new plan for dividing the county into nine county - commissioner districts. Chairman Richard R. Albrecht will appoint the five, it was agreed last night at a meeting of the 15-member board. commissioners. Now there are three. The first public hearing on the proposed charter will be at 7:30 p. m., July 31 in the courthouse. The freeholders approved a charter provision that all county construction projects shall be contracted out to private firms, with the exception of road projects valued at less than \$15,000.

The freeholders already have before them redistricting plans prepared by Rajavikant Joshi, consultant. Joshi offered alternate seven- and nine-district plans. They were both praised and criticized last night.

Albrecht led a move to keep redistricting within the purview of the freeholders.

Simon Wampold, vice chairman, had suggested that an independent body do the redistricting, with the freeholders staying clear of the politically sensitive matter and getting on with their job of drafting a county-charter proposal.

Robert Eberle disagreed. He said a charter without provision for new commissioner districts would be jeopardized in the November election.

Mrs. Douglas North, absent from the meeting, sent a memorandum urging that the charter provide for nine

# Airing Due July 31 On Charter Draft

What's Going  
On Here!



Opinion and comment by  
the publisher —  
—John L. Fournier

JUL 24 1968

## County Charter To Be Considered At Public Hearing

The Board of King County Freeholders Chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the Board on July 31 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

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Copies of the Charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the Charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberating session of the board will be on July 17 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the board are open to the public.

Local citizens will have a chance to air their views on a preliminary draft of a King County home-rule charter, which would vastly change county government, at a July 31 public hearing.

The hearings have been set by the board of freeholders, elected last year to modernize county government, for 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse in Seattle.

A second public hearing has been announced by freeholder chairman Richard Albrecht for 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Pacific Science Center.

The preliminary charter draft would divide the county into nine districts, with one county commissioner elected for each. Presently there are three.

The charter, if approved by voters next November, would take effect May 1, 1969.

Also elected would be the county assessor and a county executive. The latter would be the chief administrator, with the nine-member board of commissioners being the legislative, or policy making, branch of government.

Freeholders are still in the process of deciding what, if any, other county department heads should be elective. The preliminary charter draft calls for appointment by the county executive of a chief administrative officer, subject to board of commissioner confirmation. The administrative officer would name non-elective de-

partment and office heads, subject to approval of the county executive.

The 15 freeholders have yet to decide the initial nine commissioner district boundaries. Under the preliminary draft, present commissioners would be able to serve out their present terms, serving the new commissioner districts in which they reside.

Called for is election of new commissioners from the new districts, with voters of each district electing its commissioner. Presently the three-member board of commissioners are "spread too thin," each representing too many people.

The preliminary charter draft stipulates that commissioner districts be reviewed each five years and, if they have become uneven in population, redistricted. If county commissioners fail to redistrict within a specified time the county executive would name a committee to recommend redistricting plan.

Pay of the commissioner would be suspended, pending enactment of a redistricting ordinance. If the commissioners then failed to carry out redistricting.

Set up under the preliminary charter draft would be a county office of citizen complaints. This office would have the power to subpoena witnesses and documents in order to investigate and make recommendations on complaints involving county government.

Also set up would be a board of appeals which would have final say, excepting for the courts, on appeals regarding zoning variances, land use permits, and property valuation set by the assessor's office.

A personnel system aimed at installation of a career employee staff, free of political influence, would be set up under the preliminary charter draft.

## Charter Dilemma Faces Freeholders —

King County freeholders are facing the problem of satisfying their own ranks as well as the rank and file of the public in preparing a new charter. This is no easy task. Right now they are caught on the horns of a dilemma from which they, so far, have been unable to extricate themselves.

Freeholders have more or less collectively agreed to a multiple unit seven or nine member commissioner or legislative group. With it they have embraced the concept of dividing the county into seven or nine districts. This, it seems, is where the mistake is made.

A quick look at the proposed redistricting gives evidence it will not work very well. First of all, the districts are not suitable geographically nor politically — and the immediate reaction is that they have been designed on purely political boundaries. This opens the door to a total controversy over redistricting rather than a direct approach to the problem of good government.

We believe it is not feasible and certainly unwise to try to redistrict the county at this time. It appears that any such action would tend to be self-defeating.

We believe the freeholders could best serve the community by deferring or forgetting about redistricting, by leaving district boundaries as they are and electing two commissioners from each district and one at large. This would retain boundaries as they are, if seven commissioners are agreed upon this division would give a better spread and opportunity for more representative government.

It has been found in other areas where attempts were made to obtain a new charter of county government that in some cases these efforts failed because voters had no choice. An analysis of a recent charter which failed in Maryland indicated the proposals would have been presented in various segments similar to the manner in which the forward Thrust election as presented recently are in King County.

It is our belief that half a

## Freeholders Name Redistrict Group

Five King County Freeholders yesterday were named to a subcommittee charged with drafting a proposal to redistrict King County.

Richard Albrecht, Lynnwood chairman of the Freeholders, named the special committee. He will serve as its chairman.

Others on the committee are James O'Connor, Seattle; Terry McKenna and James P. Curran, Kent; and Simon Wampold, Bellevue.

The Freeholders voted Monday.

day to include a new county districting plan with the county charter proposal which will be offered to voters in November. The new form of government provided by the charter would give the county nine commissioners rather than the present three.

So the special committee will divide the county into nine districts. Albrecht said he expected the committee's recommendations to be presented to the 15-member Freeholders board in about two weeks.

## Freeholders Plan 9 County Districts

A committee of King County freeholders today began to formulate a plan for nine county-commissioner districts.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, said the plan will be ready before the end of next week.

Members of the committee are James Curran, Kent; Howard Bothell, Auburn;

Simon Wampold, Bellevue, and James O'Connor and Albrecht, both of Seattle.

They met today with Rajanikant Joshi, consultant who drafted alternate plans for seven and nine commissioner districts. These were found unacceptable by the freeholders, although they favor a nine-district plan.

Albrecht said the principal objections to Joshi's nine-district proposal are that it calls for one commissioner district including the Kent Valley and all of East King County and does not put all of Seattle's central area in a single district.

The freeholders intend to include a plan for nine districts in the county charter they are preparing.

## Divided Freeholders May Seek Yet Another Redistrict Plan

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

Speculation mounted at the weekend that the trigger-hot matter of dividing the county into seven or nine-man commissioner districts, now under consideration by the Board of King County Freeholders, may fail for lack of a majority for either plan.

The two proposals are due for an in-depth look at a special meeting of the body called for tomorrow night at the King County Courthouse at 7:30. The meeting, while not a public hearing, is open to the public.

Wednesday, with all four Valley freeholders concurring, the two plans were tabled until members could, in the words of Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, have the opportunity to digest the contents of the two controversial proposals.

### Plans Described

As prepared by a Seattle consultant, the county would be divided into seven or nine commissioner districts, approximately equal in population, but varying widely in economic and political implications. The nine-member plan (currently favored by freeholders as the size of the engrossed Board of King County Commissioners) would cut the Valley into two parts, with the southern part of the Valley comprising one commissioner district extending from the Pierce County boundary line on the south to the Snohomish County line on the north.

Political implications of the plan drew the most fire last week when Wampold charged that either plan, if adopted, would result in King County — a county which he said had been regarded as traditionally Demo-

cratic — becoming "forever after Republican."

"I am not saying I want the county divided in such a way as to favor either party, but it should at least be fair," he declared. He urged that both county and state chairman of each major political party be solicited for their comments on the impact of the two plans on the political balance in the county.

Concerned with the effect of the two plans on Valley interests, Terry McKenna, Kent freeholder, charged that neither plan meets the needs of the Valley where, he said, the majority of the county's growth in the next 10 years will occur. He urged that neither the seven-nor nine-man plan be included in the new charter.

### Project Endangered

Acknowledging the explosive nature of the proposals before them, most freeholders informally agreed that adopting either plan could endanger seriously passage of the new charter they have spent the last seven months framing. Considerable sentiment was expressed Wednesday to use the present three commissioner districts as a basis for electing nine commissioners and leave the delicate task of districting the county until after 1971 — and after the charter has been approved.

Mrs. Lois North, Seattle freeholder active in the legislative-redistricting effort several years ago, cautioned freeholders if they want to involve themselves in the actual drawing of new commissioner-district boundary lines, they well could be at work on the project

Seattle, Wash.  
U. District Herald  
(Cir. W. 25,105)

JUL 24 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Set Public Hearing

The Board of King County Freeholders Chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the board on July 31 at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

Under consideration by the board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.



## Fluoridation Vote Unlikely This Year

By HERB ROBINSON

Associate Editor, The Times

Although the City Council now has decided to leave the fluoridation issue up to the voters, there is a strong likelihood that the question will not reach the ballot until sometime in 1969.

In June, a Council majority signified its intention to enact a fluoridation ordinance with a 30-day "delayed action" clause, to provide opponents with an opportunity to circulate referendum petitions before the measure actually became law.

This week, however, there was a surprise shift in the positions of some Council members and the body voted 6 to 3 to place the question before the electorate, an action that eliminated the necessity for a referendum-petition campaign. (For Times editorial, see Page 10.)

In abandoning the fate of fluoridation to the voters, the Council did not spell out the date for an election. That is to be studied by a Council committee, and a decision made later.

Looking ahead, however, there is evidence that Seattle voters will not have a chance to decide the question in either the September 17 primary election or the general election November 5.

The September primary would have been a logical time, but because of technical reasons it is already too late to certify the measure to the September ballot.

As to November 5, King County election officials believe that the general-election ballot could well be so crowded with other propositions, there would be no room left on the voting machines for inclusion of the fluoridation question.

Edward J. Logan, county elections superintendent, noted that 12 state-wide propositions—constitutional amendments, bond issues and the like—already are certain entries on the November ballot and two state initiative proposals evidently have received enough signatures to join the list.

Logan said two remaining ballot positions tentatively have been "reserved" for an expected Seattle School District special levy and for a proposed home-rule charter now being written into final form by the Board of County Freeholders.

"Since we are practically 'out of space' on our voting machines," Logan said, "we have advised the city of the situation and have tried to discourage them from seeking a fluoridation vote this fall."

**OUTLOOK:** Under such circumstances, the fluoridation proposition normally would be put off until the next municipal general election, scheduled in November, 1969.

Yet opportunities may develop for placing the question on the ballot earlier than that.

For example, if King County voters approve a proposed charter this fall, elections would be held next February and March to select the officials called for in the new document. The fluoridation issue could be attached to the same ballot.

Similarly, there is a possibility that the Forward Thrust organization may submit new propositions to the voters sometime next spring, after adjournment of the 1969 Legislature.

Whatever course is decided upon—and unless fluoridation somehow could be "squeezed" onto November's ballot—it appears the matter now will go into limbo for at least six months.



### Notes and Comment

● In light of predictions that Lady Bird Johnson's campaign to regulate outdoor advertising along the nation's highways is near extinction, Washington State's own billboard-control law assumes even greater significance. The federal control program reportedly is in trouble because of Vietnam war costs, intensive lobbying and other pressures. The state law still faces a challenge in the federal courts.

● This week's episode in the King County jail atop the Courthouse provided a new argument for completion of the Courthouse remodeling project. The escape of four prisoners became possible partly because of security weaknesses created by the renovation work. Part of the

## County Charter To Be Considered At Public Hearing

The Board of King County Freeholders' Chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the Board on July 31 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

Under consideration by the Board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the Board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the Charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the Charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberation session of the board will be on July 17 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the board are open to the public.

Seattle, Wash.  
White Center News  
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

JUL 24 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1853

## Charter Hearing July 31

The Board of King County Freeholders will hold the first public hearing on a charter for the county on Wednesday, July 31. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Court House.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussions at the hearings. A second is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 7.

The Board of Freeholders and staff have been drawing up the first charter for King County for the past seven months.

They expect to have the charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November 1968 ballot.



# Freeholders Start Anew On Redistricting County

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The controversial plans before the King County Board of Freeholders drawing up a new charter which would divide the county into a seven- or nine-man commissioner district went back to the drawing board Monday night.

Only this time freeholders decided to do it themselves.

The actions, approved by the three Valley freeholders who attended the meeting, came after a lengthy debate at which a series of counterproposals were offered to the group . . . only to be withdrawn.

Throughout the meeting there was little sentiment in favor of postponing the districting job until after the charter is approved. Most felt freeholders should do the job themselves, predicated on the basis of a nine-man board of county commissioners.

Before the decision was reached, both districting plans drawn by Board Consultant Rajanikant N. Joshi came in for extensive criticism, particularly from Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the group, who charged that the districts proposed by Joshi would make King

County "forever Republican."

"If we accept either of these plans (which he's put together like a mathematician) without making the study ourselves, we're endangering the charter," Wampold emphasized. "We've labored too hard . . . too long . . . and too well to sacrifice our efforts to the proposals of a consultant."

## Job Is 'Explosive, Important'

Wampold labeled the districting proposals as not only the most explosive matter to be considered by the freeholders, but the most important.

Others likewise expressed concern, including Kent Attorney James Curran, who declared: "I am disappointed this thing has gotten into the realm of politics which hasn't contributed to anything but dissension. I don't like political leaders calling 'wolf' before they know a wolf is in the woods." Curran referred to an analysis submitted by Wampold by Democratic County Chairman Jeannette Williams in which she said either plan would lead to five Republican districts controlling King County.

Aside from the political objections to the two plans, most criticism was voiced to the inequities posed by the propos-

als to South King County interests — particularly the Valley area.

Noting that most complaints about the two proposals came from the South County area, Chairman Richard Albrecht, labeling them legitimate ones, declared he saw "no way to make everyone happy, but we can attempt to make as many persons happy with our work as possible."

## Committee Approach Favored

An alternate plan drawn and submitted to the freeholders by Albrecht was withdrawn when it became apparent the majority favored appointment of a subcommittee to redraw the lines and submit them to the freeholders at a later meeting.

The decision was spurred by Robert Eberle, 7th District congressional candidate, who accused the group of "not wanting to draw district lines because you want to fool people . . . just like in the stadium situation."

Opposition to deferring the districting or placing it in the hands of another body was also expressed by Curran who said he felt that "unincorporated areas ought to have something to say about what's done in areas like mine without leaving

that decision up to some blue-ribbon committee from Seattle's central area.

Also opposed to deferring the districting was Auburn Freeholder Howard Bothell, who told board members they were charged with trying to make county government more responsive to the wishes of the people. "In view of the fact neither of the plans before us does that, I believe we should go ahead and do the job ourselves."

## Time Is Running Short

Although board members are in apparent agreement they should attempt to do the districting job themselves, observers noted little concern Monday night for the time element involved in their critical decision.

With a public hearing on the nearly complete charter scheduled for next Wednesday night at 7:30 in the King County Courthouse, and the deadline to finish the document in time to place it on the November ballot challenging their efforts, freeholders could become snarled in their own inability to draw a plan that would please all members.

But as of last Monday night, they agree to try.

# Divided Freeholders May Seek Yet Another Redistrict Plan

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Our County News Bureau

Speculation mounted at the weekend that the trigger-hot matter of dividing the county into seven- or nine-man commissioner districts, now under consideration by the Board of King County Freeholders, may fail for lack of a majority for either plan.

The two proposals are due for an in-depth look at a special meeting of the body called for tomorrow night at the King County Courthouse at 7:30. The meeting, while not a public hearing, is open to the public.

Wednesday, with all four Valley freeholders concurring, the two plans were tabled until members could, in the words of Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, have the opportunity to digest the contents of the two controversial proposals.

Plans Described

As prepared by a Seattle consultant, the county would be divided into seven or nine commissioner districts, approximately equal in population, but varying widely in economic and political implications. The nine-member plan (currently favored by freeholders as the size of the engrossed Board of King County Commissioners) would cut the Valley into two parts, with the southern part of the Valley comprising one commissioner district extending from the Pierce County boundary line on the south to the Snohomish County line on the north.

Political implications of the plan drew the most fire last week when Wampold charged that either plan, if adopted, would result in King County — a county which he said had been regarded as traditionally Demo-

cratic — becoming "forever after Republican."

"I am not saying I want the county divided in such a way as to favor either party, but it should at least be fair," he declared. He urged that both county and state chairman of each major political party be solicited for their comments on the impact of the two plans on the political balance in the county.

Concerned with the effect of the two plans on Valley interests, Terry McKenna, Kent freeholder, charged that neither plan meets the needs of the Valley where, he said, the majority of the county's growth in the next 10 years will occur. He urged that neither the seven- nor nine-man plan be included in the new charter.

Project Endangered

Acknowledging the explosive nature of the proposals before them, most freeholders informally agreed that adoption of either plan could endanger seriously passage of the new charter they have spent the last seven months framing. Considerable sentiment was expressed Wednesday to use the present three commissioner districts as a basis for electing nine commissioners and leave the delicate task of districting the county until after 1971 — and after the charter has been approved.

Mrs. Lois North, Seattle freeholder active in the legislative-redistricting effort several years ago, cautioned freeholders if they want to involve themselves in the actual drawing of new commissioner-district boundary lines, they well could be at work on the project until December before reaching agreement . . . if then. That charter is slated to go to the voters November 5.

Earlier, several Valley freeholders expressed displeasure with either plan. From their remarks, and the off-the-record comments of others, it seems clear that pressures — political and otherwise — could cause both plans to be scuttled before the first public hearing on the new charter July 31. A second hearing has been scheduled for August 7 at Seattle Center, after which time the freeholders will put the final touches on the document that now — except for the controversial districting plan — is approaching final form.

## What's Going On Here!



Opinion and comment by the publisher —

John L. Fournier

### Charter Dilemma Faces Freeholders --

King County freeholders are facing the problem of satisfying their own ranks as well as the rank and file of the public in preparing a new charter. This is no easy task. Right now they are caught on the horns of a dilemma from which they, so far, have been unable to extricate themselves.

Freeholders have more or less collectively agreed to a multiple unit seven or nine member commissioner or legislative group. With it they have embraced the concept of dividing the county into seven or nine districts. This, it seems, is where the mistake is made.

A quick look at the proposed redistricting gives evidence it will not work very well. First of all, the districts are not suitable geographically nor politically — and the immediate reaction is that they have been designed on purely political boundaries. This opens the door to a total controversy over redistricting rather than a direct approach to the problem of

We believe it is not feasible and certainly unwise to try to redistrict the county at this time. It appears that any such action would tend to be self-defeating.

We believe the freeholders could best serve the community by deferring or forgetting about redistricting; by leaving district boundaries as they are and electing two commissioners from each district and one at large. This would retain boundaries as they are, if seven commissioners are agreed upon this division would give a better spread and opportunity for more representative government.

It has been found in other areas where attempts were made to obtain a new charter of county government that in some cases these efforts failed because voters had no choice. An analysis of a recent charter which failed in Maryland indicated the proposals should have been presented in various segments similar to the manner in which the Forward Thrust election was presented recently here in King County.

It is our belief that half a loaf is better than none, and that the freeholders should break down the charter proposals into several significant areas and allow voters an opportunity to make a choice.

Such an action may at least provide a stepping stone toward the total pattern of good government and any areas in which the voters should dissent may be brought up at a later date. There is the potential, then, that a good share of

(Continued on Page 2)

## 2117

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The controversial plans before the King County Board of Freeholders drawing up a new charter which would divide the county into a seven- or nine-member commissioner district went back to the drawing board Monday night.

Only this time I've decided to do it themselves.

The actions, approved by the three Valley freeholders who attended the meeting, came after a lengthy debate at which a series of counterproposals were offered to the group . . . only to be withdrawn.

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"If we except either of these lions to the two plants, we have the political organism of the two plants, much like a mathematician) without inequities posed by the protagonists, as to South King County in making the study ourselves, we're endangering the Charter," said Walpold emphasized. "We've absorbed too hard... too long... area.

*Noting that most counties*

**Job Is 'Explosive, Important'**  
Wampold labeled the districting proposals as not only the most explosive matter, but the most explosive, important and too well to sacrifice our efforts to the proposals of a consultant."

Two of the most complicated of the two proposals came from the South County area, where Chairman Richard Albrecht, I, belting them legitimate ones declared he saw "two ways" to make everyone happy, but was not alone in making the

**Others** likewise expressed concern, including Kent Atteridge James Curran, who declared: "I am disappointed this time has gotten over the top."

The decision was spurred by a letter from Rep. Robert Echele, 7th District, who had been elected to the congressional seat vacated by Wammie Lewis. Echele had referred to an analysis submitted by Wammie Lewis, which had the title "The Role of Politics Which Hasn't Contributed to Anything But Dissension." I don't like political leaders and submit them to the freebodies at a later meeting.

County Chairman Jeanette Williams accused the group of "not wanting to draw district lines because you want to fool people."

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board members they were charged with trying to make

But as of last Monday night, the voters could be considered in the hands of another body was also people. "In view of the fact at 7:30 in the King County court, he felt that "unincorporated does that, I believe we should go to say, about what's done in ourselves," and do the job place it on the November ballot.

4. Also opposed to deferring the mining job themselves, observers to districting was Auburn Fret noted little concern Monday holder Howard Rothell, who told night for the time.

Barren, Wash.  
Highline Times  
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JUL 24 1968  
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# Charter Hearing

**JULY 31**  
The Board of King County  
Preschoolers will hold the  
first public hearing on a  
charter for the county on  
Tuesday.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussions at the upcoming sessions of the County Court House.

ing, a second is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 7. The board of Freeholders and staff have been drawing up the first charter for King County for the past seven months. They expect that

expect to have the matter in final form early September so that it can be placed on the November ballot.

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## Charrier

# Hearings

July 31

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The Board of King County  
Elected

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meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussion.

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and staff have been drawing on the first charter for King County for the

They expect to have the carrier in hand in a few months.

September so that it can be placed on the November ballot.

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JUL 25 1977

# FIRST OF A SERIES:

## New Charter Gets Favorable Reaction

by Jack Yearout

Last week the preliminary working draft of the proposed "home rule" charter for King County was issued to interested citizens by the Board of Freeholders.

The 15 Freeholders have been studying various types of county governments throughout the nation, and, on occasion, have used public hearings as sounding boards, in order to find out what would be desirable in the new charter.

It is now apparent that "working draft" it will be...because changes in the first writing are starting before the ink is hardly dry on the 41-page document.

However, L. Joe Miller, Bellevue's city manager and certainly the most qualified man in this area to speak out on the initial charter draft, was enthusiastic about the work of the Freeholders.

"On the whole, it is well done," Miller said, "a well-written charter."

With exceptions, of course.

The Bellevue city manager expressed concern about a 45-day waiting period before county ordinances would become effective, and questioned the referendum section which would allow 10% of the county voters to petition the commissioners directly.

A critic of the elected county executive, he labeled as a good "second best" the appointment of a qualified county administrator. On the other hand, he liked the veto provision of the charter, with its override by a six commissioner vote.

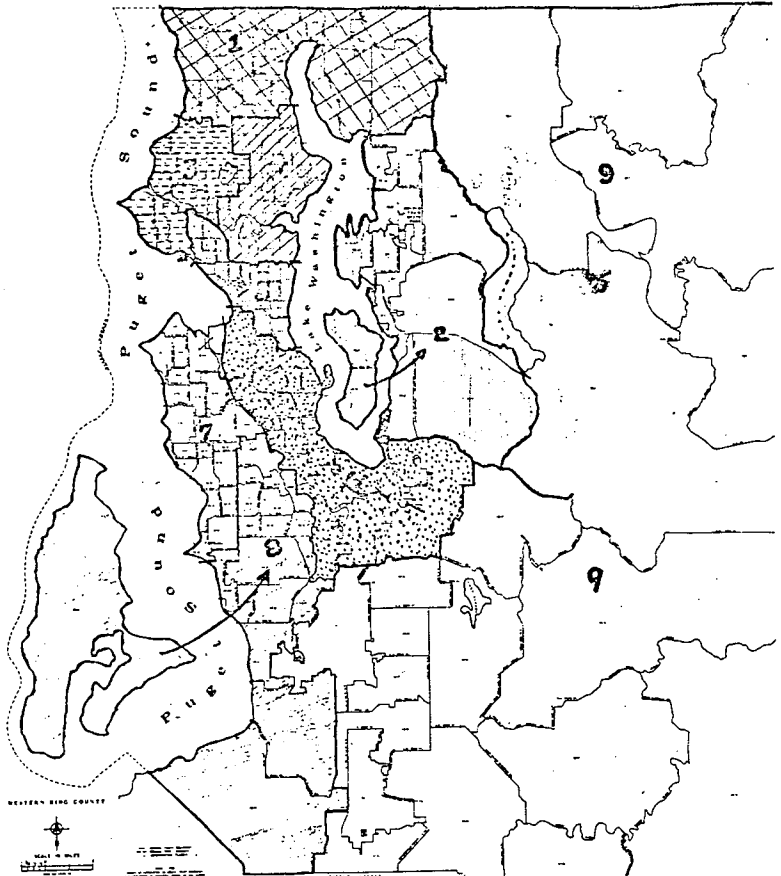
When asked about the suggested nine commissioner district plan he had this to say:

"I think it is a dangerous shattering of the area...will lead to too much 'log rolling'...and invites urban-rural competition, of which there is too much already."

The zoning provisions were excellent, according to Miller.

Simon Wampold, Bellevue attorney who is the only Freeholder representing this district, has played a key role in the drafting of the preliminary charter. His present concern is the redistricting of the county, and how to make the nine commissioner districts reflect the intent of the charter under article six, section 630, which plainly states that the district will be drawn up approximately equal population, and, as Wampold puts it, of common social and economic interests as well.

Two hearings on this working draft have already been scheduled by the Freeholder Board, for next Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., room 402 of the King County Courthouse, and again the following Wednesday, same time, at the Pacific Science Center's Eames Theatre. Further hearings will be scheduled



### FREEHOLDER COMMITTEE WILL OVERHAUL MAP

This map shows how the Bellevue area (2) would fare in the redistricting of King County's commissioner districts under the new county charter as presented by the Board of Freeholders. This tentative map will undoubtedly undergo a number of changes, however, before the districts are finalized.

as necessary, "to give everyone an opportunity to be heard" as to their thinking on this first draft of the new charter.

Next week The American will carry a condensed article explaining the first three articles of the charter, dealing principally with the legislative and executive branches of the proposed county government, how they will be elected and appointed, their terms of office, powers, and how, under the new system, the two branches will complement each other and act as a check and balance system, compared with the three commissioner system now governing King County.

Under the nine commissioner districting plan outlined in the working draft of the new King County home rule charter, the district dominated by Bellevue would have a population of about 135,000 persons, representing about 11.36% of the total county population.

District 2 would be represented on the board of commissioners by a man elected from this area for a four year term in 1971. The districts would come under commissioner studies every five years, would be adjusted as to size, shape and population in order to keep them equal, under article six

of the charter.

A five man committee from the Board of King County Freeholders is now studying the redistricting, and met for the first time Wednesday morning. Simon Wampold of Bellevue is serving on this committee, along with Richard Albrecht, chairman of the 15-Freeholders board, James N. O'Connor, Terry McKenna and Jim Kern.

This committee will report their decisions to the Freeholders and to the public at one of the hearings, probably sometime in August.

JUL 25 1933

# Freeholders Must Do the Job

Drafting of a governmental charter for King County by the Board of Freeholders has become temporarily snagged on the issue of legislative district boundary lines.

The freeholders' impasse is hardly surprising, for even if a legislative apportionment plan were drafted in heaven there would be dissatisfied detractors who would question its divinity.

A few of the freeholders have proposed ducking the issue, leaving final determination of county commissioner boundaries up to the nine commissioners to be elected under the proposed charter, for fear of generating a controversy that could kill the charter itself.

Freeholders' chairman Richard R. Albrecht insists that failure of the freeholders to designate boundaries of representation prior to this November's vote on the charter would be "an abdication of our responsibility" and we agree.

When county voters consider the charter at the polls they are entitled to know how the geographic lines of representation initially will be drawn. The Board of Freeholders is nominally a non-partisan body, far better

newly elected partisan commissioners, whose natural proclivity will be to create districts designed to insure that they remain in office.

As for the reported comment of King County Democratic Central Committee Chairman Jeanette Williams that the apportionment plans now under consideration would make the county "forever Republican," it should be noted that the proposed charter calls for automatic re-districting every five years to remove inequities caused by population shifts. This should guarantee that the county becomes neither Republican nor Democratic forever.

**THE FREEHOLDERS** may not be able to produce a perfect apportionment plan, but then perfection is a rather subjective commodity, particularly in the area of legislative apportionment.

Our recommendation is for the freeholders to settle upon a reasonable plan in the spirit of compromise and then to engage in a united effort to sell it and the charter to the electorate. Prolonged hickering over boundary lines could undo the work all on the freeholders

Seattle, Wash.  
West Seattle Herald  
(Cir. W. 24,000)

JUL 25 1933

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Freeholders Report On Drafted Charter

The "Working Draft" charter of the board of King County Freeholders will be presented to the citizens of King County for the first time at a public hearing July 31 at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

A second public hearing has been announced by freeholder chairman, Richard Albrecht, for Wednesday, August 7, at the Pacific Science Center's Ames Theatre, at 7:30 p.m.

The public will have an opportunity to attend either hearing and present their views of the proposed charter. Any citizen who wishes a copy of the draft may call the freeholder office at MA 3-5556. Copies will also be available at the July 31 and August 7 meetings.

# Tacoma Council Session: A Tragi-comedy in 4 Acts

BY LARRY M-CARTEN  
P-I Staff

**TACOMA** — The Tacoma City Council met as usual Tuesday night. Underline "as usual."

It's the best all-around tragi-comedy in the Pacific Northwest, headlined by Mayor A. L. Rasmussen and a supporting cast of eight.

It plays every Tuesday to a full house and admission is free.

**ONE AFTERNOON**, evening, night and next morning last spring the entertainment spanned nine hours and 20 minutes. Rasmussen and the council Tuesday night seemed bent on as long a one-night stand.

But the curtain dropped after only four hours and 45 minutes.

The first act was "MINUTES."

It took the council only a half-hour to decide that a change in the minutes of two previous meetings should be called an addendum, not an amendment.

**ACT II: THE RISE AND FALL OF POLICE MORALE.**

The council sped through this epic in 90 minutes.

The question: Should the requirement that new Tacoma policemen be high school graduates be amended?

The proposal was to accept a passing grade on the General Education Development (GED) test in lieu of a high school diploma.

A couple of councilmen, the head of the police union and others said use of the GED test would lower the morale of officers who had to complete high school to get on the force.

Conversely, they added, morale would tend to rise with the educational level of policemen.

Several other councilmen said passing the GED test might indicate "higher motivation."

Ending: Catch the act in two weeks — the issue was put over until then.

**ACT III: RATS.**

Rasmussen said Tacoma's rat infestation is the worst in 23 years. He asked

his arch foe, City Manager David Rowlands, what he was doing about it.

The mayor mentioned bubonic plague.

Rowlands said the RATification program was proceeding and federal funds may come soon to end the battle.

**ACT IV: GAG RULE.** This was the act where the mayor uttered that immortal line:

"It all depends on whose nit you're picking, Mr. (Deputy Mayor W. G.) Bott."

The piece de resistance was the letter sent in by Lyle Green, who wanted to praise Rowlands. Rasmus-

sen had been tipped off that Green had not personally signed the letter as required by Council rules.

**RASMUSSEN** declared he had not voted for the "gag rule" but refused to let Green speak.

Councilman C. M. Johnson appealed the ruling and the Council voted five to four to let Green speak, after only 30 minutes of wrangling.

Green presented petitions signed by 1,728 persons, praising Rowlands and urging he be retained as city manager.

Rasmussen's exit line: "I didn't know anybody was being fired."

## City Affairs

# Planners Agree Center Is 'Probably Best' Stadium Site

City planning commissioners agreed yesterday that the Seattle Center area "probably" is the best place for a proposed dome stadium.

The planners—whose report is going to the state Stadium Commission—recommended that no final site decision be made until more information is available.

The Planning Commission's report did not consider cost and took into consideration only "the basic planning criteria."

Missing information elements include:

2. A design study and cost analysis of a "true multi-purpose stadium facility" as compared with the proposed multi-sports facility.

2. An analysis of the extent to which present downtown parking facilities, coupled with the present monorail, could substitute for the additional parking facilities needed for the stadium were the Seattle Center site chosen.

3. An analysis of the extent to which expected traffic congestion at the Center site, resulting from major events at the stadium, might be handled on a short-range basis through methods similar to those used for football games at the University of Washington stadium.

4. An analysis of the extent to which estimated costs of providing adequate access to a Seattle Center site include the costs of projects already proposed and which would be necessary to relieve traffic congestion already existing in the Center vicinity.

The report adopted by the Planning Commission was drafted by a special committee of which Peter Best was chairman and Stephen Richardson and Lyle Wilson were members.

(Sun. 239,092)

JUL 28 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888



Louis R. Gunze

## Ombudsman Needed Now

When most political candidates indorse a controversial idea in the heat of campaigning and just as quickly drop it once they win seats, you know the idea must have considerable merit.

So it is with the ombudsman issue, which has been blossoming regularly at campaign time and falling to seed just as regularly immediately after election day.

Why is it? Very simple. Politicians are actually afraid of the ombudsman idea because it is one of the most potent weapons yet devised by the little guy to fight big government.

I have been writing about it from time to time for several years. So have others. But it "gets lost" on schedule as soon as the public lets down its guard.

IT WAS REPORTED earlier this year by one of the news services that an ombudsman bill had been introduced in at least 40 of the 50 state legislatures, including Washington's, within the past two years—and that not one of them had passed an adequate bill. California has come the closest; the issue is still pending there.

An ombudsman has been under consideration by the Freeholders framing a new King County Charter, but I'll lay you odds it never gets past the recommendation stage. When the politicians get hold of it, the issue will slip mysteriously but quickly from sight.

Why the deathly fear of an ombudsman by officeholders?

Listen to this from Alfred Bexelius, ombudsman of Sweden, the first country to adopt the system (back in 1809!):

"The ombudsman cannot be concerned about his popularity. It is no secret that high officials in Sweden—all of them—dislike the ombudsman. They say he is always interfering in things he

**FREEHOLDERS**—King County freeholders, who are drafting a county charter, were asked by the City Planning Commission to include in the charter a provision calling for the coordination of planning activities between the county and municipalities within the county, including Seattle.

**TELEVISION**—Officials of two television stations, KOMO and KING, met with the planning group to speak against the city's allowing any high-rise apartment houses on the top of Queen Anne Hill where television towers are situated.

doesn't know anything about, and that they could do their jobs better if he would stop meddling, and so on.

"But all their grumbling doesn't mean a thing. Everybody knows that it is necessary to have an ombudsman."

**IT COULD BE SAID** with humorous logic that after 158 years of living under an ombudsman, only the public likes the idea in Sweden.

All the other Scandinavian countries have had ombudsmen for many years. So have West Germany, England and New Zealand. Canada is close to adoption of the system, too, but is experiencing some of the friction legislatures have seen in this country.

What is needed in the United States is for the public to rise on its collective muscle and demand the establishment of ombudsmen — on the state level, on the county level and on the city level.

The need grows by the month as government puffs itself into a bigger and more cumbersome posture.

**ONE NOTABLE SCHOLAR** on the issue, Professor Frank E. Cooper of the University of Michigan Law School, explained it this way:

"... There have been created scores of administrative agencies to carry out the rapidly mushrooming regulatory programs. The result has been that in some respects the agencies have to a substantial extent displaced the legislatures and the courts in the actual operation of state government."

Professor Cooper points out that only a trickle of citizen-versus-state cases are decided in court under prescribed rules compared to the millions of decisions made by agencies against citizen interests. And all but a few of those decisions are ever taken to court for review. Most citizen gripes cannot be taken to court.

John Q. simply has no recourse—or he cannot afford to make a legal issue of a point that will cost him more in fees than what he has to gain.

**THAT'S WHERE** the ombudsman comes in. He is, as the Swedish term translates, the "agent of justice" for the ordinary citizen. He has power to go through any public door to get answers to a complaint. He cannot be intimidated by any public official because he is not subservient to anyone but the public.

In the nations using the system, the ombudsman is chosen by the parliament or legislature from that group of men that is available to every free country — those retired statesmen and government leaders whose entire active lives have been a testimonial to their honesty and ability.

For example, a retired judge with a brilliant record would be a superior candidate — as Bexelius was in Sweden. He could be a former head of state, a governor, a mayor, a private businessman who has shown exemplary skill as an administrator.

Above all, he must be a man or woman who has indicated he has nothing personal to gain from the position and no axes to grind. Such men are in abundance. I can think of several who would make excellent ombudsmen for the state, the county and the city.

**WHAT DOES THE ombudsman do?** Professor Cooper enumerates:

"Creation of the office would provide an effective means for examining, on behalf of citizens and of the legislature, instances of maladministration by public officials. The means would include

"1. The power to discover the policies followed by the agencies and the details of their operating methods.

"2. The duty to form an opinion as to the validity of charges that an agency's powers were being abused, misused or not used.

"3. The privilege of consulting with agency officials, urging upon them the desirability of amending their rules or changing their procedures.

"4. The right to publish findings, criticizing or reprimanding administrative officials whose performance fails to meet desirable standards.

"5. The power to make official recommendations to the state legislature (or city council) for remedial legislation."

What are we waiting for?

Stell Times 8-1-68

# Charter Draft in Trouble, Survey Shows

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A proposed county charter is in trouble at the polls if a limited survey is correct. The Times learned today. But several changes in the proposal would increase its chances for approval.

Freeholders plan to submit the charter to the voters at election on November 5. General

The survey was conducted among the members of The

Boeing Co.'s public-affairs course in practical politics at the request of Terry McKenna, a freeholder. McKenna said he will make a series of proposals for charter changes.

Of the 408 students in the classes, 62 have responded to the questionnaire.

SEVERAL freeholders questioned the validity of the survey, but others felt the

results raised significant points. It was based on a preliminary charter draft completed July 18. Although a number of changes have been made since then, McKenna said he kept the course staff up to date.

Thirty-one per cent of those answering felt the county auditor should continue to be elected instead of appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. This

stood as the major area of disagreement.

The tabulation showed 63 per cent of those answering would oppose the charter as it now stands, but the figure would be reversed if some changes were made.

Forty-seven per cent feel the majority of voters will approve the present draft, and 45 per cent believe it would be defeated.

MORE THAN 5,000 Boeing

Co. employees have taken the public-affairs course offered on a voluntary basis during nonworking hours. Participants are considered to represent a cross-section of technical, white-collar, office, supervisory and executive personnel. Spouses of employees also participate.

While half of those responding felt the freeholders have done a good or excellent job, and another 31 per

cent consider it as average, the charter was criticized nearly one fifth for giving the county executive at least too much power.

The report shows that 1 per cent of those responding feel the charter needs to be explained more fully to the public and should contain detailed definitions of the powers and duties of each office and official.

## 9 District Boundaries OK'd for Proposed Charter

Boundaries for nine county-commissioner districts that give each political party an even break were approved last night for inclusion in a proposed county charter.

In contrast to a previous plan which raised heated debate, this one was approved, 12 to 0.

The five-member committee of the freeholders which drafted the report said it is designed to create nine separate districts of roughly equal population by using census tracts and to preserve economic, municipal and geographic units.

MAPS will be adjusted later to conform to precinct boundaries.

Despite the apparent ease

with which it passed, Virginia Gunby and Terry McKenna, freeholders, served notice they will ask the Board of Freeholders to reconsider reducing the number of commissioners to seven.

Mrs. Gunby declared: "I don't think the charter will pass with nine, full-time commissioners."

Simon Wampold called for

a meeting to discuss the number of commissioners and their pay.

Although the committee report said there is insufficient reliable data from which to predict the partisan make-up of the districts, a number of freeholders said they believe four each are Republican and Democratic and the other a swing district.

The population of the districts ranges from 120,400 to 136,700, but the smaller districts are in the areas projected to grow fastest.

The Shoreline and Rothell areas, roughly north of Northeast 115th Street in the Shoreline area and north of Northeast 112th Street in the Bohell area, are in one district, considered a swing district politically.

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THREE DISTRICTS are wholly within Seattle, and a fourth largely within the city limits. These include district 3, covering the Green Lake, University and Sand Point areas; 4, covering Ballard, Queen Anne and Magnolia; 5, covering the central area,

and 7, covering West Seattle, Beacon Hill and White Center.

District 3 and 4 are considered Republican, and 5 and 7 Democratic.

Other Republican districts are 2, covering the Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Issaquah areas, and 8, covering Normandy Park, Burien and Vashon Island.

Other Democratic districts are 9, covering Kent, Auburn, Enumclaw and Federal Way, and 7, including Renton, Maple Valley, Newport Hills, Skyway, Tukwila and Mercer Island.

The rejected plan placed the Kent Valley and South King county together with the rural areas in Eastern King County from the northern to the southern borders of the county, connected Renton with the Seattle central area and placed Mercer Island with the Bellevue area.

THE NEW PLAN was unveiled before the first of two public hearings on the proposed charter. The next will be at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday in the Exams Theater at the Pacific Science Center.

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A number of persons applauded the charter draft, but those representing county employees were critical of the personnel system, contending it does not take employees out of the political arena.

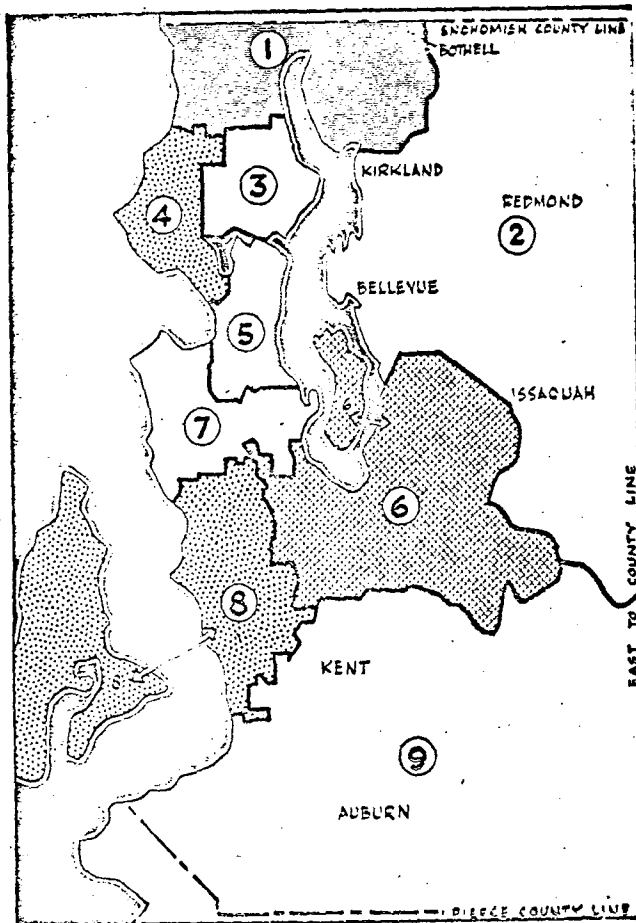
Mrs. Billie Nichols, a former employee who has worked for civil service, Mrs. Patricia Van Almkirk, president of the County Employees Association, and Mrs. Wanda Thompson, secretary, expressed these views. But Mrs. Thompson also criticized provisions limiting voluntary political activity of employees.

Joseph MacDonald of Federal Way contended the charter failed to give rural residents better service. He called for decentralization of county government so persons in outlying areas could handle county business in their local areas.

Chet Wheeler, county planning commissioner and former chairman, called for more use of citizen advisory committees.

# Boundaries Outlined <sup>2/77</sup>

Boundaries established for the proposed, nine-county-commissioner districts in a county charter being drafted by the Board of Freeholders are outlined in this map. Districts 5 (Seattle central area), 6 (Renton, Maple Valley, Tukwila, Mercer Island, Newport Hills), 7 (West Seattle and White Center) and 9 (Kent, Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way) are considered Democratic. Districts 3 (Green Lake, University and Sand Point), 4 (Ballard, Magnolia, Queen Anne), 2 (Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah), and 8 (Normandy Park, Burien, Vashon Island) are considered Republican. District 1 (Shoreline and Bothell) is considered a swing district. The population range is from 129,400 in District 6 to 136,700 in District 3.





## More About Freeholders

(Continued From Page 1)

the benefit of any elected county official.

Of the presently elected officials whose function can be altered under home rule amendment to the state constitution, only the assessor would still be elected, and he would be elected on a partisan ballot. His office is further made

autonomous by exempting four of his deputies from the personnel rules applying to other county employees.

The home rule amendment specifically prevents the Freeholders from making any change in the offices of the county superintendent of schools, the prosecutor, the Superior Court judges, or the justices of the peace.

who will be elected in odd-numbered years while other county officers will be elected in even numbered years.

The presently elected officials whose posts will be eliminated would be allowed to serve the remainder of their terms in some other capacity for the county at their present salaries so the county will not be deprived of their valuable experience during the transition period to the new form of government.

No presently elected official would be prohibited from running for any elective office under the new charter.

Planning and zoning would be done by a line department in the executive branch of the county government. Recommendations for rezoning would be heard by the

commissioners, and adopted by ordinance or rejected.

Appeals from rezoning decisions would go directly to the courts. A board of appeals would be established to hear the cases now going before the board of equalization, the board of adjustment, and any other type of appeals procedure that may be

assigned to it by the commissioners.

All of the present charter provisions must be considered tentative, even though many have had overwhelming support of the Board of Freeholders. Any of the present provisions could still be changed if the public response at the hearings is strongly opposed.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xw. 131,000)

AUG 1 1968

Allen's P.C. & Est. 1888

1968  
King County

### EDITOR'S

the King in a series on King County Freeholders and their efforts to draw up a satisfactory county charter to be presented to the voters for their approval. The writer is official observer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle at the Freeholders' sessions. 2177

### BY MRS. EVELYN AMYES

A draft of the proposed King County Charter has been printed and mailed to nearly 1,000 persons and organizations expressing interest in receiving it. This allowed a week for preparation of comments before the first public hearing, scheduled for last evening in the King County Courthouse.

A second public hearing will be held the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 7, possibly at the Eames Theater, Seattle Center. A third will be held if public response warrants.

Revisions may still be made in the charter, but the final draft for the proposed charter must be completed and certified by Sept. 5 for the Nov. 5 ballot.

The preliminary draft of the King County charter is reasonably basic and brief. This draft established the county's right to employ all home rule provisions the state has granted or will grant in the future.

It groups the services of the county into departments by logical function. It establishes a strong executive to administer a unified program and plan a unified budget. It establishes a legislature of commissioners to represent the diverse interests of the people in nine areas of the county, and measures providing for automatic redistricting if, in the future, the population of the districts expands unevenly.

A personnel system based on merit and avoiding political spoils is established. An "ethics in government" provision regulating and requiring disclosure of sources of campaign funds is included, and measures prohibiting conflicts of financial interest of officers of the county in sale or purchase of county property or services.

The tentative charter includes a measure allowing cooperation and contracting between King County and other agencies of government within or outside the county. This looks toward regional cooperation in solving of area-wide problems. This draft includes a means of adding, combining or eliminating county departments by acts of the county legislature (commissioners). It includes the right of citizens to use the initiative and referendum to accomplish county legislation. It includes a citizen complaint bureau to increase county responsiveness to citizens, and a service bureau to help citizens find their way through the maze of modern government.

By these measures new and expanded powers are granted to the county to deal with its increasing problems without the need to wait for specific authorization from the state legislature.

The County legislature established by the charter would be a full-time, nine member group of commissioners, nominated and elected in partisan campaigns from single-member districts for staggered four year terms. This increase in representation was requested by several organizations appearing at the public hearings.

Communities outside Seattle had expressed at those meetings a need for representatives within county government responsive to them as well as to the overwhelmingly larger central city. The new commissioners would legislate and

pass budget appropriations but would not administer. They would also carry on some of the functions presently handled by independent boards.

The county legislature would also appoint an auditor whose duties would be the financial post-audit function (where the money went). Audits will continue to be done by the state auditor as required by general law. Control of the county auditor will be one way the legislature will balance the powers given to the executive.

The provisional charter provides for a single chief executive to be called the county executive, and to be elected by the county at large in a partisan election for a four-year term at an initial salary of at least one and one-half times that of the legislators.

He would be granted all the executive powers of the county, and would appoint a professional administrator to assist him. He would also have power to appoint and remove all non-elected department heads, subject to legislative approval.

He would be given the power of veto of ordinary statutes, though his veto could be overridden by a vote of 7 of the 9 commissioners. He would prepare a unified budget reflecting the county program for the year, but specifying major expenditures by specific line item.

Under the county administrator would be the offices of budgets and accounts, of personnel, of data processing, of county property, and of purchasing.

Line departments in the administrative branch would be the Departments of Public Works and Transportation, of Public Safety, of Public Health and Welfare, of Records and Elections, of Finance, of Parks and Community Services, of Planning, of Buildings, of Assessments, and of Judicial Administration.

This is designed to accomplish a logical, understandable, and functional grouping of the presently diversified and fragmented county activities.

A five-member personnel board would be responsible for establishing personnel rules, including rules concerning the appointment and promotion of applicants, and their training and apprenticeship. A non-discrimination clause is included in the policy. The rules proposed by the board would be adopted or rejected without change by the legislature.

Salaries would be established on a parity with other governmental and private employers in this area. "Flower funds" would be prevented by prohibiting any contribution by any employee to

(Continued to Page 5)

Bellevue, Wash.  
Amer. Homemaker & Shopper  
(Circ. W. 20,029)

8-1-68

Allen's P.C.B. Feb. 1990

## A BELLEVUE AMERICAN

# Editorial . . .

2177 By RICK HELBERG

It appears that the efforts to write a charter for King County have been in vain.

King County government has been the last bastion of party politics and political patronage in the state. The political nature of county government has become distasteful to the citizens of the county.

The new county charter has done nothing more than provide a new political arena and maintain the patronage system that has plagued county government since the horse and buggy days.

The charter also provides for expanding county government, but does not provide for making county government smaller.

In the political sense, under the proposed charter commissioners would be elected on a partisan basis. The county executive would be elected on a partisan basis for a four-year term. He, in turn, would appoint a county administrator, who in turn, would appoint chief officers of each administrative department. These appointments would be subject to confirmation of the nine county commissioners.

Thus, county government would become an arena in which political parties would carry out their battles. Further, with an elected county executive who appoints an administrator responsible for appointment of department heads, there would be no continuity of administration of our county government beyond each election year.

In our opinion, county government should have non-partisan part-time commissioners, with an appointed county executive, and based on the council-manager form of government as found in many cities.

\*\*\*

Over the past few years, there has been talk of a "Pugetropolis," or one unit of government for the entire county.

Provincialism being what it is, one governmental agency for the county is not only improbable, but practically impossible.

Suburban cities are growing and annexations and incorporations are removing more and more territory from under the county government's domain. The proposed charter should spell out provisions for reducing county government as its domain is reduced, until the time comes that the county needs to provide no services, for example, beyond tax collection for distribution to the cities and towns, and the court system. The charter, as written, does not make this provision for reducing its scope.

We'll predict that the voters of King County will not adopt the political, bureaucratic form of government as proposed by the freeholders.

# Valley Offered Two County Aides in New District Plan

A districting plan that would give the Valley two county commissioners instead of one was unveiled — and unanimously approved — by the Board of King County Freeholders at a public hearing in the King County Courthouse Wednesday evening.

The plan, which now will be incorporated officially into the new proposed county charter, still divides the Valley into two districts, lumping Renton with south Seattle, Mercer Island, and the southeastern portion of Lake Washington. The division line between District 6 and District 9 would be approximately halfway between Renton and Kent.

The revision of the two original districting plans considered and rejected by the freeholders several weeks ago also eliminates a major objection voiced by Valley residents against extending District 9 from the Pierce County border on the south to the Snohomish County border on the north.

## Valleyites Approve

Two Valley freeholders, James Curran, Kent attorney, and Auburn Automobile Dealer Howard Bothell, were members of the subcommittee which reworked the districting lines and voted for its inclusion in the charter.

Bothell said yesterday that he didn't particularly like dividing the Valley, but that he saw no other way in which freeholders could meet the geographical and population criteria spelled out in the new charter. The new districts vary from 10.84 per cent of the county's total population (as in District 6) to 11.46 per cent (in North Central Seattle).

"But on the other hand," Bothell declared, "I regard Renton as more a part of the south Seattle and Lake Wash-

ington area than of the rest of the Valley . . . and on this basis, logically belongs where we have put it. If Renton were to be included with the other cities in the Valley in one commissioner district, this commissioner would represent North Valley interests rather than those of the South Valley. 'Different,' He Says

"I personally think people in Renton are a different kind of people . . . and they think differently!" he emphasized. In submitting the districting proposal to the other freeholders, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the board as well as chairman of the subcommittee which drew the new district lines, warned freeholders that "it is important to keep in mind a number of factors affecting the drawing of district boundaries. The same factors

partisanship in Washington is the results of a partisan election, there is a built-in opportunity for error based on the popularity of a particular candidate without regard to his political affiliation. It would appear, however, that the district boundaries (as they are now drawn) are politically fair," Albrecht stated.

The submission of the new districting plan came as a surprise move in a public hearing which heard a series of witnesses tell the board what they liked . . . or did not like . . . about the temporary draft of the proposed charter. Among those was Chester Wheeler, Kent, member of the

King County Planning Commission, and William Philips, 1210 Fifth Ave. N., Renton.

Wheeler said he was concerned that the broad powers granted to the county executive would endanger the opportunity of individual citizens to have a voice in government.

The districting plan as well as other portions of the charter will be the subject of a second public hearing next Wednesday in the Eames Theater at Pacific Science Center, Seattle. It will start at 7:30 and is open to all interested persons, Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board said yesterday.

Seattle, Wash.  
Aurora Shoreline Journal  
(Cir. W. 27,300)

JUL 31 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Public To See Charter Draft

The "working draft" charter of the board of King County Freeholders will be presented to the citizens of King County for the first time at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. tonight, July 31, in room 402 of the King County courthouse.

A second hearing has been announced by Richard Albrecht, freeholder chairman, for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday August 7, at the Pacific Science Center's Ames Theatre.

The public will have an opportunity to attend either public hearing and present their views on the proposed charter. Any citizen who wishes a copy of the draft may call the Freeholder office at MA 3 5556.

JUL 31 1968

## 2 Valleyites To Help Draw Lines

By Our County News Bureau  
The chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders moved last week to protect Valley interests when he appointed James Curran, Kent attorney, and Howard Bothell, Auburn automobile dealer, as two of the five members who will draw commissioner district lines. Others are James O'Conner, Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, and Richard Albrecht, chairman.

Appointment of the group came after a week's grappling with the problem of what to do about two controversial plans submitted by an urban consultant that in one proposal would have split the Valley into two separate districts in the vicinity of Kent.

Public outcry — much of it from outraged Valley spokesmen — prompted the decision of the freeholders to attempt to draw the lines themselves. The move also was prompted by political implications of the two proposals which, according to Wampold, could endanger the seven-month job of writing the new charter. The document is scheduled to go to voters November 5.

It is planned that the subcommittee's work will be completed prior to the second public hearing to be August 7 in Eames Theater in Pacific Science Center.

# Some County Aides Find No Joy In Charter Plan

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The new county charter — now in rough-draft form — got only a lukewarm reception from King County's elected officials this week as they examined what the charter proposes to do to their respective posts.

For the most part, their first look could mean some trouble is in the wind in terms of passage of the carefully tailored document. If the first draft survives the two public hearings scheduled for tonight at 7:30 in the King County Courthouse and next Wednesday night at the Pacific Science Center, all but one of the presently elected officials will find their current jobs in highly altered form. That of one — the county assessor — would remain virtually as he is: An elected official, chosen on a partisan basis every four years. Even so, the current holder of

the post, Allen Morgan (who was selected, incidentally, by appointment) said he has some minor objections to the draft charter, particularly in its provisions to exclude major supervisory deputies from the personnel system. Otherwise, Morgan said, he would support the charter and intends to do so.

## Reservations Told

Not so either veteran County Auditor Robert Morris nor County Treasurer M.J.R. Williams. Under terms of the proposed charter, both offices would be made appointive ones selected by the new county executive, and, in the case of the auditor, by the new Board of County Commissioners.

"The auditor should be responsible to the people and not to commissioners," Morris told this newspaper. He said he regarded his post as being in a watchdog position guarding the interests of the electorate.

Despite his feelings against the charter, Morris, who will retire at the end of his current

term, said he would not campaign actively against the effort to reform county government.

Williams voiced even stronger objection to the current draft, stating that, in his opinion, the effort would "disenfranchise the people of King County."

## Destruction Seen

"The original charter of this county was carefully drawn with an effective check-and-balance system," Williams pointed out. "The freeholders have completely destroyed this."

Likewise concerned is John O'Brien, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, who, from his observations yesterday, may decide to sit out the campaign to approve — or defeat — the charter.

O'Brien has been an active opponent of enlarging the Board of County Commissioners — now composed of three members — to seven or nine. Freeholders will probably settle on nine after the conclusion of their efforts to redraw commissioner district lines — but O'Brien believes there should be five at most.

Further, O'Brien pointed out that he believes government governs best when it is closest — and most responsive — to the electorate, and as a consequence is at odds with the charter's proposal to make the majority of the county's presently elective officials appointive.

## Power Shift

O'Brien also is concerned about a massing of power in the hands of the new county executive created by the charter.

"It seems to me that concern expressed by freeholders that the present Board of County Commissioners is the seat of too much power has been shifted to the placing of too much power in the county executive," O'Brien declared. "Not only that, but the new charter would increase that power by granting the new executive broad appointive powers even the present Board of County Commissioners lack."

O'Brien's 2 colleagues were in Washington, D.C., attending the National Association of County Officials annual convention, but Ed Munro, outgoing president of the organization, has been a proponent of ordered restructuring of county government for years. John Spellman, O'Brien's Republican comember of the Board, has indicated previously he would support the new charter in any reasonable form.

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The districting subcommittee will meet Tuesday in advance of a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the King County Courthouse. A plan is not expected to be ready for public discussion at the hearing, but the majority of the new charter now in draft form will be.

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Bothell said yesterday that "it is important to keep in mind a number of factors affecting the drawing of district boundaries. The same factors which will minimize the possibility of gerrymandering in any later redistricting reduce the flexibility available in the drawing of initial district boundaries. These are, substantially equal population, use of established census tracts, and preservation of economic, municipal and geographic units."

## See Map of Proposed New Districts - Pg 7

"But on the other hand," Bothell declared, "I regard Renton as more a part of the South Seattle and Lake Washington area than of the rest of the Valley . . . and on this basis, logically belongs where we have put it. If Renton were to be included with the other cities in the Valley in one commissioner district, this commissioner would represent North Valley interests rather than those of the South Valley."

## 'Different,' He Says

"I personally think people in Renton are a different kind of people . . . and they think differently!" he emphasized. In submitting the districting proposal to the other freeholders, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the board as well as chairman of the subcommittee which drew the new district lines, warned freeholders that

## Popularity Is Factor

"Since the only measure of partisanship in Washington is the results of a partisan election, there is a built-in opportunity for error based on the popularity of a particular candidate without regard to his political affiliation. It would appear, however, that the district boundaries (as they are now drawn) are politically fair," Albrecht stated.

The submission of the new districting plan came as a surprise move in a public hearing which heard a series of witnesses tell the board what they liked . . . or did not like . . . about the temporary draft of the proposed charter. Among those was Chester Wheeler, Kent, member of the King County Planning Commission, and William Philips, 1210 Fifth Ave. N., Renton.

Wheeler said he was concerned that the broad powers granted to the county executive would endanger the opportunity of individual citizens to have a voice in government.

The districting plan as well as other portions of the charter will be the subject of a second public hearing next Wednesday in the Eames Theater at Pacific Science Center, Seattle. It will start at 7:30 and is open to all interested persons, Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board, said yesterday.

Here's a breakdown of population figures assigned to the nine proposed commissioner districts:

Dist. No.	Population	% of Total
1	131,600	11.03%
2	132,200	11.11%
3	136,700	11.46%
4	135,700	11.37%
5	134,700	11.29%
6	129,400	10.84%
7	133,200	11.11%
8	130,500	10.94%
9	129,500	10.85%
TOTAL	1,193,500	100.00%

## New County District Proposal

This map shows the newest of several proposals to redistrict King County to provide for election of nine commissioners in connection with a new county charter. The Board of King

County Freeholders prepared this plan — and adopted it for inclusion in the charter draft — after two earlier plans were deemed unsatisfactory to South King County.

# County Aides Pick Draft-Charter Flaws

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Our County News Bureau

If the Board of King County Freeholders expects a solid vote of approval on the first draft of the new county charter from key persons filling major county administrative posts, they're going to be disappointed.

Most, with the exception of County Engineer Jean DeSpain who approved their efforts but raised some major questions, have some serious doubts about the adequacy of the document which is headed for the ballot in general election November 5.

DeSpain noted that, in a remarkably spare paragraph in which freeholders created a Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation, the charter would set up a superagency within county government that would extend as far as supervising the activities of the King County Airport.

"I don't know if that is what the freeholders had in mind, but this extension of powers certainly hasn't been propounded by me," he stated ruefully.

**Flood Work, Too**

The new department would also include the functions of flood control (termed "completely logical" by Chief Engineer Brad Gillespie), and sanitation. Although they have not stated so publicly, key county officials probably would be reluctant to relinquish their suzerainty . . . and the credit for the department's recent remarkable breakthrough in garbage-handling methods.

Other county department heads, including County Elec-

tion department problems in the future if enacted as it is in its present draft form, Logan said, because his department presently relies on a transfer of clerks employed by the auditor to his department at election periods.

**Manpower Pool**

"These people are experienced and available," Logan declared. "If we have to replace them with untrained persons, it will place costly, time-consuming hazards on our operation."

Likewise unhappy at charter limitations of his county function, County Purchasing Agent Leroy Johnson declared the charter should set no dollar amount at which competitive bids must be called for. Freeholders recently set this limit at \$500-\$2,000 under present state requirements demanding competitive bids on all items over \$2,500.

"It was the obvious intent of the freeholders to avoid the pitfalls of the political spoils system," Johnson declared, "but requiring that all county purchases over \$500 be made as a result of competitive bidding is ridiculous."

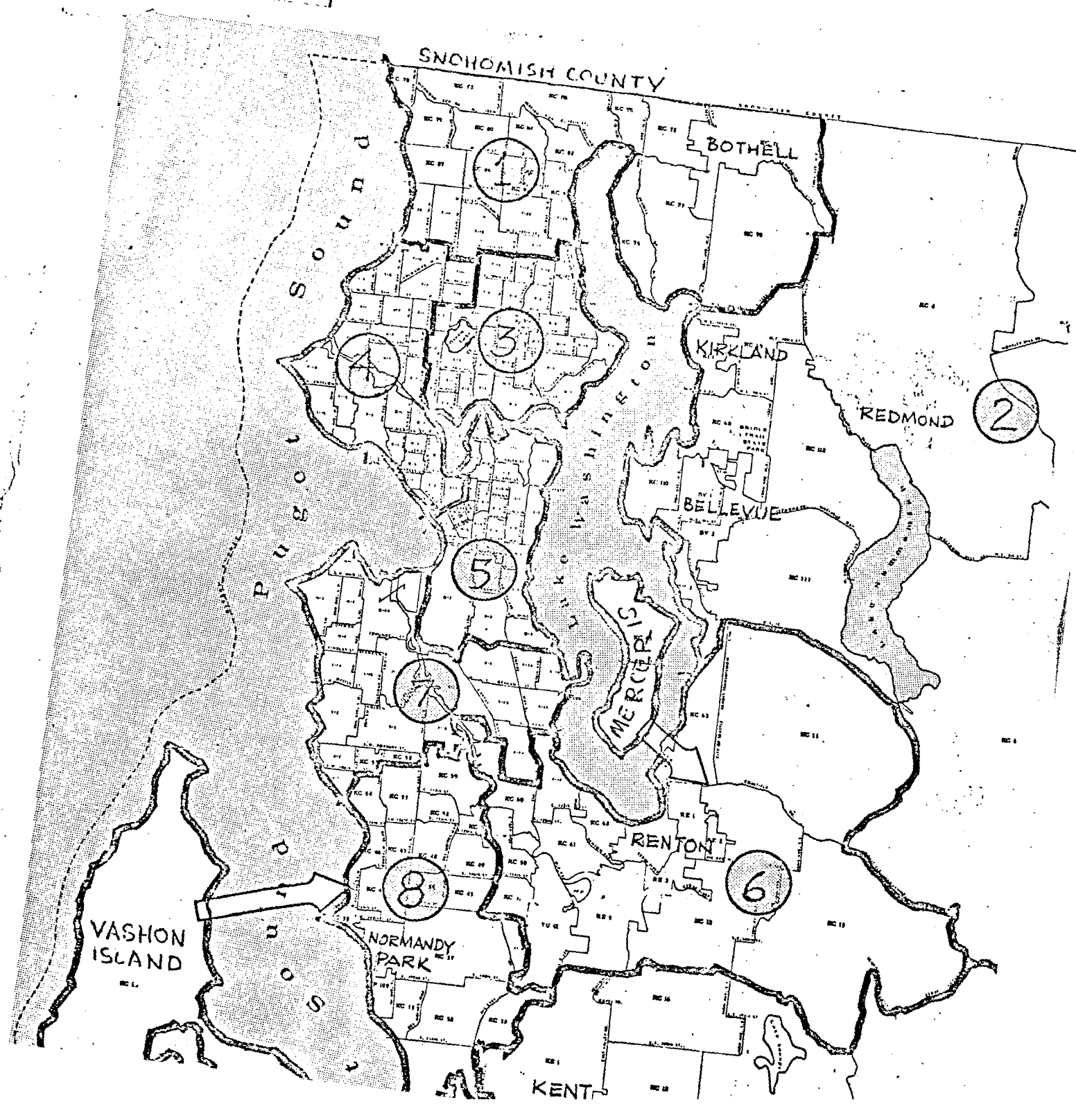
"That vast majority of our purchases are small purchases on which our agents as a matter of established procedure seek at least two or three different price quotations," he stated.

Johnson said that wherever reasonably possible, he believes all items should be competitively bid, but that wherever in the judgment of the purchasing officer it is in the best interests of the county to not bid, he should

vast multiplicity of items on which there is no possibility of standardizing purchasing procedures; that there is a gray area involving personal-service contracts which are difficult to define; and because the lowest bid often betokens the lowest quality. He said the huge expense of preparing specifications on items the county knows there will be at most one and maybe no bidders would complicate vastly the time and cost factor of the county's purchasing operation.

"I'd like to see this department set up to actually do a job. We cannot do it as it is now," he emphasized. But what he implied was that, under the terms of the proposed charter, it would not be possible then, either!

Most of the major county administrative heads intend to file written comments on the charter with the Board of Freeholders, including County Planning Director Ed Sand who was unavailable yesterday for comment.





## Pertinent Reaction to Charter Proposals

<sup>2177</sup>  
THE somewhat adverse reaction to the new King County charter indicated by a sampling of students from a Boeing Co. public-affairs class does not assure that the document will be rejected by the voters at the general election November 5.

*It does, though, give the freeholders good reason to take another searching look at their product to determine whether it does indeed need more amending. We think it does.*

Sixty-two of the 408 students responded to a questionnaire. They opposed the charter as framed. But they noted they could favor it with certain changes. One they recommended was that the auditor, who would be appointed by the Board of King County Commissioners, be elected, as the auditor is now.

The elected auditor is responsible only to the public. He is in position to

evaluate the expenditures without fear or favor. If he owed his job to other politicians, he might feel more responsibility to them than to the public, which could be the loser.

*The same logic dictates that elections supervision should continue as a function of the auditor's office, rather than as a part of a new Department of Records and Elections under an appointed administrator. The present arrangement has served this county well and is satisfactory as it stands.*

Tactics of trying the charter out on groups that are cognizant of good government can be productive if the freeholders are willing to acknowledge the charter can stand improvement. The Times recommended before this that the auditor be elected, for he is the fiscal watchdog over the government. The freeholders, who debated this point to great length, should be willing now to examine it again.

## Proposed County Charter Lauded, Hit

<sup>2177</sup>  
L. Joe Miller, Bellevue city manager and president of the State City Managers Association, said today he feels the proposed county charter "is of unusually good quality."

But Miller expressed disappointment that the Board of Freeholders failed to establish a county-manager system and created separate districts for each county commissioner.

IN A LETTER to the board, Miller said:

"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..."

Miller said the provision for the elected executive was well-handled with an administrative official to be appointed "a useful technique although it should not be considered as a substitute or the counterpart of a county manager."

He urged reconsideration of the make-up of the county commissioners. Miller said: "I think nine members is the proper number but I hope that you will drop the idea of nine separate legislative districts."

THE CITY manager suggested five commissioners represent districts and the other four be elected at large. Even those representing districts, he said, should be nominated by district but elected county wide.

The charter calls for each

of the commissioners to be elected only by the voters in the district he represents.

Miller recommended that the charter establish standards for action by a personnel board on employee grievances and suggested a tougher penalty against county commissioners for failure to redistrict county-commissioner boundaries.

Miller said instead of just suspending pay of the commissioners for failing to redistrict in a specified period, the freeholders should provide for forfeiting the salary



## Freeholders Refuse 'Independents' Plan

County freeholders last night refused to provide a provision in the proposed county charter for candidates to file as independents when running for office.

They also guaranteed jobs for elected officials whose offices may be eliminated by the charter.

Paul S. Friedlander voted against not allowing independents on county tickets. He said:

"THERE ARE many qualified persons who would run as independents but who won't run on a party line."

The freeholders voted to guarantee an elected official whose office is eliminated, a job with the county with equivalent pay until he

reaches retirement age. That age would be set by the personnel board.

The freeholders deleted a section from the charter concerning conflict of interest of officials or employees. They intend to provide that a new section be drafted later.

CHANGING the title Board of County Commissioners to County Council was also approved by the freeholders. Under the proposed charter there will be nine commissioners.

The investigation of deaths, excluding those involving a crime, should be left to the Department of Public Health and not the Department of Public Safety, the freeholders decided.

## Freeholders Hear of Need To Expand Coroner's Duties

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A county coroner should make medical as well as criminal investigations of deaths, the County Board of Freeholders was told last night.

Dr. Gordon Lazerte, representing the County Medical Society, urged that a proposed county charter place the coroner's function in the Department of Health and Welfare instead of the Department of Public Safety.

THE CHARTER already proposed that a coroner be appointed instead of elected. But Dr. Lazerte said: "Many investigations of death have nothing to do with law enforcement. If the coroner is in the Department of Public

Safety, the primary concern will be law enforcement."

He said the Department of Public Safety should investigate crime which would include some deaths, but the Department of Health and Welfare should investigate unexplained deaths.

Planning was the subject of most discussion at the last public hearing the freeholders plan to call on its charter draft. Freeholders will begin meeting twice weekly to complete the charter proposal in time for the November 5 general election.

State Senator Wes Uhlman recommended creation of a department of inter-district planning to adopt long-range approaches to governmental services and coordinate programs with other levels of

government.

John M. Teutsch, Jr., vice chairman of the County Planning Commission; Derrill T. Bastian, its attorney, and Edward Sand, County Planning Director, all opposed the abolishment of the planning commission. They called the commission a buffer between the professional staff and political considerations of the county commissioners.

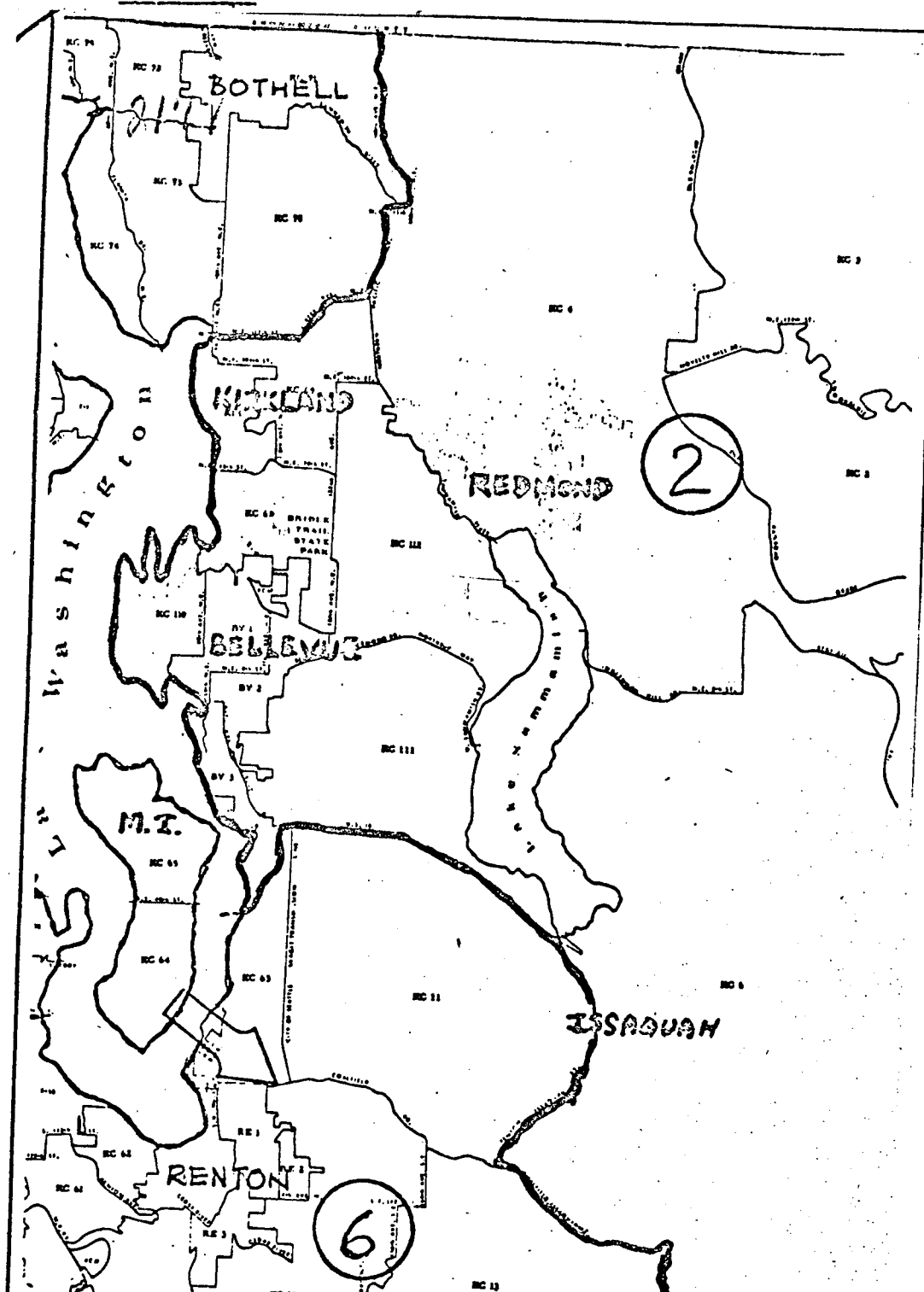
SAND SAID the planning department should be given the right to review capital improvement programs. In a letter, Miles V. Blankinship, Chairman of the Seattle Planning Commission, asked that the charter provide that planning be coordinated between the county and the cities.

Art Brown of Shoreline said the signature requirement for referendum and initiative petitions should be limited to residents of unincorporated areas on laws not affecting city residents.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the Municipal League's County Government Committee, called the charter too

Bellevue American  
Bellevue, Wash.  
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AUG 8 1963

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888



AUG 7 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1868

Editor's Column

## The Other Side

2177

By Jim Fields

"One man, one vote" is another one of those catch-phrases, in this age of slogans, which does not always make sense in its application. It was used by the King County Freeholders last Wednesday night, in an open meeting at the county courthouse, to describe the philosophy underlying their geographical division of the county into nine commissioner districts.

The nine new districts are a part of the overall proposal, constituting a new county charter draft, which the freeholders have so diligently worked upon in recent months. They hope to present the draft for voter approval, or rejection, at the general election this November.

We shall reserve comment on the rest of the charter proposal as some revisions are expected to follow the second open meeting at 7:30 tonight in the Pacific Science Center's Eames Theater.

However, the nine districts as proposed may very well send the total charter draft down to defeat in November. We have yet to find enthusiasm for their boundaries or their philosophy.

King County is presently administered by three commissioners whose districts, drafted years ago, are called North (King County), South (King County) and Central; the last-mentioned is, in essence, the "old Seattle" area of pre-World War II boundaries.

In the past 20 years, there has been considerable growth in two areas: Highline-Renton, and the east side of Lake Washington which has been "opened up" by two bridges which did not exist prior to 1940. Many feel that this should be reflected by a five district alignment of commissioners which might look like this:

1. Seattle (to its city limits).
2. North King County (including the city of Bothell).
3. Eastside (including the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, and smaller towns in the Cascade foothills).
4. Highline and Renton area.
5. South King County (including Federal Way, Auburn, Kent, and Enumclaw).

However, the freeholders have applied the "one man, one vote" slogan which has been used to describe the supreme court decision on congressional reapportionment. It suggests districts with the same population for electing congressman. It did not apply to the election of U.S. Senators nor, as far as we can tell, the election of county commissioners. Yet the freeholders, guided by the slogan, have divided the county into the following nine districts:

1. North Seattle, Shoreline, Bothell.
2. Eastside (Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah).
3. Northeast Seattle (Wallingford, University, Lake City).
4. Northwest Seattle (Queen Anne, Magnolia, Ballard).
5. Central Seattle (including downtown district).
6. Southeast Seattle, Renton, and Mercer Island.
7. West Seattle, Georgetown, and Rainier Valley.
8. Highline area (White Center, Burien, Des Moines) and Vashon Island.

The Freeholders were elected to represent the citizens and have scheduled their open meetings to hear public sentiment on the charter draft. There is still time to express your opinions and obtain revisions to the draft before it is finalized for ballot action.

## Freeholders Mull Charter Alone After Public Speaks Its Piece

By Our County News Bureau  
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Among those appearing were State Senator Wes Uhlman, Seattle, who told freeholders he believed the charter should include a department charged with co-ordinating the planning for all the county's special districts. Others included spokesman for the Seattle-King County Municipal League and the League of Women Voters. Neither the Municipal League nor the women's group have taken official stands on the charter at this point.

Mrs. Harold Mozer, Bellevue, said her organization would favor an appointive assessor, and asked that provisions be included in the charter to harmonize with legislation the State Legislature will be asked to enact to take the office out of politics.

Two other speakers spoke against several provisions in the proposed charter affecting the county's present planning operations. These included John Teutsch, presently a member of the King County Planning Commission, who favored retention of some form of citizen-composed Advisory Planning Commission. According to Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, the charter does not preclude the

existence of the present Commission but does not provide for one. Public hearings on rezonings now conducted by the present Planning Commission would, he said, be the function of the Board of County Commissioners under the new charter.

Ed Sand, head of the county planning department, said he felt the charter should either be more specific concerning the functions of his office than it is, or that it should be broadened to permit the department to take proper administrative action.

AUG 8 1933

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Administration Provided By County Charter Outlined

2177  
BY JACK YEAROUT

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

These are the words of the preamble of King County's new charter.

Since they were elected last November, the 15 Freeholders have been studying county governments all over this nation. The new charter reflects their findings, and their considered thought, on what should go into a home rule charter.

The 41-page document contains nine articles, divided into 61 sections. Digesting the contents of the proposed charter in one gulp is a little more than should be expected from anyone except a Philadelphia lawyer . . . so this series of articles will endeavor to transcribe legal language into everyday 'Americanese.'

The most interesting of the articles are the first third, and here we will deal mostly with Articles 2 and 3, which outline the composition and duties of the legislative (9 commissioners) branch of the new county government, and the executive branch.

## ARTICLE 1

The first article outlines the general powers of the county, stating that King County "shall have all of the powers which it is possible for a home rule county to have under the state constitution."

It states that the county may contract or otherwise participate jointly with other governments, governmental agencies

and of counsel.

Article 2 explains how referendum and initiative can be used to effect ordinances and initiate enactment of ordinances.

The county auditor would be appointed by the commissioners, would audit the financial operations of the county and consult with the office of budgets and accounts concerning the accounting procedures used by the executive branch.

## THE EXECUTIVE

The county executive would be nominated and elected by all of the voters of the county for four year terms. His salary would be "at least one and one-half times the compensation paid to a county commissioner."

He would have all executive powers not expressly vested in specific county officials by the charter, would supervise

all administrative and executive departments established by the charter or created by the commissioners.

He would appoint the county administrator, who in turn would appoint the chief officers of each administrative office.

The elected executive would appoint the chief executive officer of each executive department except the county assessor (who will still be elected by the people) and the members of all boards and commissions.

All appointments by the executive would be subject to confirmation by a majority of the commissioners. The appointments of the county administrator would have to be approved by the executive.

Under the charter, the county administrator and all chief officers would be appointed on the basis of ability and qualifications for their jobs, integrity and prior experience in the duties of the office.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Office of Budgets and Accounts, Personnel, Data Processing, County Property, and Purchasing have definite duties assigned them under the charter. Heads of these departments are appointed by the administrator.

## DEPARTMENTS REPLACE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Appointments by the county executive (or by the commissioners, in one case) would replace a number of county officials now elected by King County voters, under the new charter.

The Department of Public Safety would enforce law and order, investigate deaths, administer the county jail and be responsible for civil defense. The county sheriff and the county coroner would be replaced by executive appointments in this department.

and municipalities, and have the right to share costs and responsibilities with these groups.

Provision is made for the new charter to supercede, with ordinances enacted under it, any special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter.

#### NINE COMMISSIONERS

Making up the legislative branch of the new county government would be a board of nine county commissioners, elected one each from the nine districts to be decided, and elected by the voters of each individual district. The commissioners would serve four-year terms.

This nine-man board of commissioners would be the policy-making body of the county, with all legislative powers. It would adopt and enact ordinances, levy taxes, appropriate revenues, adopt budgets, set and pay county salaries.

The commissioners would establish (or abolish) administrative and executive departments, set their duties, conduct public hearings.

The legislators are empowered to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence, provided the subpoena power is limited to proposed ordinances under consideration and that any witness have the right to counsel.

The board meetings shall be open to the public," and the minutes of its meeting a matter of public record.

The commissions shall not issue orders to any officer, agent or employee of any other branch of county government except through enactment of ordinances under the charter.

Under this article the veto rights of the county executive are outlined. He may veto any ordinance or object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. The county commissioners may override his veto or partial veto with a six vote majority. Emergency ordinances, which require a seven vote majority of the board, could not be vetoed, however.

#### COMPLAINT BUREAU

Under the new charter, the board of commissioners are instructed to establish an office of citizen complaint concerning the operation of county government, giving it sufficient power to subpoena witnesses, etc., to investigate and publicize its findings. The county official under the written complaint by a citizen is also provided ben-

The county auditor, appointed under Article 2 by the board of commissioners, would head the Department of Records and Elections.

The county treasurer would be replaced by an appointee to head the Department of Finance.

Duties now performed by a citizen's park board would come under the Department of Parks and Community Services headed by an executive appointed official.

A new Department of Building would be set up under the charter, taking these procedures from under the county engineer.

The county assessor, elected at large by the voters, would head the Department of Assessments.

An executive appointed clerk, selected from a list of three suggestions by county judges, would head the Department of Judicial Administration. He would replace the elected county clerk.

The department which would see little change is that of Public Health and Welfare.

The Department of Planning would do away with the Planning Commission, which was appointed by the commissioners and will now be under the executive.

Comprehensive planning and zoning applications would be under the jurisdiction of this department, with all zoning or rezoning recommendations going directly to the commissioners.

This proposed charter would give King County a government of checks and balances, clinging only to the bi-partisan election of the executive head, but making a trained administrator a key member of the executive branch of the new home rule government.

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Mrs. Harold Mezer, Bellevue, said her organization would favor an appointive assessor, and asked that provi-

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Two other speakers spoke against several provisions in the proposed charter affecting the county's present planning operations. These included John Teutsch, presently a member of the King County Planning Commission, who favored retention of some form of citizen-composed Advisory Planning Commission. According to Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, the charter does not preclude the

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# Leave of Absence Urged For County Aides Seeking Office

By <sup>7/7/6</sup> JERRY BERGSMAN

County employees should be permitted to seek elective office only if they take a leave of absence from their jobs, the Board of King County Freeholders decided last night.

This provision was added to a selection of the proposed County Charter banning employees from engaging in political activity in behalf of others seeking county office.

The freeholders agreed that county employees should not be prohibited from seeking office. Freeholders said the question was raised before Stanley Gallup, Boeing Field manager, decided to run for office. County Commissioner John Spellman is seeking to have Gallup fired.

Richard Albrecht, freeholder chairman, said another discussion will be held to decide the duration of the leave of absence. Presumably, the requirement now is for a leave of absence during

election campaigns only. A number of county employees have been legislators. It is not now spelled out whether the leave of absence should include the period served in the Legislature.

A 3-10-3 VOTE defeated a proposal to allow a candidate to file for county office as an independent not aligned with a political party. The proposal is expected to be made again when freeholders vote on the Charter section by section.

In taking steps to shorten the Charter, the freeholders:

Struck a section requiring candidates to list campaign expenses, substituting a reference to state law.

Struck a detailed conflict-of-interest clause for county employees but required the county legislative body to adopt one.

Dropped a detailed explanation of competitive-bidding

requirements for general county purchases and substituted a reference to state law.

TRANSFERRED the investigation of deaths from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Public Health.

Limited the guarantee of county employment for officials whose elective posts are abolished by the Charter by stating that the guarantee will be good only up to a retirement age to be set by a personnel board.

Included four supervisory deputy assessors under the proposed personnel system.

Changed the name of the Board of County Commissioners to County Council.

Placed provisions for establishment of departments in the transitory section of the Charter so county official can modify departments after two years.

## 1st Major Test

# Freeholders to Give Charter Draft Close Review

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The proposed County Charter will have its first major test Monday when every significant provision will be reviewed by the Board of Freeholders.

Any substantial change could set back the freehold-

ers' schedule enough to prevent the charter from being presented to the voters at the November 5 general election. Freeholders planned to certify the charter to the Board of County Commissioners during the first week of September.

Approval of the charter on a section-by-section basis was scheduled by the freeholders for August 29. Richard Albrecht, freeholders chairman, saw the Monday meeting as coming two weeks earlier than expected.

A SPECIAL agenda for the Monday meeting was approved by freeholders at a meeting last night.

Simon Wampold and Paul Friedlander were successful in their bids to place on the

agenda questions involving the number of county commissioners, whether they will be full-time, their salaries and whether county government should be partisan or nonpartisan.

Others indicated any change in these areas would force a new look at provisions for electing a chief executive, having commissioners run by district and appointment of an auditor.

Cutting back the number of commissioners from nine to seven would, at the very least, require the freeholders to draw new lines for commissioner-district boundaries.

**FREEHOLDERS** last night refined provisions on referendum and initiatives.

They deleted from the charter a provision allowing the sponsor of a referendum to withdraw it because all petition signers have a vested interest in it; reduced from 45 days to 10 days the interval before a new ordinance takes effect if notice of a referendum campaign is not given; and refused to insert a provision allowing only residents of nonincorporated areas to file referendum and initiative petitions on laws affecting only them.

On a motion by Robert Block, freeholders asked the staff to report on county franchises. Block proposed that no franchise should continue beyond five years without the county having an opportunity to review or regain the franchise.

**THE BOARD** approved clauses making the county executive responsible for collective bargaining with employees after bargaining is approved by the county council.

Neither the motion establishing collective bargaining nor approval of an agreement would be subject to a referendum.

Freeholders approved combining the offices of property and purchasing.

They approved a statement that failure to mention in the charter the constitutional offices of the prosecutor, Superior and Justice Court judges and school superintendent does not mean the county does not have an obligation to provide financial support for them.

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### Hot One, But Two

The Republicans nominated not one but two men Wednesday night: Richard M. Nixon and Hubert H. Humphrey. And, judging by Humphrey's hard-to-contain delight at the Nixon nomination, it may seem to some they elected a President at the same time. But not Nixon!

Clearly, the Establishment prevailed in Miami Beach and, because of that, it is likely the Establishment likewise will prevail in Chicago with the nomination of the Vice President. Real trumper in this for Democrats: The selection by Nixon of Gov. Spiro Agnew as his running mate. If Nixon had chosen Mayor John V. Lindsay, Charles Percy, or even Mark Hatfield, the ticket perhaps could have continued some vestige of appeal for disgruntled Democrats. Now it has none... and many informed observers feel numerically out-voted Republicans can't win without those votes. Nixon's strategy — generally excellent — could still prevail, but many, including disappointed members of the GOP, are openly questioning it.

### Sidelight on the Highlight

Probably no one was more disappointed than Gov. Dan Evans at what even his kindest critics termed a "lukewarm" reception to his keynote speech Tuesday night. Highly important to him, Evans had fashioned most of the document himself (with some assist from usual speech aide Jim Lane) and had done research on all keynote speeches back as far as 1920 — not excluding William Jennings Bryan's famous "cross of gold" speech. So concerned was Evans that the address be just right, he invited 30 close advisers to the mansion before he left to critique his efforts... but most urged him onward with only minor changes. During his delivery, the governor suffered from audience inattention, the lateness of the hour, and some questionable TV camera techniques which, to relieve the singleness of focus, cut away to various members of the audience in an assortment of irrelevant occupations.

Probably Evans suffered most, however, from the coolness of his image on that hot August night which prevented his own undeniable sincerity... and that of his words... from really turning on his audience. The speech did turn on some Democrats, however — and not favorably — particularly at portions of it in which Evans referred to the nobility of the American dream, and, in the next breath "... that to share in business, to realize a profit on investment, to run a factory or a shop, to produce goods and see the money return to the community... that these are the things which made America great, her people rich, and her opportunity unlimited." Out of context, but that particular dream reminded many Democrats of the Establishment's old politics of what's good for General Motors is good for America.

### Rundown on Some Top State Races

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## Not One, But Two

The Republicans nominated not one but two men Wednesday night: Richard M. Nixon and Hubert H. Humphrey. And, judging by Humphrey's hard-to-contain delight at the Nixon nomination, it may seem to some they elected a President at the same time. But not Nixon!

Clearly, the Establishment prevailed in Miami Beach and, because of that, it is likely the Establishment likewise will prevail in Chicago with the nomination of the Vice President. Real trumper in this for Democrats: The selection by Nixon of Gov. Spiro Agnew as his running mate. If Nixon had chosen Mayor John V. Lindsay, Charles Percy, or even Mark Hatfield, the ticket perhaps could have continued some vestige of appeal for disgruntled Democrats. Now it has none... and many informed observers feel numerically out-voted Republicans can't win without those votes. Nixon's strategy — generally excellent — could still prevail, but many, including disappointed members of the GOP, are openly questioning it.

## Sidelight on the Highlight

Probably no one was more disappointed than Gov. Dan Evans at what even his kindest critics termed a "lukewarm" reception to his keynote speech Tuesday night. Highly important to him, Evans had fashioned most of the document himself (with some assist from usual speech aide Jim Lane) and had done research on all keynote speeches back as far as 1920 — not excluding William Jennings Bryan's famous "cross of gold" speech. So concerned was Evans that the address be just right, he invited 30 close advisers to the mansion before he left to critique his efforts... but most urged him onward with only minor changes. During his delivery, the governor suffered from audience inattention, the lateness of the hour, and some questionable TV camera techniques which, to relieve the singleness of focus, cut away to various members of the audience in an assortment of irrelevant occupations.

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## Freeholders Discuss Collective Bargaining

The King County freeholders last night centered their attention on collective bargaining and how it should be carried out between the county administration and unions.

They decided:

—That the county Executive should act as the bargaining agent for the county.

— Collective bargaining should be initiated by ordinance of the county council and should not be subject to

veto by the executive or referendum.

— Collective bargaining agreements must be approved by ordinance passed by the council and although subject to veto are not subject to referendums.

The freeholders meet again Monday night. The priority of business will be (1) the number on the county council (2) whether council elections should be partisan or non-partisan and (3) salaries of councilmen.



## Freeholders Should Reconsider

2.17.77 By HERB ROBINSON

Associate Editor, The Times

Two sections of a proposed county charter dealing with campaign contributions and conflicts of interest were deleted because of a belief that the charter should not contain detailed points of law, the chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders said today.

Richard Albrecht said the freeholders feel they should not become involved in drafting proposed laws, but should produce a "constitutional document" based on broad, general principles.

The 15 freeholders are putting finishing touches on a charter to be submitted for ratification by King County voters November 5.

As drawn originally, the preliminary working draft included one provision to require detailed reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures in all county elections and another to bar county officers or employees from holding financial interests in any firm doing business with the county.

Both were dropped after lengthy discussion. On the conflict-of-interest issue, the freeholders substituted a section directing the county's new legislative body—assuming the charter is ratified—to enact prohibitions against outside business dealings by officers and employees, including a ban on acceptance of gifts from persons or firms selling goods or services to the county.

"We have no intention of abandoning the principle," Albrecht said. "There should be a conflict-of-interest ordinance in county government. But it is not practical to spell out all the details of such legislation in a charter, partly because the document would become too long."

In deleting the proposed section requiring full reports on campaign spending—it would have disqualified candidates from holding office if violations occurred—the freeholders instead drafted a brief clause making political candidates in county elections subject to state laws relating to campaign expenses.

**COMMENT:** The freeholders cannot be faulted for seeking greater brevity in the charter—the preliminary draft is 41 pages long.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

# Political Parties and County Offices

King County freeholders should make a provision in their proposed county charter for county political candidates to file as independents. The freeholders recently refused to make such a provision, which means candidates must continue to file under party labels.

As one dissenting freeholder, Paul S. Friedlander, pointed out at a recent freeholders' meeting: "There are many qualified persons, who would run as independents, but who won't run on a party line."

About 27 per cent of the national population is independent. (There are as many independents as there are Republicans, nationally).

PERHAPS even more than 27 per cent of King County's population is composed of independents and independent voters. A candidate should have as much right to declare himself as an independent as he does to declare himself a Democrat or Republican.

Judges, city councilmen and other elected officials run on a non-partisan (independent) platform. Why shouldn't other elected officials have the privilege of running as independents or non-partisans — in King County and elsewhere?

The freeholders made another important decision at their recent meeting: Elected officials whose offices may be eliminated by the proposed county charter would be given a job with the county at the same pay until they reach retirement age (which would be set by the county personnel board).

Shouldn't it be necessary for these ex-officials to compete with other candidates for jobs on a competitive basis, at the es-

tablished pay scale for the jobs, rather than at higher scales?

Many voters would probably like to know what the conflict-of-interest section removed from the proposed charter by the freeholders was. Voters will be interested in seeing what sort of conflict-of-interest section pertaining to county officials or employees is drafted by the freeholders at a later date, as they propose to do.

J. J. ALBI,  
307-36th Ave. E.

### Nixon vs. Humphrey

This letter is addressed to the many thousands of Democratic voters who are appalled by the war in Vietnam and role our party has played in making it. What are we to do when faced with the "choice" of Nixon-Humphrey in November? Humphrey has been a totally committed member of the administration that is responsible for the war and that was massively rejected by Democratic voters in the primaries. Nixon's chief comment on the war over four years, except for the last few weeks, has been to demand escalation of one or another feature of the military involvement.

There will be some who will urge us to vote for Humphrey because of his domestic policies. But what will these be worth with four more years of Johnson-Humphrey Vietnam policies? Others will say that the "true Humphrey" will reveal himself after the election. Alternatively we may hope that Nixon, a conservative and cautious man, might realize the futility and waste of the Vietnam adventure and negotiate a settlement, which at this date can hardly be done "with honor."

RATHER than hope for the emergence of the "true Humphrey" or the "realistic Nixon" we can do something to influence whichever of these two is elected. We can write-in McCarthy or vote for a socialist splinter party. A massive vote of this type in November may well be the deciding factor in determining whether the "true Humphrey" or the "realistic Nixon" emerge in January. And if in the next two weeks large numbers of Democratic voters make it clear to the party leadership that we still have a choice, even if they ignore the message of the primaries, they may get second thoughts about nominating a man who is part and parcel of a discredited administration.

MARTIN GOUTERMAN,  
4006 Pasadena Place NE

### Wages and Prices

I have read the editorial in the Aug. 12 edition of The P-I, entitled "White House Muscle," and I want to congratulate the P-I on its middle-of-the-road policy in regard to wages and prices. This is as it should be, but until each and every one of us makes a diligent effort in the fight to hold prices and wages, the terrible nightmare of inflation will continue to plague us all. It appears in these prosperous times that the only answer to curbing the fantastic price and wage war is wage and price control.

I urge everyone who has to earn a dollar the hard way or otherwise to voice his opinion to his congressman. Maybe then we will get some action.

VERNE HEINIG,  
5239-48th Ave. SW

JUL 1968

*Allen's* P. C. B. Est. 1888

## NEW KING CHARTER NEARS COMPLETION

2177  
County home rule efforts are nearing completion in King County, are still in preliminary stages in Snohomish County and have stalemated in Clark County.

The King County freeholders have released a preliminary draft of the new county charter and hearings on a final draft are scheduled in late July. The freeholders propose to submit the document to the voters in this fall's general election.

Snohomish County freeholders, elected at the call of the county commissioners, are holding preliminary meetings on the shape a future charter may take. The process is in the fact-finding stage and no decisions on a revised structure of county government have been made.

In Clark County a call for home rule initiated by the local newspaper, The Vancouver Columbian, stirred interest but adequate support for immediate action was not forthcoming. A citizen's group has been formed to study the proposal.

The King County charter draft calls for nine elected commissioners and an elected executive. The county's chief executive officer would be elected at large for a four-year term as a partisan. The

commissioners would be nominated and elected from districts on a partisan basis for staggered, 4-year terms.

A transitional phase provides the present King County commissioners will automatically become members of the nine-man board until their terms expire.

The draft gives the executive a veto over legislation passed by the commissioners. The veto could be overridden with six votes.

The charter eliminates all non-constitutional elective offices with the exception of the assessor. The state constitution provides that the prosecuting attorney, superior and justice court judges and the superintendent of schools remain elective.

All other county department heads would be appointed by the elected executive, subject to confirmation by the commissioners.

Other main provisions include a five-member personnel board to handle employee grievances within the civil service.

If the charter is approved this fall, nominating primaries would be held next February and a final election in March. The charter and the newly-elected officers would take effect on May 1, 1969.

# County Charter Provides For "Career Service"

AUG 15 1968

*Allen's* P. C. B. Est. 1888

2177  
Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the proposed new King County Charter deal with Financial Procedures, provides for a Personnel System and sets up the ground rules for Elections.

Perhaps the most interesting of these articles is the one which deals with the personnel system under the charter.

All county employees would be selected, advanced and fired under a merit system. The charter calls for the establishment of a personnel system which will assure recruitment, selection and retention of county employees on the basis of merit. Employees would be promoted on the basis of demonstrated ability, and compensation and personnel practices would keep the county system competitive, establishing a county career service.

A personnel board would be composed of five members. Four of these would be appointed by the county executive, subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. One member would be elected by the county employees who are members of the career service.

The board members would serve for five years, one member appointed each year. A majority of the board of commissioners could remove a personnel board member, (but the county executive could not) for just cause after written charges and a public hearing by the county commissioners.

Under Article 5 county employees covered by the career service and the county administrator are forbidden to engage in any political activity, on behalf or, and cannot pay or asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office.

Under Article 6, Elections, one major item under the charter calls for a statement of campaign contributions and expenditures of every candidate for nomination or election to county office.

Within 10 days after the primary, general or special election each candidate must file an itemized statement with the department of records and elections on forms furnished, show-

ing all contributions and pledges made to him or upon his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him.

These statements would be a matter of public record. Violation of this section would disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

Most important change under Article 4 which sets out Financial Procedures is the presentation and adoption of budgets.

The charter provides for a performance budget, rather than a "line" budget, giving the executive some latitude on budgeted items.

A budget message will explain the budget in fiscal terms, and in terms of goals to be accomplished, relating the requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

Prior to the public hearing on the budget, copies would be available for public inspection, and the budget message and supporting tables would be available to interested persons upon request, with budget copies furnished for a reasonable fee.

## Freeholders OK \$18,000 Salary

The King County Freeholders last night decided, at a priority meeting, that members of the County Council should be full time and receive salaries of \$18,000 per year.

They also decided that there will be nine members of the council and that they should be elected on a partisan basis.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, said:

"We have created a strong chief executive (Administrator) in the charter and the only way to provide a balance of power is by having a full-time council."

ON ANOTHER priority matter, the freeholders decided that the chief executive should be elected and not appointed.

A provision in the county charter that would make the

county assessor appointive was voted down by the freeholders.

The draft of the proposed charter provides that the assessor be elected.

The freeholders voted that a provision be included in the charter that would authorize the council to establish regional county offices to make county services more readily available to outlying areas.

## Freeholders Slate Decisions Monday

By Our County News Bureau

Nearly down to the wire, the Board of King County Freeholders has scheduled a special order of business next Monday night to reach a final decision on the size of the County Council (the renamed Board of King County Commissioners) and whether elections to name the new councilmen should be partisan or nonpartisan.

The decision will be made between a seven- or nine-member body, Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the group, said.

Freeholders also will vote on whether the new county chief executive designed to function

as county mayor should be appointive or elective.

In a stepped-up schedule of meetings to ready the proposed new charter for submittal to County Commissioners in order to place it on the November 5 general-election ballot, freeholders met twice this week. They decided, among other things, to remove a dollar limitation on county purchases requiring competitive bids and approved merging of that department with the county's present property department.

Perhaps under the impetus of the firing of County Airport Manager Stanley Gallup, who had filed for the post of state land commissioner, freeholders decided the new charter will prohibit county employees from running for political office unless that employee first resigns. Specifically unmentioned is whether county employees may run for the office of precinct committeeman.

The new charter also places the investigation of deaths in the county under the authority of the King County Health Department.

AUG 14 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Charter Proposal May Be on November Ballot

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The proposed county charter is well on its way to getting on the November 5 general-election ballot.

Efforts to reverse major decisions were turned back last night at a meeting of the Board of Freeholders. This means that in the coming week language refinements can be made in the charter draft.

The Board of Freeholders plans to meet August 29 to adopt the charter section by section and then September 5 to certify it to the county commissioners for inclusion on the ballot.

Major tests of the draft version had been expected

then. Instead they came last night.

Attempts to make commissioners part-time, county government nonpartisan and the chief executive appointive rather than elected failed by wide margins. A move to reduce the number of county commissioners from nine to seven also failed but by a narrower vote, 9 to 6.

Thus the charter still calls for the election of nine full-time commissioners with a starting salary of \$18,000 a year, an elected chief executive and partisan county elections.

Any major change could have set back the charter time schedule and possibly

made it difficult to get it on the November ballot.

Freeholders also did not change a provision to retain the assessor as an elected official. There was an attempt to include a provision calling for the assessor to be appointive without a charter amendment if the Legislature at some future date made assessors appointive. It failed, 7 to 3.

Freeholders included in the charter a provision authorizing regional county offices to make county services available to outlying areas. Members felt the charter allowed it by remaining silent, but a positive statement was seen as possibly assisting in charter passage in suburban areas.

## McDonald Runs For State Senate

Donald N. McDonald, an Inglewood resident, Seattle area business-man and contractor has filed for Republican candidate for Washington State Senator in the First Legislative District.

McDonald further believes that no new taxes or increases are necessary because of the \$140 million dollar unappropriated surplus in the general fund at the end of this biennium. He believes an income tax is not necessary.

McDonald, as an elected King County Freeholder, has been one of the principal drafters of the new County Charter.

He has served on many committees in the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the Seattle Area Industrial Council. McDonald has been president and national director of the Seattle Master Builders, vice president and national committeeman of the Associated General Contractors, president of the Washington State Construction Industry Council and also treasurer and trustee of Inglewood Country Club.

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Freeholders also will vote on whether the new county chief executive designed to function as county mayor should be appointive or elective.

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## Topheavy County-Government Plan

THE King County freeholders have undertaken a substantial risk for the charter they are drafting by their decision to recommend a nine-member, full-time board of commissioners drawing annual salaries of \$18,000 each.

The risk is whether the King County electorate, when it votes on the proposed charter in November, will decide that the central issue is "bigger government" and summarily reject the whole charter proposition.

*Naturally, \$18,000 public salaries become a volatile political issue to engender opposition to the charter proposition. Still, such a salary level is fully justified if the nine commissioners are to serve in full-time capacities.*

The crux of the matter, however, is whether the King County government requires nine full-time commissioners.

The three-member Port Commission operates very effectively on \$1-a-year salaries, a stipend established by the voters several years ago on recommendation by the port commissioners themselves, who then were receiving \$250 annual "honorariums." The theory the commissioners advanced was that the \$250 honorarium tended to attract poorly qualified candidates for the offices—and that the token \$1 salaries would attract qualified businessmen. The voters agreed by approving the proposition.

School districts are governed by non-salaried boards and, by and large, have attracted superior and dedicated directors.

*On the other hand, the City of Seattle's legislative branch is made up of full-time, salaried councilmen and, again, has established a creditable*

*record.*

Obviously, the freeholders decided to follow the municipal government pattern and to disregard the precedents set by school boards and the Port of Seattle.

Explaining the freeholders' reasoning, their very able chairman, Richard Albrecht, says the purpose is to establish a balance of power in the county government, with both a strong executive administrator and a strong board of commissioners serving full time.

Our view is that the freeholders made the wrong choice. We suggest that, on balance, the nonsalaried directors of the Port and various School Boards have established the more efficient pattern.

*The Port Commission and School Boards have been relatively free of political maneuvering and have confined themselves in the main to legislating policy matters, leaving administrative affairs largely to administrators whom they have appointed.*

The trend in Seattle's municipal government in recent years has been toward strengthening centralized administration of city affairs in the mayor's office, with the City Council relinquishing powers which had, in fact, given the city a "commission" form of government with individual Council members holding small kingdoms of influence and direction by which the powers of the mayor were circumvented.

In short, The Times believes that the freeholders' recommendation for an enlarged, full-time board of nine commissioners at \$18,000 salaries is a backward step completely aside from the volatile political issue of the \$18,000 salaries.

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*The Port Commission and School Boards have been relatively free of political maneuvering and have confined themselves in the main to legislating policy matters, leaving administrative affairs largely to administrators whom they have appointed.*

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In short, The Times believes that the freeholders' recommendation for an enlarged, full-time board of nine commissioners at \$18,000 salaries is a backward step completely aside from the volatile political issue of the \$18,000 salaries.

## U. W. Professor Critical Of Clause in New County Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A provision for nine full-time county councilmen could be a fatal weakness in the proposed County Charter, Dr. Brewster Denny said yesterday.

Denny, director of the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, discussed the proposed Charter in a talk to the Municipal League's local-government committee. He questioned that nine full-time councilmen would have to do as legislators only.

"The Charter," he said,

"promises to do something it does not quite deliver. It does not separate the legislative and executive branches."

Denny said that having nine full-time councilmen would be an invitation for them to become part of the executive branch. He said it is difficult to get legislators out of the executive branch of government once they step in.

Part-time councilmen with good staffs would be better, he said.

The professor said the Charter needs a statement of "fundamental aspirations and rights." He called for more flexibility in the personnel system, recognizing a new type of public servant who could be moved from job to job as needed without being locked into a civil-service type of procedure.

But Denny said the freeholders did an "excellent job" in establishing the executive branch and he voiced support for the concept of an elected chief executive.

# Freeholders Reject Move for an Elected Auditor

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A last-ditch effort to retain the county auditor as an elected official in the proposed Charter failed last night. The auditor would be appointed by the County Council under language approved by the Board of Freeholders.

The freeholders virtually wound up their work. They will meet next Thursday to approve the Charter section by section and then the following week to certify it to the Board of King County Commissioners for the November ballot.

Most freeholders expect the section-by-section approval to be given swiftly. Simon Wampold, freeholder, after his try to keep the auditor elected, remarked: "We've already voted on everything."

ONE QUESTION will be discussed next week. The staff was asked to present alternative proposals to allow a nonpartisan candidate to seek office. Basically, the

Charter calls for partisan elections.

Wampold, speaking for an elected auditor, said, "The auditor should be the watch dog of the Treasury, the conscience of the county and not subservient to any man but his master, the public who elects him."

That move was defeated, 6 to 2. Other freeholders contended it is the state's responsibility to make the final audit. They argued that the County Council must appoint an auditor if there is to be a

balance of power with the executive branch.

Don McDonald, who sided with Wampold, moved to combine the office of an elected auditor with that of a citizen-complaint department. The motion failed on a 4 to 4 vote but McDonald indicated he may try the approach again.

## FREEHOLDERS also:

Guaranteed county commissioners they could complete their terms of office but not be assured a position

with county government after that.

The Charter now guarantees elected officials, except commissioners, jobs with county government until retirement age.)

Made the deadline for adopting boundaries for councilmen districts April 30 every five years beginning in 1971.

Toughened the penalty against councilmen for failing to redistrict on time for forfeiting half their pay until they do.

Gave the first elected chief executive a four-year term by having it expire in 1972.

Required an employee seeking an elected public office to take a leave of absence during the campaign and, if elected, during the term of office. County employees would be allowed to serve as precinct committeemen without taking a leave.

Banned a referendum or initiative on employee working conditions, hours and fringe benefits.

## Politics To Stay In County

By Our County News Bureau

The Board of King County Freeholders decided Monday to stick with nine councilmen (the present board of county commissioners expanded to nine members and renamed "councilmen") and make their positions — as well as all county elective positions — partisan.

The group also agreed to hold to their original decision by which the new post of county executive would be an elective one rather than appointive.

Both decisions were regarded as pivotal before the charter is adopted, section by section, August 29.

The final adoption will come approximately one week later.

A decentralization of county government, already partly under way, freeholders decided should be encouraged by its inclusion in the charter. Discussion Monday centered on the possibility of new county councilmen officing in branch county offices to provide closer liaison to voters on county problems.

**BALLOT READY**

## Freeholders' Final Views Go Into Charter Tomorrow

Many small and some major changes to the proposed county charter were made Wednesday night in last-minute efforts by the King County freeholders to make the document sound and attractive to a majority of the voters in November.

The most significant move at the final working meeting was rejection, six to two, of a motion to include an elected auditor in the new form of government. The charter draft now provides for 11 elected officials—nine county commissioners (by district), a county executive (at large) and assessor. The last-named post as an elective versus appointive office has drawn the most fire between the conservative and liberal blocs on the 15-member freeholder board.

The board has been working six months to draft a home-rule charter.

Board Chairman Richard Albrecht, at Wednesday's meeting, asked that any final changes be in a formal form

when presented for section-by-section adoption, tomorrow. The all-day meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at the Washington Athletic Club.

The Freeholders, representing all parts of the county, will then vote to approve the document as a whole Sept. 5, on a schedule for inclusion on the November ballot.

One change to be considered tomorrow will be provision for a nonpartisan candidate to seek office. Freeholder Don McDonald indicated Wednesday he would also move that the charter provide combination of an elected auditor's office with a citizen-complaint department.

The eight freeholders present Wednesday voted in stricter provisions assuring redistricting by county commissioner districts every five years.

The penalty for not completing the redistricting job in the first four months of the required period will be the retention of county commissioner salaries during the time the redistricting ordinance is being drawn up

by an executive-appointed committee.

The deadline for redistricting was spelled out as April 30 every five years beginning in 1971.

The freeholders also removed a guarantee that county commissioners would be assured a position with county government until retirement. The charter does provide that the present commissioners may complete their term of office.

Initial term for the chief executive, a new branch of government created by the charter, was extended to four years, expiring in 1972. In a unanimous decision the freeholders made illegal the use of the referendum or initiative to change employee working conditions, hours and fringe benefits, saying this was a management matter.

The board decided that an elected official can be removed from office for commission of a crime only after conviction and after all appeal proceedings have been exhausted.

## U. W. Professor Critical Of 2177 Clause in New County Charter

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But Denny said the freeholders did an "excellent job" in establishing the executive branch and he voiced support for the concept of an elected chief executive.

Charter Plan -

## King May Get Board Of Seven

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

The Board of King County Freeholders will offer a new charter with a seven-man Board of County Commissioners...

The previous 9-to-6 division among freeholders favoring the larger number of commissioners has shifted, according to Chairman Richard Albrecht, and a new vote will be taken Thursday. Albrecht said he would cast his vote with what he believes to be the new majority sentiment for the smaller number.

The move well could prove a major hitch to present plans for freeholders to wind up, section by section, final examination on the new charter by Thursday night before it is submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for certification to the ballot.

A special districting committee - including Howard

Bothell, Auburn, and James Albrecht's comment on what Curran, Kent - met Monday to the results of a possible delay draw new boundary lines in could be. Freeholders must anticipation of the smaller submit the final draft of the board, but it is not known new charter to the Board of whether the freeholders as a County Commissioners before body will approve the new September 20 in order to qualify it for a place on the November 5 ballot. The day-long meeting tomorrow examination after Raj Joshi. The final row is preliminary to final approval expected September 6.

"We've got a problem," was 6.

## Freeholders Expected to Cut Proposed Council

By JERRY BERGMAN  
Freeholders faced heavy criticism for writing into the proposed county charter a provision for nine full-time county councilmen from nine to seven tomorrow.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, said yesterday he reactivated a councilman-districting committee after two freeholders told him they were planning to reverse their earlier stands and vote for the reduction.

The new language probably will provide for enlarging the Board of Councilmen automatically to nine when the county's population reaches 1.5 million. That is expected to occur in about 1975.

James O'Connor and Jack Geoffroy are the two free-

holders planning to change their vote. If all others vote the way they did previously, the reduction to seven would be approved, 8 to 7.

Both O'Connor and Geoffroy said many persons seemed concerned about the number of councilmen in relation to the population. Geoffroy said his earlier thinking was influenced by the number of people who felt they were unable to reach anyone in county government with their problems

and wanted councilman districts small enough so they could "reach someone's ear."

Geoffroy added that the change in the number of councilmen will mean that each would represent 150,000 persons instead of 133,000.

He said he will vote for the reduction if a satisfactory new plan for district boundaries is presented.

Albrecht said he hoped a new plan for boundaries of the Councilman Districts could

be approved tomorrow. The five-member districting committee met Monday and came close to agreement on one plan, Albrecht said. He said a modification of that plan, designed to overcome objections, will be ready.

If the change is made it will not affect the freeholder time schedule. Freeholders intend to adopt the charter section by section tomorrow and certify it for the November 5 general-election ballot next week.

In anticipation of change in the number of councilmen, Albrecht instructed the staff to provisions that will be

## Freeholders Seek Lawyer

County freeholders August 21 interviewed a candidate for charter legal adviser.

The candidate is Bill Barker, an attorney. He was interviewed by Freeholders Chairman Norma Bruns. Members of the county board also heard a report from Gordon Maxwell regarding apportioning the county into five districts. A five-district county, governed by five-man councils, has been proposed.

The freeholders are pointing for November 15 as a deadline for completing a rough draft of the proposed county charter.

## Fund Shortage May Slow Charter 'Sale'

By Our County News Bureau also will begin shortly, he said.

Efforts made by the Board of King County Freeholders, working with a citizen's committee to "sell" the new county charter, could be hampered by a shortage of funds.

This was the statement Tuesday of chairman Richard Albrecht, who said he foresaw no large-scale campaign chest available to the promotional effort for the charter such as was available in the Forward Thrust effort.

There is just slightly over two months available for the tell-and-sell campaign, Albrecht noted, which will demand a major effort from both the freeholders and the citizen committee which will be formed shortly. He said freeholders will provide the nucleus of a speakers' bureau which will be available for debates, presentations, panel appearances and the like.

An endorsement campaign supporting the new charter

The chairman would make no advance guess as to the charter's likely fate at the polls November 5, and there had been no public-opinion sampling — official or nonofficial — to indicate whether the public approves provisions in the new charter.

The document, he noted, will share space on the longest ballot in King County history, and share the spotlight with a hot presidential race and a state general election that could emerge from the doldrums into a tightly fought contest.

"It is our hope that the focus of the campaign on government issues could generate similar interest in what I think are some remarkable new directions spelled out in the charter," Albrecht said.

Speakers on the charter may be obtained by calling the Board of King County Freeholders in the Courthouse.

To Be Certified

## Freeholders Finish County Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A provision allowing candidates not affiliated with a political party to seek county office was inserted yesterday into the proposed county charter.

The new element in county elections came in the final minutes as the Board of Freeholders virtually completed its work.

The Freeholders turned back efforts to reduce the number of councilmen from 9 to 7, to make them part-time and to elect the auditor and the sheriff.

**THE BOARD** will meet a week from today to certify the proposed charter to the Board of King County Commissioners for submittal to the voters November 5. The only question remaining is how many of the 15 freeholders will sign the charter.

Freeholders wound up their work, a task that began in earnest in February, with a 10-hour session that broke only for lunch.

If the charter is adopted in November, it would go into effect May 1. That would require a special primary election February 11 and a general election March 11.

Candidate filing would be the week of December 16. The following week would be reserved for filing only if one of the incumbent County Commissioners seeks a new position under the charter instead of remaining as a County Councilman for the duration of his term.

The extra week for filing was established because of the widespread speculation that County Commissioner Ed Munro will seek the chief executive post.

The charter calls for the

election of a chief executive, nine county councilmen representing specified districts and an assessor. All others are appointed.

A last minute change paves the way for appointment of an assessor in the future, but only if the State Legislature adopts a measure requiring the appointment instead of election of all assessors in the state.

**THE PROVISION** allowing non-partisan candidates to run for office along with partisan office seekers was approved at the urging of Robert Block, a Freeholder.

Multnomah County in Oregon provides for a similar mechanism.

It works like this:

A candidate files as an "independent." If the total primary vote for all those filing as independents equals at least 20 per cent of the entire vote cast for all those seeking the position, the independent candidate with the largest number of votes goes on the general election ballot with the Republican and Democratic nominee. An independent candidate cannot seek election on a partisan ticket.

This differs from candidates filing on minor parties. Minor party candidates are certified to the ballot following a convention held on primary-election day and after obtaining a petition signed by 100 registered voters. Thus, the names of minor-party candidates appear only on the general-election ballot.

Failure to reduce the number of county councilmen to seven was mainly the result of three Freeholders being absent. Two of them were

expected to vote for the change.

Seven of the 12 Freeholders present went along with the reduction, but the Board's rules require eight affirmative votes for final adoption of each section.

Simon Wampold, a Freeholder, tried to effect a compromise, first calling for dropping the salary from \$18,000 yearly to \$9,600 and later to \$2,400 but both efforts failed.

"We're speaking on the life or death of this charter," Wampold said. "With nine full-time commissioners this charter will not pass. I plead

for the life of this charter. I'm sincere. We've played with this too long to lose it. We've done too many good things to lose it."

But James O'Connor and others felt the whole concept of the charter was based on a full-time Legislature representing districts and available to residents of those districts.

**NEW EFFORTS** to elect a county auditor and a sheriff both failed by 8 votes to 3 votes. The auditor, who will be limited to auditing the executive branch, is appointed by the Council. The sheriff is part of the Department of Public Safety whose director is appointed.

A strong measure requiring the listing of campaign contributions and expenditures was reinserted in the charter. The charter requires the County Council to enact a conflict-of-interest law, and Freeholders banned an elected official from being appointed to any other county position during his term of office.

Seattle, Wash.  
Post-Intelligencer  
(Cir. 198,812 Sat. Mor. 184,332  
Sun. 239,092)

AUG 30 1958

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Charter: Nine On Council

BY ROBERT COUR

King County's proposed new government will have nine councilmen. Freeholders decided yesterday.

Charter writers spent an entire day going over each article of a county constitution which will be put before voters at the Nov. 5 general election. Freeholders will take a last look at the entire plan next Thursday.

In a lively session at the Washington Athletic Club, the Freeholders failed by one vote to reduce the number of County Councilmen from nine to seven.

**FREEHOLDER FAMES** O'Connor declared that "a great deal of adverse criticism" was developing among voters, mostly because of the \$18,000 annual salary attached to the jobs, and several others suggested that the charter would gain greater acceptance if the number of office holders was cut.

Attorney Simon Wamooled questioned whether full-time County Councilmen are needed. He offered a substitute proposal calling for nine councilmen but at a salary of \$9,600 a year.

"The life or death of this charter is at stake," he pleaded. "Already people are asking what are these councilmen going to do with their time?"

**FORMER** State Rep. Norman Ackley said the reduction from nine to seven councilmanic districts would cut the Burien-Highline district but three Freeholders did not attend the meeting. They were Lyle Schneider, Bob Eberle and Terry McKenna. Supporters could muster only seven votes and eight affirmatives are required.

The Board ran into another snag when another move developed to make the King County Assessor an appointive position under a County Executive — a job that may develop into a political power second in the state only to that of the governor.

**ACKLEY** argued that to retain an elective auditor "is to retain the present archaic system."

## Nine Favored — Freeholders Nix Board Of Seven

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE  
Our County News Bureau

A last-minute effort to reduce the number of new county commissioners in a proposed King County charter from nine to seven members failed yesterday after exhaustive debate on the issue by the Board of Freeholders.

Final vote on the key issue was seven favoring the reduced number and five opposed to the change. An affirmative vote of eight was necessary to reduce the nine commissioner districts previously agreed on to a seven-member board.

The vote was by voice, and tally of individual freeholders' positions on the reduced board was not recorded.

Present from the South County area and voting were James Curran, Kent, and Howard Bothell and Lyle Schneider, Auburn. Not present was Terry McKenna, a Kent member of the group.

The seven-member plan would have enlarged the commissioner district including Kent and Auburn to take in the southern part of Normandy Park and extended the commissioner district including Renton into Southeast Seattle.



AUG 31 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

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"The life or death of this charter is at stake," he pleaded. "Already people are asking what are these councilmen going to do with their time?"

**FORMER** State Rep. Norman Ackley said the reduction from nine to seven councilmanic districts would cut the Burien-Highline district into three parts and endanger passage of the new charter.

Supporters of the seven-councilmen proposal probably had the votes for passage but three Freeholders did not attend the meeting. They were Lyle Schneider, Bob Eberle and Terry McKenna. Supporters could muster only seven votes and eight affirmatives are required.

The Board ran into another snag when another move developed to make the King County Assessor an appointive position under a County Executive — a job that may develop into a political power second in the state only to that of the governor.

## Freeholders Seek Charter Inquiries

By Our County News Bureau  
Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, said Friday he will ask county commissioners to keep the freeholder office in

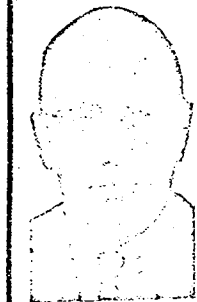
the county courthouse open as an informational center until the general election Nov. 5.

Freeholders wound up all but the formal presentation of the finished charter in an exhaustive, day-long analysis of all sections in the document Thursday. The group will meet again Friday morning to formally OK the charter for submission to the Board of King County Commissioners Sept. 9, but no changes will be made at that point, Albrecht said.

"I feel we have a duty to provide information about the charter to the public and to offer a headquarter's facility to those persons and groups wishing to schedule freeholders as speakers to explain what we have done," Albrecht declared.

He said he viewed the county ordinance that created the charter effort as one that encompassed an educational process on the document once it was completed.

Albrecht said all members of the freeholders group have served as a nucleus for a speakers bureau to tell and sell the charter throughout the county. He said he also would announce next week further details of the promotional campaign designed to win voter acceptance of the group's effort at the polls Nov. 5.



# Extra Troopers Helped Cut Holiday Auto Toll

2177

By HERB ROBINSON  
Associate Editor, The Times

After two fearsome weekends on the highways in which 40 persons died in traffic, the state got through the three-day Labor Day holiday with only a relative handful of deaths.

State-wide weekend highway fatalities are computed from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight of the following Sunday. Three weekends ago, the death toll was 22, the blackest such period of the year. Eighteen died the next weekend.

But over Labor Day, only four deaths were listed, even though the holiday added 24 hours to the recording period. Why?

The anomaly is not subject to ready explanations. But State Patrol Chief Wbl Bachofner believes multiple factors may have been involved, not the least of which was the large force of troopers patrolling major travel routes.

Starting last Thursday and continuing through the holiday, all leaves and days off were canceled, which permitted the Patrol to muster a force of nearly 600 men, about 200 more than are on duty normally. Among those assigned to duty were 49 cadets from the Patrol academy at Shelton.

"I can't help but believe that the mere sight of all those patrol cars on the road served as a deterrent to the kinds of violations that cause accidents," Bachofner said.

At the same time, Bachofner added, Sunday's cloudy and cool weather evidently caused many motorists to return home a day early, thus reducing the congestion that ordinarily would have occurred Monday night.

Moreover, it is reasonable to assume, the chief

ponder whether increases in local-level traffic-enforcement manpower might be in order for areas outside State Patrol jurisdiction.



## Notes on the News

• A lengthy package of proposed bills has been compiled by the newly organized Washington Environmental Council for presentation to the 1969 Legislature. One of the most controversial measures advocated by the group is a proposal that would compel residential subdivisions to allocate a specific proportion of their acreage to public-park space...

• In a last-minute move, the Board of King County Freeholders has remedied what would have been a crucial weakness in the proposed county charter to be submitted to the voters in November. An earlier draft omitted a strong regulation on reporting of political-campaign contributions. But the board later reinserted the provision, thus strengthening the document considerably...

• The defeat of Senator Ernest Gruening in Alaska's Democratic primary election is believed to have been less the result of Gruening's criticism of Vietnam-war policies than his advanced age—81. The campaigning abilities of his opponent, Mike Gravel, Alaska speaker of the House, also were a factor.

87c

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Binder, Broad base,  
Double Booster, Clip,  
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# Freeholders OK Charter

The proposed county charter was approved today by the County Board of Freeholders for submission to voters in the November 5

general election. The vote was 13 to 0. Two absent members are expected to sign the resolution of adoption by Monday.

The board will meet Monday with the County Commission and formally ask the commissioners to place the charter on the ballot.

## Property-Tax

## 'Carrot, Stick' Inadequate

By HERB ROBINSON

Associate Editor, The Times

### Notes and Comment

◉ The proven success of highway median barriers in other parts of the country has been such that the City Council should move promptly to approve Mayor Braman's request for a safety barrier in Alaskan Way South. Braman has recommended that the city share with the State Highway Department the \$235,000 cost of a barrier dividing the street from the viaduct south to South Nevada Street. It would resemble a similar installation completed recently in the Roanoke freeway approach to the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge...

◉ Although the search for a new Seattle park superintendent extended throughout the nation, Mayor Braman chose from "inside the ranks" yesterday in appointing Hans A. Thompson. Thompson has been recreation director in the Seattle Park Department since 1965. The appointment is a good one on two counts—first, Thompson evidently is an able and experienced man in his field and second, the promotion from within the department is beneficial to employees' morale throughout municipal government...

◉ The drafting of a proposed King County charter truly was a labor of love. The 15 nonsalaried members of the county Board of Freeholders, elected last fall, gave more than 2,000 hours of their time in their deliberations. The charter now will be submitted for voter ratification in the November 5 election. It requires only a simple majority for approval. (For Times editorial, see Page 16.)...

◉ With summer giving way to early autumn, the days on the calendar appear to elapse with increasing speed. It may come as a mild shock, for example, to discover that the September primary election is only seven days away and that the Washington Huskies' football opener—against Rice—will be played a week from Saturday...

◉ If the dreams of rapid-transit planners one day are realized here, Seattle patrons of a mass-transit system may find themselves riding in ultramodern subway cars like those planned for Washington, D. C.'s "Metro" system. A prototype of the car, unveiled this week, includes air conditioning, tinted-glass windows (for surface-route travel), bucket-style seats and a public-address system over which a tape-recorded voice will announce each stop.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xw. 151,000)

SEP 2 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

### Stand Taken On Employee-Candidates

The King County Board of Freeholders has passed a regulation requiring county employees to take a leave of absence from their jobs if they seek elective office.

The provision was amended to a portion of the proposed County Charter banning employees from campaigning in behalf of someone seeking county office.

Highline Times  
Burien, Wash.  
Cir. w. 16,000

SEP 4 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## LWV Sponsor Discussion Charter and Freeholders

"The Charter, Freeholders and You," a discussion of the proposed King County Charter is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters from Highline, Renton and South King County.

The luncheon meeting will be held at Meekers Landing, Kent Sept. 11. A \$2.50 registration will include buffet lunch.

James Curran, Virginia Gunby and Richard Albrecht, Freeholders, will explain the Charter.

A "Meet the Press" will follow the discussion with answer questions posed by Marsha Blue, Highline Times; Ray Kelly, Federal Way News and Virginia Burnside, Valley Times.

The final 30 minutes of the

program will be open for questions from the audience.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. and luncheon at 11:30 a.m., the program will be at 12:30 p.m.

Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. Harold Briggs, TA 4-1917 or Mrs. Robert Allison, CH 4-6312.

# Virginia Burnside

## All About Politics

## Notes And Comment



### Humphrey Or Nixon?

Amid the swirls of subsiding reaction to what happened in Chicago, here's how local leaders are assessing the chances of each party's nominee to win in November:

**Kenneth Rogstad, Republican county chairman:** "I believe the polls will continue to show Nixon the front-runner . . . and nothing that took place at the Democratic convention alters my opinion. The high degree of disunity and dissension among the Democratic delegates will inevitably be translated back to the districts from which they came. That's where elections are won or lost."

**Robert Kull, Democratic state chairman:** "I see no choice between Nixon or Humphrey . . . Although I believe Humphrey will campaign hard and ably, the question is, do we have enough time to heal our wounds . . ."

**C. Montgomery Johnson, Republican state chairman:** "There was no question in my mind before the Democratic convention Richard Nixon would be the next President of the United States. There is none now!"

**Frank Keller, former Democratic state chairman:** "Both parties were hurt by over-exposure . . . and both will lose volunteer workers normally available after the conventions are over. What happened in Chicago dirtied the process . . . and in so doing . . . could hurt Humphrey's chances . . ."

**John Barnard, former Republican county chairman and Evans' campaign aide:** "For Republicans to feel that the Democratic convention did great damage to the Democratic nominee and, conversely, greatly improves Republican chances is erroneous. There's already too much Republican complacency involved in the presidential campaign now!"

**Democratic County Chairman Jeannette Williams:** "We've got a lot of work to do. While it's still too early to accurately assess their long-term impact, events at Chicago still aren't going to help Humphrey win the presidency."

\* \* \*

### The Delegates' Side of the Story

As Democratic delegates to the convention returned to the state last week, some slants on local involvement in the Chicago story emerged. Among them:

There seem to be few complaints from most delegates about the convention site. It was bound to happen, seems to be the consensus, at least among the pro-Humphrey groups which comprised the majority of the warring elements in the Washington State delegation. Delegates, housed approximately two miles from the Conrad Hilton Hotel where the unscheduled part of the proceedings took place, never were in any physical danger, according to reports. Diligent in their attendance at the late-running sessions, most were unaware, except via TV coverage, of events at the park. Nevertheless, most seemed appreciative of police protection and approved, not condemned, the action of Mayor Daley and Chicago's finest . . . including Democratic National Committeeman Luke Graham who also was a member of the convention site committee which selected Chicago in the first place.

Conspicuous by his absence: President Johnson, either by verbal references or by signs, banners, or other party hoop-la by which notables

make their presence felt. As to his control of the convention itself or the platform approved by the party, many delegates feel Johnson's hand was involved but not paramount, particularly in the foreign-policy sections of the platform.

Denying the Vietnam plank was dictated by direct line from Texas, Mrs. Williams (a member of the convention's platform committee) declared the war plank reflected a compromise but no blanket endorsement of Johnson policies.

"The only portion of the platform bearing Johnson's signature was that section devoted to the peace negotiations in Paris," she states. That section is highly complimentary to the President's actions in getting peace talks started.

Others who failed to make the scene: Senator Henry M. Jackson, 6th District Congressman Floyd Hicks, and 3rd District Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen. The same trio likewise was no-show at the Democratic state convention in Tacoma. Chief loser then . . . Hicks, who Demos reasoned should have been there.

State delegates to Chicago were, to a man, impressed by the performance of Georgia Negro Legislator Julian Bond. Many noted, not incidentally, the complete absence of Negro participants in the violence, pointing out that Negroes chose to work (and creditably!) within the political process rather than trying to break it . . . something that marred the Republican convention in Miami.

\* \* \*

### Party Preprimary Endorsements Coming?

A joint endorsement by 2nd Congressional District chairman of Republican Congressional Candidate Wally Turner that locked out Birchman Mike O'Dell may be the shape of things to come in Washington State politics. Action yesterday by the newly formed Washington Democratic Council in Seattle indicates that; although Republican State Chairman Johnson noted that it's one thing for any auxiliary to do it and another for a party to do it. Republican action Thursday had no official blessing of the Republican state organization, but it could be a trend in the making.

One interesting sidelight: A lawsuit on appeal to the State Supreme Court filed by a 1966 6th District candidate for Congress seeking to recover approximately \$9,000 in campaign costs. He alleges the state party backed his opponent.

\* \* \*

### Briefly Noted:

It had to happen: Warren Chan, candidate for the Superior Court bench, warns that "the silent man is often worth listening to." Inside a fortune cookie, yet! . . . The Fourth Party got a name nationally last week . . . Citizens for Participation Politics. No comment from McCarthy forces here whether the jaw-breaker will be their choice . . . or whether they'll even go in that direction. Many local McCarthy supporters are well-known Democrats who probably would prefer to work within the party to accomplish a change . . . The Carroll affair rumbles on, with the appearance of Seattle Magazine apparently adding little specific fuel to the fire lit by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer which linked Carroll with Pinball Entrepreneur Ben Cichy . . . The matter heats up tomorrow when both Senator Martin Durkan's legislative Subcommittee on Municipalities conducts a public hearing . . . and members of the

30 years too late

ARGUS

September 13, 1968

## New Charter Is Outdated For Present-Day Needs

The County Freeholders have completed their work and have unanimously adopted a new charter for King County. It will be on the November ballot for voters' approval.

The Freeholders spent many long hours drafting the new document and have, from first glance, developed a charter which will strengthen country government. It creates a strong executive department, gives better representation, and separates the executive/legislative functions. The Freeholders should be thanked for all the time and labor they have spent preparing the document.

as  
I  
see it  
Philip  
Bailey

The only thing wrong is that such an approach to metropolitan government is already outdated. While King County voters are passing on this measure, voters in Oregon will be voting on a constitutional amendment which will lead to the consolidation of the governments of Portland and Multnomah County.

Oregon voters are expected to approve the amendment by a large majority, and the Portland Metropolitan Study Commission is drafting enabling legislation which would allow consolidation of the two entities. I would think that Portland and Multnomah County are headed in the right direction. We are asked to approve a charter which cannot meet the needs of the coming years.

It seems nearly incomprehensible that we should saddle ourselves with a new county charter at this time, when every metropolitan need cries out for an area solution. Law and order is the tocsin now being sounded by all, but here we have a police department and a sheriff's office both working expensively and often at cross purposes. Taxes now are sliced up between cities and the county, often in a hodge podge manner. The question of highways and roads, to say nothing of rapid transit, can certainly only be solved on a county-wide or larger area. There is duplication in the school system, health, and engineering departments, to say nothing of planning, parks and recreation, and in the executive and legislative functions of the two present governments.

It is hard to oppose the proposed charter, for it will hopefully give us a better county government. But if it is the wrong approach to modern needs, it might be better to reject it, and work towards a modern, streamlined, consolidated government.

If Portland and Multnomah are ready, we are too.

## Times Readers Have Their Say:

### Cascade Park Bill No 'Compromise'

Editor, The Times:

In the editorial on the need for Congress to act on the North Cascades National Park issue (The Times, September 3), you refer to the bill written by Senator Jackson as a "reasonable compromise settlement."

I find it impossible to regard Senator Jackson's bill as a compromise. The issue in the North Cascades has been over whether the Forest Service should log the scenic valleys on the western and southern sides of the spectacular wilderness core of the Cascades. It was out of the efforts to save those timbered valleys that the present park movement grew 11 years ago.

Conservationists wanted a 1.3-million-acre park that would protect the drainages of the Cascade, Suiattle, Whitechuck, Sauk, White and Chiwawa Rivers. Jackson has offered a half-million-acre park made up entirely from land the Forest Service had not planned to log anyway.

In other words, Jackson's bill saves nothing that was not going to be saved anyway. In a compromise each side gives up something. In the park bill Congress is considering, the timber interests give up absolutely nothing, as Jackson has so proudly noted in all his remarks on it.

The park we are likely to get... is not a compromise; it is an alarmingly inadequate part of the Cascades and it represents only the areas without marketable timber.

—RICHARD WARD,  
Seattle.

#### COUNTY CHARTER

Editor, The Times:

I predict the defeat of the



county charter if it is voted on in the November election.

Voters will not accept the huge increase in cost of county government it would entail. Nine (or seven) councilmen at a salary of \$18,000 a year each... would not be the whole story. Each councilman would require an elaborately furnished office with secretaries, stenographers and assistants plus an automobile maintained at public expense.

Each official would naturally find it necessary to make inspection tours and attend conventions in distant parts of the country.

Also, voters should have some choice other than just yes or no. They should, for instance, be allowed to choose between a partisan and nonpartisan form of government.

Seattle nonpartisan City Council government works in harmony compared to the county government in which the welfare of the party comes ahead of that of the community.

—J. E. TALL,  
622 22nd Ave. E.

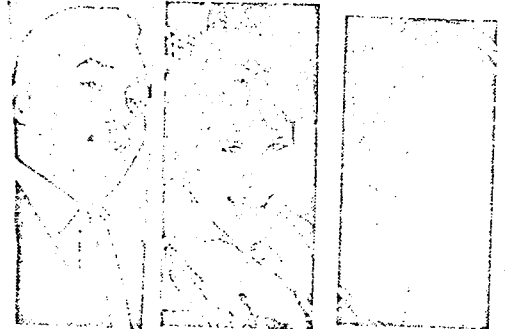
Seattle, Wash.  
Post-Intelligencer  
(Circ. D. 196,459  
Sat. 182, 103 Sun. 243,338)

SEP 8 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Letter To Servicemen

(This is a letter for servicemen to let them know what's going on here at home. It's no substitute for personal letters, so write your own letter, then clip this letter and inclose it with yours. This will be in each Sunday's Post-Intelligencer.)



GEORGE  
FLEMING

LYNDA  
KILP

JOHN  
O'CONNELL

SEATTLE, Sept. 7 — The Sky River Rock Festival and Lighter Than Air Fair drew 13,000 hippies, yuppies and others at its three-day musical event in Sultan, Snohomish County. It rained. But participants celebrated the heavenly liquid by rolling in the mud. The whole affair was termed a success (at \$4 a head) and may become an annual Be-In.

Later in the week, some of the same Lighter Than Air Fair party-goers attended a "fish-in" staged by Indians protesting their fishing rights on the Nisqually River near Olympia. Demonstrators caught eight fish (with nets) and ate them (baked). Seven persons were arrested.

Elsewhere in Olympia, a small group of local teenagers and some Olympia firemen were taking starring roles in a driver license testing film which will be used on Tacoma motorists — a pilot project and the first of its kind in the world.

IN SEATTLE and waypoints, 259,110 shining faces showed up for the first day of school throughout King County. Seattle school district noted a decrease in enrollment of 2.3 per cent.

A charter giving King County government its first major overhaul in 100 years was approved unanimously this week by the County Freeholders who drew it up. The charter — if approved by the voters — would do away with most of the county's elective offices and make them appointive.

Local police were kept busy when two prisoners broke out of the King County jail using bedsheets tied together for a rope. They were apprehended.

And Seattle police hauled in heroin, marijuana and suitcases and washtubs full of money in what they said was a record narcotics raid for the city.

THE SEATTLE Rumor Center — established to put down wild stories concerning racial disturbances — is \$200 in the red but still operating.

And at the University of Washington, a new air pollution measuring device shows that smoke from one cigarette in a classroom produces as much polluted air as found on a very smoggy day in Seattle. (Cough.)

Atty. Gen. John J. O'Connell launched his own full-scale investigation into what he called "charges and allegations of organized vice in Seattle and King County."

Meanwhile, political candidates are in the news as

SEP 11 1963

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## LAND-USE SURVEY

# Team Finds Highline Roads 'Substandard'

For one, the current field survey of Highline land use by the County Planning Department shows that streets in the neighborhoods of the Highline area are substandard by county definition.

But, says Robert Edmundson, in charge of the six-month initial survey, it's common in suburban parts of the county to find narrow streets with no shoulders, which puts them in a substandard category. "The surfacing is generally good," he said.

The survey team has set their own standards for road and housing evaluations, but those for the streets follow closely those published in the 1959 road program. One neighborhood surveyed, out of 22 completed—Seahurst—showed no road that met the minimum standard of 22-foot-wide paving and eight-foot shoulders.

The study reveals that typical characteristics of suburbia are overhead wires, no sidewalks, mixed land uses, vacant lots.

Edmundson said that, because of the apartment boom in the area, building standards are generally higher than department records had shown. Many of the new structures replace older buildings.

The main objective of the study—a measure of the housing conditions in King County—is manifested in figures on the buildings. In Seahurst, for example, which covers 243 acres, 345 of the 360 structures are "sound," 19 are put in the "ba-

sically sound category," two in the "deteriorated" class and none "delapidated," the final category.

The survey, funded by the county, is halfway through for this first area of the county to be covered. About 17,000 of the 30,000 homes in the area encompassing the Highline and South Central school districts and land west of Renton have been categorized.

Teams of two men view residences and other buildings from the street only. Not too many residents have complained since the study started at the beginning of the summer, Edmundson reported. The Highline area study would, he said, be out by the first of the year. The team will then move to other unincorporated areas until the ambitious study is complete.

Edmundson commented that if the County Charter goes into effect the completed survey should be helpful to many more agencies. The main reason for the study is to bring buildings in the county up to code standards and provide for future planning.

Other land use areas covered by the survey are special districts, parks, transit facilities, shopping facilities, and the social structure of the neighborhoods.

Census reports and statistics from other county departments are used in the study, besides the daily field trips by the Planning Department.

Freeholders Earn Praise

## Charter Proposal Gets Nov. 5 Vote

By Our County News Bureau  
See Editorial, Page 4

After eight months of intensive work drafting a new county charter, the Board of King County Freeholders Monday submitted its efforts to the Board of King County Commissioners for a ballot date.

That date will be the nation's general election Nov. 5.

The proposition's ballot title will read:

"Shall the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County, providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?"

"FOR Home Rule Charter . . .

"AGAINST Home Rule Charter . . ."

Although none of the three commissioners had fine-toothed the finished document, all three expressed praise for a job, in Commissioner John Spellman's words, "well and creatively performed."

Spellman warned against "nit-picking" specific details in the charter, declaring "this could damage its passage. I believe the charter will be a living organism of government equipped with a good amendment process sufficiently simple to permit change when and where necessary."

"It's a strong document, well and carefully written . . . and I don't believe a better one could be achieved," he stated.

**Draws Additional Praise**

Further praise came from Commissioner Ed Munro, long an advocate of modernization of county government, particularly in the separation of legislative and executive powers.

"This has been the basic problem of government here in

King County since its inception, but recent growth, particularly in the suburban areas of the county, have made this separation even more urgent," Munro stated.

More qualified in his support, Commissioner John O'Brien commended the freeholders, but objected pending further reading, to certain key portions of the document. He has objected in the past to the nine-member legislative body and has stated repeatedly he favors the election, rather than the appointment, of county officials.

"I am also inclined to believe the new charter centers too much authority in the hands of the county executive," O'Brien declared. "I think many voters will object to turning county government over to one man."

**Charter Proposes Big Changes**

The new charter provides for a county executive, a nine-man, full-time legislative body, appointive county officials with the exception of the assessor, who will be elected, and a stream-lining of present county departments. The charter also would set up a county personnel board to handle hirings and firings and establish a merit system.

Formation of a citizens' committee is expected to be announced within the week by Paul Friedlander, named by Freeholder Chairman Richard Albrecht to coordinate citizen efforts on behalf of passage of the charter.

Interested persons and organizations may obtain a free copy of the proposed charter by telephoning the freeholder office in the King County courthouse.