Part 2

Sec. 2

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

SEP 12 1958

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

2177

A KOMO News
Northwest Feature
By BRIAN JOHNSON

The voters of King county will have their opportunity to vote on a charter this November 5th. It is not a new charter. It will be the first charter King County has ever had.

The State of Washington has never cut the umbilical cord as far as its 39 "children" are concerned. The state has adopted the philosophy of mother knows best, and the counties have been placed in the position of running to Olympia to get permission to tackle each of the new problems which seem to multiply daily.

Washington's constitution, in short, provides that the state is the repository of all powers. The Legislature can grant to the counties those rights and powers which in its judgment it feels the counties should have.

The problem this philosophy has created is partly financial. The revenue system for the counties was established by the State Legislature. A certain portion of the property tax revenue was set aside for the counties, and certain duties were spelled out which could be met within the financial limitations imposed. With each passing year the local problems have multiplied and new duties have been assigned to the counties, while the funds for providing the services have not been forthcoming.

The second problem created is an outgrowth of the financial squeeze. If the counties are assigned duties by the Legislature without additional funds, then existing services have to be restricted. The counties cannot assign higher priority to local matters they feel warrant immediate action.

The paternalism of the State of Washington has created a number of restless counties. The 21st Amendment to the State Constitution provides one solution. Home rule.

Home rule is basically an extension of the federal system. The U. S. Constitution reserves certain rights and duties to the federal government, and the rest are open to the states. Home rule for the counties would accomplish the same thing at the local level. Counties would have the power to pursue all avenues of endeavor not reserved by the state or the federal government.

To achieve this home rule the counties must draft a charter. This requires that the counties put their own house in order before assuming self-government.

The charter to be placed before the voters this November attempts to make the commission more representative of the people — by enlarging the county board from three to nine and instituting the ward system of representation.

It attempts to balance powers by establishing an elected executive, rather than placing all powers in three men.

It attempts to give the people a voice by establishing an office of citizen complaints and the powers of referendum and initiative. And it attempts to eliminate the idea that the county is the home of political power and patronage by establishing a merit system and by making many county offices appointive rather than elective.

The charter speaks to many of the significant weak points of what Commissioner John Spellman has referred to as a Horse and Buggy, archaic system of county government.

But there is a major problem left unresolved. If the county government is restructured and made more responsive to the will of the people, how has this resolved the financial problems?

It is possible that efficiences in the new county government will create some surplus. But if the new revitalized county government is to assert itself, obviously there will be a need for more operating capital. Should the county voters support the charter and call for streamlined, modernized and more innovated county government, the problem will be a real one.

The fifteen citizens of King County who drafted the charter have made an important contribution. The Legislature cannot consider itself off the hook because the people want home rule. And home rule will be hollow unless the county is given adequate state financial support, or the ability to levy taxes on the local level.

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

SEP 9 1968

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

Now The Charter Must Be 'Sold'

A new charter is ready for King County . . . but is King County – and more specifically its voters – ready for a new charter?

We sincerely hope the voters of the county will demonstrate their readiness when balloting day rolls around November 5.

The 15 elected members of the Board of King County Freeholders have accomplished a minimiracle in bringing forth a charter proposal upon which all could substantially agree. At least the agreement was such that there was no necessity for a minority report.

The charter isn't a perfect document, and the freeholders who drafted it probably would be the first to agree. Nonetheless, it is a consensus document hammered out in the best traditions of crucible democracy.

The freeholders, we believe, have created a good product. They still, however, have their work cut out for them. The freeholders are about to set forth to "sell" their product to the community at large.

That may take a considerable amount of salesmanship.

The long months of charter preparation – and there are some radical departures in it – produced no civic uproar in connection with what should be included in the document and what should be left out. The freeholders have worked in the spotlight of the news media. Their deliberations and decisions have been reported with frequency and at length.

The last time an effort was made to give King County a modern charter – some 17 years ago – it fell before a determined campaign by some in government who saw their interest imperiled.

This time, apathy may be the charter's biggest enemy. There is fear that the mass of voters will not trouble themselves sufficiently to learn about the charter and what it

Freeholders Complete New Charter

King County Freeholders have completed a proposed charter for the county's government and were scheduled to present it to the County Commissioners today for placement on the Nov. 5 ballot. A simple majority of voters would make it law.

The proposed charter, designed to modernize the structure of King County government, was approved by the 15 bipartisan elected Freeholders unanimously — an act few thought was possible with a document which could have been loaded with political controversy.

The relatively brief charter (46 pages) would make sweeping changes in the county's government, including the election of a strong county executive, council of nine members (nominated and elected in their own districts on either a partisan or an independent basis), with most other county offices appointive. Exceptions would be the county prosecutor, judges, county school superintendent, and assessor, who would continue to be elected.

SEP 11 1968

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

Chamber Manager Altman Resigns; Ed Munro Visits

21444

White Center Chamber of Commerce President Bob Carley announced at yesterday morning's meeting that Chamber Manager Les Altman has submitted a letter of resignation, effective the end of September. After a short discussion, it was moved and passed with regret that the resignation be accepted.

The Chamber also decided to delay hiring another manager for the time being while assessing the financial situation of the body.

Altman later said he expected to become distribution manager of The NEWS on October 1.

Earlier, King County Commissioner Ed Munro discussed several matters with the Chamber, including the delayed widening of S.W. Roxbury Street, the proposed county charter and the proposed multipurpose stadium's location in downtown Seattle.

Munro had little he could add on the Roxbury situation, stating, "As I pointed out the last time I was here, we (King County) are ready to go as soon as the city is."

He indicated several factors that have contributed to the slow construction start, including the inherent coordinating relays caused when more than one governmental body is involved in a project; the seeking of Urban Arterial funds, and a cost figure that has been revised upward.

Commenting on the charter proposed by King County Freeholders, he said that, under it the commissioners would vanish into thin air, "and that's good."

Under a charter type of government, Munro explained that King County would get new governing powers — explaining that today it doesn't even have his full support overall because it contained provisions allowing for easy amendments.

"It still doesn't make any sense to me," Munro said in reference to the designation of a Seattle Center site for the proposed county stadium.

After hiring consultants who indicated that either of the two south sites were most satisfactory, Munro said that it was nonsense to propose spending 15 to 20 million dollars more to make a downtown site equal to the south sites. He said that his stand for a south site had nothing to do with "south vs. central" and that if the central site stands, "the taxpayers still have to pay for it."

Munro said that the extra cost would have to be paid by the public — through raising the B&O tax, the cost of admissions and so forth, and regardless of anything else, a stadium in the Seattle Center area would compound an already acute traffic problem.

Finally, Munro said that getting the stadium downtown is merely another attempt to revive the core city of Seattle and he might yet be able to kill it; "All I need is one vote!"

President Bob Carley reminded the Chamber that the area bus committee would meet next Monday evening at the High Point Community Church to hear from the Transit Commission. Then he asked Munro about the possibility of getting improved public transportation in the county areas.

Munro replied that county transportation is under control of the state, but indicated that approval of the proposed charter might give the county some power over its mass transportation problems.

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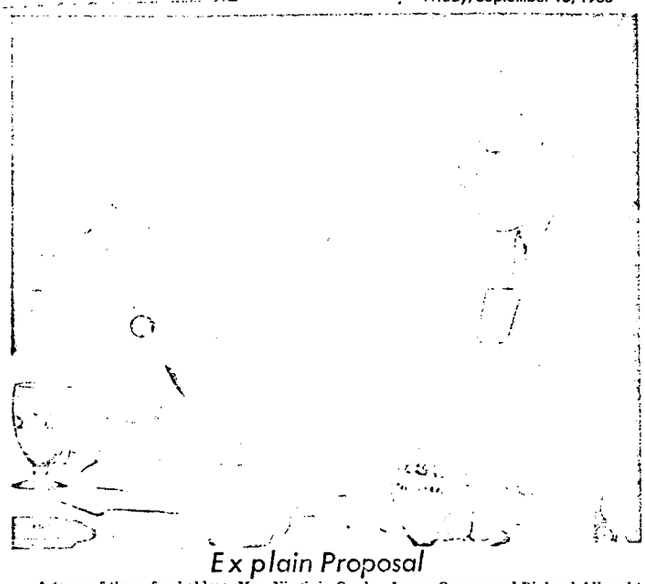

Explain Proposal

A team of three freeholders, Mrs. Virginia Gunby, James Curran and Richard Albrecht, explained the main points in the proposed King County charter at a meeting sponsored by League of Women Voters Wednesday in Kent.

Home Rule Charter Offers Efficiency, Team Tells LWV

Changes offered in the proposed King County Home Rule Charter for a more efficient method of handling the county's $20 million business were reviewed by three freeholders at an informational meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters Wednesday at Meeker's Landing in Kent.

The meeting, the first joint session ever sponsored by Renton, South King County and Highline leagues, featured brief talks by three of the 15 freeholders who adopted the proposed charter in September, unanimously recommending its adoption by the voters Nov. 5.

The three — Richard Albrecht, chairman; Virginia Gunby, secretary, and James Curran — also answered questions posed by league members, and political reporters, Virginia Burnside of Auburn Globe-News, Kent News-Journal and Renton Record-Chronicle; Marcia Blue of Highline Times and Ray Kelley of Federal Way News.

Commissioners Hamstrung

Curran, former Kent councilman, pointed out county government has been hamstrung by three commissioners acting both as a legislative body and as executive or administrative.

"It's one of the reasons the county government has been unable to cope with the tremendous expansion and problems we have in this county and one of the reasons freeholders propose a single chief executive," he said. The legislative body of nine councilmen will be the policy-making, policy-formulating body of the county.

"One of the major complaints we got at hearings was the feeling of people that they were not being properly represented," Curran noted. "Consequently, the nine councilmen, the nine separate districts, each represented by a councilman who is full time and adequately paid for the service he's going to render."

"We've eliminated substantially all commissions. We expect the legislative body to perform the functions that need to be performed that were performed by commissions.

"We hope this council will have time to participate in and formulate and aid in the long-range solution to the problems of this county. We are not solving that by charter, but we hope that by getting this quality form of government we will have people who will aid ultimately in solving our problems and eliminating the many forms of government in this county."

Compromise Document

Albrecht urged his listeners to keep in mind the proposed charter is a compro-

personnel system and gathering information for proposed budgets, he said.

"We have established a department of judicial administration, which basically would perform the functions now performed by the superior court clerk with the head of this department appointed from a list of three submitted by superior court judges."

Smooth Transition

The transitory section of the charter provides a basic organization for carrying out the business of the county during the first two years of the charter, Albrecht said, and Mrs. Gundy emphasized the section is "like a two-stage rocket," with the initial thrust separated from the main body of the charter in May of 1971, leaving only the basic document.

Albrecht pointed out the charter provides basic guidelines for the hiring, firing, promotion and demotion of employes based upon merit and performance, leaving the rest to rules adopted later by ordinance. These rules guarantee a right of appeal before a five-member board, including one member elected by the employes themselves.

People Important

"A concern for the people is interwoven into the fabric of all parts of the charter," Mrs. Gunby said.

Significant provisions to protect the public's interest include a fiscal watchdog to report on the operations of the chief executive, a complaint office, a conflict-of-interest ordinance, more detailed disclosure of campaign expenses, a clause for limited political activity, an anti-discriminatory section, and increased opportunity for non-partisan type participation in county government.

"If the independent candidate who files for office receives at least 20 per cent of the votes cast in the primaries, the one receiving the plurality of the majority, as the case may be, the independent nominee's name will be placed on the general election ballot," Mrs. Gundy said.

"The charter reserves the right for initiative and referendum to the people and the provisions are more valuable because of their availability. For the first time the people in any county in Washington will have this alternative available to them to protect against undesirable legislation and also to allow citizens to prepare their own legislation if they so wish. Referendum of an ordinance to the voters may be petitioned by eight per cent and an initiative by 10 per cent of those voting in the preceding election for the county executive."

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Needs Public Help

With little fanfare, Washington State's Constitutional Revision Commission has been pumping along throughout the summer in an effort to come up with a document that could be the basis for much-needed modernization in government.

Gov. Dan Evans appointed the 18-member commission last May. He asked the commission to offer recommendations to him by November 15. These recommendations the governor could either put before the Legislature which convenes in January or have them available when, as and if a constitutional convention is called.

So far, the governor-appointed commission headed by Dr. C. Clement French, retired president of Washington State University has spent most of its effort mulling proposals to revamp the executive branch of government.

Reports indicate – not surprisingly – that commissioners have taken a position which greatly strengthens the office and power of the governor.

The tentative draft for the executive branch reportedly recommends elimination of all elective state officers . . . except the governor. Under this arrangement, the Legislature would have broad power to detail the type of administrative arrangement the governor would head. With another swing of the pendulum, the tentative proposal would give the governor authority to change the administrative setup – subject, however, to a veto by a majority of both houses of the Legislature.

The presumption is, apparently, that the department heads would be appointed by the governor under this arrangement and be confirmed by the Senate. It was reported, additionally, that the commission hadn't so far spelled out the appointment procedure in detail, partly on the theory that the way should be left open for the Legislature to create additional elective posts if such were deemed necessary.

The Constitutional Revision Commission so far hasn't held any public hearings. Dr. French said the commission probably will hold such hearings at the time it undertakes to spell out the part of a constitution dealing with taxes.

We would like to suggest that the commission ought to back up a bit and schedule some public hearings to get the widest possible range of views on how the executive department could best be set up.

The group wrestling with changes for the state constitution might well take a leaf from the book of the King County Board of Freeholders. The freeholders – elected rather than appointed – scheduled numerous public hearings and public meetings throughout the county in an attempt to gather all divergent views of what a new King County charter should be.

The freeholders got those views . . . and they recently came up with a charter

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Seattle, Wash.
Argus
(Cir. W. 7,720)

SEP 13 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est 1888

30 years too late

New Charter Is Outdated For Present-Day Needs

2177

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 amend-

Continued on Page 4

Marysville, Wash.
Globe
(Cir. W. 2,470)

SEP 12 1968

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

Freeholders favor council from gov't.

The Snohomish County Board of Freeholders, at their meeting Wednesday, September 4, again interviewed attorneys seeking a legal adviser position in their charter construction.

At the business meeting, the subjects taken up were taken from the agenda. The first was the size of the council, and it was decided that due to present growth of the county, five councilmen would not be inadequate. The council made a firm vote for seven councilmen.

The Freeholders also separated the legislative from administrative by voting to have an executive department headed by a chief executor, who will be elected.

A GIRL was born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis Hawkins of 11700 36th Dr., N. E. Marysville, August 13, at Providence Hospital in Everett.

A GIRL was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole of 1614 1th St., Marysville, August 13, at Everett General Hospital.

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Continued from Page 1

ment 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.

Allen's 2/7/7

Question About That Charter 2/7/7

Presumably the proposed New King County Charter will be debated exhaustively before it is put to a vote. There are a number of points to be at issue.

For instance, Richard Albrecht, Freeholders chairman, has been quoted as follows:

"It (the Charter) will provide better administration for the county, with executive functions of the executive officer separated from legislative functions of the council." (The proposal is to elect an executive, as well as members of a nine-place council.)

It appears to us that such a system will insure that both proposed executive and council members will at all times be deeply involved in politics. There will be continuous struggle to "control" the council, also to insure that the executive acts sympathetically to the controlling council members.

Further, there is nothing in latter day Congress, State Legislature or City Council experience to indicate that such a council will mind simply its legislative chores. Rather, all signs indicate it would interfere with, if not actually direct, administration, and perhaps unduly influence executive actions.

We hope a way will be found completely to bar county councilmen from any but legislative activity. They should have to do with policy, nothing more.

Shoreline Concurs

2177

Municipal League Endorses Charter

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, today welcomed the Municipal League's endorsment of the proposed county charter.

CODE-S, Shoreline Community Council also voted its support for the charter which will be on the November 5 general-election ballot.

The Municipal League's board of trustees voted unanimously Monday to endorse the home-rule charter and to actively support its passage.

"THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE commends the freeholders for the task they have performed," the trustees' resolution said.

Albrecht, said, "I take it as recognition on their part that they see the charter as an improvement over our present form of county government."

The proposed charter is different in two main areas from what the league had recommended. The league had recommended appointment of the county assessor and nomination by district, but election county-wide, of county councilmen.

Besides the chief executive and nine councilmen, only the assessor would be elected under the charter. The charter also calls for election of councilmen from districts.

DESPITE THIS, a league spokesman said, the league felt the charter is a definite improvement over the present form of county government.

The league had not taken a position on whether county government should be partisan or non partisan and whether the chief executive should be elected or appointed. County government would remain partisan under the charter.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the league's county government committee, told the trustees the league has been interested in a change in county-government structure since 1944. The league was active in the constitutional amendment of 1948 that allowed counties to draft home-rule charters.

Charter Officially Makes November Ballot List

2177

Each commissioner praised the freeholders for a job well done in drafting the King County Charter, a document designed to modernize county government, as they approve the home-rule charter for the November ballot Monday.

It's up to the voters now, but for six months the charter was in the hands of the Board of County Freeholders, who worked long hours studying the present system and drafting an outline "that will provide hope for the 20th Century," freeholder chairman Richard Albrecht said in presenting the charter to the commissioners.

All 15 freeholders have signed the charter. The "home-rule" provision lies open to voters Nov. 5.

South District Commissioner Ed Munro offered commendation on a difficult task well done. He realized compromise was necessary on the part of the freeholders. "I do not agree with all parts of the charter, and I doubt if any of you would have written it exactly as it is."

Albrecht, with seven other freeholders present for the formal presentation of the charter, referred back to December when the board had first met with the commissioners. "At that time we didn't know what the contents of the charter would be. . .but we did have the goal of submitting our work this year."

"We organized the freeholders," he said, ". . .then learned about the present system, sought out the problems of other counties and conferred with experts across the nation." "Each freeholder was informed; then the deliberation began."

After the first draft was completed the freeholders sought the advice of King County citizens at hearings. Many sessions followed as the charter was pulled into final shape.

The freeholders unanimously approved the charter last week.

Albrecht said King County people are ready for Home Rule, whereby they can have charge of their own government.

The charter generally provides for a system of checks and balances between an elected executive and a board of nine councilmen, elected by district. The executive has a veto power.

The full-time councilmen will receive $18,000 per year. The executive's salary will not go over $27,000. A redistricting provision of the charter requires redistricting of the nine council units every five years according to population.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office, only indirectly affected by the charter since it is a direct agent of the state, and the assessor, judges and the superintendent of schools remain elective offices under the charter.

Other business carried out by the commissioners Monday:

Set a hearing for the proposed County Traffic Code for Oct. 7.

Set an appeal hearing Nov. 21 for a Riverton Heights developer seeking reversal of a recent Planning Commission decision refusing a maximum density apartment rezone. A $5 million apartment complex is proposed for the property.

The nine acre site at 42nd S. and 4th Ave. S., between S. 136th (if extended) and S. 138th was qualified by the commission as not meeting County Comprehensive Plan criteria for the maximum density zoning. The owners will attempt to show how the development does fall within county standards.

Accepted the valuation certificate reflecting that the assessed valuation of property in King County, as of Dec. 31, was $2,015,124,666.

A CHARTER FOR KING COUNTY

Mayor Executive Would Be The 'Mayor' County Government Needs—Albrecht

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, in answering questions from the press last week regarding the executive post created by the proposed Charter for King County said, "Yes, the executive would be the 'mayor' of the county." "But instead of autonomous," he continued, "I would refer to the post as one with sufficient authority and responsibility so the elected executive can run on his record." He must have the influence to direct the mounting complexities of the county toward effective government," Albrecht said.

Studies done on home-rule counties in the country during the six-month preparation of the charter revealed that a strong executive is usually included in the government form.

Albrecht, along with freeholders Virginia Gunby and James Curran, was speaking to a room full of League of Women Voters members from south county groups at Meeker's Landing, Kent, Wednesday. The luncheon meeting, with a two-hour charter program, was the first time the Highline, South County and Renton Leagues had met jointly.

Three members of the press from south county publications were Ray Kelley, managing editor of Des Moines and Federal Way weeklies and Marcia Blue, county reporter for Associated Weeklies papers.

Other members of the press quizzed the freeholders in a half-hour session. The questions did not, however, seem geared to pick the document apart in the "Meet the Press" fashion. In the words of Virginia Burnside, county reporter for Fournier's Valley newspapers, "It's hard to pick apart something of which you're in favor."

During the meeting many phases of the charter were explored. The Freeholders finished the document at the beginning of the month, and the County Commissioners adopted it Sept. 9 for inclusion on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Albrecht urged the audience of 100 women: remember the nature of the Board of Freeholders when you read the charter and come to the sections you don't agree with. Compromises were made on many points by the 15 freeholders, who represent many political views.

But in Mrs. Gunby's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that's what the charter is all about."

Checks and Balances

The new charter would establish executive and legislative branches of King County government to replace the quasi-administrative-legislative-judicial function of the present three county commissioners. The charter includes a system of checks and balances.

The head of the Department of Judicial Administration, the superior court clerk, will be chosen by the county execu from three names submitte a majority of the Superior C judges. "This," said Albre "is an illustration of the 'l ance of powers' in the syster

He likened the executive t chief-of-staff of the admi trative department, whose would be to furnish services other departments of cou government.

The executive appoints

County charter ready for vote

After nine months of intensive work, the Board of King County Freeholders developed a proposed county charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 Freeholders September 6.

The proposed charter then was submitted September 9 to the King County Commissioners who placed the proposed charter on the November 5 General Ballot.

The Freeholder office, located in Room 905-A of the King County Courthouse, will continue to be staffed through the November election to answer inquiries and provide a clearing house for information in connection with the charter, according to Richard Albrecht, Freeholder chairman.

Printed copies of the proposed charter will be available for distribution to organizations and citizens of the county after Friday, September 20. Requests for copies may be made directly to the Freeholder office by telephoning MA-5900, ext. 557, or MA3-5556.

Seattle, Wash.
U. District Herald
(Cir. W. 23,105)

SEP 18 1968

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

46th District GOP To Hear Frank Ramon

William H. "Skeeter" Ellis, President of the 46th District Republican Club announces the following programs of current interest for the September and October meetings.

On Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 30 p m. Chief of Police Frank Ramon will speak on "Law Enforcement In The Seattle Area."

On Monday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary of the Free Holders will speak on "The Proposed County Charter" which will appear on the November Ballot.

The Club meets at the Lake City Community Center, 12531 28th NE and all interested Republicans are invited to attend.

The last section provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the officers, departments, boards and councils established by the charter. The final article will be dropped from the charter.

She listed as "safeguards for the people:"

An appointed auditor in the legislative branch, the fiscal "watchdog" of the chief executive. "The people have never had this check before."

Office of Citizens' Complaints, a direct line of communication from the citizen to county government.

County records open to public inspection.

Conflict of Interest, an ordinance to be established that prohibits county officers and employees from performing between their public duties in areas in which they have private investments.

Campaign expenditure provision whereby a candidate must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and sources of funds.

Anti-discriminatory clause, which prohibits contracts with firms that discriminate.

Initiative and Referendum provided to the voters, for the first time, so they can write their own legislation.

Automatic redistricting required every five years.

Automatic review of the charter every 10 years.

What will be the cost of this streamlined government? Curran said that to get talent on the county council you need to offer compensation. A full-time councilman will be paid $18,000 annually.

"This is small compared to the overall budget," he commented.

He did not give a definite figure—no budget had actually been worked out—but through better organization, the county is likely to be drawing more revenue, always a problem. "We don't now get our fair share from state and federal sources," he said.

If the charter fails, Mrs. Gunby explained that a county charter can be passed by the state legislature. But that is "rocky road," and besides, the state could not go as far as we have in the home-rule concept, but only as far as Amendment 21 to the state constitution allows.

If passed in November, the charter would go into effect May 1. A special primary Feb. 11 and general election March 11 would put into office the new county officials provided for in the charter.

Copies of the charter will be available to organizations and citizens after Sept. 20 through the Freeholder office, located in Rm. 905-A of the County Courthouse, MA 2-5900, Ext. 557.

A speaker's bureau is provided through the office, also.

This Reform Effort Needs Public Help

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More Good Than Bad in Charter Plan

ONE impression which takes form from reading over the proposed King County charter is that the freeholders who drafted it did a more than passable job of combining old-fashioned horse sense with idealistic theories on governmental structure.

Election Preview

To do this, they drew on the advice of old professionals in government administration and political scientists as a means of producing a document to provide the county with a modern structure of legislative and executive government while having a reasonable chance of weathering the test of the electorate at the polls in November.

The freeholders obviously compromised on the matter of the county assessor. Political scientists would have made the position appointive in hopes of securing technically qualified assessors. But since this would have re-created the issue which was largely responsible for defeat of another proposed county charter in 1952, the office of assessor was left elective.

The political Achilles' heel of the charter, if there is one, is the provision to establish a nine-member county council, or legislative branch, with each member receiving $18,000 annually.

THEN, IN ORDER to insure the proper separation of the powers of the county council and the county executive officer, the freeholders adopted some restrictive language to require the councilmen to keep their cotton-picking fingers out of administrative matters. The restriction is a good one.

Yet it leaves one wondering just what the nine county councilmen are going to do with the time on their hands at $18,000 annually. Clearly, a nonsalaried board would have $18,000 annually. Clearly, a nonsalaried board would have been more palatable to the electorate and there would be less meddling by councilmen in administrative matters.

But should discontent over a salaried county council restricted mainly to policy-making be reasonable grounds for dumping the whole charter? This is the question which citizens should weigh carefully in the weeks until the election.

When the proposed charter is compared with the existing structural setup in the county government, the document offers many betterments.

PROVISION is made to install the people's rights of initiative, referendum and recall, an office of "citizens' complaints," more meaningful board of appeals for property-tax evaluations, a county-wide personnel system, a ban on political activities by county employes where it might pertain to county elective officers, and a tough requirement for periodic reapportioning councilmen's districts.

Perhaps having in mind the unwillingness of the State Legislature to comply with the constitutional mandate for reapportioning itself every ten years, the freeholders prescribe penalties if the county council fails to do so every five years.

The freeholders decreed that failure to redistrict would result in withholding the county councilmen's salaries until they redistricted—at which time they would get only half their salaries for the period they procrastinated.

The most attractive features of the charter, of course, are in seemingly routine requirements for budget making, centralized administration of executive and other business-management functions which should meet the desires of political scientists if not those of the old political pros who may like things the way they are now.

NATURALLY, these business-administration betterments hold very little political sex appeal because of their

Charter Plan Gets League OK

By Our County News Bureau

The proposed new county charter passed a major hurdle Monday night when it won the unanimous approval of the board of trustees of the Seattle-King County Municipal League.

According to League President James Gay, the organization plans an active campaign to help assure voter approval of the new charter at the polls November 9. He said the League will co-operate with Paul Friedlander, a member of the Board of King County Freeholders who is co-ordinating the effort with a citizens' committee now being formed.

The new charter was approved last week by the League's committee on King County government that was specially created to make recommendations to the freeholders as to what should be included in the charter . . . and to study the document once it was completed.

Gordon Conger, chairman of the committee, stated that the group's endorsement also was unanimous.

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

SEP 18 1968

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

Overlake Associated GOP Women To Meet

The first meeting of the 1968-69 season for the Overlake Republican Women is scheduled for Monday at 10:30 a.m. at The Barb Restaurant with a no-host luncheon to follow.

James O'Conner, attorney, who has announced his candidacy for the chairmanship of the King County Republican Party will be the speaker.

O'Conner is president of the King County Young Republicans and a member of the King County Board of Freeholders. He has held a post of precinct committeeman in King County and was a member of the 1968 King County Rules Committee at the Republican convention.

All interested Republican women from the area are welcome to attend the meeting and luncheon.

Additional information m be obtained by calling M Jess Ramaker, SH 6-4190.

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

SEP 18 1968

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

A CHARTER FOR KING COUNTY

New Executive Would Be The 'Mayor'

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, in answering questions from the press last week regarding the executive post created by the proposed Charter for King County said, "Yes, the executive would be the 'mayor' of the county." "But instead of autonomous," he continued, "I would refer to the post as one with sufficient authority and responsibility so the elected executive can run on his record." He must have the influence to direct the mounting complexities of the county toward effective government," Albrecht said.

Studies done on home-rule counties in the country during the six-month preparation of the charter revealed that a strong executive is usually included in the government form.

Albrecht, along with freeholders Virginia Gunby and James Curran, was speaking to a room full of League of Women Voters members from south county groups at Meeker's Landing, Kent, Wednesday. The luncheon meeting, with a two-hour charter program, was the first time the Highline, South County and Renton Leagues had met jointly.

Three members of the press from south county publications quizzed the freeholders in a half-hour session. The questions did not, however, seem geared to pick the document apart in the "Meet the Press" fashion. In the words of Virginia Burnside, county reporter for Fournier's Valley newspapers, "It's hard to pick apart something of which you're in favor."

Other members of the press were Ray Kelley, managing editor of Des Moines and Federal Way weeklies and Marcia Blue, county reporter for Associated Weeklies papers.

During the meeting many phases of the charter were explored. The Freeholders finished the document at the beginning of the month, and the County Commissioners adopted it Sept. 9 for inclusion on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Albrecht urged the audience of 100 women remember the nature of the Board of Freeholders when you read the charter and come to the sections you don't agree with. Compromises were made on many points by the 15 freeholders, who represent many political views.

But in Mrs. Gunby's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that's what the charter is all about."

Checks and Balances

The new charter would establish executive and legislative branches of King County government to replace the quasi-administrative-legislative-judicial function of the present three county commissioners. The charter includes a system of checks and balances.

The head of the Department of Judicial Administration, the superior court clerk, will be chosen by the county executive from three names submitted by a majority of the Superior Court judges. "This," said Albrecht, "is an illustration of the 'balance of powers' in the system."

He likened the executive to a chief-of-staff of the administrative department, whose job would be to furnish services to other departments of county government.

The executive appoints the chief administrator and the heads of the executive departments, the agencies furnishing services directly to residents of the county and which are engaged in enforcement of ordinances and state laws.

Albrecht pointed out that one check provided by the charter is the majority approval required from the nine councilmen (replacing the three commissioners) to validate executive appointments.

One executive department that will not follow this procedure is that of Assessments. The County Assessor, under the charter, will remain an elected official. An amendment to the charter, however, would not be required to make the assessor an appointed official, as are the other heads of executive departments under the charter. "If state law changes on this matter," Albrecht points out, "then the assessor would automatically become an appointive position."

Nine Councilmen

Curran, speaking on the topic of the new legislature, said the charter was designed to bring spokesmen for the 1.4 million citizens of King County. The councilmen's main job will be to represent their districts. In this capacity they will take over the functions of many of the present boards and commissions.

Now, says Albrecht, the commissioners have time only to respond to crises. Under the charter they will have time to plan.

A Rocket Shot

Mrs. Gunby likened the transitional section of the charter to the initial thrust of a staged rocket.

The last section provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the officers, departments, boards and councils established by the charter. The final article will be dropped from the charter.

She listed as "safeguards for the people:"

An appointed auditor in the legislative branch, the fiscal "watchdog" of the chief executive. "The people have never had this check before."

Office of Citizens' Complaints, a direct line of communication from the citizen to county government.

County records open to public inspection.

Conflict of Interest, an ordinance to be established that prohibits county officers and employees from performing between their public duties in areas in which they have private investments.

Campaign expenditure provision whereby a candidate must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and sources of funds.

Anti-discriminatory clause, which prohibits contracts with firms that discriminate.

Initiative and Referendum provided to the voters, for the first time, so they can write their own legislation.

Automatic redistricting required every five years.

Automatic review of the charter every 10 years.

What will be the cost of this streamlined government? Curran said that to get talent on

Times Readers Have Their Say:

Charter Plan Top-Heavy on Salaries

2177

Editor, The Times:

AN editorial in The Times several weeks ago relative to the proposed King County charter pointed out very well one of the truly objectionable provisions of the charter, namely a nine-member council at a salary of $18,000 a year for each member.

In addition, the charter calls for a county executive at a salary of $27,000 a year.

The county executive in turn would appoint a county administrative officer at an undisclosed salary.

The last Legislature approved a 20 per cent increase in salary for our present county commissioners, effective January 1, 1969, which brings their salaries to $18,000 a year.

While I agree that running the government of King County is big business, a board of three county commissioners, with the aid of a well-qualified county executive, certainly should be adequate to administer the business of the county.

Running the schools and Port of Seattle is also big business. The boards of education operate with members having no compensation. Port of Seattle commissioners receive token compensation of $1 a year . . .

There are some good provisions in the charter, and the freeholders should be commended for a lot of hard work. However the publication of the proposed charter does not mention the $18,000 salary figure, and I understand this figure will not appear on the November ballot.

If the voter is well informed on the provisions in the charter mentioned above, I predict a disastrous defeat for the charter in the November election.

—W. J. N., Seattle.

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STUDENTS' DRESS

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

'CHARTER' NEXT SEMINAR SET BY JAYCEES

2177

On Thursday, September 19, the second in a series of seminars designed to inform and stimulate individual participation in politics wll be presented by the White Center Jaycees.

The first seminar (in July) studied the question of "Your Involvement in Politics, Yes or No?" The second seminar will deal with the topic "County Government — Its Effect on You."

King County Freeholder Bob Eberle will attend to discuss the newly-drafted King County Charter. This charter will be presented to the voters on November 5 for ratification.

The current seminar will be held at Smitty's Pancake House, 104th and 16th Avenue S.W., at 7 to 11 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

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

SEP 19 1968

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LIPPING BUR

2177

By MRS EVELYN AMYES

Official observer for the League Of Women Voters at the sessions of the King County Freeholders

The proposed King County Charter, approved unanimously by the 15 elected Freeholders recently, now is in the hands of the County Commissioners and is ready for the November 5 ballot.

The proposed charter allows the negotiation of contracts between the county and any other governments or governmental agencies to provide services or share costs and responsibilities. It does not abolish special districts but allows cooperation with them. It provides for partisan elections but allows independent candidates to run in the primary and, if qualified by votes, in the general election.

The county executive will be granted all executive powers of the county. He will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least 1½ times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). He will prepare and present to the council a budget, a comprehensive plan and a state of the county message; will appoint boards and commissions, serving on those new served by a county commissioner, will be the chief peace officer, sign all contracts, sign or veto all council ordinances, appoint, with council concurrence, or remove the chief administrative officer and all executive department chiefs, and supervise all executive and administrative offices.

When the charter is adopted, the executive departments will be the departments of: public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health, records and elections, finance, parks, planning, and building.

The chief administrator will appoint, with executive approval, or remove heads of administrative offices. On adoption of the charter, they will be the offices of: budgets and accounts, personnel, systems and services, and property and purchasing. State law does not allow creation of a civil legal department to advise the executive.

The assessor will remain elective unless state law in this regard is changed, but his office is included in the administrative branch, and his employees covered by the personnel system.

The clerk of the court will be appointed by the executive from a list supplied by the Superior Court judges, but his employees and budget will fall in the executive department. His department of judicial administration will maintain court records and files and perform other duties assigned by the judges.

The legislature, called the county council, will be made up of nine full-time members paid the present commissioner's salary ($15,000 per year). They are prevented by charter from assuming any administrative duties.

The council will adopt ordinances; pass motions which, though not law, can state council objectives; override executive vetos by vote of six or more councilmen, levy taxes, adopt a budget, adm...

judical administration.

The county auditor will be appointed by the council to make a post audit of financial operations, review accounting procedures and efficiency of operations of the county. Annual audits, by the state, of county finances will continue unchanged.

Some quasi-judicial duties now handled by the commissioners will go to a seven member board of appeals appointed for four year rotating terms, with per diem pay, by the executive with the confirmation of the council. This board will hear appeals from zoning variances, tax assessment valuations, and other appeals assigned by the council. Its decisions may be appealed to the courts.

A unified county budget is provided. It must include all funds, revenues, and reserves, must be divided into programs including capital expenditure plans, and must be balanced. It will be prepared by the county executive from requests from all department heads, and presented to the council, which can add, delete, or restrict items but cannot change the form of the ...ive may then ... of veto sections.

A personnel system will be established by the charter.

The chief administrative officer will prepare rules for the council to adopt as ordinances and the executive to administrater. The rules will establish a career service; forbid county employees from contributing to any campaign for elective county office; classify positions on the basis of duties and responsibilities; prohibit discrimination in hiring and advancement on the basis of age, sex, religion, color, race, or national origin; provide for appeals to a personnel board; and allow collective bargaining by employees.

Four members of the personnel board will be appointed by the executive with council confirmation and the fifth will be elected by career service employees.

After two years, the present civil service system of the sheriff's office can be merged with the county career service. A few positions will be exempt from the career service regulations including elected officers, heads of departments, an assistant and confidential secretary to each, students, administrative interns, doctors, and dentists.

A section, concerning conflict of interest, prohibits any officer or employee from accepting gifts from those having dealings with the county or having any financial interest in any sale to or by the county. Another section provides for complete disclosure of campaign expenditures and of contributions including services or materials.

The right of recall is provided as is the right of initiative and referendum of general legislation (not including budgetary matters, salaries or emergency ordinances).

A citizen complaint bureau, whose director will be appointed by the council, will investigate, subpoena witnesses and documents, and make and publicize recommendations.

Boundaries of the council districts will be reviewed every five years, starting in 1971, and redistricting is required if inequities exist.

If the council has not passed a districting ordinance in two months after the first of the required year, an executive-appointed committee will make recommendations.

(Continued on page 2)

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Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

SEP 25 1968

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

Charter Seen as Essential Step— South County Pundits

Two local proponents of the proposed King County Charter view the document as the essential first step toward a government that can effectively accommodate a county that has reached an unprecedented growth rate.

In the estmation of County Commissioner Ed Munro, the charter will establish the skeleton of a governmental form which can be subtracted from and built on. He endorsed the charter last week, saying "I'm endorsing it on the basis that it will provide something better than the present system, and I think everyone should endorse the charter on that basis."

Norman Ackley, former 31st District legislator and one of the 15 freeholders who drew up the charter, pointed out that the better structure provided by the charter should satisfy the public feeling about county modernization and improvement.

Both say there are parts of the charter they do not approve, other points they would have liked to have seen included; but they also feel that it's necessary.

The 46-page charter has been meeting the bows and blows from citizens, organizations and county officials since its debut two weeks ago when the County Commissioners placed it on the Nov. 5 ballot.

For a synopsis of the charter see pg. ——, Sec. ——.

Elected Assessor

Generally, the freeholders have been commended, although certain provisions of the charter have been criticized.

In Ackley's estimation setting the assessment level requires a skilled appraiser. "Fixing the value of property shouldn't be a policy making decision," he said. "Even the County Assessor (Allen Morgan) thinks the assessor's post should be appointive."

The charter continues the elective office of Assessor; this was one of the areas of controversy and only one of compromise among the nine liberals and six conservatives on the Board of Freeholders.

Provisions Ackley said would make King County government more democratic and modern: responsive executive branch, expanded base of commissioners, modern performance budget, nine councilman districts apportioned according to population and areas with common interests.

No. 34?

Some advantages of the proposed 34th county home-rule charter in the United States, from Munro's view, are no implied powers and an established chain of command.

He added that every successful organization has an executive, which the charter provides for. The most important outline, he continued for local government is the division of the executive and legislative branches.

Munro, who if re-elected to his third term as commissioner will automatically be the legislator or councilman for the 7th district under the new charter, ended his term as president of the National Association of Counties recently.

He pointed out that of the 3,000 counties in the U.S. only about 40 operate under the home-rule charter form of government; most have the commissioner form. This is one of the reasons "counties are in trouble." The most advanced, like Weschester, N.Y., have established the council-executive formula, he said.

(According to research by the freeholders' staff, 33 counties are charter counties, which would make King County number 34 if the charter passes in November. A simple majority of these voting that day is needed for the charter's adoption.)

Munro pointed out the weakness in the system that comes from fragmentation in planning. He said the charter system would allow for the setting up practical functions of government. When a problem arose it could be assigned a certain function instead of the present need for creating a new department to meet a crisis.

Overlapping of functions could be eliminated. Such current agencies as the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, the Air Pollution Control and Metro are needed because up to now the county hasn't been able to handle the jobs created by a rapidly increasing population, he said.

Freeholder Says Union 'No' Vote Is Unfounded

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

The battle lines are drawn!

This was the reaction yesterday of the chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders to a turn-down voted Tuesday night by the powerful District 751 Lodge of the International Association of Machinists & Aero-Space Workers.

The union's council voted, 29-1, to reject the charter after its legislative committee headed by Tom Finnegan had recommended that the union take no action on the charter either way.

Richard Albrecht declared that "it's a shame organized labor is opposing constructive change on a purely selfish basis when the opportunity for dramatic improvement in county government is being offered."council

Professing ignorance of the reason for the union's refusal, Albrecht noted that any concern the union might have that collective bargaining for county employes has not been provided for in the charter is unfounded.

"This was most carefully and deliberately spelled out when Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, and myself appeared before the union's legislative committee to explain the charger's provisions, and labor's potential relationship to it," he declared.

Other reasons for the turndown were rumoured to include opposition to the nine-man legislative districting plan **from which the county's proposed county council would be chosen.**

In comment, Albrecht declared those districts were drawn at first without regard to political consequences.

"Initial allegations these district lines were politically unfair produced a redrawing of lines for the entire county which all 15 of the freeholders agreed was fair," he declared. "It is impossible to predict the political charcter of many districts because the only available information on which these conclusions can be drawn is the result of an election, and this, in turn, depends on who the candidate is."

The rejection of the charter by the union brings to five the number of organizations which have formally opposed the charter, — all labor organizations. The charter is being supported by the majority of "good-government" types of groups, including the Leagues of Women Voters of Puget Sound, Seattle-King County Municipal League and Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

Cir. w. 3,512

SEP 26 1968

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

Charter Plan Gets League OK

By Our County News Bureau

The proposed new county charter passed a major hurdle Monday night when it won the unanimous approval of the board of trustees of the Seattle-King County Municipal League.

According to League President James Gay, the organization plans an active campaign to help assure voter approval of the new charter at the polls November 9. He said the League will co-operate with Paul Friedlander, a member of the Board of King County Freeholders who is co-ordinating the effort with a citizens' committee now being formed.

The new charter was approved last week by the League's committee on King County government that was specially created to make recommendations to the freeholders as to what should be included in the charter . . . and to study the document once it was completed.

WOMEN VOTERS:

All Leagues Support Home Rule

The Leagues of Women Voters in King County announce their support of the proposed King County Home Rule Charter. League members plan to actively participate in the campaign for the Charter's passage.

Mrs. Harold Mozer of Bellevue will coordinate activities of all Leagues.

Mrs. James L. Weymouth of Lake Washington East will assist with efforts to inform voters in the East Side area.

League members have agreed, on the basis of many years of study and evaluation of County government, that the proposed Charter incorporates the basic principles necessary for sound management of the county.

In announcing their position, the Leagues stated, "King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the State Constitution which established our form of county government. Recent scandals have shown its inadequacy."

"Our choice is between the government we now have and the form provided by the proposed charter, which is more flexible and better able to solve metropolitan area problems. An elected executive, a nine member council and a board of appeals provide the advantage of separation of powers. Other provisions of the charter increase the responsiveness to the electorate and to changing conditions."

Vote League Gives OK To Charter

By Our County News Bureau

Momentum leading to the passage of the proposed new county charter Nov. 5 picked up steam Wednesday with the endorsement of the document by the Leagues of Women Voters in the Seattle and suburban areas.

Included among those chapters supporting the charter are Renton League of Women Voters and League of Women Voters of South King County. Mrs. Robert Plat, president of the Renton League, and Mrs. Henry V. Charnell, president of the South King County League, informed Paul Friedlander, Seattle freeholder co-ordinating the community effort, that both organizations intended to work for the passage of the charter.

Friedlander has scheduled a press conference Wednesday to announce the members of the citizens' committee who will head the selling job. Friedlander said 15 top-drawer business and community leaders have agreed to serve on the group. A chairman also is to be announced at Wednesday's meeting.

212 A

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
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LWV Units To Discuss County Charter Functions

2177

What are the functions of the county council as provided in the proposed County Charter?

Does the charter offer the private citizen new power and protection?

Will the members of the council be responsive to the electorate?

What about financing?

How does this charter compare to the charter submitted to the voters in 1952?

All of these questions and many more will be discussed in a series of meetings of the League of Women Voters scheduled for the week of September 30 through October 3.

Copies of the County Charter drafted by the Committee of Freeholders will be available and an evaluation will be presented. Adoption of the charter will be determined by the voters at the November 5 election. Members and guests are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to study and form opinions on this important ballot issue.

A variety of times and places make it easy to choose a convenient meeting to attend. Members are reminded to note changes in some units.

UNIT 1 – Monday, September 30, 8 p.m. Mrs. Warren Taylor, 3241 - 78th Place N.E., Bellevue.

UNIT 2 – Tuesday, October 1, 10 a.m. Mrs. Grant Barker, 9314 S.E. Shoreland Drive, Bellevue.

UNIT 3 – Thursday, October 3, 8 p.m. Mrs. E.V. Lade, 7435 N.E. 129th, Kirkland.

UNIT 5 – Thursday, October 3, 10 a.m. Mrs. Abraham Hertzberg, 10317 S.E. 28th, Bellevue.

UNIT 6 – Call Mrs. Richard Mandeville, GL 4-2621 for time and place.

UNIT 7 – Thursday, October 3, 8 p.m. Mrs. Edward Kane, 4726 - 118th S.E., Bellevue.

UNIT 8 – Wednesday, October 2, 9:30 a.m. Issaquah Library, Issaquah.

UNIT 10 – Wednesday, October 2, 10 a.m. Mrs. Charles Goodner, 12 Bridlewood Circle Kirkland.

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213 A

New Executive Would Be The 'Mayor' County Government Needs— Albrecht

2177

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Other members of the press were Ray Kelley, managing editor of Des Moines and Federal Way weeklies and Marcia Blue, county reporter for Associated Weeklies papers.

During the meeting many phases of the charter were explored. The Freeholders finished the document at the beginning of the month, and the County Commissioners adopted it Sept. 9 for inclusion on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Albrecht urged the audience of 100 women: remember the nature of the Board of Freeholders when you read the charter and come to the sections you don't agree with. Compromises were made on many points by the 15 freeholders, who represent many political views.

But in Mrs. Gunby's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that's what the charter is all about."

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(Continued on Page 8)

212 43

Available On County Charter

After nine months of intensive work, the Board of King County freeholders has developed a proposed county charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 freeholders on Sept. 6, 1968.

The proposed charter was submitted to the King County Commissioners on Monday, September 9, 1968, and the Commissioners placed the proposed charter on the November 5, 1968 general ballot.

The freeholder office, located in Room 905-A of the King County Courthouse, will continue to be staffed through the November election to answer inquiries and provide a clearing house for information in connection with the charter.

Printed copies of the proposed charter will be available for distribution to organizations and citizens of the county after September 20th. Requests for copies may be made directly to the freeholder office by telephoning MA 2-5900, Ext 557.

condone gambling despite the paradoxical attitudes and laws relating to gambling which are almost universally not enforced. Who's next for bingo?

* * *

Public Not Warming To Charter Proposals—

From where we sit we find little evidence of any growing affection for the proposed charter of modern government which is spawned by the 15 tried and

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Government Needs—Albrecht

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But in Mrs. Gunby's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that's what the charter is all about."

Nine Councilmen

Curran, speaking on the topic of the new legislature, said the charter was designed to bring King County government more in line with state and city government forms, because the present system cannot cope with the problems. The board of nine councilmen was a compromise between the seven to 11-member boards governing the cities throughout the county.

The main impetus for creating a charter form of government, he said, was a lack of spokesmen for the 1.4 million citizens of King County. The councilmen's main job will be to represent their districts. In this capacity they will take over the functions of many of the present boards and commissions.

Now, says Albrecht, the commissioners have time only to respond to crises. Under the charter they will have time to plan.

A Rocket Shot

Mrs. Gunby, likened the transitional section of the charter to the initial thrust of a staged rocket.

Checks and Balances

The new charter would establish executive and legislative branches of King County government to replace the quasi-administrative-legislative-judicial function of the present three county commissioners. The charter includes a system of checks and balances.

The head of the Department of Judicial Administration, the superior court clerk, will be chosen by the county executive from three names submitted by a majority of the Superior Court judges. "This," said Albrecht, "is an illustration of the 'balance of powers' in the system."

He likened the executive to a chief-of-staff of the administrative department, whose job would be to furnish services to other departments of county government.

The executive appoints the

chief administrator and the heads of the executive departments, the agencies furnishing services directly to residents of the county and which are engaged in enforcement of ordinances and state laws.

Albrecht pointed out that one check provided by the charter is the majority approval required from the nine councilmen (replacing the three commissioners) to validate executive appointments.

One executive department that will not follow this procedure is that of Assessments. The County Assessor, under the charter, will remain an elected official. An amendment to the charter, however, would not be required to make the assessor an appointed official, as are the other heads of executive departments under the charter. "If state law changes on this matter," Albrecht points out, "then the assessor would automatically become an appointive position."

The last section provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the officers, departments, boards and councils established by the charter. The final article will be dropped from the charter.

She listed as "safeguards for the people:"

An appointed auditor in the legislative branch, the fiscal "watchdog" of the chief executive. "The people have never had this check before."

Office of Citizens' Complaints, a direct line of communication from the citizen to county government.

County records open to public inspection.

Conflict of Interest, an ordinance to be established that prohibits county officers and employees from performing between their public duties in areas in which they have private investments.

Campaign expenditure provision whereby a candidate must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and sources of funds.

Anti-discriminatory clause, which prohibits contracts with firms that discriminate.

Initiative and Referendum provided to the voters, for the first time, so they can write their own legislation.

Automatic redistricting required every five years.

Automatic review of the charter every 10 years.

What will be the cost of this streamlined government? Curran said that to get talent on the county council you need to offer compensation. A full-time councilman will be paid $18,000 annually.

"This is small compared to the overall budget," he commented.

He did not give a definite figure—no budget had actually been worked out—but through better organization, the county is likely to be drawing more revenue, always a problem. "We don't now get our fair share from state and federal sources," he said.

If the charter fails, Mrs. Gunby explained that a county charter can be passed by the state legislature. But that is

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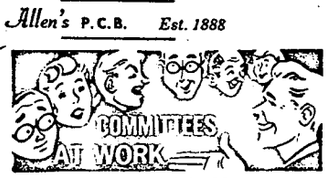

Week of July 22

2177

Candidates Investigating Committee, Wm. V. Latimer, chairman. The committee held two meetings during the week to interview candidates for legislative and county commissioner positions.

Education Subcommittee, Payton Smith and Dick Page, Co-chairmen. Dr. Forbes Bottomly discussed "problems" in education.

Law and the Poor Subcommittee, Larry Carter and Norman Ackley, co-chairmen and **Crime Legislation Subcommittee,** Eben Carlson, chairman. Discussed study of King County bail system.

Committee Chairmen. Reviewed projects for the coming year.

Employment Subcommittee, Peter LeSourd, chairman. Discussed subcommittee assignments.

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. Study of draft of proposed King County Charter.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Discussed report on civil disorders in Central Area.

County Planning, City Planning and Taxation and Revenue Committees, R. Allen Norris, A. Wm. Pratt and Carl Schoenfeld, chairmen. Discussed HJR-1.

City Operations Committee, Phil Mahoney, chairman. Continued discussion of Efficiency Study report.

Housing Subcommittee, George Mack and Carl Gould, co-chairmen. Continued discussion of low income housing.

Week of August 5

Candidates Investigating Committee, Wm. V. Latimer, chairman. Committee held five interview sessions during the week.

Crime Legislation, Eben Carlson, chairman and **Law and the Poor Subcommittee,** Larry Carter and Norman Ackley, co-chairmen. Judge James Dore discussed bail procedures and Seattle District Justice Courts.

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. Committee held two meetings during the week to review draft of proposed King County Charter.

Education Subcommittee, Payton Smith and Dick Page, co-chcairmen. Sen. Wes Uhlman spoke on his proposal for "a surbanban Educational Park."

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen, Discussed report for the Commission on Cause and Prevention of Civil Disorders.

Week of August 12

Candidates Investigating Committee, Wm. V. Latimer, chairman. The Committee held five sessions during the week to interview candidates.

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. The Committee met twice during the week to continue review of draft of proposed King County Charter.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Continued discussion on report for the Comission on Cause and Prevention of Civil Disorders.

Week of August 19

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. Continued study of draft of proposed King County Charter.

Metropolitan Problems and Taxation and Revenue Committees, Fred Utevsky, acting chairman and Carl Schoenfeld, chairman. Reviewed Ref. Measure 17.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Continued study of report for the Commission on Crime and Prevention of Civil disorders.

Law and the Poor, Larry Carter and Norman Ackley, co-chairmen and **Crime Legislations Subcommittee,** Eben Carlson, chairman. John Darrah discussed federal bail system.

County Operations and Governmental Research Committees, John Darrah and Norman Cramb, chairmen. Lyle Watson, Association Elected County Officials, discussed SJR-24.

Jublic Safety Committee, David L. Willimas, chairman. Sheriff Porter discussed his department's budget.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Discussed report on civil disorders in Central Area.

Week of September 3

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. Committee continued study of draft of proposed King County Charter.

City Planning, County Planning and Taxation and Revenue Committees, A. Wm. Pratt, R. Allen Norris and Carl Schoenfeld, chairmen. Discussed Ref. 18.

Education Subcommittee, Payton Smith and Dick Page, co-chairmen. Heard discussion on sub-school board for Central Area.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Continued study of report on civil disorders in Central Area.

Week of September 9

Law and the Poor Subcommittee, Larry Carter and Norman Ackley, co-chairmen and **Crime Legislation Subcommittee,** Eben Carlson, chairman. Subcommittees met twice during week to continue discussion of bail bond procedures.

Education Subcommittee, Payton Smith and Dick Page, co-chairmen. Discussed proposal for Seattle sub-district school board and school problems in Central Area.

Employment Subcommittee, Peter LeSourd, chairman. Discussed status of current activities and priorities for future action.

Police and Community Relations Subcommittee, Edmund Raftis and Dick Weil, co-chairmen. Continued consideration of report on civil disorders in Central Area.

King County Government Committee, Gordon Conger, chairman. Committee approved draft report of proposed King County Charter.

Housing Subcommittee, George Mack and Carl Gould, co-chairmen. Continued discussion of housing in Central Area.

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BOARD ACTS ON KEY ISSUES

2177

A jam-packed agenda kept the League Board of Trustees at work late into the night during their recent monthly meeting on the 16th of September. Some recommendations and committee proposals were endorsed while others fell during the four and half hour work session.

HERE IS A ROUND-UP OF BOARD ACTION

Initiative 32 (log exports) and Initiative 245 (lowering installment credit interest) were both rejected by the Board as measures the League would take no position on. The Trustees felt that both of these initiatives were not within the purview of the organization.

The first committee report was presented by Carl Schoenfeld, chairman of the Taxation and Revenue Committee, reporting on HJR-1. Besides his own committee Mr. Schoenfeld was speaking for the City Planning Committee, Bill Pratt, chairman, and the County Planning Committee, Allen Norris, chairman. These three committees jointly studied HJR-1 and recommended that the Board of Trustees endorse the measure. A minority report was also filed with the Trustees.

Chairman Schoenfeld said the basic purpose of HJR-1 is to develop a special taxation classification for what is considered open space lands. This recreational land would be taxed at its current use rather than on the highest or best use.

After extensive and arduous debate the Board, with a close vote, voted against the committee's recommendation to endorse HJR-1 and took no position.

CHARTER

The next item of business was a recommendation on the proposed County Charter by Gordon Conger, chairman of the King County Government Committee. Mr. Conger reminded the Board of its historical interest in home rule for King County that went back almost 25 years. Chairman Conger then went on to explain the work of the committee and its final recommendation that the charter be adopted. After debate revolving around the nine-member council proposal the Board unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the active endorsement of the charter.

KEY ISSUES ACTED ON

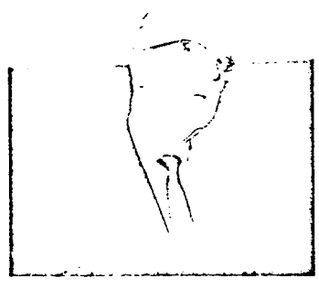
(Continued from Page 53)

partisan county elective office. The resolution provides that the vacancy be filled by the same political party as the legislator who vacated it. Cramb said the resolution passed both the Senate and the House unanimously during the last Legislature and that he could find no organized opposition.

The Trustees unanimously endorsed SJR-24.

Next on the agenda was Referendum Bill No. 17 presented by Fred Utevsky, chairman of the Metropolitan Problems Committee. Utevsky said that his committee studied the Referendum jointly with the Utilities and Services Committee, Carl Dakan, chairman and the Taxation and Revenue Committee, Carl Schoenfeld, chairman. The three committees jointly recommended that the Board of Trustees endorse Referendum Bill No. 17 which would provide for issuing $25,000,000 in G.O. bonds to construct and improve water pollution control facilities. Chairman Utevsky said that Referendum 17 is needed to make water in the state clean for use and enjoyment by everyone. In order to achieve this, state aid as well as federal aid to local governmental bodies is necessary, said Utevsky.

After considerable discussion the Trustees approved the referendum.



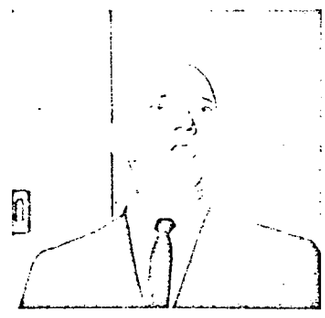
NORMAN CRAMB

FRED UTEVSKY

Another money issue before the Trustees was Referendum Bill No. 18, presented by R. Allen Norris, chairman of the County Planning Committee. Norris said the Referendum No. 18 was jointly endorsed by his committee, the Taxation and Revenue Committee and the City Planning Committee. Norris said the $40,000,000 bond issue would be used to finance the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. He said the funds would be administered by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and would be distributed equally amongst state and local public agencies. Norris said the population growth and increased demand has crowded existing parks, beaches, streams, game lands and other recreation areas.

The Board endorsed Referendum Bill No. 18.

R. ALLEN NORRIS



PHIL MAHONEY

Phil Mahoney, chairman of the City Operations Committee, presented the last official business on the agenda when he explained his Committee's recommendations concerning a program of efficiency studies to be undertaken by Seattle city government. He said the objective of

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League Actively Supports Charter

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The re-organization of King County government moved a step closer with the unanimous endorsement of the proposed King County Charter by the Municipal League Board of Trustees. At the regular monthly meeting the Trustees heard Gordon Conger, chairman of the King County Government Committee urge the Board to accept the Committee's unanimous acceptance of the charter.

The charter, written by the 15-member Freeholder Commission, closely parallels the recommendations offered by the League to the Commission last February when the elected Freeholders began their deliberations. The League recommendations were the result of an eight month study of most charter counties throughout the United States and of consultations with many officials and experts in the area of county government reform. More than 50 meetings went into the development of a 100 page report that was offered to the Freeholders as a guide in their deliberations of what should be included in a home rule charter.

The League committee closely monitored the actions of the Freeholders as they went about the laborious task of deciding what should be included in the document. Numerous League recommendations and word changes were included as the final draft took form.

Completion of the 47 page document revealed that basically all League recommendations had been included except three. These three departures were:

1. The charter calls for election by district instead of the League recommendation of nomination by district and election at large.

(Continued on Page55)

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(Continued from Page 53)

2. The charter calls for an elected assessor as opposed to the League recommendation that the assessor be appointed.

3. The charter calls for redistricting being done by the County Council and the League recommended that redistricting be done by a group other than the Council.

In recommending the adoption of the charter to the Board of Trustees, Chairman Conger recalled the historic involvement of the League in the movement for reform of King County government. Conger reminded the Trustees that the League began its county reform efforts nearly 25 years ago which resulted in the passage of the constitutional amendment for home rule by the 1947 legislature. The League then drummed up enthusiasm for a Freeholder election which resulted in the drafting of a home rule charter that failed at the polls in 1952. After heavy defeat of this proposed charter it was nearly 15 years before the League could once again generate the enthusiasm for another try at home rule.

The latest charter proposal drew this comment from the Trustees: "The Board of Trustees vote unanimously to endorse the proposed home rule charter for King County and to actively support its passage. The Municipal League commends the Freeholders for the task they have performed."

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County News Advocate

SEP 1968

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QUEEN ANNE NEWS

SNOHOMISH CHARTER TAKING SHAPE

2/17

Snohomish County freeholders expect to have a rough draft of a charter completed by Nov. 15 in the second effort in the state's urban counties to seek home rule.

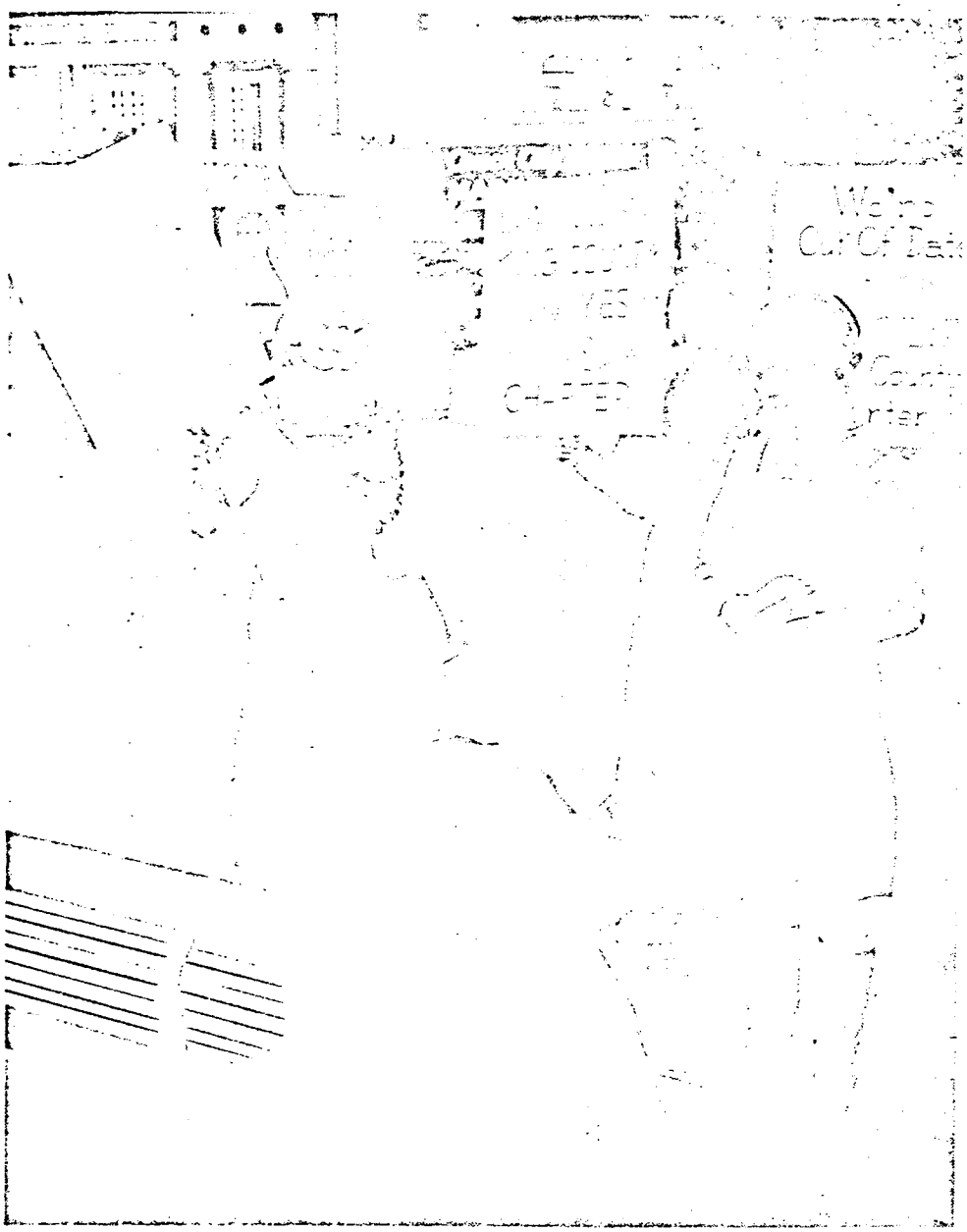
Gerald Burke, freeholder and administrative assistant for the board, said the board is now in the process of determining governmental structure.

Tentative decisions include a "council" of seven county councilmen, two from each of the legislative districts in the county and one elected at large.

The executive branch will consist of an elected chief executive, also nominated and elected at large in the county.

The councilmen will serve 4-year terms and will be nominated and elected on a partisan basis.

No decisions have been made yet by the freeholders on the status of the other elected county officials.



LWV waged campaign for county charter

MRS. PAUL HENNEY of 2320 Eastmont Way W. (right) was one of many League of Women Voters members who helped get out the vote for modernizing county government. Here Mrs. Henney wears 1968 attire in contrast to her LWV teammates in their successful push for proposed King County Charter "Yes" votes. The League team wore costumes to dramatize the out-of-date inefficiency of present King County government structure. With Mrs. Henney are Mrs. Dexter Washburn and Mrs. Ellis Dill.

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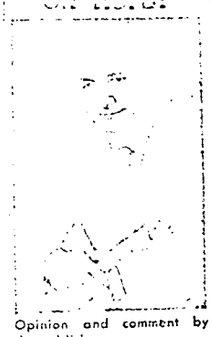

Opinion and comment by the publisher —
—John L. Fournier

Occult Science Needed To Chart Trends —

When we put on the robes of the clairvoyant a week ago to predict the outcome of the primary election it was not too difficult a task to name most of the winners. Like most of the political writers, we missed on one big one: The Democratic nominee for attorney-general. Hardly anyone had expected John G. McCutcheon to become the Democratic candidate in this five-way race. We did not miss on Art Fletcher whom we predicted as a winner.

Another miss by this writer was in the choice of a candidate for secretary of state on the Democratic ticket. Again, the choice of Paul Bentley in a three-way race was difficult to predict, but it was a little surprising to find that Ensley Llewellyn did not draw a heavier vote, especially since the McCutcheon attraction seemed to be based on the law and order theme and a hard line, conservative approach.

Even though our predictions were better than 90 per cent correct, it is anything but outstanding considering the fact that the primary was for the most part a cut-and dried affair. The shifting sands of politics may change many attitudes before the general election.

Most apparent on the national scene — and certainly it will be reflected here in the state of Washington — is the swing toward ultraconservative which is seen in the seemingly growing strength of George Wallace and his backers. It is almost inconceivable that a man with the racist-reactionary philosophies of Wallace could reflect such strength in this nation. His growing following denotes an unrealistic and dangerous

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What's Going on Here!

(Continued From Page One)

runner today. But Hubert Humphrey's continued loss of popularity and the Wallace gains may yet create a national calamity by throwing the election into the hands of Congress as the result of the lack of a sufficient popular vote to elect one of the candidates.

Here in the State of Washington the gubernatorial race is due to open with some fireworks this weekend when Gov. Dan Evans and Atty. Gen. John O'Connell appear before the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association in Spokane at their annual convention. Four years ago Governor Evans used this occasion as a kickoff in which he blasted then-Governor Rosellini. It may be anticipated that Evans and O'Connell will pull out all stops this Friday in their airing before the publishers of the state.

With politics as volatile as it is both here in the state and throughout the nation, almost anything can happen during the next five weeks prior to the election. We may, indeed, need to call upon the occult sciences to help predict winners on November 5.

true freeholders after months of tedious deliberations.

Probably one of the reasons why the public feels apathetic and lukewarm to the proposals is due to the fact that the freeholders are offering something of a lukewarm political dish. The final offering is hardly palatable, primarily because nothing much new has been provided, and specifically because many object to the redistricting phase of the proposed charter along with the controversial nine commissioners, each of whom would draw a salary of $18,000 per year.

Many had hoped that the freeholders would produce a document of unusual quality which would have top appeal for voters who were interested in the first-class job of remodeling and revamping county government.

The proposed charter as written certainly does have some merit but it still lacks a definition of quality that is needed to attract and obtain popular approval.

LWV Support Given Proposed County Home Rule Charter

The Leagues of Women Voters in King County announce their support of the proposed King County Home Rule Charter. League members plan to actively participate in the campaign for the Charter's passage.

Members have agreed, on the basis of many years of study and evaluation of County government, that the proposed Charter incorporates the basic principles necessary for sound management of the county.

The Leagues in announcing their position stated "King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the State Constitution which established our form of county government.

Recent scandals have shown its inadequacy. Our choice is between the government we now have and the form provided by the proposed Charter, which is more flexible and better able to solve metropolitan area problems.

An elected executive, a nine member council and a board of appeals provide the advantage of separation of powers.

Other provisions of the charter increase the responsiveness to the electorate and to changing conditions."

The Leagues' effort to inform voters will be directed by members of each League: Mrs. Kenneth J. Selander of Highline, Mrs. James L. Weymouth of Lake Washington East, Mrs. S. C. Rayl of Renton, Mrs. John T. Coleman and Mrs. James D. Chalupnik of Seattle, and Mrs. William Huff of South King Mrs. Harold Mozer of Bellevue will coordinate their activities.

Washington State's Gambling Paradox --

It is interesting to note that several Elks lodges of the area are being taken into court on a bingo-game charge. This case puts a finger on something that is blandly ignored throughout the state – and this is the tolerance problem relating to bingo and other games of chance which are accepted in almost every town and hamlet. We do not know what disposition will be made of this case but it certainly points to a paradox in the State of Washington where we have laws which profess to ban gambling, and at the same time allow the petty and no-so-petty gambling to flourish almost everywhere.

Records show that Washington State is among the top in purchase of federal gambling stamps. Pinball games flourish here in the Valley and throughout King County as well as card games which are licensed by cities – and these are often anything but small change.

Only recently there have been alleged exposes and a hue and cry about gambling in Seattle. Most recently a call for investigation of King County prosecutor's alleged association with a pinball company representative gives evidence that mere bingo games are perhaps the least of many evils related to gambling in the State of Washington.

We doubt that the court case involving bingo games will solve the gambling problem in Washington. In fact, it is rather evident that the people of this state do condone gambling despite the paradoxical attitudes and laws relating to gambling which are almost universally not enforced.

Who's next for bingo?

* * *

Public Not Warming To Charter Proposals --

From where we sit we find little evidence of any owing affection for the proposed charter of modern government which is spawned by the 15 tried and

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Executive

(Continued From Page 1.)

gaged in enforcement of ordinances and state laws.

Albrecht pointed out that one check provided by the charter is the majority approval required from the nine councilmen (replacing the three commissioners) to validate executive appointments.

One executive department that will not follow this procedure is that of Assessments. The County Assessor, under the charter, will remain an elected official. An amendment to the charter, however, would not be required to make the assessor an appointed official, as are the other heads of executive departments under the charter. "If state law changes on this matter," Albrecht points out, "then the assessor would automatically become an appointive position."

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An appointed auditor in the legislative branch, the fiscal "watchdog" of the chief executive. "The people have never had this check before."

Office of Citizens' Complaints, a direct line of communication from the citizen to county government.

County records open to public

(Paid 7,758 Free)

25 1968

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

Information Available On County Charter

After nine months of intensive work, the Board of King County freeholders has developed a proposed county charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 freeholders on Sept. 6, 1968.

The proposed charter was submitted to the King County Commissioners on Monday, September 9, 1968, and the Commissioners placed the proposed charter on the November 5, 1968 general ballot.

The freeholder office, located in Room 905-A of the King County Courthouse, will continue to be staffed through the November election to answer inquiries and provide a clearing house for information in connection with the charter.

Printed copies of the proposed charter will be available for distribution to organizations and citizens of the county after September 20th. Requests for copies may be made directly to the freeholder office by telephoning MA 2-5900, Ext 557.

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SYNOPSIS OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER

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Document Will Reorganize County Government If You Vote Yes On November 5, 1968

ARTICLE 1 — POWERS OF THE COUNTY

The State of Washington Constitution recognizes that the form of county government established by the Legislature may be inappropriate for some counties. The 21st Amendment to the State Constitution adopted in 1948 permits a county to establish its own form of government by adopting a home rule charter. Article 1 provides that the county shall have the powers permitted by the Constitution, and recognizes the desirability of intergovernmental cooperation.

ARTICLE 2 — THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

All legislative powers of the county will be vested in a nine-member county council. Each member of the council will be elected for a four-year term, will represent a single district with a population of approximately 130,000, and will be nominated and elected by the voters of his district. The council will exercise its legislative powers by the adoption of ordinances. Each ordinance will be subjected to a public hearing before its adoption. With certain exceptions, ordinances will be subject to veto by the county executive, but the council will be able to override a veto by six affirmative votes. At the present time, the voters of the county do not have the right of initiative and referendum concerning the county; the charter creates these rights. The charter provides that the council shall appoint an auditor to conduct a continuous audit of the financial operation of the executive branch and the county government and requires that the council establish an office of citizens' complaints concerni he operation of county government. The charter also permits the c. .cil to create branch offices of the county in order to make the various offices of the government more accessible to the residents of the county.

ARTICLE 3 — THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The elective offices of the executive branch will be the county executive and the county assessor; each will be elected for a four-year term on a county-wide basis. The county executive will be the chief executive officer of the county and will be assisted by a county administrative officer who will be appointed on the basis of his professional qualifications. The county executive will have the executive powers of the county and will be directly responsible for the day-to-day operation of the executive branch. (At the present time, the executive powers are divided between six elective officers, the three members of the Board of County Commissioners, and numerous boards and commissions.) The appointments of the county executive will be subject to confirmation by the county council.

The charter establishes the initial departments and branches of the executive branch; but, after two years, the charter permits the council to reorganize the structure of the executive branch according to the needs of the county. However, the charter prohibits the council from changing the departments of assessments or abolishing the department of judicial administration which is responsible for maintaining the records of the superior courts.

ARTICLE 4 — FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

The charter requires the council to adopt a balanced budget for each year. The charter also establishes a system of financial controls which are designed to provide for the efficient expenditure of the county's funds and to prevent financial deficits.

ARTICLE 5 — THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

At the present time, only the deputy sheriffs are covered by a civil service system. The charter creates a career service which will include mployees of the county except certain key officers who are appointed .he county executive, the county administrative officer or the county council, the members of the medical profession, and various part-time employees, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries. The personnel system is designed to assure that county employees are hired, promoted and disciplined solely on the basis of merit and not on the basis of political affiliation or personal relationship and provides for a five-member board of appeals to hear appeals concerning the personnel rules. This article also prohibits political activity by county employees on behalf of anyone seeking election to a county office and prohibits any

ARTICLE 7 — BOARD OF APPEALS

The board of appeals will be a seven-member board which will hear appeals concerning property evaluations, applications concerning zoning variances and conditional use permits and other appeals as provided by the county council.

ARTICLE 8 — GENERAL PROVISIONS

This article provides that the charter must be reviewed at least every ten years to determine if it should be amended, provides that the county council may at any time propose amendments to the voters of the county, requires that competitive bidding must be used to purchase material for the county and to award contracts for public works construction, prohibits conflicts of interest on the part of county officers and employees between their public duties and their private investments and requires the council to establish civil and criminal penalties for violation of those prohibitions, prohibits discrimination by the county, provides that county records shall be open to public inspection and permits the council to provide for collective bargaining with county employees.

ARTICLE 9 — TRANSISTORY PROVISIONS

Article 9 establishes the initial departments and offices of the executive branch, establishes the initial councilman districts and provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the offices, departments, boards and council established by the charter.

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LWV Invites Residents to Hear Discussion of King County Charter

2177

The Highline League of Women Voters will discuss the proposed King County Charter at their Unit Meetings Sept. 24, 25 and 26.

All interested residents of the Highline area are invited to attend.

Copies of the Charter will be available for study at the meetings. Anyone wishing further information may call Mrs. Harold Briggs, TA 4-1917.

Meetings are held monthly at the following times and places: Tuesday, 10 - 12, Judson Park Lounge, 23600 Marine View Dr., Wednesday, 10 - 12, Burien Fire Hall, 15100 - 8th SW, Wednesday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Burien Fire Hall, Thursday, 8 - 10 p.m., "The Door", Des Moines and Thursday, 8 - 10 p.m., Seattle Trust & Savings Bank.

Aur

Cinema Theatre School

LETTERS To The Editor

quoted in the press as rubin

Classes will meet in Room 1601 from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday morning for 10 weeks. Instructor will be Pete Zandee. Registrations will be accepted between 1 and 5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. through tomorrow or during the first morning class, Sept. 28. For additional information, call LI 6-4101, ext. 319.

Seattle, Wash.
Ballard News-Tribune
(Cir. W. 24,652)

SEP 25 1968

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

Proposed County Charter On Nov. 5 Ballot

2177

After nine months of intensive work, the Board of King County Freeholders has developed a proposed County Charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 freeholders on Sept. 6, 1968.

The proposed charter was submitted to the King County Commissioners on Monday, Sept. 9.

Co. Freeholders indicate shape of charter government

2177

Action taken at last week's meeting of the Snohomish County Board of Freeholders gave strong indication of the shape of governmental structure and charter under which it will operate.

The board voted for the county council to be a full time, legislative body with direct separation of administrative and legislative matters. It also voted that the six councilmen be elected from their respective districts, with one councilman at large. A four-year term of office was decided upon, with staggering election dates -- three on the first two years and four on the second.

BOUNDARIES of present three legislative districts would be boundaries for the council districts, with two councilmen from each. The public is invited to attend all meetings and have a hand in forming the county charter government.

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

SEP 26 1968

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

Women Voters Support Home Rule Charter

2177

The Leagues of Women Voters in King County announce this week their support of the proposed King County Home Rule Charter. League members plan to actively participate in the campaign for the charter's passage.

Members have agreed, on the basis of many years of study and evaluation of county government, that the proposed charter incorporates the basic principles necessary for sound management of the county, League leaders said.

The Leagues in announcing their position stated "King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the State Constitution which established our form of county government. Our choice is between the government we now have and the form provided by the proposed charter, which is more flexible and better able to solve metropolitan area problems.

"An elected executive, a nine member council and a board of appeals provide the advantage of separation of powers."

Women Voter Discuss Chart

2177

What are the functions of county council as provided the proposed County Charter

Does the charter offer the vate citizen new power and p tection?

Will the members of the co cil be responsive to the elec ate? What about financing?

How does this charter co pare to the charter submitted the voters in 1952?

All of these questions a many more will be discussed a series of meetings of t League of Women Voters S tember 30 through October 3

Copies of the County Char drafted by the Committee Freeholders will be availa and an evaluation will be p sented. Adoption of the chart will be determined by the vote at the November 5th election.

Members and guests a urged to take advantage of t opportunity to study and for opinions on this important b lot issue.

The Issaquah unit will me Wednesday, October 2 at 9: a.m. in the Issaquah Librar For further information c Mrs. Mark Starr, EX 2-6565.

Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000

SEP 25 1968

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

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

SEP 25 1968

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

CODE-S Backs Charter

2177

By unanimous vote the CODE-S Board has expressed its support of the new County Charter as proposed by the Board of King County Freeholders.

This support not only indicated that the Community Development Council of Shoreline approves of all the provisions in the proposed charter, but also that the CODE-S organization will take active part in making these provisions known to Shoreline residents and otherwise promoting passage of the proposed charter at the Nov. 5 election.

Several provisions in the final charter proposal were the same as those recommended by CODE-S during a public hearing at Shoreline High School in April.

The Local Government Committee of CODE-S, as well as the Board, recently heard Richard Albrecht, Freeholder chairman, discuss the new charter and then questioned him on many details.

Mrs. Miner Baker, CODE-S president, spoke for the Board in saying that the proposed new charter would truly be a step forward in county government, and will provide much better representation for residents of unincorporated areas than ever before.

Seattle, Wash.
Ballard News-Tribune
(Cir. W. 24,652)

SEP 25 1968

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

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Shopping News
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SEP 26 1968

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

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Does the charter offer the private citizen new power and protection?

Will the members of the council be responsive to the electorate? What about financing?

How does this charter compare to the charter submitted to the voters in 1952?

All of these questions and many more will be discussed in a series of meetings of the League of Women Voters September 30 through October 3.

Copies of the County Charter drafted by the Committee of Freeholders will be available and an evaluation will be presented. Adoption of the charter will be determined by the voters at the November 5th election.

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

OCT 2 1968

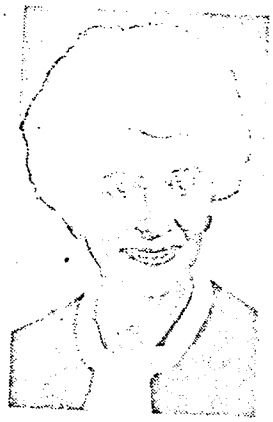
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Proposed Charter

2177

By MRS. EVELYN AMYES

Official observer for the League Of Women Voters at the sessions of the King County Freeholders



Lois North, Republican nominee for State Representative from Position 2, 44th District, was one of the freeholders who wrote the proposed County Charter.

The proposed King County Charter, approved unanimously by the 15 elected Freeholders recently, now is in the hands of the County Commissioners and is ready for the November 5 ballot.

The proposed charter allows the negotiation of contracts between the county and any other governments or governmental agencies to provide services or share costs and responsibilities. It does not abolish special districts but allows cooperation with them. It provides for partisan elections but allows independent candidates to run in the primary and, if qualified by votes, in the general election.

The county executive will be granted all executive powers of the county. He will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least 1½ times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). He will prepare and present to the council a budget, a comprehensive plan and a state of the county message; will appoint

Everett, Wash.
Herald
(Cir. D. 32,585)

OCT 3 1968

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

Freeholders Asked to Reconsider Elected Exec

By JOHN WOLCOTT
Staff Writer

The League of Women Voters last night reaffirmed their earlier stand for a council - manager form of county government before a meeting of the Snohomish County Freeholders and then asked the freeholders to reconsider their decision for a proposed elected executive.

Freeholders have so far shown preference for an elected executive, with power to appoint a professional government administrator as his right-hand man, and a five member County Council as major tenets of the new county charter they are preparing for voters next year.

The league's proposal would mean a manager - administrator appointed by the council, with council members being the elected officials. Barbara Skinner, representing the league's county government study group, told the freeholders:

"You have given a great deal of thoughtful concern and study to the problems of effective county management. Your decision to propose a larger elected legislative council and to remove and transfer their administrative responsibilities should satisfactorily meet the needs of our rapidly growing county.

"After a two-year study of county government, the League of Women Voters came to the consensus that the administrative problems of Snohomish County deserve the attention of someone with specialized training.

"For this reason, at the public hearing in Edmonds (of the freeholder board), May 8, we asked the freeholders to consider making provision for a professional administrator (which the freeholders have done by authorizing the elected executive to hire a professional in county government management — Ed. Note.)

"It is still our belief that such an administrator should be appointed by the legislative council and be responsible to them. Under the current plans of the

veto power over the council's policy decisions and other actions, but the veto could be overruled by a majority of the council plus one.

—Councilmen and the executive should be elected in odd-numbered years.

—Two councilmen and the executive would be elected together and three councilmen together in the next election, with staggered terms, after the tial six are elected at one t next year.

The Freeholders meet Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the Agriculture Building Rockefeller Avenue across the courthouse. Comments citizens are always welc the board said Wednesday.

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boards and commissions, serving on those now served by a county commissioner; will be the chief peace officer; sign all contracts; sign or veto all council ordinances; appoint, with council concurrence, or remove the chief administrative officer and all executive department chiefs; and supervise all executive and administrative offices.

When the charter is adopted, the executive departments will be the departments of: public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health, records and elections, finance, parks, planning, and building.

The chief administrator will appoint, with executive approval, or remove heads of administrative offices. On adoption of the charter, they will be the offices of: budgets and accounts, personnel, systems and services, and property and purchasing. State law does not allow creation of a civil legal department to advise the executive.

The assessor will remain elective unless state law in this regard is changed, but his office is included in the administrative branch, and his employees covered by the personnel system.

The clerk of the court will be appointed by the executive from a list supplied by the Superior Court judges, but his employees and budget will fall in the executive department. His department of judicial administration will maintain court records and files and perform other duties assigned by the judges.

The legislature, called the county council, will be made up of nine full-time members paid the present commissioner's salary ($18,000 per year). They are prevented by charter from assuming any administrative duties.

The council will adopt ordinances; pass motions which, though not law, can state council objectives; override executive vetos by vote of six or more councilmen; levy taxes; adopt a budget; adopt comprehensive plans which include capital improvement plans; conduct hearings on legislation under consideration; serve on boards where more than one commissioner now serves, establish or abolish boards and commissions; and, after the initial two year period, can establish, abolish, or combine administrative offices or executive departments except those of assessment or judical administration.

The county auditor will be appointed by the council to make a post audit of financial operations, review accounting procedures and efficiency of operations of the county. Annual audits, by the state, of county finances will continue unchanged.

Some quasi-judicial duties now handled by the commissioners will go to a seven member board of appeals appointed for four year rotating terms, with per diem pay, by the executive with the confirmation of the council. This board will hear appeals from zoning variances, tax assessment valuations, and other appeals assigned by the council. Its decisions may be appealed to the courts.

A unified county budget is provided. It must include all funds, revenues, and reserves, must be divided into programs including capital expenditure plans, and must be balanced.

freeholders [illegible] board would place the "pro" under the executive officer not the council — Ed. Note.)

"The qualifications for this position should be developed by the elected council and carefully followed when the appointment is made.

"We ask that you reconsider your decision to incorporate the position of the elected county executive in the county charter," she said.

Voting on several issues important to the writing of the charter last night, the Freeholders showed preference for:

—Requiring candidates for council to be registered voters and a resident in the district in which they are campaigning.

—That the elected executive be responsible for hiring department heads with confirmation by the council.

—That the executive be able to fire employes without confirmation by the council.

—That the executive have

Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000

SEP 25 1968

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

The Charter in Brief - YOU Decide

Last November King County voters elected 15 freeholders to draw up a home-rule charter, providing for the entire structure of county government to be overhauled and modernized at one time. Two weeks ago the County Commissioners placed the finished charter on the November ballot.

No new powers will be given the county, but charter proponents say the re-organization will enable the county to be more effective in handling the growing problems of governing 1.2 million inhabitants.

The ballot proposition reads: "Shall the proposed home-rule charter for King County, providing for the separation of the legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?"

YOU decide.

Article 1 — Powers Of The County

The State of Washington Constitution recognizes that the form of county government established by the Legislature may be inappropriate for some counties. The 21st Amendment to the State Constitution adopted in 1948 permits a county to establish its own form of government by adopting a home rule charter.

Articles 1 provides that the county shall have the powers permitted by the Constitution, and recognizes the desirability of intergovernmental cooperation.

Article 2 — The Legislative Branch

All legislative powers of the county will be vested in a nine-member county council. Each member of the council will be elected for a four-year term, will represent a single district with a population of approximately 170,000, and will be nominated and elected by the voters of his district.

The council will exercise its legislative powers by the adoption of ordinances. Each ordinance will be subjected to a public hearing before its adoption. With certain exceptions, ordinances will be subject to veto by the county executive, but the council will be able to override a veto by six affirmative votes.

At the present time, the voters of the county do not have the right initiative and referendum concerning the county; the charter provides that the council shall appoint an auditor to conduct a continuous audit of the financial operation of the executive branch and the county government and requires that the council establish an office of citizens' complaints concerning the operation of county government.

The charter also permits the council to create branch offices of the county in order to make the various offices of the government more accessible to the residents of the county.

Article 3 — The Executive Branch

The elective offices of the executive branch will be the county executive and the county assessor; each will be elected for a four-year term on a county-wide basis. The county executive will be the chief executive officer of the county and will be assisted by a county administrative officer who will be appointed on the basis of his professional qualifications.

The county executive will have the executive powers of the county and will be directly responsible for the day-to-day operation of the executive branch. (At the present time, the executive powers are divided between six elective officers, the three members of the Board of County Commissioners, and numerous boards and commissions.)

The appointments of the county executive will be subject to confirmation by the county council.

The charter establishes the initial departments and branches of the executive branch; but, after two years, the charter permits the council to reorganize the structure of the executive branch according to the needs of the county. However, the charter prohibits the council from changing the departments of assessments or abolishing the department of judicial administration which is responsible for maintaining the records of the superior courts.

Article 4 — Financial Procedures

The charter requires the council to adopt a balanced budget for each year. The charter also establishes a system of financial controls which are designed to provide for the efficient expenditure of the county's funds and to prevent financial deficits.

Article 5 — The Personnel System

At the present time, only the deputy sheriffs are covered by a civil service system. The charter creates a career service which will include all employees of the county except certain key officers who are appointed by the county executive, the county administrative officer or the county council, the members of the medical profession, and various part-time employees, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries.

The personnel system is designed to assure that county employees are hired, promoted and disciplined solely on the basis of merit and not on the basis of political affiliation or personal relationship and provides for a five-member board of appeals to hear appeals concerning the personnel rules.

This article also prohibits political activity by county employees on behalf of anyone seeking election to a county office and prohibits any requests that county employees contribute a part of their salaries to anyone seeking election to a county office.

Article 6 — Election

The elections of county offices will be held at the same time as the election for city offices and will be held on a partisan basis. But anyone who is qualified to assume office if elected may file for office as an "independent" without affiliating with any particular party; this is not allowed at the present time.

The charter requires the council to re-district the county every five years; and if they fail to do so, the councilmen forfeit one-half of their pay. Each candidate for election must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and the source of his funds.

Article 7 — Board Of Appeals

The board of appeals will be a seven-member board which will hear appeals concerning property evaluations, applications concerning zoning variances and conditional use permits and other appeals as provided by the county council.

Article 8 — General Provisions

This article provides that the charter must be reviewed at least every ten years to determine if it should be amended, provides that the county council may at any time propose amendments to the voters of the county, requires that competitive bidding must be used to purchase material for the county and to award contracts for public works construction, prohibits conflicts of interest on the part of county officers and employees between their public duties and their private investments and requires the council to establish civil and criminal penalties for violation of those prohibitions, prohibits discrimination by the county, provides that county records shall be open to public inspection and permits the council to provide for collective bargaining with county employees.

Article 9 — Transitory Provisions

Article 9 establishes the initial departments and offices of the executive branch, establishes the initial councilman districts and provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the offices, departments, boards and council established by the charter.

Any questions? Comments?

Contact this newspa[illegible]
office, 905 [illegible]

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County Charter Debate Here Monday, Oct. 14

2177

A "town hall" type meeting will be held on October 14th to give Bellevue area residents the opportunity of hearing a debate on the proposed King County charter, according to R. E. Kesterson, chairman of the government committee of B.A.S.I.C. (Bellevue Area Self Improvement Council).

The meeting will be held in the Bellevue Junior High cafeteria at 8 pm Monday, October 14.

Freeholder Simon Wampold will be present to present the pro-charter remarks, while an opponent of the new charter is being sought to present the other side. Names of the two speakers will be announced next week.

"The provisions of the proposed charter will affect many facets of private and community life for every resident of the Bellevue area," said Kesterson. "This public meeting will give everyone the chance to inform themselves on this issue and express their opinions."

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

SEP 25 1968

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

Charter Seen as Essential

2177

Two local proponents of the proposed King County Charter view the document as the essential first step toward a government that can effectively accommodate a county that has reached an unprecedented growth rate.

In the estmation of County Commissioner Ed Munro, the charter will establish the skeleton of a governmental form which can be subtracted from and built on. He endorsed the charter last week, saying "I'm endorsing it on the basis that it will provide something better than the present system, and I think everyone should endorse the charter on that basis."

Norman Ackley, former 31st District legislator and one of the 15 freeholders who drew up the charter, pointed out that the better structure provided by the charter should satisfy the public feeling about county modernization and improvement.

Both say there are parts of the charter they do not approve, other points they would have liked to have seen included; but they also feel that it's necessary.

The 46-page charter has been meeting the bows and blows from citizens, organizations and county officials since its debut two weeks ago when the County Commissioners placed it on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Elected Assessor

Generally, the freeholders have been commended, although certain provisions of the charter have been criticized.

In Ackley's estimation setting the assessment level requires a skilled appraiser. "Fixing the value of property shouldn't be a policy making decision," he said. "Even the County Assessor (Allen Morgan) thinks the assessor's post should be appointive."

The charter continues the elective office of Assessor; this was one of the areas of controversy and only one of compromise among the nine liberals and six conservatives on the Board of Freeholders.

No. 34?

Some advantages of the proposed 34th county home-rule charter in the United States, from Munro's view, are no implied powers and an established chain of command.

He added that every successful organization has an executive, which the charter provides for. The most important outline, he continued for local government is the division of the executive and legislative branches.

Munro, who if re-elected to his third term as commissioner will automatically be the legislator or councilman for the 7th district under the new charter, ended his term as president of the National Association of Counties recently.

He pointed out that of the 3,000 counties in the U.S. only about 40 operate under the home-rule charter form of government; most have the commissioner form.

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Charter Seen as Essential Step— South County Pundits

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For a synopsis of the charter see pg. ——, Sec. ——.

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The charter continues the elective office of Assessor; this was one of the areas of controversy and only one of compromise among the nine liberals and six conservatives on the Board of Freeholders.

Provisions Ackley said would make King County government more democratic and modern: responsive executive branch, expanded base of commissioners, modern performance budget, nine councilman districts apportioned according to population and areas with common interests.

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He pointed out that of the 3,000 counties in the U.S. only about 40 operate under the home-rule charter form of government; most have the commissioner form. This is one of the reasons "counties are in trouble." The most advanced, like Weschester, N.Y., have established the council-executive formula, he said.

(According to research by the freeholders' staff, 33 counties are charter counties, which would make King County number 34 if the charter passes in November. A simple majority of these voting that day is needed for the charter's adoption.)

Munro pointed out the weakness in the system that comes from fragmentation in planning. He said the charter system would allow for the setting up practical functions of government. When a problem arose it could be assigned a certain function instead of the present need for creating a new department to meet a crisis.

Overlapping of functions could be eliminated. Such current agencies as the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, the Air Pollution Control and Metro are needed because up to now the county hasn't been able to handle the jobs created by a rapidly increasing population, he said.

New Charter To Be Aired At Chamber

A member of the Board of King County Freeholders, Howard Bothell, will discuss the proposed new charter for King County at next week's meeting of the Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce. Bothell, an Auburn automobile dealer, has accepted the Chamber's invitation to present the proposal to Chamber members and guests.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Harold's, according to William Dunning, Chamber president. He urged as many members as are able to be present and asked that an effort be made to bring additional guests, in light of the importance of the charter presentation.

The Board of Freeholders worked more than eight months to reach the conclusions about county government that will be voted on at the November 5 general election.

The Board of King County Commissioners certified the measure to the November ballot last week. All three commissioners expressed their gratitude and praise for the Freeholders for completion of the long task of drawing a new charter.

Commissioner John Spellman warned against "nit picking" specific details in the charter warning that such actions could damage its hopes of passage.

" I believe the charter will

(Continued on Page 9)

will object to turning county government over to one man."

THE NEW charter provides for county executive, a nine-man full-time county council, appointment of county officials with the exception of the county assessor, who will be elected, and a streamlining of present county government.

The charter would also set up a county personnel board to handle hiring, firing, employe relations and the establishment of a merit system to replace the existing "spoils" system.

Copies of the charter are available to interested citizens by calling the freeholders office at Seattle MAin 2-5900.

New Charter Proposition Is Examined

Voters will be asked Nov. 5 to approve a new charter for King County.

The product of nine months of work by the 15 members of the Board of King County Freeholders elected last November, the document represents this county's second effort to restructure its governmental framework since it received its original and present set of operating provisions from the Washington Territorial Assembly in 1854.

During the next four weeks, this newspaper will examine the reasons change is necessary in those original provisions and the accretions thereto, which now provide the governmental basis for 1,225,000 persons living in King County almost 115 years later.

Granted that change is necessary, these articles will evaluate the pros and cons of why such change should be as the Board of King County Freeholders proposes.

Store Here Damaged By Arson Fire

An arson fire raged through Kane's Furniture Store, 100 Broadway, E., about 2:40 a. m. today, causing damage of about $10,000.

Three engine companies and a ladder company fought the blaze 21 minutes.

Battalion Chief Peter M. Chudecke said firemen found a rear door forced open in the store. The fire was started near the door in an office area.

"It first appeared the space between the store and the warehouse was the only thing on fire," Chudecke said. "Then we opened it up and found we had fire both places."

Kane credited a closed fire door with halting the spread of the fire to an adjoining section of the store.

Al Kane, operator of the store, said he left about 9 p. m. yesterday. He said there had been no smokers in the area where the fire started and the store had been secure when he left.

Kane said the loss, including lights, bedroom sets, furnishings and paintings, might be $10,000 to $15,000. He said an inventory would have to be taken to determine the precise loss.

Chudecke estimated the loss to the structure at $2,000 to $3,000.

Information Available On County Charter

After nine months of intensive work, the Board of King County freeholders has developed a proposed county charter which was signed unanimously by the 15 freeholders on Sept. 6, 1968.

The proposed charter was submitted to the King County Commissioners on Monday, September 9, 1968, and the Commissioners placed the proposed charter on the November 5, 1968 general ballot.

The freeholder office, located in Room 905-A of the King County Courthouse, will continue to be staffed through the November election to answer inquiries and provide a clearing house for information in connection with the charter.

Printed copies of the proposed charter will be available for distribution to organizations and citizens of the county after September 20th. Requests for copies may be made directly to the freeholder office by telephoning MA 2-5900, Ext 557.

SEP 21 1976

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

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In Ackley's estimation setting the assessment level requires a skilled appraiser. "Fixing the value of property shouldn't be a policy making decision," he said. "Even the County Assessor (Allen Morgan) thinks the assessor's post should be appointive."

The charter continues the elective office of Assessor; this was one of the areas of controversy and only one of compromise among the nine liberals and six conservatives on the Board of Freeholders.

Provisions Ackley said would make King County government more democratic and modern: responsive executive branch, expanded base of commissioners, modern performance budget, nine councilman districts apportioned according to population and areas with common interests.

No. 34?

Some advantages of the proposed 34th county home-rule charter in the United States, from Munro's view, are no implied powers and an established chain of command.

He added that every successful organization has an executive, which the charter provides for. The most important outline, he continued for local government is the division of the executive and legislative branches.

Munro, who if re-elected to his third term as commissioner will automatically be the legislator or councilman for the 7th district under the new charter, ended his term as president of the National Association of Counties recently.

He pointed out that of the 3,000 counties in the U.S. only about 40 operate under the home-rule charter form of government; most have the commissioner form. This is one of the reasons "counties are in trouble." The most advanced, like Weschester, N.Y., have established the council-executive formula, he said.

(According to research by the freeholders' staff, 33 counties are charter counties, which would make King County number 34 if the charter passes in November. A simple majority of these voting that day is needed for the charter's adoption.)

Munro pointed out the weakness in the system that comes from fragmentation in planning. He said the charter system would allow for the setting up practical functions of government. When a problem arose it could be assigned a certain function instead of the present need for creating a new department to meet a crisis.

Overlapping of functions could be eliminated. Such current agencies as the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, the Air Pollution Control and Metro are needed because up to now the county hasn't been able to handle the jobs created by a rapidly increasing population, he said.

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Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

SEP 25 1968

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

The Charter - YOU Decide

Last November King County voters elected 15 freeholders to draw up a home-rule charter, providing for the entire structure of county government to be overhauled and modernized at one time. Two weeks ago the County Commissioners placed the finished charter on the November ballot.

No new powers will be given the county, but charter proponents say the re-organization will enable the county to be more effective in handling the growing problems of governing 1.2 million inhabitants.

The ballot proposition reads: "Shall the proposed home-rule charter for King County, providing for the separation of the legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?"

YOU decide.

Article 1 — Powers Of The County

The State of Washington Constitution recognizes that the form of county government established by the Legislature may be inappropriate for some counties. The 21st Amendment to the State Constitution adopted in 1948 permits a county to establish its own form of government by adopting a home rule charter.

Articles 1 provides that the county shall have the powers permitted by the Constitution, and recognizes the desirability of intergovernmental cooperation.

Article 2 — The Legislative Branch

All legislative powers of the county will be vested in a nine-member county council. Each member of the council will be elected for a four-year term, will represent a single district with a population of approximately 170,000, and will be nominated and elected by the voters of his district.

The council will exercise its legislative powers by the adoption of ordinances. Each ordinance will be subjected to a public hearing before its adoption. With certain exceptions, ordinances will be subject to veto by the county executive, but the council will be able to override a veto by six affirmative votes.

At the present time, the voters of the county do not have the right initiative and referendum concerning the county; the charter creates these rights. The charter provides that the council shall appoint an auditor to conduct a continuous audit of the financial operation of the executive branch and the county government and requires that the council establish an office of citizens' complaints concerning the operation of county government.

The charter also permits the council to create branch offices of the county in order to make the various offices of the government more accessible to the residents of the county.

Article 3 — The Executive Branch

The elective offices of the executive branch will be the county executive and the county assessor; each will be elected for a four-year term on a county-wide basis. The county executive will be the chief executive officer of the county and will be assisted by a county administrative officer who will be appointed on the basis of his professional qualifications..

The county executive will have the executive powers of the county and will be directly responsible for the day-to-day operation of the executive branch. (At the present time, the executive powers are divided between six elective officers, the three members of the Board of County Commissioners, and numerous boards and commissions.)

The appointments of the county executive will be subject to confirmation by the county council.

The charter establishes the initial departments and branches of the executive branch; but, after two years, the charter permits the council to reorganize the structure of the executive branch according to the needs of the county. However, the charter prohibits the council from changing the departments of assessments or abolishing the department of judicial administration which is responsible for maintaining the records of the superior courts.

Article 4 — Financial Procedures

The charter requires the council to adopt a balanced budget for each year. The charter also establishes a system of financial controls which are designed to provide for the efficient expenditure of the county's funds and to prevent financial deficits.

Article 5 — The Personnel System

At the present time, only the deputy sheriffs are covered by a civil service system. The charter creates a career service which will include all employees of the county except certain key officers who are appointed by the county executive, the county administrative officer or the county council, the members of the medical profession, and various part-time employees, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries.

The personnel system is designed to assure that county employees are hired, promoted and disciplined solely on the basis of merit and not on the basis of political affiliation or personal relationship and provides for a five-member board of appeals to hear appeals concerning the personnel rules.

This article also prohibits political activity by county employees on behalf of anyone seeking election to a county office and prohibits any requests that county employees contribute a part of their salaries to anyone seeking election to a county office.

Article 6 — Election

The elections of county offices will be held at the same time as the election for city offices and will be held on a partisan basis. But anyone who is qualified to assume office if elected may file for office as an "independent" without affiliating with any particular party; this is not allowed at the present time.

The charter requires the council to re-district the county every five years; and if they fail to do so, the councilmen forfeit one-half of their pay. Each candidate for election must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and the source of his funds.

Article 7 — Board Of Appeals

The board of appeals will be a seven-member board which will hear appeals concerning property evaluations, applications concerning zoning variances and conditional use permits and other appeals as provided by the county council.

Article 8 — General Provisions

This article provides that the charter must be reviewed at least every ten years to determine if it should be amended, provides that the county council may at any time propose amendments to the voters of the county, requires that competitive bidding must be used to purchase material for the county and to award contracts for public works construction, prohibits conflicts of interest on the part of county officers and employees between their public duties and their private investments and requires the council to establish civil and criminal penalties for violation of those prohibitions, prohibits discrimination by the county, provides that county records shall be open to public inspection and permits the council to provide for collective bargaining with county employees.

Article 9 — Transitory Provisions

Article 9 establishes the initial departments and offices of the executive branch, establishes the initial councilman districts and provides for the orderly transfer of power from the present county government to the offices, departments, boards and council established by the charter.

Any questions? Comments?

Contact this newspaper or the freeholders' office, 905-A King County Courthouse, MA 2-5900.

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Seattle, Wash.
West Seattle Herald
(Cir. W. 24,000)

OCT 24 1968

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

Commissioners Clear Up Confusion

Voters are reminded that all county voters will vote for two County Commissioners in the general election November 5. This reminder was issued Friday by incumbent Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro. Both are candidates for relection: O'Brien in the Central District; Munro in the Second or South Commissioner District.

Munro said many voters are confused in this particular position due to nomination by district occurring in the primary. Munro won the Democratic nomination in the Second District and will be opposed by Republican nominee Tom Forsythe; O'Brien won the Republican nomination in the Central District and will be opposed by Democratic nominee R. Judge Owens.

State law requires that Commissioners are nominated in the District in which they reside. All King County votes on the nominees in the general election. Commissioner John Spellman, the County's North District Commissioner, is not up for reelection this year.

Munro said that the considerable confusion over this particular election law would be corrected if voters approve the proposed County Charter also on the ballot November 5.

Freeholders have proposed that County Councilmen (who will replace the present three-man Board of County Commissioners) will be both nominated and elected from nine separate councilmanic districts within King County. Munro pointed out: "In this way each District will have a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be."

The incumbent Commissioner declared that not only would this end the confusion by which Commissioners are now elected, but it would provide more direct and immediate accountability of legislators to the voters.

First of Series

New County Charter — Do We Need It Now?

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

Back in 1889, things were much simpler.

There wasn't much of a town where Seattle stands now and there wasn't much of a county, and if you had business with either, you hitched up the team, drove over the hills to the sawmill town on the shore of Puget Sound and attended to your business.

Probably you wanted to check your property taxes. That's what concerned most persons back in the days when Seattle's Doc Maynard and a few friends got together to elect the county's first officers.

Things have changed a lot since then, but — except for the state laws that grow like barnacles on the original provisions creating King County adopted by the Washington Territorial Assembly in 1854 — King County's jet-age citizens live by the same set of laws its citizens lived under almost 115 years ago.

Not happily! There's a lot of discontent about King County government and how it's run. Some of it is valid, some of it is not. Surprisingly, none of this criticism crystallized to the point of anyone doing something about it until 16 years ago.

Then, as again last year, a board of 15 county freeholders was elected to draft a new county charter which provided for a non-partisan, council-manager form of government.

Opposition, Apathy Prevailed

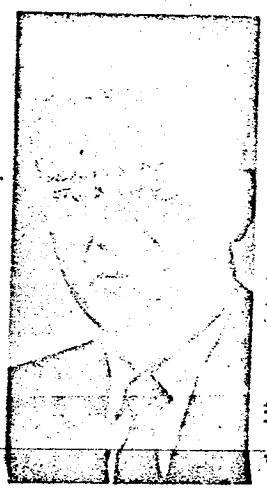
Perhaps the voters weren't ready for it. Perhaps the 1952 charter didn't really solve the county's problems. For whatever reason, it met a whopping 2 - 1 defeat at the polls after it was finally polished up by a young Seattle attorney and offered to the voters.

Looking back, James Ellis, Seattle attorney who served as legal counsel to that group and who personally wrote the 1952 draft, recently declared:

"County government had a relatively good image in the early fifties. Urbanization hadn't really exploded the population into the suburbs, and the county, as well as the country, was just emerging from the war years when restructuring the general economy, rather than government, occupied our primary efforts. There seemed no vital urgency to a new county charter then, although the problems that prompted the creation of the board of freeholders then were just as urgent as they are now.

"Only now, we have more of them!" Ellis exclaimed.

The still-young but graying attorney's statement was a direct reference to the fragmentation of governmental services within the county . . . fragmented to the point here that only one other county — Cook County in Illinois — exceeds King County in the number of special districts created to provide urban services like water and sewers to suburban and exurban residents the county is now prevented from providing.



JAMES ELLIS
Author of 1952 charter effort
"County government is a cumbersome behemoth."

Fragmentation Is Big Problem

Commissioner Ed Munro — retiring president of the National Association of County Officials and an acknowledged expert on government — illustrates Ellis' point with the story of two sewer districts in

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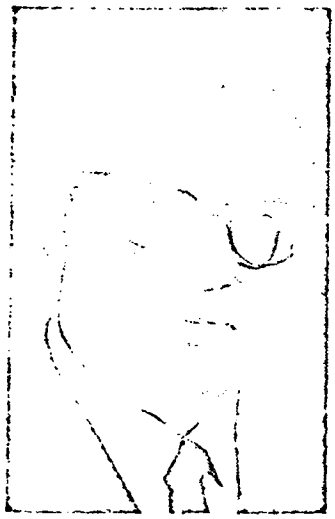
(Continued from Page 1)

the Federal Way area with considerable jurisdictional jealousies who decided to build two sewer trunk lines down



ED MUNRO
County Commissioner and for the last six years chairman
"We have too much power!"

the same draw 50 feet apart plus two sewage treatment plants on the shores of Puget Sound a stone's throw apart.

"Even though those problems were nearly as urgent as they are now, voters 16 years ago didn't seem to think so," Ellis pointed out, adding that, serious as the need for reform was then, it wasn't the entire reason for the 1952 charter failure.

"We drew the politicians' wrath when we proposed that county government, now partisan, be made non-partisan, and that all present county officials be made appointive, not elective. We stubbed our toe on the assessor's office," he remarked ruefully, "not because we thought it's improper to make his office appointive, but because taxpayers were whipped into a lather over the thought that an appointive official might have the power to set assessment levies without direct control at the ballot box by the voter.

"County officials raised a $36,000 war chest to defeat our efforts — compared to funds provided by the League of Women Voters and Seattle-King County Municipal League amounting to $3,000 — but what really did us in was a mass air-drop all over Seattle the Courthouse as everyone would have you believe — there's just a better way to operate the county," Freeholder Chairman Richard Albrecht notes.

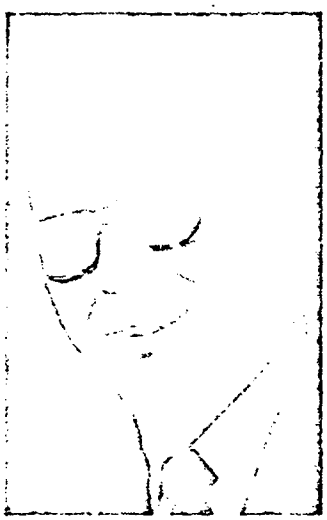
One of the nation's top experts, from his vantage point as "charter doctor" to other county reform efforts, agrees also:

'An Invitation to Problems'

John A. Donaho, one of the consultants who conferred with the freeholders in their drafting process, declared:

"King County needs better administrative organization and defined responsibility, and improved fiscal and management control" — all of which, experts and laymen alike, say is the real problem in county government here today.

"It's not corruption . . . or bad leaders . . . or petty graft," Gordon Conger, chairman of the Muncipal Leagues subcommittee on county gov-



GORDON CONGER
Head of Municipal League committee studying charter
"The present system is an invitation to problems."

ernment specially created to study the need for a new charter, points out.

"It's just that we live in an impossible world, and it's physically impossible for our county leaders, as county government is presently set up, to make the wise — the economical — the efficient administrative decisions required of them.

"The present system is an invitation to problems!" Conger declared.

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just before the charter went to the polls asking 'Is this Moscow or Seattle'?," Ellis recalled.

One Problem Is 'Solved'

But that 1952 charter answered then one fundamental objection to county government in King: It effectively separated the legislative and executive branches of government now wrapped up into one tidy power enclave held by the Board of King County Commissioners.

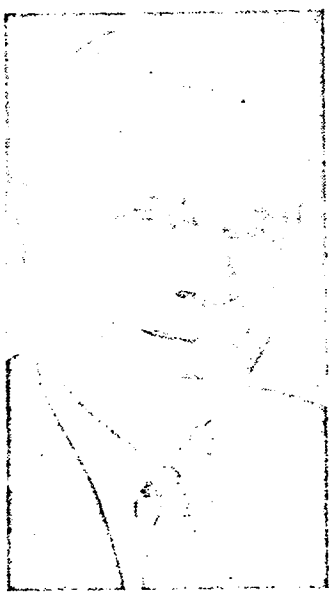
Munro, for six years chairman of that board, is one of the most outspoken critics of this huge consolidation of power:

"There's no question about it! As it stands now, county commissioners have too much power and suffer because the board, although it has an elected chairman, has no actual executive head — separate from it — with overriding, at-the-top type of control. All of the commissioners, are co-equals functioning with legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial powers. Although it's managed to work fairly well in the past, it's been in spite of the system, not because of it!

"As I see it, the reason we need a change is not because county government is so bad, but because there's a better, more modern, more efficient way to do things," Munro emphasized.

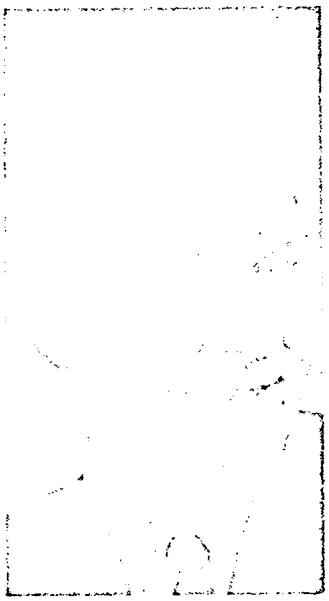
And most persons — including the chairman of the 1968 Board of King County Freeholders — tend to agree with him:

"Things are not as bad in



RICHARD ALBRECHT
Chairman of the 1968 Board of King County Freeholders
"Things are not as bad in the Courthouse as everyone would have you believe."

To Conger, as well as Don Custer, Renton mayor and head of Suburban Mayors Association, one of those problems is the lack of direct



DON CUSTER
Renton mayor and head of Suburban Mayors Association
"End the troika!"

access by other county municipalities — and to the persons living within these cities — to the working level of county government where those decisions are made.

"Commissioners at present represent such a large district, and their responsibilities are so diverse, it's pretty hard for any individual citizen to feel he has a voice in what's happening," Custer emphasized.

'Remoteness' Is Problem

"Indeed," he declared, "many persons living in the smaller, satellite towns of the county feel the present three-man 'Troika' is remote from their problems and more concerned with those of the unincorporated areas surrounding them."

"This relationship needs to be better coordinated, and our lines of direct representation to the county structure more clearly drawn," Custer declared.

Fragmentation . . . the consolidation of legislative and executive powers into one power structure . . . the administrative hodgepodge — these things hang like an albatross around the necks of the present Board of County Commissioners as it tries — within these limitations — to make a 19th century vehicle respond to the demands and strains of exploding urbanization in King County.

Next week, this newspaper will tell the story of what's in the new charter, and how it proposes to correct these problems.

County News Advocate

SEP 1968

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

KING CHARTER COMPLETED

General Election to Decide Future Government

Twenty years after the adoption of a constitutional amendment allowing home rule for counties, the citizens of King County will be voting Nov. 5 on a proposed charter revamping dramatically the governmental structure in the state's most populous county.

Fifteen freeholders elected last December approved the 46-page document unanimously and the present King County Commissioners approved a resolution placing it on the general election ballot.

The election, a test of the feasibility of changing the structure of county government, will be closely watched by local government observers, particularly the freeholders of Snohomish County who are in the midst of preparing a charter.

The charter provides for a legislative branch composed of nine "county councilmen", nominated and elected by districts for 4-year terms, representing approximately 130,000 voters each.

The executive branch will be headed by an elected county executive. He will be assisted by a county administrative officer, appointed by the elected executive and confirmed by the council.

The only other elected official in the executive branch will be the county assessor. Constitutional provisions, of course, require the continued election of the prosecuting attorney, the county school superintendent, and Superior and Justice Court judges. The operation of those offices will not be significantly affected under the charter.

The county executive is given the power of veto over ordinances enacted by the county council, with certain exceptions. The council may override such a veto by six affirmative votes.

The charter also gives King County citizens the right of initiative and referendum, processes not available to them before.

It requires the council to appoint an auditor to conduct a continuous audit of the financial operation of the executive branch.

It also establishes an "ombudsman" office to serve in a citizen complaint center.

The charter establishes the initial departments and branches of the executive branch, but permits reorganization of structure after two years. An exception is the assessor's office which may not be incorporated within any other department, nor may the council decrease its duties.

A balanced budget and a personnel system for all employes except appointed department heads, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries, are required.

Other charter provisions include mandatory redistricting every five years, and if the council fails to do so, they will forfeit one-half of their pay.

Though the elected councilman will generally run on a partisan basis, provision is made for "independent" candidates to seek office also.

Built in to the charter, is a provision requiring review of the document every ten years to consider amendments.

A Department of Judicial Administration has been created by the charter to succeed the county clerk's office. It provides that a superior court clerk shall be appointed by the county executive officer from a list of at least three nominees submitted by the superior court judges.

If King County voters approve a new county government in November, the charter will become effective May 1, 1969. Nominating primaries would be held next February and a final election in March.

Initial administrative offices required by the charter include an Offices of Budgets and Accounts, Personnel, Systems Services and Property and Purchasing.

Executive departments include Public Works, Utilities and Transportation, Public Safety, Public Health, Records and Elections, Finance, Parks, Planning, and Building.

The charter gives present King County commissioners elected in either the 1966 general election or this fall's election the right to assume a position as a councilman on the county council, representing the district they reside in. Provision is made for nominations for these districts should any of the commissioners resign. The incumbent assessor shall remain in the office until the end of his term in 1970.

Other present county elected officials whose offices are abolished by the charter will remain in their comparable positions under the new charter until the expiration of their present term. The charter additionally provides that thereafter they are entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative position.

If the freeholders' document is approved by King County voters, they will be the first to have obtained home rule under the provisions of the Washington Constitution. An earlier home rule attempt for King County failed in 1952.

Leaders of Panel Backing County Charter Are Named

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Norton Clapp, chairman of the board of the Weyerhaeuser Co., nd Dwight L. Spracher, partiner in United Theaters, were named today co-chairmen of a citizens' committee to support the proposes county charter.

Paul Friedlander, a freeholder who is working with citizen groups, and Richard Albrecht, freeholders' chairman, announced the appointments. The Board of King County Freeholders drafted the charter.

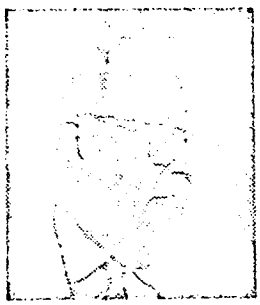
Clapp urged voters to study and discuss the charter before the November 5 general election

HE SAID it "looks like a model county charter," adding that modernizing county government is exciting.

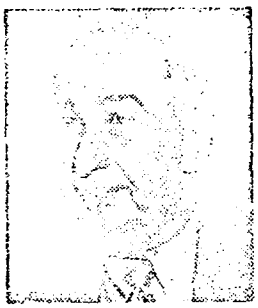
"We're in the jet age," he said. "We deserve a form of government a little different than when the State of Washingtn was organized."

Spracher called the charter a "forward step." While it is "70 per cent good" and deserves to be approved, he said, because "we need a new and more efficient type of county government."

A citizens' committee office is being established in Room 1412 of the Exchange Building. The telephone nmber is 345-6684.



NORTON CLAPP



DWIGHT L. SPRACHER

CLAPP SAID information will be available and arrangements may be made for speakers. Volunteers are needed to provide the information, he said.

Friedlander said there were two main questions about the charter.

One involves criticism of providing for nine county councilmen with pay of $18,000 a year. With a $60 million-a-year budget and 1.2 million people in King County, Friedlander said, the freeholders felt full-time councilmen, paid adequately, were necessary.

The other question involves criticism of the supposed political makeup of the nine districts. To say that the districts are Republican or Democratic is not correct, Friedlander said.

"IN 1964 they would have been Democratic, in 1966 they would have been Republican," he said. "You guess what they will be in 1968."

Friedlander said he "firmly believes the people will vote yes to the charter."

Members of the citizen committee are:

Bob Behnke, vice president of the Alaska Steamship Co.; Non Yates, a real-estate man; George Bartell, owner of Bartell Drugs and president of Seattle-King County Municipal League: John Salter, a public-relations man and former administrative assistant to Senator Warren G. Magnuson; Dick Riddell, an attorney.

Howard S. Wright, owner of a construction firm; Fred Baker, operator of an advertising agency; George Gunn, founder of Greater Seattle; Hugh Mitchell, former United States senator and now owner of a transfer company; F. Mort Frayn, owner of a publishing company and forme state Republican chairman; Evans Wyckoff, lumberman; Mrs. Dorothy Bullitt, wife of the president of King Broadcasting; Wes Uhlman, attorney and state senator.

Edith Lobe, Seattle; Lillian Plut, Renton; Nadine Anderson, Highline; Barbara Hopkins, Lake Washington area, and Shirley Charnell, South King County, all presidents of chapters of the Leage of Women Voters.

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Home Rule

'Governments Of Yesteryear...'

"Governments of yesteryear must be remodeled to fit not only today's, but also tomorrow's needs."

We quote a pamphlet, "Modernizing Local Government," published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce but the phase could have come from virtually any study of local governments in recent years.

The problems which beset the Franklin County commissioners differ only in degree from those faced by almost all county commissioners, city councils and governing bodies of other local governmental agencies.

The machinery they are forced to operate is too inflexible — too hopelessly rigid — for these times.

The Franklin County commissioners, for example, have almost no control over their income. And their budget control is minimal because every department head—auditor, sheriff, treasurer, assessor, etc.—is elected, and thereby independent of the commissioners.

A department head popular with the voters can do just about whatever he pleases, and the commissioners be damned.

No private business could operate for long with such a system. It would quickly be driven to the wall by competitors who were even half efficient.

Two avenues of reform are the most promising for county governments:

1. Consolidation of two or more counties, and

2. A switch from the present inflexible system to one patterned after council-manager governments which have proven so successful for cities.

Consolidation can be done only by the state legislature but county government can be modernized by the people themselves under authority granted them in the "home-rule" law of 1947.

Maybe Franklin County leaders should dig out the law and dust it off.

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Issaquah, Wash.
Press
(Cir. W. 1,960)

OCT 2 1968

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

Beaver Lake Club to hear freeholder

The Beaver Lake Community Club will meet Monday, October 7, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson in East Shore Beaver Lake.

The speaker will be a Freeholder who will discuss the proposed new King County Charter on the November 5 ballot. A large attendance is expected because of the importance of this measure.

At the last meeting members protested the use of highpowered rifles, and some objected to all hunting in the Beaver Lake area. A motion to petition the county to ban the discharging of all firearms in this area is under consideration and action may be taken at this meeting.

The county forbids shooting on the chain of three Beaver Lakes and on adjacent lands within 500 feet of the shore. With so many new homes in the woods this is no longer a safe place to hunt. Residents living near the transmission line are worried about the dangers to their families and their homes because shooting is common there at all seasons of the year.

Hunters are remined that state law requires that "any person, regardless of age must have a license to hunt game birds and game animals." More signs are needed to warn that persons who trespass on private property are subject to prosecution. Stricter enforcement of the present laws is needed, especially with the opening of the hunting season.

Town Hall lectures to begin soon

Season tickets are still available for the 1968-69 Bellevue Town Hall lecture series, which will open October 7 and 8 at 11 a.m. in the John Danz Theatre, Bellevue, with Ralph Nader, author of "Unsafe at Any Speed", speaking on "Problems of the Consumer."

Other celebrities appearing on the series and their dates are: Madame V. L. Pandit, international diplomat, December 2-3; William H. Stringer, well-known journalist, January 13-14; Agnes Moorehead, noted actress, March 17-18; and Richard C. Hottelet, news correspondent, April 21-22.

Mail orders, at $12.50 for the five lectures on either the Monday or the Tuesday series may be sent to Box 1055, Bellevue 98004. Season tickets also may be purchased at the theatre box office next Monday and Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. preceding the lectures. No tickets to individual lectures will be sold. Mrs. James W. Barton, GLencourt 4-1995, may be contacted for further information.

The popular series, now in its fifth year.

Seattle, Wash.
Post-Intelligencer
(Circ. D. 196,459
Sat. 182, 103 Sun. 243,338)

OCT 2 1968

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

Information Office Set by Charter Unit

A citizen's committee supporting a "home rule" charter on the Nov. 5 ballot has set up an information office to try to persuade voter approval of the revamping of county government.

During a press conference yesterday morning, member of the King County Board of Freeholders Paul Friedlander said, "The people of King County are sick and tired of the government they have. We will be giving them a chance at a much better government."

With Friedlander in announcing the information were freeholder board chairman Richard Albrecht and the co-chairmen of the citizens committee, Norton Clapp and Dwight Spracher.

The information office is in Room 24 of the Exchange Building. The telephone number is 345-6684.

Chairman Albrecht said the office would provide speakers on the subject and answer any questions that might come up between now and the November election.

In stating his approval of the reorganization of county government, co-chairman Clapp said, "In the jet age, we deserve a form of government different than that engineered when we became a state in 1889. This is a giant step forward."

The most sweeping change the new charter proposes would be establishing a nine-member elective board of a County Council, as opposed to the present three-member system.

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Seattle, Wash.
West Seattle Herald
(Cir. W. 24,000)

OCT 3 1968

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

League of Women Voters Back Home Rule Charter

2177

The Leagues of Women Voters in King County announce their support of the proposed King County Home Rule Charter. League members plan to actively participate in the campaign for the Charter's passage.

Members have agreed, on the basis of many years of study and evaluation of County government, that the proposed Charter incorporates the basic principles necessary for sound management of the county.

The Leagues in announcing their position stated "King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the Sate Constitution which established our form of county government. Recent scandals have shown its inadequacy. Our choice is between the government we now have and the form provided by the proposed Charter, which is more flexible and better able to solve metropolitan area problems.

An elected executive, a nine member council and a board of appeals provide the advantage of separation of powers. Other provisions of the charter increase the responsiveness to the electorate and to changing conditions.'

The Leagues' effort to inform voters will be directed by members of each League: Mrs. Kenneth J. Selander of Highline, Mrs. James L. Weymouth of Lake Washington East, Mrs. S. C. Rayl of Renton, Mrs. John T. Coleman and Mrs. James D. Chalupnik of Seattle, and Mrs. William Huff of South King. Mrs. Harold Mozer of Bellevue will coordinate their activities.

Seattle, Wash.
Western Viking
(Circ. W. 3,900)

OCT 4 1968

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

2177

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, taler på neste møte av Norwegian Commercial Club, torsdag 10. oktober. Da dette er klubbens årlige Leif Erikson Night, blir Mr. Albrecht's tema tildels knyttet til dette emne. Han vil tale om King County's Charter og påvise at denne form for demokratisk styresett går helt tilbake til viking-tiden.

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

OCT 2 1968

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

Women Support Proposed King County Charter

2177

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Seattle, Washington

OCT 4 1969

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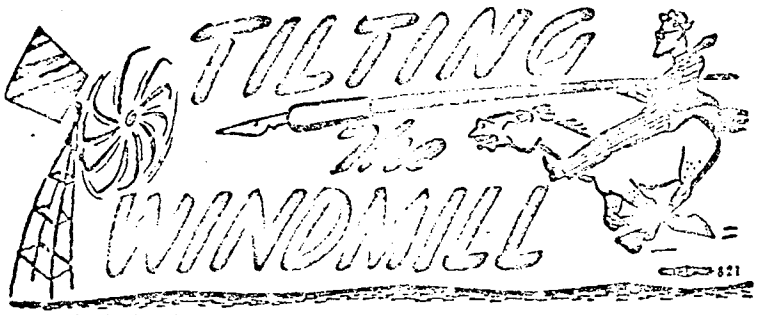

2177 By ED DONOHOE

With the Establishment

THIS WASN'T one of those weeks that would automatically drive members of our Establishment to the wailing wall just because heavy trading on the big board delayed the ticker for an hour or so. Rather, the atrophied antheads who sort of run things because they happen to be dropped into positions of power by marriage, merger or marauding enjoyed one of their better weeks.

It all started on Monday with the roll-out of the new Boeing 747 flying pig pen at Paine Field near Everett. Although I seem to be on the receiving end of an endless stream of Boeing flackery, I wasn't invited to the biggest thing to hit Everett since the landing of the wobs on the good ship Verona. However, one of my spies, who could outsecurity the best the FBI could counter with, was there and telephoned this revealing set of asides:

"I saw Emmett Watson there, and he looks worse than Jerry Rubin, king of the Yippies. Boeing officials seem pre-occupied with pink slips. Twice a speaker predicted that something was about to happen, 'or somebody is going to be fired if it doesn't.' Their favorite indoor sport must be head-rolling. William Allen, chairman of the board, is a lousy speaker in spite of his high position and Harvard education. Keeps laying his emphasis on the wrong words. May have a reading problem. However, the 10,000 faithful know what side their check is buttered on. They didn't stand up for Mr. Whatchamacallum, the Secretary of Commerce, nor for Senators Magnuson and Jackson. Small fry. But they stood up for Allen like he was Noah coming down from Mount Arrat with a new batch of orders."

* * *

IT WAS ALMOST like fate that drove Allen's equal in the Establishment ring to make his own power play for publicity the following day. While bowing to the north and the bold new future of jet aviation, Norton Clapp—chairman of the board at Weyerhaeuser—was selected on Tuesday as head of the committee that will try to slam a new King County charter down the voters' throats on November 5.

I am not prepared to enumerate one or two of the good points that may be found among the terribly dull paragraphs of this long document. But when a Norton Clapp comes out for it; is trailed by that same cabal of pitiful yesmen from the Forward Thrust camp; plus those beakish biddies from the League of Lady Alligators; then, brother, something is rotten around Second and Cherry. And it ain't just a case of bad pits.

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Seattle, Washington

OCT 4 1968

It is hard to say what brought Clapp out of the panelling it can't be that he is so enamored by the Seattle and Tacoma systems of multi-membered councils that do little more than swell the public payroll. And it can't be, as a natural conservative, that he subscribes to Big Government with bureaucracy piled upon bureaucrats. What drives him into the public eye unless it is jealousy over the Highlands' Biggest Aviator's temporary success of passing a giant jet contraption through a couple of sliding doors without breaking the crockery in nearby Lynnwood.

* * *

WITH ALL THIS happening to our truest and bluest bloods could these tired old eyes stand a further blow? Yes, it came in the form of a letter to all attorneys who supported Marvin Durning in his failing race for Attorney General on the Democratic wing, asking that they now switch to Republican Slade Gorton. As predictable, the first paragraph included a reference to a man of "very high ability and personal integrity."

For some reason—it can't be his record in court—the signators find Gorton high on ability, and foe John McCutcheon low on integrity. But just look at these eight-balls signing the letter!

Alfred J. Schweppe, Robert W. Graham and Lewis Bell, all avowed Republicans and spokesmen for the Establishment when Clapp and Allen feel that a word is worthy or wise for us peons.

The two Democrats also endorsing Gorton come as a distinct shock. There is Donald J. Horowitz, who is known in legal circles as one of those limp-liberal "bleeding hearts," and William L. Dwyer, who has done very well as an attorney with Democratic party connections especially wired in the two Senate offices.

Schweppe who isn't the dissenter he is cracked up to be, and Graham who is a bank attorney, and Bell who represents the Scott Paper Co. in Everett, whose mills do their fair share of polluting Puget Sound, made me feel uneasy being in the same camp with Durning during the past summer. Not that this trio contributed more than their name on Marvin's stationery.

Horowitz you can toss out like his namesake Charlie (but no relation) who is in with James Ellis and fronted the defeated Fred Dore. The big law firms have members in all the camps just to play it on the safe side which is why I weigh their endorsements about as seriously as an argument on forceable rape.

But I am ashamed that Bill Dwyer, the aging Boy Wonder, would listen to the siren lute of the Establishment Bar, and lend his name to a campaign to submarine a fellow Democrat just because he had some personal difficulty while serving as Prosecuting Attorney in Pierce County. Certainly the voters of his home town bore no ill-will toward John McCutcheon and seemed ready to forgive any peccadilloes of a minor nature.

"People do look to their lawyer for guidance in selecting an Attorney General, so your going on record for Slade will make a difference," Dwyer and his four conspirators loftily assumed in their wind-up.

This I am not prepared to accept, because most attorneys are only a notch above doctors on the political stupidity chart. But one thing I am most certain about.

Henceforth, William L. Dwyer shall be known as the Democrats' Littlest Ingrate.

Virginia 2177 Burnside

All About Politics

Notes And Comment

Humphrey On The Upturn?

Many seem to think so, including members of the national press corps traveling with the Demo presidential nominee who reported Humphrey's West Coast crowds . . . and the enthusiasm of those crowds . . . indicated the fortunes of the candidate could be on the rise.

Pro-Humphrey supporters are placing cautious stock in the fact that polls have been proved wrong, and that the growing confidence of Richard Nixon could have an adverse affect on the electorate – which in the past has shown a tendency to vote underdog. They're also hoping for a break in the Vietnam war and calculate that Humphrey's stop-the-bombing speech last week drew some dovish votes. All – or – none of these things could happen.

A real plus for Humphrey here was the appearance of former Kennedy Leader James Whittaker and it's entirely possible that former supporters of Senator Robert Kennedy nationally could lead the swing of McCarthy forces back into the Democratic fold. Tuesday's speech by Senator McCarthy, if he decides to repair his damaged postelection image, will provide that answer.

Time at this point is Humphrey's biggest ally – as well as Nixon's greatest enemy. Humphrey is obviously figuring if he gets his message to enough of the voters spelling out the alternatives – dire to him – of a reactionary or conservative administration in this country, he has a chance to win.

Admittedly, Humphrey's repeated, articulate emphasis on the issues in the campaign is bringing many Democrats – some reluctantly – back to his banner. Not as their actual choice, perhaps, but as the only realistic choice offered to Democrats. And Nixon, just as carefully, is avoiding these issues from the plateau of a well-paced, almost leisurely campaign.

If Humphrey is successful in smoking out Nixon in public debate, or even Wallace, his very harping on the campaign issues may just swing the balance. Particularly if the Wallace vote is drawing more votes away from Nixon than from Humphrey . . . which seems true today.

But the clock is running out . . . and the odds-on favorite may have the game wrapped up even now!

* * *

Candidate Spellman

Take a good look at County Commissioner John Spellman in a new role: A campaigner for the job of mayor of Seattle.

Although Braman has not said publicly he intends to step down when his present term expires in 1970, he has been more than frustrated at Seattle's explosive racial unrest and his good intentions – and they have been good – have earned him not success but more trouble. As a result, insiders are predicting chances are more than even the job will be an open one two years from now.

Spellman is known to be quietly assembling the nucleus of a campaign organization to make another try at the job and is hoping for an assist from Gov. Dan Evans when the time comes. At one time a close associate of Republican County Chairman Kenneth Rogstad, Spellman has switched his signals and hopes to campaign this time without the aid of either Rogstad or that former GOP power center, Charles O. Carroll, with whom he has repeatedly and publicly tangled.

The North District commissioner has become increasingly frustrated with his present role on the Board of County Commissioners and has displayed a bent for the fractious comment designed to achieve the most press mileage. Essentially an idealistic, conscientious "loner," Spellman has had trouble in projecting what he deems to be his role on the board to his fellow commissioners or to the public itself.

If Spellman decides to switch back to the municipal level, this will be his second try at it. He was defeated when he ran for the job in 1956.

* * *

Recap On The Humphrey Visit Here

The fragmentation of leadership – both locally and among Humphrey's advance men – ended up with Democratic National Committee corps traveling with him . . . Usually these journalists sit on their hands . . . The attorney general's introduction of senior Senator Warren G. Magnuson as the state's distinguished senior "citizen" drew an inner groan from most loyal Democrats . . . but some adroit platform footwork from Maggie himself. This isn't the first time the malapropism has slipped out – and from O'Connell, yet. Humphrey's welcome at the airport, panned in the press, was planned that way not to deflect from attendance at the rally . . . which turned out to be a bulging affair too big for the Seattle Center to handle. Noted by their absence: Senator Henry M. Jackson, who shared the platform with Humphrey at the dedication of the John Day dam earlier in the day, and any leader of the McCarthy forces in this state . . . The Vice President may have picked up votes by his tolerant, in-command handling of the hecklers, particularly when he declared "Dissent in America . . . Yes!; Disorder in America . . . No!" The group, incidentally, was recognized by Humphrey as hecklers who had followed him from Portland who tried there also to disrupt his campaign . . . Badly as the Humphrey campaign needs money here, a planned passing of the hat almost was forgotten in the press of events . . . Humphrey's visit here is estimated to have cost upwards of $10,000 – two thirds of which was absorbed by the Democratic National Committee – in contrast to Nixon's $30,000 appearance five days earlier.

* * *

Briefly Noted

A toss-up on which was the more contrived: The appearance of former Governor Wallace's little daughter to give her dad a kiss on his tv broadcast Tuesday night or the picture Wednesday morning of President Johnson sucking a lollipop. . Aloha: The invitation of the Hawaii Citizens for Humphrey-Muskie to Gov. Spiro Agnew to return "anytime" . . . at their expense . . . Calling the King County Arts Commission: Complaints are mounting at the unadorned functionalism of the remodeling job now in full swing at the King County Courthouse . . . even from members of the Superior Court who are drawing little judicial inspiration from closed-in courtrooms that look like a department-store basement . . . The old-fashioned jammed-in look of the courthouse before the remodeling started still had color and personality which the blah interior of the courthouse now distinctly lacks . . . **What's happened to the Arts Commission, incidentally?** There's been nary a word out of them for months . . . Republican nominee Slade Gorton had a clean sweep of things last weekend at the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association in Spokane . . . His Democratic opponent for the attorney general's post, Tacoman John McCutcheon, failed to show . . . Gorton, incidentally, got a boost when several prominent local attorneys supporting Marvin Durning in the primary switched to the Republican nominee . . . Local supporters of Richard Nixon are working strictly through the Evans' campaign structure here. Republican County Chairman Rogstad, in a tough fight for re-election, wasn't even invited to the closed meeting during Nixon's visit here . . . Republican congressional nominees, particularly Jack Metcalf, are still smarting over the fact that Nixon never once mentioned them during his rally speech . . . and that, when he left, his only concern seemed to be for the fortunes of Lt. Gov. Nominee Art Fletcher . . . There may be more opposition to Rogstad's re-election, if he chooses to run, than from Evans' man James O'Conner . . . It seems that a group of conservatives in the South County area is planning to run a candidate against Rogstad, also . . . so far nameless . . . King County freeholders, in a tight fight to get their charter passed next month, feeling nothing but hostile to what they claim is feet-dragging on the part of charter foe Ed Logan, superintendent of elections. Logan reports difficulty in getting the charter printed in required public notices in anything but 6-point type. Anyone for microscopes? . . . Our nomination for next month's most confusing ballot issue: Initiative 32 . . . It had to happen: The Auburn Elks has asked for Alva Long's card back . . . The challenge to alleged gambling in the Elks Club made in Superior.

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The Charter

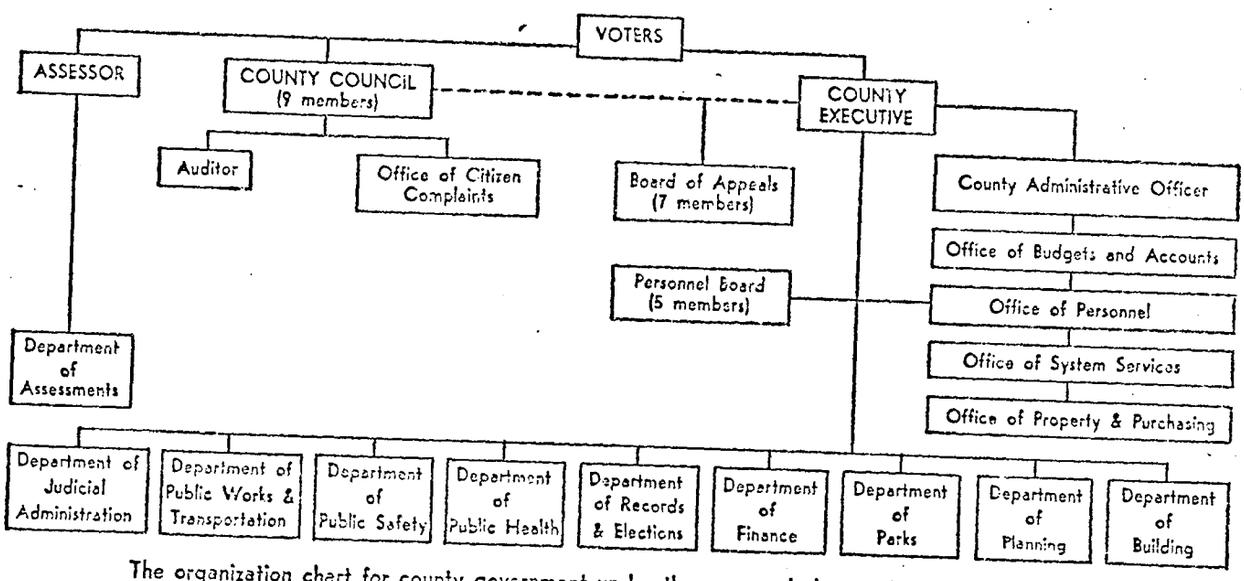
By JERRY BERGSMAN

Adoption of the home-rule charter for King County would clear the way for the first major overhaul of county government in this state in more than 100 years.

County-government structure has undergone little change since it was created by the Oregon Territorial Assembly in 1852 and reaffirmed by the Washington Territorial Assembly two years later.

Counties are creatures of the state, their authority limited to areas specifically defined by the Legislature. For instance, until recently, counties could not name even a bridge or park without legislative approval.

With a home-rule charter, King County could act in any area where it was not specifically prohibited from acting, rather than just in those areas where it is specifically allowed to act.



The organization chart for county government under the proposed charter shows the separation of administrative and legislative functions. The Board of Appeals would operate independently once its members are appointed by the executive and confirmed by the Council. The executive would appoint a county administrator and heads of line departments, subject to Council confirmation. The administrator would appoint heads of offices providing internal services, subject to confirmation by the executive. The elected assessor would be required to use these services.

A Budgeting Revamp

County budget procedures would be overhauled under the home-rule charter.

King County now uses a line-item budget, which itemizes amounts to be spent on wages, operation costs and capital improvements, down to the last typewriter to be purchased by a department.

The charter requires that this be combined with a program budget spelling out the projects and goals of each department.

Now, for example, charter proponents says, it would be impossible to tell from a budget that computer use is being expanded to numerous county departments.

THE LINE-ITEM budget merely shows the number of people in the department. Under program budgeting, the expansion goal will be listed as well as the cost of accomplishing it.

This is designed to provide for the public a clear way to assess whether goals are accomplished.

The county executive would supervise allotment of funds after they are budgeted. Unexpended funds would be returned to the general fund at the end of the year.

Additional capital-budget appropriations would be prohibited during the budget year without a specific request by the executive.

CONTRACTS in excess of appropriations would be void.

The county would be prohibited from leasing real property for more than a year at a time without a

Criticism and Praise

A Topic of Much Discussion

By ANDREA VOGEL

If the comments of a university professor and the county chairmen of the major political parties are an indication, the proposed King County charter will be the subject of wide-ranging discussion between now and November 5.

The comments of the three ranged from highly laudatory to sharply critical — at least of parts of the charter. There was not total agreement that a change is needed.

The strongest support came from Dr. Ernest Miller, director of continuing education, University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs. He summarized this way:

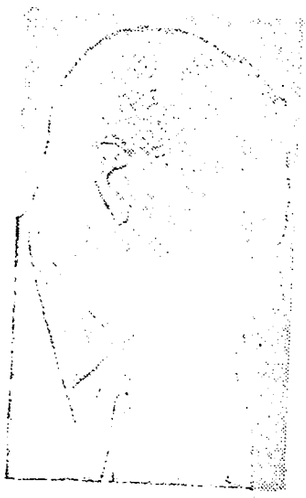
"ON BALANCE, there is no question in my mind that the charter is an absolutely desirable change from the present arrangement. I am aware there are places in it where anyone could take exception to individual points. But it is a flexible document ... and encourages modern administrative practices essential today."

Jeanette Williams, King County Democratic chairman, had a number of minor criticisms, but summed up her sentiments:

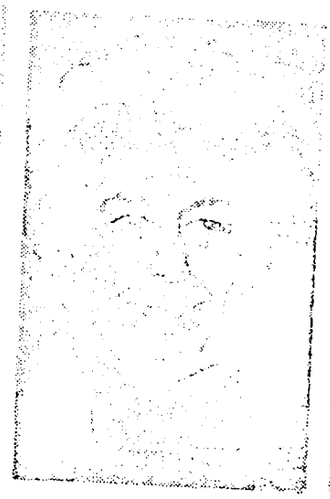
"They have put some good things into the charter — it is realistic, for one. The freeholders have realized that government is not static, that it will have to grow as the community grows and changes."

She said her party had made no stand on it as yet, but said, "I would assume, after all the work and studies we've done on the charter, we would come out in support of it. I personally will speak for it."

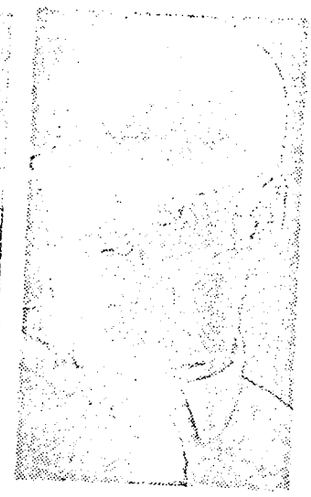
Mrs. Williams speculated [illegible]



KENNETH ROGSTAD



JEANETTE WILLIAMS



DR. ERNEST MILLER

County Republican chairman, was much cooler in his comments, saying of the charter:

"Some parts of it are very good; some parts, however, are — not unacceptable, but — less than desirable."

HE ADDED that he personally felt "there are some features of the charter that are sufficiently questionable as to make me wonder if the charter should be supported."

Objections from both chairmen centered on the office of sheriff, which would be made appointive, rather than elective as now.

"The sheriff," Rogstad said, "has stood, throughout history, as the pillar of the public community — from the Sheriff of Nottingham on up, responsible for law enforcement. Particularly today, I think, he should be an independent, elected official, not once-removed from the people."

Mrs. Williams, who "had hoped the sheriff would remain elective," termed the [illegible] even the assessor appointive. As a professional position, which it is along with the others, it would have been preferable, but perhaps not politically realistic right now."

The Democratic chairman also criticized provisions for independent candidates.

She said the provision for the independent candidate "clouds the issues of the two-party system."

"In effect, he negates the two-party system," she said. "It's so darned ambiguous."

SHE SAID she felt the Republicans would feel the same: "Oddly enough, the Rogstad crew and we Democrats get along pretty well in some areas — we're both looking for a stronger party voice."

Rogstad said it is not likely the Republican Party will take a stand on the issue.

He added he was "very disappointed in the freeholders' insistence on placing the measure on the November ballot," with the national and local [illegible] of government 60 years — why the big rush to put a change on the November ballot?"

Miller later commented on Rogstad's statement, saying, "If I had to, I could get along with a broken leg and crutches. But a change is desperately needed now."

The professor cited a trend today toward greater professionalism and greater representation of the people, and said the charter makes great strides in both areas.

"The nine-member council, which many complain of as too large, is necessary if they are to exercise an oversight of the executive and concern themselves with budget and other involved matters. Not only must they be qualified, but it is a full-time job, although the charter does not spell out this."

Miller lauded the freeholders, "representing a wide spectrum of opinion," for "managing to come up with a flexible, reasonable document.

"This is no dream of some [illegible]

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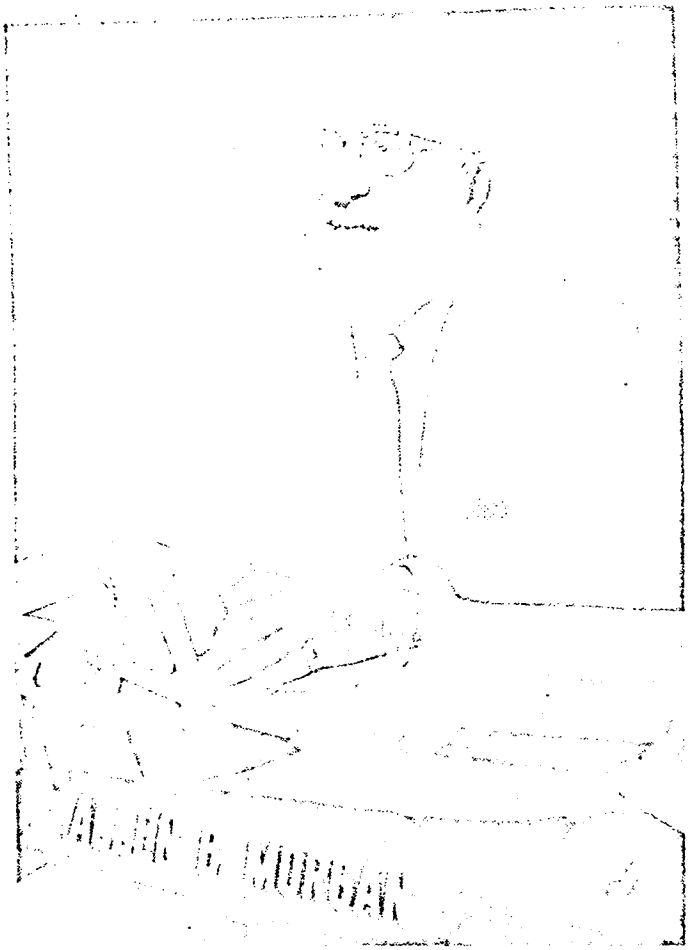
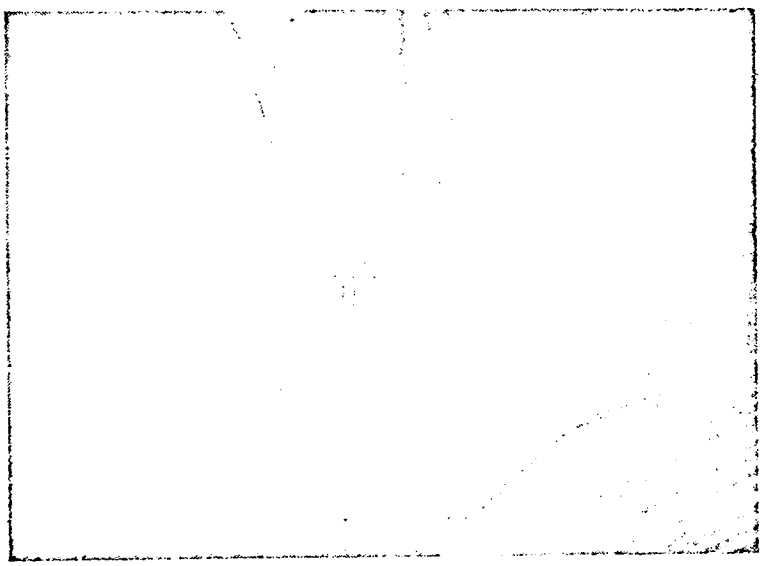
But Not Assessor

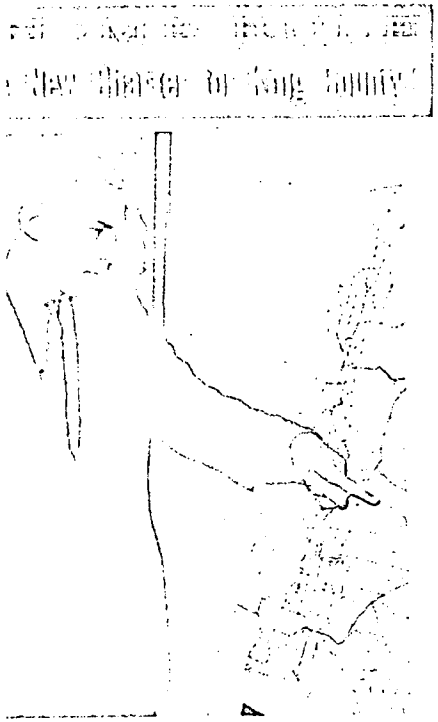


STATUS QUO — King County Assessor Allen Morgan smilingly acknowledges his status quo, as the freeholders left his responsibilities strictly alone. Under the new charter he will be the county's only elective department head, running the Department of Assessments operating as at present.

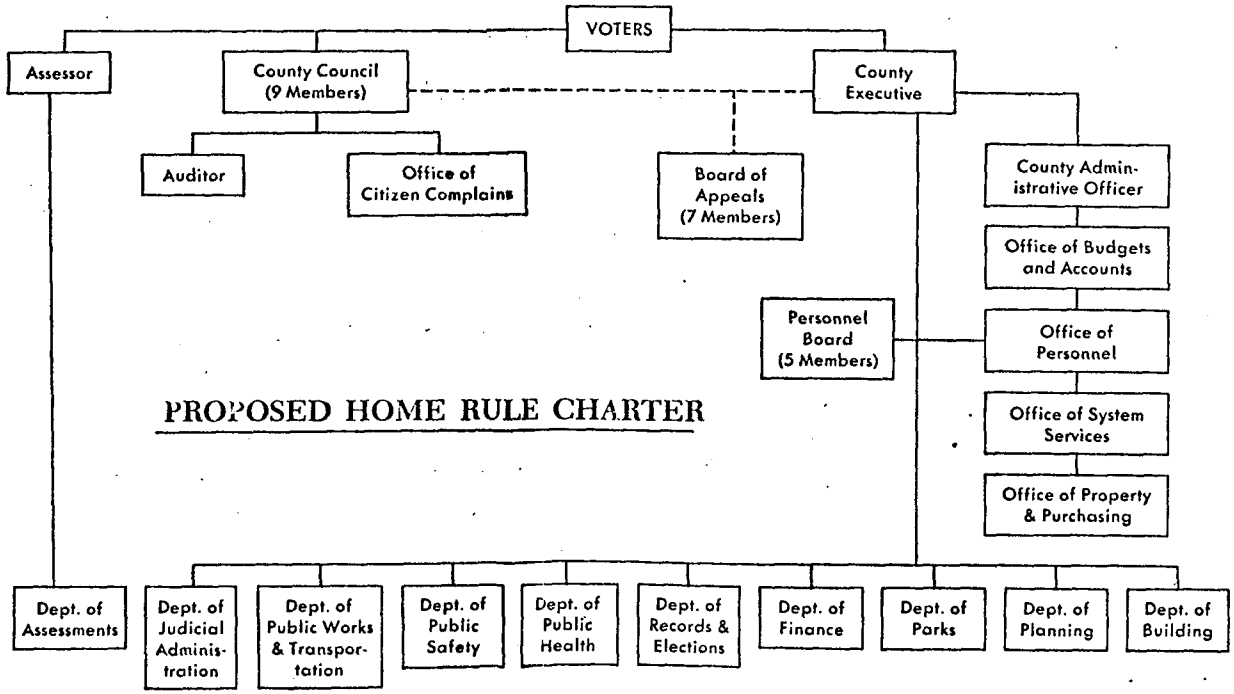


A Picture Story of What the New County Charter Spells Out

Here's How the Restructured County Government Comes Back Together



PROCEDURAL CHANGE — Want a rezoning or conditional-use permit from the county? King County Planning Department headed by Ed Sand, examining the county's comprehensive plan, will have decision-making powers on all zoning variances and conditional-use permits. A new seven-member Appeals Board will be created to consider appeals of these decisions now heard by the present Board of Adjustment, and appeals of assessed valuations now heard by the present Board of Equalization. The new county council, instead of the present Planning Commission, will decide all original zonings and rezoning requests. The fate of the present Planning Commission will be up to the new county council.



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PLANNED TO FIT TOGETHER — This schematic diagram shows the organization and relation of the county's proposed new departmental structure and officers, and how it all fits together. Note that the office of prosecuting attorney, the superior and justice court systems and the county schools, by state law, are not included in the charter provisions. Freeholders, unable to add powers or subtract them, point out that any or all of these county offices may be decentralized to various points in the county for greater service and efficiency.

INVOLVED — King County Sheriff Jack Porter would become an appointive official instead of elective as at present. Porter, who originally was appointed to the post and since reelected, summarizes: "I can live with it." The new charter creates a Department of Public Safety to enforce law and order, and to administer the county jail and civil defense.

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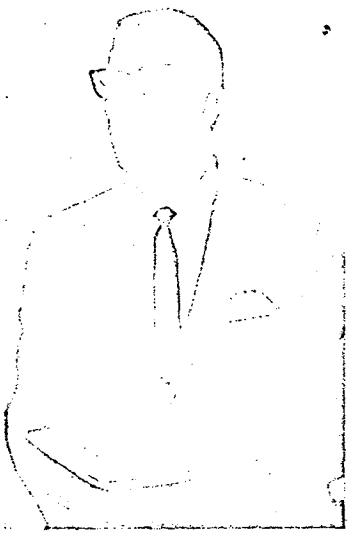
Major Shifts For:

Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor, Engineer



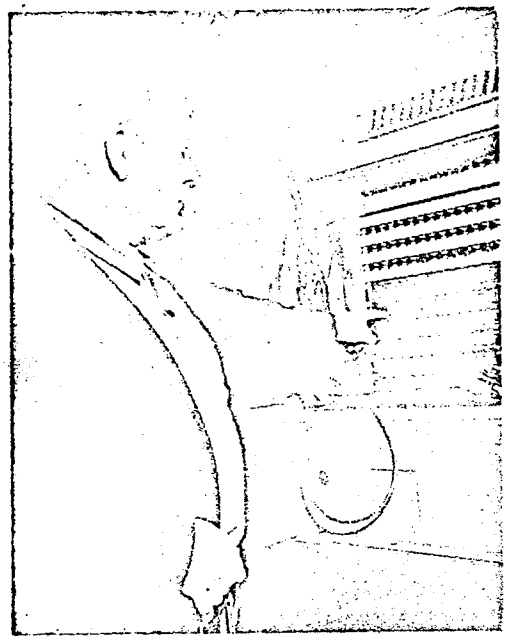
BROADENED RESPONSIBILITIES – King County Engineer's Office headed by Jean De Spain (above) will be restructured into a new Department of Public Works, Utilities & Transportation of vastly broadened scope to include responsibilities for the county's present roads system and operations, flood control, garbage disposal and other public works and utilities. A separate Department of Buildings would be created, instead of being under cognizance of the engineer's office as it is now.

REDEFINED – The office of King County Clerk Walter Renschler under the new charter will become the Department of Judicial Administration headed by a Superior Court Clerk appointed by the county's chief executive from a list of three or more nominees submitted by judges of King County Superior Court. Functions of the office will remain unchanged. Responsibilities of the King County Treasurer will be merged into the Department of Finance. Responsibilities of the King County Coroner will be absorbed by the Department of Health.

County Employes Get New Job Protection, Strict Political Ban

236

SYSTEMATIC – Under the new charter, county employes will be blanketed under a new personnel system based on merit, classification and competititive examinations. A new five-member Personnel Board, appointed by the county's chief executive and the county employes themselves, will hear complaints from job-holders over pay, dismissals, etc. The new charter provides for collective bargaining as at present, and has provisions prohibiting discrimination because of age, creed, sex, etc.



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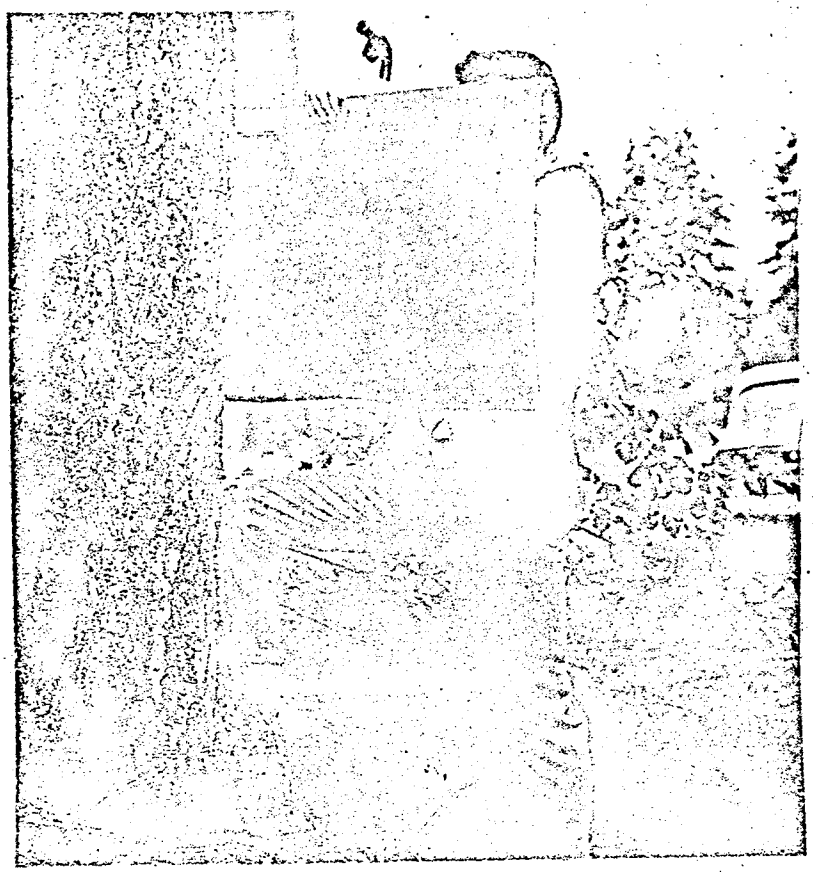
VOTING INDEPENDENT? — Under the new charter, it will be legal to vote as an independent. Retaining partisan elections, the new charter also permits the filing of a candidate under the "independent" label. Such a candidate will get a place on the general election ballot if he obtains 20 per cent of all votes cast for the office in the primary election. Ralph Dillon, assistant elections department superintendent, shows where to look on a voting machine. The new charter separates the county's elections and recording functions from the King County Auditor's office, where they are now, and puts them into a separate new Department of Records & Elections. The auditor's responsibility will become strictly an audit function.



FORBIDDEN — Out-of-bounds for all county employes will be any political campaign activity such as this in behalf of any candidate for county office. The new charter also provides stiff new penalties in connection with reporting all campaign expenditures and manpower — failure to do so will disqualify the candidate from holding county office.

Virginia 2177

Burnside

Humphrey On The Upturn?

Many seem to think so, including members of the national press corps traveling with the Demo presidential nominee who reported Humphrey's West Coast crowds . . . and the enthusiasm of those crowds . . . indicated the fortunes of the candidate could be on the rise.

Pro-Humphrey supporters are placing cautious stock in the fact that polls have been proved wrong, and that the growing confidence of Richard Nixon could have an adverse affect on the electorate – which in the past has shown a tendency to vote underdog. They're also hoping for a break in the Vietnam war and calculate that Humphrey's stop-the-bombing speech last week drew some dovish votes. All – or – none of these things could happen.

A real plus for Humphrey here was the appearance of former Kennedy Leader James Whittaker and it's entirely possible that former supporters of Senator Robert Kennedy nationally could lead the swing of McCarthy forces back into the Democratic fold. Tuesday's speech by Senator McCarthy, if he decides to repair his damaged postelection image, will provide that answer.

Time at this point is Humphrey's biggest ally – as well as Nixon's greatest enemy. Humphrey is obviously figuring if he gets his message to enough of the voters spelling out the alternatives – dire to him – of a reactionary or conservative administration in this country, he has a chance to win.

Admittedly, Humphrey's repeated, articulate emphasis on the issues in the campaign is bringing many Democrats – some reluctantly – back to his banner. Not as their actual choice, perhaps, but as the only realistic choice offered to Democrats. And Nixon, just as carefully, is avoiding these issues from the plateau of a well-paced, almost leisurely campaign.

If Humphrey is successful in smoking out Nixon in public debate, or even Wallace, his very harping on the campaign issues may just swing the balance. Particularly if the Wallace vote is drawing more votes away from Nixon than from Humphrey . . . which seems true today.

But the clock is running out . . . and the odds-on favorite may have the game wrapped up even now!

* * *

Candidate Spellman

Take a good look at County Commissioner John Spellman in a new role: A campaigner for the job of mayor of Seattle.

Although Braman has not said publicly he intends to step down when his present term expires in 1970, he has been more than frustrated at Seattle's explosive racial unrest and his good intentions – and they have been good – have earned him not success but more trouble. As a result, insiders are predicting chances are more than even the job will be an open one two years from now.

Spellman is known to be quietly assembling the nucleus of a campaign organization to make another try at the job and is hoping for an assist from Gov. Dan Evans when the time comes. At one time a close associate of Republican County Chairman Kenneth Rogstad, Spellman has switched his signals and hopes to campaign this time without the aid of either Rogstad or that former GOP power center, Charles O. Carroll, with whom he has repeatedly and publicly tangled.

The North District commissioner has become increasingly frustrated with his present role on the Board of County Commissioners and has displayed a bent for the fractious comment designed to achieve the most press mileage. Essentially an idealistic, conscientious "loner," Spellman has had trouble in projecting what he deems to be his role on the board to his fellow commissioners or to the public itself.

If Spellman decides to switch back to the municipal level, this will be his second try at it. He was defeated when he ran for the job in 1968.

* * *

Hoopla On The Humphrey Visit Here

The fragmentation of leadership – both locally and among Humphrey's advance men – ended up with Democratic National Committeeman Luke Graham throwing up his hands . . . Among the switcheroos in Humphrey's schedule: A dedication at Timberlane in South King County at which Humphrey could have met 2,000 new faces . . . a fishing trip Sunday . . . and a dance scheduled for after the rally Saturday night. The latter, fortunately, was scrubbed after warnings by local Demo leaders the affair could end up in a melee . . . Sitem Saturday night: The glowering face of Jose Imenez after he tried – unsuccessfully – to defuse the protest of the Peace and Freedom group . . . Humphrey's order to "shut up" to that same group, coming after a patient ear lent to their spokesman, drew a round of applause from members of the national press

2177

Voters will be asked Nov. 5 to approve a new charter for King County.

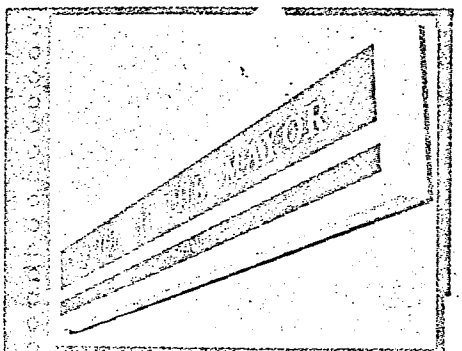
The product of nine months of work by the 15-member Board of King County Freeholders, the document represents the county's second effort to restructure its government – operating now, as in 1854, under the same set of provisions enacted for the county by the Washington Territorial Assembly.

To inform voters of the background in which the new charter was written, what's in it and the pros and cons of the document, this newspaper is presenting a four-part series to help South County voters ballot intelligently next month.

Second of Series

New County Charter -- Its Words Illustrated

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau



RESPONSIBILITY, AUTHORITY IN FOCUS – A King County chief executive will have broad powers similar to those of Seattle's mayor, who presides in a large roof-top suite (above) over the city's carefully structured executive branch. King County has no executive head at present. All legislative, executive and even semi-judicial powers are concentrated in the three-man Board of King County Commissioners – each commissioner with great and equal powers. The new county chief executive will be elected directly by the voters in a partisan election to serve a four-year term at an initial salary of no less than $27,000 a year. He will supervise all administrative offices and executive departments, be responsible for all county budget-making, and will appoint the county administrator, the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and auditor, and the members of all boards and commissions. All his appointments would be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council.

PHASED OUT – The present Board of King County Commissioners – Commissioner John Spellman (left), Chairman John O'Brien (center), Commissioner Ed Munro (right) – will be phased out of their present roles to become members automatically of the new nine member county council elected by district in a partisan election. Council members will receive $18,000 annual salary. The new council will be the legislative branch of county government with power to enact ordinances, levy taxes, appropriate revenues and adopt budgets – all subject to veto by the chief executive officer, but with, in turn, the power of veto over his appointments in a new system of checks and balances. The council will have specific power to appoint the county auditor. The new charter provides for citizen legislative powers through initiative and referendum, as at present, and for a citizen complaint bureau for protesting any administrative decision.

Record Chronicle Renton Wash 10/6/68

New Charter for King County

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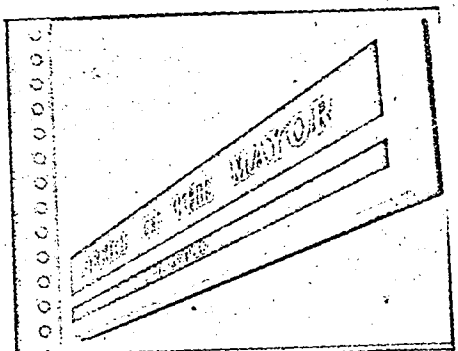

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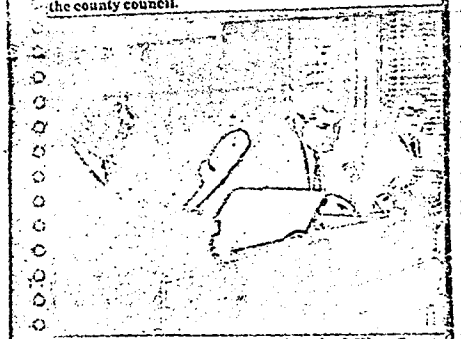

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239

Sun. 239,092)
OCT 8 1968
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Proposed King County Charter

(LEGAL NOTICE)

PREAMBLE

240

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

O'BRIEN
FIRST DISTRICT

ED MUNRO
COMMISSIONER, SECOND DISTRICT

JOHN D. SPELLMAN
COMMISSIONER, THIRD DISTRICT

KING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
402 KING COUNTY COURT HOUSE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

ENDER
BOARD

September 26, 1968

TO THE PEOPLE OF KING COUNTY:

In 1948 the people of this state granted to counties an opportunity to frame a home rule charter. There are many problems which we as a Board face, making it difficult to meet the urgent demands of an urban county with 1,200,000 people.

Under the powers granted to us, we must seek changes through the enactment of state legislation when problems could be solved through the home rule process established by the 21st Amendment.

A home rule charter has been prepared for your consideration and is now being offered for your acceptance or rejection at the November, 1968, general ballot. We urge you to read the proposed charter carefully. If you think it provides an improvement over the present form of government, then you should vote for its passage; if you do not think so, then vote against it. Whatever the outcome may be, the effort expended by the Board of Freeholders has resulted in a higher level of interest in county government.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John T. O'Brien
Chairman

Ed Munro
Commissioner

John D. Spellman
Commissioner

PROPOSED KING COUNTY CHARTER

PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

ARTICLE 1
POWERS OF THE COUNTY

SECTION 110. GENERAL POWERS.

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

SECTION 120. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

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

SECTION 130. CONSTRUCTION.

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended from time to time. This charter and the ordinances enacted hereunder shall supersede special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter and ordinances to the extent permitted by the state constitution.

SECTION 140. NAME, BOUNDARIES AND COUNTY SEAT.

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed. Branch county offices may be established by ordinance.

ARTICLE 2
THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 210. COMPOSITION.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the county council.

SECTION 220. THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

220.10. Composition and Terms of Office.

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

220.20. POWERS.

The county council shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The county council shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; except as otherwise provided herein shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities; shall adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths, but the subpoena power of the county council shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances which are being considered by the county council, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. The specific statement of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the county council.

220.30. ORGANIZATION.

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

220.40. RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The county council shall adopt by ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings and hearings and the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of ordinances. All meetings shall be open to the public, and a verbatim public record shall be kept of each meeting and the votes taken therein in the form, and for a reasonable period of time, as provided by ordinance.

220.50. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BRANCHES.

The county council and the individual councilmen shall not interfere in the administration, and shall not issue orders to any officer, agent or employee of any other branch of the county government.

SECTION 230. ORDINANCES.

230.10 INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION.

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

230.20. EXECUTIVE VETO.

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the county executive shall have the right to veto any ordinance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its adoption or enactment by the county council. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto the ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

230.30. EMERGENCY ORDINANCES.

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

230.40. REFERENDUM.

Except as provided herein, an enacted ordinance may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the county council prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than eight percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of

the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the next special or general election occurring more than forty-five days after the petitions are filed.

An appropriation ordinance; an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions; an ordinance proposing amendments to this charter; an ordinance providing for collective bargaining; an ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement; an ordinance providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees; or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

230.50. INITIATIVE.

Ordinances except ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees may be proposed by filing with the county council petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The county council shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred thirty-five days after the petitions are filed or at an earlier election designated by the county council. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum.

If the county council rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall first be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for either, then the ordinance receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither ordinance shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

230.60. REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE PETITIONS.

The county council shall establish by ordinance the form to be used for referendum and initiative petitions. All referendum and initiative petitions shall be sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval of the clerk of the county council as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. Within five days after the form of the proposed petitions is submitted to him, the clerk of the county council shall return it to the sponsor with an indication of his approval or with a detailed written explanation of his objections to the form.

230.70. EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.

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

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

SECTION 240. MOTIONS.

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

SECTION 250. COUNTY AUDITOR.

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

SECTION 260. OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS.

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witness in his own behalf.

ARTICLE 3

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 310. COMPOSITION AND POWERS.

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

SECTION 320. COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

320.10. ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE AND COMPENSATION.

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

320.20. POWERS AND DUTIES.

The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other specific elective officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council; shall be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, but if more than one county commissioner was required to serve, the county council shall appoint a councilman or councilmen to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the county council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary; shall prepare and present to the county council budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the county council except as otherwise provided in this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

SECTION 330. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

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

SECTION 340. APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATION AND REMOVAL.

340.10. APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

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

340.20. APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

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

340.30. APPOINTMENTS BY THE CHIEF OFFICERS.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department and shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and employees to positions covered by the career service.

340.40. CONFIRMATION.

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

340.50. QUALIFICATIONS.

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

340.60. REMOVAL.

Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not a member of the career service may be removed at any time by the officer who appointed him, except that a member of the personnel board or the board of appeals may be removed only by a majority of the county council as provided in this charter.

SECTION 350. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

350.10. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

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

350.20. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

350.20.10. DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county assessor shall be elected by the voters of the county unless general law shall provide otherwise, and his term of office shall be four years. The department of assessments shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council.

350.20.20. DEPARTMENT OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.

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

The department of judicial administration shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished by the county council.

ARTICLE 4
FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

SECTION 410. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGETS.

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

SECTION 420. BUDGET INFORMATION.

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

SECTION 430. CONTENTS OF BUDGET.

The budget shall include all funds, revenues and reserves; shall be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense and shall include supporting data deemed advisable by the county executive or required by ordinance; shall indicate as to each program, project or object of expense the actual expenditures of the preceding fiscal year, the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested appropriations for the next fiscal year; and shall include the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. The expenditures included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

SECTION 440. BUDGET MESSAGE.

The budget message shall explain the budget in fiscal terms and in terms of the goals to be accomplished and shall relate the requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

SECTION 450. COPIES OF BUDGET.

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

SECTION 460. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES.

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the county council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearing on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The county council in considering the appropriation ordinances proposed by the county executive may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditures of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the county executive. The appropriation ordinances adopted by the county council shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the county council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the county executive by re-estimating the amount by motion passed by a minimum of six affirmative votes or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive.

SECTION 470. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

470.10. CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.

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

470.20. EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.

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

470.30. ADDITIONAL CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

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

SECTION 475. WORK PROGRAMS AND ALLOTMENTS.

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.

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

SECTION 480. LAPSES OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

SECTION 490. INTERFUND BORROWING AND REIMBURSEMENT.

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

SECTION 495. ILLEGAL CONTRACTS.

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

ARTICLE 5

THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

SECTION 510. PURPOSE.

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

SECTION 520. ADMINISTRATION.

The county executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the county council by ordinance. The

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county administrative officer shall prepare and present proposed personnel rules to the county executive who shall present a proposed ordinance establishing the personnel rules to the county council which shall adopt the ordinance with or without amendments.

SECTION 530. PERSONNEL RULES.

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

SECTION 540. THE PERSONNEL BOARD.

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

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

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

SECTION 550. CAREER SERVICE POSITIONS.

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

SECTION 560. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The county administrative officer, the chief officer of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments, the officers and employees of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments who are not members of the career service and all members of the career service shall not engage in any political activity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office. A member of the career service may be elected and serve as a precinct committeeman without violating the provisions of this section. A member of the career service may file for a compensated elective office, but he shall take and be granted a leave of absence until the date of the election and until his term of office expires if he is elected.

ARTICLE 6

ELECTIONS

SECTION 610. ELECTION PROCEDURES.

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

SECTION 620. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate in a major political party primary, anyone qualified to assume office if elected may file a declaration of candidacy as an "independent."

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

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

SECTION 630. QUALIFICATIONS.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, at least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each councilman shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a councilman's district which shall cause him to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

SECTION 640. COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY ASSESSOR.

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing with the election of 1971 for the county assessor and with the election of 1973 for the county executive.

SECTION 650. COUNCILMEN.

650.10. DISTRICTS.

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

650.20. NOMINATION AND ELECTION

The nomination and election of councilmen shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing in even numbered districts with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election of 1973.

650.30. DISTRICTING.

650.30.10. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

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

650.30.20. DISTRICTING ORDINANCES.

A districting ordinance shall be enacted by the county council by April 30, 1971, and at least every five years thereafter. If the size, shape and population of the districts comply with the requirements of this charter, the county council shall enact an ordinance retaining the district boundaries without change. A districting ordinance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

650.30.30. DISTRICTING COMMITTEE.

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

650.30.40. CONSIDERATION BY COUNTY COUNCIL.

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

650.30.50. FAILURE TO ENACT A DISTRICTING ORDINANCE.

If the county council fails to enact a districting ordinance by April 30 of each year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the compensation of the councilmen shall be suspended from the first day of May of that year until a districting ordinance is enacted. Upon enactment of a districting ordinance, one half of the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the councilmen who would have received it but for the suspension; and the other one half of the suspended compensation shall be forfeited.

SECTION 660. COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF OFFICE.

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

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SECTION 670. RECALL.

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

SECTION 680. VACANCIES.

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the county council; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office; provided, however, that an elective county office shall not become vacant as the result of a criminal conviction or declaration of incompetency until the conviction or declaration has become final and is no longer subject to appeal.

680.10 ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY.

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

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

SECTION 690. STATEMENT OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall, within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an itemized statement with the executive department responsible for conducting elections showing all campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material made to him or on his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him or on his behalf. Such statement when filed shall be a public record. The county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form of such statement. A willfull violation of this section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

ARTICLE 7
BOARD OF APPEALS

SECTION 710. COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENT, REMOVAL.

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

SECTION 720. POWERS.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the executive branch and from any valuation by the department of assessments. The county council may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive department or administrative office. The decision of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a state agency as provided by general law or appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction within the time limits established by ordinance or general law.

SECTION 730. RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE.

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board and shall provide for the selection of those of its members who shall serve with representatives of cities or other agencies of government on any joint board or commission established by general law which hears appeals which would otherwise be within the jurisdiction of the board of appeals established by this charter.

ARTICLE 8
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 800. CHARTER REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS.

At least every ten years after the adoption of this charter, the county executive shall review, or shall cause to be reviewed, the charter and shall present, or cause to be presented, to the county council a written report recommending those amendments, if any, which should be made to the charter.

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

SECTION 810. SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION.

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable, it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provisions of this charter.

SECTION 815. CONTRACTS AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

The construction of all public buildings and works shall be performed by independent contractors; except that county road projects having a value of less than fifteen thousand dollars may be performed by county employees. Whenever the county would have been required to do so by general law if it had not adopted this charter, it shall purchase all property and award all contracts by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures established by ordinance.

SECTION 820. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

The county council shall adopt an ordinance prohibiting an officer or employee of the county when it might conflict with the performance of his official duties from directly or indirectly: receiving or having any financial interest in any sale to or by the county of any service or property; accepting or seeking for others any service or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county; or accepting any gift from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county. The ordinance shall include civil and criminal penalties for the negligent or willful violation of this section by any county officer or employee or by any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county.

SECTION 830. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

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

SECTION 840. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION.

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

SECTION 850. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

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

SECTION 860. REFERENCES TO COUNTY AGENCIES AND OFFICERS IN THE CONSTITUTION OR GENERAL LAW.

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

SECTION 870. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter. An elected officer of the county shall not be appointed to any other compensated county office or position during his term of office.

SECTION 880. COMPILATION AND CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the county council shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the county council and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The county council shall also provide for an annual supplement.

SECTION 890. EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION.

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agree-

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ment reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

SECTION 895. MANDATORY INQUESTS.

An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE 9
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

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

SECTION 900. EFFECTIVE DATE AND ELECTIONS.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969, except that special nominating primaries and a special election shall be held on February 11, 1969, and March 11, 1969, respectively, to elect the first county executive, county assessor and councilmen to be elected after the adtoption of this charter. The nominating primaries and election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 610 and 620, except that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primaries shall be filed during December 16-20, 1968; provided, however, that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primary for a councilman district in which a county commissioner elected in 1966 or 1968 resides shall be December 23-27, 1968, if that county commissioner resigns or files a declaration of candidacy for county executive or county assessor. A candidate may withdraw his nomination in accordance with the provisions of the last paragraph of RCW 29.18.030, and a vacancy on a party ticket may be filled in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.18.150.

SECTION 910. COUNCILMAN DISTRICTS.

Unitl they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the districts of the councilmen shall be as follows:

Councilman District No. 1 shall consist of: the following precincts in Legislative Districts 44, 45 and 46 and all precincts lying north of them: 44-85 through 44-88, 45-96 through 45-100, 46-97 through 46-101, 46-106, 46-115 and 46-116; all precincts in Legislative District No. 1 except those south of precints Juanita, Bokirk, Phyllis, Firlock and Willows; and precinct Woodinville in Legislative District No. 48.

Councilman District No. 2 shall consist of precincts 32A-1 through 32A-51, 32B-82 through 32B-119, 43-1 through 43-29, 43-106, 45-1 through 45-33, 45-42 through 45-45, 45-54 through 45-59, 45-61 through 45-68, 45-81, 45-97, 46-1 through 46-96, 46-102 through 46-105 and 46-127.

Councilman District No. 3 shall consist of: all precincts in Legislative District No. 48 except precinct Woodinville; the following precincts in Legislative District No. 41 and all precincts lying north of them: Enatia, Bellevue No. 1, Bellevue No. 62, Bellevue No. 65, Bel-Air, Beachcrest, Squak Mountain, Gilman, Tiger Mountain and Hutchinson; and precincts Lorraine and Timber Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

Councilman District No. 4 shall consist of precincts 44-1 through 44-84, 45-34 through 45-41, 45-46 through 45-53, 45-60, 45-69, 45-70 through 45-79, 45-82 through 45-96, 32B-60 through 32B-81, 43-85, 43-92, 43-100, 43-101, 43-103, 37-1 through 37-4, and all precincts in Legislative District No. 36.

Councilman District No. 5 shall consist of precincts 37-5 through 37-106, 43-30 through 43-84, 43-86 through 43-91, 43-93 through 43-99, 43-102, 43-104, 43-107 through 43-109, 33-1 through 33-50, 33-54 through 33-56, and 34-96 through 34-114.

Councilman District No. 6 shall consist of all precincts on Mercer Island and all of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: 33-100, 33-101 and 33-107 in Legislative District No. 33; 35-6, 35-7, 35-9, 35-17, 35-18, 35-19, Laurel and Lakeridge in Legislative District No. 35; Bryn Mawr, Fillmore, and Renton No. 1 through Renton No. 57 in Legislative District No. 47; Olympic, McDivitt, Hazelwood, Lake Heights, Mocking Bird and Newport in Legislative District No. 41; Bellevue No. 66, Eastgate, Arline, Horizon, Willowridge and Cougar Mountain in Legislative District No. 47; Kathleen, Hi-Valley, Maple Hills, Cedar Mountain, Arthur, Spring Lake and Milwaukee in Legislative District No. 41; Fairway, Merrihill, Petrovitsky, Iowa, Darlene and Tukwila No. 1 through Tukwila No. 5; and Renthree, Thorndyke, Galway, Showalter, Riverton, Quarry, Duwamish, Boeing, Avon, 35-21, 35-16, 35-11 and 35-12 in Legislative District No. 35.

Councilman District No. 7 shall consist of all precincts on Vashon Island and Maury Island and the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Virginia, Nokomis, Seahurst, Seapark, Shoreview, Shorewood, Seola, Qualheim, Aquaview, Greene, Wynona, Mount View, Kingston, Greendale, Marian and Sylvan in Legislative District No. 31; Florina, Emeline, South Park, Danish, Meath, Military Road, Charlotte, Val-Vue, Earlcoe, Duncan, Ford, Falcon, Airport, Moriarity, McMicken, Sunrise, Emerald and Leinster in Legislative District No. 35; and Cork, Crestview, Tyee, Diane, Lakefront, Columbus, Mansion Hill, Fernidand, Mayo, Midway, Redwood, Sequoia, Zedinick, Zenith, Des Moines No. 1 through Des Moines No. 8, Marine View, Normandy Park No. 1 through Normandy Park No. 9, Crescent, Three Tree Point and Maplewild in Legislative District No. 30.

Councilman District No. 8 shall consist of: precincts 33-51 through 33-53, 33-57 through 33-99, 33-102 through 33-106, 33-108 and 34-1 through 34-95, 35-1 through 35-5, 35-13 through 35-15; the following precincts and all precincts in Legislative District No. 31 lying north of them: 31-1 through 31-64, Sunnywood, Seaview, Oakpark, Bangor, Center, Heights, and Norfolk.

Councilman District No. 9 shall consist of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Lakeland, St. George, Pierce, Netac, Candlewood, Palisades, Lakota, Adelaide, Buenna, Delray, Redondo, Soundcrest, Woodmont, Salt Water, Seacoma, Kent No. 1 through Kent No. 27, Roosevelt, Grandview, O'Brien, Wayne, and Sue City in Legislative District 30; Fuller, Wanda, Carriage Lane in Legislative District No. 47; Lake Desire, Shadow Lake, Riverside, Pipe Line, Dorre Don, Tahoma, Hobart, Lester, Sno Pass, Chinook, Sierra, Boise, Osceola, White River, Wabash and Muckleshoot in Legislative District No. 41; and Stuck, Pacific City and Trout Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

As used in this section, "precincts" refers to King County Voting Precincts as they were established by Resolution No. 35545 as passed by the Board of King County Commissioners on June 24, 1968, and all prior resolutions.

SECTION 920. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

920.10. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.
920.10.10. OFFICE OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS.

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county as provided in Article 4, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made.

920.10.20. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL.

The office of personnel shall have the responsibilitities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to it by the chief administrative officer.

920.10.30. OFFICE OF SYSTEMS SERVICES.

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

920.10.40. OFFICE OF PROPERTY AND PURCHASING.

The office of property and purchasing shall assign the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall maintain all property unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by this charter, by ordinance or by the county executive, shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property, shall contract for all services and public works which are not performed by county employees and shall purchase all real and personal property purchased by the county.

920.20. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.
920.20.10. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

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

920.20.20. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail and shall be responsible for civil defense.

920.20.30. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

920.20.40. DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ELECTIONS.

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

920.20.50. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

The department of finance shall collect all county revenue, shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts and shall be responsible for investing county funds.

920.20.60. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

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

920.20.70. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.

The department of planning shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans for adoption by ordinance with or without amendments; shall advise all agencies of the county on planning; shall coordinate planning of the county with other governmental agencies; and shall assist the office of budgets and accounts in developing capital improvement programs and capital budgets.

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

920.20.30. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING.

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

920.30. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

SECTION 930. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to assume a position as a councilman on the county council established by this charter and shall represent the councilman district established by this charter in which he resides on September 1, 1968, in which case a special electon for the first councilman for that district shall not be held.

SECTION 940. COUNTY ASSESSOR.

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

SECTION 950. COMMENCEMENT AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

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

SECTION 960. COMPENSATION.

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

SECTION 970. THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

970.10. PERSONNEL BOARD MEMBERS.

The original members of the personnel board shall be appointed and confirmed or elected by June 1, 1969. The appointed members shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a five year term, one for a four year term, one for a three year term and one for a two year term; and the member elected by the members of the career service shall be elected for one year. Thereafter, any new appointment or election, except to fill out an unexpired term, shall be for a five year term.

970.20. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

970.30. ELECTIVE COUNTY OFFICERS.

Every elected county officer except a county commissioner whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the rate of compensation specified by general law for the office which he held on the effective date of this charter until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter; and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative position covered by the career service subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.40. COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

A non-elective county officer or employee employed by the county on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to a similar position covered by the career service for which he is qualified subject to all of the personnel rules including those concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed without just cause prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to a position covered by the career service similar to that in which he was employed on June 1, 1968. A non-elective county officer or employee employed in a position which is not covered by the career service on the effective date of the personnel system shall have the right to be appointed to a position which is covered by the career service which is as nearly comparable as possible to the position which he held on the effective date of the personnel system when he is removed from that position subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.50. SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the personnel system. At the end of the two year period, the county council may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel system established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law; and, if a personnel rule cannot be applied to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system, the county council may adopt special rules which will apply only to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system.

SECTION 980. BOARD OF APPEALS.

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

SECTION 990. TRANSITION.

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter holding office on April 30, 1969, shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All boards and commissions whose functions have not been transferred by this charter to another agency of county government established by this charter shall continue to function for one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this charter, at the end of which time they are hereby abolished unless re-established or continued by ordinance. All ordinances, resolutions and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

RESOLUTION

We, the duly elected members of the Board of King County Freeholders, having been elected on November 7, 1967, pursuant to Article 11, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Washington, as amended, and having been empowered to prepare and propose a "Home Rule" charter for the government of the county have prepared and do hereby propose the foregoing King County Charter for adoption by the voters of King County. We request the Board of King County Commissioners to take whatever action may be necessary to place the following question before the voters of the county at the general election to be held on November 5, 1968:

Proposition No. ———

Shall the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for improved administration be adopted?

For Home Rule Charter
Against Home Rule Charter

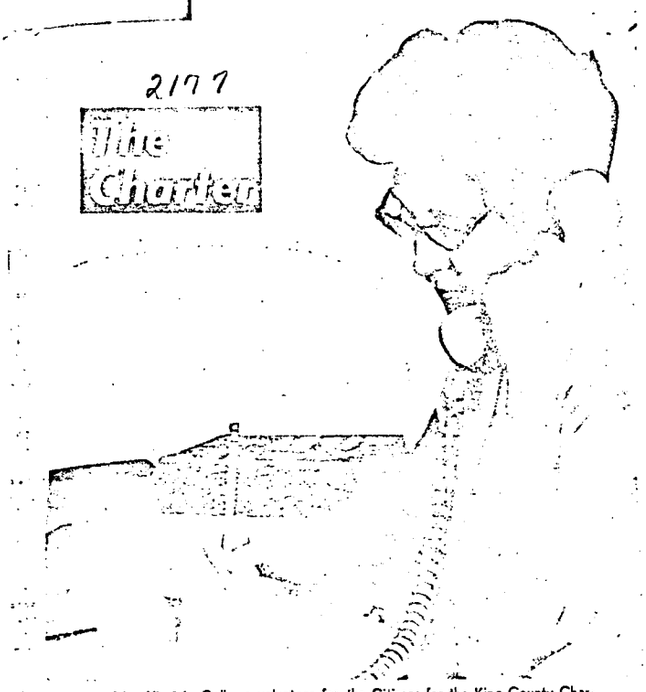
We, the undersigned Freeholders of King County, do hereby approve the above resolution:

Norman B. Ackley
Richard R. Albrecht
Robert M. Block
Howard E. Bothell
James P. Curran
Robert Eberle
Paul R. Friedlander
Jack M. Geoffroy
Lyle R. Schneider
Donald N. McDonald
Terrance R. McKenna
Lois H. North
James N. O'Connor
Virginia K. Gunby
Simon Wampold

248

2177

The Charter



Mrs. Virginia Galle, a volunteer for the Citizens for the King County Charter, answered a query about the charter. She and others are staffing the group's office at 1412 Exchange Building. The room was donated by Pacific Northwest Bell, as was the telephone. The number is 345-6684.

A Personnel System: Merit, Not Politics

Creating a climate for professional, career employes isolated from political involvement and hired and promoted on a merit basis is an aim of the county charter.

There is no personnel system now except for deputy sheriffs, who won civil service on a state-wide initiative after a hard fight. The charter would allow the Council to absorb the sheriff's civil-service system in the county-wide personnel system after two years.

Fred Pingrey, captain in the sheriff's office and president of the newly formed State Law Enforcement Association, contends the county-wide system could jeopardize the training and professional status of deputies and could involve them again in the political system.

He says the deputies now operate under standards set up state wide, and that these standards are not as subject to erosion as county standards would be.

THE CHARTER bans "flower funds," collected from employes of officeholders and used at least in part for political purposes.

The charter also creates a procedure for appeals against dismissals and disciplinary action, requires studies on classification of employes, a pay plan, methods for determining merit and fitness of candidates for jobs and promotions, training programs and working conditions.

A five-member personnel board, four appointed by the executive and the fifth elected on a vote of employes, would be created. It would be the appelate board for employe grievances.

Any county employe on the job before last June 1 automatically would become a member of the career service. The charter would affect about 2,000 employes. The sheriff's civil service covers an additional 300.

THE CHARTER provides that should the sheriff's system be absorbed, rights and privileges and protections now granted deputies will be retained.

The charter also requires adoption of a string conflict-of-interest ordinance, including civil and criminal penalties; prohibits an elected official from being appointed to a paid county office during his term of office, and allows the Council to enact ordinances providing for collective bargaining with employes covered by the personnel system.

A Charter Review Every Ten Years

The proposed county charter calls for review of itself at least every 10 years, with the reviewing done by the county executive or a committee appointed by him.

The executive could proposed amendments to the County Council or councilmen could initiate and approve proposed amendments, with the approval not subject to executive veto.

Approved by the Council, the amendments would be placed on the ballot. They would be enacted by a majority vote of the electorate.

The charter also could be amended by initiative. Or, a new board of freeholders could be elected to amend the charter.

245

Deputies' Local Opposes Charter

2177

First organized opposition to the proposed King County charter came today from sheriff's office personnel.

Sgt. Ron Crider, department representative of King County Deputy Sheriffs Local No. 519, said the executive board voted to oppose the charter.

Sheriff's Capt. Fred Pingrey, president of the Washington State Law Enforcement Association, said his board authorized him to speak against the charter.

CRIDER said the executive board of the local opposes the charter because the sheriff would become an appointed official and because the sheriff's civil-service system could be absorbed by a county-wide personnel system.

Failure to retain an elected sheriff, Crider said, means the public "loses its franchise right to vote for elected officials."

He said absorption of the sheriff's civil-service system into a county-wide personnel system would eliminate the protections given deputies by the people in a state-wide vote approving the sheriff's system. He said it could return deputies to the political spoils system.

"Years ago," Crider said, "we worked hard to bring into effect the civil-service system that has brought this office's quality to a level that matches any in the country."

PINGREY said the sheriff's civil-service system has created a state-wide, standard for law enforcement. He also favors election of the sheriff.

The charter provides for appointment of a director of public safety. It says the sheriff's civil-service system may be included in a county-wide personnel system by a vote of the county council, but not until at least two years after the charter goes into effect. The charter also says the rights and privileges granted under the sheriff's civil-service system cannot be decreased.

Sheriff Jack Porter also prefers that his office remain elective, but said the appointive system would work if his office is given direction on administration but not law-enforcement policy.

Crider said the union represents about 70 per cent of the sheriff's office employes.

Seattle, Wash.
Argus
(Cir. W. 7,720)

OCT 11 1968

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

County Freeholders Miss Boat On Arts; Schools to be Watched

2177

By MAXINE CUSHING GRAY, Arts Editor

The first glimmer of vigilance on the part of arts-pushers toward public budgets was noticed this week, barely in time to restore my faith that the arts people can *do* as well as talk. Here had been the disillusionment: King County Freeholders have included such men as *Robert M. Block*, who in 1955 had circulated the petitions which finally got Seattle City Council off its duff and moving toward a $7,500,000 revamping of the old Civic Auditorium, and *Paul R. Friedlander*, nationally-known fund-raiser for the arts, and former State Rep. *Norman B. Ackley*, liberal and humane. But where is any mention of *arts as essential to the good King County life* in the Freeholders' masterpiece, their "Proposed King County Charter?"

Nearest the Preamble comes is that "We, the people . . . in order to . . . preserve a healthy environment . . ." But how about some county help to set it up in the first place? I note one other tired old opening for arts activity, in Sec. 920.20.60 *Department of Parks*: "The department of parks shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreational facilities and programs and shall be responsible for public open space and other related public community service." But I still aw it a gutsy county government that will come right out and provide for The Arts, period.

SOMERSET

King County Charter Tuesday Topic

2177

The new King County Charter will be discussed by guest speaker, Mrs. Wendall Lovett, at the Tuesday night meeting of Somerset Community Club.

Everyone who is interested is invited to attend. The meeting is set for 8 p.m. at Tyee Junior High. The program is scheduled first to make it more convenient for non-club members.

Mrs. Lovett is active in the League of Women Voters, and has worked for the Municipal League. The charter will be on the November ballot for approval.

Coffee time is planned at mid-evening, with the business meeting to follow.

Principal item of business will be a "review of actions taken in regard to the city of Bellevue's comprehensive plan supplement," according to club president, Donald Knopf.

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

OCT 10 1968

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

League of Women Voters Favors Passage of New County Charter

The King County Leagues of Women Voters support of the proposed King County charter, and league members plan to campaign actively for its approval in the November 5 election, it was announced today.

"King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the State Constitution, which established our form of county government," the leagues said.

"Recent scandals have shown its inadequacy. Our choice is between the government we now have and the form provided by the proposed charter, which is more flexible and better able to solve metropolitan-area problems."

The statement continued: "An elected executive, a nine-member council and a board of appeals provide the advantage of separation of powers. Other provisions of the charter increase the responsiveness to the electorate and changing conditions."

A voter-information campaign on the charter will be directed by members of the leagues: Mrs. Kenneth Selander, Highline; Mrs. Kenneth Selander, Highline; Mrs. James Weymouth, Lake Washington East; Mrs. S. C. Rayl, Renton. Mrs. John T. Coleman and Mrs. James Chalupnik, Seattle, and Mrs. William Huff, South King County. Mrs. Harold Mozer, Bellevue, will coordinate the campaign.

Bothell, Wash.
Northshore Citizen
(Cir. W. 3,479)

OCT 9 1968

County Charter Will Be Subject For 46th GOP

The 46th District Republican Club will meet Monday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Freeholders, will speak on "The Proposed County Charter" which will appear on the November Ballot. A question and answer period will follow.

The Club meets at the Lake City Community Center, 12531 28th NE; any interested Republican may attend.

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

CODE-S Backs County Charter

By unanimous vote the CODE-S Board has expressed its support of the county charter proposed by the Board of King County Freeholders.

This support not only indicates that CODE-S (Community Development Council of Shoreline) approves all the provisions in the proposed charter, but also that the CODE-S organization will take active part in making these provisions known to Shoreline residents and otherwise promoting passage of the proposed charter at the Nov. 5 election.

Several provisions in the final charter proposal were the same as those recommended by CODE-S during a public hearing at Shoreline High School on April 24.

The Local Government Committee of CODE-S, as well as the board, recently heard Richard Albrecht, freeholder chairman, discuss the new charter and then "grilled" him on details. "All were impressed with the charter's completeness and the functional nature of its provisions," said a CODE-S spokesman.

Mrs. Miner Baker, CODE-S president, spoke for the board in saying that the proposed new charter would "truly be a step forward in our county government, and will provide much better representation for residents of unincorporated areas than ever before. It deserves a yes vote in the Nov. 5 election."

SCANNER
SEATTLE WN
(KCTY. CABLE COURIER)
OCT 11 1968
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

With Home Rule Charter

People Power Will Be Felt In King County

Through direct political action and more direct representation, people power will influence the legislation and the destiny of King County if voters approve the Home Rule Charter here November 5.

The power of initiative and referendum, a Washington State born innovation, will be an almost unique feature in the county Charter. By petition of 10% and 8% respectively of voters from the last county general election, the voters themselves would be able to take part directly in the legislative process. They could initiate ordinances on the one hand, or overrule the council on the other.

Even in legislation conducted by the county council, the citizen would have more direct representation. The council would be composed of nine members, one each being nominated and elected from nine equal districts.

Power From 1948

The power to establish its own home rule charter was granted to any county of the first class in the state by constitutional amendment in 1948. King County voters elected 15 freeholders a year ago to draft a charter proposal. The Board of Freeholders adopted the proposal September 6, 1968 and the Board of County Commissioners voted to place it on the ballot.

Adoption of the charter by County voters would be followed in February and March by primary and general elections to select the first County Council. Those commissioners elected in 1966 or 1968 would automatically serve on the council from their respective home districts until expiration of their current terms, or until resignation.

Broader Powers

"Under the powers granted to us, we must seek changes through the enactment of state legislation when problems could be solved through the home rule process," the commissioners said in the introductory statement to the charter presentation.

Urging everyone to familiarize himself with the charter proposal, the statement continued, "If you think it provides an improvement over the present form of government, then you should vote for its passage; if you do not think so, then vote against it. Whatever the outcome may be, the effort expended by the Board of Freeholders has resulted in a higher level of interest in county government."

Following is a synopsis of the proposed King County Home Rule Charter:

Legislative Branch

Legislative power is vested in the County Council of nine members, each nominated and elected for a four-year term from a single district where he resides and having a population of about 170,000 persons.

Each ordinance shall be subject to a public hearing before adoption and, with certain exceptions, subject to veto by the county executive. The Council will be able to override a veto with six affirmative votes.

By petition of 8% of their numbers, voters may force a referendum on an ordinance, subjecting it to a vote of the people. By petition of 10%, they may also initiate an ordinance to be put before the voters.

The Council shall appoint an auditor to conduct a continuous audit of the executive branch and shall establish an office of citizens' complaints against the governmental operation.

Branch county offices may be created to make services more accessible.

Executive Branch

The chief executive officer will be the County Executive, elected for a four-year term countywide, and will have the powers now divided between six elective officers, the board of commissioners and numerous other boards and commissions. The Assessor, also elected countywide for four years, will be the only other elected officer.

The Executive will be assisted by an Administrative Officer whom he shall appoint for his professional qualifications, subject to approval of the Council.

The Charter establishes the initial executive structure, but permits the Council, after two years, to reorganize the departments according to need.

Financial Procedures

The Charter requires the Council to adopt a balanced budget each year and establishes a system of controls to provide for efficient expenditure of the County's funds and to prevent deficits.

Personnel System

The Charter creates a career service which will include all employees except key appointive officers, members of the medical profession and various part-time employees, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries.

The Personnel System is designed to assure that employees are hired, promoted and disciplined on the basis of merit alone and provides for a five-member Board of Appeals to review appeals from personnel.

Political activity in behalf of candidates for county office is prohibited for county employees, as are requests for contributions to political campaigns.

Election

The partisan elections for county office will be held with city elections.

Any qualified candidate may file as an independent.

Redistricting by the Council is required every five years and the penalty for failure is loss of pay to Council members.

Each candidate for election must file a statement indicating the amount of his campaign expenditures and the source of his funds.

Board of Appeals

A seven-member Board of Appeals will hear questions concerning property evaluations, applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits and other appeals as provided by the Council.

General Provisions

The Charter must be reviewed at least every ten years to see if it needs amending, but the Council may propose amendments to the voters at any time.

Competitive bidding is required for purchases or public works contracts.

Conflicts of interest on the part of officers and employees between their public duties and private interests are prohibited. The Council shall set up civil and criminal penalties for violation of this provision.

Transistory Provisions

The Charter also provides for the election of the initial council and executives and the orderly transfer of powers and functions to them early next year.

Scanner October 11, 1968
and King Co. Labor News

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Commission Races Involve All County

by Our County News Bureau

A reminder that all county voters will vote for two county commissioners in the general election Nov.5 was issued Friday by incumbent Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro. Both are candidates for re-election: O'Brien in the Central District; Munro in the South Commissioner District.

Munro said many voters are confused in this particular position due to nomination by district occurring in the primary. Munro won the Democratic nomination in the South District and will be opposed by Republican Nominee Tom Forsythe; O'Brien won the Republican nomination in the Central District and will be opposed by Democratic nominee R. Judge Owens.

State law requires that commissioners are nominated in the district in which they reside. All King County votes on the nominees in the general election. Commissioner John Spellman, the county's North District commissioner, is not up for re-election this year.

Munro said that the considerable confusion over this election law would be corrected if voters approve the proposed new county charter, also to be on the ballot Nov. 5.

"Freeholders have proposed that County Council men (who will replace the present three-man Board of County Commissioners) will be both nominated and elected from nine separate councilmanic districts within King County," Munro pointed out. "In this way each district will have a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be."

The incumbent commissioner declared that not only would this end the confusion by which commissioners are now elected, but it would provide more direct and immediate accountability of county legislators to the voters.

Compulsory Voting

"Every freeholder, actually resident within the county . . . shall appear . . . and give his vote at such election, upon penalty of forfeiting two hundred pounds of tobacco . . ." (This law was enacted in 1705 and was in force throughout a greater part of the Colonial history of Virginia.)

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Fact Sheets on Charter Available

Fact sheets on the proposed county charter are available for distribution, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, said today.

Voters will decide November 5 whether to adopt the charter.

The fact sheet contains questions and answers on the charter, a synopsis, organization charts comparing the present and proposed county-governemnt structures and a map of the nine proposed councilman districts.

Copies of the fact sheet have been distributed to all libraries in Seattle and King County. Copies of it or the charter itself may be obtained at the following places:

Auburn, Bodell Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc., 16 S. Division St.; Ballard, Mrs. Virginia Walsh, 1557 N. W. Market St.; Bellevue-Kirkland, Bellevue City Hall or Lake Washington League of Women Voters, 8100 N. E. 24th St., Bellevue; Bodell, Woodinville Hardware or Mrs. Lila Woods, 18557 68th Ave. N. E., Kenmore.

Seattle, Central Seattle Community Council, 417 Rainier Ave. S.; Enumclaw, Paulson Motors, 1107 Griffin St.; Federal Way, Mrs. Henry Charnell, 32119 26th Ave. S. W.; Highline-Burien, Burien chamber of Commerce or Mrs. Robert Anderson, 16441 15th Ave. S. W.; Kent, James Curran, 213 Fourth Ave. S.; Magnolia, Mrs. Thomas Bleakney, 3434 Perkins Lane, W.

Mercer Island, Mrs. Alice Bayless, 4249 W. Mercer Way; Northeast Seattle, Mrs. George C. Gunby, 2540 N. E. 90th St.; Queen Anne, Queen Anne News, Inc., 8 W. Roy St.; Redmond, Mrs. Arthur Strom, 15594 N. E. 116th St.; Renton, Mrs. Lillian Plut, 7232 S. 135th St.

Shoreline, Mrs. Minor Baker, 2123 N. 172nd St.; South Seattle-Beacon Hill, Mrs. Donald Kuruma, 3942 19th Ave. S.; Wallingford, Alvin Williams, 2515 N. 40th St., and West Seattle, Mrs. Stewart Zenier, 6340 Atlas Place S. W.

All About Politics

Notes And Comment

"Come Back... Come Back..." What It Means To Humphrey

The notice to "come back to the fold" issued last week by McCarthy leaders here could have some major repercussions on the Humphrey campaign in Washington State . . . as well as nationally. The plea (in which former Kennedy State Chairman James Whittaker also joined) could provide a major turning point in Humphrey's fortunes here, Demo leaders believe, as well as elsewhere. To date, a similar crumbling of the hard McCarthy line has occurred only in one other state – Oregon – where there, like here, it also included a unity link-up involving former supporters of Senator Kennedy.

Obviously, Humphrey people reason, this could mark the beginning of a nation-wide breakthrough with both McCarthy and Kennedy supporters deciding, after all, they'd rather have Humphrey.

Whether they will get that hoped-for snowball here or in other states, it is obvious that many of them – both Humphreyites and McCarthyites – were disappointed and disenchanted at Senator McCarthy's remarks Tuesday in New York, where he carefully and explicitly declined to endorse the vice president. Not without reason, many of McCarthy's strongest supporters now feel that his present position is producing a continued split within the party long after his point about Vietnam has been well and eloquently made.

Last week's plea to come home to the Democratic Party obviously will help Humphrey in this state to some degree. But all is not rosy for the Democratic nominee, as results of this newspaper's straw ballot showed Friday. Nixon still seems to be the man to beat, although many more breaks for Humphrey like last week's could mean it will take some doing.

* * *

Who Will Win November 5?

No upsets in the three Valley-area legislative districts are likely to occur November 5. Both King County Republican Chairman Kenneth Rogstad and Democratic County Chairman Jeanette Williams agree that Rep. Avery Garrett and Rep. Gary Grant are shoo-ins in the 47th Legislative District race for state representatives, and that the Republican nominee in the 41st District – State Rep. Brian J. Lewis, who is running for the new Senate seat; Axel Julin, nominee for state representative, Position 1; and incumbent Republican Rep. George W. Clark, nominee for Position 2, are virtually assured of re-election.

The only question mark is in the the 30th district, where State GOP Rep. Paul Barden is pitted in what could be an extremely close race with former legislator Georgette Valle for Position 2. Barden and Republican Clay Myron compiled a vote total in the primary that topped Mrs. Valle by nearly 3,000 votes. If that trend continues in the general election, Barden is home safe . . . but the campaign is being vigorously waged on both sides and the outcome could be close – particularly if labor campaigns strongly for Mrs. Valle as has been promised and if conservative Republican votes cross over to her side. Republican State Rep. Norwood Cunningham is in no trouble to retain his hold on Position 1 in the 30th.

State-wide, it's expected that the Republicans will retain their control of the House of Representatives, and, according to insiders, it's touch and go whether Democrats will be able to retain their slim margin in the Senate.

* * *

Two For The Seesaw...

Presidential Nominee Richard M. Nixon seems to be the sole winner in the unexpected rivalry going on between Evans and Rogstad forces in King County to see which group can outdo the other on Nixon's behalf. In terms of visual measure, Rogstad seems to be the high man with a well-funded advertising campaign involving splashy bus signs, two separate headquarters opened just to push Nixon, and a well-stocked cupboard of campaign literature. Al Howell, King County chairman for the rival Citizens for Nixon/Agnew, reports funding a problem for his group, and is combining the citizen effort for the nominee with 11 district headquarters already established.

All of which could earn a "well and wisely done" pat on the head for either chairman come January if their plans go right.

* * *

Briefly Noted

There's debate over who took the first Great Debate between Gov. Dan Evans and Atty. Gen. John O'Connell . . . with experts in state government believing it was probably a draw . . . and experts on politics, Demo version, feeling that O'Connell missed a major chance to hit Evans on state institutions . . . an Achilles heel of the Evans' regime . . . . . The flux of politics was no better demonstrated than in the September primary when Secretary of State Lud Kramer, whose political future wasn't overpowering his GOP colleagues before, suddenly knocked them dead with one of the state's largest vote totals . . . Two of the primaries' big spenders will be getting much-needed cash transfusions for the last three weeks of their campaigns: Evans as a result of the successful Citizens for Nixon/Agnew dinner featuring Senator Charles Percy last Wednesday and O'Connell from a second big fund-raising dinner slated for this Friday in Seattle . . . Evans is running scared and needs money to beat off a stronger challenge than he expected . . . O'Connell, on the other hand, overspent in the primary and now needs more funds to pour on the coal in what could be a real chance at the governorship . . . The state's top Demo fund-raisers have been drafted into the O'Connell affair to help . . . For some reason wildly apparent to south-county supporters of a suburban stadium site, both Seattle daily newspapers omitted access costs from their coverage of State Highway Director Charles Prahl's report on the sky-high difference between access costs at the Seattle Center site (as high as $23.3 million over the original $40 approved by voters), compared to $3.3 million more at South Park and $1.6 million more at Riverton . . . Insiders report Riverton looking better and better despite a taxpayer suit and one filed by an intervenor . . . It wasn't Democratic/Republican collusion not to disclose campaign spending to Seattle's p.m. daily . . . Rather, it was the unbelievable minutiae requested by the newspaper which no one without a computer could possibly answer correctly . . . Not that it wasn't a good try . . . This year, like most, there was considerable fudging on who spent what . . . Strong rumors around the state have Humphrey Chairman John Wilson, Everett lawyer, a candidate for Democratic state chairman replacing present Chairman Robert Kull. Kull does not intend to run again . . . Freeholders are having a secret laugh at GOP Rogstad's remark that reorganizing the county sheriff's office may imperil good old-fashioned law protection that's been, he said, a cherished right since the days of the Sheriff of Nottingham . . . Seems as if that particular sheriff was a notorious crook hired by the king to collect his taxes . . . Endorsements for the proposed charter, incidentally, are coming thick and fast, with only one group – that within the sheriff's office – so far on record opposing the reform . . . This party we like: Tuesday's fund-raiser for GOP nominee for the Second District county commissioner, Tom Forsythe, at the Riverside Inn . . . Bronco Chris (R.G. Christofferson) will show fellow Republicans why he earned the title of fastest gun in the West . . . Forsythe reports he believes "politics can be fun" . . . Meanwhile, his Democratic rival, incumbent Commissioner Ed Munro holds his own bash tonight at Rosellini's 410

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Burien, Wash.
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Sheriff's Union Opposes Charter

2177

Detective Sgt. Ronald C. Crider, department representative of King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, recently asked voters to vote against the proposed King County Charter. The action came after an unanimous vote of the executive board of the Union.

Crider listed the following reasons for the Union's action: "We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchised right of the people to select their office holders. We also feel that this would put the Sheriff's Department back into the realm of politics."

The charter makes it mandatory that after two years the civil service of the department is replaced by the "Merit System." "Ten years ago a tremendous effort was put forth by Deputy Sheriffs throughout the state to get an initiative on the ballot giving civil service to Deputy Sheriffs which subsequently passed by a large majority," he said.

"We do not want to lose this protection which has raised the department to professional status on a par with any law enforcement agency in the state." Crider continued, "We are also against the idea of a "Super Chief" which we feel the county administrator would be. We are, therefore, asking all citizens to vote "no" on the proposed charter."

Speaker Tells About Home Rule Program

Even though the framework for a charter for King County was established in 1854 when it was still a part of the Oregon Territory, it doesn't mean that it is all bad.

This statement was made at noon Oct. 14 by Richard Albrecht, Seattle attorney and chairman of the King County Board of Freeholders.

He used it as openers as guest speaker before the regular meeting of Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Our older institutions are sometimes the best," he said, "but we think that it has been time to take a look at the charter."

Tells History

He spoke on the history of the freeholder, or home rule, proposal and how it has fared thus far within King County.

He reminded that last November voters chose 15 freeholders, five from each commissioner district, the first and only effort at home rule since the proposal was defeated in 1952.

Since that time, Albrecht said, the freeholders selected from the spectrum of politics — from conservatives to liberals — have been putting together a charter which is now ready. It will confront the voters in the general election Nov. 5.

Albrecht said the freeholders embarked upon a three- to four-month study to educate themselves on the problems of the county, followed by solutions, how they're met, plus sessions, conferences and meetings with experts in the field from San Diego, Calif., to New York State.

Makes Comparisons

Albrecht outlined how the present situation of three commissioners trying to provide service in a county of 1,200,000 population with a $74,000,000 budget for 1969, as compared to how it would be with a county council of nine men.

To a question about the salary expense for nine men, Albrecht replied that the services given and money saved through better performance and services, would be equal to, or less than the salaries of the three commissioners under the present form.

Albrecht urged members of the chamber to help spread the word to the voting public in connection with the ballot, adding that with few exceptions the county employes now, including the commissioners, are for such a future form of county government.

Bellevue Voters to Hear About King County Charter

2177

Bellevue-area voters will get a chance to hear about the proposed King County charter tomorrow.

The government committee of the Bellevue Area Self Improvement Council will sponsor a discussion of the charter at 8 p. m. at the Bellevue Junior High School cafeteria.

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the Board of County Freeholders, will speak for the charter. Art Hare and Sgt. Ron Criden, representing employes of the King County Sheriff's Department, will speak against it.

Candidates from the 41st district will speak at Stevenson Elementary School at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday sponsored by the local P.-T. A.

The 41st district candidates will join 48th district candidates at 8:30 p. m. at Chinook Junior High School sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

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Commissioners Elected-at-Large

2177

A reminder that all county voters will vote for two County Commissioners in the general election Nov. 5, was issued Friday by incumbent Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro. both are candidates for reelection: O'Brien in the District; Munro in the Second or South Commissioner District.

Munro said many voters are confused in this particular position due to nomination by district occurring n the primary.

Munro won the Democratic nomination in the Second District and will be opposed by Republican nominee Tom Forsythe. O'Brien won the Republican nomination in the Central District and will be opposed by Democratic nominee R. Judge Owens.

State law requires that Commissioners are nominated in the District in which they reside. All King County votes on the nominees in the general election. Commissioner John Spellman, the County's North District Commissioner, is not up for reelection this year.

Munro said that the considerable confusion over this particular election law would be corrected if voters approve the proposed County Charter also on the ballot Nov. 5.

Free holders have proposed that County Councilmen (who will replace the present three-man board of county Commissioners) will be both nominated and elected from nine separate councilmanic districts within King County. Munro pointed out: "In this way each District willhave a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be."

The incumbent Commissioner declared that not only would this end the confusion by which Commissioners are now elected, but it would provide more direct and immediate accountability of legislators to the voters.

Home Rule County Charter Opposed by Labor Council

Members of the King County Labor Council have voted unanimously to oppose the home rule County Charter that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The council, at its meeting Wednesday night, indorsed the Seattle, Renton, North Shore and Shoreline school levies.

James K. Bender, executive secretary of the council, said:

"The council opposed the charter unanimously for a number of reasons."

REASONS

Bender said one of the reasons was the new charter as written would "do harm to the civil service status."

"An employe could be dismissed for 60 days without the right of appeal," Bender said.

The secretary also pointed out that the council was concerned that the number of councilmen (9) and their staffs would add an additional $1 million at least to the county budget.

"This is going to come right out of the working man's pocket," Bender added.

OPPOSITION

One of the chief reasons for opposition to the charter, Bender continued, is the way the charter mapped out the districts for county councilmen. He said:

"They have gerrymandered the districts so that it would be almost impossible for more than three Democrats to be elected to the council."

Bender said the council favors the county be re-districted to give Republicans four districts and Democrats four with one swing district.

"We are also skeptical of the sheriff being appointed and not elected," Bender said.

Chamber Endorses Charter, School Levy, Fluoridation

The proposed King County charter, the Seattle School District's 25.28-mill levy request and fluoridation of Seattle's water supply have been endorsed by the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

The board opposes Initiative 245, to limit to 12 per cent a year retail credit charges, and Initiative 32, to prohibit the export of logs from state-owned lands.

The four referendum measures on the state-wide ballot and the seven proposals for amending the State Constitution all received board endorsement.

The referendum measures are: No. 35, to prohibit discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin by real-estate brokers or salesmen; No. 17 authorizing a $25 million bond issue to assist in financing water-pollution-control projects No. 1, authorizing a $40 million bond issue for acquisition and development of recreation areas and facilities, and No. 19, authorizing a $63,059,000 bond issue to finance capital improvements at state institutions, including colleges and universities.

The proposed constitutional amendments are S. J. R. 5, to permit a broadening of the investment authority of public pension or retirement funds; S. J. R. 6, to permit establishment of a new state building authority to finance, construct and lease to state agencies buildings and improvements.

S. J. R. 23, to authorize excess levies for two-year periods; S. J. R. 24, to require that filling of vacancies in partisan county elective offices shall be from among ranks of the same political party as the official being replaced, H. J. R. 1, to base property-tax assessments on farm and agricultural lands, timberlands and open spaces with recreational or scenic values on their existing use, rather than highest and best use, and H. J. R. 13, to allow compensation of public officials, except legislators, councilmen and others who fix their own pay, to be increased during terms of office.

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Notes on the News

2177

● Gov. Dan Evans was getting in line with a national trend on campuses around the country when he said last week he would favor a proposal to include at least one student on the boards of regents or trustees at this state's five colleges and universities. The goal is greater "student involvement" in college policy. The concept raises a number of interesting side issues, including how the student "regents" might be chosen. Those now serving in that capacity are gubernatorial appointees....

● The winning entries chosen in the contest to find names for the Woodland Park Zoo's twin orangutans — Towan and Chinta — will please purists because they are authentic Malay words. An offhand reaction, however, is that they will not be as popular — or as easy to remember —as names such as Bobo and Fifi....

● Voters in Atlanta and its suburban areas in Dekalb and Fulton Counties will cast ballots November 5 on whether to build a $750 million rapid-transit system. Unlike the rapid-transit issue in the Seattle-King County Forward Thrust election of last February, the Georgia election will be decided by a simple majority. The transit measure here failed to muster the 60 per cent favorable vote required under this state's Constitution....

● Also on the subject of constitutional limitations, several citizens have asked why the proposed King County charter, to be on the November 5 ballot, does not call for a revamping of the prosecutor's office. The answer is that while counties now have the power to draft home-rule charters, such documents cannot change the jurisdiction of powers of the prosecuting attorney, the judges of Superior and Justice Courts or the county superintendent of schools. The Constitution forbids it.

Sheriff's Union Asks No Vote On County Charter

2177

Detective Sgt. Ronald C. Crider, department representative of King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, today sked voters to vote against the proposed King County Charter.

The action came after a unanimous vote of the executive board of the Union. Crider listed the following reasons for the Union's action: We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchised right of the people to select their office holders. We also feel that this would put the Sheriff's Department back into the realm of politics.

The charter makes it mandatory that after two years the civil service of the department is replaced by a "Merit System." Ten years ago a tremendous effort was put forth by Deputy Sheriffs throughout the state to get an initiative on the ballot giving civil service to Deputy Sheriffs which subsequently passed by a large majority. Crider said we do not want to lose this protection which has raised the department to professional status on a par with any law enforcement agency in the state.

Crider continued that we are also against the idea of a "Super Chief" which we feel the county administrator would be. We are, therefore, asking all citizens to vote "No" on the proposed charter Sgt. Crider concluded.

Wampold Defends County Charter from Labor Council's Objections

2177

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the Board of Freeholders, said yesterday the State Labor Council either was acting on the basis of misinformation or was "taking a stand for small, selfish reasons" when it decided to oppose the proposed county charter.

Wampold asked for a chance to appear before the labor group, which voted Wednesday night to urge the 75,000 members of affiliates to vote against the charter November 5.

"I know I can change their minds," Wampold said. The attorney said he has represented labor unions and has campaigned for many labor causes.

"I am surprised at this action," he said. "They are public-spirited citizens. Their action is based on misinformation. If they had the proper information, they would not oppose the charter."

THE LABOR GROUP contended the charter would increase the cost of government and that county employes would feel the pinch in their paychecks.

It also condemned civil-service provisions and those calling for appointment of some officials now elected, and said that propos[illegible] unty-commissioner dis[illegible]ts were gerrymandered.

"The real heart of their opposition is this: the merit system protects the employes' job security and lessens the need for union representation," Wampold declared. "I think unions still are in the picture to bargain for wages, hours and conditions."

He added: "The union is stretching out on minor points to oppose the charter."

WAMPOLD SAID the cost

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— Cont.

of King-County government would be reduced by the charter because of increased efficiency and elimination of duplication, along with better personnel practice. "There should be more money available for employes' wages," he said.

He said the charter provides for appointment of officials who do not establish policy. Administrators would be taken out of the political area, he said.

Wampold said, "We've provided what we consider one of the best merit and personnel systems. Under the present setup employes are subject to political patronage. Unions should be in favor of job security and not against it. It should be looked on as a Magna Carta for labor."

Wampold said the charter provides for collective bargaining not subject to a referendum and states that a collective-bargaining agreement cannot be vetoed. "We went out of our way to put safeguard after safeguard in the charter for unions and labor," he added.

The Freeholders provided for an appeals process when an employe is suspended for more than 60 days, but Wampold said there was nothing to prevent the appeals board from hearing a grievance stemming from a suspension of fewer days.

HE SAID it is not true that the civil-service system for deputy sheriffs would be eliminated after two years.

Wampold also refuted the contention that the councilman districts were gerrymandered.

He said district boundaries were drawn solely on the basis of how best to keep people with common backgrounds and interests together.

County Charter 'Yes' Vote Sought

- top line of the voting
on November 5 voters
the following proposi-
all the proposed home-
rter for King County,
for the separation of
lative and executive
and for functional ad-
tion, be adopted?".

the voter become bet-
ed on this important
e League of Women Voters has prepared a series of questions and answers.

WHAT IS A FREEHOLDER?

A freeholder is a property owner. In this case 15 citizens (five from each of the three commissioner districts) were elected to frame a county home rule charter as provided for by the 21st amendment of the Washington State Constitution.

WHO DECIDED ON OUR PRESENT FORM OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT? The structure of all Washington counties is the same and was set up by the territorial government in 1854. It has been modified slightly by succeeding legislatures.

WHY DO WE NEED A CHARTER? King county's character has changed radically since the framing of the state constitution which established the form of county government. There are now more modern, efficient ways to do things.

HOW WOULD THE CHARTER CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT? One of the fundamental changes would be the separation of the executive and legislative functions. The charter sets up a unified executive branch under an elected executive and a nine member county council to set policy.

WHAT WILL THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER DO? He will be granted all executive powers of the county. These include preparing the budget, appointing a chief administrative officer and executive department heads, vetoing council ordinances and supervising all executive and administrative offices.

WHAT WILL THE NINE COMMISSIONERS DO? The nine members of the council will set policy, hold hearings, make laws, adopt a budget, approve appointments, and approve comprehensive plans.

WHAT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED UNDER THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT? When the charter is adopted, the executive departments will be the departments of public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health, records and elections, finance, parks, planning and building. The administrative departments will be the offices of budgets and accounts, personnel, systems and services, and property and purchasing.

WHAT ARE THE SALARIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL? The county executive will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least one and one half times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). The county will be divided into nine districts and one councilman will be nominated and elected by the voters of each district for a term of four years at the present commissioner's salary ($18,000 per year).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Experts feel that increased efficiency of operation will make it possible to operate within the present budget in spite of the larger number of commissioners and the addition of an executive officer. This can be accomplished through sound management practices. Multnomah County, under charter government, was able to effect a million dollar saving in the first six months.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL EACH COMMISSIONER REPRESENT? In 1960, each of three commissioners represented about 30,000 people. With the charter in 1968, each of nine councilmen will represent more than 130,000.

ON WHAT BASIS WERE THE NINE DISTRICTS DRAWN? The boundaries of each district will correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and will be drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

HOW WILL THE DISTRICTS RESPOND TO POPULATION SHIFTS? Boundaries of the council districts will be reviewed every five years, starting in 1971, and redistricting is required if inequities exist. Strong incentives are provided to see that this is accomplished.

DOES THE CHARTER OFFER THE CITIZEN NEW POWERS AND PROTECTION? Initiative, referendum, and recall are made available to the voters. The commissioners, elected by district, should be more responsive to the electorate. An office of citizen complaint is set up.

WHAT WILL BE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINT? The citizen complaint bureau, whose director will be appointed by the council, will investigate citizen complaints, subpoena witnesses and documents, and make and publicize recommendations.

WHICH OFFICERS WILL STILL BE ELECTED? The prosecuting attorney, the superior court judges, the superintendent of schools and the county board of education will continue to be elected because they cannot be affected by the charter. Other elected officers under the charter will be the nine county councilmen, the assessor, and the county executive.

WHY DOES THE CHARTER CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR ELECTING AN ASSESSOR? The freeholders believed that the citizens preferred an assessor who was more responsive to them.

WHY DOESN'T THE CHARTER CONTAIN AN ELECTED AUDITOR? The freeholders felt that because the elected state auditor is required to make an independent audit of county finances, an elected county auditor is not needed. However, the auditor, appointed by the council, will serve as a "watch dog" of the executive branch.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT? Without a charter changes in the structure of county government must be made only by the state legislature.

WHO IS SUPPORTING THE CHARTER? The Citizens Committee to support the charter, the Seattle-King County Municipal League, and the League of Women Voters in King County are all working in support of the proposed charter. It is expected that other organizations will announce support.

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Labor Council Lists Seven Points Against Charter Plan

By PAUL STAPLES
Labor Editor, The Times

The 75,000 members of affiliates of the King County Labor Council are being urged by the council to reject the proposed county charter at the November general election.

A stand against the charter was one of two important actions taken at the council's meeting last night in the Labor Temple, Bill Olwell, president, said.

In the other action, council delegates endorsed school levy issues in the Seattle, Shoreline, Northshore and Renton districts.

The Aero Mechanics Union, which is not affiliated with the council but has a membership of 43,000 employes of The Boeing Co., was represented at the meeting but was not involved in the action.

Thomas Finnegan, legislative chairman of the Aero Mechanics, has called an all-day meeting of the legislative committee for Tuesday to discuss charter and school issues.

In the evening, the committee will make recommendations on endorsements to the union's 32-member district council.

IN THE MAIN, Olwell said, the Labor Council's opposition to the county charter is based on seven points:

(1) It would raise the cost of operating the county government $1 million annually, without providing revenue to meet the increase. County employes probably would bear the added cost in their wages.

(2) **The unionists object to most of the county officials being removed from having to stand election by the public. The civil-service system "is emasculated" so far as promotions are concerned although being retained for hiring.**

(3) Department heads would be able to suspend county employes up to 60 days without the employe being able to resort to a grievance procedure. Collective bargaining would be placed on "a may basis" for the county contrary to new state law.

CIVIL SERVICE for deputy sheriffs would be eliminated in two years, the Labor Council contends. Finally, the unionists believe the boundaries for county commissioners have been gerrymandered and are unsatisfactory.

"We worked a long time to get a state law permitting collective bargaining for county and other public employes," Olwell said. "We do not want its effect wiped out in the charter.

"We likewise worked hard to get civil service for deputy sheriffs through a referendum."

Commissioner Races To Be County-Wide

County Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro reminded voters today that election of county commissioners in the November 5 general election will be on a county-wide basis.

Munro said there is considerable confusion over voting for county commissioners, who are nominated by districts but elected in general voting.

Munro said adoption of the proposed county charter would end the confusion and provide "more direct and immediate accountability of legislators to the voters."

The charter calls for election of nine county councilmen from nine districts. "In this way each district will have a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be," Munro said.

Munro, who won the Democratic nomination for the South District, is opposed by Republican Tom Forsythe. O'Brien, Central District Republican, is opposed by R. Judge Owens. John Spellman, the third county commissioner, is not up for re-election.

Union Leaders, Labor Council Oppose Charter

Leaders of 17 locals of the Teamsters Union in Seattle and King County have voted unanimously to recommend that members vote against the proposed new county charter in the November 5 general election.

Similar action was taken Wednesday night by the King County Labor Council. The 32-member district council of the Aero Mechanics Union will consider the issue Tuesday night.

Four Teamster locals have members employed by the county.

Objections of the Teamsters and the Labor Council to the charter run along the same lines. They object to making many elective offices appointive.

Creation of nine councilmen to replace the present three county commissioners, changes in collective-bargainnig procedures and in handling employe grievances are other provisions the unions find unsatisfactory.

The unions also are dissatisfied with the districts proposed for the councilmen, contending they have been gerrymandered, and to possible changes in the civil-service status of deputy sheriffs.

(Freeholder chairman defends charter against Labor Council's objections. Page 5.)

Blood-Test Initiative Called Way to Make Roads Safer

2177

By LYLE BURT
Times Political Reporter

Approval of the Initiative 242 will make Washington's highways safer, D. W. Toms, state motor-vehicles director, said today.

"Implied consent simply gives our enforcement officers a tool for gathering physical evidence in drunk-driving cases," Toms said. "It gives our courts an objective standard for administering justice."

The measure, highly controversial in past sessions of the Legislature, would require persons suspected of drunken driving to take a blood-alcohol test. By driving a vehicle, a person would be presumed to have given consent for such tests.

Failure to take the test would be grounds for a six months license suspension.

Toms said the measure would not mean that more drivers would be stopped in highways.

"What it does mean is that persons who are observed driving erratically will be stopped, just as they are now," he said. "If they appear to be intoxicated they will be arrested and taken to a police station, just as they are now."

"The only difference," the director said, "will be that at the police station they will be required, rather than requested, to take a chemical test to scientifically establish their blood-alcohol level."

A second part of the initiative would lower from .15 per cent to .10 per cent the amount of alcohol in a person's blood presumed to be evidence of intoxication.

EBERLE — Robert Eberle, Republican nominee for Congress in the 7th District, said that iv voters favor the programs of the Johnson-Humphrey administration

they should vote for his opponent, Representative Brock Adams.

"M. Adams has consistently voted down the line on Great Society domestic schemes," Eberle said.

"I happen to believe that we desperately need a change in direction. Those who agree with me should vote for me on election day."

PRIMARY — Improvements are needed in Washington's primary election law, Art Fletcher, Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, said.

"Somehow the system has got to be changed so that all people are represented in the selective process, so that everyone has a little, individual influence over the way in which men are selected to represent their party and their interests in elections."

Fletcher said he supports Gov. Dan Evans, Secretary of State A. Ludlow Kramer and a large number of legislators who favor abandoning the precinct caucus-convention system for a direct presidential primary, such as Oregon has.

OPPOSITION — The Conservative Club, a King County organization, has expressed opposition to the adoption of the proposed King County charter.

The club contends the charter would increase the size, scope and cost of county government and would replace a county government made up largely of elective officials with one predominately of appointive officials.

"The Conservative Club opposes any and all attempts to disenfranchise the taxpayer and citizen by removing his right to vote on matters normally decided on at the polls," the resolution said.

BELLEVUE — Candidates, or their spokesmen, for national, state and legislative positions will speak at a four-day "Candidate 68" program beginning Monday at the Bellevue Community College.

The programs, sponsored by the students, will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. Monday through Thursday at Newport High School.

CHERBERG —Lt. Gov. John A. Cherberg has proposed studying possible establishment of new medical and dental schools in Spokane.

"If it is deemed feasible the schools could be planned as a staged development, starting with two years, four years, then six years," Cherberg said.

The lieutenant governor said he would offer the proposal to the 1969 Legislature, which convenes in January.

BRIEF — The New Party will hold an open meeting at 1 p. m. tomorrow in the Dowtown Y. M. C. A. featuring Prof. Alex Gottfried of the Univeristh of Washington political-science department, and Michael ross, former member of the Seattle Model Cities staff . . . Slade Gorton, Republican nominee for attorney general, says more than 100 attorneys who endorsed unsuccessful Democratic contenders for th post, now have organized behind his candidacy . . . Lt. Gov. John Cherberg says he has received the endorsement of the Railroad Brotherhood and District 38 of the United Steelworkers.

Charter Facts Now In Valley

By Our County News Bureau

Fact sheets for voters wishing more information on the county's proposed home-rule charter will be available in three Valley locations, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders which drafted the new charter, has announced.

For Auburn, voters may contact the Bothell Chevrolet-Cadillac Agency; in Kent, they may be obtained from James Curran, 213 4th Ave. S., and in Renton, from Mrs. Lillian Plut, president of Renton League of Women Voters, at 7282 S. 135th St.

The publication includes a diagram of county government as it is presently, a diagram of how it would be structured under the charter, a synopsis of the charter's provisions, and a councilmanic district map. Under the terms of the proposed change, nine county councilmen would be nominated and elected from nine councilman districts.

The fact sheet also answers some basic questions concerning what the charter proposes to do in brief question-answer form. The proposed charter will be voted upon for acceptance or rejection in the Nov. 5 general election.

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Home Rule Charter Is Assembly Topic

The Civic Assembly heard Executive Secretary Paul R. Meyer talked about the proposed King County home rule charter at Monday's monthly meeting.

Meyer told the history of the charter from the election of the freeholders last November to the final draft, now ready for voter approval.

The freeholders began last January interviewing department heads throughout the county, spending 2½ months at this task before going on to hear local government experts.

Four public forums were held and a 'field' trip to Multenomah County was taken to ste its new home rule charter in action.

Tentative decisions were then put into specific language and public hearings were held so that problems could be overcome. After the hearings, several extensive changes were made, after which the charter was adopted by the freeholders and prepared for the ballot.

The proposed home rule charter, if approved, will allow rearranging the structure of government, allowing enactment of local laws necessary to meet the growing needs of a major metropolitan area. Without home rule, the state legislature must provide for any changes in county government.

Rather than a board of three County Commissioners, the new charter allows for the election of a 9-member council and county executive. The executive would be elected on a partisan, at-large basis. He would then hire a professional administrator and 10 department heads — appointments to be confirmed by the council.

The charter provides for the separation of legislative and executive powers. These powers are presently combined in the Board of King County Commissioners. When the same body is responsible for both adopting and implementing ordinances, both functions may frequently suffer, Meyer said, in the porposed charter, the legislative powers are held by the nine-member county council. The council exercises its legislative powers by adopting ordinances after holding public hearings. The council also selects a county auditor who is responsible for auditing the expenditures and the performance of the executive branch.

The executive branch is headed by the county executive, who is elected by the voters and he is assisted by a county administrative officer, appointed on the basis of his professional qualifications.

The charter establishes a career service to ensure that county employees will be hired, promoted and replaced on the basis of merit. A personnel board will hear appeals concerning the application of the system. Only department heads, their assistants and confidential secretaries are exempted from the system.

The charter prohibits county employees from contributing or being asked to contribute to anyone seeking election to a county office and requires all candidates to reveal the amount and source of their campaign funds.

One charter provision which has caused consternation among sheriff's deputies is that the sheriff himself will be an appointed officer. Meyer said that Sheriff Jack Porter, however, has said he could "live with the charter."

Elected officials whose offices are eliminated will be allowed to complete their present terms of office and, with the exception of the three county commissioners, can hold an administrative position similar to the responsibilities they previously held.

"Although much publicity about the home rule charter will be presented to the public over the next three weeks, we ar encountering apathy from the voters," Meyer said.

"Whatever the outcome of the election may be, we feel the effort expended by the Board of Freeholders has resulted in a higher level of interest in county government."

Charter Discussion

Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Freeholders, will speak on "The Proposed County Charter," at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at a meeting of the 46th District Republican Club in the Lake City Community Center, 12531 28th Ave. N.E.

Chamber Endorses Propositions

Seattle Chamber of Commerce trustees have endorsed 17 propositions that will be on the November 5 general election ballot.

The board voted to oppose two initiatives — No. 245, which would reduce the maximum rate for retail credit charges from 18 to 12 per cent, and No. 32, which would restrict the export of logs cut on state-owned lands.

Area issues endorsed included the proposed King County charter, fluoridation of Seattle's water supply and the Seattle School District's 25.28-mill excess levy.

Initiative No. 242, the implied-consent issue, also was endorsed.

The trustees voted to support Referendum Measures No. 35, which requires nondiscrimination by real-estate salesmen; No. 17, a $25 million bond issue to aid in the control of water pollution; No. 18, a $40 million bond issue for recreation facilities, and No. 19, a $63 million bond issue for capital improvements at state institutions.

Also winning chamber support were six amendments to the Constitution.

They are: Senate Joint Resolution 5, permitting the investment of public pension funds; S. J. R. 6, authorizing a state court of appeals; S. J. R. 17, providing for a state building authority; S. J. R. 23, authorizing two-year excess levies.

S. J. R. 24, establishing methods for filling vacancies in county offices; House Joint Resolution 1, which authorizes taxation based on present use for farms, timber land and open space lands, and H. J. R. 13, allowing the salaries of public officials, except legislators, to be increased during their term in office.

2 Candidates for County Commissioner

R. Judge Owens Has Busy Campaign Manager—Himself

R. Judge Owens is a political candidate who is looking out for himself.

Owens, Democratic challenger to County Commissioner John T. O'Brien, conceded yesterday he has no campaign organization.

"But I have a campaign manager and he's the only one to whom I have promised a job if I am elected. His name is R. Judge Owens."

Meanwhile, Owens, 44, is dividing his time between trying to rustle up votes and working as an architectural consultant to the state fire marshall.

OWENS, WHO SPORTS a head of prematurely white hair, set off by medium-long sideburns of a sandy hue, said his greatest concern about his opponent involves the remodeling of the King County Courthouse.

"They claimed they would reduce the remodeling costs," the Democratic candidate said.

"They may have done the [illegible]t not on the original bas[illegible] They are going to build a new county office building and when the total cost is added up they might not save any money."

Owens said he did not know what the estimated cost of the building was, "but I imagine it will be up in the millions."

Owens said he also is upset about the decision to install aluminum sash windows on the fourth and fifth floors of the existing courthouse.

"I have a feeling they are ruining the building as far as architecture is concerned," he said.

"The old building is not the greatest-designed building in the world, but it is a good building."

IT IS IN the field of architecture that Owens believes he can make his greatest contribution to the county.

The candidate attended the University of Washington School of Architecture but had to drop out shortly before he was scheduled to graduate because of illness. Subsequently, he completed his studies on his own and obtained his license to practice.

He has practiced his pro[illegible]ssion about 20 years, b[illegible]n his own and as an em[illegible]oye of other firms. Before resigning to campaign, Owens was architectural-plans examiner for the State fire marshall (who also is State Insurance Commissioner Lee Kueckelhan) about a year. As a consultant he is still doing the same job—checking building plans schools and colleges to see that they meet building and fire codes.

"As an architect, I feel I have the proper background to make good decisions on planning county projects — buildings, parks, roads and hospitals," Owens said.

AS AN EXAMPLE of his concern in that area, Owens said the last time major additions were made to Harborview County Hospital "they made some mistakes."

"Now another addition is planned and I could help see that the same mistakes are not made again."

On the question of leasing county property at the King County Airport, Owens said he believes two kinds of leases could be appropriate.

"If the county just leases a piece of property and the lessee invests his own money to construct buildings on the property, I think the lease could be on a longer basis.

"But if the county is leasing both the property and buildings then I don't believe a lease should be for a longer term than five years, with provisions for renewal of course."

Owens said he had heard of some 30-to-40-year leases which involved both land and structure and suggested that was much too long a period.

"IT MAY BE A mistake," he continued, "but I'm endorsing the proposed county charter.

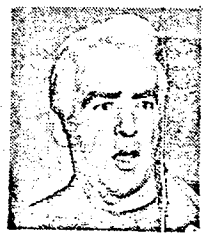
"I believe the present form of county government is obsolete. With only three commissioners the people just don't have proper representation."

Owens said he originally favored having a seven-member county council with provisions to add two councilmen as the county population increased.

"But I go along with the nine-member council plan," he added.

OWENS INDICATED he had reservations about some sections in the the charter, but added:

"I feel that the charter would be so much better than what we have now, I'm endorsing it."



R. JUDGE OWENS

Owens noted that the charter can be changed by referendum during the next 10 years to take care of any weaknesses the original document may have.

One of the areas he questions would allow a county employe to be suspended for 60 days without an appeal of his case, he said.

As far as having appointed officials for jobs now filled by elective officers, Owens said he has no particular concerns over the proposed change.

OWENS, WHO lives in a downtown hotel, formerly resided in Lake Hills where he was active in community-development problems.

Asked how he happened to be named Judge, the candidate replied:

"I was attending a party at which there were a lot of attorneys, and my date, whom I didn't know very well, thought I was one of them and called me 'Judge.'

"I became so well known as "Judge" among aquaintances that I had my name legally changed."

What was it before?

Richard Joseph Owens.

Tom Forsythe: A Political Novice Fighting a Veteran

Tom Forsythe is a classic example of a political newcomer trying to establish sufficient name familiarity to successfully challenge an established incumbent.

In Forsythe's case the incumbent is County Commissioner Ed Munro, who has held his position, 2nd (or South) District commissioner, 10 years.

FORSYTHE entered the contest as a political neophyte and managed to outpoll two other contenders to win the Republican nomination.

But the general-election campaign poses different problems.

One of the biggest is that although commission candidates run in the primary only in the district which they wish to serve, they must run county-wide in the general election.

Now traveling the county from one end to the other, Forsythe, 47, presents the voters a rather impressive set of credentials.

The Boeing Co. customer engineer is a Tukwila councilman, has been active in the Tukwila and Seattle Chambers of Commerce and the Valley Interchamber Executive Council, is a deputy wing (state commander in the Civil Air Patrol, is president of a small chemical-research firm and has served a year as superintendent of the Oklahoma State Training School.

He also has squeezed into his busy schedule much work in Boy Scout activities.

DISCUSSING his campaign yesterday, Forsythe said one of his main efforts has been to get on the same platform with Munro to debate issues.

"I've been on the same platform with him only about four times in this campaign," he said.

About his Democratic opponent, Forsythe said:

"He's been asleep for four years. When he was last elected in 1964 he quit working as a commissioner should."

Forsythe contends the south part of the county, undergoing startling development, has suffered from improper zoning and failure of the county to properly supervise road and other improvement projects.

The candidate cited cases where, he said, wrong zoning

TOM FORSYTHE

resulted in the intrusion of business, industry and multiple dwellings on or into areas which had been limited to one-family residences.

"We've had areas ruined by indiscriminate zoning," he said.

As an example of inadequate supervision and inspection, Forsythe cited a recent project to improve South 200th Street. A number of residents were left with rocks and boulders on their lawns, piles of unneeded gravel on the roadway and, in one case, two feet of sand piled against a private chain link fence, Forsythe said.

FORSYTHE is not an advocate of adoption of the proposed King County charter.

"I cannot support the charter in its entirety as it is written," he said, but added that he would not actively fight it. "It has a number of areas in it that would be unfortunate for the county."

If the charter proposal should fail at the November 5 general election, Forsythe said he would work for its

Continued - 10-20-68.

A proposed home-rule charter and increasing urbanization of rural areas have given county government new prominence. Among the contests to be decided by voters November 5 are those for two county-commission positionsn (The third position, held by John Spellman, is not on the ballot this year.) Lyle Burt, Times political reporter, today writes on the campaigns of Tom Forsythe and R. Judge Owens. Later articles will deal with the campaigns of their opponents, Commissioners Ed Munro and John T. O'Brien.

LYLE BURT

redrafting to incorporate what he feels is needed.

Forsythe's principal objections are that under the charter the county's chief executive would be elected, rather than appointed by the nine-member council, and that the chief executive would appoint replacements for the county officials that now are elected.

"The people would lose direct control of some important county functions," he said.

Forsythe, a pilot, has definite ideas on the future of Boeing Field.

"THE MAIN purpose of an airport is to get planes into the air and down again," he said. "Businesses on the property are not its main purpose."

Forsythe said the airport should be headed by a technically oriented, professional administrator with "an airport background." The manager, he said, should have an administrative assistant with business experience, particularly in real estate, to handle the leasing problems.

"I would couple with this the development of self-supporting satellite airports throughout the county to handle the increasing number of small, private aircraft," he said.

Forsythe complimented the existing county government on its parks and recreation programs. He advocated development of the former Luther Burbank School site on the Mercer Island waterfront for a county park.

Regarding proposals to use part of the area for schools, Forsythe said the site has all the necessary attributes for recreation, whereas a school basically is buildings and a parking lot.

"It would be a shame to take one of the last areas of that type and put buildings and a parking lot on it," he added.

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Alden J. Blethen, 1846-1915 *C. B. Blethen, 1879-1941*
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1968

County Mistakes That Live On

THE PRICE of errors in judgment committed in connection with what began in 1962 as "modernizing the King County Courthouse" has become increasingly evident in terms of their impact on other functions of the county government.

In the 1969 budget adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, a number of critically important requests for additional money were scaled down or omitted on grounds they cannot be met from revenues to be expected.

Thus, only 35 additional sheriff's deputies will be added to the county's law-enforcement arm, instead of the 50 recommended by Sheriff Jack Porter. Pay-raise requests also were pared back in the sheriff's office. The Juvenile Court, which had sought four more probation officers, is to be kept at 1968 staff levels. Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll's request for a single additional deputy was denied. And so on in the budget pruning.

One reason for the budget squeeze on services is to be found in the checkered history of the bungled Courthouse remodeling project and the now-developing program to construct a new county office building and parking garage. Cost estimates of this appendage jumped from $4.95 million to $6.3 million last week.

From 1962 to date, the county has issued $12.9 million in bonds to finance the building work. Instead of submitting the bond measures to the voters for their approval and financing the projects from excess property-tax levies, the commissioners exercised their authority to incur indebtedness within the 40-mill limit.

This, of course, put the question of the remodeling and new construction beyond the reach of the electorate. More important, it has compelled the county to pay the costs of bond redemption from the funds normally available to meet the expenses of general county services.

In the budget planned for the coming year, for example, $1.03 million that could have been available for such necessities as additional law-enforcement and Juvenile Court personnel will be used to pay the interest and principal payments due on the outstanding bonds.

Such costs represent continuing and long-standing obligations that will come back to haunt county budget-writers for decades to come. For example, a $7-million bond issue approved last May, the latest in the series sold to finance the building program, will require $3 million in interest payments over the 15-year life of the bonds.

The whole controversy over the runaway costs of the Courthouse remodeling and whether the county actually needs additional acres of office space has now become largely academic. The mistakes were made by successive boards over a period of several years—with Ed Munro and John T. O'Brien, who are now seeking re-election, participating—and are irreversible.

It is relevant, however, to discuss the matter in light of the proposed county charter that will be before the voters November 5. The document points the way toward a separation of administrative and legislative functions, tighter financial controls and an overall improvement in the efficiency of county government.

While it is too late now to retrieve the errors of the past, the charter at least offers an opportunity to reduce the likelihood of similar miscalculations in the future — and, one hopes, to curb the skyrocketing costs of the building program, which keeps expanding and has a long way to go before it is finished.

Seattle, Wash.
West Seattle Herald
(Cir. W. 24,000)

OCT 17 1968

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

Sheriff's Union Asks No Vote On County Charter

2177

Detective Sgt. Ronald C. Crider, department representative of King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, today sked voters to vote against the proposed King County Charter.

The action came after a unanimous vote of the executive board of the Union. Crider listed the following reasons for the Union's action: We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchised right of the people to select their office holders. We also feel that this would put the Sheriff's Department back into the realm of politics.

The charter makes it mandatory that after two years the civil service of the department is replaced by a "Merit System." Ten years ago a tremendous effort was put forth by Deputy Sheriffs throughout the state to get an initiative on the ballot giving civil service to Deputy Sheriffs which subsequently passed by a large majority. Crider said we do not want to lose this protection which has raised the department to professional status on a par with any law enforcement agency in the state.

Crider continued that we are also against the idea of a "Super Chief" which we feel the county administrator would be. We are, therefore, asking all citizens to vote "No" on the proposed charter Sgt. Crider concluded.

Freeholders Score Labor Opposition

The vice chairman of the King County freeholders criticized the King County Labor Council yesterday "for never giving us our day in court."

The Labor Council voted Wednesday evening to oppose the charter, which will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Simon Wampold, one of the 15 freeholders who drafted the charter, said:

"They never called us down there to present our side. They're men of good faith, but they acted hastily without sufficient knowledge. They picked on certain selfish items without looking at the general welfare."

Wampold disputed a contention by James K. Bender, executive secretary of the council, that the charter would add an additional $1 million to the annual cost of county government.

Wampold conceded that the total cost of salaries might be higher if the charter passes, but he said any increase would be more than offset by efficiencies and elimination of duplication and overlapping services.

Wampold also took issue with Bender's contention that freeholders "gerrymandered the districts so that it would be almost impossible for more than three Democrats to be elected to the council."

The charter provides for an elected county executive and a nine-member county council to replace the three county commissioners elected under the present system.

Wampold, a Democrat, said he is satisfied the nine districts were not "gerrymandered." He said:

"We came up with something that satisfied both the Republicans and the Democrats. If you apply the 1966 legislative votes to our districts, the majority of county councilmen would have been Republican, but if you take the 1964 votes, the majority would have been Democratic.

"We have districts attuned to the mood of the people."

Wampold also noted that the charter contains provisions for collective bargaining with employes and for insulating county employes from political pressures.

Sheriffs oppose new county charter

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"We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchised right of the people to select their office holders.

"We also feel that this would put the Sheriff's Department back into the realm of politics. The charter makes it mandatory that after two years the civil service of the department is replaced by a "Merit System." Ten years ago a tremendous effort was put forth by deputy sheriffs throughout the state to get an initiative on the ballot giving civil service to deputy sheriffs which subsequently passed by a large majority.

"Crider said, "We do not want to lose this protection which has raised the department to professional status on a par with any law enforcement agency in the state."

Crider continued that we are also against the idea of a "super chief" which we feel the county administrator would be. "We are, therefore, asking all citizens to vote "NO" on the proposed charter," Sgt. Crider concluded.

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A New Charter for King County

New County Charter — Will It Win Approval?

(Continued from Page 1)

could help bring the new charter to victory," he observed.

Further, he points out, there are only 36 home-rule counties in the nation – but a hopeful sign is that 22 of those have been adopted since 1950.

"This could be a good year for King County to try," he added.

'No' — say its four opponents

Four organizations – King County Labor Council, King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, King County Employees Association and Young Men's Democratic Club – oppose the new charter. The Democratic club says no on the basis of what it regards as distasteful political provisions in the charter; the two county employe organizations primarily because of the charter's personnel provisions.

"We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchise right of the people to select their officeholders," Det. Sgt. Ron Crider stated. "We are also opposed to the replacement of the department's present civil service system with a merit system . . . and oppose the idea of a 'Super Chief' which we feel the county administrator would become."

"Ditto" says the King County Labor Council, but – significantly – a major labor group, the Aero Mechanics Union, not affiliated with the council but with 43,000 members, did not endorse the council's action.

'Yes' — says League of Women Voters

"I think it has an excellent chance," Mrs. Ludwig Lobe, president of the Seattle League of Women Voters, declared. "The league was instrumental in getting momentum for home rule started and we are playing a major role now in informing voters as to the charter advantages.

"Informed people will and should support it . . . we're hopeful those who don't know what's in it will try to find out . . . the LWV stands ready to help!" Mrs. Lobe promised.

'Uncommitted' — say two Party chiefs

Both Democratic and Republican county chairmen are personally neutral on the charter and, to date, neither party's executive board has taken a position. Nor are they likely to! Both Jeanette Williams, Democratic chairman, and Republican Kenneth Rogstad are openly hostile to its provisions providing for the independent filing of candidates and the decision made by freeholders favoring appointive county officials rather than electing them at present.

"The provisions providing for the independent filing of candidates is outrageous," Mrs. Williams stated.

"And I want my public officials responsible to the people!" was Rogstad's comment. Rogstad also questions what he claims is the proliferation of boards and commissions and feels less than optimistic about the charter's passage. "It's too much at once!"

"If it's defeated, I would suggest both a rewrite and

Fourth of Series

Will This 'Sleeper' Issue Pass Nov. 5?

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

The King County charter could turn into the "sleeper" issue in the campaign!

Hopefully, freeholders are reading "sleeper" for hidden strength it conceivably could hold for voters Nov. 5 that's not showing now. And they may be right. Certainly those groups and organizations which have lined up behind it are numerous and full of prestige, in contrast to the four other groups – two of them composed of county employees – which officially have turned thumbs down on it.

But "sleeper" has another meaning – and it's this meaning that's concerning charter boosters now. Worried about widespread lack of knowledge about what the charter contains (and why) and the dominance of the political campaigns, its backers still are proceeding optimistically – if cautiously – toward the cruncher Nov. 5.

"Most of the board feels the charter has an excellent chance," was the way Paul Meyer, diligent, able executive secretary of the board, put it last week. "Audiences have been positive and responsive . . . with only about one person in thirty raising any serious opposition to it.

"I think we have reason to be optimistic," he declared, pointing out that, based on those percentages, the charter seems certain to acquire the simple majority of votes it needs to pass next month.

Here's what other civic leaders and key groups who make or influence public opinion think its chances are:

'Optimistic' — says James Ellis

"It's got a darn good chance!" James Ellis, the Seattle attorney who drafted the '52 charter, declared. "I feel this effort is a viable compromise between reforms that must be made and the status quo, as well as between the goals of students of government and the fears of the average citizen. These adjustments must be made to assure the approval of a broad cross section of the electorate necessary for the charter's passage."

Ellis views this year's effort as a much more moderate document than the one he fashioned in 1952. "This is a more realistic approach . . . and doesn't attempt the more drastic changes we tried then. Because of this, it's chances at the polls are correspondingly brighter."

'It Should' — say County Commissioners

There is a strong spirit of reform abroad, in both the county and the state, that should produce a plus vote for the charter, Commissioner John Spellman feels. Spellman minimizes opposition that could arise from what he terms are "minor defects" and is sanguine about its passage. Even more optimistic is his colleague, Commissioner Ed Munro, who states definitely that "it should and will!"

"It's a moderate document that gives local government powers to solve its problems without going to the state legislature. On this home-rule basis alone, I think the voters will approve it," Munro stated.

Less optimistic is Board Chairman Commissioner John T. O'Brien, who labels the charter's chances at 50/50. "I heard objections that appear to be valid concerning charter provisions in the Sheriff's department – but I've also heard much favorable comment. At this point I think it's a question of whether its good points outweigh its bad points. It could be touch and go," he stated.

'Maybe' — say other elected officials

"I'm for it . . . and I think it's got better than a 50 50 chance of passing" was the comment of County Coroner Leo Sowers – whose office is not spelled out in the new document.

Other opinion: "I don't know," says Sheriff Jack Porter. "It depends on the selling job that's done. Other than that, the main objection to it I hear is the feeling the Sheriff should be an elective position, and that too many additional county offices will boost costs of county government . . ." "I have no opinion on its passage," County Assessor Allen Morgan – whose office would remain elective as it is now – declares. "I'm still undecided about it – although I do feel some modernization is necessary." County Clerk Walter Renschler observes that "I am just as confused as everyone else . . . There doesn't seem to be much if any organized opposition to it, but on the other hand, many people still haven't thought it through. It's going to take some soul-searching."

'Tough' — says national consultant

"Getting a charter adopted may have nothing to do with the quality of the charter," John A. Donaho, president of a governmental consulting firm which advised on the charter's contents, declared last week. "Experience demonstrates that good government is not readily salable unless the people are currently 'fed up' and ready for a change -- any change being considered an improvement. Then, too, inertia and reluctance to change are difficult to overcome without a well-organized and active pro-charter campaign. This year, other issues could cause a charter adoption or defeat. A popular national candidate with a landslide vote

(Continued on Page 3)

Crucial Question

Voters of King County will be asked Nov. 5 to approve or reject home rule, as provided for the first time by terms of a proposed new charter.

The comprehensive enabling document itself is the product of nine months work by the 15-member Board of King County Freeholders elected last year for this specific purpose.

The proposed new charter is the county's second effort to reform and modernize its government, which operates now under the unchanged original provisions enacted in 1854 by the Washington Territorial Assembly. The other attempt for a new charter failed to win voter approval in 1952.

This is the last article in a series to inform Valley voters of the background in which the proposed new charter was written, what's in it, and the arguments for and against it.

Today's article deals with the crucial question – will it pass?

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Other opinions. "I don't know," says Sheriff Jack Porter. "It depends on the selling job that's done. Other than that, the main objection to it I hear is the feeling the Sheriff should be an elective position, and that too many additional county offices will boost costs of county government . . ." "I have no opinion on its passage," County Assessor Allen Morgan – whose office would remain elective as it is now – declares. "I'm still undecided about it – although I do feel some modernization is necessary." County Clerk Walter Renschler observes that "I am just as confused as everyone else . . . There doesn't seem to be much if any organized opposition to it, but on the other hand, many people still haven't thought it through. It's going to take some soul-searching."

'Tough' — says national consultant

"Getting a charter adopted may have nothing to do with the quality of the charter," John A. Donaho, president of a governmental consulting firm which advised on the charter's contents, declared last week. "Experience demonstrates that good government is not readily salable unless the people are currently 'fed up' and ready for a change – any change being considered an improvement. Then, too, inertia and reluctance to change are difficult to overcome without a well-organized and active pro-charter campaign. This year, other issues could cause a charter adoption or defeat. A popular national candidate with a landslide vote

(Continued on Page 3)

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Freeholder Blasts Labor's Rebuff of County Charter

By Our County News Bureau

Rejection by the King County Labor Council of the proposed home-rule charter last week drew a blast Friday from James Curran, Kent attorney who also served as a member of the King County Board of Freeholders.

Curran declared the turndown a "biased and self-serving decision" which could cast an unfavorable light on other endorsements and recommendations the council has made in this election.

The freeholder criticised the council's stated reasons for refusing to endorse the charter as invalid.

"Neither the council's executive board--nor its members--apparently have taken the trouble to become properly informed as to what actually is in the charter," he emphasized.

Curran said that charges that costs of county government would increase by one million dollars annually are untrue.

"There will be some increase in costs, naturally, but I don't believe anyone can say with any degree of accuracy what these increases will be. On the other hand, whatever the increase in costs, I believe it will be more than offset by an increase in efficiency," he declared.

The council's criticism of an appointive sheriff and the civil service provisions of the new charter drew further blasts from Curran.

"I think we can get a competent sheriff by the appointive process it's worked in other modern counties and it can work here. Further, I think county employes have been given basic and adequate job protection under the charter they should have," he stated.

"I simply don't think the arguments used against the charter hold up," Curran added.

Significantly, the 43,000-member Aero Mechanics Union is not affiliated with the King County Labor Council but which was represented at the coucil meeting, was not involved in the action.

The matter will be considered Tuesday at an all-day meeting of the union's legislative committee, according to Thomas Finnegan, chairman.

The labor council's rejection brings the number of organizations or groups opposing the charter to four. Others are Young Men's Democratic Club, King County Sheriff's Deputies Association Local 519, and King County Employees' Association

The charter has been endorsed by Seattle-King County Municipal League, King County Leagues of Women Voters, Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Shoreline Community Council.

Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of King County Freeholders, said Friday favorable action is being considered by many groups which will be announced this week.

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Seattle, Wash.
Queen Anne News
(Cir. W. 17,500)

OCT 16 1968

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

Candidates, issues spark Community Club Thursday

A program of candidates and issues will make tomorrow evening's meeting of the Community Club an outstanding affair of the club's year. Residents of Magnolia as well as Queen Anne are invited, in order to hear both sides of several controversial issues.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m., Oct. 17, at the Queen Anne Recreation Center, First Ave. W. and W. Howe St.

Two controversial issues will be discussed, the King County charter will be explained and several candidates will be present or represented.

Incumbents Gladys Kirk and John Murray and candidate Norah Van Tassel have been invited to meet the public.

John Strasburger, legal counsel for the Board of King County Freeholders will discuss the contents of the proposed home rule charter for King County.

A representative of the Citizens' Committee for Initiative 32 will speak for that initiative, and a representative of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union will speak against it. This initiative deals with the exporting of Washington logs.

Speakers will also debate the question of lowering retail service charges from 18 per cent to 12 per cent.

David Boerner, executive secretary of the attorney general's crime commission, will speak in behalf of John O'Connell for governor. Representatives of Governor Dan Evans, Lt. Governor John Cherberg and candidate for Lt. Governor, Art Fletcher, will also speak in behalf of those candidates.

All speeches will be brief and questions are invited from the floor.

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Munro, O'Brien Give Reminder About Voting

A reminder that all county voters will vote for two County Commissioners in the general election on November 5 was issued Friday by incumbent Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro. Both are candidates for reelection: O'Brien in the Central District; Munro in the Second or South Commissioner District.

Munro said many voters are confused in this particular position due to nomination by district occurring in the primary. Munro won the Democratic nomination in the Second District and will be opposed by Republican nominee Tom Forsythe; O'Brien won the Republican nomination in the Central District and will be opposed by Democrat nominee R. Judge Owens.

State law requires that Commissioners are nominated in the District in which they reside. All King County votes on the nominees in the general election.

Commissioner John Spellman, the County's North District Commissioner, is not up for reelection this year.

Munro said that the considerable confusion over this particular election law would be corrected if voters approve the proposed County Charter, also on the ballot November 5.

Freeholders have proposed that County Councilmen (who will replace the present three-man Board of County Commissioners) will be both nominated and elected from nine separate councilmanic districts within King County. Munro pointed out: "In this way each District will have a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be."

The incumbent Commissioner declared that not only would this end the confusion by which Commissioners now are elected, but it would provide more direct and immediate accountability of legislators to the voters.

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Election '68

County Charter Rates Approval

In the election day excitement generated by races for the presidency, Congress and state offices, responsible voters will not overlook local ballot issues.

Perhaps the most important local issue in King County is the proposed county home rule charter, drafted by 15 elected freeholders over the last 12 months.

We have concluded that the charter should be adopted, following careful examination of the document and extensive interviews with key members of the freeholder board.

The need for the charter, which will revamp the structure of county government, is underlined by the fact that King County's governmental system is basically the same today as it was when the county's boundaries were drawn in 1854. Since then, the county has evolved from a sparsely populated rural region to an urban complex claiming more than one-third of the state's total population.

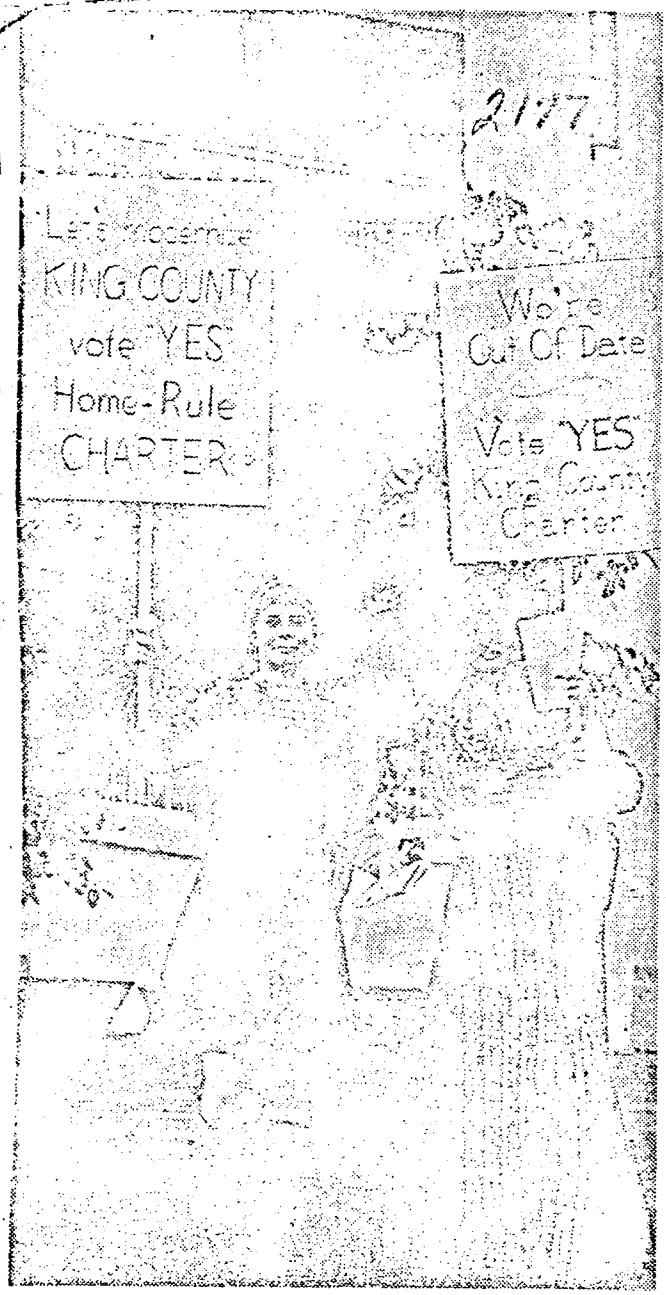
The new charter would separate the legislative and executive branches of county government; establish a personnel merit system to supplant the political patronage now rampant in the Courthouse, and give more direct representation to individual citizens.

Greater efficiency should result from the formula for an elected nine-member Council of legislators and an elected county executive, who would appoint key department heads. The offices of county prosecuting attorney and assessor would remain elective.

Among the charter features we find most appealing is establishment of an office of citizen complaints, which has many of the characteristics of an ombudsman's office.

ONE OF THE major points raised against the charter by opponents is that it would destroy the sheriff's existing civil service system. This is false. The charter specifies that those under the sheriff's civil service system may be absorbed into the new personnel system and that none of their "rights, privileges and protections" shall be damaged.

What few minor flaws the charter may contain are far outweighed by its basic attributes. We therefore urge county residents to vote yes on the charter proposal November 5.



Members of the League of Women Voters used women's fashions today to dramatize the League's campaign for adoption of the King County home-rule charter, on the November 5 ballot. Mrs. Ellis H. Dill, right, wore costumes appropriate for 1854, the year in which King County's governing structure was set up. Mrs. Paul Henney wore modern dress to call attention to modernizing county government through the proposed charter.

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Demo Group Fails to Take Charter Stand

2177

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The King County Democratic Central Committee last night voted down a motion that the committee oppose the proposed county charter, it was learned today.

When a move was made to get formal committee support of the charter, two members walked out and the action died for lack of a quorum.

Mike Gallagher, former state senator and former assistant county building superintendent, led the opposition. Ray E. Olsen, budget director for County Commissioner Ed Munro, also opposed the charter. Munro has come out strongly in favor of the charter.

THE DEMOCRATIC committee does not have another meeting scheduled before the November 5 election.

Lem Howell, a member of the committee, said Democratic organizations in two legislative districts, the 46th and 43rd, reported that their members were strongly in favor of the charter.

Howell, of the 46th District, said it was believed that a majority of those present at last night's central-committee meeting favored the charter.

After the committee refused to oppose the charter by a 12 to 9 vote, Gallagher called for a quorum count. There was a quorum but when a move was made to endorse the charter, Olsen and Neil Chaney, former assistant manager of Boeing Field, left the meeting. The quorum challenge was made again and upheld.

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, spoke in favor of the charter, although Gallagher objected to his presence.

SEVERAL MEMBERS of the committee abstained from voting on Gallagher's motion to oppose the charter.

The charter question had been raised at the committee's September meeting but was tabled to give representatives of legislative districts a chance to learn the thinking of their groups. Howell said no representatives indicated their districts opposed the charter.

Wampold said a statement he made before changes were made in the boundaries for councilman districts is being used against the charter.

He noted that he had stated that the district boundaries would make the proposed County Council Republican-dominated. Wampold said the statement was based on an early map showing councilman districts. He said the revised map is fair to both parties.

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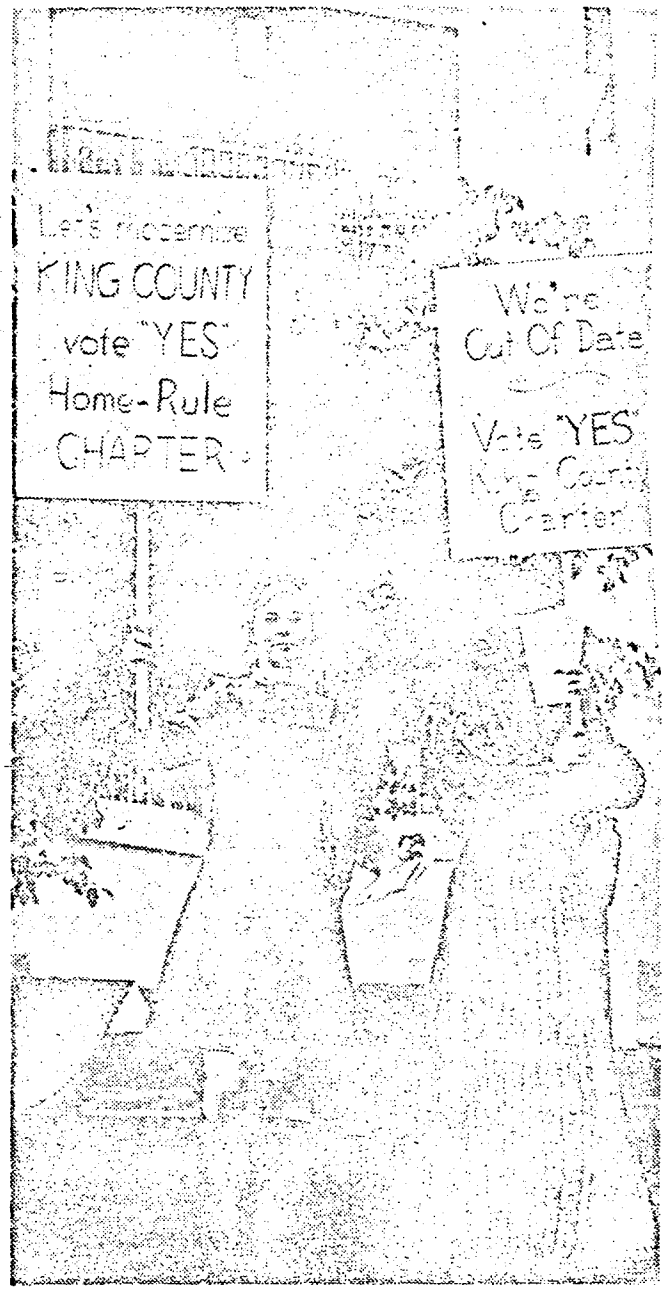

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Information Office Set by Charter Unit

A citizen's committee supporting a "home rule" charter on the Nov. 5 ballot has set up an information office to try to persuade voter approval of the revamping of county government.

During a press conference yesterday morning, member of the King County Board of Freeholders Paul Friedlander said, "The people of King County are sick and tired of the government they have. We will be giving them a chance at a much better government."

With Friedlander in announcing the information were freeholder board chairman Richard Albrecht and the co-chairmen of the citizens committee, Norton Clapp and Dwight Spracher.

The information office is in Room 24 of the Exchange Building. The telephone number is 345-6684.

Chairman Albrecht said the office would provide speakers on the subject and answer any questions that might come up between now and the November election.

In stating his approval of the reorganization of county government, co-chairman Clapp said, "In the jet age, we deserve a form of government different than that engineered when we became a state in 1889. This is a giant step forward."

The most sweeping change the new charter proposes would be establishing a nine-member elective board of a County Council, as opposed to the present three-member system.

Charter Should Be Adopted

2177

IT is a striking contrast of modern society that while Americans are remarkably ingenious in devising the mechanical contrivances that make up the trappings of the era of jet travel and space exploration, little effort has been expended until now on renovating the machinery of local government.

In King County, for example, which has been transformed swiftly from a rural into an urban complex containing more than a third of the state's population, the basic structure of county government is much the same as it was at its birth in 1854.

Piecemeal attempts to meet the growing demand for services in urbanized but unincorporated areas have produced a bewildering array of junior taxing districts, boards, commissions, councils and committees all superimposed on the antiquated foundation of a county administration designed originaly for a rural environment.

Fortunately, thanks to the labors of a 15-member Freeholders' Commission elected last year, the opportunity is at hand to change the pattern of King County government through a proposed home-rule charter.

The charter is a lengthy and complex document. In broad terms, it would produce a long-overdue separation of administrative and legislative functions, consolidate certain activities to eliminate duplication, provide for greater representation of various regions of the county in the legislative branch and establish financial controls designed to better insure efficient expenditures and to prevent budgetary deficits.

Several of the charter's provisions would achieve urgently needed Courthouse reforms, including a civil-service plan that would expedite an end to the old political spoils system, a prohibition against conflicts of interest and realistic rules on reporting of political campaign contributions.

Admittedly, the charter contains certain defects. They were bound to occur, since the authors of any document to modernize a local institution of government will encounter obstacles, particularly from vested political interests.

The charter's shortcomings, however, do not outweigh the document's considerable merit. It long has been apparent that the existing form of King County government cannot cope capably either with existing problems or with the even greater needs that lie ahead.

For these reasons, The Times supports the proposed charter and recommends an affirmative vote when it goes before the voters November 5.

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Backing Charter, Council Asks Bothell Govt Study

Backing for the proposed "home-rule" charter for King County and a request that a study be made of possible changes in Bothell's form of government were voted Monday night by the city council.

Councilwoman Madelein Shean proposed both measures.

Two councilmen, Jack Roggenkamp and Lowell Haynes, abstained from voting on the charter- support measure. Roggenkamp said he is "undecided" and Haynes said he hasn't had enough information.

The charter will be voted on Nov. 5. If approved, it would take effect next May. In effect, it would provide a mayor-council type government for the county. Elected would be a nine-member county council, to set policy, and a county executive who would be in charge of administration.

Mrs. Shean first proposed the council request that the Bothell PLAN Coordinating Council study advantages and disadvantages of council-manager government for Bothell. After Roggenkamp and Haynes objected to studying just council-manager government, she moved that PLAN be asked to study all possible forms of city government.

Mayor Walter Sundstrom backed the county charter as an "improvement," although it contains some "holes."

He felt the city, with its high growth rate, will soon need a full time chief executive. The city will be unable to find men with the necessary qualifications who can spare time from their jobs to serve as a part-time mayor, stressed Sundstrom, a practicing physician. He doubted the city could afford to pay enough for a full-time mayor.

He spoke out for a man professionally trained for the job.

Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. w. 16,000

OCT 23 1969

Freeholders chairman lauds county charter

A more efficient county government was predicted if voters approve the proposed home rule charter on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders group that drew up the new charter, explained that the county's functions will be reorganized, but it won't have any powers that it doesn't have already.

He spoke to the Washington State Association of Water Districts' annual conference Oct. 5 at the Swept Wing Inn.

The present county commissioners and other students of prized possessions of a young fan at our house.

county government agree that the present form of county government won't be able to cope much longer with the problems of change, Albrecht said.

Commissioner Spellman has even predicted that county government may be less costly under the new charter, Albrecht noted.

In addition to reorganizing functions and administration of them the new charter would allow people the initiative and referendum on county issues -- something never before possible.

"If people don't like the charter after they've tried it," he said, "it'll be easy to change it."

Some 115 commissioners from water districts (most of them in King County) attended the meeting. Attending from Water District 81 in this area were Garner Hook, manager, and Jay Becker, a commissioner.

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

County Charter Fact Sheet Available at Burien Chamber

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed County Charter is now available for distribution, according to Freeholder Chairman, Richard Albrecht.

The brochure-type summary contains questions and answers and a synopsis, along with an organization chart comparing the present and proposed sturcture of government and a map of King County representing the nine Councilman Districts.

Authorization for the fact sheet was given by the Board of King County Commissioners with the purpose of providing graphic material explaining to the citizens the contents of the proposed County Charter.

Fact sheets have been distributed to all libraries in Seattle and King County. Any citizen or organization wishing multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charter may pick them up at the following locations: Burien Chamber of Commerce, 15830 - 8th Ave. SW; Mrs. Robert Anderson, 16441 - 15th SW, CH 3-3498; Mrs. Henry Charnell, 32119 - 26th Ave. SW, VE 8-0296.

Issaquah, Wash.
Press
(Cir. W. 1,960)

OCT 28 1958

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

Sheriff's Union is against county charter

2177

Detective Sgt. Ronald C. Crider, department representative of King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, today asked voters to vote against the proposed King County Charter. The action came after an unanimous vote of the executive board of the Union.

Crider listed the following reasons for the Union's action: We are opposed to the appointment of the Sheriff and other officials which, in effect, takes away the franchised right of the people to select their office holders. We also feel that this would put the Sheriff's Department back into the realm of politics. The charter makes it mandatory that after two years the civil service of the department is replaced by a "MERIT SYSTEM." Ten years ago a tremendous effort was put forth by Deputy Sheriffs throughout the state to get an initiative on the ballot giving civil service to Deputy Sheriffs which subsequently passed by a large majority. Crider said we do not want to lose this protection which has raised the department to professional status on a par with any law enforcement agency in the state. Crider continued that we are also against the idea of a "Super Chief" which we feel the county administrator would be. We are, therefore, asking all citizens to vote "NO" on the proposed charter Sgt. Crider concluded.

County charter needed

2177

The proposed county charter to be voted on in King County Nov. 5 deserves the support of the electorate to help bring county government into tune with the 20th century.

The Journal holds that the charter will provide for a county government more responsive to the needs and desires of the growing and varied population. Although the measure falls short of some needed improvements, we believe that it would be a vast improvement over our present antiquated system.

An explanation of several details of the charter was carried in last week's Journal and much has been said and written about it elsewhere during the past year of its preparation.

We hazard the statement that there is nary a reader who is driving an automobile as old as the form of county government that we are operating under today. Its form was predicated on a smaller rural-orientated society. Today we have largely an urban society in King County. The present form does not provide for the people to even be able to vote on changes to reflect solutions to modern day problems.

Under the proposed charter, the people can vote on changes as needed, somewhat like under a state or national constitution. As proposed, the charter has the support of present county commissioners.

We suggest that adoption of the county charter would bring a form of government which can be more representative of our needs.

Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000

OCT 23 1958

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

2177

If the Charter Could Only Solve Our Stadium Problems

In selling the structure reform of county government to members of the Burien Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Freeholder Norm Ackley termed the proposed Home-Rule Charter an avenue to more democracy — a chance for King County planners and rulers to know the "feelings" of the people.

"While the charter won't solve all the problems of a growing county," the White Center attorney and former legislator commented, "it's the best effort now to streamline our antiquated form of government."

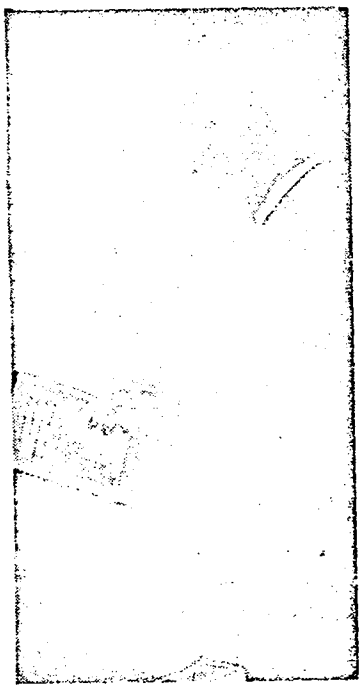
Despite an effort to humanize what is probably the least glamourous of the election issues, the meeting ended on a more familiar subject. Guest Ed Munor was asked for his position on the stadium site issue, a controversy that can't even be solved by adoption of a charter, all agreed.

The County Commissioner, a Seahurst resident, said he will stand by and promote a south-end site because of the major traffic congestion and $15 to $20 million addition cost surely to be generated by building the stadium downtown.

Three times the stadium proposition was put before the voters before it passed, then as a $40 million general obligation bond issue in the Forward Thrust package last February.

The charter is up for a second try at the polls Nov. 5.

The first charter of 1952, Ackley explained, met much more opposition — even from the Courthouse — than the current document. In his opinion the current objections to the



Freeholder Norm Ackley

charter by organized labor were generated because representatives of that group were omitted from the citizens' committee for charter promotion.

One cause given for the failure of the '52 document was its provision for an appointed assessor. The issue before the voters this year will retain the elected post.

In response to a question, Ackley said the offices of County Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor, Coroner and Sheriff will be changed to appointive positions if the charter passes.

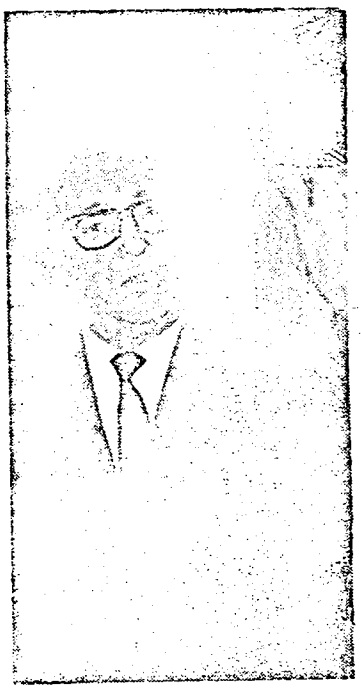
He referred to Munro as possibly the next County Executive, while outlining what he considered to be the most important aspect of the charter —the separation of the legislative and executive branches of county government.

For the first time the county would have a single executive, elected at large. He in turn would appoint a county administrator. This administrative branch of the government, dealing with the day to day operation of King County, would be more efficient than our present system, where the commissioners set policies, handle all the operational details of government and even sit in a quasi-judicial board function in county planning matters.

The new legislative system as well as the elected position of the executive will provide a more democratic system, Ackley said. The proposed nine councilmen will be nominated and elected by district. The Highline area and Vashon Island will make up councilman district no. 7. That post will automatically be filled by Munro if he is re-elected commissioner from the south district Nov. 5 and doesn't file for the office of county executive.

In 1854, when the present form of government was established, it was easy for the three commissioners to handle the problems of the county. The county councilman districts under the charter were created on a basis of an estimated 1.2 million county population. Each district is divided into approximately a 135,000 population area.

To an often asked question, Ackley answered the cost for the extra councilmen — the legislator's salaries are set at $18,000 by the charter —



Commissioner Ed Munro

will be offset by the savings from increased efficiency of county administration.

Both Chamber guests pointed up the additional responsiveness to the people that would be provided for by the charter. The long deliberations and study by the 15 freeholders, Ackley said, aimed, in theory, on creation of a good system somewhere between anarchy and a dictatorship.

"You can recall me," Munro said, "if the charter is passed." The referendum and initiative processes are included, also.

Ackley said the Citizens Complaint department, independent of the County Executive, will study and air problems of individual residents.

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Charter's Passage Could Set up Deficit

By Our County News Bureau

If the proposed county charter passes, King County will be forced to go on a warrant basis within three months.

This was the prediction of King County Treasurer M.J.R. Williams yesterday, who declared the county had no emergency reserve fund to handle the added costs of calling the special elections the charter proposes in February and March, nor the salaries of new county officials slated to take office May 1 if the charter is approved.

Williams estimated the two elections would cost the county approximately $400,000, and that the salaries of the new officials could run as high as half a million dollars.

"The county already has adopted its budget for 1969 based on a known expenditure and revenue pattern," Williams warned. "There is no reserve for any anticipated or unanticipated emergency such as the passage of the charter would place on county funds.

"The county, as a result, would be plunged immediately into deficit spending. At that point, my office would have to issue warrants," he declared. He added that first tax returns for 1969, due April 30, would not cover the anticipated deficit, nor did he see any improvement in the situation during the remainder of the year.

"That is, unless new sources of revenue were found beyond the present 8-mill limit," he added.

State law requires the county to operate within a balanced budget, but there is some question if the home rule provisions permitting the present charter effort in King County would permit deficit financing.

Other county officials indicated that if the charter passes there would be pressures on the county assessor to raise assessed valuations on real property to offset increased costs of government.

King County has operated on warrants only once before in its 114-year history. That was during the 1930s

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Operation Simplification:

Commentary on Ballot Issues

Editor's Note: From the confusing array of ballot issues facing voters November 5, we have tried to distill the essence of each and to indicate the sources of support and/or opposition.

With the exception of Referendum 18 (see editorial, page 2), we do not endorse nor condemn any of the issues. All, however, have their own importance, and we can only urge that you familiarize yourself with each before going out to vote.

More detailed information is contained in the state legal notices, published this edition, next, and for the two previous editions of the Reporter. Also, the issues are published in full, with comments on each, in your official State Voters' Pamphlet.

Our capsule commentary follows.

Initiative 242

Drivers' Implied Consent - Intoxication Tests.

This measure is intended to combat the rising accident rate on the highways of Washington.

More than 50 percent of the traffic fatalalities have been

(Continued on Page 2)

County Charter

This proposal is too complicated to be summarized in a few words so only the high points will be covered. The charter would provide a whole new plan of organization for the county. Instead of three charter commissioners elected county-wide, the charter would provide a county chief executive and nine county councilmen elected by districts, thus paralleling the mayor and council organization of a city.

The offices of auditor, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, and county clerk which are now elective. All executive power would be visited in the county chief executive, all legislative power in the county council. An auditor and office of civilian complaints reporting to the council would enable the latter to monitor the performance of the executive.

County departments would be reorganized to bring related functions under the same head, and a career service personnel system would be established in place of the present patronage system.

Freeholder To Debate New Charter

2/77

Attorney James N. O'Conner will face Arthur Hare, president of the Service Employees Union Local No. 6, in a debate over the proposed new King County charter next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the University Congregational Church, 45th and 16th N.E.

O'Conner, one of the freeholders drafting the proposed charter, will be speaking in its favor.

Preceding their appearance will be the contestants for the offices of Lt. Gov. and King County Commissioner.

The forum is being sponsored by seven University District churches: Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and Blessed Sacrament. Opportunity will be given for questioning from the floor concerning the candidates' positions and the charter.

Freeholder Says Union 'No' Vote Is Unfounded

2/77

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

The battle lines are drawn!

This was the reaction yesterday of the chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders to a turn-down voted Tuesday night by the powerful District 751 Lodge of the International Association of Machinists & Aero-Space Workers.

The union's council voted, 29-1, to reject the charter after its legislative committee headed by Tom Finnegan had recommended that the union take no action on the charter either way.

Richard Albrecht declared that "it's a shame organized labor is opposing constructive change on a purely selfish basis when the opportunity for dramatic improvement in county government is being offered."council

Professing ignorance of the reason for the union's refusal, Albrecht noted that any concern the union might have that collective bargaining for county employes has not been provided for in the charter is unfounded.

"This was most carefully and deliberately spelled out when Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, and myself appeared before the union's legislative committee to explain the charger's provisions, and labor's potential relationship to it," he declared.

Other reasons for the turndown were rumoured to include opposition to the nineman legislative districting plan from which the county's proposed county council would be chosen.

In comment, Albrecht declared those districts were drawn at first without regard to political consequences.

"Initial allegations these district lines were politically unfair produced a redrawing of lines for the entire county which all 15 of the freeholders agreed was fair," he declared. "It is impossible to predict the political charcter of many districts because the only available information on which these conclusions can be drawn is the result of an election, and this, in turn, depends on who the candidate is."

The rejection of the charter by the union brings to five the number of organizations which have formally opposed the charter, — all labor organizations. The charter is being supported by the majority of "good-government" types of groups, including the Leagues of Women Voters of Puget Sound, Seattle-King County Municipal League and Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

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Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

OCT 23 1968

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

BELLEVUE AMERICAN, Thursday, October 24, 1968 Page A

FREEHOLDER FOOTNOTE:

What About The People Who Wrote The Charter?

2177

Two housewives, three businessmen, an engineer, an airline pilot, six attorneys, a contractor and a chamber of commerce official share the responsibility for the new home-rule charter up for King County voter approval November 5.

Elected Freeholders last year by the voters, and charged with the writing of the charter, the 13 men and two women have donated countless hours of their time to drafting thd document which they hope will modernize King County government.

The housewives are Mrs. Virginia Gunby, 37, and Lois H. North, 47. The former was graduated from the U. of W., the latter is a University of California graduate.

Robert J. Block, 44, is one of the businessmen, Paul S. Friedlander, 56 is president of a Seattle business firm and a U of W Law school grad, and Howard Bothell, 41, is president of an automobile company.

The airline pilot is Terrance R. McKenna, 38; Jack Geoffroy, 56, is administrative vice president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Don McDonald, 38, is the contractor, and a University of Washington graduate. Robert Eberle, 33, a University of Alabama graduate, is the research engineer.

The attorneys include Bellevue's Simon Wampold, 60, a Harvard law graduate, James O' Connor, 32, Yale law school; Norman Ackley, 48, U of W grad; James Curran 50, law school graduate, University of Washington; Lyle Schneider, 51, graduate of U of W Law school and Richard R. Albrecht, Freeholder chairman, 36, University of Iowa Law school.

Five Freeholders were selected from each of the three present commissioner districts, so the entire county is equally represented. Their political and philosophical points of view were diversified, and it is obvious that each of the 15 had a personal dedication to the development of the governmental structure which will serve King County for many years in the future.

Their efforts, their dedication and their intent is reflected in the preamble of the charter, which reads:

"We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State Washington, do adopt this charter."

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

OCT 23 1968

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

McDonald To Speak On Charter

2177

Freeholder Don McDonald will discuss and explain the proposed King County Charter at a meeting of the Suburban-East King County Young Republican Club Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Puget Power auditorium.

This is not a regular meeting of the club. The meeting is sponsored by the Young Republicans in order to give voters the opportunity to listen and ask questions about the charter before the November election.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

OCT 24 1968

MIReporter, Thursda

Charter To Be Discussed

2177

On Tuesday, October 29, the Suburban-East King County Young Republican Club is presenting Mr. Don Mac Donald, Freeholder, who will discuss and explain the propossed King County Charter.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Puget Power Auditorium in Bellevue.

Suburban-East is sponsoring this program to provide voters the opportunity to listen and ask questions about the Charter before the November elections. This is not a regular meeting of the club, and all who are interested are invited and encouraged to attend.

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Charter Fact Sheet Available

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed county charter is now available for distribution, according to freeholder chairman, Richard Albrecht. The brochure-type summary contains questions and answers and a synopsis, along with an organization chart comparing the present and proposed structure of government and a map of King County representing the nine councilman districty.

Authorization for the fact sheet was given by the Board of King County Commissioners with the purpose of providing graphic material explaining to the citizens the contents of the proposed county charter.

Fact sheets have been distgibuted to all libraries in Seattle and King County. Any citizen or organization wishing multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charter may pick them up at the following depots:

Auburn - Bothel Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc., 16 So. Division, auburn, Wash.

Federal Way - Mrs. Henry Charnell, 32119-26th Ave. S.W., Federal Way, VE 8-0296.

Highline-Burien - Burien Chamber of Commerce, 158-30 - 8th S.W., Burien; Mrs. Robt. Anderson, 16441-15th S.W., CH 3-3498.

Kent - Mr. James Curran-Office, 213-4th Ave. So., Kent, UL 2-2345.

Seattle, Wash.
Ballard News-Tribune
(Cir. W. 24,652)

OCT 23 1968

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

COPIES OF CHARTER

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed County Charter is now available for distribution, according to Freeholder Chairman Richard Albrecht. Ballardites may get multiple copies from Mrs. Virginia Walsh, 1555 NW Market St. The Ballard Branch library also has copies for reference.

16 The Seattle Times Wednesday, October 23, 1968

Aero Mechanics

Union Raps County Charter

By PAUL STAPLES
Labor Editor, The Times

The 32-member district council of the Aero Mechanics Union, representing 43,000 employes of The Boeing Co., last night turned thumbs down on the proposed King County charter.

The council will recommend to members of its four affiliated locals that they vote against the charter November 5.

The action against the charter was the third taken by a major union group. The King County Labor Council and the 17 King County locals in the Joint Council of Teamsters took similar action earlier.

MEMBERS of the Aero Mechanics' legislative committee, under the chairmanship of Thomas Finnegan, held hearings yesterday. Proponents and opponents of the charter were heard.

The committee went to the council with a recommendation that no position be taken on the charter, it was reported. But a vote carried to oppose the charter.

Generally, the three labor groups oppose the charter for the same reasons.

They contend it would increase the cost of county government by replacing three commissioners with nine councilmen, probably at the expense of county employes in their paychecks.

The unionists say civil service for deputy sheriffs would be wiped out in two years and that supervisors would be able to suspend county employes up to 60 days without grievance procedures. They contend councilmen districts have been gerrymandered.

The union leaders also object to most county offices being appointive instead of elective.

IT WAS announced at the meeting that incorrect information has been circulated indicating that the Washington Machinists Council is not opposed to Initiative 242, the implied-consent measure sponsored by the Washington State Medical Association.

Ray Johnson, district secretary-traesurer of the Aero Mechanics, has been leading a fight against Initiative 242 in the council, composed of locals in the state with 70,000 members.

The Aero Mechanics successfully sponsored a resolution opposing the initiative at the State Labor Council convention in Spokane in August.

Matthew DeMore of Washington, D. C., general secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, will be here Monday in connection with the union's get-out-the-vote efforts.

DeMore and William Hutton, executive secretary of the National Council of Senior Citizens, will address the Aero Mechnics Retirement Club at 11 a. m. in the Eagles Aerie.

RETIRED members of Hope Lodge 79 and Lodge 289, other machinist affiliates here, as well as of lodges in Bremerton, Everett, Tacoma and other nearby communities, are urged to attend.

DeMore and Hutton will appeal for a heavy turnout of retired people to vote November 5.

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Charter Gets Opposition On 2 Fronts

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The proposed county charter came under severe attack from two quarters yesterday.

Approval of the charter would force King County into deficit financing next year, County Treasurer M. J. R. Williams declared. Earlier, the County Employes Association announced its opposition to the charter.

Officials of the County board of Freeholders which drafted the charter quickly retorted, questioning the figures used to show increased costs.

Williams and the county employes each estimated the increased cost of county government at $1.5 million.

Williams estimated the cost of special elections to select councilmen and a county executive at $500,000 and their salaries, those of their staffs, office space and equipment at another $1 million.

NOTING THAT the 1969 budget uses all available funds without providing for the cost of transition, Williams said any additional expense next yerar would require the county to issue interst-bearing warrants.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Freeholders, questioned Williams' figures.

"I don't know what sort of staff Mr. Williams expects," Albrecht said. He said the salaries of six of the nine councilmen would be provided for by the present salaries of the three county commissioners and their three budget directors.

"The charter, therefore, is adding the salaries of three councilmen and an executive," he said. Albrecht also anticipated that one secretary for each two or three councilmen would be provided as is the case with the Seattle Council. Office space

own baliwicks." He described it as a narrow standpoint rather than keeping in mind the good of the county.

Williams said deficit spending will mean that in 1970 emergency funds would have to be provided and that would curtail money available to operate the county. He said interest-bearing warrants impairs the county's credit and results in higher interest rates on county bonds.

"OUR CURRENT expense fund has not been on interest since the depression days of the 30s and at that time the warrants were being discounted up to 20 per cent," Williams said. He said no remedy for additional revenue is proposed in the charter. "I firmly believe the voters should weigh these facts along with the good points of the charter before they cast their vote on November 5," the treasurer said.

Albrecht called Williams' reference to the depression "completely inappropriate." Then, Albrecht said, the financial condition of the entire country was impaired and the ability of the county to collect taxes it levied was in doubt.

Albrecht expressed doubt that passage of the charter would require borrowing by the county. If it did, he said, there is no reason to believe it "would result in the sort of disaster Williams describes with 20 per cent discounts and the like."

Earlier, the employes Association, representing about 700 of the county's 2,300 employes, opposed the charter on the basis of the additional cost, because the auditor is appointed instead of elected, because the charter lacks rules to govern the merit system and because the personnel system would come under strong control of the county executive.

County Employes Bucking Charter

The two organizations said that figure includes the $500,000 expense of holding two special elections next winter.

They also were critical of charter provisions calling for the appointment by the proposed County Council of the auditor, rather than retaining this office as an elective post.

"The election of the auditor would make him answerable to the electorate of the county for his conduct in checking and auditing the county's financial operations, independent of the council and the executive," they declared.

The two groups also attached charter provisions affecting civil service, stating. "From the standpoint of their personal interest, county employes feel that the proposed charter is woefully lacking in ground rules to govern the merit system and that it provides little, if any, protection to county employes over the present system. Under the new charter, the final say on merit system rules would be for the elective executive and the elected council-just where it is now--in the hands of elected officials.

The county's two employe organizations joined Friday in an attack on the proposed county charter in which they charged that "benefits, if any, that might accrue from its passage are far outweighed by the inordinate increase in expense to the taxpayers of King County."

In a prepared statement, members of King County Employees Association and Sheriff's department employes, who have their own personnel organization, said that a conservative estimate of the cost of making the change-over if the charter passes would be at least $1.5 million for the first year.

Magnolia Journal

OCT 23 1968

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

Publisher's Corner

by John S. Murray

2177

On November 5 voters will be faced with one of the longest ballots in history. In addition to candidates running for specific offices there will be many extremely important issues on the ballot. Based upon my experience as a legislator I would make the following recommendations:

SEATTLE SCHOOL LEVY – FOR – The levy MUST pass. It would be a catastrophe for Seattle school children if the levy were to fail. We in the state legislature must find a way to relieve the necessity for special levies every year, but until we do, it is imperative that the levies pass.

COUNTY CHARTER – FOR – It is doubtful that we will ever devise the perfect form of government but there is no doubt that the new County charter now being proposed is a vast improvement over the measure that we have been working under since 1854.

INITIATIVE 242 – Implied Consent – FOR – Anyone operating a vehicle on Washington highways shall be deemed to have consented to taking a breath test when arrested for any offense. No one is on record against the measure.

INITIATIVE 245 – Reducing retail service charges – AGAINST – This is price fixing. The natural law o supply and demand does a much better job than an man-made law can hope to do. If the unions wh sponsored the measure think that someone is cutting a bi fat hog, they can go into the business themselves. The would never accept a law setting wages for their members

REFERENDUM 35 – Non-discrimination by realtors – FOR – The measure passed the last session of the legislature but was referred to the people for their approval. Federal law now in effect has much stronger features so this measure is of no importance except as an expression of popular opinion.

REFERENDUM BILL 17 – Water Pollution Control Bonds – FOR – This will enable the state to clear up our major water pollution problems much more quickly.

REFERENDUM BILL 18 – Bonds for outdoor recreation – FOR – Slade Gorton and I sponsored this measure in the House at the Governor's request. Half the money goes to cities and counties and th. other half for state parks. Demand far exceeds supply in recreation land. This is not nearly enough but is a big step in the right direction.

REFERENDUM BILL 19 – State Building Projects – FOR – This is a vote for the new Evergreen State College, the University of Washington, Firlands and most of our other institutions throughout the state. A measure that must be approved to meet the demands of our times.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 32 – Local Processing of State Timber – AGAINST – This measure has had more heat than light but only timber from state-owned land, mostly school trust lands, is affected. It would not in any way affect the total export of logs and would reduce the price received by the state for its timber. The net effect would be that we would have to take more money from the general fund to support schools. An emotional issue that would do little if anything to solve the problem of the small inefficient lumber mill.

SJR 5 – Investment of Public Pension Funds – YES – A good measure with adequate safeguards that would permit greater return on invested funds. A constitutional amendment that had to pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate with over a two thirds majority vote, which it did easily.

SJR 6 – Authorizing a State Court of Appeals – YES – This measure would help to relieve the pressure on our State Supreme Court. Passed the Senate 47 to 2 and the House 88 to 4.

SJR 17 – Providing for a state building authority – YES – Passed the Senate 46 to 2, the House 92 to 3. Unopposed in the Voter's Pamphlet.

SJR 23 – Permit two year levies – YES – This would make it possible for school districts to vote for two year levies at one time if they wished to do so. It would not be

LEGAL NOTICES

2177 King County Proposed Co. Charter

Date of Election, Nov. 5

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 5, 1968

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to Resolution No. 35956, passed by the Board of King County Commissioners on the 9th day of September, 1968, a Special Election will be held on November 5, 1968, for the submission to the qualified electors of King County for their approval, or rejection, the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County as prepared by the Board of King County Freeholders, and now on file with the Board of King County Commissioners.

The ballot title for the proposed Charter proposition shall be:

PROPOSITION
PROPOSED KING COUNTY CHARTER

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 ..... ☐
Against ..... ☐

The precincts and polling-places for said Special Election shall be the same as the precincts and polling-places for the General Election to be held on the same date and listed and described in the Notice of Elections published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Friday, November 1, 1968.

The polls at such Special Election shall be open from 7:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 1968.

ROBERT A. MORRIS,
King County Auditor and ex-officio Supervisor of Elections.
By EDWARD J. LOGAN,
Superintendent of Elections and Registration.

Dates of Publication: October 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31; November 1, 2, 4, 1968. (1603-M)

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Freeholder Blames Misunderstandin

2177

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of County Freeholders, said today opposition to the county charter by labor groups is based "either on misunderstanding or lack of information."

He and Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the Freeholders, spent several hours explaining the charter to the legislative committee of the Aero Mechanics Union.

Despite a committee recommendation that no position be taken on the charter, the Aero Mechanics District Council voted Tuesday to oppose it. Earlier the County Labor Council and 17 King County locals of the Joint Council of Teamsters took similar action.

ALL CONTENDED the charter will increase cost of county government, eliminate civil service for deputy sheriffs and allow county department heads to suspend employes up to 60 days without a hearing. They argue that councilman districts were gerrymandered and oppose the proposed elimination of some elective positions.

Albrecht contended county government costs would not increase and that deputy sheriffs would obtain all the benefits of a new personnel system and retain the benefits of the present one. County employes would get a grievance procedure and citizens would be given greater representation, Albrecht said.

for Charter Opposition

"We are providing to the citizens of King County a much more meaningful opportunity to affect the course of county government by choosing representatives of their area and electing a chief executive," Albrecht said.

He expressed disappointment that the Aero Mechanics Council did not listen to its legislative committee which, Albrecht said, took the time to inform itself of both sides.

Discussing government costs, Albrecht said: "We are confident that administrative economies produced by the charter will more than offset any small increase in cost incurred by providing greater representation (a nine-member council) for the people."

ALBRECHT REVIEWED the protections given county employes under the charter, saying, "It is important to keep in mind that present county employes have no appeal to anyone at any time from any act of their superiors."

He said the charter provides basic protections for employes and added: "We expect that personnel rules to be adopted by the County Council and collective-bargaining agreements guaranteed by the charter will provide even greater protection for employes."

The contention that sheriff's civil service will be lost is based on misinformation, Albrecht said.

County-Employe Group Votes Opposition to New Charter

2177

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The King County Employes Association today announced it is joining forces with deputy sheriffs to oppose the proposed county charter. The association contends "that a costly change in form of government does not necessarily mean improvement."

The charter committee of the Association issued the statement. About 200 employes voted to oppose the charter at a meeting last week. Only one or two voted to support it in a voice vote, association officials said.

THE ASSOCIATION represents about 700 of the 2,300 county employes. Officials said the membership has increased in the past week.

The association contends the cost of a change in the county governmental structure will be $1.5 million the first year, including $500,000 to hold an election in February and March to elect the chief executive and nine-member County Council.

COUNTY employes say the charter lacks ground rules to govern the charter merit system and provides little if any protection to county empoyes over the present system.

The association said:

"Taking the proposed charter as a whole, the King County employes are convinced that such benefits, if any, as might accrue from its passage are far outweighed by the inordinate increase in expense to the taxpayers of King County . . ."

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R-'on, Wash.
Re d Chronicle
(Cir. W. 19,180)
OCT 25 1968

Allen P. C. B. Est. 1888

Freeholder Says Union 'No' Vote Is Unfounded

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

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Professing ignorance of the reason for the union's refusal, Albrecht noted that any concern the union might have that collective bargaining for county employes has not been provided for in the charter is unfounded.

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"It is impossible to predict the political charcter of many districts because the only available information on which these conclusions can be drawn is the result of an election, and this, in turn, depends on who the candidate is."

The rejection of the charter by the union brings to five the number of organizations which have formally opposed the charter, — all labor organizations. The charter is being supported by the majority of "good-government" types of groups, including the Leagues of Women Voters of Puget Sound, Seattle-King County Municipal League and Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

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Seattle and King County Labor News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5 8 9 OCTOBER 25, 1968

Labor Council Against Charter

The King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, voted endorsement of most of the county and local ballot issues at its meeting last week, but voted against the proposed King County Home Rule Charter.

Economy, county employee relations and the original districting of the county figured prominently in the arguments put before the Council a week ago Wednesday.

President Art Hare of Building Service Employees Local 6 set forth most of the Council's viewpoint in a speech.

Local political observers feel that the Republican majority on the initial county council would run either 6-3 or 7-2, which Democrats and labor interests feel does not reflect the distribution of voters in the County.

The other ballot issues at the County level got almost universal endorsement, including the fluoridation of Seattle's water supply and the several school bond issues and special levies.

Representation on VRPC Broadened in New Program

A program designed to broaden the representation of Valley communities in the Valley Regional Planning Commission and put the organization into full-time operation was approved by the organization Thursday evening in a meeting in Renton's new city hall.

Two additional vice presidents were added to the list of officers and the office of secretary and treasurer was divided.

The officer roster now stands as follows:

Gordon Hall, Kent, president.

Jan Klippert, Renton, first vice president for program and planning.

Gordon Gould, Algona, second vice president for education and public information.

David C. Van Hoose, Auburn, third vice president for interagency liaison.

Francis Pugh, Pacific, secretary.

Irv Iverson, Tukwila, treasurer.

New Headquarters

Permanent headquarters for VRPC have been established in room 201 in the Titus Building in Kent and Helen Irwin, secretary, is on full-time status.

President Hall says arrangements have been made, which he expects will be confirmed by other officers of the commission for the employment of a planner and administrator who will work, after Jan. 1, on a part-time basis consistent with the financial support available to the organization from the cities and private sources. A serious crimp was put into the commission's program last week by refusal of the county to contribute a requested $7,000.

Thursday night's meeting was probably the best-attended in the history of the organization. It heard a detailed account by John Porter, King County administrator, of the present status of Forward Thrust programs.

Porter explained that very wide latitude will be given the cities in their use of money allocated to them for acquisition and development of parks. When development programs are undertaken, however, they will be subject to approval of the countwide design commission.

An explanation of the proposed county charter was given by Paul Meyers, representing the freeholders, who fielded numerous questions after his presentation.

Vigorous support for the VRPC has been evidenced by mayors of all the Valley cities. Attitude of Stan Minkler of Tukwila seems typical:

"I think the VRPC has been a wonderful thing for the communities of the Valley," Minkler told this newspaper Friday. "There was a time when the cities couldn't get together on anything. We were constantly embroiled in quarrels over zoning, annexations, water, sewerage and numberless other problems.

"The VRPC has brought us together, helped us to standardize our programs and given us a forum in which we can all talk over the numerous problems that confront every community.

"I'm glad to see VRPC expanding its activity."

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

King County's Charter

As a former resident of Washington and a former assistant professor of Central Washington State College, may I urge your readers in King County to vote YES for the proposed King County Charter on Nov. 5?

Your opportunity to improve your county government is unique. That is, very few county voters will have the chance to make a tremendous change for the better this election or any election. Few state constitutions even permit a county to have the chance to vote for a home rule charter. Here in Cook County (Chicago) we cannot write a home rule charter as our constitution does not permit it.

MY CLASS in state and local government observed your Freeholders last spring at a meeting drafting the charter you will be voting on. I have studied your charter and find it an excellent one.

Don't lose this second chance you have been given to obtain good county government.

MRS. ELIZABETH JOINER,
University of Chicago

Seattle, Wash.
U. District Herald
(Cir. W. 25,105)
OCT 30 1958
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Fact Sheet Summarizing Charter Issued

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed county charter is now available for distribution, according to Freeholder Chairman, Richard Albrecht. The brochure-type summary contains questions and answers and a synopsis, along with an organization chart comparing the present and proposed structure of government and a map of King County representing the nine councilman districts.

Fact sheets are obtainable at all libraries or, if individuals or organizations wish multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charter, they may pick them up at the following depots: in Ballard, Mrs. Virginia Walsh, 1555 NW Market, SU 9-1155; Northeast Seattle, Mrs. George C. Gunby, 2540 NE 90th, LA 4-2731; Shoreline, Mrs. Miner Baker, 2123 N 172nd, EM 2-2967; and Wallingford, Alvin Williams, 2515 N 40th, ME 3-5242.

Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000
OCT 30 1958
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Charter Gets Backing, But Also Criticism

By Our County News Bureau

The proposed King County charter on which voters will decide next Tuesday continued to gather endorsements along with some brickbats this week.

Latest groups to announce their support include the board of trustees of the King County Medical Society and the Bellevue Area Self-Improvement Council, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders who drafted the home rule document, announced yesterday.

But dissenters continued to voice their disapproval of the proposed modernization of county government, chief of whom this week was State Sen. John Stender, 30th legislative district.

Stender declared he was not in accord with the proposed charter and said he believed it to be "not in the best interests of the people in King County to adopt this proposal."

He noted that the only parts of the charter proposal with which he did agree are those which would enlarge the present three-man Board of County Commissioners, and pertaining to referendum opportunities.

Stender was critical of charter provisions whereby presently elected county officers would become appointive, and of the duties of a county administrative officer. This is a position whose duties could be handled by the Board of County Commissioners, he said.

EDITORIAL 2177

SCHOOL LEVY, COUNTY CHARTER DESERVE OK

Among the many issues which Highline voters must decid upon next Tuesday and two particularly important loc issues — support of the School Levy and whether to accept th proposed King County Charter.

Both issues carry a stake in our future.

The Special Levy speaks for itself. If we lose our grip o education, we lose our grip on the future.

The County Charter is lengthy and somewhat complicatec but it has been throughtfully and responsibly prepared. It i aimed at streamlining King County so it can deal with the in mense growth which will hit this county in the last half of th 20th Century. Already we are experiencing some of the pain of that growth.

Even though there are several aspects of the propose Charter that deserve criticism, it by and large, provides for a improvement in the management of our county government The Charter deserves to be approved. 296

Election Preview

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County-Commissioner Candidates

Courthouse-Remodeling Dispute Is Just One Of O'Brien's Problems

"We don't like to spend money, but we have to meet our needs."

This was the answer given yesterday by County Commissioner John O'Brien to questions about the $27.5 million the commission plans to spend for completion of the King County Courthuse remodeling project and construction of a new county office building.

The checkered background of the Courthouse remodeling job is one of the albatrosses around O'Brien's neck as he campaigns for re-election.

Three others have been physical problems. During this campaign O'Brien has been laid low by mumps, a kidney infection and, last week, a bout with influenza.

DESPITE THIS, he has managed to sandwich in as many appearances as possible before service clubs, political groups and other organizations, attempting to sell himself and the work of the commission.

Like a number of other politicians of varying prominence, O'Brien, a Republican, entered politics with a readymade name familiarity, built in sports—at Seattle University and later in major-league baseball.

His first political venture was in 1962, when he defeated Robert Ford for the last half of an unexpired term representing the 1st, or downtown, Commissioner District.

In 1964 O'Brien was re-elected to a full four-year term.

In a number of ways O'Brien's campaign this year is similar to that being run by Commissioner Ed Munro, South District Democrat. Both are talking about what they feel are the major accomplishments of the commission during the years they have served on it.

Inevitably, both lists must and do contain such items as construction of an alcoholic treatment center, computerization of county operations, revised purchasing procedures and the county park program.

IN SOME ways, despite their different party affiliations, one might think they were running as a team.

"I try to point out," O'Brien said, "that we have a dual responsibility—to handle the day-to-day administration load and to plan for the problems of the future."

On the second point O'Brien points to his activity for the Forward Thrust program, his chairmanship of the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency and his participation in the Puget Sound Governmental Conference.

"New York can't solve its problems, it can only work

JOHN O'BRIEN

within them," the commissioner commented. "But we can still solve ours, and working toward a solution of the transportation problems facing us, through the Governmental Conference, is one example."

O'Brien complains that the Legislature continues to impose more duties and responsibilities on the county without providing the funds to finance them.

In some cases, he charged, the state has taken away sources of county revenue.

ALTHOUGH THE Republican nominee has endorsed the proposed county charter, he expressed several reservations about it.

"I think nine county councilmen are too many," he said.

"In effect, the county will be divided into nine wards with each councilman being elected in his own ward. Because of the population distribution, five of those councilmen will represent the incorporated areas, the cities, and only four will speak for the unincorporated areas."

Nor does O'Brien approve of having all county officials, except the councilmen, assessor and prosecuting attorney, appointed rather than elected as they are now.

"If it passes, we can work with it," he remarked. "And if it doesn't pass, we can continue doing what we have been doing to improve county government within the present structure."

O'Brien cited the appointment of a new county administrator and employment of a budget analyst as evidence of the upgrading the existing commission has been engaged in.

Ed Munro Points To Accomplishments Of Ten Years in Office

"I think I'm doing all the things necessary to win, but I feel less secure about this campaign than any previous one."

Those words spoken by County Commissioner Ed Munro, a Democrat, expressed the feelings of more than one candidate in this tumultous and unusual election year.

"MEETINGS ARE poorly attended: voters don't seem to be interested," Munro said.

Faced with these conditions, Munro, 63, is campaigning for re-election largely on the record of the commission during his 10 years in office.

Citing what he said were 10 of the most important accomplishments of the commission the past 10 years, Munro said:

"All but two of those things were done while I was commission chairman. I think this is a distinguished record."

Munro's list included providing lighting at intersections of county roads, a flood-control program, establishment of an alcoholic-treatment center, computerizing county activities, establishment of a work-release program for selected jail inmates.

Decentralizing county functions, elimination of burning garbage dumps, construction of an addition to the Youth Service Center to separate delinquents from dependents, expansion of the county park program and acquisition of the old Luther Burbank School site on Mercer Island for a park.

"NOW WE HAVE got to move in the area of programs for people," Munro said, citing mental health as an example.

"In 1969 we will have the biggest arterial program in the county's history, and we plan to build 14 swimming pools," he continued.

Other problems Munro said the commission is working on include treatment of waste oil from ships which cannot be dumped in Puget Sound and for which there is no land-dumping area available, and meeting the anticipated population growth in areas east and south of Lake Washington.

Munro's opponent in the November 5 general election is Tom Forsythe, a Republican and a Tukwila city councilman.

But the commissioner said he is paying little attention to his opponent except when they meet on the same platform. At those times the two have had some warm exchanges.

Munro bristles when Forsythe accuses him of being a Johnny-come-lately in the field of pollution control. The incumbent says he voted for the Metro act during the two terms he served in the Legislature and cites his membership in the early 1960s on the

ED MUNRO

old Washington State Air Pollution Commission.

ONE COUNTY project in which Munro appears to take extraordinary pride is the elimination of burning garbage dumps.

"There were 15 of them in the county, but there are none now and we have about seven transfer stations and operating landfills."

A 900-acre landfill east of Kent, when completely filled, will be made into a recreation area with bridle trails and other recreational facilities, he predicted.

"I'm proud of this program," Munro said. "I had a great deal to do with it.

"I'd like to point out that we had 80,000 new people in the county last year," he continued. "That's the most explosive growth in the country's history. And we have all known types of problems."

Munro said he is hoping for approval by voters of the proposed county charter.

"I'm supporting the charter," he said. "There are all kinds of things in it I don't agree with but the question is 'is this better than what we have?'

"I think it is."

SOME OF THE major points in favor of the charter, he said, are the ease with which it can be amended, its financial penalty on commissioners for not redistricting on time and that it gives the county the authority to handle its own problems without having to run to the Legislature.

But a conversation with Munro inevitably gets back to this year's elections and the problems it poses for candidates.

"With the small primary turnout and all the things that have happened, this is about as unpredictable year as we've ever had," he commented.

"I think the people are exhausted."

(Lyle Burt, Times political reporter, reports here on the campaigns of County Commissioners Ed Munro and John T. O'Brien, both seeking re-election. Earlier articles discussed the campaigns of Thomas M. Forsythe, Munro's Republican opponent, and R. Judge Owens, Democratic challenger of O'Brien.)

LYLE BURT

IN TUESDAY'S election O'Brien will have two opponents. One is R. Judge Owens, Democrat, who is an architect formerly employed by the state insurance commissioner. The second is Hascal Humes, a former police officer who is the candidate of the New Party.

One problem all five county commissioner candidates have is trying to get out the word that their election is by all voters in the county.

Under existing laws county commissioner candidates are nominated within the district they hope to represent (except in the cases of minor parties), but must run county-wide in the general election.

President, Schools, County Charter Face Highline Voters Nov. 5

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Highline voters will go to the polls next Tuesday to decide not only on whether they want Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey, or George Wallace for their next President, but they also will be casting ballots for some three dozen other candidates and/or special measures.

The three next most-important races, insofar as elective office goes, are the U.S. Senatorial race, Gubernatorial race and the 7th District Congressional contest. In all three cases, the experts have the incumbents posted as strong favorites.

Dropping down to County Commissioner, Ed Munro (D) seems to have a strong edge over Tom Forsythe (R) and John O'Brien (R) should win easily over R. Judge Owens (D), despite considerable animosity shown toward O'Brien in the King County Stadium issue.

In the State Legislative race, only the Paul Barden (R)-Georgette Valle (D) race in the 30th District looks to be particularly close. It appears they will run as close a race as they did just two years ago.

The special issues include a county decision on a brand new King County Charter, a handful of statewide initiatives and the Highline School Levy. The League of Women Voters have issued a concensus opinion on statewide measures plus the County Charter which is published below.

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ELECTION ISSUES

(Continued From Page 1)

the amount of the Highline School District levy—$7.1 million, or 47 mills—is less than that of comparable suburban districts in the area. The amount budgeted per child is less than that planned in virtually every other major King County district, he said.

"These facts illutrate two important points: Economical operation of the Highline schools and lowest possible tax burden."

The area co-chairmen voiced their convictions in statements issued this week. Through each there ran the thread of concern for children if the levy should not be approved—as has happened in a few other communities in recent years.

The annual levy accounts for about one-fourth of the budget. The major portion of the total budget is used to pay teachers. Whan a district is deprived of its annual levy revenues, many drastic cutbacks are necessary —including a reduction in the teaching force. The inevitable result is overcrowded classrooms, as well as insufficient books and inadequate services in every area.

LEAGUE OPINIONS

The League of Women Voters has reached a concensus on the following ballot issues.

League concensus is reached only after lengthy study by all members, with most studies going on for two or more years. Therefore, League is unable to formally support many worthwhile ballot issues because its membership has not yet reached a concensus on the subject matter. The absence of a League statement on any ballot issue in no way reflects a lack of interest on the part of the League of Women Voters.

The LWV supports: Referendum Bill 17—Water Pollution Control Facilities Bonds

Pollution in lakes, streams and the Puget Sound is harmful to fish and other water life and to animal life. Pollution makes swimming, water skiing and other forms of water recreation impossible or dangerous in certain parts of Washington, thus resulting in an economic loss to the state in terms of tourist trade. Referendum 17 is needed to make and keep our state's water clean for the use and enjoyment of everyone. Referendum 17 imposes no new taxes. Bonds will be repaid from sales tax collections; and passage of this bond issue should have no effect on the rate because earlier bonds will be retired as payments for this issue are phased in.

The LWV opposes: Initiative Measure No. 32—Local Process of State Timber

Initiative 32, if approved, would regulate only the sale of logs from state-owned or administrated lands. These logs account for only about 10 percent of the logs exported to Japan about 50 percent of the states forest lands are privately owned. In 1962, as log exports began increasing school funds received $6,507,051 from management and sales activities on state lands.

Forests are not being overcut, they are being managed efficiently. Trees, like farm products are a renewable resource.

The Initiative is in conflict with Article XVL of the Constitution. The lands are managed for the purpose of producing maximum long term income for the trust through timber sales, leases, rentals, etc. Land products must be sold to the highest bidder. Initiative 32 would prevent

increased population and the creation of many new Superior Courts. Creation of an intermediate court of appeals is in accord with the American Bar Association's Model Judicial Article.

The LWV supports: SJR No. 23—Taxing Districts: Excess Levy Elections

Savings in time, money and effort now spent annually for promoting excess levies could be made by passage of a 2-year levy. A school district would be assured of necessary funds to carry out a two year plan, and could improve planning procedures for major school operations. State appropriations for schools are made on a two year basis. Two-year levies at the local level will improve fiscal planning and state-local coordination.

The LWV supports: Proposed King County Charter

The Washington Constitution recognizes that citizens in a county may adopt their own constitutional document (in the words of the constitution—a "Home Rule Charter") to provide for the organization and operation of their county government. By adopting and periodically amending their own charter, the votes of the county can create and maintain a form of government for the changing needs of the county.

The charter provides for increased citizen participation by (1) requiring that the council provide notice of public hearings before adopting ordinances; (2) requiring that all council held meetings be open to the press and the public and providing that a verbatim record be kept of the discussion and the votes; (3) making available for the first time at the county level procedures for initiative and referendum; (4) providing for the nomination and election of the councilmen from districts of equal population and the creation of many new Superior Courts. Creation of an intermediate court of appeals is in accord with the American Bar Association's Model Judicial Article.

ordinances, both functions may frequently suffer.

The charter creates a seven-member board of appeals to hear assessment appeals, appeals concerning a zoning variance or conditional use permit, and other matters assigned to it by ordinance. The charter requires these appeals to be conducted in a judicial manner with the right of all participants to represent evidence and witnesses and examine opposing witnesses.

The charter establishes a career service to insure that county employees will be hired, promoted and replaced on the basis of merit. A personnel board will hear appeals concerning the application of the system. Only department heads, their assistants and confidential secretaries are exempt from the system.

Who's 115 Years Behind?

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WHAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW COULD HURT — Referring to 4-month old Elizabeth Colasurdo, she obviously isn't aware of an important issue on the ballot Tuesday that will affect her and other King County residents for years to come. That county could come under a modern form of government if the Home-Rule Charter receives a majority of the vote. Mrs. Marguerite Layton, holding Elizabeth, is 78 and was a member of the original League of Women Voters formed in 1920. At 78 she is 37 years short of the age of King County government — the county was formed in 1853 with a population of 170. Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Colasurdo, 17910 Marine View Dr. SW, is one of the 1.2 million population now residing in the county. Will the county have missed its opportunity to cope with the growing problems here if a new, streamlined structure of government — namely the Charter — isn't initiated now? Elizabeth would likely answer yes, but in 21 years it will be too late.

BASIC CHANGE

Home-Rule Charter Before King Voters

By EDD JEFFORDS
News Tribune Staff Writer

FEDERAL WAY — Even though this is an unusual election year, it still is strange to see 15 elected officials campaigning day and night to make sure voters throw them out of office.

That's exactly what is happening with the freeholders who were elected to draw up King County's home-rule charter.

Ranging on the political spectrum from liberal to extremely conservative, the seven businessmen, six attorneys and two housewives each had a hand in drafting the charter and each has actively endorsed the document.

Regardless of political philosophies, the freeholders saw advantages in a home-rule charter. King County was formed in 1853, when the entire population was 170. It still is being governed under the same basic rules, even though the population now is in excess of 1.2 million, they say.

King County now is governed by three county commissioners. Even these commissioners admit that it sometimes is a problem for three men to deal with a single problem without buckpassing.

Charter Endorsed

"We have a situation where no one assumes full responsibility," Commissioner John Spellman has said.

All three King County commissioners have endorsed the new charter, as have the League of Women Voters, the Municipal League and dozens of other civic organizations.

Labor organizations have provided the main opposition.

It is precisely this opposition that could doom the proposed charter. Opposition especially is strong in South King County, where the economy is so directly tied with the Boeing Company.

Since the Aero-Machinists Union said the charter is unfair to labor, home-rule promoters see a dark cloud hanging over southern portions of the county in regard to the measure's passage.

Refute Charges

Freeholders, however, refute the charges of organized labor that the home-rule charter would be unfair.

A majority of labor complaints concern Section 970.50 of the proposed charter. That section indicates that the civil service system in the sheriff's office would be eliminated two years after the charter takes effect.

Charter supporters claim that by 1972, county councilmen would know how the charter's personnel system was working and would have the opportunity to replace civil service with the county personnel office.

Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary to the board of freeholders, said whether or not civil service is eliminated, sheriff's deputies always are provided the rights, privileges and protections granted by law.

Some charter critics have taken issue with a change in procedure under which the county sheriff would become an appointive position. Meyer explained that most people are concerned that an unqualified person might become sheriff.

Meyer said more possibilities exist for such an occurrence in the elective process. He also said it would be much harder and more costly to remove such a person from his post under an elective process.

Countering labor charges that county employes would have little job protection under the new charter, Meyer said such workers have no protection at present, and can be suspended or removed without recourse.

Right of Appeal

The new charter, he said, would provide the right of appeal to a personnel board as well as the proposed system of an office of citizen complaints.

The office of citizen complaints, in effect an "ombudsman," would be the first such program in the state.

Charter Deserves Support

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By HERB ROBINSON
Associate Editor, The Times

Judging by the severity of attacks being mounted against it, the proposed King County charter evidently will have to pick up heavy support if it is to win ratification in the election a week from today.

Among those most worried over the outcome are the 15 freeholders who spent months putting the document together. Jerry Bergsman, The Times' county-government reporter, says even those freeholders who were most optimistic a few weeks ago now feel the charter proposal is in deep trouble.

Hopes for passage began to dwindle in the face of opposition from various labor groups, the County Employes Association and certain county officials, including Treasurer M. J. R. Williams.

Williams and the employe group, for example, criticized the charter on grounds it would boost county-government costs by $1.5 million, including $500,000 for special elections to select new county officials and $1 million for salaries, office space and the like.

The treasurer added to what appeared to be a "scare" tactic by saying approval of the charter would force King County into deficit financing next year, since all existing revenue has been allocated in the 1969 budget.

Charter proponents have been scrambling to answer these charges by pointing out that Williams' figure of $1 million for additional costs is out of line. It preconceives the creation of a large administrative staff without taking into account that much of the staff already exists.

As to special-election costs, they would have to be incurred upon the adoption of any charter changing the structure of county administration.

Moreover, charter supporters contend the fact that the existing administration's lack of foresight in failing to set aside funds for use in the event of the charter's ratification is a perfect illustration of the need for a revamping of county government.

Williams' deficit-financing warning, they say, loses credence when matched against the fact that the county has balanced its budget for years with bonds issued under the county commissioners' authority.

Among other arguments being advanced against the charter are assertions that it would eliminate the existing civil-service setup in the sheriff's office and that it would not afford adequate personnel-system protections for other county employes.

Yet examination of the proposed charter shows that it provides for continuation of the sheriff's system unless the new County Council voted to change it after two years. Even then, existing rights of deputy sheriff's could not be diminished.

And the criticisms by union spokesmen that the charter personnel system provides for 60-day suspensions of employes without appeals ignores the point that county workers outside the sheriff's office now have no job protection. They now are hired, promoted and fired at the whim of their bosses, without any appeal procedure whatsoever.

It is the absence of a personnel program that has perpetuated the Courthouse spoils system under which political patronage often takes precedence over merit in the hiring of county employes.

Another complaint being heard is that the boundaries of the districts from which the nine county councilmen would be elected have been gerrymandered to give Republicans an unfair advantage.

It is worth noting, however, that the freeholders redrew several boundary lines toward the close of their deliberations and the proposed districting now has been pronounced fair to both parties by Mrs. Jeanette Williams, county Democratic chairman, and her Republican counterpart, Ken Rogstad.

PERSPECTIVE: Unfortunately, much of the

Club to Get Look At County Government

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"King County as Seen by the Freeholders," will be the topic when Mrs. Evelyn Amyes of the League of Women Voters speaks at the Monday-evening program tomorrow at the Women's University Club.

R. C. (Torchy) Torrance, just returned from a trip to Mexico City as the area representative at the Olympic Games Committee meetings, will be the guest speaker at a luncheon Tuesday at the club.

On Wednesday at 1:30 p. m., a group from the Greek Church of the Assumption will give a demonstration of Greek folk dancing at the first program in the performing-arts series at the club.

The dancers will be in traditional costumes. Mrs. Joyce Fidler will narrate the background of each of the dances. Mrs. Robert F. Prins is program chairman.

Earlier Wednesday, Mrs. Steele Lindsay will review Roger Manvell's biography of the late Ellen Terry, British actress. There will be a buffet luncheon.

Dr. Melvin Rader will speak on the Western philosophical heritage Thursday morning. It will be the first in a series of six lectures on contemporary philosophy. Mrs. Franklin R. Smith is chairman.

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G. O. P. Women Endorse Charter

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The Associated Republican Women of King County today announced support for the proposed King County charter and the Seattle School District's 25.28-mill special levy, but took no position on fluoridation of Seattle's water supply.

The organization also said it was endorsing all but two of the 14 state-wide measures on the November 5 general-election ballot.

Opposition was expressed to Initiative 245, which would reduce the maximum retail credit charge to 12 per cent a year, and Initiative 32, which would ban export of logs taken from state-owned lands.

The organization also endorsed all Republican candidates for national congressional, state-wide and legislative offices except the candidate for commissioner of public lands, Richard A. C. Greene.

The organization said there is "no serious Republican candidate" opposing Bert Cole, the Democratic incumbent, but did not endorse Cole.

Boeing Co. Endorses New County Charter

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The Boeing Co. favors the home-rule charter, the aerospace firm told its employes today.

Approval of the charter by a majority of voters will result in major reorganization of King County government, providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, William M. Allen said.

Allen, Boeing board chairman, said rejection of the charter would result in maintaining the status quo of county government under a structure basically the same as that set up by the first Territorial Assembly in 1854.

ALLEN SAID Boeing commends the freeholders "for the quality and quantity of effort expended in developing the charter."

"In drafting the proposed charter they have wisely avoided most of the significant pitfalls which led to the defeat of the charter proposed in 1952," Allen said.

"While the proposed charter does contain some contentious provisions, such as those providing for an appointed sheriff and auditor, we believe that the document as a whole is a substantial improvement over the present form of government," Allen said.

BY PROVIDING for separate legislative and executive branches, improved responsibility and accountability and more effective citizen participation, it offers a basic framework for creating and maintaining a more viable form of government which will better meet the changing needs of our growing metropolitan county," Allen continued.

"Therefore, The Boeing Co. favors the proposed home-rule charter and recommends its approval by the voters," he said.

Allen also spoke in favor of school levies being submitted for voter approval by various Puget Sound school districts.

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Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1968

Present, Proposed County Government Compared

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The most basic change proposed in the home rule charter is separation of executive and legislative powers, now vested in the three-member board of county commissioners. Under the charter administrative powers of the board will be placed in the office of county executive; legislative powers will be vested in a nine-member county council.

Internally, under the present structure there are appoximately 30 areas given departmental designation. Under the proposed home rule charter, those 30 departmental areas will be integrated into ten functional departments under an elected executive, excluding the prosecuting attorney and the superior and justice courts, offices the home rule charter cannot affect.

Independent boards and commissions, such as the Park & Recreation Board and the King County Housing Authority, are currently policy-making bodies whose areas of authority may be given to the county council under the charter. The charter provides that all boards and commissions will automatically continue for 120 days after May 1, 1969. Thereafter the county council will determine if such boards shall continue to be policy making, or whether the council itself will have responsibility for that functional area.

The vote Tuesday will show whether citizens wish to implement the proposed home rule charter or remain with the existing structure, established in 1889. Actual implementation of the home rule charter must take place within six months following a majority vote for adoption. Provision is established for filing by candidates for the offices of county executive and county councilmen beginning Dec. 16, 1968, with the primaries set for Feb. 11, 1969.

A general election for these offices is scheduled to be held March 11, 1969. The date on which all new provisions begin to take effect is May 1, 1969.

A previous, but unsuccessful, attempt was made to adopt a home rule charter for King County in 1952. Sixteen years have passed since this first attempt at governmental reform. Some experts in local government have wondered, "Must 16 years more pass before another attempt is made to adopt a home rule charter for King County in 1952. Sixteen years have passed since this first attempt at governmental reform. Some experts in local government have wondered, "Must 16 years more pass before another attempt is made to modernize our county government?"

18 S★ Thurs., Oct. 31, 1968 Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Assessor Indorses Charter

County Assessor Allen B. Morgan yesterday inforsed passage of the Home Rule Charter on Tuesday's ballot.

"In my opinion, one of the salient features of the charter is the creation of a career service for county employes," he said.

At the same time, Richard Albretcht, chairman of the Freeholders, who drew up the charter, said that charges that the charter would increase taxes "are without foundation in part."

Albrecht said the charter should save money because it will combine offices, provide business-like management and modern personnel practices besides eliminating political patronage.

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Frequent Questions Asked About Proposed Charter

The freeholders are currently filling speaking dates before citizen groups throughout King County to enlist support for the proposed King County Charter and to answer citizens' questions about the proposed charter.

As reported by the various freeholders, the following are questions most frequently asked and the answers.

Q: I've lived here all my life and don't see why we need to change the county set-up?

A: King County was formed in 1853 when the county population was 170. In 1968, we are trying to serve and govern a county of 1,200,000 population under the same ground-rules. It doesn't work. We need a change to modernized government.

Q: Will the new King County Charter raise my property taxes?

A: No, the present 40-mill limit on property taxes remains unchanged. You will get improved county services for about the same money.

Q: What happens to our three county commissioners?

A: Our incumbent three county commissioners are backing the proposed charter. An outstanding feature is this: one elected county executive will be responsible for running the county. This wipes out the existing frustrations of trying to operate a $65-million annual budget business operation with three heads with equal authority and responsibility and consequent "buck-passing" and bickering.

Q: Doesn't this create a super-government which takes powers away from the people?

A: The people will have more to say about their county government. First of all, this is a Home Rule Charter which lets the people decide instead of the state legislature. Secondly, the Charter will create nine elected county councilman positions. These nine councilmen will be nominated and elected from nine geographical districts in the county which are set up to represent approximately equal populations.

The Board of Freeholders which drafted the proposed County Charter is made up of Robert J. Block, businessman; James N. O'Connor, attorney; Robert Eberle, research engineer; Paul S. Friedlander, businessman; Jack Goeffroy, Chamber of Commerce official; Norman B. Ackley, attorney; Howard E. Bothell, automobile dealer; James P. Curran, attorney; Terrance R. McKenna, airline pilot; Lyle R. Schneider, attorney; Richard R. Albrecht, attorney;
attorney; Virginia Gunby, housewife; Donald N. McDonald, contractor; Lois H. North, housewife and Simon Wampold, attorney.

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Commissioner's View

Charter Cost Is Defended

2/77

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Additional sums required for salaries under a county charter next year would total less than $100,000, County Commissioner John Spellman said today.

He disputed figures used by opponents of the charter. Increased cost of county government under a charter has been estimated by them at $1.5 million the first year.

Spellman disclosed that the county commissioners plan to make a complete budget revision should the charter pass. He said it would have been silly to draft a 1969 budget for two forms of government.

"WE KNEW if the charter passed we would have to draft a revised budget," Spellman said. "The budget has been planned to be revised if the charter passes."

County Treasurer Melvin J. R. Williams said last week adoption of the charter would mean the county would go into deficit financing because there are no funds in the budget to pay for the transition.

But Spellman said money is available. "There is nothing sacred about the budget we adopted a month ago," he said.

The commissioner said of the $1.5 million cost estimate:

"It appears to be a figure that has taken into account every possible pessimistic outlook. This is just another example of the old pros opposing the charter."

HE SAID added salaries for the last six months of 1969 would be well under $100,000. The charter would not go into effect until May.

"Councilmen certainly would not have administrative aides or automobiles or all have secretaries," Spellman said. "The figures are blown up like a giant balloon." Under the charter, the three commissioners would be replaced by nine councilmen paid $18,000 a year each.

Charter opponents have estimated that the election to elect the councilmen would cost $500,000.

Spellman called that estimate high, but he added:

"I don't think elections are a cost of government, as such. This is the democratic process. The election process is not an inexpensive process.

"I'm sure a simple dictatorship is much cheaper." Spellman said funds would be available to hold the election.

Calendar

2/77

The following meetings are scheduled today in the Seattle metropolitan area:

Seattle-King County Bar Association, noon, Chamber of Commerce Building. Speaker, Richard R. Albrecht, chairman, Board of Freeholders, on the proposed charter for King County.

Proposed Charter Would Aid Efficiency, Says DeSpain

2177

County Engineer Jean L. DeSpain endorsed the proposed county charter yesterday, saying it would "increase operating efficiencies through improved management of the public-works responsibilities of county government."

"The Department of Public Works established by the charter will improve management and centralize responsibility for development of a coordinated public-works program to better serve our fast-growing population," he said.

Richard Albrecht, Board of Freeholders, a chairman, disclosed that he has challenged James K. Bender president of the King County Labor Council, to a debate on the charter, but has received no reply.

The labor organization opposes the charter, drafted by the board.

Albrecht said the reasons given by the labor group for opposing the charter "seem to be based on a lack of information or a misunderstanding as to what the charter provides."

He told Bender: "We believe that all the questions you have raised can be readily answered and we are sorry we were not given an opportunity to appear before the Labor Council before you took your position."

10-31-68 Times

Porter Notes Charter Defects

Sheriff Jack D. Porter yesterday recommended "with regret" that voters reject the proposed King County Charter which will be on Tuesday's ballot.

The charter would establish home rule for King County and replace the present three commissioners with a County Executive and a nine-member County Council.

Sheriff Porter stressed that he felt the proposed charter "has many good points" and "we do need to separate the executive and legislative powers of our county government." He said that with some slight revisions he would support the charter.

But, Sheriff Porter added, the freeholders who drafted the charter should have made it operable in 1970 instead of in 1969 as the proposal calls for; this would "have given the present County Commissioners some planning time" to provide for additional costs.

Sheriff Porter said he had "wrestled with the Home Rule Charter problem for a long time" and was expressing an honest conviction.

Zeroing in on costs, Porter said:

"In that every dime (of the 1969 budget) has already been appropriated, I have the fateful feeling that the additional police personnel I fought so hard to get and the small pay raise that our employes were to receive will have to go down the drain."

Porter noted that he expressed the opinion that five rather than nine County Councilmen would be sufficient. He declared:

"Just this morning I checked and found that the County of Los Angeles, with some eight or nine million population, has five Supervisors (Councilmen)".

The sheriff said his stand was in no way politically motivated by was primarily a position dictated by fiscal considerations.

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

Widespread Opposition To Charter Attributed To Courthouse Employees

2177

by Jim Palmateer

Widespread opposition to the proposed King County Charter is building up in the Courthouse. Voters will decide next Tuesday whether or not to place King County under home rule. Elected freeholders have drafted a proposed charter to "form a more just and orderly government." The proposition will appear in the upper right hand corner of the ballot.

Principal objections to the charter began with the 1,000 member Washington State Law Enforcement Association headed by Sheriff Capt. Fred Pingrey, president.

"The charter could, in two years, wipe out everything we have gained in the past ten." Pingrey declared. His reference is to the provision which drops the present civil service system for sheriff employees and places them under a so-called merit system two years after the charter is adopted. They further object to elimination of an elected sheriff.

The charter provides for an appointed head of a department of public safety who would "enforce law and order, administer the county jail, and be responsible for civil defense." There are now 41 home rule counties in the U.S., and all but one have elected sheriffs. Since the legislature in 1958 authorized civil service for the office there have been three elected sheriffs—Tim McCullough, Don Sprinkle and Jack Porter. Sprinkle and Porter were career policemen before joining the county.

Pingrey points out that under present civil service deputies must meet rigid qualifications which insure that they are as well trained as any other law officer, while the proposed charter sets forth no such requirements. "Under the proposed merit system, what would prevent a sewer inspector from being assigned as a deputy sheriff, and vice-versa?," he asks.

"Deputy sheriffs are now professional in their field and the charter would put them back in the category of political patronage employees," he continued. He feels that in this era of increasing crime, law officers must be of the highest calibre.

While not expressing outright opposition to the charter, Treasurer Mel Williams reminds voters that if passed, the charter could force King County into deficit spending. He bases this upon the fact that county budgets will already be made up according to current expected revenues and added charter expenses are not provided for. Interest bearing warrants have not been used in King County since the '30's', Williams said. But there is that prospect if the proposed charter is voted in Nov. 5.

Although on the surface it would appear that other King County employees have something to gain from the rule, the King County Employees Association, which includes 700 of the employees total of 2,300, has gone on record against the charter, according to president Chet Mayrand.

They contend that "a costly change in government does not necessarily mean improvement." The Association says the charter lacks ground rules to govern the merit system and provides little if any protection to county employees over the present system.

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Community Leaders Take Favorable View of Proposed Charter

3177

A survey last week of the voting intentions of some community leaders in the Highline area revealed almost unanimous favor of the proposed King County Charter.

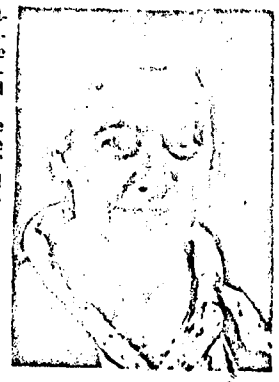
One out of six opposed the new form of government. Those with intentions to vote "yes" Tuesday on the measure had favorable comments and some criticisms.

All agreed a change was needed.

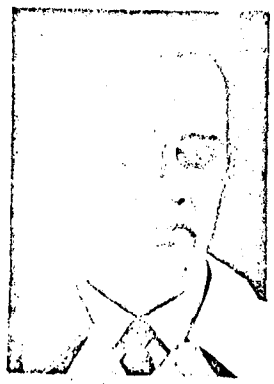
Mrs. Paul Harper, one of the original "200" committee for Forward Thrust and a founder of the Burien Arts Association, will cast a "yes" vote. "Our antiquated form of county government certainly needs changing when we have things like commissions that haven't met for 30 years."

In the Lake Burien resident's estimation the added representation with nine councilmen is the best thing about the charter. "We'll have someone at a local level to speak for us."

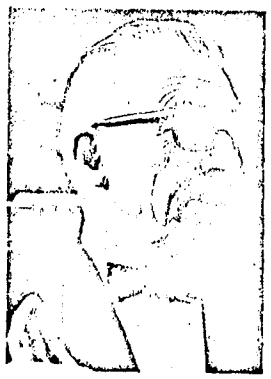
She commended the document as being fully flexible with the absence of regimented departments. "Plans in government can be revised so we aren't stuck with a horse and buggy governmental concept in a jet age."



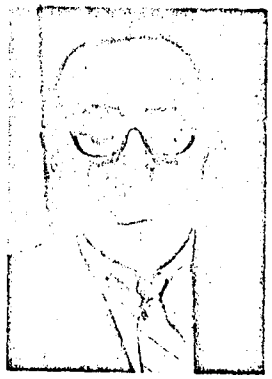
Mrs. Paul Harper



Roger Rusch



Carl Jensen



Gene Shoaf

Mrs. DeWitt Wold

Judge Gary Utigard

To the newly-elected president of the Burien Chamber of Commerce, Roger Rusch, the highlight of the charter is the added representation. Although concerned about where the money is coming from for the new government routine, he said, "We've got to have it! I can't imagine having equal representation with only three commissioners."

"I support the basic concept of the charter, and I'll vote yes," Carl Jensen, superintendent of the Highline School District said.

"I question the election of the County Assessor; he ought to be a professional. I like the establishment of a Citizens' Complaint Office, the personnel system provisions and the appointment of a general administrative office under an elected executive.

"A system of checks is provided by the council," he continued. Jensen termed the charter as a sound approach to effective government."

Opposition Cited

Only one of the group surveyed will vote "no." "I agree basically with the aims of trying to modernize government; I disagree with any type of instrument that would give the executive branch too much power. The charter takes control out of the people's hands," explained the newly appointed Burien Chamber manager Eugene Shoaf.

He added that while the Federal Constitution limits powers, the charter would not, per Section 130: ". . .and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers.

Another point of contention by the White Center resident was the provision for temporary interfund borrowing.

'Tailoring Good'

Mrs. DeWitt Wold, an active member of the League of Women Voters on a local and regional level, said, "It is basically a good charter. Everyone is aware of the need to divide the legislative and executive functions to make county government effective.

"The tailoring of the county governmental structure should stop fragmentation of local governmental entities," she said.

She added if the charter form of government had been in effect earlier it might have prevented the current move by the Federal Way area to incorporate. "There is especially a need for planning. I have a feeling county planning has been following the growth and not leading."

Mrs. Wold expressed a hope that voters would not reject the whole charter because of one or two provisions they do not like. "The document is easily amendable," she explained. The county council can pass an ordinance and refer it to the voters or the initiative process is available to amend the charter.

Judge Gary Utigard will vote "yes" on the charter. "The charter would, at least, recognize the need for separation of the executive and legislative branches," he said. "The two have been merged at the county level against the basic concepts of government," he added.

"The reorganization would also increase our representation, creating a more responsive government," the Airport Justice Court judge concluded.

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Fields Questions

cratic Central Committees have discussed the charter, but all decided to take no position on its passage or rejection next week.

Earlier yesterday Albrecht said charges by some county employes that the proposed charter would increase taxes are without foundation.

ALBRECHT SAID the charter should save money because:

1. It provides an opportunity to combine offices and eliminate costly duplication.
2. It provides businesslike management, which King County will have for the first time in history.
3. Modern personnel practices will be established by charter provisions.
4. Political patronage will be eliminated.

"The attacks on the charter are coming from those who control political-patronage jobs," Albrecht asserted. "None of the opposition is based on the merits of the charter, but on emotional appeals designed to frighten the voter.

"If the citizens of the county will vote according to their own reasoning, they will not be fooled by the smoke screen that the charter will cost taxpayers more money."

Continued -8 310

The Charter: Freeholders' Chairman

By LARRY BROWN

Richard R. Albrecht, chairman of the County Board of Freeholders, fielded questions about the proposed home-rule charter tossed yesterday by political leaders.

Jeanette Williams, chairman of the King County Democratic Central Committee, and Kenneth Rogstad, chairman of the King County Republican Central Committee, joined Albrecht in discussing the charter at a meeting of the Seattle-King County Bar Association.

"I never have heard anyone say the proposed charter is not better than what we have now," Albrecht told the attorneys and judges.

The county has been operated with the same basic structure since 1854, and it is high time for improvements, the chairman of the 15 freeholders declared.

MRS WILLIAMS questioned the provision in the charter that would allow candidates to file as independents for county office. She asked whether it could set up a third party.

Albrecht said it would be difficult for independents to get elected, and it should happen only if the major political parties were negligent in supplying good candidates.

The charter provides that before an independent candidate can be placed on the general-election ballot, the independents must receive at least 20 per cent of the total votes cast for the office in the primary.

If the requirement is met, the candidate among the independents who receives plurality could run for election.

ROGSTAD SAID the major opposition to the charter expressed by Republicans is making some county offices appointive rather than elective.

"A telephone poll of 1,000 Republicans was conducted this year and 73 per cent of the persons wanted to keep electing county officials," Rogstad reported. "The people are afraid of creating bureaucrats instead of directly elected representatives of the people."

Under the proposed charter, the auditor, coroner, clerk, sheriff and treasurer would no longer be elected. The assessor would remain an elective office.

Albrecht replied that the charter would provide voters a more effective voice in county government.

THE CHARTER would establish nine elected county councilmen, instead of the present three elected commissioners, Albrecht explained. The county executive, who would appoint some of the officials, also would be elected by voters to a four-year term.

Voters would have increased ability to "throw the rascals out," Albrecht said.

The Bar Association and the Republican and Demo-

New Charter Wins Backing Of Assessor

County Assessor Allen B. Morgan yesterday endorsed the proposed county charter, saying: "It would provide the kind of executive and professional management that King County has needed for a long time."

Morgan complimented the Board of Freeholders "for the outstanding and thorough work they have done."

The assessor said one of the progressive features of the charter is the creation of a career service for county employes.

"With the passage of the proposed charter this office will work with the new administration and take advantage of all provisions for efficiency and economy the charter makes available," Morgan said.

Under the charter, the county assessor would remain elective but personnel in the office would come under a county personnel system and other administrative functions are required to be coordinated with the county administrative staff.

Sheriff Porter Opposes Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Sheriff Jack Porter yesterday announced his opposition to the proposed county charter.

He said it has many good points and with a few changes would be beneficial to the county. But, Porter said, the charter would increase the cost of county government without revenue available for next year.

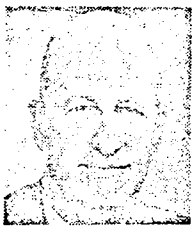
He criticized the possibility of transferring the deputy sheriff's civil-service program to a county personnel system. He contended the sheriff should remain elective instead of being appointed, as under the charter.

The sheriff said the number of proposed councilmen should be reduced from nine to five. He suggested that the charter should have been timed to go into effect in 1970, instead of in May, to enable county commissioners to meet the financial needs.

"I FEEL that with some changes the proposed home-rule charter would be good for our county," Porter said. "But without these necessary changes and the planned financial support of the added cost, the people will be paying more and receiving less."

Should the charter be adopted Tuesday, he added, he and all the deputy sheriffs "will wholeheartedly support it and do our best to make it work."

Porter said it is with regret that he is recommending against the charter. He called the separation of the executive and legislative powers in county government a needed change.



JACK PORTER

The sheriff said the charter takes away all the commissioners' executive and administrative functions and then triples the number from three to nine. He said this would require new salaries for a secretary and administrative assistant for each and expenses of furnishing offices, for each.

PORTER SAID 320 sheriff's department employes fought for a state initiative to have a good civil-service system. The purpose of the county personnel system would be to eliminate the old system of patronage and political jobs, he noted.

"We have not had this system for 10 years so why force our employes to accept the proposed county system? Why not let them vote on whether or not they want to change?"

Saying he is convinced the sheriff should remain elective, Porter said 40 to 41 home-rule county charters provide for an elective sheriff.

"The validity of their opinions may be attacked on the basis of a normal interest in job security," he said. "However when home-rule charters, with all of the preparatory planning and research prior to their adoption overwhelmingly support the elective sheriff premise and have retained this concept for many years, it would seem that the majority of the better thinking lies on the side of the sheriff's being elected."

Government Professional Group Backs New Charter

Endorsement of the proposed county charter came yesterday from the Puget Sound Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The announcement was made by Dr. Ernest G. Miller, president of the group and director of continuing education of the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs.

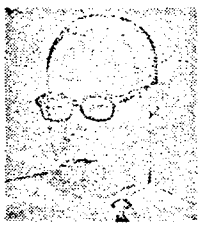
Miller said the society feels the charter would provide administrative and structural improvements that promise greater efficiency, effectiveness and responsibility in King County government.

MEMBERSHIP in the society consists of 90 practitioners, teachers and students of public administration employed in professional capacities in all levels of government. Its purpose, Miller said, is to advance the science, processes and art of public administration.

Of the charter, Miller made this statement:

"It is our considered judgment that the proposed King County charter clearly provides for improvements over the present system in the areas of budgeting and financial administration, personnel administration, management housekeeping functions generally, and in the strong emphasis upon professionalization found in a number of the provisions in the charter.

"Among these are the clearly defined separation of powers between the executive and legislative functions and the appointment of a number of department heads whose positions are now el-

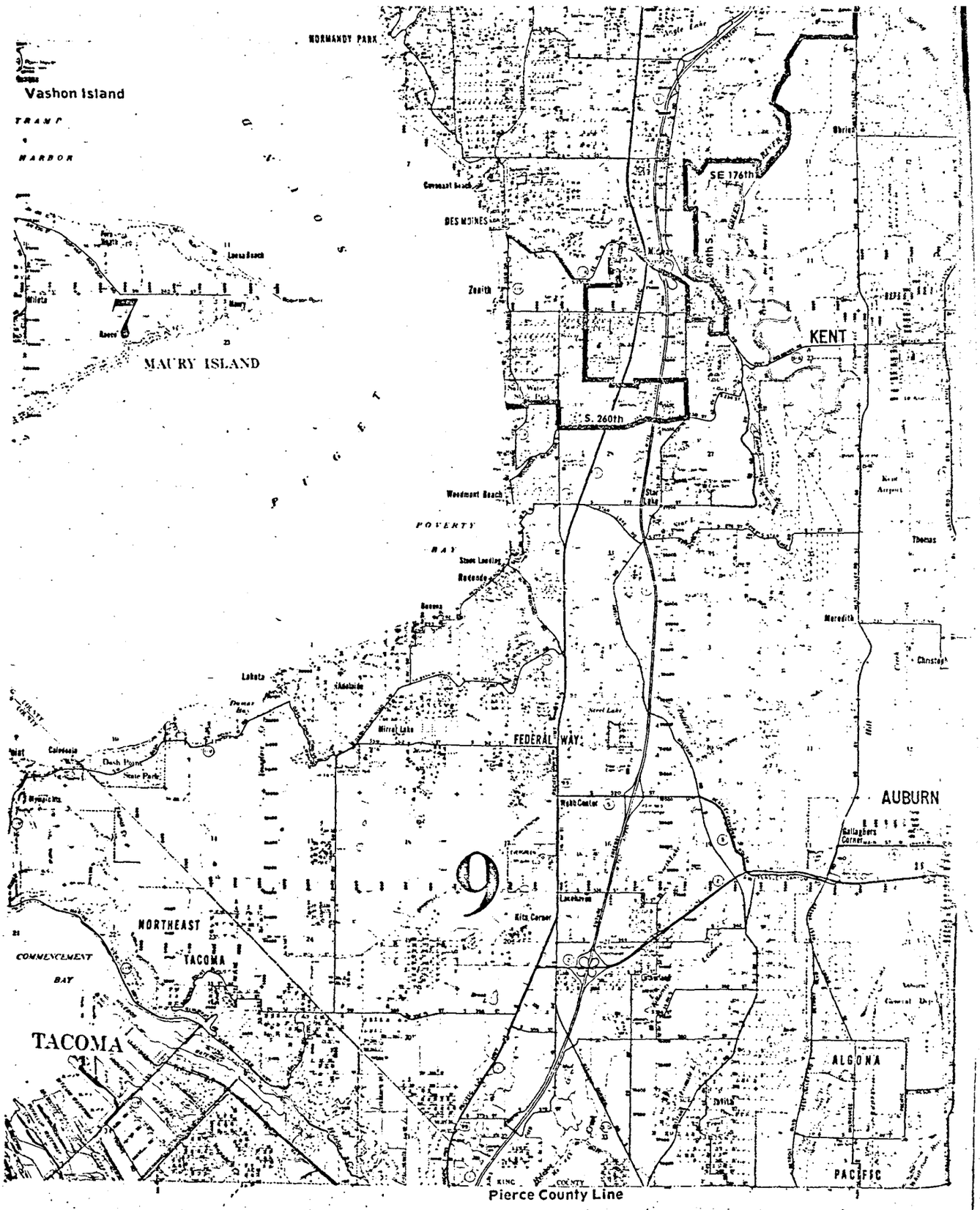


DR. ERNEST MILLER

ective. These characteristics in particular commend the charter to our endorsement.

"IN ADDITION, the charter encourages a high degree of governmental responsiveness to the people by providing for a council of nine elected from districts, by providing for the initiative and referendum, by providing for an office of citizen complaints, and by placing emphasis upon such other features as public hearings, verbatim records of council discussions and votes and public availability of county records.

"All things considered, including the rapidity of social change and the increasingly critical need for modern government in King County, we feel it urgently important that the citizens of King County vote, 'Yes,' on the proposed King County charter."



WHERE ARE YOU?—Which of the nine councilmen districts will serve your community if the King County Charter passes at the polls next Tuesday? The map shows District 7 (including Vashon Island), to serve an estimated population of 135,700; District 8, pop. 130,900, and a portion of District 9 (which also includes Kent and Auburn), pop. 136,700, in Southwest King County. Proponants of the charter explain that for the first time residents will be able to identify with their own community representative in county business. The councilmen will be nominated and elected by district. Districts 2, 3, 4 and 7 are labeled by the drafters of the charter, the freeholders, as Republican, Districts 5, 6, 8 and 9 Democratic and District 1, along the Snohomish County line, as a swing district.

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New County Legislative Districts Proposed

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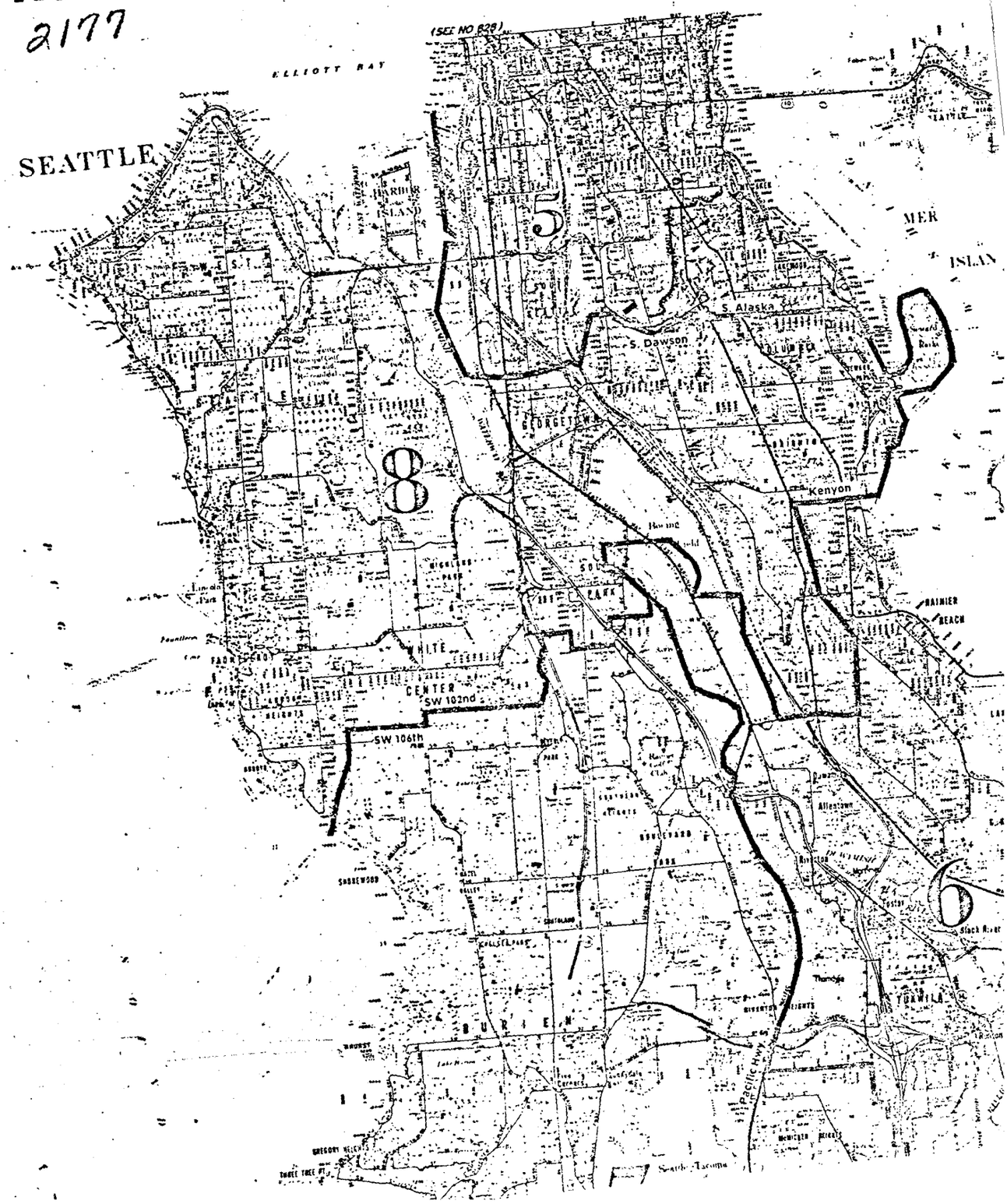

Side Lines

BY BRUCE HELBERG

A Letter From Nixon

We received a personal letter this week from a Mr. Richard M. Nixon, P.O. Box 1968, Times Square Station, New York. It read:

* * *

"Dear Mr. Helberg:

"I am writing directly to request your support in the final phases of this presidential campaign.

"With problems of peace at home and abroad, I believe we must move ahead with dynamic programs which will return to this country the dignity and strength we require.

"The task is awesome, but I believe I can provide the leadership this country requires at this critical time.

"I would deeply appreciate your ideas and your support during these final days before election.

"Sincerely,

"Richard Nixon"

* * *

It will probably come as no surprise to regular readers of this column that we are supporting Mr. Nixon for president, along with the entire Republican slate.

But we have some ideas about Mr. Nixon and his campaign, to wit:

We hope he runs real hard this final week.

We get the feeling Mr. Nixon and his staff have turned over much of the decision-making to a computer, and this sometimes falls short of being an ideal program, as Mr. McNamara found out frequently while serving as secretary of defense.

Nixon is up against a real pro in Hubert Humphrey, who will do and say anything to win.

We know from his past record that Richard Nixon will follow a tough line in his foreign and domestic policies, and that he can be counted on not to sell this country down the river to Russia or any other Communist country.

But there are a lot of younger voters who don't remember his record, and we think he should do a lot of reminding along this line in these finals days of the campaign.

After all, computers don't vote.

* * *

As we said, we're going right down the line for the Republican slate, and this includes Metcalf against Magnuson. After all, Maggie openly helped Johnson get this country into the mess it's in. The same charge can be levied against Brock Adams, the Democrat incumbent being opposed by Republican Bob Rhearle.

We particularly hope Dan Evans and Art Fletcher make it in the finals. The cause of good government will be materially aided if they do.

We also hope the Republican teams in the 41st and 46th Districts are elected to the legislature. Jim Andersen and Brian Lewis will both provide leadership in the senate, and the same goes for Al Leland, Dick Chapin, Axel Julin and George Clarke in the house.

No other slates in the state can top these men.

Although we supporting a minority race candidate in the person of Art Fletcher, we are not doing the same with Warren Chan, a candidate for superior court judge. His opponent, Horton Smith, has far more experience and background, and should be elected.

We are also supporting the King County charter, and we deplore the last-minute innuendoes being cast against it by longtime courthouse employees who would oppose any form of change, good or bad.

* * *

P.S. — We almost goofed. We're not supporting the entire Republican slate. We're opposing Mr. Greene, the G. O. P. candidate for land commissioner, who is running for the job as a joke.

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Charter Proponents: 'No Raise in Taxes'

"There is nothing in the proposed King County Charter to enable or require levying additional taxes," explained Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of County Freeholders, drafters of the document up before voters Tuesday.

Vice-chairman Simon Wampold added, "The Home Rule Charter sets forth the form and nature of government; it has no effect on changing taxes."

Questions frequently raised by citizens in the last few days before they make their decisions on a new form of county government at the polls are: does the charter mean higher assessment of taxes to individual residents; and will there be an increase in the cost of county government by having more councilmen?

The county operates on 8 mills; it is the state legislature that imposes the lid on assessing property taxes, Spellman said.

Government Cost

To the second: Spellman continued, "At the present time, government is financed through limited sources, which would not be increased. A more efficient set-up under the new charter would, in the long run, result in substantial savings and better government."

"The cost would be no more than now," the Commissioner said.

"The County budget is $50-$60 million annually. The amount paid officials is small compared to corporation salaries of comparable sized organizations." One area of more efficiency, he noted, would come with consolidation of departments. "Where there are about 20 now," he said, "there would be about ten under the charter, which would undoubtly result in savings."

Freeholder Virginia Gunby likened the financial change to a supermarket vs. a "Ma and Pa grocery.

"If the freeholders were to have set up a budget under the new system, it would be unrealistic," she said. "We would have been guessing, as the opponents to the charter are when they say the charter system will cost too much. It's impossible to get the budget information."

She pointed out samples, though, where budget analysis figures were available. A study was made of the King County Coroner's office. It showed the cost in King County on a per capita basis was twice as much as in other municipalities.

Opposition

Observers have blamed failure of the 1952 Home Rule Charter at the polls largely on opposition from the Courthouse. Again, as regards the proposed charter of '68, different county groups have taken a stand against the document, drawn up by the 15 freeholders to modernize county government.

This year, however, the elected drafters, who in effect have written a "government structure outline by the people," readily answer the opponents. Possibly because — as indicated by the freeholders this paper interviewed — the issues had been gone over in length during the 2,000-plus hours of study and deliberation in drawing up the charter this year.

County Commissioners Spellman and Ed Munro have endorsed the charter, as have the Municipal League, League of Women Voters, the King County Engineer, the Washington State and King County Medical Associations, the mayors of Renton and Kent and various other city officials, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the two Seattle daily newspapers and the Associated Weekly newspapers, to name a few.

Says Mrs. Gunby, a resident of Wedgewood in the north of King County, "Many of the points we thought would be contested have not been. But the initiative process, for instance, has been attacked, with opponents contending that no initiative process would be better than the one contained in the charter."

Suburban Decision

Mrs. Gunby predicts that charter issue will be decided in the suburbs, "for a majority of the Seattle people could care less," especially with a long ballot facing them this time.

The additional council districts should balance the interests of Seattle versus the county, she pointed out. Now, two of the three county commissioners reside in the city.

Some other main points aired by opponents and freeholders' answers:

Sheriff Department employes have objected to the merit system and an elected Sheriff. Mrs. Gunby answered that under the charter the present civil service system (there is no personnel system now for other than the Sheriff's employes) would continue for two years and then the county council may by ordinance consolidate it under the merit system.

A consolidation ordinance could contain special rules to apply only to the Sheriff's employes to assure "that the personnel system shall not decrease or illiminate those rights under the present system," she pointed out.

Norm Ackley, a local freeholder, said of the elected sheriff, "The sheriff shouldn't be in a policy making position. Sheriff Jack Porter acknowledged that he wouldn't have run for the office if he hadn't first been appointed to the post (to fill a vacancy)," Ackley said.

Strong Executive

A conservative argument is that the executive is too powerful. Mrs. Gunby explains that there is a need for a single head of government — for one — to stop "buck passing." "In a homogeneous community a county manager form is good. But in King County he would be pecked to death."

Ackley pointed out that the legislative is also strong. To balance the powers the freeholders increased the number of legislators and provided a salary of $18,000 per year. To further counter the strong executive, the county council would be intrusted with adopting the policy of the budget and setting the scope of county operations.

Other checks are the Office of Citizens Complaints and the appointed auditor, who would keep a record of the daily expenditures of the executive branch, Ackley explained.

To the denial-of-collective-bargining charge, Mrs. Gunby refers to state law. "Collective bargaining would be mandatory because recent legislation requires collective bargining in local government unless that government has a personnel system in the 'scope and authority' of the State Personnel Board, the kind which would not be provided under the charter."

Some opponents say the districts of the nine county councilmen were subject to a gerrymander. Freeholder Gunby said the districts are even politically and populationwise (see district map). "They will be regulated after the federal census in 1970 and at regular intervals thereafter."

Charter questions and answers

On the top line of the voting machine on Nov. 5 voters will find the following proposition: "Shall the proposed home-rule charter for King County, provising for the separation of the legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?"

To help the voter become better informed on this exceedingly important issue the League of Women Voters has prepared a series of questions and answers.

WHAT IS A FREEHOLDER? A freeholder is a property owner. In this case fifteen citizens (five from each of the three commissioner districts) were elected to frame a county home rule charter as provided for by the 21st amendment of the Washington State Constitution.

WHO DECIDED ON OUR PRESENT FORM OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT? The structure of all Washington counties is the same and was set up by the territorial government in 1854. It has been modified slightly by succeeding legislatures.

WHY DO WE NEED A CHARTER? King county's charaacter has changed radically since the framing of the state constitution which established the form of county government. There are now more modern, efficient ways to do things.

HOW WOULD THE CHARTER CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT? One of the fundamental changes would be the separation of the executive and legislative functions. The charter sets up a unified executive branch under an elected executive and a nine member county council to set policy.

WHAT WILL THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER DO? He will be granted all executive powers of the county. These include preparing the budget, appointing a chief administrative officer and executive department heads, vetoing council ordinances and supervising all executive and administrative offices.

WHAT WILL THE NINE COMMISSIONERS DO? The nine members of the council will set policy, hold hearings, make laws, adopt a budget, approve COUNCIL? The county executive will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least one and one half times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). The county will be divided into nine districts and one councilman will be nominated and elected by the voters of each district for a term of four years at the present commissioner's salary ($18,000 per year).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Experts feel that increased efficiency of operation will make it possible to operate within the present budget in spite of the larger number of commissioners and the addition of an executive officer. This can be accomplished through sound management practices. Multnomah County, under charter government, was able to effect a million dollar saving in the first six months.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL EACH COMMISSIONER REPRESENT? In 1900, each of three commissioners represented about 30,000 people. With the charter in 1968, each of nine councilmen will represent more than 130,000.

ON WHAT BASIS WERE THE NINE DISTRICTS DRAWN? The boundaries of each district will correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and will be drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

HOW WILL THE DISTRICTS RESPOND TO POPULATION SHIFTS? Boundaries of the council districts will be reviewed every five years, starting in 1971, and redistricting is required if inequities exist. Strong incentives are provided to see that this is accomplished.

DOES THE CHARTER OFFER THE CITIZEN NEW POWERS AND PROTECTION? Initiative, referendum, and recall are made available to the voters. The commissioners, elected by district, should be more responsive to the electorate. An office of citizen complaint is set up.

izen complaints, subpoena witnesses and documents, and make and publicize recommendations.

WHICH OFFICERS WILL STILL BE ELECTED? The prosecuting attorney, the superior court judges, the superintendent of schools and the county board of education will continue to be elected because they cannot be affected by the charter. Other elected officers under the charter will be the nine county councilmen, the assessor, and the county executive.

WHY DOES THE CHARTER CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR ELECTING AN ASSESSOR? The freeholders believed that the citizens preferred an assessor who was more responsive to them.

WHY DOESN'T THE CHARTER CONTAIN AN ELECTED AUDITOR? The freeholders felt because the elected state auditor is required to make an independent audit of county finances an elected county auditor is not needed. However, the auditor, appointed by the council, will serve as a "watch dog" of the executive branch.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT? Without a charter changes in the structure of county government must be made only by the state legislature.

WHO IS SUPPORTING THE CHARTER? The Citizens Committee to support the charter, the Seattle-King County Municipal League, and the League of Women Voters in King County are all working in support of the proposed charter. It is expected that other organizations will announce support.

WHO IS OPPOSING THE CHARGER? To date no organizations have actively opposed the charter.

King County Charter Opposition Raised

By Jim Palmateer

Widespread opposition to the proposed King County Charter is building up in the courthouse. Voters will decide next Tuesday whether or not to place King County under home rule. Elected freedholders have drafted a proposed charter to "form a more just and orderly government." The proposition will appear in the upper right hand corner of the ballot.

Principal objections to the charter began with the 1,000-member Washington State Law Enforcement Association headed by Sheriff Capt. Fred Pingrey, president.

"The charter could, in two years, wipe out everything we have gained in the past ten," Pingrey declared. His reference is to the provision which drops the present civil service system for sheriff employees and places them under a so-called merit system two years after the charter is adopted.

They further object to elimination of an elected sheriff. The charter provides for an appointed head of a department of public safety who would "enforce law and order, administer the county jail, and be responsible for civil defense."

There are now 41 home rule counties in the U.S., and all but one have elected sheriffs. Since the legislature in 1958 authorized civil service for the office there have been three **elected sheriffs — Tim McCullough, Don Sprinkle and Jack Porter.**

Sprinkle and Porter were career policemen before joining the county.

Pingrey points out that under present civil service, deputies must meet rigid qualification which insure that they are as well trained as any other law officer, while the proposed charter sets forth no such requirements.

"Under the proposed merit system, what would prevent a sewer inspector from being assigned as a deputy sheriff, and vice-versa?" he asks. "Deputy sheriffs now are professional in their field and the charter would put them back in the category of political patronage employes," he continued.

He feels that in this era of increasing crime, law officers must be of the highest calibre.

While not expressing outright opposition to the charter, Treasurer Mel Williams reminds voters that, if passed, the charter could force King County into deficit spending. He bases this upon the fact that county budgets will already be made up according to current expected revenues and added charter expenses are not provided for.

Interest bearing warrants have not been used in King County since the "thirties," Williams said. But there is that prospect if the proposed charter is voted in November 5.

Although on the surface it would appear that other King County employes have some thing to gain from home rule, their official spokesman the King County Employees Association has gone on record against the charter according to president Chet Mayrand. They contend that "a costly change in government does not necessarily mean improvement."

County employes say the charter lacks ground rules to govern the merit system and provides little if any protection to county employes over the present system. Total county employes number 2,300.

Freeholders express alarm at any opposition to the charter, but those close to county government think that if the voters approve it they may be trading one monster for a bigger monster and thus create a Frankenstein that can't be controlled.

that the executive is too powerful. Mrs. Gunby explains that there is a need for a single head of government — for one — to stop "buck passing." "In a homogeneous community a county manager form is good. But in King County he would be pecked to death."

Ackley pointed out that the legislative is also strong. To balance the powers the freeholders increased the number of legislators and provided a salary of $18,000 per year. To further counter the strong executive, the county council would be intrusted with a loping the policy of the budget and setting the scope of county operations.

Other checks are the Office of Citizens Complaints and the appointed auditor, who would keep a record of the daily expenditures of the executive branch, Ackley explained.

To the denial-of-collective-bargining charge, Mrs. Gunby refers to state law. "Collective bargaining would be mandatory because recent legislation requires collective bargining in local government unless that government has a personnel system in the 'scope and authority' of the State Personnel Board, the kind which would not be provided under the charter."

Some opponents say the districts of the nine county councilmen were subject to a gerrymander. Freeholder Gunby said the districts are even politically and populationwise (see district map). "They will be regulated after the federal census in 1970 and at regular intervals thereafter."

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The cost would be no more n now," the Commissioner d.

The County budget is $50- million annually. The a- ount paid officials is small npared to corporation salar- of comparable sized organi- ions." One area of more iciency, he noted, would me with consolidation of partments. "Where there are out 20 now," he said, "there ould be about ten under the arter, which would undoubtly sult in savings."

Freeholder Virginia Gunby tened the financial change to supermarket vs. a "Ma and a grocery.

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She pointed out samples, hough, where budget analysis igures were available. A study vas made of the King County oroner's office It showed the ost in King County on a per capita basis was twice as much as in other municipalities.

Opposition

Observers have blamed failure of the 1952 Home Rule Charter at the polls largely on opposition from the Courthouse. Again, as regards the proposed charter of '68, different county groups have taken a stand against the document, drawn up by the 15 freeholders to modernize county government.

This year, however, the elected drafters, who in effect have written a "government structure outline by the people," readily answer the opponents. Possibly because — as indicated by the freeholders this paper interviewed — the issues had been gone over in length during the 2,000-plus hours of study and deliberation in drawing up the charter this year.

County Commissioners Spellman and Ed Munro have endorsed the charter, as have the Municipal League, League of Women Voters, the King County Engineer, the Washington State and King County Medical Associations, the mayors of Renton and Kent and various other city officials, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the two Seattle daily newspapers and the Associated Weekly newspapers, to name a few.

Says Mrs. Gunby, a resident of Wedgewood in the north of King County, "Many of the points we thought would be contested have not been. But the initiative process, for instance, has been attacked, with opponents contending that no initiative process would be better than the one contained in the charter."

Suburban Decision

Mrs. Gunby predicts that charter issue will be decided in the suburbs, "for a majority of the Seattle people could care less," especially with a long ballot facing them this time.

The additional council districts should balance the interests of Seattle versus the county, she pointed out. Now, two of the three county commissioners reside in the city.

Some other main points aired by opponents and freeholders' answers:

Sheriff Department employes have objected to the merit system and an elected Sheriff. Mrs. Gunby answered that under the charter the present civil service system (there is no personnel system now for other than the Sheriff's employes) would continue for two years and then the county council may by ordinance consolidate it under the merit system.

A consolidation ordinance could contain special rules to apply only to the Sheriff's employes to assure "that the personnel system shall not decrease or illiminate those rights under the present system," she pointed out.

Norm Ackley, a local freeholder, said of the elected sheriff, "The sheriff shouldn't be in a policy making position." Sheriff Jack Porter acknowledged that he wouldn't have run for the office if he hadn't first been appointed to the post (to fill a vacancy)," Ackley said.

Strong Executive

A conservative argument is

Edmonds, Wash.
Tribune-Review
(Cir. W. 4,575)

OCT 30 1968

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

King County Charter On Tuesday Ballot

2177

Those living in the Richmond Beach and Shoreline areas of King County will vote next Tuesday on the proposed King County charter for a new county government structure of elected and appointed officials.

In 1948 the Washington State Constitution was amended to allow counties to adopt a home rule charter. This 21st amendment provides a mechanism for establishing home rule through the election of freeholders, who then are charged with preparing and proposing a charter for the voters' consideration.

In November of 1967, 15 freeholders were elected by King County voters to carry out the provision of the 21st Amendment. If the proposed charter prepared by the freeholders is adopted by a majority of voters at the Nov. 5 general election, then King County will be on its way as the first home rule charter county in Washington State.

The most basic change proposed in the home rule charter is separation of executive and legislative powers, now vested in the three-member board of county commissioners. Under the charter administrative powers of the board will be placed in the office of county executive; legislative powers will be vested in a nine-member county council.

Internally, under the present structure there are approximately 30 areas given departmental designation. Under the proposed home rule charter, those 30 departmental areas will be integrated into ten functional departments under an elected executive, exluding the prosecuting attorney and the superior and justice courts, offices the home rule charter cannot affect.

Independent boards and commissions, such as the park and recreation board and the King County housing authority, are currently policy-making bodies whose areas of authority may be given to the county council under the charter. The charter provides that all boards and commissions will automatically continue for 120 days after May 1, 1969. Thereafter the county council will determine if such boards shall continue to be policy making, or whether the council itself will have responsibility for that functional area.

The vote on Nov. 5 will show whether citizens wish to implement the proposed home rule charter or remain with the existing structure. Actual implementation of the home rule charter must take place within six months following a majority vote for adoption. Provision is established for filing by candidates for the offices of county executive and county councilmen beginning December 16, 1968, with the primaries set for February 11, 1969. A general election for these offices is scheduled to be held March 11, 1969. The date on which all new provisions begin to take effect is May 1, 1969.

The Board of Freeholders which drafted the proposed County Charter is made up of Robert J. Block, businessman; James N. O'Connor, attorney; Robert Eberle, research engineer; Paul S. Friedlander, businessman; Jack Geoffroy, Chamber of Commerce official; Norman B. Ackley, attorney; Howard E. Bothell, automobile dealer; James P. Curran, attorney; Terrance R. McKenna, airline pilot; Lyle R. Schneider, attorney; Richard R. Albrecht, attorney; Virginia Gunby, housewife; Donald N. McDonald, contractor; Lois H. North, housewife and Simon Wampold, attorney.

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

OCT 30 1968

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

Freeholder Will Discuss Charter

Don McDonald, King County Freeholder, will discuss the new King County Charter at a public meeting sponsored by the Northshore Young Republican Club at 8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4 in the Howard Skavdahl home, 17404 47th Ave. NE corner of Bothell Way and 47th NE.

2177

McDonald, who helped write the charter, has outstanding qualifications for explaining all its provisions and its effects on our lives, said Chet Wright, executive vice president of the club.

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

OCT 30 1968

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

Fact Sheet Summarizing Charter Issued

2177

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed county charter is now available for distribution, according to Freeholder Chairman, Richard Albrecht. The brochure-type summary contains questions and answers and a synopsis, along with an organization chart comparing the present and proposed structure of government and a map of King County representing the nine councilman districts.

Fact sheets are obtainable at all libraries or, if individuals or organizations wish multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charter, they may pick them up at the following depots: in Ballard, Mrs. Virginia Walsh, 1555 NW Market, SU 9-1155; Northeast Seattle, Mrs. George C. Gunby, 2540 NE 90th, LA 4-2731; Shoreline, Mrs. Miner Baker, 2123 N 172nd, EM 2-2967; and Wallingford, Alvin Williams, 2515 N 40th, ME 3-5242.

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

OCT 30 1968

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

Chairman Challenges Debate

Richard R. Albrecht, chairman of the 15-member board of King County Freeholders, has directed a challenge to James K. Bender, president of the King County Labor Council, to thresh out in public discussion the motives and reasons for the Labor Countil's opposition to the proposed King County Charter.

In a letter to Bender, Albrecht, Freeholder spokesman, expressed appreciation for the Labor Council's interest in the proposed charter, but said "We are distressed, however, that your leadership has decided to oppose the Charter and are urging your members to vote against it. . . . if the press has correctly reported the reasons for your opposition, those reasons seem to be based on a lack of information or a misunderstanding as to what the Charter provides. We believe that all of the questions you have raised can be readily answered and we are sorry we were not given an opportunity to appear before the Labor Council before you took your position.

"We think it is important that the voters be fully informed on all sides of the issues. If public service time can be arranged on any of the local television or radio stations, we would welcome the opportunity to debate and discuss the issues you have raised. We are attempting to arrange a time and station and are willing to appear at any time or place convenient to you or your representatives."

The King County Labor Council contends that the proposed charter sets up districts loaded to create Republican majorities. This, the Freeholders deny together with allegations that county employes' job status will not be fully protected. The Freeholders insist that the Labor Council's position is based on misinformation.

Greenwood Aurora
Outlook
(Cir. W. 11,500)

OCT 31 1968

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

County home-rule charter on ballot

Last November, King County voters elected 15 freeholders to draw up a home-rule charter to modernize county government. The proposed charter will be on the November 5 ballot for the voters to approve or disapprove.

A previous attempt to adopt a home-rule charter for King County was unsuccessful in 1952.

The most basic change proposed in county government is the separation of executive and legislative powers, now vested in the three county commissioners. Under the new charter, the administrative powers will be placed in the hands of an elected county executive; legislative powers will be vested in an elected nine-member council.

The charter provides that the nine councilmen be nominated and elected by districts, and the county executive and county assessor be elected at large, for four-year terms.

The positions of county auditor, coroner, clerk, sheriff and treasurer would be appointed, not elective.

The proponents of the charter say the election of councilmen by district will give each part of the county representation. The charter can be easily amended by a vote of the people, rather than the present system in which the legislature must pass a bill to effect a county charter change. That a chain of command is established which will pinpoint responsibility.

Opponents of the charter question the price tag of increasing the present three commissioners to nine councilmen, needing staff, salaries, and office space. They question the wisdom of making so many county officials appointive.

Seattle, Wash.
White Center News
(Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

OCT 30 1968

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

CHARTER FACTS

A fact sheet summarizing the proposed County Charter now is available for distribution, according to Freeholder Chairman Richard Albrecht.

Fact sheets have been distributed to all libraries in Seattle and King County. Any citizen or organization wishing multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charter may pick them up at:

Highline-Burien — Burien Chamber of Commerce, 15830 Eighth S.W.

West Seattle — Mrs. Stewart Zenier, 6340 Atlas Pl. S.W., WE 2-0526.

Charter Gets Backing, But Also Criticism

By Our County News Bureau

The proposed King County charter on which voters will decide next Tuesday continued to gather endorsements along with some brickbats this week.

Latest groups to announce their support include the board of trustees of the King County Medical Society and the Bellevue Area Self-Improvement Council, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders who drafted the home rule document, announced yesterday.

But dissenters continued to voice their disapproval of the proposed modernization of county government, chief of whom this week was State Sen. John Stender, 30th legislative district.

Stender declared he was not in accord with the proposed charter and said he believed it to be "not in the best interests of the people in King County to adopt this proposal."

He noted that the only parts of the charter proposal with which he did agree are those which would enlarge the present three-man Board of County Commissioners, and pertaining to referendum opportunities.

Stender was critical of charter provisions whereby presently elected county officers would become appointive, and of the duties of a county administrative officer. This is a position whose duties could be handled by the Board of County Commissioners, he said.

Enumclaw, Wash.
Courier-Herald
(Cir. W. 2,807)

OCT 31 1968

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

Freeholder asks debate

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"We are distressed, however, that your leadership has decided to oppose the Charter and are urging your members to vote against it . . . if the press has correctly reported the reasons for your opposition, those reasons seem to be based on a lack of information or a misunderstanding as to what the Charter provides.

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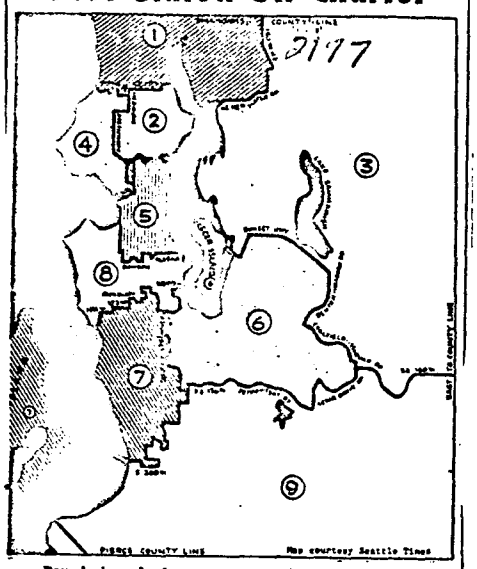
Seattle, Wash.
West Seattle Herald
(Cir. W. 24,000)

OCT 3 1 1968

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

Vote Slated On Charter



Boundaries of nine county councilman districts under proposed King County Charter.

Commentators call this an unbelievable election year.

For instance, would you believe 15 elected officials campaigning day-and-night to make sure that the voters throw them out of office?

That's what's happening in King County where the 15-member Board of Freeholders, elected on Nov. 7 1967, are leading the campaign to win voter approval of the proposed King County Charter.

A majority "Yes" vote on Lever No. 21, the Proposed King County Charter, on November 5 will wipe out the Board of Freeholders and bring on a new county government structure of elected and appointed officials.

The Board of Freeholders which drafted the proposed County Charter is made up of Robert J. Block, businessman; James N. O'Connor, attorney; Robert Eberle, research engineer; Paul S. Friedlander, businessman; Jack Goeffroy, Chamber of Commerce Official; Norman B. Ackley, attorney; Howard E. Bothell, automobile dealer; James P. Curran, attorney; Terrance R. McKenna, airline pilot; Lyle R. Schneider, attorney; Richard R. Albrecht, attorney; Virginia Gunby, housewife; Donald N. McDonald, contractor; Lois H. North, housewife and Simon Wampold, attorney.

All of these Freeholders are currently filling speaking dates before citizen groups throughout King County to enlist support for the proposed King County Charter and to answer citizens' questions about the proposed charter.

As reported by the various Freeholders, here are the questions most frequently asked and the answers.

Q: I've lived here all my life and don't see why we need to change the county set-up?

A: King Conty was formed in 1853 when the county population was 170. In 1968, we are trying to serve and govern a county of 1,200,000 population under the same ground-rules. It doesn't work. We need a change to modernized government.

Q: Will the new King County Charter raise my property taxes?

A: No, the present 40-mill limit on property taxes remains unchanged. You will get improved county services for about the same money.

Q: What happens to our three county commissioners?

A: Our incumbent three county commissioners are backing the proposed charter. An outstanding feature is this: One elected county executive will be responsible for running the county. This wipes out the existing frustrations of trying to operate a $65-million annual budget business operating with three heads with equal authority and responsibility and consequent "buck - passing" and bickering.

Q: Doesn't this create a super-government which takes powers away from the people?

A: The people will have more to say about their county government. First of all, this is a Home Rule Charter which lets the people decide instead of the state legislature. Secondly, the Charter will create nine elected county councilman positions. These nine councilmen will be nominated and elected from nine geographical districts in the county which are set up to represent approximately equal populations.

The proposed King County Charter is backed by numerous endorsements which include the Municipal League, the League of Women Voters, King County Medical Society, Community Development Council of Shoreline.

North Central, Wash.
Outlook
(Circ. D. 10,200)

OCT 3 1 1968

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

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2177

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The charter provides that the nine councilmen be nominated and elected by districts, and the county executive and county assessor be elected at large, for four-year terms.

The positions of county auditor, coroner, clerk, sheriff and treasurer would be appointed, not elective.

The proponents of the charter say the election of councilmen by district will give each part of the county representation. The charter can be easily amended by a vote of the people, rather than the present system in which the legislature must pass a bill to effect a county charter change. That a chain of command is established which will pinpoint responsibility.

Opponents of the charter question the price tag of increasing the present three commissioners to nine councilmen, needing staff, salaries, and office space. They question the wisdom of making so many county officials appointive.

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GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL

BOEING NEWS

VOL. 27, NO. 44 PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS, SEATTLE AREA, WASH. OCTOBER 31, 1968

Home Rule Charter Would Improve County Government

One of the most important but perhaps least understood issues to be submitted to the voters of King County on Nov. 5 is the question of whether or not the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County should be adopted.

Approval of Proposition 21 by a majority of the voters will result in major reorganization of King County government providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for functional administration.

Rejection of the proposed county charter will result in maintaining the status quo of King County government as it is presently organized and administered under three county commissioners. This structure is basically the same as that set up by the first Territorial Assembly in 1854 when King County was populated by 170 settlers living in a rural environment. Today this same county government is expected to serve more than one million residents.

Efforts to modernize county government resulted in enactment of Amendment 21 of the State Constitution in 1948, which grants a county the right to frame a "home-rule" charter within the limits of other laws. As yet, no county has enacted such a charter.

Reform groups attempted a modernization of King County government in 1950, when a board of freeholders was elected to draft a home rule charter. A controversial charter proposal containing many changes in form and representing a substantial departure from established political-governmental patterns was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters two years later.

Continuing reform efforts led to the election of another board of 15 freeholders in November 1967. After numerous meetings and public hearings, the freeholders have completed a proposed charter and have requested the county commissioners to place it on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The Boeing Company commends the freeholders for the quality and quantity of effort expended in developing the charter. In drafting the proposed charter they have wisely avoided most of the significant pitfalls which led to the defeat of the charter proposed in 1952.

While the proposed charter does contain some contentious provisions such as those providing for an appointed sheriff and auditor, we believe that the document as a whole is a substantial improvement over the present form of government. By providing for separate legislative and executive branches, improved responsibility and accountability and more effective citizen participation, it offers a basic framework for creating and maintaining a more viable form of government which will better meet the changing needs of our growing metropolitan county.

Therefore, The Boeing Company favors the proposed Home Rule Charter and recommends its approval by the voters. We encourage voters to study the proposed charter and compare it with our present form of county government. Having so informed themselves, we believe they will conclude, as we have, that a "yes" vote on Proposition 21 is a vote for substantial improvement in the quality of government at the county level.

William M. Allen

Chairman of the Board

OCT 3 1968

New Charter Would Up Efficiency

A more efficient county government was predicted Saturday if voters approve the proposed home rule charter on the November 5 ballot.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the landowners' group who drew up the new charter, explained that the county's functions will be reorganized, but it won't have any powers that it doesn't have already.

He spoke to the Washington State Association of Water Districts' annual conference October 5 at the Swept Wing Inn.

The present county commissioners and other students of county government agree that the present form of county government won't be able to cope much longer with the problems of change, Albrecht said.

Commissioner Spellman has even predicted that county government may be less costly under the new charter, Albrecht noted.

In addition to reorganizing functions and administration of them the new charter would allow people the initiative and referendum on county issues—something never before possible.

"If people don't like the charter after they've tried it," he said, "it'll be easy to change it."

Some 115 commissioners from water districts (most of them in King County) attended the meeting.

Charter Proponents: 'No Raise in Taxes'

"There is nothing in the proposed King County Charter to enable or require levying additional taxes," explained Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of County Freeholders, drafters of the document up before voters Tuesday.

Vice-chairman Simon Wampold added, "The Home Rule Charter sets forth the form and nature of government; it has no effect on changing taxes."

Questions frequently raised by citizens in the last few days before they make their decisions on a new form of county government at the polls are: does the charter mean higher assessment of taxes to individual residents; and will there be an increase in the cost of county government by having more councilmen?

To the first: "There is no difference in restraint or pressure on the county assessor if there is a charter or not," Albrecht explained. County Commissioner John Spellman added, "Raising the 40 mill levy (under which governmental districts in the state such as counties are allotted funds) will be decided on a state level; it has nothing to do with the charter."

The county operates on 8 mills; it is the state legislature that imposes the lid on assessing property taxes, Spellman said.

Government Cost

To the second: Spellman continued, "At the present time, government is financed through limited sources, which would not be increased. A more efficient set-up under the new charter would, in the long run, result in substantial savings and better government."

"The cost would be no more than now," the Commissioner said.

"The County budget is $50-$60 million annually. The amount paid officials is small compared to corporation salaries of comparable sized organizations." One area of more efficiency, he noted, would come with consolidation of departments. "Where there are about 20 now," he said, "there would be about ten under the charter, which would undoubtly result in savings."

Freeholder Virginia Gunby likened the financial change to a supermarket vs. a "Ma and Pa grocery.

"If the freeholders were to have set up a budget under the new system, it would be unrealistic," she said. "We would have been guessing, as the opponents to the charter are when they say the charter system will cost too much. It's impossible to get the budget information."

She pointed out samples, though, where budget analysis figures were available. A study was made of the King County Coroner's office. It showed the cost in King County on a per capita basis was twice as much as in other municipalities.

Renton and Kent and various other city officials, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the two Seattle daily newspapers and the Associated Weekly newspapers, to name a few.

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A consolidation ordinance could contain special rules to apply only to the Sheriff's employes to assure "that the personnel system shall not decrease or illiminate those rights under the present system," she pointed out.

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Strong Executive

A conservative argument is that the executive is too powerful. Mrs. Gunby explains that there is a need for a single head of government — for one — to stop "buck passing." "In a homogeneous community a county manager form is good. But in King County he would be pecked to death."

Ackley pointed out that the legislative is also strong. To balance the powers the freeholders increased the number of legislators and provided a salary of $18,000 per year. To further counter the strong executive, the county council would be intrusted with adopting the policy of the budget and setting the scope of county operations.

Other checks are the Office of Citizens Complaints and the appointed auditor, who would keep a record of the daily expenditures of the executive branch, Ackley explained.

To the denial-of-collective-bargining charge, Mrs. Gunby refers to state law. "Collective bargaining would be mandatory because recent legislation requires collective bargining in local government unless that government has a personnel system in the 'scope and authority' of the State Personnel Board, the kind which would not be provided under the charter."

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

Charter Proponents: 'No Raise in Taxes'

3177

"There is nothing in the proposed King County Charter to enable or require levying additional taxes," explained Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of County Freeholders, drafters of the document up before voters Tuesday.

Vice-chairman Simon Wampold added, "The Home Rule Charter sets forth the form and nature of government; it has no effect on changing taxes."

Questions frequently raised by citizens in the last few days before they make their decisions on a new form of county government at the polls are: does the charter mean higher assessment of taxes to individual residents; and will there be an increase in the cost of county government by having more councilmen?

To the first: "There is no difference in restraint or pressure on the county assessor if there is a charter or not," Albrecht explained. County Commissioner John Spellman added, "Raising the 40 mill levy (under which governmental districts in the state such as counties are allotted funds) will be decided on a state level; it has nothing to do with the charter."

The county operates on 8 mills; it is the state legislature that imposes the lid on assessing property taxes, Spellman

Renton and Kent and various other city officials, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the two Seattle daily newspapers and the Associated Weekly newspapers, to name a few.

Says Mrs. Gunby, a resident of Wedgewood in the north of King County, "Many of the points we thought would be contested have not been. But the initiative process, for instance, has been attacked, with opponents contending that no initiative process would be better than the one contained in the charter."

Suburban Decision

Mrs. Gunby predicts that charter issue will be decided in the suburbs, "for a majority of the Seattle people could care less," especially with a long ballot facing them this time.

The additional council districts should balance the interests of Seattle versus the county, she pointed out. Now, two of the three county commissioners reside in the city.

Some other main points aired by opponents and freeholders' answers:

Sheriff Department employes have objected to the merit system and an elected Sheriff. Mrs. Gunby answered that under the charter the present civil service system (there is no personnel system now for other than the Sheriff's employes) would continue for two years and then the county council may by ordinance consolidate it under the merit system.

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Some opponents say the di tricts of the nine county counci men were subject to a gerr mander. Freeholder Gunby sa the districts are even politi ally and populationwise (se district map). "They will b regulated after the feder census in 1970 and at regula intervals thereafter."

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Government Cost

To the second: Spellman continued, "At the present time, government is financed through limited sources, which would not be increased. A more efficient set-up under the new charter would, in the long run, result in substantial savings and better government."

"The cost would be no more than now," the Commissioner said.

"The County budget is $50-$60 million annually. The amount paid officials is small compared to corporation salaries of comparable sized organizations." One area of more efficiency, he noted, would come with consolidation of departments. "Where there are about 20 now," he said, "there would be about ten under the charter, which would undoubtly result in savings."

Freeholder Virginia Gunby likened the financial change to a supermarket vs. a "Ma and Pa grocery.

"If the freeholders were to have set up a budget under the new system, it would be unrealistic," she said. "We would have been guessing, as the opponents to the charter are when they say the charter system will cost too much. It's impossible to get the budget information."

She pointed out samples, though, where budget analysis figures were available. A study was made of the King County Coroner's office. It showed the cost in King County on a per capita basis was twice as much as in other municipalities.

Opposition

Observers have blamed failure of the 1952 Home Rule Charter at the polls largely on opposition from the Courthouse. Again, as regards the proposed charter of '68, different county groups have taken a stand against the document, drawn up by the 15 freeholders to modernize county government.

This year, however, the elected drafters, who in effect have written a "government structure outline by the people," readily answer the opponents. Possibly because — as indicated by the freeholders this paper interviewed — the issues had been gone over in length during the 2,000-plus hours of study and deliberation in drawing up the charter this year.

County Commissioners Spellman and Ed Munro have endorsed the charter, as have the Municipal League, League of Women Voters, the King County Engineer, the Washington State and King County Medical Associations, the mayors of

nance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its adoption or enactment by the county council. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto the ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

230.30. EMERGENCY ORDINANCES.

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

230.40. REFERENDUM.

Except as provided herein, an enacted ordinance may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the county council prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than eight percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the next special or general election occurring more than forty-five days after the petitions are filed.

An appropriation ordinance; an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions; an ordinance proposing amendments to this charter; an ordinance providing for collective bargaining; an ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement; an ordinance providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees; or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

230.50. INITIATIVE.

Ordinances except ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees may be proposed by filing with the county council petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The county council shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred thirty-five days after the petitions are filed or at an earlier election designated by the county council. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum.

If the county council rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall first be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for either, then the ordinance receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither ordinance shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

230.60. REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE PETITIONS.

The county council shall establish by ordinance the form to be used for referendum and initiative petitions. All referendum and initiative petitions shall be sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval of the clerk of the county council as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. Within five days after the form of the proposed petitions is submitted to him, the clerk of the county council shall return it to the sponsor with an indication of his approval or with a detailed written explanation of his objections to the form.

required to serve, [illegible] councilman or councilmen to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the county council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary; shall prepare and present to the county council budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the county council except as otherwise provided in this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

Section 330. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

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

Section 340. APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATION AND REMOVAL.

340.10. APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

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

340.20. APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

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

340.30. APPOINTMENTS BY THE CHIEF OFFICERS.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department and shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and employees to positions covered by the career service.

340.40. CONFIRMATION.

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

340.50. QUALIFICATIONS.

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

340.60. REMOVAL.

Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not a member of the career service may be removed at any time by the officer who appointed him, except that a member of the personnel board or the board of appeals may be removed only by a majority of the county council as provided in this charter.

Section 350. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

350.10. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

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

350.20. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

350.20.10. DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county assessor shall be elected by the voters of the county unless general law shall provide otherwise, and his term of office shall be four years. The department of assessments shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council.

350.20.20. DEPARTMENT OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.

the fiscal year unless requested to do so by the county executive.

Section 475. WORK PROGRAMS AND ALLOTMENTS.

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.

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

Section 480. LAPSES OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

Section 490. INTERFUND BORROWING AND REIMBURSEMENT.

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

Section 495. ILLEGAL CONTRACTS.

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

ARTICLE 5

THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Section 510. PURPOSE.

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

Section 520. ADMINISTRATION.

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

Section 530. PERSONNEL RULES.

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

Section 540. THE PERSONNEL BOARD.

There shall be a personnel board composed of five members, four of whom shall be appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. One member of the personnel board shall be elected by secret ballot by the county employees who are members of the career service according to the procedure established by ordinance. A personnel board member shall serve a five year term and until his successor is appointed or elected, with one member being appointed each year. A majority of the county council, but not the county executive, may remove a personnel board member for just cause after

RESOLUTION

We, the duly elected members of the Board of King County Freeholders, been elected on November 7, 1967, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of the C tion of the State of Washington, as amended, and having been empowered to p and propose a "Home Rule" charter for the government of the county have pr and do hereby propose the foregoing King County Charter for adoption by the of King County. We request the Board of King County Commissioners to take w action may be necessary to place the following question before the voters of th ty at the general election to be held on November 5, 1968:

ict which he represents shall not disqualify olding office during the remainder of the ach he was elected or appointed.

0. COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY

nation and election of the county executive assessor shall be held every four years as a ral election at the same time as the general cities in the county commencing with the 1971 for the county assessor and with the 1973 for the county executive.

). CO MEN.

DIST.

nty shall be divided into nine districts ne through nine.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION.

nation and election of councilmen shall be four years as a county general election at ne as the general election for cities in the nencing in even numbered districts with the .971 and in odd numbered districts with the 1973.

DISTRICTING.

10. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

daries of each district shall correspond as actical with the boundaries of election pre-cipalities and census tracts and shall be oduce districts with compact and contiguous mposed of economic and geographic units mately equal in population.

20. DISTRICTING ORDINANCES.

ng ordinance shall be enacted by the coun-y April 30, 1971, and at least every five fter. If the size, shape and population of comply with the requirements of this char-nty council shall enact an ordinance retain-ict boundaries without change. A districting all not be subject to the veto power of the utive.

10. DISTRICTING COMMITTEE.

nty council does not adopt a districting or-ing the first two months of any year in quired to do so by this charter, the county all appoint within ten days a districting f at least five members subject to confirma-ajority of the county council which shall their compensation. No more than a simple the committee shall be affiliated with the al party. The districting committee shall districting recommendation to the county n twenty-one days after the committee has ted and confirmed.

10. CONSIDERATION BY COUNTY

y council may either accept, modify or re-ommendations of the districting committee. mendations are rejected, the committee all not be required to, present alternate tions. If the recommendations are neither odified nor rejected within thirty days after sented to the county council by the distric-e, they shall become effective on the thir-after presentation as if they had been ordi

10. F E TO ENACT A DISTRICTING E.

nty council fails to enact a districting ordi-il 30 of each year in which it is required this charter, the compensation of the coun-be suspended from the first day of May of til a districting ordinance is enacted. Upon f a districting ordinance, one half of the ompensation shall be paid without interest lmen who would have received it but for on; and the other one half of the suspend-tion shall be forfeited.

. COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF OF-

of office of elected county officers shall n the date specified by general law for rs elected at city general elections.

. RECALL.

r of any elective office may be recalled in with the provisions of general law.

. VACANCIES.

e county office shall become vacant upon t's death; resignation; recall; conviction of ime involving moral turpitude, unlawful f court records, or other crime pertinent to eclaration of incompetency by a court of risdiction; absence from the county for a re than thirty days without the permission of the county council; or failure to fulfill o fulfill the qualifications for office; provid-, that an elective county office shall not nt as the result of a criminal conviction or f incompetency until the conviction or dec-become final and is no longer subject to

that county road projects having a value of less than fifteen thousand dollars may be performed by county employees. Whenever the county would have been required to do so by general law if it had not adopted this charter, it shall purchase all property and award all contracts by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures established by ordinance.

Section 820. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

The county council shall adopt an ordinance prohibiting an officer or employee of the county when it might conflict with the performance of his official duties from directly or indirectly: receiving or having any financial interest in any sale to or by the county of any service or property; accepting or seeking for others any service or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county; or accepting any gift from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county. The ordinance shall include civil and criminal penalties for the negligent or willful violation of this section by any county officer or employee or by any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county.

Section 830. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

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

Section 840. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION.

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

Section 850. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

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

Section 860. REFERENCES TO COUNTY AGENCIES AND OFFICERS IN THE CONSTITUTION OR GENERAL LAW.

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

Section 870. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter. An elected officer of the county shall not be appointed to any other compensated county office or position during his term of office.

Section 830. COMPILATION AND CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the county council shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the county council and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The county council shall also provide for an annual supplement.

Section 890. EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION.

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement

Zenith, Des Moines No. 1 through Des Moines No. 8, Marine View, Normandy Park No. 1 through Normandy Park No. 9, Crescent, Three Tree Point and Maplewild in Legislative District No. 30.

Councilman District No. 8 shall consist of: precincts 33-51 through 33-53, 33-57 through 33-99, 33-102 through 33-106, 33-108 and 34-1 through 34-95, 35-1 through 35-5, 35-13 through 35-15; the following precincts and all precincts in Legislative District No. 31 lying north of them: 31-1 through 31-64, Sunnywood, Seaview, Oakpark, Bangor, Center, Heights, and Norfolk.

Councilmen District No. 9 shall consist of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Lakeland, St. George, Pierce, Netac, Candlewood, Palisades, Lakota, Adelaide, Buenna, Delray, Redondo, Soundcrest, Woodmont, Salt Water, Seacoma, Kent No. 1 through Kent No. 27, Roosevelt, Grandview, O'Brien, Wayne, and Sue City in Legislative District 30; Fuller, Wanda, Carriage Lane in Legislative District No. 47; Lake Desire, Shadow Lake, Riverside, Pipe Line, Dorre Don, Tahoma, Hobart, Lester, Sno Pass, Chinook, Sierra, Boise, Osceola, White River Wabash and Muckleshoot in Legislative District No. 41; and Stuck, Pacific City and Trout Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

As used in this section, "precincts" refers to King County Voting Precincts as they were established by Resolution No. 35545 as passed by the Board of King County Commissioners on June 24, 1968, and all prior resolutions.

Section 920. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

920.10. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

920.10.10 OFFICE OF BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county as provided in Article 4, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made.

920.10.20. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL.

The office of personnel shall have the responsibilities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to it by the chief administrative officer.

920.10.30. OFFICE OF SYSTEMS SERVICES.

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

920.10.40. OFFICE OF PROPERTY AND PURCHASING.

The office of property and purchasing shall assign the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall maintain all property unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by this charter, by ordinance or by the county executive, shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property, shall contract for all services and public works which are not performed by county employees and shall purchase all real and personal property purchased by the county.

920.20. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

920.20.10. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

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

920.20.20. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail and shall be responsible for civil defense.

920.20.30. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

920.20.40. DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ELECTIONS.

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

920.20.50 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

sive set of personnel rules as soon as possible, and the effective date of the personnel system shall be no later than January 1, 1970. Prior to the effective date of the personnel system, each employee shall be appointed, promoted, suspended and removed by the officer in whose office he serves.

970.30. ELECTIVE COUNTY OFFICERS.

Every elected county officer except a county commissioner whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the rate of compensation specified by general law for the office which he held on the effective date of this charter until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter; and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative position covered by the career service subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.40 COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

A non-elective county officer or employee employed by the county on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to a similar position covered by the career service for which he is qualified subject to all of the personnel rules including those concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed without just cause prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to a position covered by the career service similar to that in which he was employed on June 1, 1968. A non-elective county officer or employee employed in a position which is not covered by the career service on the effective date of the personnel system shall have the right to be appointed to a position which is covered by the career service which is as nearly comparable as possible to the position which he held on the effective date of the personnel system when he is removed from that position subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.50. SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the personnel system. At the end of the two year period, the county council may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel system established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law; and, if a personnel rule cannot be applied to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system, the county council may adopt special rules which will apply only to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system.

Section 980. BOARD OF APPEALS.

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

Section 990. TRANSITION.

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter holding office on April 30, 1969, shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All boards and commissions whose functions have not been transferred by this charter to another agency of county government established by this charter shall continue to function for one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this charter, at the end of which time they are hereby abolished unless re-established or continued by ordinance. All ordinances, resolutions and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

Proposition No.

Shall the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for improved administration be adopted?

For Home Rule Charter

Against Home Rule Charter

We, the undersigned Freeholders of King County, do hereby approve the above resolution:

Norman B. Ackley
Richard R. Albrecht
Robert M. Block
Howard E. Bothell
James P. Curran

Robert Eberle
Paul R. Friedlander
Jack M. Geoffroy
Lyle R. Schneider
Donald N. McDonald

Terrance R. McKenna
Lois H. North
James N. O'Connor
Virginia K. Gunby
Simon Wampold

Cont p. 328

County Charter Proposal: Voters At Crossrods

From Page 1

The executive would appoint a county administrator to help run county government.

—A nine-member county council would be vested with the legislative authority now in the hands of the commissioners. The council would set policy, pass ordinances, confirm appointments by the executive and adopt the county budget. Each member would be elected from a geographical district and serve a four-year term at an initial annual salary of $18,000.

APPEAL BOARD

—A seven-member board of appeals appointed by the executive and confirmed by the council would decide all appeals arising from applications for zoning variances or conditional use permits, a quasi-judicial function now exercised by the county commissioners. Rulings of the board of appeals would be subject to court review.

—The positions of auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff and treasurer would be abolished as elective offices. Appointed officials would carry out their present duties. An elected county assessor would be retained.

—An office of citizen complaints would have the power to investigate complaints, subpoena witnesses and publicize recommendations and findings.

—Some 30 departmental areas within the present structure would be consolidated into 10 functional departments under the direction of the executive.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

—A county auditor appointed by the county council would review financial operations of the county and report to the council on the effectiveness and efficiencies of programs and operations.

—A county career personnel system would be set up to take politics out of the hiring and firing of county employes and the employes out of politics. Under the present structure, only employes of the sheriff's office are covered by civil service. Under the charter, nearly all of the county's 3,000 employes would be covered.

—County residents could, in effect, become their own lawmakers through use of the initiative and the referendum, heretofore available only at the city and state levels.

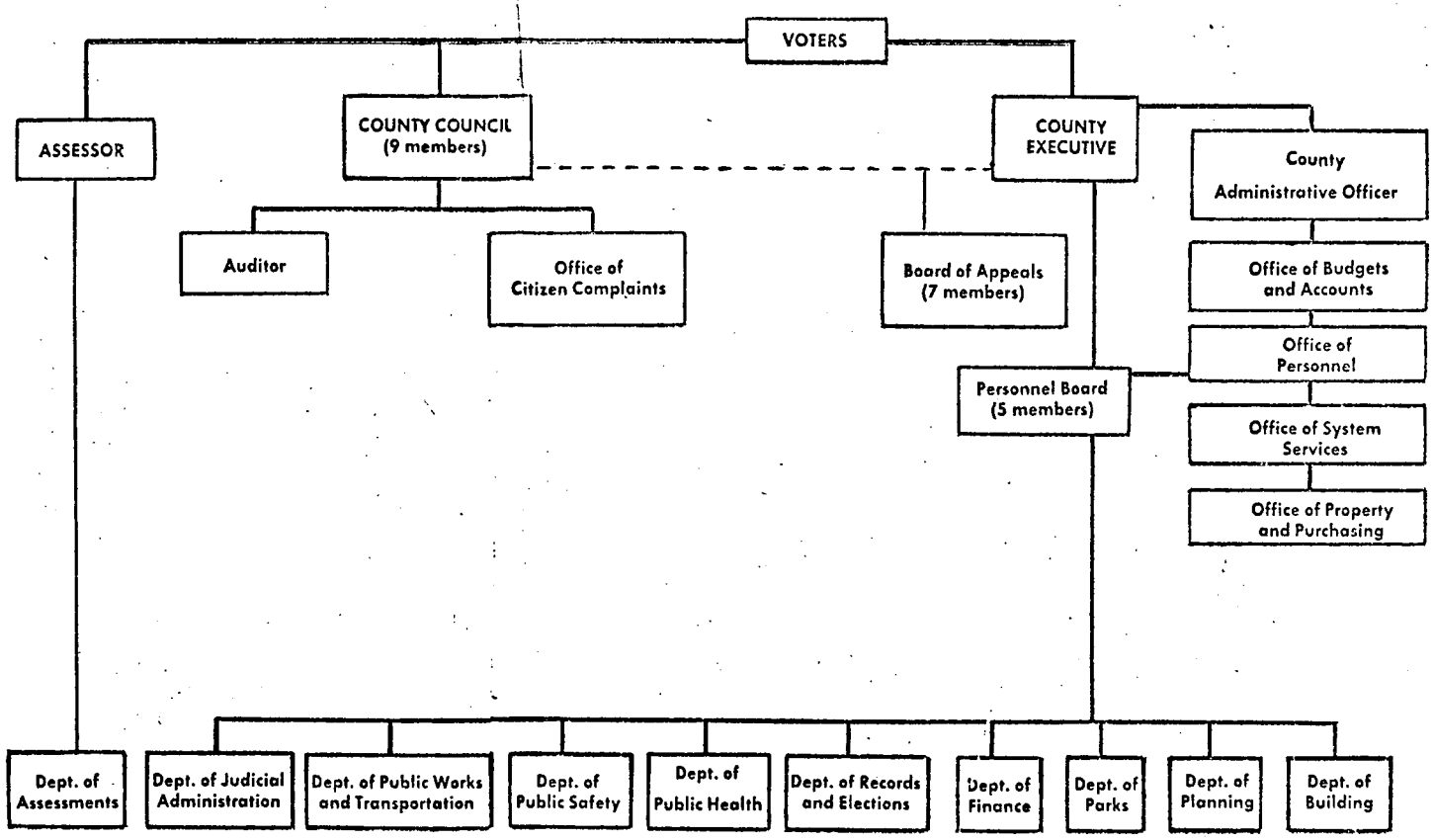
The charter would not affect the prosecuting attorney, the judges or the superintendent of schools. Changes in these offices are specifically prohibited by the state constitutional amendment providing for home-rule charters.

FIRST TIME

If a majority of county voters approve the proposed charter, it will be the first time any county in the state has changed its form of government since the 21st "home-rule" Amendment was passed in 1948.

Whether or voters decide to take the new model,

PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER



they will have an impact on the future of county government across the state.

John L. Chambers, executive secretary of the State Association of County Commissioners, assesses the importance of the vote this way:

"If the King County charter passes, there is no question there will be efforts in other counties to develop charters. If the King County charter fails, it will probably have a dampening effect across the state on any in-

Although King County would be the first county in terest in developing charters."

itan counties in the country without a home-rule char- the state to have home rule, it is one of the last metropol- ter. About 40 counties in the U.S. have charters.

LARGE POPULATION

Charter boosters observe that King County has a larger population than 15 states, and they say the present form of government is inadequate to cope with complex urban problems.

Even charter opponents do not defend the status quo.

Tom Forsythe, Republican candidate for county commissioner, opposes the charter on several grounds and argues that much modernization can be accomplished without it.

But he does not suggest that the present form is adequate.

"If the charter is rejected," Forysthe says, "freeholders should immediately prepare another charter which does not have the defects this one has."

County Commissioner Ed Munro, Forsythe's opponent, supports the charter even though he personally prefers a consolidation of city and county govvernments.

'FORWARD STEP'

"It's a first forward step," says Munro, "and the charter can easily be amended if any wrinkles develop."

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the 15 freeholders voters selected last November, goes even further.

"An excellent document for King County," he says, "and so far better than anything we have now that I don't have the slightest bit of doubt about it."

Counties as now constituted are creatures of the state.

Under the home-rule charter, King County's governors could act in any area where they are not specifically prohibited from acting.

Now the county is limited to areas where it has a specific legislative grant of power.

A few years ago, county commissioners had to ask the legislature for permission to name a park.

Under the home-rule charter, such dependence on the state would be eliminated.

SELF-GOVERNING

Boosters say the county would become truly self-governing.

County Commissioner John Spellman, a staunch advocate of modernization in county government and an avid charter booster says of the 32-page document:

"I'm fully satisfied with it. I don't think it's the final answer to county government, but it is a step in the right direction and it is easy to amend.

"If something doesn't work out, it can be amended by a simple majority."

That's also what it takes to pass the charter Nov. 5 — or to leave it on the shelf.

(NEXT: The County Executivve)

Seattle Times 10-27-68

Voters at Crossroads On Charter Proposal

BY BILL SIEVERLING

One of the most important decisions facing King County voters next week is whether to approve a proposed charter that would introduce sweeping changes in the structure and operation of county government. This is the first of several articles discussing the charter.

King County voters will decide Nov. 5 whether to trade in their "horse-and buggy" government on a sleek 1968 model.

On the ballot is a proposed home-rule charter which, backers say, would streamline the operations of county government and equip it to deal more responsively and efficiently with the urban problems of a metropolitan area.

The present model is little changed from 1854 when King County had a few hundred residents and a rural economy.

First Of A Series

Critics contend that the cost of county government would be higher under the charter, and they cite reservations about its allocation of powers, its personnel system and its elimination of certain elective officials.

But charter supporters warn that if voters decide to hang on to the creaking but familiar governmental buggy they have known for more than a century, they may find it impossible to "trade up" for many years to come.

LAST ATTEMPT

It has been 16 years since the last and only previous attempt to market a new model of county government. That was in 1952, and the voters weren't buying it by a margin of almost 2-1.

Some observers believe it could be another 16 years say 1986 — before voters have another chance at modernization if they vote down the 1968 charter next month.

The charter is the product of nearly a year's work by 15 freeholders who reached agreement on its provisions after 55 meetings and countless hours of study and discussion.

During their deliberations, the freeholders studied home-rule charters in operation throughout the country. They listened to consultants, to professors, to county officials, to county employes, to politicians.

Like most constitutional documents, what they wrote bears the imprint of compromise.

Unlike the home-rule charter that crashed to defeat in 1952, it is no ivory-tower model divorced from the realities of power and politics.

PARTISAN POLITICS

Unlike its 1952 predecessor, the 1968 version retains partisan politics at the county level, provides for an elected rather than an appointed county executive and guarantees present elected officeholders a lifetime job with the county.

It is a cross between the council-manager and mayor-council archetypes of local government.

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders, calls it a "compromise document in the best traditions of a democracy."

Significantly, all 15 freeholders put their names to the charter, itself a considerable achievement in light of the wide divergence of political and philosophical views among the 15.

The 1968 model of county government they crafted would look like this:

—An elected county executive would perform the executive and administrative functions now vested in the three county commissioners. He would serve a four-year term and receive a salary of $27,000.

Please turn to Page 12, Column 1

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Charter Would Give County 1 Executive

From Page 1

the three-headed dragon of Nov. 5 ballot would slay county government.

In place of the three commissioners — each with his own district, budget director and "empire"—it would substitute a single elected county executive and a nine-member county council.

In many respects, the county executive would be the county counterpart of Seattle Mayor Dorm Braman.

Like the Seattle chief executive, he would prepare a budget, oversee police functions, make appointments, enforce ordinances and statutes, advise the county council on the state of the county, prepare plans and proposals and serve as the county's principal spokesman.

Unlike the Seattle mayor, he could run on a partisan political ticket and probably would. Under the charter, it is possible for an independent candidate to seek the office but he probably would face hard going against party-backed candidates.

EXECUTIVE

The county executive would have broad responsibilities for the operations of county government. He would serve a four-year term and be paid $27,000 a year. The council could raise his salary later.

At the outset, nine functional executive departments and four administrative offices would operate under his supervision. New administrative offices and executive departments could be established later.

To assist him in administering county government, the executive would appoint a county administrative officer who would oversee the administrative offices and generally assist the executive. The administrative officer and all heads of executive departments except the elected county assessor would have to be confirmed by the council.

The assessor would head the Department of Assessments, the one executive department not responsible to the executive.

Also outside the executive's purview would be the county auditor, who would be appointed by the nine-member county council, and the office of citizen complaints, also to be staffed by the council and to be responsible to the county lawmakers.

Likewise outside the executive's sphere of influence would be the powers and duties of the prosecuting attorney, the intermediate school district superintendent and the superior court and justice court judges.

With these exceptions, he would have great authority and great responsibility.

POWER

He undoubtedly would become the most powerful political figure in the county.

Witness Spiro Agnew, who built a power base for his successful Maryland gubernatorial campaign as executive of Baltimore County.

Charter critics say the document would give the executive too much power.

Tom Forsythe, Republican candidate for county commissioner, argues that "after the county executive has established himself, he will have a power base that will make it extremely unlikely that any member of the council will want to go against him."

CHECKS

But the freeholders who drafted the charter counter that argument by citing these checks against runaway power in the hands of the executive:

—The county council must pass on ordinances proposed by the executive. Six members of the council can override a veto by the executive.

—The council must approve the budget submitted by the executive.

—The council must confirm appointments made by the executive.

—The county auditor appointed by the council has been given both pre-audit and post-audit functions in order to watchdog spending by the executive. The auditor would perform much the same service the General Accounting Office carries out for congress.

—The Office of Citizen Complaints, appointed by the council and armed with subpoena power, could bring to light abuses of power by the executive.

—The people have recourse to both the initiative and referendum process if they are unsatisfied with decisions by the executive or the council.

Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the freeholders, contends that this adds up to "more checks than either the state or the federal government has on executive power."

"You have got to have one man take the leadership to get things going," says Wampold, "or otherwise you're going to have buck-passing. The fault is not of the men but of the system.

"Can you imagine the United States government run by three presidents? Can you imagine the state of Washington run by three governors?"

(Next: The county council.)

Charter Would Give County Just One Boss

BY BILL SIEVERLING

King County voters will choose next week whether to change their form of government. This is the second in a series of articles discussing the proposed home-rule charter.

Would you believe a newspaper account that started this way:

"Seattle's mayors voted 2-1 yesterday . . ."

Or this article from Olympia:

"Washington's three governors announced yesterday . . ."

Of course not.

Yet King County residents have been reading such accounts about their county officials for more than a century.

For this county, like the other 38 throughout the state, is governed by a triumvirate — three county commissioners exercising executive legislative functions.

The proposed King County charter on

Please turn to Page 12, Column 1

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

OCT 31 1968

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

Personnel Rules Draw Fire In County Charter

BY BILL SIEVERLING

Seattle and King County voters will decide next Tuesday whether to streamline the very structure of county government here. This is one of a series of articles discussing the proposed home-rule charter.

Nothing in the King County home-rule charter has provoked more controversy than the personnel system it proposes in order to end political patronage at the county level.

Labor spokesmen, deputy sheriffs and the King County Employes' Association have joined in criticizing the personnel provisions of the proposed charter.

The Employes' Assocation recently circulated a typed sheet through the Courthouse, declaring that the proposed merit system under the charter "falls far short of our request for a detailed form of merit system."

"Instead," the sheet continued, "the charter outlines in only a general way a form of merit system, leaving the rules to be set up by and subject to the regulation of, officers to be elected under the charter."

STRENGTH

Freeholders and other supporters of the charter concede the point, but argue it is a strength rather than a weakness.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, says it this way:

"The personnel section is long enough as it is. The charter is supposed to be a constitutional type of document with only the basic framework built in. We're not trying to legislate but to set up a basic framework.

"You have to leave a certain flexibility for policy makers of the county."

Robert C. Pedrini, president of the Employes' Association of a county career service based on merit rather than political allegiance.

The career service would cover about 90 per cent of the county's 2,600 employes. It would not cover elected officials, department heads, certain assistans and personal secretries and part-time or volunteer workers.

EXEMPTED

Also exempt from the career service would be the prosecutor's office, the justice and Superior Court judges, and the office of the intermediate district superintendent of schools. Under the state Constitution, a home-rule charter cannot restructure these offices.

If the charter passes, the county executive would submit a comprehensive set of personnel rules to the county council. The new system would take effect no later than Jan. 1, 1970.

Present county employes would be entitled to enter the career service at current levels of their jobs, and any employe fired or demoted without just cause after June 1 of this year would have a preferential right to revert to the position he held on that date.

The personnel system would be administered by

dent of the Employes' Association, takes a different tack:

"We think the personnel rules should be spelled out in more detail. There are too many loopholes."

CONTROVERSY

Controversy has arisen also over whether the charter gives an employe suspended for less than 60 days the right to an appeal and whether the civil service system now covering sheriff's office employes would be adversely affected.

Freeholders insist the language of the charter merely guarantees as a minimum that any employe suspended for more than 60 days is entitled to an appeal.

Nothing in the charter, they say, would prevent the county council from authorizing appeals for employes suspended less than 60 days.

"It's entirely possible there may be the right to appeal any decsion," says Albrecht. "There is nothing precluding that. All we've done is to say that this is a minimum protection."

Spokesmen for Deputy Sheriffs Local 519 have complained that the charter would lead to absorption of the present sheriff's office civil service system into a county-wide personnel system and that deputies could lose job security they now enjoy.

CONTAINED

But freeholders observe that the charter contains this clause, applicable in the event that the sheriff's civil service system is eventually absorbed into the county-wide personnel system.

"In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employes covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law."

In any event, the sheriffs' civil service system could not be amalgmated with the county personnel system before 1972.

What would the county personnel system look like?

Broadly, what the charter does is to require the es- would be administered by the county executive, and disputes would be appealed to a five-member personnel board.

Four of the five board members would be named by the executive, subject to confirmation by the county council. The fifth member would be chosen by the county employes.

POLITICS OUT

The personnel system would take most county employes out of politics, as well as taking politics out of county employment.

The charter specifically bars members of the career service from engaging in county-level political campaigns or making contributions to candidates for county elective office.

That provision is aimed squarely at the "flower funds" that have flourished for years in the offices of some county elective officials as a means of raising campaign kitties.

It is a practice grand juries have deplored for decades but it has continued nonetheless because of political pressures inherent in the present system.

Charter boostes point out that city, state and federal employes have had career personnel systems for years.

Only at the county level do so many jobs still hinge on the vagaries of politics.

The charter, says its boosters, would finally end the political spoils system in the County Courthouse and make county employment a matter of career rather than political loyalty.

(Next: The Board of Appeals).

TIMES - 10-30-68

Ross Cunningham:

County Project Looks Like Work Of Keystone Cops

IF THE still-rising costs of the King County Courthouse remodeling project were not so staggering, there would be more humor in the apocryphal story going around that it "must be under the management of the Keystone Cops."

The origin of the story seems untraceable. But it must have come from some wag who noticed that the cost estimates for the "building project" now range in sum with those for constructing the county's proposed multipurpose stadium.

ROSS CUNNINGHAM

Construction-cost estimates for the stadium — leaving aside parking and other appendages — are in the neighborhood of $30 million. Everyone can count himself lucky if the county office building complex gets done for that amount.

It is now a "complex" because what started out as a modernizing job on the old County-City Building has branched out into a three-structure setup to meet the county's thirst for space in which to house its administrative offices and the courts.

ALMOST UNNOTICED, THE county's office-space requirements have swelled until they have outgrown the old building and a second proposed building across Fourth Avenue. They also have spilled over into the onetime Children's Orthopedic Hospital structure on Queen Anne Hill. This third building was bought by the county some years ago.

The wisecrack about the Keystone Cops might have come from the fact that policemen, who used to have to go only across the street to transact their business with the coroner's office, now have to pile into cars and drive up to Queen Anne Hill. It isn't a very efficient arrangement, but it seems to be all right with Coroner Leo Sowers.

But since the county commissioners make Sowers' budget, and he has political alliances with them, he is holding his peace even if he and his staff are not genuinely satisfied with the isolated Queen Anne Hill location.

BUT NOT ALL COUNTY officials are pretending to be happy about the overall aspects of the never-done "modernization project." Its costs are eating deeply into money which they say ought to be going into the maintenance of county services to the people.

This is true enough because debt amortization charges on $30 million, give or take a few dollars either way, are accumulating against the county's day-to-day income — and in amounts that will grow much larger as the three-building program gets further along, perhaps to expand even more.

The county drifted into this debacle after the Seattle municipal government, feeling too cramped in quarters shared with the county in the old County-City Building, built its own structure nearby.

AT THAT TIME, IT WAS said that with a little patching up, refurbishing and some wall moving, county offices could expand to take up the city-vacated space and the county's space problems would be met for some years to come. This, it was said, could be done for around $3 million.

But the $3-million figure expanded to more than $10 million in two or three years and then it was found that already the county's space requirements had outstripped the old building.

There was a political casualty at this point: Angry voters turned Commissioner Scott Wallace out of office and replaced him with John Spellman. Wallace, of course, was not primarily responsible for the building debacle. He just happened to have succeeded Ed Munro as board chairman and bravely tried to defend the project. In retrospect, it looks as though Wallace was the political scapegoat.

WHEN SPELLMAN REPLACED Wallace, Republicans had control of the board and John T. O'Brien became its chairman and mastermind of the big building binge. With Munro sniping as the minority board member, O'Brien produced the plan for a second building across Fourth Avenue, and again it was said that the county's requirements for office space would be met "for years to come."

Those were mighty short "years," however, in view of the shift of the coroner's office to Queen Anne Hill even before the new building on Fourth Avenue was started.

Even more disenchanting than the history of the building project are the political intrigues that will prove or disprove themselves in next Tuesday's election.

THE WORD IS AROUND that, with the approach of the 1968 election season, Munro and O'Brien made a deal, which they surely will deny now. But as the story goes, Munro agreed to see what he could do to keep the Democratic Party from fielding a strong candidate against O'Brien and Republican O'Brien would do likewise in behalf of Munro.

In the light of subsequent events, it looks as though Munro got the short end of the deal. The Democratic Party fielded a nonstrong candidate, R. Judge Owens, against O'Brien. Owens is running a virtually penniless campaign against O'Brien's glittering array of billboards financed by friendly contributors.

Munro is being opposed by a first-rate Republican nominee, Thomas M. Forsythe, who — while he doesn't seem to have a war chest as large as Munro's — is putting on a fair-sized campaign.

FORSYTHE, A BOEING customer engineer on leave, has good qualifications as a Tukwila city councilman and an officer in the Civil Air Patrol with a driving interest in government that may well stem from an urge to keep busy because of a deep personal tragedy, the death of a son.

Yet both Owens and Forsythe are up against the county political machine, which right now is dedicated to defeating the proposed county charter and the retention of Munro and O'Brien in office to maintain the status quo.

The machine ignores partisan lines when its interests are threatened and it is a powerful force which, among other things, can litter the countryside with hundreds of political signs overnight while tearing down as many of those posted by political opposites.

THE OUTLOOK, OF COURSE, is that O'Brien and Munro will win — having the advantages of name familiarity, the county machine, and the sources of campaign-fund income that go along with being the incumbents. If so, they will apply their managerial talents to building the domed stadium — probably at a site south of the city.

Seattle, Wash.
Post-Intelligencer
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NOV 2 1968

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

If Charter Passes, Sharp Transition Period Due

BY BILL SIEVERLING

In the accompanying article, last of a series, reporter Bill Sieverling discusses some of the numerous changes that will take place in government if the proposed new county charter is adopted by the electorate.

Remember the town council that voted to tear down the old school house, build a new school on the same site and keep school in session in the meantime?

King County government will be in somewhat that situation if Seattle and King County voters approve the proposed home-rule charter next Tuesday.

Even charter supporters acknowledge that the next year will be a period of sharp and probably painful transition while the new county team takes the baton from the old.

The charter itself would become effective May 1, 1969.

Well before that time, however, the process of choosing the county's new leadership would have been completed.

Under the charter, candidates for county executive and the county council would have to file for office between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20.

ASSESSOR

County Assessor Allen B. Morgan would continue in office under the charter until 1971 unless he should resign or seek another county office.

The number of county councilmen to be elected will depend on whether any of the present county commissioners decide to seek the office of county executive — or county assessor if Morgan should decide to leave that position.

A commissioner who does decide to run would lose his automatic seat on the county council provided by the charter. If all three commissioners decide not to file for another office, only six seats on the nine-member county council would be voted on next spring.

The field of candidates for county executive and the council would be narrowed at special primary election Feb. 11.

A special general election would be held March 11.

Although the charter would take effect officially May 1, it would probably take the remainder of the year to get the new system in full operation.

For example, the charter provides that a county-wide personnel system based on merit must take effect no later than Jan. 1, 1970.

The quasi-judicial Board of Appeals, on the other hand, would have to be set up by June 1.

OFFICIALS

Elected county officials whose offices are abolished by the charter would be guaranteed a county job at the same rate of pay until they reach retirement age.

Most other county employes would have the right to move into the career service at job levels comparable to their present positions.

Employes who were on the county payroll as of last June 1, but who are fired or demoted without cause before the personnel system takes effect, would have a preferential right to enter the career service in a position similar to the one they held.

The charter specifically provides for an orderly transfer of power from the old regime to the new, requiring existing officials to stay on the job until their duties have been taken over by others.

Boards and commissions whose functions are not specifically transferred to other agencies by the charter would stay in business for four months — that is, until Sept. 1, 1969.

At that time they would cease to exist, unless the county council specifically voted to keep them going.

Freeholders say that boards and commissions — such as the Planning Commission — would probably stay on, at least in an advisory capacity, for the time being.

The decision, of course, would rest with the county council.

BUDGETING

Taking much longer will be the transition from present line - item budgeting procedures to a performance budget, showing what the county is accomplishing in various areas for the money it spends.

That process already started without a charter.

But the charter specifies that budgets must "be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense."

Present line-item budgeting shows the number of people in each department and the amount spent for equipment and supplies, but it does not relate this to goals and objectives of the agency.

In order to provide flexibility in streamlining budget procedures, the charter permits the county council to combine the Department of Planning and the budget function of the Office of Budgets and Accounts.

It may also combine the Department of Finance and the accounting function of the Office of Budgets and Accounts.

These are the only two changes in the structure of executive departments and administrative offices permitted during the first two years the charter is in effect.

Obviously, the transition from one form of government to another will cost money.

Two special elections will be required, and there will be higher salary costs at the top levels of government, as the executive and nine - member council replace three commissioners and their budget directors.

How much that cost will be is a matter of dispute.

County Treasurer M. J. R. Williams set the cost last week at $1.5 million and he said the county would have to go into deficit financing because there are no funds in the county's 1969 budget for the transition.

But County Commissioner John Spellman, a charter backer, dismissed Williams' statement as "another example of the old pros opposing the charter."

Spellman said Williams' cost estimates were inflated like a giant balloon.

He said additional salary costs for 1969 under the charter would be well under $100,000 and he disputed estimates that the two special elections would cost $500,000.

Spellman conceded, however, that the election process is not cheap, but he said that it is the price of democracy and that money would be available for that purpose.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the freeholders, contends it is virtually impossible to determine costs of county government under the charter "since we don't know what demands will be placed on the county next year.

"How do you measure governmental services in dollars and cents?" he asks.

"My belief is that the charter will probably result in a less expensive, more efficient government with more representation for the people than we have now.

"It isn't going to cost any more money in property taxes because the limits remain applicable. We're just reallocating the eight mills now levied by the county.

"But the taxpayer would be getting a lot more for his money because he would have more representation."

Whether the taxpayers agree waits on next Tuesday.

That's when the voters decide whether the charter will become a living document or an historical footnote.

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Charter Gets Backing, But Also Criticism

By Our County News Bureau

The proposed King County charter on which voters will decide next Tuesday continued to gather endorsements along with some brickbats this week.

Latest groups to announce their support include the board of trustees of the King County Medical Society and the Bellevue Area Self-Improvement Council, Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders who drafted the home rule document, announced yesterday.

But dissenters continued to voice their disapproval of the proposed modernization of county government, chief of whom this week was State Sen. John Stender, 30th legislative district.

Stender declared he was not in accord with the proposed charter and said he believed it to be "not in the best interests of the people in King County to adopt this proposal."

He noted that the only parts of the charter proposal with which he did agree are those which would enlarge the present three-man Board of County Commissioners, and pertaining to referendum opportunities.

Stender was critical of charter provisions whereby presently elected county officers would become appointive, and of the duties of a county administrative officer. This is a position whose duties could be handled by the Board of County Commissioners, he said.

Boeing Co. Endorses King County Charter

By Our County News Bureau

William Allen, chairman of the board of directors of Boeing Co., yesterday announced the company's support of the proposed home-rule county charter on which voters will decide next Tuesday.

The announcement was viewed by charter boosters as a huge boost to its chances at the polls, as well as an effective counter to the almost united front against the charter posed by organized labor.

Allen said in his endorsement that "while the charter does contain some contentious provisions, the document is an improvement of the present form of county government."

Boeing Co. commends the freeholders for the quality and quantity of their effort, Allen continued, praising them for "wisely avoiding most of the significant pitfalls which helped defeat the charter in 1952." He said that adoption of the charter would result in major reorganization of King County government, including the separation of powers and improved functional administration. If it's rejected, he said, it would maintain the county's present status quo.

Two other groups and individuals added their support to the prestigious Boeing endorsement, including King County Assessor Allen B. Morgan and the Puget Sound chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The society praised the charter as one providing for administrative and structural improvements that promise greater efficiency, effectiveness, and responsibility in King County government.

Morgan declared his support on the grounds that the charter would provide "the kind of executive and professional management that King County has needed for a long time. In my opinion, one of the salient features of the charter is the creation of a career service for county employes."

Sheriff Jack Porter, however, announced his opposition to the charter — for substantially the same reasons. He also was critical of charter provisions making the office of sheriff appointive rather than elective as at present.

Porter declared that 320 members of his department who fought for a state law giving them a good civil service system, have no choice under the proposed charter in their future job security.

He also declared that a survey he conducted of home rule counties in the country showed that sheriffs in those counties believe overwhelmingly that the position of sheriff should be elective.

Charter Offers Better County Government

By JOHN L. FOURNIER

Last year the voters of King County elected 15 freeholders to prepare a charter of government for King County. Inherent in that election was approval of the home rule philosophy which would provide a modern, efficient system of government. That charter has been prepared and accepted and is now before the voters for their final approval and adoption.

There was a substantial difference of opinion among the charter freeholders during the many months in which they struggled and studied in order to prepare a worthwhile charter. Finally, they did prepare a document which was adopted unanimously by the group which had many diverse opinions. Nevertheless, these 15 charter freeholders did agree upon a charter to be submitted to the citizens of King County.

It is only natural that not all agreed with the provisions of the charter, and the opposition to the charter has continued to grow and flourish in those areas where private or professional interests are at stake.

If the voters would turn back the pages to 16 years ago when a similar charter was prepared and presented to the public it would be found that the opposition to that charter came primarily from one political office which was to be abolished – the office of the sheriff. Citizens will find that a great deal of the opposition to this modern charter comes from the same office.

The primary complaint of the sheriff and his staff is that they will lose civil service and that the personnel system as set up under the charter will not provide equal benefits. But the freeholders did consider the sheriff's civil service system and wrote a special section for benefit of the sheriff's employees and protection of the system which carries their civil service benefits in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the new personnel system. At the end of the two-year period the county council may then by ordinance provide the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and its duties be assumed by the personnel system. The charter goes further to say: "In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system ..."

Under this specific language and special attention given to the sheriff's office we cannot agree with the sheriff's department in its opposition to the charter.

Again, as previously, county employees are opposing the charter just as they did in 1952. It is obvious this type of opposition can easily be stirred up by the elective officials whose positions will be eliminated by charter provisions, even though they will be allowed to serve out their terms at full pay and will be subject to appointment to administrative positions.

A third group of opponents of the charter are certain labor groups for obvious reasons. These obvious reasons are a possible loss of control of employee groups under the new personnel system which does, however, provide for collective bargaining through the enactment of ordinances calling for such representation.

Perhaps the least palatable and most openly opposed section of the charter is that which deals with the expansion of the county council to nine members and to the redistricting of the county into nine districts. The decision to expand the council to nine, although not necessarily a fatal one, has created a sounding board for the opposition.

For those who oppose the King County charter on the basis that it is not perfect, we may quickly ask what basic charter of government is perfect? Certainly not the constitution of the State of Washington which is outmoded and needs revision – and, most certainly, not the present King County governmental system which is fashioned from an unwieldy segment of the archaic state constitution.

King County has been fortunate to have an above average government under the constructive leadership of the present county commissioners during the past several years. Nevertheless, the commissioners themselves recognize the need for change and have endorsed this home rule charter and have asked for approval of the voters of this document for the benefit of the county as a whole and the individual taxpayer and citizen.

Freeholder Leader Asks OK of Charter

By Our County News Bureau

An urgent appeal to voters to support the county's proposed home-rule charter next Tuesday was issued yesterday by Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders which drafted the document.

"I hope voters will not be misled by the emotional appeals of some of the people in the Courthouse, that are not related to the provisions of the charter," Albrecht declared. "I also hope that voters will recognize the choice Tuesday is between an efficient, responsive administration under the charter or a continuation of the present system."

Speculating on what would happen if the charter goes down to defeat, Albrecht said that if voters miss this chance, the county would be headed for serious problems and would require at least another ten years to gather sufficient momentum to produce another try.

"In the meantime, the county is spending an increasing percentage of available money to vote special bond issues for various purposes, including courthouse remodeling, that can only produce an upward cost spiral and lower level of county services," he emphasized.

Albrecht said he was encour

(Continued on Page 3)

Charter

(Continued from Page 1)

aged by the fact that there has been no opposition to the charter that hasn't had an easy answer.

"What organized opposition we have encountered has been based on a misunderstanding of what the charter would do, or the selfish interests of specific groups or individuals involved," he declared. "This is proven by the fact that no one has been willing to debate use on the issue, including the president of the King County Labor Council."

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

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Local Freeholders Urge New Charter

Three Valley representatives on the 15-man Freeholder Committee, which drew up the proposed new King County charter for home rule to be voted on Tuesday, this week expressed their confidence in the charter and urged voters to accept it.

Jim Curran, attorney from Kent, said: "After all the fireworks we had, the thing generates down to a decision to be made by the voters on whether we wish to take advantage of this opportunity to improve and upgrade the structure of government in King County.

"This opportunity comes after a lapse of 16 years from the last attempt. If we turn it down now, I'm sure it will be a long time again before we have another chance. I am confident it (the charter) will be a good thing for our county," Curran concluded.

Terry McKenna of Kent, an airline pilot, was in the minority on a few points during the drawing up of the charter, but nevertheless is a strong supporter of the product that will be going before the voters of the county Tuesday. He said:

"The 15 persons who worked on this charter had diverse political and economic opinions and backgrounds, and in presenting this document to the voters we are offering our best judgments on future government for King County. We have come up with a document that represents hundreds of hours of work and study. We interviewed many persons with professional experience and knowledge, some of them coming from other states. We studied many other charters, and had a tremendous amount of advice from experts in the field of political science, including members of the teaching staffs of our state colleges and universities. And out of all of this, came this document," said McKenna.

"I feel it can work and that it does not represent any substantial or dangerous increase in the cost of county government. The increase of cost would be negligible for the amount of good it could accomplish," he added.

Sees Stronger Government

Lyle R. Schneider, Auburn attorney and a member of the Freeholders board, has long advocated the county charter. He was one of the men who helped hammer out the proposed charter as presented in the general election ballot. Schneider has "campaigned" for the charter through talks to civic groups and other gatherings of interested groups.

Schneider said the charter should provide the framework and the tools to give better performance in government, and should stop fragmentation of our county government.

"It should unite and strengthen all departments in county government and it should reduce the power of the bureaucracy. Offshoots of county powers like 'Metro' should never happen again. Why should one county power be competing with another?"

Another question asked by Schneider is: "Why should we keep on creating tax free agencies with tax free properties? Why should we allow tax free retirement homes to flourish under the utilities provided by tax-collected dollars?"

Schneider continued: "We must operate our county government to give the people confidence and encouragement to locate, prosper and expand right at home. This charter can do just that. It is not a perfect charter. It does not cure all ills, but it is a tremendous start in the right direction. A vote for the charter is an investment in better government."

Schneider pointed out five "salient facts" he said were derived after more than 2,000 hours in 55 different meetings examining county charters from other like counties in the United States, listening to citizens groups express their wishes for a new county government and drafting the best provisions possible into the new charter.

In summation, Schneider said the study resulted in this:

"1. The people needed more direct representation in each of the districts throughout the county.

"2. We needed a separation of powers, i.e., we must have an executive branch, a legislative branch and a judicial branch.

"3. We needed full-time legislators, whether we called them county commissioners, or councilmen, elected by district.

"4. Co-ordination of services in the county.

"5. Fewer elective officials and more appointive positions based upon training ability and experience. In other words, the people are tired of electing officials based upon a popularity contest."

In conclusion, Schneider pointed out that King County now has 1,200,000 people and conservatively will have 2,000,000 people by 1985.

"King County presently has a population equal to 15 of the states in our United States. How can three county commissioners serve such a large county?" he demanded.

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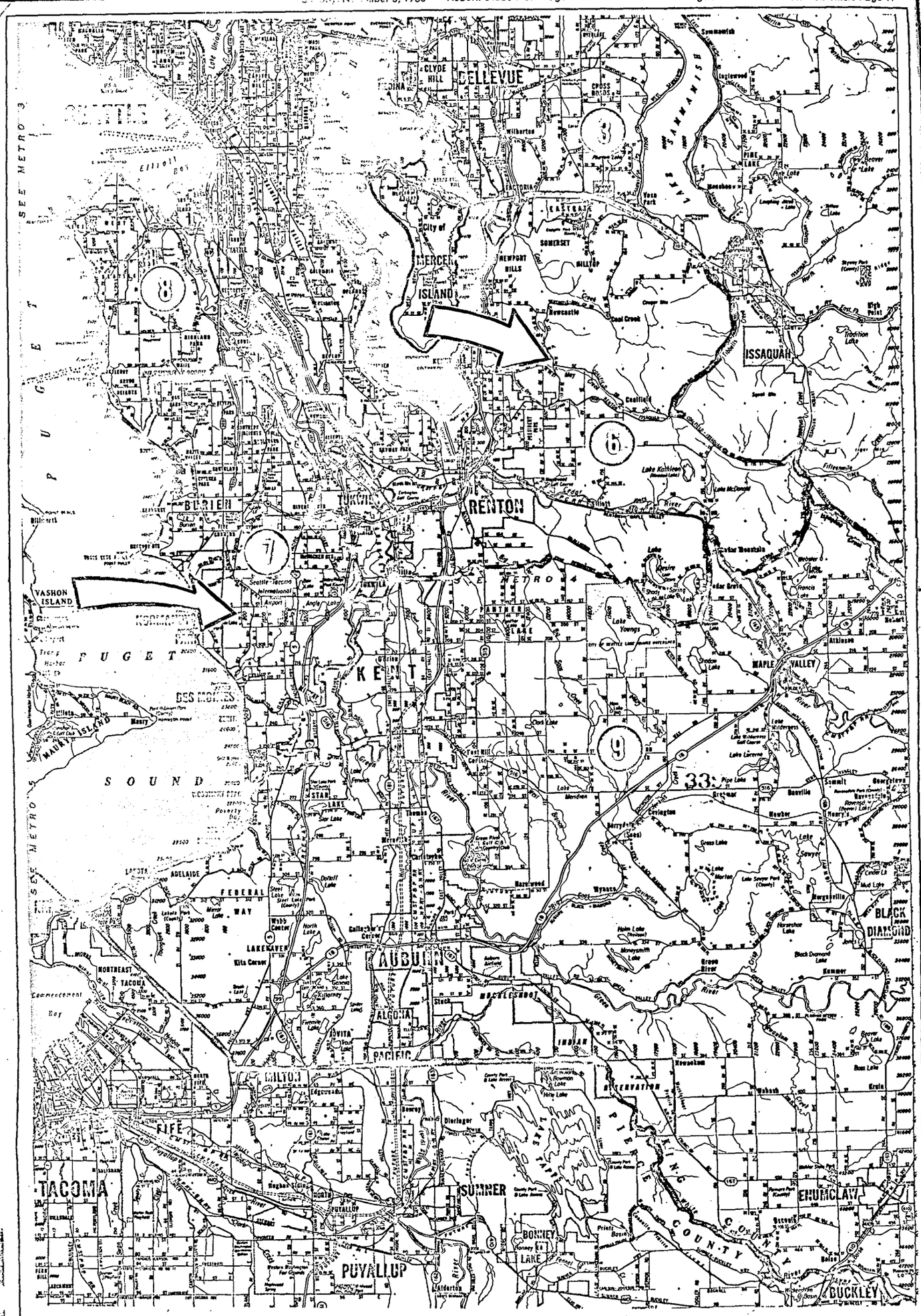

Proposed County Districts

The proposed home rule county charter on which voters will cast their ballot Tuesday divides the county into nine new legislative districts. Residents in each of these districts will nominate and elect from their own district one county councilman, replacing the present three-man Board of County Commissioners. Note how the Valley is divided into Legislative Districts 7 and 9, in the map on opposite page. This is the first map published in King County showing voters precise geographical details of the new districts.

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Passage of Charter Starts Wheels Rolling

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Supporters of county-government reform in King County won a major victory at the polls last night, paving the way for a home-rule charter to take effect May 1.

The victory total, despite heavy criticism by labor and some county officials and employes, was nearly 62 per cent of the vote.

Tht will mean two more county elections, a primary February 11 and general election March 11 to select a county executive — similar to a mayor — and nine councilmen from districts. Three of those councilmen already are in office. The incumbent county commissioners will take over district spots.

Filing for candidacy will occur the week of December 16. A second week was set aside by the charter for filing in case one of the incumbent commissioners seeks election to another post. Then filing for that spot vacated by the filing would begin the week of December 23.

Richard Albrecht, chairman of the county Board of Freeholders, was elated at the victory. The favorable percentage topped the most optimistic estimates by 10 per cent.

All three county commissioners had supported the measure.

THIS IS the first county charter approved in the state under a constitutional amendment adopted in 1948. King County tried once before, in 1952, but the charter lost by 2 to 1.

Speculation began immediately on who would seek the county executive position. Some observers believe the county executive will become one of the most powerful political figures in the state.

Commissioner Ed Munro said he has not decided yet. Commissioner John Spellman said he has been approached by some people, but is not a candidate and would not consider it unless he felt there was a sizable consensus that he should make the race.

Albrecht called the adoption "a wonderful vote of confidence for the work of the freeholders." He said he hopes those who supported the charter now will take an interest in attracting and supporting capable leadership to implement it. Albrecht has said repeatedly he is not a candidate for public office.

Board of Freeholders went

TECHNICALLY, the out of business last night. Albreecht said, however, he will hold himself available and other freeholders and the staff will be available to consult with the county commissioners and department heads to make the transition as smooth and orderly as possible.

Munro said there always are problems in a transition but they can be solved.

John Chambers, executive secretary of the State Association of County Commissioners, predicted adoption of the charter will mean three or four more passed in other counties within a few years.

"The principle of separation of powers, a legislative and administrative branch, in the King County charter will be a model for other counties," Chambers forecast.

Adoption of the charter also may be the catalyst for the Legislature to clarify home-rule powers which now are unclear, Chambers added. He said he would expect an effort to have the Legislature at least make a statement that all powers not denied by the Legislature are authorized to counties.

MUNRO SAID the commissioners will have to provide money for the election required by the charter and revise the budget as soon as the election cost is determined.

But Spellman put at ease fears particularly in the sheriff's office that salary boosts for deputies and 35 new officers put in the 1969 budget will be dropped.

"We'll have to sit down and have some serious meetings on how we're going to make the transition," Spellman said. He said the county should cut back and hold down spending until the new charter goes into effect by not hiring replacements for employes and not making long-term commitments.

Free Hand Urged For New County Officials

County Commissioner John Spellman proposed today that the Board of King County Commissioners not make any long-term commitments but rather give the new officials under a country Charter a free hand.

He said this would include some but not all aspects of reparations for a stadium.

He said the present board should not encumber the new governmental structure. The Charter government goes into effect May 1.

Spellman said he will recommend to all elected officials that they give serious thought to not undertaking major new programs or instituting radical departures.

"THAT WILL GIVE the new government a relatively free hand," Spellman said.

But this could not apply to all aspects of the stadium, he said. "Some things have to be done," Spellman said. "We have a schedule and a design commission."

He said the decision on a site should come before May. Spellman said the lease with the tenants may have to be negotiated before the transition but that the lease on stadium concessions should not.

Spellman asserted a lease with the tenants — the Seattle Pilots Baseball Club — would have to be negotiated before construction begins. "Otherwise we could have a white elephant on our hands," he said.

THIS COULD OCCUR before the transition, he said. But because this is such an important lease in King County, the county should get a team of top experts to act as negotiators for the county, Spellman said. He said this team should review other similar leases and calculate the economic return needed.

"No one on the board is capable of handling that," Spellman said. "But there are business and professional people in Seattle who are."

Spellman said he definitely feels negotiations on stadium concessions should be postponed until the government transition.

OTHER AREAS that should be postponed until the new county structure takes affect would include hiring major new department heads and a major decision on the future of Boeing Field, Spellman said. He said he feels long-term commitments in these areas would be inappropriate.

A decision on a stadium site may come November 15, the deadline for meeting conditions by the city for placing the stadium at Seattle Center.

O'Brien, Munro Win; to Be On 9-Member Charter Board

County Commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro were swept back into office yesterday, keeping the same line-up on the Board of County Commissioners.

But with adoption of the county charter, they will become part of a nine-member board May 1.

As of now, control of the three-member board remains with the Republicans. John Spellman was a holdover commissioner.

O'Brien, also a Republican and chairman of the board, got nearly 60 per cent of the vote in incomplete and unofficial returns. He was seeking re-election to the Central District.

Munro, a commissioner since 1958 and president of the National Association of County Officers, received 54.6 per cent of the vote in defeating Thomas M. Forsythe, Tukwila city councilman. Munro is the lone Democrat on the board.

O'Brien received 189,535 votes to defeat R. Judge Owens, Democrat, and Hascal O. Humes, the New Party candidate. Owens received 125,986 votes and Humes 2,656. Munro received 176,025 and Forsythe, 146,158 votes. That count was for 2,157 of 2,257 precincts, or 95 per cent of the vote.

School-Levy Losses of Grave Concern

217.7

THERE is cause for both gratification and dismay in the outcome of yesterday's voting on local and state-wide ballot propositions.

Of the deepest concern is the apparent failure of excess-levy measures in 9 of 20 school elections held in the Seattle-King County area. The loss of nearly half of these issues occurred in a pattern that suggests disapproval not so much of education policies as of the methods of school financing and high property taxes.

This interpretation grows out of a comparison between voter reaction to school measures and the response to other pocketbook propositions. Generous approval, for example, was given multimillion-dollar bond issues for state institutional buildings and recreation and pollution-control programs to be paid for from excise taxes.

But there was less-vigorous support for school levies, despite the fact that they are needed not for educational frills, but for basic maintenance and operations.

Moreover, the rejection of a plan for two-year excess-levy periods and the loss of school measures in such districts as Shoreline, Lake Washington and Bellevue—normally strong supporters of school programs—points to a taxpayers' "revolt," a mandate for improving the school-financing structure.

Because the loss of levies involves intolerable fiscal problems for the schools, particularly in Seattle, there can be no waiting upon tax-reform developments in the 1969 Legislature. Emergency action, including the timing of resubmitting school measures, was taken under immediate study today, and properly so.

Elsewhere on the ballot, there were brighter tidings. Ratification of the King County charter sets the stage for an ~~end to the "old"~~ Courthouse politics and creation of an efficient county administration more responsive to modern-day needs. Seattle voters were not fooled by the opposition's scare tactics and gave long-overdue approval to a water-fluoridation ordinance.

State-wide, justifiable public concern over highway hazards and the dwindling supply of green-belt lands was reflected in endorsement of implied-consent intoxication tests for motorists and a plan for encouraging retention of open space on the fringes of urban areas.

Washington voters also displayed their distrust of trade barriers by wisely rejecting a proposed curb on log exports.

There was apparent willingness, however, to legislate artificial changes elsewhere in the economic area. Although it evidently was rejected in King County, the controversial initiative to fix a lower ceiling on installment-purchase service charges found sufficient votes state-wide to win passage.

It now remains to be seen whether this action will indeed cause serious damage to the state's economy, as the opposition contended it would. If undesirable results do flow from the new law, the Legislature will have to consider early modifications, if not outright repeal.

Charter, Fluoridation Vote Totals

217.7

Here is how King County and Seattle voters balloted on major local measures:

KING COUNTY CHARTER
(2,157 of 2,257 precincts)

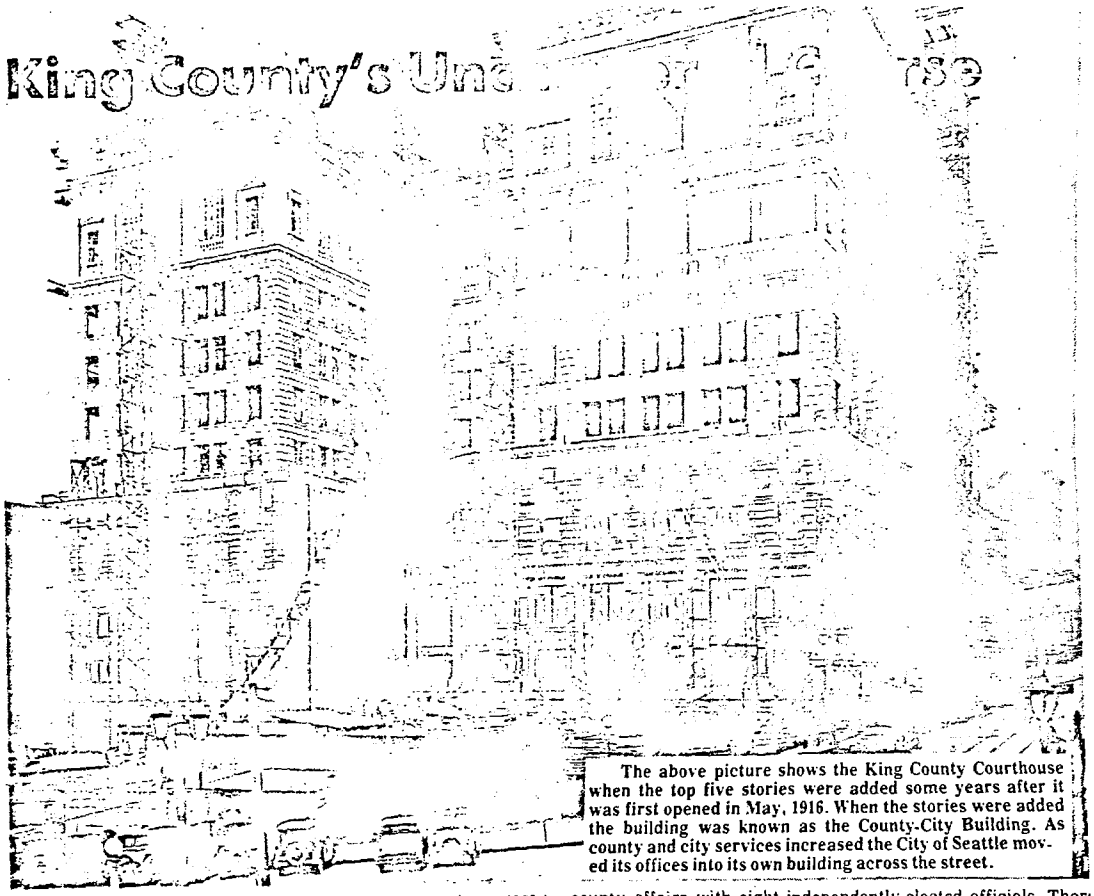
For	179,235
Against	110,818

SEATTLE FLUORIDATION
(Incomplete)

For	97,053
Against	74,879

341

King County's Uns[illegible]



The above picture shows the King County Courthouse when the top five stories were added some years after it was first opened in May, 1916. When the stories were added the building was known as the County-City Building. As county and city services increased the City of Seattle moved its offices into its own building across the street.

(Ed. note: The following is a reprint from Viewpoint, a 1966 issue, published by the Seattle League of Women Voters—updated where needed.)

Once upon a time, a young woman who had just moved to Seattle stopped in at the King County Library and asked for a copy of the County Charter. As the brand-new chairman of the King County Government Committee of the League of Women Voters, she thought she would begin her research with the fundamental document.

To her embarrassment (the Librarian laughed) and surprise, the new Seattleite discovered that there was no Charter. The structure of government for her County was established by the Constitution and subsequent acts of the legislature. Cities of over 10,000 could have home rule charters, but counties could not.

At about this time, some other organizations were also studying County government and the possibilities of Home Rule. Before long, helped by the League, they persuaded the State Legislature and the voters to pass a constitutional amendment granting the privilege to counties, even as the original constitution did to cities.

Twenty years have gone by. The young lady has changed. Her hair is grey, wrinkles line her face and her children have become young adults.

Seattle has changed too, and King County's assessed valuation has quadrupled, to a figure over $2.2 billion. One third of the State of Washington's population now lives in King County, more outside the City of Seattle than within the expanded city limits. The annual budget of King County has reached and passed the $60 million mark, but the government continues on its un-Chartered course.

Today's young women, and men, may ask: What difference does it make? Why shouldn't the Legislature continue to spell out the organizational structure of the counties?

For the answer, one has to go back more than twenty years—to 1854, when the Washington Territorial Assembly established the basic form of county government. The county was conceived to be an agency of State government to serve a rural area. The structure was the same as that prescribed when Washington was part of the Oregon Territory.

It followed the pattern of rural government in the United States as a whole, a form of government based on a philosophy of distrust of the strong executive (experience with European monarchs and despots had left its mark), diffusion of power among many elected officials and trust in the faith of the people to choose wisely from among their neighbors in the small communities.

Thirty-five years later, the framers of the Constitution of Washington State adopted this form of government for all the counties. It probably worked well in 1889.

Since then, the Legislature has followed the same pattern. When new functions were felt necessary, new offices were created and new demands made upon the counties to perform the jobs.

The government was made more complicated but never modernized and streamlined.

King County still has three commissioners, referred to in the Constitution as the legislative authority who administers county affairs with eight independently-elected officials. There is not only no separation of powers but the administrative power is diffused.

In addition to performing its 19th Century duties such as tax-collecting, courts, law-enforcement and record-keeping, the county has now to face the urban problems of present-day America, county-wide problems such as garbage disposal, air pollution, transportation, zoning and economic development. It also serves as the local unit of government for residents who do not live within one of the 30 cities and towns within its borders.

"Home Rule" is not just an emotional slogan. It is a means whereby the entire structure of the County government may be overhauled and modernized at one time.

The Constitution provided for the independently-elected offices of Treasurer, Sheriff, Clerk and Prosecuting Attorney, as well as for elected Judges of the Superior Court and Justices of the Peace.

A Home Rule Charter—like the one before King County voters Tuesday—cannot change the status of the Prosecutor of the Courts, but it will eliminate the necessity of popular election of most administrative officials.

The Legislature provided for election of the Auditor, Coroner, Assessor and Superintendent of Schools. The proposed Home Rule charter makes the offices of Auditor and Coroner appointive and the Assessor's elective position unchanged. The charter does not effect the post of Superintendent of Schools.

A chart on the structure of King County government shows a large number of boards and commissions, some advisory only, some administrative as well, created by acts of the State Legislature. These groups will be disbursed between the executive and legislative branches, not now separated, of the government outlined by the proposed charter.

A merit system will replace the spoils system, in all county offices, if the charter is passed. At present, only the Sheriff's Office is not governed by patronage.

A nine man county council to establish policy for the county has been proposed to replace the Board of Commissioners with three members, thus more representation.

The new charter was a result of six months of study and meetings by 15 freeholders elected in February. Petitions required the election of the Board of County Freeholders and for a charter drafting.

King County voters turned down one Charter for Home Rule which was submitted to them in 1952, 16 years ago.

There is considerable support for the old adage: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." In some cases inadequate county services and lack of direct representation, especially felt in unincorporated areas, could provide the impetus for change, although political scientists say it takes a gross scandal or intolerable conditions to give the impetus. (The formation of Metro, a new form of government enabling local communities to work together, was probably due to the runaway pollution of Lake Washington.) And King County has had its share of scandals in recent years.

Widespread citizen participation has brought the charter on the long road to its position on the Tuesday ballot. Awareness of what the charter can mean to the future of King County should make it a successful issue. And the young women who appeared in the first paragraph may be dead in another twenty years.

3/2

Parties Would Get 'Even Break' With Charter

By JERRY BERGSMAN

Nine councilman districts created by the county charter give each major political party an even break, a computerized precinct - by - precinct analysis showed today.

Robert Gogerty, president of Urban Data Services, Inc., said the conclusion was reached after an analysis of nine election races during three election years.

The sophisticated map is outlined in a color scheme that shows at a glance how each precinct in King County has voted during those years. It is supported by a thick set of statistical data.

GOGERTY told The Times the analysis shows three districts would be Republican, three Democratic and three would swing between the parties. Of the swing districts, one would lean toward Republican candidates and a second toward Democratic candidates.

He said the districts classified as being for one party vote consistently with a margin for that party of 52 per cent or more.

The report supports the freeholders' contention that the districts they established are fair to both parties. The King County Labor Council charged they were gerrymandered in favor of Republican candidates.

The chairmen of both political parties in King County also listed the districts as fair.

Gogerty, who serves as a consultant for the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, said the analysis was developed independently for a political candidate. It was done on a state-wide basis.

"IN MY OPINION, all the distortions are factored out," he said. "I will be willing to back up this data against anyone."

An overlay outlining the councilman districts was placed on the King County precinct map without charge.

To obtain the results, precincts were analyzed for candidates in the state representative and United States congressional races for 1960, 1962 and 1964, for secretary of state in 1960 and 1964 and for United States senator in 1960. Gogerty said 1966 races were not used because legislative district boundary changes that year would have made the results incompatible and invalid.

Gogerty, who majored in political science, developed the program jointly with an engineer and an economist. He said it takes into account a variety of factors designed to eliminate distortions. By striking an average, he said, unusual situations were brought back into perspective.

THE FACTORS to determine how often a precinct swings from one party to another was taken into account. A swing district is considered one in which a party may obtain anywhere from 48 to 52 per cent of the vote but can be anywhere from 46 to 53 per cent.

The breakdown was in integrals of 4 per cent until one party obtained 68 per cent or more of the vote.

His analysis of the councilman districts are as follows:

The First District (Shoreline and Bothell), Second District (Green Lake, University and Sand Point areas) and Third District (Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Issaquah) are Republican. The Fourth District (Ballard, Queen Anne and Magnolia) is a swing that tends to be Republican. The First District is close to being in the area of a swing district.

THE FIFTH (Seattle's central area), Eighth (West Seattle, Beacon Hill, White Center) and Ninth District (Kent, Auburn, Enumclaw and Federal Way) are Democratic. The Sixth (Renton Maple Valley, Newport Hill and Mercer Island is swing district that tends t be Democratic. Gogert said the heavy Republica vote on Mercer Island i more than offset by th Democratic vote in Rentor The average vote in the dis trict is 8,200 to 7,200 for th Democratic candidate.

Gogerty said the Sevent District (Normandy Park Burien and Vashon Island is clearly a swing district.

Seattle, Wash.
Post-Intelligencer
(Cir. 198,312 Sat. Mor. 184,332
Sun. 239,092)

NOV 1 1968

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

Boeing Indorses School Levies, County Charter

The Boeing Co. made a blanket recommendation yesterday for approval of all local school levies and the proposed new county charter in next Tuesday's election.

The indorsments were made by William M. Allen, Boeing chief executive officer, in articles in the company newspaper.

Allen said of the charter proposition:

"The Boeing Co. commends the freeholders for the quality and quantity of effort expended in developing the charter. In drafting the proposed charter they have wisely avoided most of the significant pitfalls which led to the defeat of the charter proposed in 1952."

Allen said it is the company's belief that the new charter document "is a substantial improvement over the present form of government."

Boeing's indorsement of the school issues urged employes to consider education money as a step to social progress.

"More and more in our company we see the benefits of sound public education program," said Allen. "In seeking solutions to many of today's complex problems, we must recognize the important role of schools.

"If we are to continue to advance as a community, and as a successful company within the community, then both company and community must share responsibility for supporting the public education system."

There are 19 general fund special levies in King County alone to raise more than $74 million.

The Seattle levy of 25.28 mills will raise $29.45 million over the 1969-71 time period.

The levies require a 60 per cent majority vote and a turnout of 40 per cent of the last general election for validation.

'Ballooning' Costs of Charter Denied

2/1/71

Two county commissioners today disputed contentions that the proposed county charter would balloon the cost of government and said it actually should save at least $500,000 a year.

In a joint statement, Commissioners Ed Munro and John Spellman urged adoption of the charter Tuesday. Delaying it would not improve the county's financial position, they said.

"In fact," they said, "without instituting good management and budgeting practices now, the county may well be losing ground rather than gaining."

SPELLMAN gave assurances that money was available to make the transition.

"The form of government under a charter will cost less," he said. "We will make the transition at no additional cost."

Commissioner John T. O'Brien said he did not join in the statement because he had not seen it early enough to study it. He has endorsed the charter, with some reservations about the size of the County Council.

The two top officials of CHECC (Choose a More Effective City Council) gave their support to adoption of the charter.

Peter Le Sourd, chairman, and Camden Hall, vice chairman of the political-action group, said they were endorsing it as individuals interested in stronger and better local government.

"IN OUR estimation," they said, "the proposed charter will streamline the county and make it a more effective and viable instrument providing improved services to all citizens of both incorporated and unincorporated areas."

They commended the provisions for career service for employes, separation of executive and legislative powers and instituting referendum and initiative processes at the county level.

Munro and Spellman said the highlight of the charter is its provision for a county executive to carry out administrative duties. The weakness of the present form, Spellman said, is that no single commissioner has the authority and responsibility to carry out executive powers.

The commissioners said:

"By not filling vacant permanent positions, recognizing normal attrition of employes and streamlining the county through a functional arrangement of departments and offices and focusing executive decisions, King County under the charter can reduce the cost of county government."

They noted that in Multnoham County, Oregon, $1 million was saved in the first year under a charter.

"With King County almost twice the size, there is no reason this county cannot save at least half that amount," they said.

DISCUSSING the cost of the nine member council under the charter, the commissioners said: "A number of administrative and secretarial positions assigned to the present board will be made available to the new County Council."

They noted that the Seattle City Council does not have full-time administrative assistants or the types of offices and staffs some critics contend the County Council would have.

"There is every reason to believe that the new County Council will be able to operate for a period of time with the equipment and facilities which are now available," Spellman and Munro said.

King County Charter: At Issue, 'Home Rule'

King County voters will have the final say Tuesday on a proposed "home-rule" charter to govern the operations of the county.

The charter would make *many changes* in the structure of county government. For example, it would establish a nine-member County Council to replace the three-man Board of County Commissioners; it would provide for an elected county executive (mayor), *but would shift most existing* elective county offices to appointive status.

The charter was drafted by an elected Board of Freeholders, after many months of study.

King County

37—7-Se.

21 FOR

21 AGAINST

PROPOSITION

PROPOSED KING COUNTY CHARTER

Shall the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County, providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be accepted?

For

(Argument in favor of the charter by *Richard Albrecht*, chairman of the Board of Freeholders.)

King County, with a population of 1,200,000, is the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States, *yet its county government* operates with a structure designed in 1854 for a population of 170.

Three county commissioners must try to agree on all major executive decisions as well as on the setting of county policy. The citizen and taxpayer *cannot assign* responsibility for any failures or shortcomings. Nor can he know who should receive credit for decisions with which he agrees.

THE COUNTY has a total annual budget for 1969 of $74 million. It provides a wide range of services to people in cities and towns as well as *in unincorporated areas of* the County. Among them are the following:

Assessment of property and collection of taxes;

Operation of our court system and Youth Center;

Law enforcement;

Wholesale garbage disposal;

Construction and maintenance *of streets and roads;*

Elections;

Planning and zoning.

The county operates:

Harborview County Hospital; Seattle-King County Health Department and Seattle-King County Youth Commission (jointly with the City of Seattle);

King County Airport (Boeing Field);

County Jail;

Alcoholic rehabilitation center;

A system of local and regional parks.

The county also will operate the new multipurpose stadium.

The charter provides a separation of the executive and legislative *power of the* county. The citizen will have greater representation in a county council whose nine *members would be elected* from districts of equal population. The county executive will be elected county-wide for four-year terms. The executive branch is designed to attract the most capable people available to administer the affairs of the *county. Modern* administrative practices will provide a more economical *county government.*

THE CHARTER will *not* increase taxes. The safeguards in the State Constitution limiting the county's taxing authority cannot be *changed by the* charter. The assessor would remain responsible *directly to the people* of the county.

The charter eliminates the political spoils system. It offers for the first time a personnel system designed to attract and hold capable *career employes for the County.* County employes now have no right to appeal to anyone if they lose their jobs.

Certain basic protections are afforded county employes by the charter, including the right to appeal *personnel decisions to an* impartial board. These protections may be expanded by the adoption of personnel rules and through collective bargaining which is specifically provided for.

The sheriff's civil-service system would be *unaffected* for at least two years. Thereafter, if it is combined with the county personnel system, the sheriff's em*ployes are assured* at least as much protection as they now have. The *sheriff's deputies* are given the protection of both systems.

THE PRESENT county auditor is largely a bookkeeper and the custodian of records. His office also is re*sponsible for* issuing marriage licenses, automobile licenses *and for supervising* elections. The auditor under the charter will provide a continuing audit of the financial affairs of the county. He would report directly to the County Council concerning *the management of county* funds by the executive department. The *state auditor* would continue also to protect against dishonesty, illegal activity or improper use of public funds.

THIS CHARTER cannot be resubmitted if it fails. Another *board of 15 freeholders* would have to be elected to deliberate on a *new proposed* charter if this one is not adopted. The power of the Legislature to change the structure of county government is extremely limited by the State Constitution. Any *changes made by the Legislature* would not necessarily be the changes wanted by King County voters.

The only opposition that the charter has attracted is *based on the selfish interests* of the opponents. The choice is between *this charter and* the present system. The problems are great. Without the charter, the effectiveness of county government is in serious doubt. The charter must be passed to enable lo*cal government to deal with* our problems. If we don't, the state and federal governments will step in to solve our problems for us.

We can't afford to miss this chance.

Against

(Argument against acoption of the charter by Arthur T. Hare, International vice president of the Service Employes *International* Union.).

It is expected that the new *charter will cost the* taxpayers of King County an additional $1 million a year. Each council member would receive $15,000 per year and they are adding six, making a total of nine council members. The county executive will be paid $27,000 per year and he will have *an assistant* whose salary is yet to be set. Each of the councilmen, the county executive and other officials will have clerks and other personnel to carry out their work. It is easy to see *how the cost can* become even greater than $1 million.

A special election will be held in February and March of 1969 if the charter is approved at a cost of up to $500,000 and not one penny of money has been provided for *the election. Would it not* have been much sounder to save the taxpayers this additional burden by having the elections at a regular election time and save all this expense?

What is the hurry for the adoption of this charter? It would appear that the proponents want to get the char*ter adopted before the public* finds out about the cost.

If this is *not true*, why then have you not heard one word about this most important part of the adoption of this charter? How much will it cost? Where is the money coming from? After all we *are talking about spending* $1.5 million more for the first year of its operation and what other expenditures come in succeeding years, your guess is as good as mine!

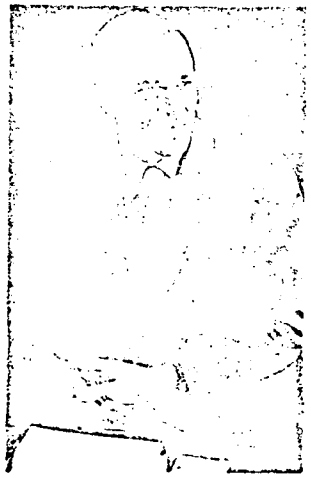
WE ARE opposed to appointing certain officials and believe that it is much more democratic to elect officials *who will hold important* position in government. Elected officials are responsible to the public at election time and would be more inclined to conduct themselves accordingly.

Page 14, Article 5, of the printed charter under the *personnel system provides* for promotion on the basis of demonstrated ability. This means that when an examination is held for promotion, regardless of which employe may come highest on the list after examination, the ap*pointing authority need not* take this person but may take the second or third or even further down on the list.

We believe that when an examination is held the em*ploye rating the highest on* the list be given an opportunity to take the new position and prove whether he is the best qualified person for the job.

SECTION 540 on Page 15 in the second paragraph provides for appeals to the personnel board, excepting that the employe has no appeal when he is suspended for up to 60 days. This means that employes of the service can be suspended for 60 days without the right to appeal or a hearing. This is most unjust and will lead to *all kinds of abuses.*

The new charter, under Section 890 on Page 23, says that the County Council may provide for collective bargaining. This could very well lead to a lot of problems for *the employes since each* time the council make-up was changed at election time the employes would very likely find that the new council either favored or opposed collective bargaining and *there could be a complete* change of attitude after each election with respect to collective bargaining.



RICHARD ALBRECHT

2177

'Mr. Freeholder'

Chairman Who Held The Board Together

By JERRY BERGSMAN

RICHARD ALBRECHT leaned forward in his living-room chair, held the youngest of his three sons and looked back over the past year.

In the comfortable setting of his home, the young lawyer remained anxious about his son's latest head scratch. He was anxious too about another infant, the proposed county charter.

Both were born about the same time.

As chairman of the 15-member King County Board of Freeholders, Albrecht earned the reputation of being able and fair. He is credited with holding the board together.

"He's a comer," a long-time political observer whispered to her companion at one freeholder meeting. Albrecht not only had to be a "comer" but an optimist as well.

When the board was formed, no one gave it a chance to accomplish much. Opponents of home-rule charters waited for a blow-up. Their confidence came from the broad political diversity of the members, from the split that appeared impossible to heal at the board's organization meeting December 5.

"I was never pessimistic about being able to get the job done," Albrecht confides.

Almost unnoticed, the early wounds began to disappear. Members made a sincere search for areas of agreement. On September 6, all 15 members signed the charter.

Freeholders gladly gave Albrecht much of the credit. Simon Wampold, vice chairman, introduced a resolution commending Albrecht "for his fairness, his ability and his outstanding leadership which has typified his chairmanship; the fact that was most important in the success which crowns our efforts here today."

The response was immediate — and dramatic. "Mr. Chairman," one freeholder inquired, "may we all second that resolution?"

Albrecht, a 6-foot-2-inch Iowa farmboy who got his first glimpse of Seattle while in the Army, won his reward for never losing his optimism.

He had started out with the conviction that as long as everyone was given an opportunity to be heard, no one would have a legitimate complaint. But he also was "convinced the way to avoid some sort of breakdown was to avoid confrontations immediately on controversial issues."

For months, the freeholders listened to county officials and others in orientation sessions. They held public hearings. There was no chance for controversy. Some members became impatient to start drafting.

"When we were ready to deliberate, the members were well informed, preconceived ideas had softened," Albrecht said. "I sensed the feeling of 'let's get on with the job.' Everyone was ready and some were anxious to make decisions to see where we stood."

Some of the early decisions were nearly unanimous. The trust freeholders began to place in Albrecht became evident. Assured he would be fair, they asked him to phrase the questions and he offered every conceivable alternative, some so remote they received not a single vote.

"I always hoped we might be able to bring everyone together, to get close to what we wanted," Albrecht said. And to convince the public, he felt the meetings had to be conducted in an orderly, businesslike way.

Albrecht, 36, was born in Storm Lake, Iowa, a town of 5,000 population. When he was 5 the family moved to a farm across the street from the city limits of Hartley, population 1,800.

Young Richard was only 8 when his father died but he, his mother, older sister and younger brother stayed in Hartley. He played basketball, football and ran the 440 in track in high school.

"I wasn't very good but it was a small school."

Working for his board, Albrecht received a chemistry degree from the University of Iowa. Then came two years — 1956 to 1958 — in Army intelligence at Fort Lawton.

"I'd never seen Seattle or knew much about it up until then."

Through an Army friend, he met a Ballard girl, Constance Berg. They were married. After Albrecht received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1961 they returned to Seattle. Fresh out of law school he joined the law firm of Holman, Marion, Perkins, Coie & Stone.

The 55 meetings freeholders held since December was just the top of the iceberg. As chairman, Albrecht spent much more time in the unpaid job.

"The law firm was very considerate," he said. He was made a partner January 1.

But for his family there was no vacation, no hiking or camping trips during the summer.

"I don't think it's very good," 5-year-old Carl says of the freeholders.

Albrecht made one pledge: to take Carl; John, 8; Richard, not quite a year old, and his wife on vacation after the election.

The Albrechts live in the northwestern tip of the Shoreline area. Local government means the Ronald Sewer District, Shoreline School Board and county government.

In several encounters with county government, Albrecht concluded the system needed improvement. "The system," he felt, "made an impossible job for the commissioners."

Albrecht worked on a county-government-structure subcommittee of the Seattle-King County Municipal League in 1963. He was in on the formation of CODES, the Shoreline community development council, when the thrust began for a freeholder election.

He accepted the chairmanship for the Shoreline area in the signature campaign. The courts ruled out the drive but county commissioners agreed to place the question on the 1967 ballot.

In the one-year interim, Albrecht accepted the chairmanship of a special Municipal League committee to look into the county-government structure.

"I didn't have any particular ax to grind," Albrecht says about filing for freeholder. "But by then I had so much time invested, I decided I had to follow through."

He has no political desires. He believes lawyers should devote time to community work.

"I expect I'll continue to have some community activity that takes some of my time. But I hope not quite so demanding as this past year."

Jerry Bergsman, Times staff member, has covered the King County Board of Freeholders since it was formed.

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As to the Propositions —

2177

WHILE The Times' advisory ballot advocates affirmative action on all of the financial authorizations being requested, our highest priority goes to the Seattle School District's special millage measure.

The sum sought by the School Board is very substantial; yet, without this supplemental income, the local schools would find themselves in distressing circumstances that soon would unveil themselves as intolerable to the community at large.

Our second highest priority goes to Referendum No. 19, a bond issue proposed for building purposes at state educational and other institutions where the requirements for new and expanded facilities are self-evident.

Our third priority goes to Referendums No. 17 and 18, bond issues for water-pollution control and acquisition and development of outdoor recreational facilities throughout the state. Loss of these measures, of course, would only mean that the 1969 Legislature would look for other means to raise the money.

In affirming our direct indorsement of the King County charter proposition, we reject insinuations by its critics that it would be "too costly to implement." Our contention is that the installation of an efficient county government by charter would save so much money now being wasted that the implementation costs would fade into small obscurities. We think the taxpayers can ill afford to reject the charter proposition if they vote their "purse interests."

Seattle voters once again will have an opportunity to vote on a water-fluoridation ordinance. The successful experience with fluoridation in other communities has reinforced arguments in favor of this widely approved dental-health technique, and The Times favors its implementation here.

Elsewhere on the ballot, Initiative 242 would provide traffic-enforcement officers in this state with a valuable new weapon against drinking motorists. The "implied consent" concept has been a strong deterrent against excessive drinking while driving in other states and it should be established on Washington's highways as well.

But we recommend a negative vote on Initiative 245. While this measure might reduce the maximum amounts imposed as retail service charges, the long-run effect of such a step would be to cause serious damage to the whole fabric of the state's economy.

Detailed information on all candidates and pro and con discussion on the various ballot propositions will be found in an eight-page Election Section in today's Times.

Times Readers Have Their Say: About the Proposed County Chart

Editor, The Times: 2177

RECENT county problems indicate that the government established by the Territorial Legislature in 1853 for a rural frontier community is no longer relevant to complex situations today. The proposed Home Rule Charter is a constructive framework upon which more-effective government can be built for citizens of Seattle and King County.

As changes are required, the Home Rule Charter can be amended. King County citizens will not have to depend upon the State Legislature in Olympia to determine directions for King County government. Specifically defined home-rule advantages make provisions for each councilman to be elected by the people from his own district. This offers a clearly related channel of communication for particular requirements in his district . . .

The charter also clearly defines the separation of basic functions of government into the traditional executive and legislative branches. It provides checks and balances for more-responsible county administration. The single executive, the nonduplicating administrative office, and the improved budgeting procedures would bring regular business management to county government.

For the first time most county employes would be covered by a personnel system based on merit. King County citizens would be assured of the most-qualified public servants and employes would be secure from political pressures.

It has been agreed by experts that coordinated government would be no more costly than our present antiquated system . . .

The league of Women Voters is convinced that the interests of all citizens in Seattle and King County would be best served through passage of the King County Home Rule Charter.

—PUGET SOUND LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS,
Nadine Anderson,
Barbara Hopkins,
Lillian Plut,
Edith Lobe
and Shirlee Charnell,
Presidents.

Editor, The Times:

A great many voters are concerned about the mounting attack against the proposed King County Charter, for it must be pretty evident that the major impetus for defeating a long-needed overhaul of our system of county government comes out of the organized efforts of the Courthouse appointees who are fearful of job continuance if the status quo is in any way disturbed.

Herb Robinson is so right. The charter deserves support if only to defeat those who raise issues only to establish personal protection of the archaic system.

However, some of us are concerned that we may be only trading one set of entrenched personnel for another because of a serious omission in the charter relative to who may stand for election to the several new commissioner offices. It is more than rumor that . . . several on the formulating board of freeholders are going to seek positions . . .

Why should not our designing freeholders have provided assurances that they were motivated entirely by the general public good? . . .

—H. B., Bellevue.

● Supporters of the proposed King County charter on Tuesday's ballot have devised a neat reply to critics who complain about the charter provision to establish nine $18,000-a-year county councilmen's offices. Proponents say one way of looking at the set-up is to consider that there would be a net gain of only three additional posts, since the charter would abolish the existing three county commissionerships plus the offices of three budget directors now serving the commissioners. If the charter is rejected and the status quo maintained, future county commissioners will receive $18,000 annually and the pay of the three budget directors is about to rise to $16,500 a year.

Charter Offers Better County Government

By JOHN L. FOURNIER

Last year the voters of King County elected 15 freeholders to prepare a charter of government for King County. Inherent in that election was approval of the home rule philosophy which would provide a modern, efficient system of government. That charter has been prepared and accepted and is now before the voters for their final approval and adoption.

There was a substantial difference of opinion among the charter freeholders during the many months in which they struggled and studied in order to prepare a worthwhile charter. Finally, they did prepare a document which was adopted unanimously by the group which had many diverse opinions. Nevertheless, these 15 charter freeholders did agree upon a charter to be submitted to the citizens of King County.

It is only natural that not all agreed with the provisions of the charter, and the opposition to the charter has continued to grow and flourish in those areas where private or professional interests are at stake.

If the voters would turn back the pages to 16 years ago when a similar charter was prepared and presented to the public it would be found that the opposition to that charter came primarily from one political office which was to be abolished – the office of the sheriff. Citizens will find that a great deal of the opposition to this modern charter comes from the same office.

The primary complaint of the sheriff and his staff is that they will lose civil service and that the personnel system as set up under the charter will not provide equal benefits. But the freeholders did consider the sheriff's civil service system and wrote a special section for benefit of the sheriff's employees and protection of the system which carries their civil service benefits in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the new personnel system. At the end of the two-year period the county council may then by ordinance provide the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and its duties be assumed by the personnel system. The charter goes further to say: "In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system . . ."

Under this specific language and special attention given to the sheriff's office we cannot agree with the sheriff's department in its opposition to the charter.

Again, as previously, county employees are opposing the charter just as they did in 1952. It is obvious this type of opposition can easily be stirred up by the elective officials whose positions will be eliminated by charter provisions, even though they will be allowed to serve out their terms at full pay and will be subject to appointment to administrative positions.

A third group of opponents of the charter are certain labor groups for obvious reasons. These obvious reasons are a possible loss of control of employee groups under the new personnel system which does, however, provide for collective bargaining through the enactment of ordinances calling for such representation.

Perhaps the least palatable and most openly opposed section of the charter is that which deals with the expansion of the county council to nine members and to the redistricting of the county into nine districts. The decision to expand the council to nine, although not necessarily a fatal one, has created a sounding board for the opposition.

For those who oppose the King County charter on the basis that it is not perfect, we may quickly ask what basic charter of government is perfect? Certainly not the constitution of the State of Washington which is outmoded and needs revision – and, most certainly, not the present King County governmental system which is fashioned from an unwieldy segment of the archaic state constitution.

King County has been fortunate to have an above average ...

What About New Charter For County?

What about that proposed new King County charter over which a board of freeholders has labored the past year?

Is our present county government adequate to cope with the challenges posed by a booming population and the swift change in our environment?

Or are the charter's opponents right when they say we should leave well enough alone?

For an impartial analysis of the charter, the arguments pr and con, and what this newspaper recommends to voters, turn to our editorial on Page 2.

Feb. 11 Urged For New Vote On Schools

The King County Charter election February 11 was recommended last night by the Intermediate School District IX School Directors Association as the date to resubmit to voters school money issues which failed November 5.

Intermediate District IX includes all of King County and Bainbridge Island on Kitsap County.

The directors group, which termediate district's superintendents association, also adopted a resolution encouraging legislators to continue to seek solutions for school-financing problems and elimination of the need to resort to special levies for operat- to special levies for operating funds.

AL 5-3424

Charter Offers Better County Government

2177

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King County has been fortunate to have an above average government under the constructive leadership of the present county commissioners during the past several years. Nevertheless, the commissioners themselves recognize the need for change and have endorsed this home rule charter and have asked for approval of the voters of this document for the benefit of the county as a whole and the individual taxpayer and citizen in particular.

A modern home rule charter is a must if King County is to grow and progress in relation to its qualitative and quantitative potentials. The charter which is being placed before the voters next Tuesday is structured to provide a flexible, efficient, modern government for King County. There can be no question but that the cause of good government will be set back another ten or 15 years if the voters fail to approve the proposed charter. It has the endorsement of nearly every civic leader and proponent of good government in the county.

We not only recommend the charter for your approval but we also add the further statement that King County citizens cannot afford to let this opportunity for good government be bypassed as it was 16 years ago.

Labor Journal

NOV 8 1969

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

Commission Chastized

County Freeholders last week heard chastisement of the Snohomish County Planning Commission, a lay group, by one of its members, James Dersham, and by Jim Smith, director of the professional planning group, the Snohomish County Planning Department.

Freeholders, currently writing the new county charter, had sought the views of Dersham and Smith in their consideration of changes in the Planning Commission organization and responsibilities.

Dersham, an architect, lashed out against the Planning Commission's inadequacies and inconsistancies charging that "a majority of the decisions of the planning commissioners are arbitrary and capricious because commissioners are not knowledgeable in planning techniques and they overrule competent, professional planners in the County Planning Department."

He said commissioners often vote in favor of a project against the county's comprehensive plan because of lack of familiarity with the plan and because of the complexities of the situation and the emotion of the moment.

Using as an example the commission's decision to approve the rezone for a Richfield refinery at Kayak Point, against the recommendation of the Planning Department and contrary to the comprehensive plan, Dersham said:

"I was the only one who voted in favor of the Planning Department's professional opinion that the site is best suited for residential development and definitely not suited for industrial building. They rejected the opinion of the Planning Department after weeks of study on the site and zoning problem and even after an outside consultant studied the problem.

Dersham and Smith both said that independent federal studies, just released, spelled out why the Port Susan Bay area should be residential and not industrial.

Smith said the county is no longer a distressed area seeking industry for the sake of industry and must take into account air and water pollution problems.

Dersham said he was sorry Richfield did not locate in the county, that he had hoped it would locate at a more desirable point within the county using pipelines instead of shoreline delivery by ships.

He cited the "many 1930-vintage" planning concepts backed by commissioners and the "modern, well-conceived plans with a lot of merit" rejected by them.

"Planning should be totally separate from politics," Dersham said in answer to the Freeholders' request for suggested changes in the charter.

"The Planning Commission should not be appointed or run by county commissioners as it leads to too much political pressure," he explained.

Because he felt problems of the county are too complex to be left to a group of well-meaning citizens he suggested professionals be on the board so that technical problems are decided by technical people.

"If you keep the Planning Commission get an engineer, an architect, psychologist, banker, realtor and a sociologist and you'll have a commission that knows what it's doing," he advised.

Referring to the possibility of eliminating the Planning Commission in favor of having the professional planning staff of the county present their studies and recommendations directly to the

Snohomish County Freeholders Meet

The Snohomish County Board of Freeholders have been going very extensively into the planning division of county government. The entire time of the last two meetings has been taken up with interviews from the Planning Commission and the professional planning staff.

The meeting of October 23 was given almost entirely to Mr. Jim Smith, Director of the Professional Planning Division. He went rather extensively into the operation of his staff and their method of arriving at decisions.

The meeting of October 30 we had Mr. Dursham, one of the appointed planning board commissioners, who opened the discussion on the function of the planning commission.

One of the confusing things about the planning department is that it is broken up into a planning board of commissioners, and a director and staff of professional planners. The board questioned both Mr. Dursham and Mr. Smith at great length on the different functionings of the two departments, and at the close of the meeting, I think a great deal of knowledge was gained by the Freeholder Board that can be put to great use when that portion covering planning of the city charter comes under discussion and consideration of the Freeholder Board.

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Member Scorches County Planners

2177

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(Page 8, Column 5)

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(From Page 1)

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"If you keep the Planning Commission get an engineer, an architect, psychologist, banker, realtor and a sociologist and you'll have a commission that knows what it's doing," he advised.

Referring to the possibility of eliminating the Planning Commission in favor of having the professional planning staff of the county present their studies and recommendations directly to the county commissioners, Dersham said:

"You should then require the county commissioners by law to give proof or show cause why they overrule the professionals whenever they do. You might also require that those who rule on zoning and planning matters publicly list their property holdings which they don't now do.

"Only one member, an engineer, leaves the room when the discussion involves property holdings or dealings he is involved with, but in a year and a half, I have never seen any other member of the commission step down, even when there was a known conflict of interest."

Freeholders, who meet each Wednesday night, have devoted both the past two meetings to consideration of the Planning Commission and Planning Department.

2177

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A Slow Limp for Lame Ducks

ALTHOUGH King County voters have authorized creation of a new county-government structure under the home-rule charter ratified in Tuesday's election, the existing administrative setup will continue until next May 1.

The six-month period is needed to hold elections for the new county council and executive offices and to make other necessary arrangements for the changeover.

During the interim, the present Board of County Commissioners will retain its powers to enact ordinances and resolutions, negotiate contracts and transact other official business.

But Commissioner John Spellman suggested yesterday that the lame-duck board and other elective officials adopt a go-slow attitude on new programs or departures in existing policies.

Spellman is quite right. For outgoing county officials to make long-term commitments at this point would be to tie the hands of the charter government in matters that could be handled better by the new administration. Decisions on the future of Boeing Field and the hiring of major new department heads are examples of questions that should be shelved temporarily.

There is one conspicuous exception in Spellman's proposal. Because the site of the county's domed stadium probably will be selected before the new charter government becomes effective, it will be necessary to negotiate a lease with the Seattle Pilots baseball club in the near future.

But Spellman is correct again in saying that top experts should assist the present board in negotiating the stadium lease and—equally important—that decisions on the terms of the stadium-concession contracts should be left to the new county government.

At this point, county officials should concur promptly with Spellman's recommendation, confining their activities to the immediate and routine business at hand without encumbering the new administration before the transition even occurs.

Charter Approval Seen As Big Boost for County

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

Passage of the county's first homerule charter in its 114-year history was hailed Wednesday by its principal drafter and King County officials as a triumph for good government, in the face of odds which could have dumped it.

"Let's face it," said Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders and its principal architect. "There was a vast number of other issues on the ballot that had well-financed, well publicized campaigns that outspent us. There was aslo overwhelming interest many voters felt in the presidential race and thos of other candidates that focused attention away from the charter.

"The fact that the charter, with virtually no financial resources, managed to pile up its commanding load, was a tribute not only to the freeholders who worked so diligently but to the responsible and responsive organizations and individuals who involved themselves in its fate," he declared.

Albrecht said he believed voters of King County "obviously recognized that the present system is not a good way to run the county," and responded accordingly.

"I'm particularly pleased that the freeholders weren't sidetracked by many suggestions that were made to us by persons who said it could have been done better or more to their satisfaction," Albrecht declared.

"Its passage reafirms my faith in the ability of people to govern themselves."

Spellman Elated

Similarly elated, Commissioner John Spellman said the charter's passage proved once again that "there is nothing like an idea whose time has come."

"I think the voters recognized that if the county is to do the job, it has to have the tools to do it. Now, at least, King County does!" he exclaimed.

Both he and Commissioner Ed Munro had been outspoken advocates of the home-rule charter during the pre-election period when, almost to a man, other county officials and county employee organizations had mounted a campaign in opposition.

Munro, a believer in governmental consolidation at the local level, had been an early booster of the charter as a means of increasing governmental efficiency and cutting costs.

"Now, however, our immediate problem is one of transition to be sure that what the charter intends is what actually occurs," he declared. He noted that the present Board of County Commissioners, who will function in that dacpaity until the new county council assumes a portion of its duties May 2, would provide a valuable transitional nucleus for this purpose.

"This is a great victory for good, modern government in King County. Now we gave to get on with the job of bringing it about," Munro emphasized.

King Co. Charter Opens Door to Good Government

The smashing approval of the new King County charter by the voters of the county now opens the door of opportunity for an era of unmatched good government here and to some extent for the state. Hopefully, it will set the pattern not only in King County but also in other counties for improvement and elevation of the qualities of local government.

The new King County charter has within it the basic elements needed to create an excellent, efficient, modern governmental structure for King County. Achievement of that goal is now in the hands of the electorate, who will soon be called upon to select top people to fill the commissioners' positions in the nine districts of the county. A unified head start in projecting this new system of government is most desirable.

May we compliment the voters of King County in taking this forward step not only in providing basic elements of good government through this new charter but also to provide the basic decisions and qualitative selection that is essential on the part of the voters in generating and creating a new and basic structure of good government.

Sun. 239,092)
NOV 6 1968
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

County OKs Charter; Munro, O'Brien Win

BY BILL SIEVERLING

King County voters yesterday adopted a home-rule charter — the first in the state — and re-elected two county commissioners.

But County Commissioner Ed Munro, the Democratic incumbent, had an unexpectedly tough battle with Tukwila City Councilman Tom Forsythe, his Republican challenger. But Munro appeared to have won reelection.

County Commissioner John T. O'Brien, the Republican incumbent, had a much easier time of it with his Democratic challenger, R. Judge Owens. O'Brien held a commanding lead over Owens.

In a third county race, Warren Chan held a substantial lead over Juvenile Court Commissioner Horton Smith in a runoff for Superior Court Position No. 3. Chan, a

Please turn to Page A, Column 6

County Approves Charter; Munro and O'Brien Win

From Page 1

Seattle attorney, also had led Smith in the Sept. 17 primary.

The Seattle school levy won a majority, but fell short of the 60 per cent favorable vote needed for passage.

Elswhere on the longest ballot in state history, King County voters generally followed state trends, giving large majorities to Gov. Dan Evans and Sen. Warren G. Magnuson in their re-election bids.

County voters appeared to be favoring Vice President Hubert Humphrey over Richard Nixon, but the Humphrey edge was razor thin.

In other key races, Lt. Gov. John A. Cherberg held a slender lead over his Republican challenger, Art Fletcher, in the county and State Rep. Slade Gorton led John McCutcheon in the race for state attorney general. Gorton's substantial lead in King County, however, was being partially offset elsewhere in the state.

King County voters were in step with voters throughout the state, though, in giving large majorities to Secretary of State A. Ludlow Kramer, State Treasurer Robert O'Brien, State Auditor R. V. Graham and Land Commissioner Bert Cole in their bids for re-election.

County voters favored Gerald Sullivan, former deputy insurance commissioner, over State Sen. Karl Herrmann for insurance commissioner, but returns from elsewhere in the state offset the county pattern and gave Herrmann a slender but growing lead.

Early returns showed King County voters favoring 11 of 14 statewide ballot measures, but turning thumbs down on the two most controversial.

Initiative 32, the so-called "Save our Logs" measure aimed at curbing exports of logs cut on state land, was losing in King County by more than 2-1 with almost half of the vote counted.

And Initiative 245, which would reduce ceilings on credit service charges from 1½ to 1 per cent per month on unpaid balanced, was losing by a slight margin in King County, although it appeared to be winning elsewhere in the state.

Also going down by a narrow margin in the county was SJR 23, a constitutional amendment which would allow excess school levies for two years instead of just one.

County voters favored Initiative 242, the so-called "implied consent" measure; Referendum 35, restricting discrimination by realty brokers and salesmen; Referendum 17, a $25 million bond issue for water pollution control; Referendum 18, a $40 million bond issue for outdoor recreation; Referendum 19, a $63 million bond issue for colleges and institutions; SJR 5, a constitutional amendment allowing greater latitude in the investment of pension funds; SJR 6, a constitutional amendment providing for a state intermediate appellate court; SJR 24, a constitutional amendment providing for the filling of vacancies; HJR 1, a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to encourage green belts with tax incentives and HJR 13, a constitutional amendment permitting officials to receive salary increases during terms of office.

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(Continued on Page 3)

More About—

Charter

(Continued from Page 1)

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Spellman 'Available' For County Exec Post

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

County Commissioner John Spellman, with the vote barely tabulated approving the county's new home-rule charter, was first to the wire Wednesday with the declaration "he would be available" for the county's new top job: that of county executive.

That post, plus six new county councilmen, will be filled next March, to begin their duties May 1. Filings for all seven of the positions opens five weeks from today, on Dec. 16, and closes Dec. 20. The exception is for candidates who may wish to run for county councilman in a councilmanic district of a present county commissioner who may file for county executive. Filings in this instance end Dec. 27.

The provision was tailored specifically for newly-re-elected South District Commisioner Ed Munro, but so far only Spellman has indicated he wishes to take a crack at the job. Munro promised a forthcoming announcement as to his intentions, but to date he has said he has made no decision what his intentions are concerning what could be one of the most powerful political positions in the state, as well as a crucial administrative post on which the county's transition into its new operating structure hinges.

Spellman said earlier he ter the race if the charter met success at the polls.

Others rumored for the spot are newly re-elected Secretary of State Lud Kramer, State Senator Wes Uhlman (D — 32nd), and possibly Congressman Brock Adams.

One unknown in the possible line-up is whether Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, will decide to make the race. Wednesday he reaffirmed his earlier position that he was not and is not a candidate for the post. But he said he would reserve final judgment on whether he would file if he were convinced no capable candidate is available from either party. The post of county executive and county councilman are position.

Albrecht, a Republican, is known to feel very keenly the crucial nature of the charter's early days, and may decide, as the filing period approaches and the nature of the race shapes up, that it will be in the best interests of the charter's success to make the race.

Meanwhile, [redacted] six open spots for county councilman is the expected announcement that Thomas Forsythe, defeated Republican challenger to Munro, would make the race for the 6th councilman in district embracing Renton, the area northeast of Renton, and Tukwila, where Forsythe serves as city coun-

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Forsythe in Race For County Council

2/7/7

Tom Forsythe, Tukwila city councilman and unsuccessful Republican candidate to unseat Commissioner Ed Munro, Democrat, today became the first to announce his candidacy for the new nine-member County Council.

Forsythewill seek election from Council District 6, including Renton, Mercer Island,Newport Hills and Tukwila.

Forsythe said he will use the same campaign team as in his race for county commissioner.

Filing of candidacies for county executive and councilman seats under the county charter will be done during the week beginning December 16. The primary election will be February 11 and the general election March 11.

"It's great to see that even in the aftermath of defeat so many people are ready to try again and have pledged support and willing hard work," Forsythe said.

He said he wants to take part in the birth of a completely new system of county government.

Task Not Over

Charter Aide May Keep Job

2/7/7

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The Board of King County Commissioners is studying whether to keep Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary of the freeholders, on the county payroll during the period when the county charter is being put into effect.

Meyer has offered to continue at $1,500 a month, the pay he has been receiving. The charter takes effect May 1.

Officially, Meyer went off the payroll yesterday. But he said he will continue working at least this week compiling documents used by the freeholders, consultant reports, minutes of meetings and the like for safe-keeping by the Municipal Reference Library. Recording tapes of 72 hours of freeholder deliberations will be stored by the county's computer-systems office.

COUNTY departments and the public have been making inquiries of the freeholder office since the charter, the first in the state for a county, was approved Tuesday.

"Judging from very recent contacts through this office," Meyer said, "there will be a great deal of further work needed to guide the charter through a successful first year."

He has recommended that a seminar and memoranda be prepared for county employes to outline the impact of the charter. Meyer contended the county's administrative department will need help preparing the budget and financial arrangements required by the charter.

MEYER said he feared resistance by the public in the first year of reorganization unless the transition preparations are developed openly, "in the same way freeholders conducted all business in public."

Meyer is preparing articles on the charter for public-affairs and county journals.

Meyer said he also is filling speaking engagements on the charter.

"The King County charter has many unique features which none of the 37 charters in this country have." "It would be a distinct asset to this county to publicize what has occurred these past 10 months."

Rosellini May Seek High County Post

2177

By LYLE BURT
Times Political Reporter

Former Gov. Albert D. Rosellini said today he is seriously considering running for county executive under the newly approved King County charter.

"I'm taking a good look at it," Rosellini said. "A lot of people have talked to me about it on the basis that in its formative stage the new county government will need to have someone with executive experience."

Rosellini, who served eight years as governor before being defeated in 1964 by Gov. Dan Evans, said he hopes to make up his mind before December 1.

IF HE DECIDES to run, he will not attempt to put together a slate of candidates for the nine-member county council to run with him, the former Democratic governor said. But, he confirmed that his son, John, is considering trying for a council seat. John Rosellini was re-elected last week to a second term in the State House of Representatives from the 34th District.

"We won't both run," the elder Rosellini commented.

County Commissioners Ed Munro and John Spellman bothh ave said they are considering running for the $27,000-a-year post. It is reported that State Senator Wesley C. Uhlman also is interested. He could not be contacted for comment.

Tom Forsythe, Republican in his attempt to oust Munwho was defeated narrowly ro last week, announced he will seek a County Council seat, paying $18,000 a year.

OTHERS who have shown interest are State Representative Gary Grant, 47th District Democrat; State Representative Dave Ceccarelli, 34th District Democrat; Don McDonald, a member of the Board of Freeholders which drafted the charter; John Hammond, assistant to County Commissioner John O'Brien, and Howard Bothell of Auburn, another freeholder.

Kenneth Rogstad, King County Republican chairman, said he has not put together a slate of Council candidates, as has been rumored, but is "darned interested in seeing that some Republicans run."

There also was a report that some officials of the King County Labor Council were considering developing a slate of candidates who would be acceptable to labor.

Seattle, Wash.
Post-Intelligencer
(Cir. 108,812 Sat. Mor. 184,332
Sun. 239,002)
NOV 14 1968
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Freeholder Holdover

Among reasons for success of the King County freeholders, whose proposed home rule charter has been adopted by the voters, is the significant contribution made to the project by the freeholders' executive secretary, Paul R. Meyer.

Meyer's $1,500 per month county job ended officially last week end, but he is continuing to work this week, compiling and cataloging documents used by the freeholders in their deliberations. He has offered to remain on the job until next May 1, when the new charter becomes effective.

There's a myriad of matters to attend to before the county shifts into its new form of government next spring, including preparation of summaries of the effects of the transition on county employes, preparation of guidelines for budgeting under the new system, and further detailed explanation of the charter's provisions to the general public.

MEYER IS ideally suited to coordinate these interim activities. We believe his retention on the payroll through next May 1 would be in the public interest. We urge the county commissioners, therefore, to continue the services of the freeholders' secretary.

Seattle, Wash.
Magnolia Journal

NOV 13 1968

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

Seattle, Wash.
Queen Anne Herald

NOV 13 1968

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

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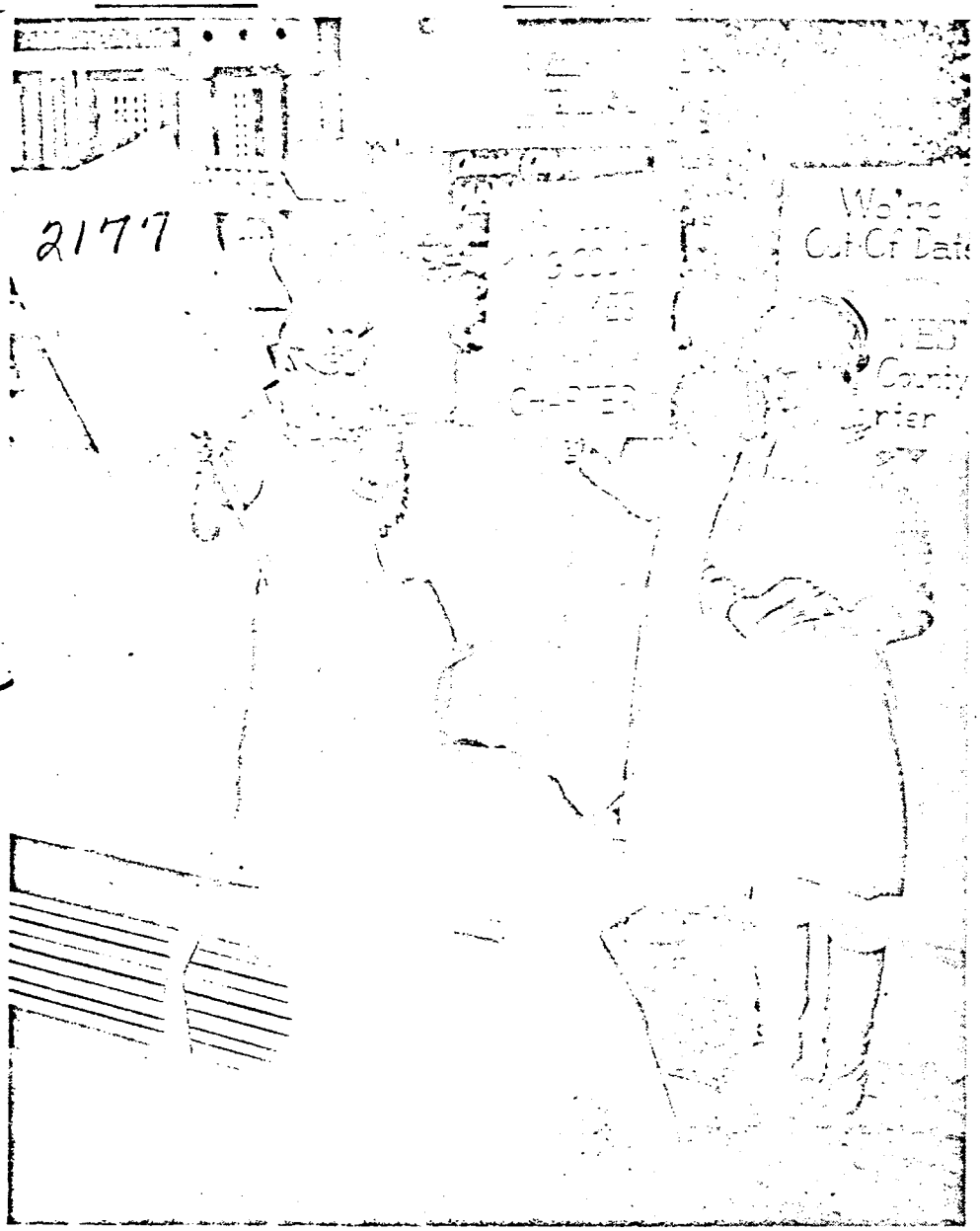

LWV waged campaign for county charter

MRS. PAUL HENNEY of 2320 Eastmont Way W. (right) was one of many League of Women Voters members who helped get out the vote for modernizing county government. Here Mrs. Henney wears 1968 attire in contrast to her LWV teammates in their successful push for proposed King County Charter "Yes" votes. The League team wore costumes to dramatize the out-of-date inefficiency of present King County government structure. With Mrs. Henney are Mrs. Dexter Washburn and Mrs. Ellis Dill.

Bellevue American
Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

NOV 13 1968

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

Tom Forsythe Will Run For County Council

2177

Tom Forsythe, Tukwila City Councilman, announced Monday that he would run for County Council Position #6 as provided for by the recently adopted King County Home Rule Charter.

Forsythe is an active member of the South King County Community. Besides being a member of the Tukwila City Council, and past President of the Tukwila Chamber of Commerce, he is a past Deputy State Commander for the Civil Air Patrol, Rotary, Past Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association, a member of the Valley Interchamber Executive Council, and a member of the South King County Area Development Councils.

NOV 13 1968

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Administrator's Office Focal Point For Home Rule Charter Transition

by Marcia Blue

County government is scheduled for modernization May 1 under the new Home Rule Charter, 37th in the U.S. One department that's already started solving problems—instead of just keeping up with them — in burgeoning King County is that of Administrator.

The post, filled in March by former director of the Puget Sound Governmental Conference John Porter, will prove important in the transition to a charter form of government, in the estimation of County Commissioner John Spellman.

The office provides budgeted postions, matching some of those outlined in the charter, and never before held under King County government. In its short duration the office has demonstrated the inevitability of change to accommodte a growing community. And perhaps most important, Spellman points out, the Administrator will provide the new County Executive with a stable post from which to proceed during the transition.

County Administator John Porter

This newest of county positions was filled in March to assist the County Commissioners in day-to-day coordination of administrative departments, inter-governmental relations and advance planning for public needs. Under the charter, the County Executive will appoint a chief administrative officer wih similar and expanded duties responsible for the working departments of the government, those involved with services to other governmental branches.

Spellman views the existing office of administrator as completely compatible with the new one. He points out, for instance, that Porter now has the authority to recommend the hiring and firing of department heads. Due to the newness of the office, and minimal budgeting in its first year, this phase of the administator's duties was never developed.

Under the charter the chief administrator will appoint the heads of the working departments now appointed by the county commissioners.

To date the Administrator has only delved into the budgetary field and some coordination of existing departments. But even in its infancy, says Spellman, the office points up what imaginary ideas can do even in the affairs of government.

For instance:

"Thrust" Coordination

The first assignment given to Administrator Porter was that of coordinating the multi-million dollar Forward Thrust program. The result has been, Spellman said, the most businesslike program the county has had.

"To have an accurate resume of the status of every Forward Thrust program," Porter explains, "we computerized the system." As bonds are sold—$39,000,000 to date — the figures are fed into the county's data processing lab so that the planner, or whoever, can know the exact amount in eac fund at a given time.

The system was worked out with the head of the data processing department Wayne Smith.

Porter points with pride to the Design Commission, composed of architects, engineers and landscape architects from throughout the state whose job it is to select design teams for each Forward Thrust project. Porter serves as executive secretary of the newly formed commission. The group is currently working on the Youth Center design and has established a standard application form for consultants so all can be treated equally, Porter explains.

Some innovations are small, but all point to more efficient government.

In referring to Forward Thrust as the greatest thing that ever happened to King County, Porter is convinced that program would have wallowed in the maze of county government if not for a single coordinator and implementer.

Budget View

Another duty area assigned to the administrator's office by the '67 resolution was that of budget preparation. Spellman said that because of understaffing the office did not plan and adopt the '69 budget, as will eventually be the case, but for the first time King County got into the field of budgetary analysis.

Budgets from 1960 through 1967 were analyzed by three part-time University of Washington students on the Administrator's payroll. All had had experience in the field, Porter said. The information was passed on to the budget directors.

Only in a few instances was Porter able to aid departments in submitting their budget requests. He lists as a small but significant accomplishment the coordination of some departments under the present budget system.

Under the charter, a budget department will continue the budget analysis and planning on a day-to-day basis, thus creating a performance budget.

Especially in financial duties, the new post of Administrator was not cordially received. But Porter, with experience in this area and previous contact with King County elected officials, facilitated this first step to a modern performance bdget, Spellman said.

Slow Change

Another "first" developing under the administrator's supervision is a county personnel system. The ultimate goal under the strong merit system is to establish for every county employe — 2,600 — a job decription and wage scale. The personnel director post was budgeted with 1969 funds, and, Porter explains, the proposed system will fit right in with that of the charter.

The personnel director, like that of a budget director represents change. No one in county service for 20 years will like to have a newcomer define his job. Porter has taken several months in selecting the right person for the job.

But the mere idea of an administrator's office for King County was forcing change, Spellman said. There was doubt here if we could legally, under the state constitution establish the office at all. The position was provided for in July '67 but not filled until March '68, and then with emergency appropriations.

Spellman thinks the charter will help with further progressive changes.

Porter says the charter definitely fixes the responsibility of the county offices, but, he's careful to note, people still make the fifference. "The system will be only as good as the county officials," he said.

Most agree King County was lucky in getting Porter as their first administrator.

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

NOV 13 1968

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County Council Must Be Chosen With Care

2177

One of the most vigorous local donnybrooks of modern times is sure to break out next month, when filings open for the new positions created by the charter adopted last week by voters of King County. And that's not at all bad. Instead of a tight little domain centered around three county commissioners, King County after next March will be governed by a board of nine, along with an elected executive.

Opponents of the charter made a lot of to-do over the fact that nine councilmen would draw down more pay than three commissioners. But the salary these people receive is a drop in the bucket in overall county finances – or even when compared to the cost of remodeling the court house.

The charter is far from a perfect document, and once it gets into operation some of its deficiencies may be revealed. But as we stated in endorsing it before the election, regardless of its drawbacks, in sum total it's a great improvement over the existing form of county government that has remained unchanged since the 19th century. The job before King County voters now is to promote and elect candidates of a caliber that will allow this new form of county government to live up to its potentialities.

Magnolia Journal

NOV 13 1968

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

Dear Mr. Murray:

On behalf of the Citizens for King County Charter I want to thank you for your participation which helped make the passage of the Charter possible.

We hope that you will continue to maintain an interest in the establishing of the new government.

To insure that the Charter is successfully established outstanding leadership will be needed. The filing for County Executive and six of the nine councilmen will begin on December 16. I urge you to consider potential candidates whom you feel are well-qualified for these offices and support their candidacy.

Better county government will only be possible with continued support from people like yourself.

Thanks!

Yours truly,
s/Virginia K. Gunby

Forsythe To Run For County Council

2177

Tom Forsythe, Tukwila city councilman, announced last night he would run for County Council Position 6, as provided for by the King County Home Rule Charter approved at Tuesday's election.

"Many of my friends have called me and asked me to run for the position," Forsythe said. "I want to be a part of the implementation of the Charter.

"I think one of the most exciting things that could happen to an officeholder would be to take part in the birth of a completely new system of county government."

Forsythe, a political newcomer, was the Republican opponent of incumbent County Commissioner Ed Munro Tuesday. After an active campaign, Forsythe came within 10 per cent of the 12-year incumbent's tally in more than 350,000 votes.

Forsythe said his campaign team already has started making plans for the sixth District race.

"A great bunch of people helped me run for County Commissioner," Forsythe said. "It's great to see that even in the aftermath of defeat, so many people are already to try again and have pledged support and willing hard work," he said.

Forsythe is past president of the Tukwila Chamber of Commerce, past deputy state commander for the Civil Air Patrol, past chairman of the executive committee for the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association, member of the Valley Interchamber Executive Council and a member of the South King County Area Development Councils.

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Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000

NOV 13 1968

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

Chamber of Commerce Gets Charter Briefing

2177

The overwhelming 63 percent favorable vote the King County Charter received at the polls Nov. 5 indicates the residents here are anxious for a new style of government to go into play, Paul Meyer told the Burien Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

The Executive Secretary of the Board of County Freeholders, drafters of the 37th Home Rule Charter in the U.S., said popular support of home rule government is traditional across the country. "We hope to get the continued support from King County residents as the charter goes into effect," he said.

Meyer's duties were officially over Monday, but a request has been made to the County Commissioners that the office staff be maintained through the transition period, or for six months.

He explained to the 30 Chamber members present how the charter provides the framework for a more democratic, economical and modern form of government, promises made by proponents of the document.

"While the charter points a new direction," he said, "it will also maintain many good things in King County government now. We predict roadblocks by county employes who want the status quo maintained." In the next two years people will be working to interpret the document and make the county government fit accordingly he explained.

Filing for the six vacant county councilmen positions and the county executive post will begin Dec. 16 for a five day period. A consecutive five-days was set aside in the event one of the present councilmen wants to file for the executive post.

If Ed Munro, who will represent the Highline-White Center-Normandy Park-Vashon Island district (No. 7), files for executive his councilman post will be filled by appointment of the new nine-man county council when the charter goes into effect May. 1. He would forfeit his council post, to which he was just re-elected, in the event he runs for executive, a decision he has not yet made.

The primary will be held Feb. 11 and regular election March 11.

Old-New

"Since the 18th Century our laws have been building in a pyramid style and often conflict." Meyer said. "The legal restriction on the day to day operation of government is costly. The Legislature, meeting every two years, doesn't provide the immediate response our growing problems need."

A decentralization will evolve from the home rule government. The charter should be thought of as a constitution: the ordinances passed by the county council can eliminate the freedom of the state legislature to act on a local level, Meyer said.

In the realm of the Prosecuting Attorney, however, the freeholders acted conservatively, Meyers pointed out. "In the Board's estimation," Meyers related, "the Prosecutor represents a conflict of interests: his roles of legal advisor and prosecutor can overlap. But any change in this area will have to come from a state statute."

By law, the charter can not touch taxation. Rules on the 40-mill limit will be conducted on the state level.

New Planning

The charter provides a new approach to problem solving and planning, Meyer said. The councilmen will be strictly legislators, setting policy. The executive powers go to the elected executive.

With a $74,000,000 budget set for 1969, the $1,000,000 to be spent weekly needs a central place for organization — the executive department. The legislative body will have time to project county needs into the future. (The total budget figure includes federal aid.)

Under the charter the budget has to be balanced. Already ways have been suggested to meet the financial need of additional councilmen, Meyer said. A freeze on salary funds for vacant county positions would generate $100.000. Another $150,000 has been set aside for a personnel department survey in the '69 budget. The survey probably won't be made right away.

Opponents of the charter quoted a $500,000 figure for funds needed to cover special elections in February and March. Meyer said the elections will not cost that much, and that the county now will not have to bare the full cost of the elections because school districts will be resubmitting their special levies at that time.

Meyers pointed out as unique to the charter the office of citizens' complaints, provision for an independent ticket in a county race, and the Board of Appeals.

County council filings under charter in Dec.

Highline Times
Burien, Wash.
Cir. W. 16,000

NOV 13 1968

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

Tracy J. Owen, a businessman and civic leader in the First Legislative District, has announced his candidacy for King County Councilman under the new county charter.

However, Owen will not be able to file for the county council position in the first council district in which he lives until in December.

Filings for county executive and county council positions for districts 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 will be Dec. 16 through Dec. 20.

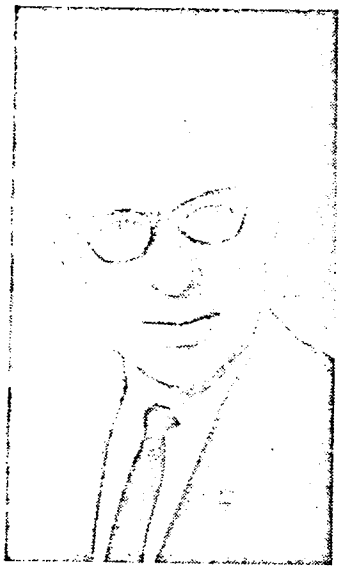
The positions including a councilman from each of the nine council districts were created under the new King County Home Rule Charter. The charter was approved by county voters Nov. 5.

Present King County Commissioners, John Spellman, John O'Brien, and Ed Munro, automatically will become councilmen from their districts unless one, two or all three file for the county executive position.

In that case a second filing period will be Dec. 23 through Dec. 27 for council districts 2, 5 and 7 depending on which district is open.

Spellman at present is the future councilman for district two; O'Brien for district 5 and Munro for district seven.

A Feb. 11 primary election will be held to determine candidates for a March 11 election. The charter preserves partisan elections but allows independents to run for office. Under this system, the top Democrat and top Republican determined in the primary election will have a contest in the March election. If an independent receives 20 percent of the vote in the primary election then he would remain on the March ballot.



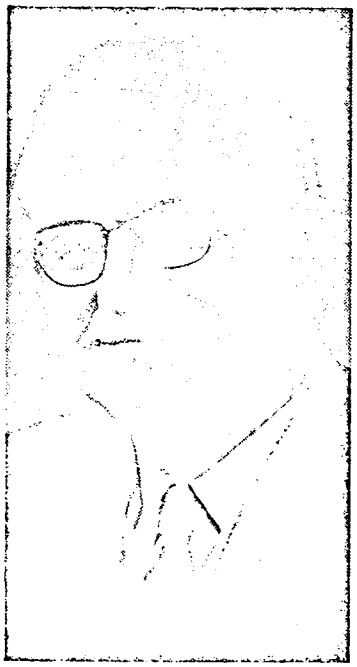
TRACY J. OWEN
First to File

The new county charter provides for nine elected county councilmen to serve as the legislative branch of the county government and an elected county executive to head the executive branch. Administrative officer will be appointed by the county executive subject to approval of the council.

Owen, a Republican, has been a precinct committeeman, county and state convention delegate, a member of local Republican clubs and has been active on legislative committeeman committees.

Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue are in King County council district 3 under the new charter. Under the present county government, Kirkland and Redmond are in North District for which Spellman is county commissioner.

Tom Forsythe Will Be Candidate for County Council Position No. 6



Tom Forsythe

Tom Forsythe, Tukwila City Councilman, announced today that he would run for County Council Position #6 as provided for by the recently adopted King County Home Rule Charter.

"Many of my friends have called me and asked me to run for the Council Position in the newly created 6th District," Forsythe said.

"I want to be a part of the implementation of the Charter, he continued.

"I think that one of the most exciting things that could happen to an office holder would be to take part in the birth of a completely new system of county government," he stated.

Forsythe, a political newcomer to King County voters, has just completed a hard fought battle against County Commissioner incumbent Ed Munro in the November election. Although Munro was reelected, Forsythe came within 10 percent of over 350,000 votes cast of unseating the 12 year incumbent.

Forsythe's campaign team has already started making plans for the upcoming 6th District race.

"A great bunch of people helped me run for County Commissioner," Forsythe said. "It's great to see that even in the aftermath of defeat, so many people are already to try again and have pledged support and willing hard work," he said.

Forsythe is an active member of the South King County Community. Besides being a member of the Tukwila City Council, and past president of the Tukwila Chamber of Commerce, he is a past Deputy State Commander for the Civil Air Patrol, Rotary, past chairman of the executive committee for the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association, a member of the Valley Interchamber Executive Council, and a member of the South King County Area Development Councils.

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Stadium Commission 'Kept Faith'

By HERB ROBINSON
Associate Editor, The Times

● Employes of the King County sheriff's office are expressing concern that a new ombudsman's office to be established under the voter-approved county charter could become a "one-man police-review board." The charter provides that the county ombudsman is to receive citizen complaints and will be granted subpoena powers in making his investigations. The new office is to study complaints concerning any operation of county government, including its law-enforcement activities . . .

● It appears that at least some Whidbey Islanders do not want a bridge built linking the island's south end with the Snohomish County mainland. Consultants studying the feasibility of such a project report that "ballot boxes" containing trip-destination questionnaires have been heaved overboard from ferry terminals and that somebody has been cutting the rubber-encased traffic counters laid across roads in the area.

'Owen Will Run For New Office

passage of the new King County Charter.

Owen has operated his own Seattle insurance agency for 22 years and is a co-founder of Queen City Savings and Loan Association. His Green Lake agency handles life insurance, real estate and mutual funds.

Owen is a graduate of Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas and of the Life Underwriters Course.

He has completed post graduate work in business administration at the University of Washington and education at Drake University.

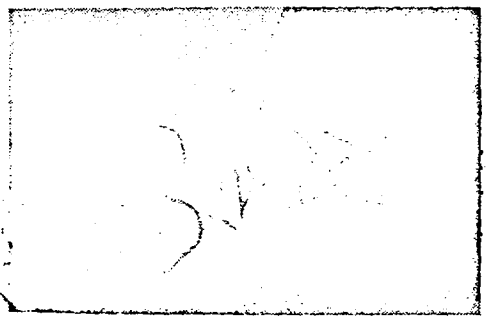
He taught school in Kansas and has taught family life courses at Edison Technical School.

A native of Kansas, Owen moved to the North District in 1946. He and his wife Fran have three children, Tracy C., Vicky and Stephanie. The family resides in Uplake at 5717 NE 182nd St.

Seattle, Wash.
Northgate-North Seattle Journal
(Cir. W. 25,240)

NOV 12 1969

Allen P. C. B. Est. 1888



Tracy J. Owen, businessman and long-time civic leader in the First Legislative District, has announced his candidacy for King County Commissioner in the North District.

Adams 'Interested', But 'Not Seeking' County Post

Representative Brock Adams said yesterday in Washington that he is interested in the post of King County executive "but I am not seeking the job," the Associated Press reported.

"A number of people have told me they want me to run for the position, created under the charter voted in November 5 election," Adams said.

"I am going back to Seattle in the next 10 days and talk with a number of these people who have told me they would like to see me in the job."

However, the Democratic congressman said, "I don't want to indicate that I am seeking it. I have a number of things I want to do here. I did say I'd go to Seattle to talk about it, and I will.

"I do want to go out and definitely consider it before the filing deadline of December 16."

Rosellini May Run

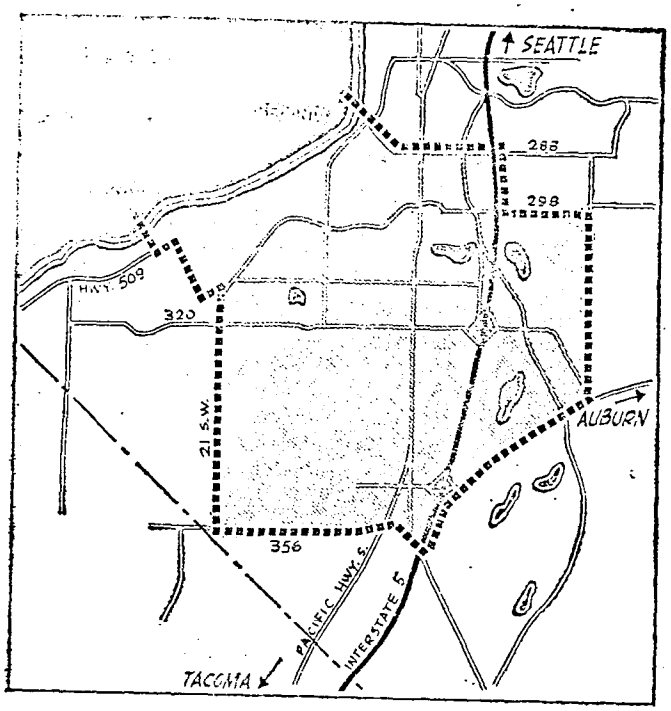
SEATTLE (AP) — Former Gov. Albert D. Rosellini has reported he is considering running for the new post of county executive created by the King County charter. County commissioners Ed Munro and John Spellman also have indicated an interest in the $27,000-a-year post.

Federal Way Incorporation Hearing Expected in January

By JERRY BERGSMAN

A hearing is expected in January on the proposed incorporation of the Federal Way area. The Boundary Review Board is to set an exact hearing date December 12.

Art Brown, chairman of the Federal Way Community Council local-government committee, said yesterday that dissatisfaction with county government led to the drive to establish a city.



HE SAID the 18.3 square mile area will be a "financially feasible entity." A proposed budget will be presented to the Boundary Review Board to prove it, Brown said.

A population of 18,900 persons is estimated for the area bounded by Puget Sound, 51st Avenue South, South 356th Street and South 288th Street. But annexations and population-growth projections indicate addition of 20 square miles and 40,000 people in five years and a 160,000 population by 1985, Brown said.

A number of junior taxing districts, including water and sewer districts, are in the area proposed for incorporation.

Brown predicted a city would assume operation of the Lakehaven Sewer Districts and possibly the water and fire districts. He said Federal Way would contract for services from the rural library.

Brown contended incorporation will expand police protection and park and recreation facilities. He said residents were unhappy with county zoning.

"There has been a complete lack of cooperation from county government," Brown said.

BASED ON an assessed valuation of $23.5 million in the area this year, Brown said a city budget of $1,222,920 could be established. He said a new budget is being drafted based on 1969 revenue projections.

Under the proposed budget, Brown said, $233,353 would be for law enforcement. He said Sheriff Jack Porter told the group that police protection could be doubled with an $85,000 budget.

He said $70,000 would be earmarked for parks. Now, Brown said, the county will spend about $3,500 for parks and recreation in the area and this amount is shared with a school district.

Brown said $16,000 would be for a city manager. The petition calls for a council-manager form of government.

While Brown said he felt the county charter would help the South King County area, he noted that the charter provides for one councilman for each 100,000 population while the proposed city would have seven councilmen for 20,000 population.

THE GROUP submitted a petition bearing 1,300 names. It required 845. The Boundary Review Board assumed jurisdiction and following a hearing could modify the boundaries, accept or reject the petition. If approved, the Board of King County Commissioners would set a date for an election. The election could not be before next spring.

Nearby areas, the committee expects will be annexed in the future, include the Twin Lakes and Camelot developments. The Weyerhaeuser Co. headquarters would be in the incorporation proposal.

Seattle, Wash.
Post-Intelligencer
(r. 198,812 Sat. Mor. 184,232
Sun. 239,092)
NOV 20 1968
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Freeholder Executive Not Rehired

King County commissioners have decided not to rehire Paul Meyer, executive of the county's freeholders, County Commissioner John T. O'Brien said yesterday.

Meyer's $1,500-a-month contract expired Nov. 10, five days after voters approved the new King County charter.

Meyer had indicated interest in staying on the job until the charter takes effect May 1.

County Plans No Job for Meyer

The Board of King County Commissioners decided yesterday not to extend the employment of Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of Freeholders.

Meyer had offered to stay on to assist in the transition to the charter form of county government. His contract ended November 10, but Meyer has stayed on without pay compiling records of the Freeholders for permanent reference.

THE STRUCTURE OF KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

VOTERS OF KING COUNTY

TREASURER
Constitutional 4 years

SHERIFF
Constitutional 4 years
Jail

JUSTICES (18) OF THE PEACE
Constitutional 4 years

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Constitutional 4 years
Juvenile Court

YOUTH SERVICE CENTER BOARD OF MANAGERS
5 members (1 judge chairman) 4 year overlapping terms

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES (21 Judges)
Constitutional 4 years

CLERK
Constitutional 4 years

LAW LIBRARY BOARD
5 members (1 judge, 2 attorneys, and chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.)
Librarian

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Constitutional
3 members, 4 year overlapping terms

ASSESSOR
Statutory 4 years

AUDITOR
Statutory 4 years
Elections and Registrations

CORONER
Statutory 4 years
Morgue

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Statutory, 4 years

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Statutory, 5 members, 4 year overlapping terms

COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEWING COMMITTEE
7 members: County Superintendent of Schools, 1 member from local Board of School Directors, and 5 members from County Board of Education.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

EX OFFICIO

COUNTY BOARD EQUALIZATION (PROPERTY TAXES)
Members: County Commissioners and 3 members of a City Council. Assessor ex officio clerk.

COUNTY ELECTION CANVASSING BOARD
Members: Chairman Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, and Prosecuting Attorney.

COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Members: Treasurer, Auditor, and Chairman of Board of County Commissioners.

COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Members: Board of County Commissioners, Health Officer is an ex officio member.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
9 members—selected by members of Board of Directors of School Districts in the county. 5 year overlapping terms

INTER-COUNTY RIVER IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
Members: Commissioners of King and Pierce Counties and 1 special Commissioner.

APPOINTED

KING COUNTY HOSPITAL SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Harborview)
Statutory qualifications, 6 members, 6 year overlapping terms.
General Superintendent

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL (Firlands) BOARD OF MANAGERS
5 members: 3 from recommendations by King County Medical Society and Seattle City Council, and 2 selected by the Board of County Commissioners. Also, 2 ex officio members.
Medical Director

RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
5 members, 5 year overlapping terms.
Librarian

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
7 members, 6 year overlapping terms.
Superintendent

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
9 members, 4 year overlapping terms. Ex officio member: Planning Director.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (Land Use Planning)
5 members, 6 year overlapping terms.

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3 budget directors, individually appointed by each County Commissioner.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEES
Statutory qualification.
3 members, 5 year overlapping terms.

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
5 members, 5 year overlapping terms.
Executive Director

KING COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
15 members, 2 year terms. Appointed by Director of State Dept. of Public Assistance upon recommendation of the Administrator of King County and approval of the Board of County Commissioners (ex-officio member, County Administrator).

Intergovernmental Committees

EX OFFICIO

COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE COUNCIL
Members: Board of County Commissioners and Mayors of all cities and towns.

Seattle-King County PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Members: Mayor, 4 members of Public Safety Committee and Chairman of Finance Committee of City Council, and 3 County Commissioners.

JOINTLY APPOINTED

Seattle-King County YOUTH COMMISSION
16 members, 2 year terms overlapping (8 appointed by mayor of Seattle and 8 by Board of County Commissioners).

Seattle-King County AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
10 members, 4 year terms overlapping, 2 representing industry, 3 from general public, 1 representative from University of Washington Environmental Research Lab. Chairman of the Board of King County Commissioners, and a representative from the State Dept. of Health (Air Pollution Section).

Seattle-King County CIVIL DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
33 members appointed by Mayor of Seattle and Board of County Commissioners.

QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL

Seattle-King County ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BOARD, INC.
30 members: 2 year term for non-official members. 8 ex officio members, including Mayor of Seattle and Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. 14 jointly appointed by Mayor of Seattle and County Commissioner Chairman (4 represent Seattle City Council, other cities and towns, Public Housing Authority and State Dept. of Public Assistance. 10 represent leadership in community) 10 represent low income groups and residents of areas served.
Director

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

- AIRPORT MANAGER
- COURTHOUSE AND GARAGE SUPERINTENDENT
- COUNTY ENGINEER — Licensed, professional civil engineer.
- LICENSE DIRECTOR
- DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
- DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE COURT PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPT.
- PROPERTY AGENT
- PURCHASING AGENT — Purchasing experience required.
- DIRECTOR OF COUNTY SANITARY OPERATIONS
- DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' RELIEF
- Seattle-King County CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR
- Seattle-King County DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH — Qualified physician with Masters Degree in Public Health and 3 years' experience in Public Health administration.
- Seattle-King County YOUTH COMMISSION DIRECTOR — Jointly appointed by Mayor of Seattle and Board of King County Commissioners. Qualifications: Graduate degree in social work plus community organization experience.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN SEATTLE
Council:
2 County Commissioners
1 Representative appointed by North Dist. Comm.
8 Seattle members: Mayor and 7 Councilmen
1 Bellevue member: Mayor or Councilman
1 Renton member: Mayor or Councilman
1 Mercer Island member: Mayor or Councilman
1 Representative of 9 other cities
1 Chairman selected by council membership

PUGET SOUND GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE
Association of legislative bodies of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties, and cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Bremerton.

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Citizens' advisory committee composed of planning commission members of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties and cities and towns located therein.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
Appointed by the State Director of the Extension Service representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Washington State University with the approval of the Board.

HORTICULTURE INSPECTOR
Appointed by the State Director of Agriculture with the approval of the Board. Deputies assigned upon request of commissioners and portion of their salary is paid by county.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY
Operated by Seattle Historical Society in cooperation with City of Seattle and King County.

HARBOR PATROL
Operated by the City of Seattle in cooperation with King County.

MAY, 1966
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SEATTLE
In Cooperation with the
Bureau of Governmental Research and Services,
University of Washington

2177

Municipal News

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY

A NON-PARTISAN FORCE OF 5000 CONSTRUCTIVE CITIZENS WORKING WITH YOU FOR A BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. LIX No. 4 | Wednesday, March 13, 1968 | 25c per copy | Page 13

LEAGUE'S CHARTER REPORT

League Reports To Freeholders On Home Rule Charter

Editor's Note:

The following is the complete text of the League's King County Government Committee report as approved by the Board of Trustees, February 26, 1968.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the Municipal League of Seattle and King County as a service to the elected Freeholders. Its purpose is to provide helpful information and hopefully a starting point in the preparation of a Home Rule Charter for King County.

This report is the result of a year-long effort of over fifty volunteer members of the Municipal League. The committee established as its objective a study of the existing King County Government as well as possible alternatives with their advantages and disadvantages — particularly as these alternatives are applied to King County and its political realities. The group also imposed upon itself these limitations and conditions:

1. Keep in sight the kind of government deemed desirable by the people in King County.

2. Develop information that the Freeholders will want to consider but do not try to do their job for them.

3. Seek a structure of government that will

a. Be capable of meeting demands of a changing society.

b. Attract and hold capable personnel to positions both elective and appointive.

4. Recognize that "change for the sake of change" is not necessarily desirable.

To accomplish this study the members were divided into four subcommittees: Finance, County Commissioners, Independent County Offices, and Comparative County Government.

Work included:

1. The study, observations and recommendations of each member.

2. Numerous interviews with elected and appointed county officials as well as experts in political science and government.

3. A review of other county charters and methods along with related literature on county government.

4. A review of the recommendations of other civic groups as well as a consultant's report on King County.

5. Over 50 meetings and work sessions.

6. A 150 page report from subcommittees.

7. Gathering of reference material, later to be made available to the Freeholders.

EXISTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The basic structure of the existing County Government was established by the first territorial assembly in 1854, when the population was largely rural, sparse and scattered. Today King County contains over one million people, and by 1985 it is estimated it will have another three-quarter million.

It is not likely that anyone today would organize a county as King County was organized a century ago. The County Commissioners 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. Each establishes his own methods of administration. An overall goal is difficult to establish. Coordinated effort or planning is also difficult to achieve.

(Continued on Page 14)

Gordon Conger, chairman of King County Government Committee.

Board Gives Go-Ahead On Urban Social Problems Committee

The resources of the Municipal League are being mobilized to organize a key new committee, URBAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS. This priority committee will take direct aim at the morass of social problems found in the Central Area of our city — employment, education, housing, health and welfare, and planning.

Municipal League President George Bartell said, "The decay in the Central Areas of our cities presents a challenge that has to be met. The proliferation of slums, poverty, crime and civil disorder, has threatened to loosen the basic fiber that has made our cities strong. The problem has been studied and analyzed and now it is time to develop solutions. The Municipal League, with its broad base of citizens and interests, is well suited to handle this job."

Two Goals

Bennett Feigenbaum, chairman of the newly formed Urban Social Problems Committee, said the committee will work toward two important goals—(1) to propose and try to implement programs of action, not studies; (2) to act as a "clearing house" for information concerning Central Area problems and related groups now dealing with these problems.

Chairman Feigenbaum said the committee will also closely review the execution of those Forward Thrust programs, passed by voters, that are related to the problem areas the committee will be working on. The committee will also assist, where possible, in helping to carry out the objectives of the Model Cities program to develop methods of dealing with Central Area problems by people living in that area.

Riot Report

Feigenbaum said the committee will use the report of the National Advisory Commission of Civil Disorders as a springboard for action, but he noted that the committee was developed before the commission report was made available and the committee will not rely solely on the report as its source of information.

Suburb Problem Too

The Commission report pointed out that people moving to the suburbs have decreased the city's tax base while at the same time demands for public services in the city are increasing. The report said, "This trend will continue unless important changes in public policy are made." The Civil Disorders Report continued, "No American white-or-black, can escape the consequences of the continuing social and economic decay of our major cities." The report goes on to point out that these problems are the entire community's problems—suburbs as well as the central city. The report said in effect, that white community institutions are largely responsible

(Continued on Page 14)

EDWIN PRATT TO SPEAK

Edwin Pratt, executive director of the Seattle Urban League, will be the guest speaker for the Urban Social Problems Committee meeting Wednesday, March 20, 12 Noon at the YMCA.

Mr. Pratt will discuss the President's National Advisory Commission report on civil disorders and how that report applies to the urban problems in Seattle.

All those planning to attend please call the League office for luncheon reservations at MA 2-8333.

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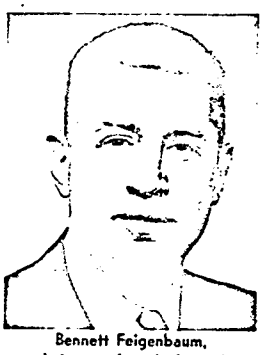
URBAN PROBLEMS

(Continued from Page 13)

for these problems and it is going to take white institutions to solve them.

Feigenbaum urges citizens in Seattle and King County to sign up and work on the Urban Social Problems Committee. He said, "The crisis in our cities is the major domestic problem of our time and it will take unprecedented action to meet it."



Bennett Feigenbaum, chairman of newly formed Urban Social Problems Committee.

RAPID TRANSIT FOR NATION'S CAPITAL AREA

A regional system of rail rapid transit and commuter routes has been agreed upon and is to be proposed for public hearings in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland.

The system will be serving 272 million riders per year by 1990 when the population of the region will be approaching 5 million. Estimated cost of the system is $2.3 billion, to be financed by bonds repayable out of the systems revenues and by capital grants from the participating governments.

COUNCIL MANAGER SYSTEM, ELECTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(Continued from Page 13)

The following are general suggested improvements:

1. Separate administrative and legislative powers and functions.

2. Increase the number of legislators.

3. Create a strong, overall administrator.

4. Create modern procedures for fiscal planning and mangement.

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 as well as for accomplishment of long-range goals.

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

The comparison is often made between a local unit of government and a commercial business. However, they each have different purposes and objectives. These differences often require different structures. **A public corporation cannot be administered in all instances on the same basis as a profit making business.**

ADMINISTRATOR

An important improvement to the structure of King County Government would be a provision for a single executive or administrator. Presently, there is no central authority which is responsible for the administration of the entire operation of county government. The ten elected administrators receive their basic direction and guidance from the State Constitution and Laws. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the position of an administrator be created, separate from the legislative body and with authority to:

1. Coordinate county services and functions as well as develop cooperation and communication among county officials and departments.

2. Develop cooperation with departments of the Federal and State government as well as units of local government.

3. Be responsible for administration of county programs and services.

4. Provide supporting services and insure efficient uniform management for all county departments.

5. Eliminate unnecessary duplication in administrative operations.

6. Recommend policy, programs, priorities and objectives for consideration by the legislative body and implement those approved.

7. Prepare annual and long-range budget requests, balancing department needs against overall objectives and available revenues.

8. Develop and maintain an efficient personnel system based on merit.

BASIC STRUCTURE

Two forms of basic structure that provide for a single administrator were considered. These were the council - manger system and the elected chief executive system.

COUNCIL-MANAGER SYSTEM (County Manager Plan)

The council-manger system is characterized by an elected legislative body that appoints an administrative manager. The legislative body in addition to its legislative powers and duties, sets policies and directs the manager. **It also approves the budget and other plans submitted by the manager.**

Features of Council-manager system are:

1. Provides for a distinct separation of administrative and legislative functions, while tending to make the administrator more responsive to the legislative body.

2. Greatly increases the likelihood of obtaining a technically qualified administrator.

3. Tends to insulate administration from politics because the administrator is not elected by voters, though appointed administrators do not escape entirely from the pressures and demands of special-interest groups in day-to-day operations.

4. The manager appoints all or most of the department heads.

5. There usualy is continuity of administration even when the legislative body changes.

County government has performed well with a council-manager system of government. The plan is in use in ten states, including California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. This organizational structure is successfully used by the Port of Seattle and the various school districts. However, the objectives, services, needs and problems of these single-purpose, local governments are much less complex and varied than those of King County.

The experience of other counties and cities indicates that certain charter provisions are critical for success with the council-manager plan. These are:

1. Prevent a legislative member from interfering in the actual administration or work of the manager.

2. Appoint the manager to serve at the pleasure of the legislative body and to be dismissed by that body only by a majority vote. The only cause for removal should be failure to perform competently.

3. Prevent an existing member of the legislative body from being appointed manager.

4. The council is the policy-making body.

5. All administrative duties and functions are placed under complete control of the appointed manager.

6. Avoid placing administrative responsibilities under separate boards, commissions, or committees.

ELECTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE SYSTEM

Examples of elected executives are the President of the United States, governors, and the mayors of many large cities, such as Seattle. County government has performed well with an elected executive system of government. **This system is used, for example, in Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, and Wisconsin.**

Features of the elected executive system are:

1. The executive is elected separately and at large.

2. The elected executive system provides an opportunity for chief executive officer to be elected on the basis of policies and programs that he advocates.

3. An elected executive is apt to be and is expected to be responsive to the electorate, while an appointed manager is responsive to the council.

4. An elected executive may or may not have administrative skill and training.

5. The legislative body approves policy, tax levels, spending levels, priorities, plans, programs and objectives.

6. The legislative body has the necessary authority to conduct investigations as well as evaluate programs and performance of departments.

7. The executive appoints all of the administrative department heads, and the legislative body may have authority to approve appointments.

8. The elected executive has the power of veto over legislation.

9. The legislative body has power to override an executive's veto.

LEGISLATIVE BODY, PARTISANSHIP, PERSONNEL AND BUDGET SYSTEMS

INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

King County presently elects seven administrative officers in addition to the three commissioners. These independently elected officials hire their own staffs, set up their own employee salary schedules, job qualifications and training procedures.

The offices of Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer are discussed in the fiscal section of this report. The office of Prosecuting Attorney is presently elective and the State Constitution prevents a Home Rule Charter from making this office appointive. However, the committee recommends that provision be made that the administrative and legislative body may employ legal advisers.

Coroner

The functions of the Coroner are to investigate deaths, suspicious or unattended by a physician and determine cause of death. The Coroner also has authority to call inquests.

RECOMMENDATION

The Coroner's duties are medical and legal. Since these functions are administrative, the office should not be elective. The Medical Examiner system adopted by some states and counties should be investigated.

Sheriff

The functions of the Sheriff are to investigate crimes and arrest people accused of crimes, operate county jail and enforce orders of the courts in civil and criminal cases.

At the present time the Sheriff exercises some policy-making responsibility, particularly in the level of law enforcement. Example—toleration policy re gambling, etc.

RECOMMENDATION

The committee felt this policy-making should be the responsibility of either an elected county executive or a legislative body through an appointed manager. The committee felt the office of Sheriff should be appointive. At present the Sheriff's office has many record-keeping functions that might be transferred to a department of records if such were established.

Clerk

The functions of the office of Clerk are to serve the Superior Court and to keep all court records and files.

RECOMMENDATION

This is a purely administrative function and should not be headed by an elected official, but should be appointed by the courts. Certain miscellaneous record-keeping functions presently in this office (record of chiropractors' licenses, etc.) should be transferred to Department of Records if such is established.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

The legislative body has the basic function of establishing policy for county government. Three commissioners make up the present legislative body. Such a small number is not desirable because it limits the opportunity for presentation of a wide variety of viewpoints. In addition some areas remote from Seattle feel they have no representation or voice in county government.

RECOMMENDATION

The number of legislators should be increased and their administrative responsibilities should be transferred to the administrator's office discussed in previous sections of this report.

In general, the number of legislators should be:

1. Large enough to provide adequate representation for all citizens and large enough to permit division into committees.

2. Small enough to be workable as well as not excessively expensive to the taxpayers.

3. Be an odd number to prevent a deadlock.

Of the 23 charter counties surveyed, half had five legislators. The others had seven or more, except one county which had three. Monroe County, New York, has twenty-nine. The combined City and County of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee, has forty.

Presently, in King County, the commissioners are nominated by districts and are elected at large. The City of Seattle elects councilmen at large by position.

Features of elections at-large as compared with elections by district are:

1. The most interested and capable individuals may be elected regardless of where they live in the county.

2. Elected individuals tend to have a better perspective of the needs of the county and are better able to make decisions on that basis.

3. People in rural areas and remote communities are less likely to be adequately represented.

4. Name familiarity of candidates tends to carry more weight.

5. A county-wide campaign is more costly and tends to limit candidates to those who can afford the expense of a political campaign.

6. Voters must evaluate candidates for a greater number of positions.

7. A legislator's responsiveness to individual voters tends to be lessened.

Features of election by districts as compared with elections at-large are:

1. More adequate representation for individuals in rural areas.

2. Results in a shorter ballot.

3. Provides greater opportunity for contact between the voters and candidate.

4. More likely that legislation will take into consideration the views of people in different districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that an odd number of at least seven legislators be nominated by district and elected at large. The final election ballot should contain the names of the two candidates from each district receiving the highest number of votes regardless of party. The legislators should serve full-time and be paid enough to attract well-qualified and capable individuals. Provisions should be made for redistricting by a group other than the legislative body during every census year. The Freeholders should establish the original district boundaries.

PARTISANSHIP

A few charter counties in the United States elect officials on a nonpartisan basis. So does the City of Seattle. There appears to be a trend toward this feature in local government. Many of the present independently elected county officials stated a preference to be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Features of nonpartisan elections are:

1. County problems and issues become more important than party dominance and party discipline.

2. A candidate for elective office is able to campaign on his own merits and platform.

3. Merit plays a larger role than party affiliation in the appointment and removal of administrative officers.

Features of partisan elections are:

1. There is inherent opposition to the party in power and to an elected official. The party on the outside is looking for poor performance. It is often easier to unseat an undesirable official.

2. Conflict of party viewpoints and criticism is generally healthy and desirable.

3. Political parties tend to create more interest in government by creating greater citizen interest in voting.

4. With a two-party system, partisanship at the county level provides a training ground for new party leaders.

RECOMMENDATION

If partisan elections are continued there is a particular need for a personnel system under which capable and dedicated county employees will not be removed each time the political situation changes.

There is a possible third alternative. If political party identification is allowed but not required a candidate could choose to be partisan or nonpartisan in his campaign. If political parties wish to have influence in county government they must then bring forth and/or support qualified candidates. A candidate would be free to develop his own platform or issues or to accept those of a political party. Provision should be made for a candidate to remain independent or identify himself with a political party in his campaign, as he chooses.

PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Presently each elected county official handles all personnel matters for his organization. He hires, fires, promotes and establishes salaries as well as policies and procedures. There is no uniformity of standards between offices. The undesirable effects of spoils and patronage are present to some degree. One exception is the Sheriff's office which has its own Civil Service System established by state law.

Several other personnel problems were discussed by elected officials. These are:

1. It is difficult to attract young career people to employment.

2. Salaries in general are too low in comparison to salaries elsewhere.

3. The line-item budget fixes the salary for each position. Changes may only be made with the next budget on special approval of the Commissioners. This inflexibility often results in paying new employees with little or not experience at the same rate as experienced and capable employees.

Civil service systems were created to eliminate the cost and inefficiency of the spoils system. However, some disadvantages of the traditional civil service system are:

1. Tends to retain inefficient and other undesirable employees.

2. Destroys incentive of many capable and desirable employees because of the rigidity and "red tape" in promotion and pay increases.

3. Tends to reduce the administrator's power to assign employees to jobs on the basis of their capabilities and the needs of their office.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a single county personnel system be developed that will:

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.

FISCAL SYSTEM

BUDGET

A budget for county government is a plan for the use of monetary resources by all the county departments. The formulation of the budget starts with the separate requests made by the heads of the various departments. At present, these requests are given to the county au-

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FISCAL OFFICERS
COMMUNICATIONS—CHARTER—TRANSITION

ditor, who adds them up into an overall preliminary budget, and passes it on to the county commissioners. The responsibility for analyzing the budget requests and weighing the needs of one department or program against the needs of another rests entirely with the county commissioners. Moreover, the role of the county commissioners is largely one of reacting to the preliminary budget presented to them; they have little hand in framing the proposals of various departments in the light of changes in policy that call for increasing or decreasing funds for different programs.

The budget which the county uses today is a "line item" or "appropriation" budget which requires each contemplated expenditure to be identified in great detail. Once the commissioners approve a particular line item, that expenditure cannot be altered or used for any different purpose without specific approval of the commissioners. This allows little flexibility in administration and needlessly takes the time of the commissioners when requests are made for changes in the budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made concerning budget procedures:

1. The preparation of the budget should be under the supervision of a full-time budget director who is appointed by the county administrator. This would enable the administrative branch of the county to prepare an integrated plan for submission to the legislative body.

2. The format of the budget should be changed from the "line item" approach to a program or performance budget. This involves allocating funds in lump sums to programs rather than identifying restrictively each item of proposed expenditure. Budget activities should be expressed not only in dollar amounts but also in a narrative description of the programs contemplated.

3. Individually budgeted items within a program should be subject to change by the administrative department concerned with that portion of the budget, so long as the total amount allocated to the program is not increased.

4. The legislative body of the county should adopt long-term capital improvement plans.

5. Appropriations for operating expenses should lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which made, unless action is taken by the legislative body, before the end of the year, to continue the appropriations. Appropriations for capital improvements should not lapse at the end of a fiscal year.

6. The legislative body should be empowered to provide, in the budget, emergency funds from regular tax funds up to some dollar or millage limit. Emergency expenditures should be authorized upon a vote of the legislative body in more than a majority but less than a unanimity.

7. A budget message should be prepared by the administrator.

8. The legislative body should be authorized to establish a system of disbursement which would eliminate the use of warrants.

INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED FISCAL OFFICERS

Assessor

PRESENT FUNCTIONS:

The assessor evaluates property throughout the county for purposes of taxation; he registers and lists foreign corporations; he certifies property valuations in special taxing districts for purposes of issuance of bonds; and he determines compliance of taxing districts with the 40-mill limit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Presently the Assessor establishes the assesed value of property in King County. The Treasurer applies a millage rate to this assessed value in order to determine the tax amount on each parcel of property.

While valuation by the Assessor is a matter of judgment, it does not involve any issues of public policy. The committee feels the assessor should be appointed by the county administrator with the approval of the legislative body.

Auditor

PRESENT FUNCTIONS

The fiscal functions which the auditor now performs are the checking of all requests for disbursements of money by the various county departments, to see that the proposed expenditure is within the budget reserves for that department; he certifies debts owed the county; he accounts for the treasurer's debits and credits and submits an annual state fund account to the State Auditor; he makes an annual public exhibit of county finances; he registers, draws and issues warrants; and he examines the books of the treasurer and counts the money in the treasury. In addition, the auditor performs many non-fiscal functions. He acts as the county recording officer for deeds and other documents; he directs the Department of Motor Vehicle licensing and the Department of Elections; and he acts as clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The non-fiscal functions of the auditor should be exercised by other administrative officers who are responsible to the county administrator. The auditor should be appointed by the legislative body and should perform the "post audit" role which auditors now generally perform in private industry — i.e., examining and making recommendations concerning the improvement of procedures within each department for the authorizing of expenditures, and making of spot checks to test the accuracy of the control system in each department. The "pre-audit" procedure of checking each expenditure, before it is made, should be the responsibility of the department making it, and the auditor should not be required to duplicate this work as he presently does. Rather the auditor should become the legislative body's overseer of the adequacy of the fiscal control procedures used by the administrative branch of the county government.

Treasurer

PRESENT FUNCTIONS

The treasurer collects and holds tax funds; he invests surplus monies; he takes care of debt service on outstanding obligations and disburses monies in redemption of warrants; and he performs these functions not only for the county itself but for a variety of municipal corporations as well.

RECOMMENDATION

The county treasurer should be appointed by the administrator.

COMMUNICATIONS

King County government should communicate with its citizens. A public Information Department should be created reporting directly to the administrator. A department to handle inquiry and complaints should also be created, separate from the Public Information Department.

Nine countries are using a Citizen Protector, commonly known as an Ombudsman. These individuals are professionally qualified, readily accessible, politically independent, completely detached from government and authorized to inquire into administrative shortcomings. In these 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.

RECOMMENDATION

An office should be established to carry the functions of an Ombudsman.

CHARTER

It is recommended that the Home Rule Charter be simple, short, and provide for the greatest possible administrative and legislative flexibility. It should avoid the kind of detail that is likely to require frequent revision. This detail should be developed and adopted by the administrative and the legislative bodies.

The charter should be written in a manner easily understandable. Included should be a method for citizens to recall any elected officials. The initiative and referendum methods of citizen expression and control should also be provided. Several other charter features that provide citizen safeguards and insure checks and balances are recommended in the Basic Structure section of this report.

The charter should confer on the legislative body all legislative powers not prohibited by state constitution and statute. This will permit the county to respond to local needs more readily than it can today.

Recommended powers and duties of the legislative body and the administrator are discussed in the Basic Structure, Legislative Body, Personnel System, and Fiscal System sections of this report. Legislative powers and functions should be separated from administrative powers and duties. The administrator should have veto power over decisions of the legislative body who should in turn be able to overturn the veto with a two-thirds' majority vote.

The charter should not have any residence restrictions for prospective appointed administrators or other prospective employees, but should establish qualifications for all of the principal appointed officials.

Terms of office for elected officials should be four years with half of the legislators elected every two years.

TRANSITION

The transition from existing county government to that established by charter must be carefully analyzed and planned. Otherwise, county functions and services could be disrupted and many capable, desirable and experienced employees may be lost to county service.

Consideration should be given to retaining some office holders for a period of time. In addition, the independently elected officers should be classified as county employees so that they may be given an opportunity to serve in the new administrative organization when their term expires. Provisions should be made to permit existing county employees to assume equivalent positions under the Home Rule County personnel system.

Experience in Multnomah County, Oregon, indicates there should be a lapse in time between approval of the charter and the first elections under it. Lawsuits and possible injunctions found Multnomah County citizens voting for two sets of officials — one under the old [illegible] and one under the charter.

continued Seattle Times 10-6-68

This concept is embodied in the charter, drafted by the 15-member Board of Freeholders over 10 months and approved for the November 5 general-election ballot.

Since a state constitutional amendment permitted county home-rule in 1948, no charter has been approved. In 1952, a charter proposal lost in King County. Snohomish County this year is drafting a charter.

Fate of the King County charter will have an impact state-wide, according to John L. Chambers, executive secretary of the State Association of County Commissioners.

Failure at the polls probably would dampen charter interest in other areas, but passage "could produce a 'domino effect' in other counties, creating a series of charter efforts," he said.

Either way, the King County charter could become a model for other counties, Chambers predicted.

King County commissioners have endorsed it.

FROM THE STANDPOINT of the county commissioners, the charter provides a separation of administrative and legislative functions, strong leadership focused on one executive, coordination of administration by combining departments with similar functions and time for county councilmen to devote to problem-solving.

County employes would be given a career-service personnel system requiring hiring and promotion on merit instead of patronage and a grievance procedure in case of dismissal.

For the public, the charter provides representation by a councilman with a limited constituency, and allows initiative and referendum procedures and recall of elected officials.

It also provides for a citizen-complaint office to investigate and take action on grievances against public officials and a single board of appeals to hear appeals involving tax assessments, rulings of executive departments, zoning variances and conditional-use permits.

Richard Albrecht, freeholder chairman, does not contend government necessarily would cost less.

"We think the public will receive more value for its dollar," he says.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT permitting county home-rule specifically bans charters from affecting the offices of the prosecuting attorney, Superior or Justice Court judges and county school superintendents. The charter is silent on those offices.

Now, county government is made up of those offices plus three elected county commissioners, and the elected auditor, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, assessor and clerk.

The proposed charter retains an elected assessor. It substitutes nine county councilmen elected by districts for three county commissioners nominated by district and elected county wide. It provides for an elected chief executive to supervise administration.

All other officials would be appointed.

A key point in the charter is the election of nine county councilmen by district. The expanded Council, subject of some of the strongest criticism of the charter, was designed to serve as a check on the strong executive branch of government. (The criticism focuses on the question of whether nine councilmen would have enough to do to keep themselves

The Council would hire an auditor not only to check fiscal records but also evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of programs carried out by the executive departments. The Council would establish a citizens-complaint office (ombudsman) to hear and investigate complaints by the public. The office would have subpoena powers.

In effect, this system is similar to the mayor-council form of government. The chief executive supervises the administrative departments and staff functions, proposes a budget and has veto power over ordinances.

FREEHOLDERS considered a number of arguments for election of an expanded Council. Lack of representation under the present system was the major complaint of community organizations and individuals testifying before the freeholders.

With the present population of 1.2 million in King County, each councilman would represent about 130,000 persons. At the turn of the century, each of the three county commissioners represented 30,000 persons. Suburban King County, the area outside cities, now has a population of 437,000 and the number is expected to grow to 500,000 by 1970.

Freeholders note that the King County population is greater than the populations of 16 states. They say that an expanded Council would place county government on an equal footing with Seattle government.

While the councilmen would be elected by districts, the campaigns for election of the chief executive —the equivalent of a city mayor — would provide opportunity for discussion of issues on a county-wide basis.

Pinpointing of responsibility is another aim of the charter. Instead of going to all three county commissioners with a problem, a citizen would go to a single councilman.

Lines of command are defined clearly in the charter. The executive would appoint heads of "line" departments such as planning, parks, public works and a professional administrator. The administrator would appoint and supervise heads of staff offices such as budget and accounts, personnel and purchasing.

A COMMON COMPLAINT of county officials is that they must brief each of the three county commissioners, often separately, on their programs. The charter provides for a single supervisor.

Duplication of functions and equipment also would be cut under the charter, freeholders believe. Each elected county official now has an individual letterhead, for example. The county has had two different brands of computer equipment which were not compatible in use. The same is true of radio equipment.

Election-campaign expenses would be cut by creating councilman districts, freeholders believe. Instead of maintaining a campaign to reach 1.2 million persons, Council candidates would have to finance a campaign to reach only 130,000.

The rights of referendum and initiative would be first on the county level. To place a referendum on the ballot, signatures equal to 8 per cent of the vote for chief executive in the previous election would have to be obtained. For an initiative, the signature requirement would be 10 per cent.

A Change in Election Years

The charter attempts to place a new emphasis on local campaign issues by switching elections from even-numbered to odd-numbered years.

Instead of running for office at the same time as presidential, congressional, legislative and other state candidates, county officials covered by the charter would run in the same years as candidates for city offices.

Approval of the charter next month would mean a special primary election for the county officers February 11 and a special general election March 11. The charter would go into effect May 1.

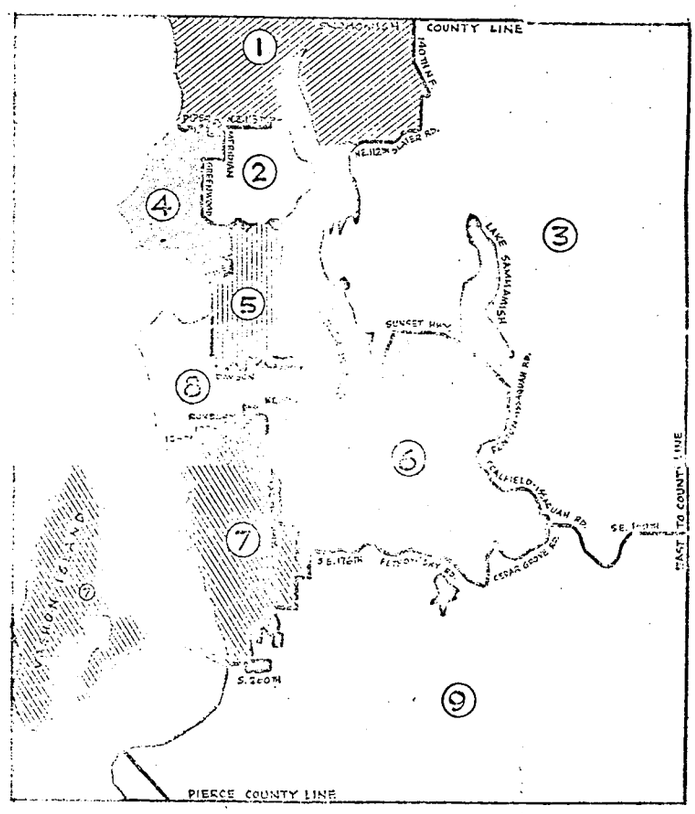
If the assessor and three incumbent county commissioners choose to remain in office, no special election would be required for selecting an assessor or filling three of the nine-county-councilmen posts.

Incumbents of the eliminated offices of auditor, clerk, sheriff, treasurer and coroner would be guaranteed county employment until retirement age.

BEGINNING in 1973, the chief executive and five councilmen representing odd-numbered districts would seek election every four years. The offices of assessor and of the four councilmen in even-numbered districts would be on the ballot in 1971 and every four years thereafter.

County government would remain partisan, except that the charter would permit candidates to run as "independents," without declaring a party affiliation. The independent slate would have to receive 20 per cent of the total primary vote for the independent candidate with the most votes to be on the general-election ballot.

The charter requires listing of campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material for all candidates for county office in primary, general or special elections. Violation disqualifies the candidate from holding county office.



Map shows the boundaries of councilman districts under the proposed county charter. Boundaries would be reviewed every five years. Each of the nine councilmen would represent about 130,000 persons. Freeholders believe that Districts 2, 3, 4 and 7 are Republican, with 5, 6, 8 and 9 Democratic and 1 a swing district.

Now reporting of campaign contributions on all levels of governmet is required only for the primary election and there are no penalties for violation.

Council-district boundaries would be reviewed every five years, beginning April 30, 1971.

The Council would be given the first chance to redistrict. If it fails, the executive would appoint a five-member redistricting committee.

If the Council fails to adopt a plan by the April 30 deadline, pay of councilmen is suspended until it does and half of that is forfeited.

THE NINE councilman districts established in the charter represent populations varying from 129,000 to 136,000.

Freeholders believe the districts numbered 2, 3, 4, and 7 are Republican, with 5, 6, 8 and 9 Democratic and No. 1 a swing district.

Commissioner John Spellman, the holdover commissioner, would represent District No. 2, including Green Lake, University and Sand Point District areas.

If re-elected November 5, Commissioner John O'Brien would represent District 5, the central area, and Commissioner Ed Munro would represent District 7, including Normandy Park, Burien and Vashon Island.

Expanded Duties for the Planning Staff

The scope of duties of a professional planning staff is expanded under the charter, which also attempts to cut through red tape in the planning and rezoning process.

The County Planning Commission, composed of citizens, would be abolished four months after the charter takes effect unless the

ponents.

The advisory Planning Commission now makes recommendations on rezonings to the county commissioners after a public hearing. If the applicant appeals the recommendation, the county commissioners hold a hearing.

Planning Commission

tive rezonings end up in a second hearing before the county commissioners anyway, and that professional planners are better qualified to make zoning recommendations.

The professional planner would be given more responsibility in other areas as

the development of capital-improvement programs.

The Planning Department would make the initial decision on applications for zoning variances and conditional-use permits. Unless appealed to the Board of Appeals, the decisions would be final.

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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1883

County OKs Charter; Munro, O'Brien Win

BY BILL SIEVERLING

King County voters yesterday adopted a home-rule charter — the first in the state — and re-elected two county commissioners.

But County Commissioner Ed Munro, the Democratic incumbent, had an unexpectedly tough battle with Tukwila City Councilman Tom Forsythe, his Republican challenger. But Munro appeared to have won reelection.

County Commissioner John T. O'Brien, the Republican incumbent, had a much easier time of it with his Democratic challenger, R. Judge Owens. O'Brien held a commanding lead over Owens.

In a third county race, Warren Chan held a substantial lead over Juvenile Court Commissioner Horton Smith in a runoff for Superior Court Position No. 3. Chan, a

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County Approves Charter; Munro and O'Brien Win

From Page 1

Seattle attorney, also had led Smith in the Sept. 17 primary.

The Seattle school levy won a majority, but fell short of the 60 per cent favorable vote needed for passage.

Elswhere on the longest ballot in state history, King County voters generally followed state trends, giving large majorities to Gov. Dan Evans and Sen. Warren G. Magnuson in their re-election bids.

County voters appeared to be favoring Vice President Hubert Humphrey over Richard Nixon, but the Humphrey edge was razor thin.

In other key races, Lt. Gov. John A. Cherberg held a slender lead over his Republican challenger, Art Fletcher, in the county and State Rep. Slade Gorton led John McCutcheon in the race for state attorney general. Gorton's substantial lead in King County, however, was being partially offset elsewhere in the state.

King County voters were in step with voters throughout the state, though, in giving large majorities to Secretary of State A. Ludlow Kramer, State Treasurer Robert O'Brien, State Auditor R. V. Graham and Land Commissioner Bert Cole in their bids for re-election.

County voters favored Gerald Sullivan, former deputy insurance commissioner, over State Sen. Karl Herrmann for insurance commissioner, but returns from elsewhere in the state offset the county pattern and gave Herrmann a slender but growing lead.

Early returns showed King County voters favoring 11 of 14 statewide ballot measures, but turning thumbs down on the two most controversial.

Initiative 32, the so-called "Save our Logs" measure aimed at curbing exports of logs cut on state land, was losing in King County by more than 2-1 with almost half of the vote counted.

And Initiative 245, which would reduce ceilings on credit service charges from 1½ to 1 per cent per month on unpaid balanced, was losing by a slight margin in King County, although it appeared to be winning elsewhere in the state.

Also going down by a narrow margin in the county was SJR 23, a constitutional amendment which would allow excess school levies for two years instead of just one.

County voters favored Initiative 242, the so-called "implied consent" measure; Referendum 35, restricting discrimination by realty brokers and salesmen; Referendum 17, a $25 million bond issue for water pollution control; Referendum 18, a $40 million bond issue for outdoor recreation; Referendum 19, a $63 million bond issue for colleges and institutions; SJR 5, a constitutional amendment allowing greater latitude in the investment of pension funds; SJR 6, a constitutional amendment providing for a state intermediate appellate court; SJR 24, a constitutional amendment providing for the filling of vacancies; HJR 1, a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to encourage green belts with tax incentives and HJR 13, a constitutional amendment permitting officials to receive salary increases during terms of office.

Freeholder Blasts Labor's Rebuff of County Charter

By Our County News Bureau

Rejection by the King County Labor Council of the proposed home-rule charter last week drew a blast Friday from James Curran, Kent attorney who also served as a member of the King County Board of Freeholders.

Curran declared the turndown a "biased and self-serving decision" which could cast an unfavorable light on other endorsements and recommendations the council has made in this election.

The freeholder criticised the council's stated reasons for refusing to endorse the charter as invalid.

"Neither the council's executive board--nor its members--apparently have taken the trouble to become properly informed as to what actually is in the charter," he emphasized.

Curran said that charges that costs of county government would increase by one million dollars annually are untrue.

"There will be some increase in costs, naturally, but I don't believe anyone can say with any degree of accuracy what these increases will be. On the other hand, whatever the increase in costs, I believe it will be more than offset by an increase in efficiency," he declared.

The council's criticism of an appointive sheriff and the civil service provisions of the new charter drew further blasts from Curran.

"I think we can get a competent sheriff by the appointive process it's worked in other modern counties and it can work here. Further, I think county employes have been given basic and adequate job protection under the charter they should have," he stated.

"I simply don't think the arguments used against the charter hold up," Curran added.

Significantly, the 43,000-member Aero Mechanics Union is not affiliated with the King County Labor Council but which was represented at the coucil meeting, was not involved in the action.

The matter will be considered Tuesday at an all-day meeting of the union's legislative committee, according to Thomas Finnegan, chairman.

The labor council's rejection brings the number of organizations or groups opposing the charter to four. Others are Young Men's Democratic Club, King County Sheriff's Deputies Association Local 519, and King County Employees' Association

The charter has been endorsed by Seattle-King County Municipal League, King County Leagues of Women Voters, Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Shoreline Community Council.

Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of King County Freeholders, said Friday favorable action is being considered by many groups which will be announced this week.

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'WELL DONE'

Charter Officially Makes November Ballot List

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Each commissioner praised the freeholders for a job well done in drafting the King County Charter, a document designed to modernize county government, as they approve the home-rule charter for the November ballot Monday.

It's up to the voters now, but for six months the charter was in the hands of the Board of County Freeholders, who worked long hours studying the present system and drafting an outline "that will provide hope for the 20th Century," freeholder chairman Richard Albrecht said in presenting the charter to the commissioners.

All 15 freeholders have signed the charter. The "home-rule" provision lies open to voters Nov. 5.

South District Commissioner Ed Munro offered commendation on a difficult task well done. He realized compromise was necessary on the part of the freeholders. "I do not agree with all parts of the charter, and I doubt if any of you would have written it exactly as it is."

Albrecht, with seven other freeholders present for the formal presentation of the charter, referred back to December when the board had first met with the commissioners. "At that time we didn't know what the contents of the charter would be. . .but we did have the goal of submitting our work this year."

"We organized the freeholders," he said, ". . .then learned about the present system, sought out the problems of other counties and conferred with experts across the nation." "Each freeholder was informed; then the deliberation began."

After the first draft was completed the freeholders sought the advice of King County citizens at hearings. Many sessions followed as the charter was pulled into final shape.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office, only indirectly affected by the charter since it is a direct agent of the state, and the assessor, judges and the superintendent of schools remain elective offices under the charter.

Other business carried out by the commissioners Monday:

Set a hearing for the proposed County Traffic Code for Oct. 7.

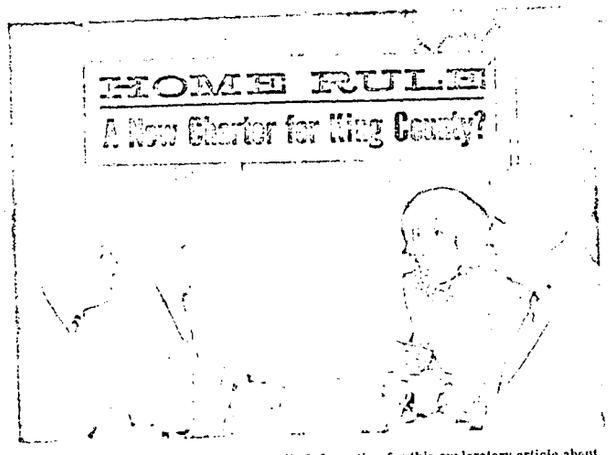
Set an appeal hearing Nov. 21 for a Riverton Heights developer seeking reversal of a recent Planning Commission decision refusing a maximum density apartment rezone. A $5 million apartment complex is proposed for the property.

The nine acre site at 42nd S. and 4th Ave. S., between S. 136th (if extended) and S. 138th was qualified by the commission as not meeting County Comprehensive Plan criteria for the maximum density zoning. The owners will attempt to show how the development does fall within county standards.

Accepted the valuation certificate reflecting that the assessed valuation of property in King County, as of Dec. 31, was $2,015,124,666.

HOME RULE

A New Charter for King County?



INTERVIEW GATHERING — To compile information for this exploratory article about Home Rule for King County, this quartet recently gathered for discussion. Taking part are (from left) Terry McKenna, Howard Bothell, Virginia Burnside and James Curran. The men are freeholders, among 15 elected last year.

HOME RULE

A New Charter for King County?

More About —

Freeholders Interview

(Continued from Page 1)

and that it's not going to cost us any less as the county grows. These so-called cushy jobs. . . at $18,000 a year. . . I believe is the only real problem.

Bothell: But can we get competent persons to serve as county councilman without paying $18,000?

McKenna: Perhaps. . . look at members of the Seattle Port Commission, for example, whose members serve for $1 a year. . .

Curran: Our end decision, however, Terry, was a compromise at the salaried figure because this seemed to be what the people who appeared before the Board of Freeholders basically wanted. They wanted better representation on the county legislative body and they indicated they were willing to pay for it

Burnside: Speaking of better representation, do you think it's necessary to have a nine-man county council to achieve it, or could seven or even five members serve this purpose satisfactorily?

Bothell: I was an early advocate of a nine-man council and I still am because it puts four from the City of Seattle and five from the county. This is the proper distribution because the preponderance of the councilmen should come from the county. This is where our problems are; this is where our growth is occurring!

Burnside: Persons who are opposing the charter claim that voters would lose control of a number of important elective offices in which their safety and welfare is directly involved--as in the sheriff's office, where the sheriff would became an appointive official and his office reorganized into a department of public safety. Do you agree with this criticism, Mr. McKenna?

McKenna: Again, I think putting an appointive official in a position of being the county's chief law enforcement officer is a mistake and I voted with the minority of the freeholders in opposing this particular provision.

Curran: I don't agree. I think the charter is a good job and that we can support this proposition of an appointive sheriff. The electorate has its crack at him and his policies. If they don't like--through the elected county executive and county council. If they to permit some redress for the voter.

Burnside: Some political leaders have expressed their opposition to the charter in terms of it diminishing both party responsibility and party influence in the county. They argue that most of the presently elected county officials would become appointive, and that, further, the charter provides for "independent" filings of candidates not possible now that would weaken the two-party system. Do you agree, Mr. McKenna?

McKenna: Absolutely not. We had the option of making county government non-partisan as it is in many municipal elections, but we preserved the partisan form.

Bothell: Actually, we freeholders stand in contradiction with ourselves. We agreed that all government is partisan basically and that county government should remain partisan, then we created an "independent voter" category most political parties can't abide.

Curran: I think you will remember, Howard, that we were satisfying the cry of a lot of people in the county who wanted this in. I feel if parties aren't strong enough to retain their position. . . that is their responsibility. Personally, I think they are.

Bothell: We've put up somepretty stiff qualifications for an independent candidate to get on the general election ballot, so you're probably right.

Curran: Furthermore, we've got a strong group of people sitting in the middle who have a right to be heard. This way, if they've got the muscle, they will be!

Burnside: Some students of government--particularly those concerned with the explosive growth of the county--are concerned that the charter doesn't go far enough. What's your opinion, Mr. Curran?

Curran: I guess I'd have to agree. We were all a little disappointed it didn't do all of the things we wanted it to do. But it is a positive step forward from the archaic structure we have now. . . . and nobody can question that the separation of powers it provides for isn't something that's way over-due. That in itself justified supporting the charter next month. But now we have a vehicle, if it's passed, with which we can move forward to further improvements

Third of Series

Is Now Time For Change?

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

As with any issue set before the voters for determination, both pro and con deserve priority examination.

King County operates today in a governmental framework established almost 115 years ago.

In order to change and modernize and, hopefully, provide for the future, a new charter must be approved by the voters.

Today's examination of this proposed new charter is distilled from our interview session with three of its 15 authors. They are Freeholders Howard Bothell of Auburn, and James Curran and Terry McKenna of Kent.

The interview:

Burnside: Some of the opponents of the charter believe that costs of county government--now running well over $70 million yearly--will greatly increase if the new charter is approved, particularly in the salary scale scheduled for a number of new county officials. Do you agree that costs will go up, Mr. Bothell?

Bothell: I am sure costs of county government will increase, but most of us are willing to pay them, I think, to achieve good government in King County.

Burnside: Could you give us an estimate of what percentage of increase there's likely to be if the charter is approved?

Bothell: No, but most of the cost increase will come primarily from added salary costs which some--not myself--think might be rather high.

Burnside: Do you think this might be offset by increased efficiency of our county operations?

Bothell: This is where we're going to see some real improvement. There are economies that could have been made--in the courthouse remodeling, for example--where more efficient planning could have saved millions of dollars.

Curran: In fact, with increased county efficiency, and a legislative body acting as a check and balance on the powers of the new county executive, the salaries of the officials involved I don't think would really increase the cost of running the county.

McKenna: We've got to face the fact that the cost of county government is increasing as demands for services increase,

(Continued on Page 8)

Issue Examined

Voters will be asked Nov. 5 to approve a new charter for King County.

The product of nine months of work by the elected 15-member Board of King County Freeholders, the document represents the county's second effort to restructure its government — operating now under the unchanged original provisions enacted in 1854 by the Washington Territorial Assembly.

This the third of four articles to inform Valley voters of the background in which the proposed new charter was written, what's in it, and the arguments for and against it.

Today's article is in the form of a four-way interview conversation between Howard Bothell, Auburn freeholder; James Curran and Terry McKenna, Kent freeholders; and Virginia Burnside of this newspaper's County News Bureau, who plays "the devil's advocate" in this instance to ask questions raised by opponents to the charter.

voters. Furthermore--and I want to stress this--the charter gives us a means to change this if it becomes necessary. In Dade County, Florida, for instance, voters there after six years decided they wanted an elected sheriff, after all, and were able to change it back. Our proposed charter is a flexible document providing for, and encompassing, change, if it becomes necessary. And all of us freeholders fully expect that, as the county grows, it will become necessary. This is a living, flexible piece of governmental machinery.

Burnside: What about making the rest of the presently elected county officials appointive?

Curran: I believe that the general public doesn't know much about these offices now--nor the men who run them. The charter, actually, gives the electorate as many public officials to elect as are elected now . . . a few more perhaps. . . and, as such, preserves as much control in the hands of the voters as at present. It's just done a little differently, that's all.

Burnside: What about the powers of the new county executive? There has been some criticism that perhaps, under the charter, these powers will be too broad and all-embracing. Do you agree, Mr. Curran?

Curran: Not if he's elective. It's true his powers will be broad--particularly in that he controls the county's budget-making operation--but if he's removable by the voter, his powers are more limited than it might seem as the charter is written.

Bothell: Furthermore, if county councilmen are elected by district, there should be someone at the top level of government with wide decision-making powers who should be elected county-wide

Burnside: Do you feel all freeholders are in agreement with all portions of the charter?

McKenna: No. You must remember that we freeholders represented a broad political spectrum and had many different points of view about what should be in the charter when we started work. And I think there are portions of the completed document that many of us feel could have been improved on. But the important thing is that I regard this as a hammer and tongs evolvement of a form of government which will be good for King County. That's why we all--and we were unanimous, despite our minor and a few major disagreements--signed it last month.

Bothell: I believe the board of King County Freeholders well read the mood the attitude of people and this county when it came up with a moderate charter. Historically, voters are slow to accept change, and it's going to take a moderate, realistic document such as this to make a change. True, it probably falls short in some areas, but it does provide the flexibility to improve conditions as change becomes desirable, and can be easily and quickly amended. We freeholders are proud of our work and hope it passes!

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King County Charter must be defeated

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THE PROPOSED new charter for King County government must be defeated by an overwhelming margin on November 5 to serve the best interests of the membership of Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28.

The Council took this stand on the unanimous recommendation of 17 affiliated Teamster Unions in Seattle and King County, four of which represent membership employed by the County.

How a group of 15 freeholders could sit in deliberation for over three months and come up with a political travesty the likes of which has never been seen in the annals of home rule is beyond all comprehension. These freeholders, thirteen men and two ladies, must have had a gay old time trying to see how many elective offices they could get rid of and how much new county expense they could heap on the taxpayers' backs.

For example, the county prosecutor's office is exempt by constitutional statute; so they can't appoint in that office. Yet, they want to take away the right to elect the county sheriff and leave his selection to the county administrator (who is also not elected), and within two years destroy one of the few working civil service programs in the county.

If you believe that the sheriff and his administration has a direct relationship with the public, then you should also believe that he remains elected. Turning this charter down will continue this inviolate right we now all enjoy.

• • •

THE FREEHOLDERS must have rocks in their heads if they think they are streamlining county government by replacing three commissioners with nine councilmen. That means six more offices, six more staffs, and six more giant dips into the county till for expenses, not to mention such freeloading activities as the Stadium Commission which travelled all over America at your expense just to see what other baseball parks look like. All this, a Domed Stadium, and Dewey Soriano too!

At the very least, the outfitting and staffing of nine councilmen in all would add better than $1,000,000 annually to the county budget. That's coming out of our hides. And what would we get in return? Nothing more than over-government, bureacracy, and the much discredited "rotten borough" system.

If you have your county cut up in boroughs, or districts as they call them, little cliques will form into one big clique — and the taxpayer suffers. Each councilman will have his private pork barrel and government will wind up as nothing more than "give and take" — you give and they take.

Finally, such a "rotten borough" system loses contact with the people just like out own insulated City Council that avoids public confrontations like bad breath. The administrators can't be touched, and the county executive becomes a dictator with the power to make or break those underneath.

Is King County ready for a modern-day fuhrer with taxing powers equal to the sheriffs of Nottingham? Whatever happened to the real intent of charter revision — amalgamation of all duplicating public services in Seattle and King County?

Before these questions are put aside with logical answers, the Teamsters of Seattle and King County urge a thumbs down vote on the new charter.

League of Women Voters

New County Charter questions reviewed

On the top line of the voting machine on November 5 voters will find the following proposition: "Shall the proposed home-rule charter for King County, providing for the separation of the legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?"

To help the voter become informed on this issue, the League of Women Voters has prepared a series of questions and answers.

WHAT IS A FREEHOLDER? A freeholder is a property owner. In this case 15 citizens (five from each of the three commissioner districts) were elected to frame a county home rule charter as provided for by the 21st amendment to the Washington State Constitution.

WHO DECIDED ON OUR PRESENT FORM OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT? The structure of all Washington counties is the same and was set up by the territorial government in 1854. It has been modified slightly by succeeding legislatures.

WHY DO WE NEED A CHARTER? King County's character has changed radically since the framing of the state constitution which established the form of county government. There are now more modern, efficient ways to do things.

HOW WOULD THE CHARTER CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT? One of the fundamental changes would be the separation of the executive and legislative functions. The charter sets up a unified executive branch under an elected executive and a nine member county council to set policy.

WHAT WILL THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER DO? He will be granted all executive powers of the county. These include preparing the budget, appointing a chief administrative officer and executive department heads, vetoing council ordinances and supervising all executive and administrative offices.

WHAT WILL THE NINE COMMISSIONERS DO? The nine members of the council will set policy, hold hearings, make laws, adopt a budget, approve appointments and approve comprehensive plans.

WHAT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED UNDER THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT? When the charter is adopted the executive departments will be the departments of public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health, records and elections, finance, parks, planning and building. The administrative departments will be the offices of budget and accounts, personnel, systems and services and property and purchasing.

WHAT ARE THE SALARIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL? The county executive will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least one and one half times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). The county will be divided into nine districts and one councilman will be nominated and elected by the voters of each district for a term of four years at the present commissioner's salary ($18,000 per year).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Experts feel that increased efficiency of operation will make it possible to operate within the present budget in spite of the larger number of commissioners and the addition of an executive officer. This can be accomplished through sound management practices. Multnomah County, under charter government, was able to effect a million dollar saving in the first six months.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL EACH COMMISSIONER REPRESENT? In 1960, each of three commissioners represented about 30,000 people. With the charter in 1965, each of nine councilmen will represent more than 130,000.

ON WHAT BASIS WERE THE NINE DISTRICTS DRAWN? The boundaries of each district will correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and will be drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

HOW WILL THE DISTRICTS RESPOND TO POPULATION SHIFTS? Boundaries of the council districts will be reviewed every five years, starting in 1971, and redistricting is required if inequities exist. Strong incentives are provided to see that this is accomplished.

DOES THE CHARTER OFFER THE CITIZEN NEW POWERS AND PROTECTION? Initiative, referendum and recall are made available to the voters. The commissioners, elected by district, should be more responsive to the electorate. An office of citizen complaint is set up.

PROPOSED KI

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We, the people of King Co
government, establish separate le
accountability, enable effective
secure the benefits of home rule
of the State of Washington, do

ARTICLE 1
POWERS OF THE COUNTY

Section 110. GENERAL POWERS.

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

Section 120. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

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

Section 130. CONSTRUCTION.

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended from time to time. This charter and the ordinances enacted hereunder shall supersede special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter and ordinances to the extent permitted by the state constitution

Section 140. NAME, BOUNDARIES AND COUNTY SEAT.

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed. Branch county offices may be established by ordinance.

ARTICLE 2
THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 210. COMPOSITION.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the county council.

Section 220. THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

220.10. COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

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

220.20. POWERS.

The county council shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The county council shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; except as otherwise provided herein shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities; shall adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths, but the subpoena power of the county council shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances which are being considered by the county council, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. The specific statement of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the county council.

220.30. ORGANIZATION.

The county council shall elect one of its members as chairman, shall be responsible for its own organization and for the employment and supervision of those employees whom it deems necessary to assist it or individ-

230.70. EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.

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

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

Section 240. MOTIONS.

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

Section 250. COUNTY AUDITOR.

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

Section 260. OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS.

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in his own behalf.

ARTICLE 3
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 310. COMPOSITION AND POWERS.

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the

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

The department of judicial administration shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished by the county council.

ARTICLE 4
FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 410. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGETS.

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

Section 420. BUDGET INFORMATION.

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

Section 430. CONTENTS OF BUDGET.

The budget shall include all funds, revenues and reserves; shall be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense and shall include supporting data deemed advisable by the county executive or required by ordinance; shall indicate as to each program, project or object of expense the actual expenditures of the preceding fiscal year, the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested appropriations for the next fiscal year; and shall include the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. The expenditures included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

Section 440. BUDGET MESSAGE.

The budget message shall explain the budget in fiscal terms and in terms of the goals to be accomplished and shall relate the requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

Section 450. COPIES OF BUDGET.

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

Section 460. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES.

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the county council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearing on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The county council in considering the appropriation ordinances proposed by the county executive may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditures of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the county executive. The

ING COUNTY CHARTER

(LEGAL NOTICE)

PREAMBLE

ounty, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and le and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution o adopt this charter.

written charges have been served on the personnel board member and a public hearing has been held by the county council. The county council may provide for the compensation of personnel board members on a per diem basis.

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

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

Section 550. CAREER SERVICE POSITIONS.

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

Section 560. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The county administrative officer, the chief officer of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments, the officers and employees of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments who are not members of the career service and all members the career service shall not engage in any political ity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office. A member of the career service may be elected and serve as a precinct committeeman without violating the provisions of this section. A member of the career service may file for a compensated elective office, but he shall take and be granted a leave of absence until the date of the election and until his term of office expires if he is elected.

ARTICLE 6
ELECTIONS

Section 610. ELECTION PROCEDURES.

Except as provided in this Article, the nominating

630.10. ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY.

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

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

Section 690. STATEMENT OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall, within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an itemized statement with the executive department responsible for conducting elections showing all campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material made to him or on his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him or on his behalf. Such statement when filed shall be a public record. The county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form of such statement. A willful violation of this section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

ARTICLE 7
BOARD OF APPEALS

Section 710. COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENT, REMOVAL.

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

Section 720. POWERS.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the executive branch and from any valuation by the department of assessments. The county council may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive department or administrative office. The decision of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a state agency as provided by general law or appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction within the time limits established by ordinance or general law.

Section 730. RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE.

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board and shall provide for the selection of those of its members who shall serve with representatives of cities or other agencies of government on any joint board or commission established by general law which hears appeals which would otherwise be within the jurisdiction of the board of appeals established by this charter.

reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

Section 895. MANDATORY INQUESTS.

An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE 9
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

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

Section 900. EFFECTIVE DATE AND ELECTIONS.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969, except that special nominating primaries and a special election shall be held on February 11, 1969, and March 11, 1969, respectively, to elect the first county executive, county assessor and councilmen to be elected after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries and election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 610 and 620, except that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primaries shall be filed during December 16-20, 1968; provided, however, that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primary for a councilman district in which a county commissioner elected in 1966 or 1968 resides shall be December 23-27, 1968, if that county commissioner resigns or files a declaration of candidacy for county executive or county assessor. A candidate may withdraw his nomination in accordance with the provisions of the last paragraph of RCW 29.18.030, and a vacancy on a party ticket may be filled in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.18.150.

Section 910. COUNCILMAN DISTRICTS.

Until they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the districts of the councilmen shall be as follows:

Councilman District No. 1 shall consist of: the following precincts in Legislative Districts 44, 45 and 46 and all precincts lying north of them: 44-85 through 44-88, 45-98 through 45-100, 46-97 through 46-101, 46-106, 46-115 and 46-116; all precincts in Legislative District No. 1 except those south of precincts Juanita, Bokirk, Phyllis, Finlock and Willows; and precinct Woodinville in Legislative District No. 48.

Councilman District No. 2 shall consist of precincts 32A-1 through 32A-51, 32B-82 through 32B-119, 43-1 through 43-29, 43-106, 45-1 through 45-33, 45-42 through 45-45, 45-54 through 45-59, 45-61 through 45-68, 45-81, 45-97, 46-1 through 46-96, 46-102 through 46-105 and 46-127.

Councilman District No. 3 shall consist of: all precincts in Legislative District No. 48 except precinct Woodinville; the following precincts in Legislative District No. 41 and all precincts lying north of them: Enatai, Bellevue No. 1, Bellevue No. 62, Bellevue No. 65, Bel-Air, Beachcrest, Squak Mountain, Gilman, Tiger Mountain and Hutchinson; and precincts Lorraine and Timber Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

Councilman District No. 4 shall consist of precincts 44-1 through 44-84, 45-34 through 45-41, 45-46 through 45-53, 45-60, 45-69, 45-70 through 45-79, 45-82 through 45-96, 32B-60 through 32B-81, 43-85, 43-92, 43-100, 43-101, 43-103, 37-1 through 37-4, and all precincts in Legislative District No. 36.

Councilman District No. 5 shall consist of precincts 37-5 through 37-106, 43-30 through 43-84, 43-86 through 43-91, 43-93 through 43-99, 43-102, 43-104, 43-107 through 43-109, 33-1 through 33-50,

The department of finance shall collect all county revenue, shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts and shall be responsible for investing county funds.

920.20.60. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

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

920.20.70. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.

The department of planning shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans for adoption by ordinance with or without amendments; shall advise all agencies of the county on planning; shall coordinate planning of the county with other governmental agencies; and shall assist the office of budgets and accounts in developing capital improvement programs and capital budgets.

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

920.20.80 DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING.

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

920.30. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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

Section 930. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to assume a position as a councilman on the county council established by this charter and shall represent the councilman district established by this charter in which he resides on September 1, 1968, in which case a special election for the first councilman for that district shall not be held.

Section 940. COUNTY ASSESSOR.

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

Section 950. COMMENCEMENT AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

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

King County Charter: At Issue, 'Home Rule'

King County voters will have the final say Tuesday on a proposed "home-rule" charter to govern the operations of the county.

The charter would make many changes in the structure of county government. For example, it would establish a nine-member County Council to replace the three man Board of County Commissioners; it would provide for an elected county executive (mayor), but would shift most existing elective county offices to appointive status.

The charter was drafted by an elected Board of Freeholders after many months of study.

King County

37—7-Se.

21 FOR

21 AGAINST

PROPOSITION

PROPOSED KING COUNTY CHARTER

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

(Argument in favor of the charter by Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders.)

King County, with a population of 1,200,000, is the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States, yet its county government operates with a structure designed in 1854 for a population of 170.

Three county commissioners must try to agree on all major executive decisions as well as on the setting of county policy. The citizen and taxpayer cannot assign responsibility for any failures or shortcomings. Nor can he know who should receive credit for decisions with which he agrees.

THE COUNTY has a total annual budget for 1969 of $74 million. It provides a wide range of services to people in cities and towns as well as in unincorporated areas of the County. Among them are the following:

Assessment of property and collection of taxes;

Operation of our court system and Youth Center;

Law enforcement;

Wholesale garbage disposal;

Construction and maintenance of streets and roads;

Elections;

Planning and zoning.

The county operates:

Harborview County Hospital; Seattle-King County Health Department and Seattle-King County Youth Commission (jointly with the City of Seattle);

King County Airport (Boeing Field);

County Jail;

Alcoholic rehabilitation center;

A system of local and regional parks.

The county also will operate the new multipurpose stadium.

The charter provides a separation of the executive and legislative power of the county. The citizen will have greater representation in a county council whose nine members would be elected from districts of equal population. The county executive will be elected county-wide for four-year terms. The executive branch is designed to attract the most capable people available to administer the affairs of the county. Modern administrative practices will provide a more economical county government.

THE CHARTER will not increase taxes. The safeguards in the State Constitution limiting the county's taxing authority cannot be changed by the charter. The assessor would remain responsible directly to the people of the county.

The charter eliminates the political spoils system. It offers for the first time a personnel system designed to attract and hold capable career employes for the County. County employes now have no right to appeal to anyone if they lose their jobs.

Certain basic protections are afforded county employes by the charter, including the right to appeal personnel decisions to an impartial board. These protections may be expanded by the adoption of personnel rules and through collective bargaining which is specifically provided for.

The sheriff's civil-service system would be unaffected for at least two years. Thereafter, if it is combined with the county personnel system, the sheriff's employes are assured at least as much protection as they now have. The sheriff's deputies are given the protection of both systems.

THE PRESENT county auditor is largely a bookkeeper and the custodian of records. His office also is responsible for issuing marriage licenses, automobile licenses and for supervising elections. The auditor under the charter will provide a continuing audit of the financial affairs of the county. He would report directly to the County Council concerning the management of county funds by the executive department. The state auditor would continue also to protect against dishonesty, illegal activity or improper use of public funds.

THIS CHARTER cannot be resubmitted if it fails. Another board of 15 freeholders would have to be elected to deliberate on a new proposed charter if this one is not adopted. The power of the Legislature to change the structure of county government is extremely limited by the State Constitution. Any changes made by the Legislature would not necessarily be the changes wanted by King County voters.

The only opposition that the charter has attracted is based on the selfish interests of the opponents. The choice is between this charter and the present system. The problems are great. Without the charter, the effectiveness of county government is in serious doubt. The charter must be passed to enable local government to deal with our problems. If we don't, the state and federal governments will step in to solve our problems for us.

We can't afford to miss this chance.

Against

(Argument against adoption of the charter by Arthur T. Hare, International vice president of the Service Employes International Union.)

It is expected that the new charter will cost the taxpayers of King County an additional $1 million a year. Each council member would receive $18,000 per year and they are adding six, making a total of nine council members. The county executive will be paid $27,000 per year and he will have an assistant whose salary is yet to be set. Each of the councilmen, the county executive and other officials will have clerks and other personnel to carry out their work. It is easy to see how the cost can become even greater than $1 million.

A special election will be held in February and March of 1969 (if the charter is approved) at a cost of up to $500,000 and not one penny of money has been provided for the election. Would it not have been much sounder to save the taxpayers this additional burden by having the elections at a regular election time and save all this expense?

What is the hurry for the adoption of this charter? It would appear that the proponents want to get the charter adopted before the public finds out about the cost.

If this is not true, why then have you not heard one word about this most important part of the adoption of this charter? How much will it cost? Where is the money coming from? After all we are talking about spending $1.5 million more for the first year of its operation and what other expenditures come in succeeding years, your guess is as good as mine!

WE ARE opposed to appointing certain officials and believe that it is much more democratic to elect officials who will hold important position in government. Elected officials are responsible to the public at election time and would be more inclined to conduct themselves accordingly.

Page 14, Article 5, of the printed charter under the personnel system provides for promotion on the basis of demonstrated ability. This means that when an examination is held for promotion regardless of which employ may come highest on the lis after examination, the ap pointing authority need no take this person but ma take the second or third o even further down on th list.

We believe that when a examination is held the em ployee rating the highest o the list be given an oppo tunity to take the new pos tion and prove whether he i the best qualified person fo the job.

SECTION 540 on Page 1 in the second paragrap provides for appeals to th personnel board, exceptin that the employe has no ap peal when he is suspende for up to 60 days. Thi means that employes of th service can be suspended fo 60 days without the right t appeal or a hearing. This i most unjust and will lead t all kinds of abuses.

The new charter, unde Section 890 on Page 23, say that the County Council ma provide for collective ba gaining. This could very we lead to a lot of problems fo the employes since eac time the council make-u was changed at election tim the employes would ver likely find that the new cou cil either favored or oppose collective bargaining an there could be a complet change of attitude after eac election with respect t collective bargaining.

County Commissioner Race Vote For Two Candidates

A reminder that all county voters will vote for two County Commissioners in the general election November 5, was issued Friday by incumbent commissioners John T. O'Brien and Ed Munro. Both are candidates for reelection: O'Brien in the Central District; Munro in the Second or South Commissioner District.

Munro said many voters are confused in this particular position due to nomination by district occurring in the primary. Munro won the Democratic nomination in the Second District and will be opposed by Republican nominee Tom Forsythe; O'Brien won the Republican nomination in the Central District and will be opposed by Democratic nominee R. Judge Owens.

State law requires that Commissioners are nominated in the District in which they reside. All King County votes on the nominees in the general election. Commissioner John Spellman, the County's North District Commissioner, is not up for reelection this year.

Munro said that the considerable confusion over this particular election law would be corrected if voters approve the proposed County Charter also on the ballot November 5.

Freeholders have proposed that County Councilmen (who will replace the present three-man Board of County Commissioners) will be both nominated and elected from nine separate councilmanic districts within King County. Munro pointed out: "In this way each District will have a full and exclusive voice in who their elected representative will be."

The incumbent Commissioner declared that not only would this end the confusion by which Commissioners are now elected, but it would provide more direct and immediate accountability of legislators to the voters.

Charter facts are available

A fact sheet, summarizing the proposed county charter, is now available for distribution, according to Freeholder chairman, Richard Albrecht.

The brochure-type summary contains questions and answers and a synopsis, along with an organization chart comparing the present and proposed structures of government and a map of King County representing the nine councilman districts.

Fact sheets have been distributed to all libraries in King County. Any citizen wishing multiple copies of the fact sheet or complete charters may pick them up at the following locations:

REDMOND - Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Strom, 15804 NE 116th.

BELLEVUE - KIRKLAND - Bellevue City Hall; Lake Washington East League of Women Voters Office, 9165 NE 24th, Bellevue.

WOODINVILLE - Woodinville Hardware.

Give Charter Fair Chance

To The Editor:

The 15 freeholders have labored long and faithfully, and have come up with a proposed charter, which they have all endorsed.

It will not prove to be perfect - nothing ever designed by man has proven perfect.

But it can hardly prove worse than the antiquated form of county government which was set up a hundred years or so ago; for King County is larger than either Rhode Island or Delaware, and has a total population greater than that of any one of 13 states, as shown by the 1960 census.

Some of us don't like the idea of electing the County Council by districts - it would seem too much to resemble the old ward system which Seattle abandoned about 1911.

Some of us would prefer non-partisan elections, believing that the personal qualities of a man are much more important than the party button on his coat lapel.

But it will be possible to amend it, when, and if, and as it proves inadequate or undesirable. So let's try it out and see what happens.

Charles R. Stork
23425 26th Ave. S.
Renton, Wash.

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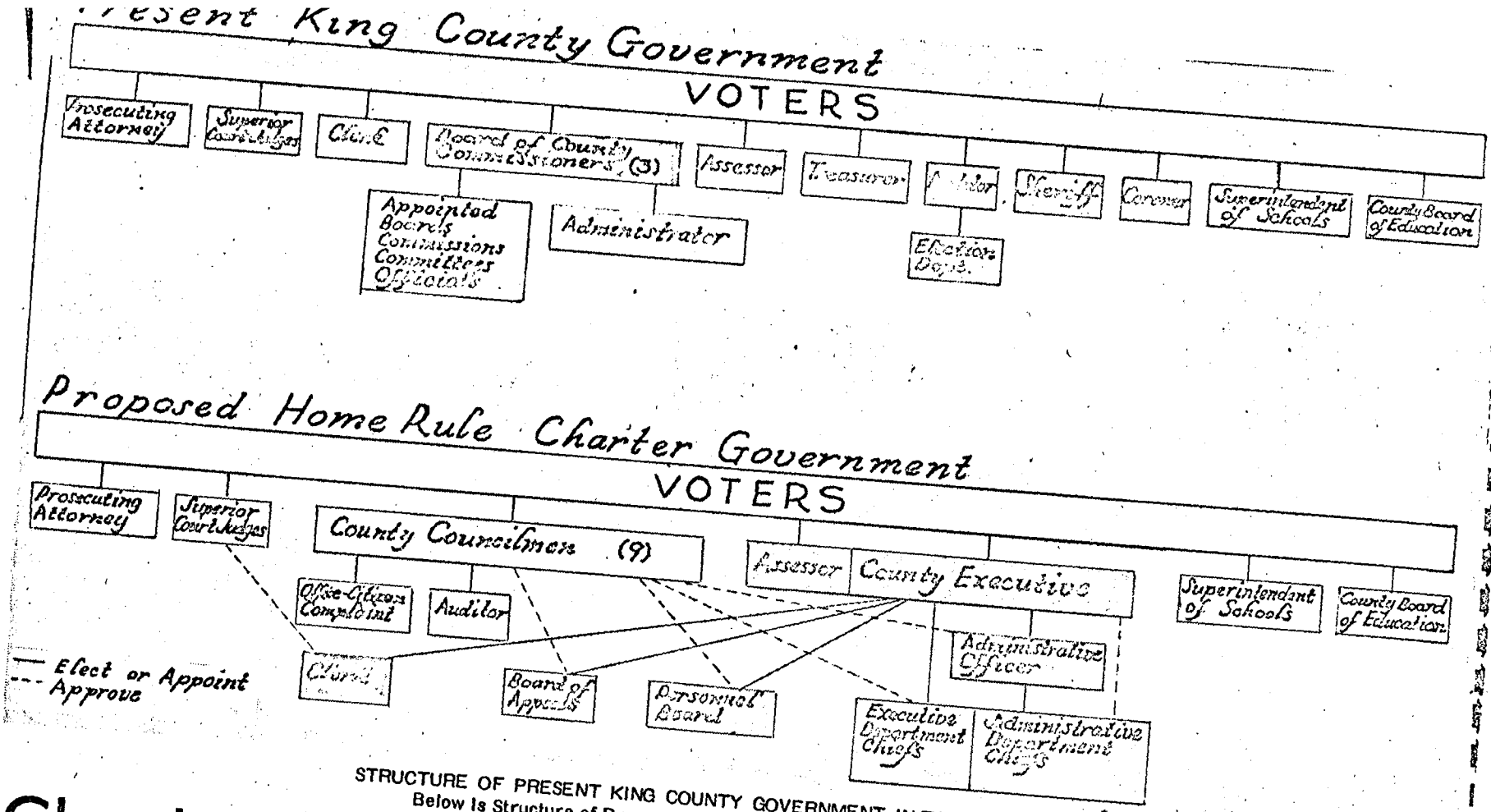


STRUCTURE OF PRESENT KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN TOP DRAWING
Below Is Structure of Proposed "Home Rule" Charter Govenment

Charter preserves partisan elections

(Continued from Page 1)

district three, which includes the total East Side. (See Maps.)

The charter preserves partisan elections but allows independents to run for office, Wampold explained. If an independent receives 20 percent of the vote in the primary election, then he would remain on the final ballot as an independent, Wampold said.

As now partitioned, four districts are Republican, four Democrat, and one is a "swing" district (could go either way). Provision is made for reviewing boundaries of the district every five years, starting in 1971.

* * *

There is some organized opposition to not making the sheriff's position elective, Wampold said. Thinking of the freeholders was that the sheriff should be a professional peace officer carrying out policy and not a politician.

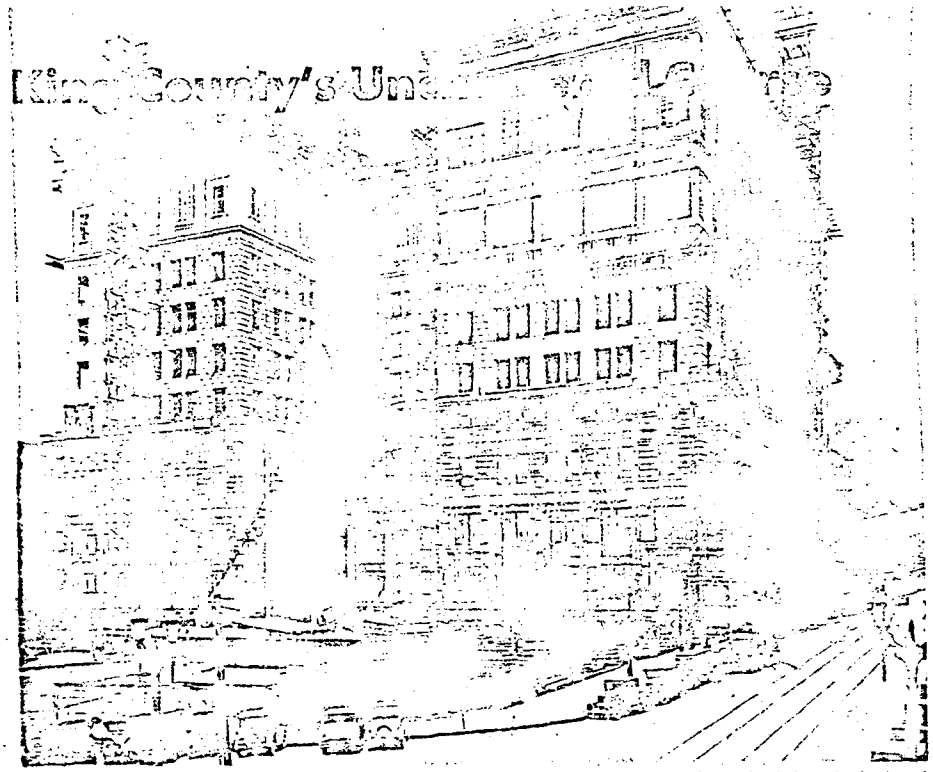
Under the charter, the county planning commission would be abolished unless the council votes to continue it. The professional planning staff would make recommendations to the council on planning and rezoning. The planning department also would be in charge of presenting comprehensive plans to the council, and would advise all county agencies on planning and coordinate county planning with other government agencies.

The planning department would make initial decisions on applications for zoning variances and conditional-use permits. The decisions could be appealed to a Board of Appeals provided for in the charter, Wampold explained.

Removal of the planning commission also has been criticized by charter opponents.

NOW SHOWING

King County's Un



(Ed. note: The following is a reprint from Viewpoint, a 1966 issue, published by the Seattle League of Women Voters—updated where needed.)

Once upon a time, a young woman who had just moved to Seattle stopped in at the King County Library and asked for a copy of the County Charter. As the brand-new chairman of the King County Government Committee of the League of Women Voters, she thought she would begin her research with the fundamental document.

To her embarrassment (the Librarian laughed) and surprise, the new Seattleite discovered that there was no Charter. The structure of government for her County was established by the Constitution and subsequent acts of the legislature. Cities of over 10,000 could have home rule charters, but counties could not.

At about this time, some other organizations were also studying County government and the possibilities of Home Rule. Before long, helped by the League, they persuaded the State Legislature and the voters to pass a constitutional amendment granting the privilege to counties, even as the original constitution did to cities.

Twenty years have gone by. The young lady has changed. Her hair is grey, wrinkles line her face and her children have become young adults.

Seattle has changed too, and King County's assessed valuation has quadrupled, to a figure over $2.2 billion. One third of the State of Washington's population now lives in King County, more outside the City of Seattle than within the expanded city limits. The annual budget of King County has reached and passed the $60 million mark, but the government continues on its un-Chartered course.

Today's young women, and men, may ask: What difference does it make? Why shouldn't the Legislature continue to spell out the organizational structure of the counties?

For the answer, one has to go back more than twenty years—to 1854, when the Washington Territorial Assembly established the basic form of county government. The county was conceived to be an agency of State government to serve a rural area. The structure was the same as that prescribed when Washington was part of the Oregon Territory.

It followed the pattern of rural government in the United States as a whole, a form of government based on a philosophy of distrust of the strong executive (experience with European monarchs and despots had left its mark), diffusion of power among many elected officials and trust in the faith of the people to choose wisely from among their neighbors in the small communities.

Thirty-five years later, the framers of the Constitution of Washington State adopted this form of government for all the counties. It probably worked well in 1889.

Since then, the Legislature has followed the same pattern. When new functions were felt necessary, new offices were created and new demands made upon the counties to perform the jobs.

The government was made more complicated but never modernized and streamlined.

King County still has three commissioners, referred to in the Constitution as the legislative authority who administers county affairs with eight independently-elected officials. There is not only no separation of powers but the administrative power is diffused.

In addition to performing its 19th Century duties such as tax-collecting, courts, law-enforcement and record-keeping, the county has now to face the urban problems of present-day America, county-wide problems such as garbage disposal, air pollution, transportation, zoning and economic development. It also serves as the local unit of government for residents who do not live within one of the 30 cities and towns within its borders.

"Home Rule" is not just an emotional slogan. It is a means whereby the entire structure of the County government may be overhauled and modernized at one time.

The Constitution provided for the independently-elected offices of Treasurer, Sheriff, Clerk and Prosecuting Attorney, as well as for elected Judges of the Superior Court and Justices of the Peace.

A Home Rule Charter—like the one before King County voters Tuesday—cannot change the status of the Prosecutor of the Courts, but it will eliminate the necessity of popular election of most administrative officials.

The Legislature provided for election of the Auditor, Coroner, Assessor and Superintendent of Schools. The proposed Home Rule charter makes the offices of Auditor and Coroner appointive and the Assessor's elective position unchanged. The charter does not effect the post of Superintendent of Schools.

A chart on the structure of King County government shows a large number of boards and commissions, some advisory only, some administrative as well, created by acts of the State Legislature. These groups will be disbursed between the executive and legislative branches, not now separated, of the government outlined by the proposed charter.

A merit system will replace the spoils system, in all county offices, if the charter is passed. At present, only the Sheriff's Office is not governed by patronage.

A nine man county council to establish policy for the county has been proposed to replace the Board of Commissioners with three members, thus more representation.

The new charter was a result of six months of study and meetings by 15 freeholders elected in February. Petitions required the election of the Board of County Freeholders and for a charter drafting.

King County voters turned down one Charter for Home Rule which was submitted to them in 1952, 16 years ago.

There is considerable support for the old adage: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." In some cases inadequate county services and lack of direct representation, especially felt in unincorporated areas, could provide the impetus for change, although political scientists say it takes a gross scandal or intolerable conditions to give the impetus. (The formation of Metro, a new form of government enabling local communities to work together, was probably due to the runaway pollution of Lake Washington.) And King County has had its share of scandals in recent years.

Widespread citizen participation has brought the charter on the long road to its position on the Tuesday ballot. Awareness of what the charter can mean to the future of King County should make it a successful issue. And the young women who appeared in the first paragraph may be dead in another twenty years.

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Bellevue, Wash.
Cir. w. 8,512

OCT 23 1958

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

Voter Apathy—Will It Kill The New Charter?

2177

BY JACK YEAROUT

Come November 5, just 12 days from now, King County voters are going to decide whether they wish to continue to be governed by an antiquated, reactionary three-commissioner government, or accept a modern home-rule concept for county government as outlined under the proposed King County Charter.

King County was formed in 1853 when the population of the county was 170 souls. Today the population is 1,200,000 people, but the county is operating under substantially the same form of government. This is why the three commissioner form of government if referred to as antiquated.

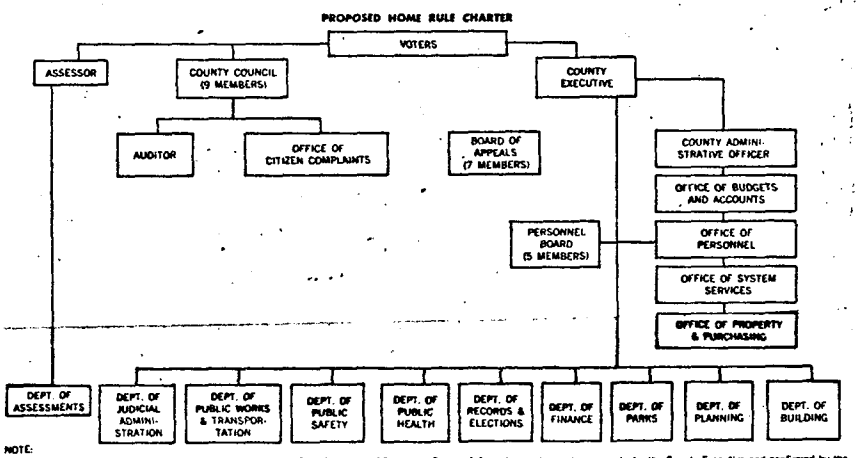
The present county government is referred to as reactionary because it "reacts" to pressures and needs from within its constituency. Roads are built only after the need is overwhelming. Changes in policy are made after pressures are applied. The overworked commissioners, carrying both the legislative and executive loads of governing an area bigger than some states, have little time to plan ahead.

It is time to modernize King County . . . and November 5 is the time to do it, by approving the proposed charter as drafted by the 15 elected freeholders.

Those freeholders, by the way, are fearful that the charter which they have researched so carefully and spent so many thousand of hours drafting, will be defeated November 5 if the public isn't fully informed about what to expect from the new form of government it proposes.

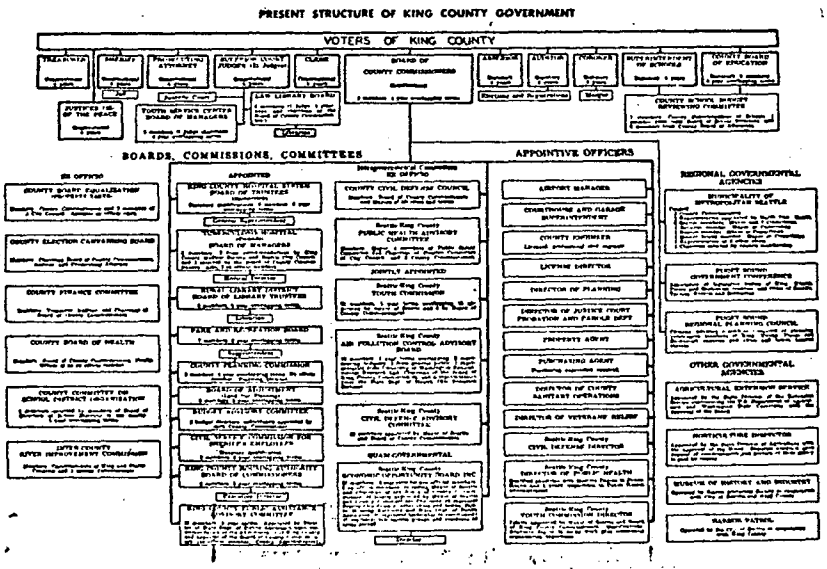
Actually, it isn't a new form of government. The charter would set up a legislative and executive branch of county government, patterned after many similar successful county governments scattered over the nation.

The freeholders feel that voter apathy could defeat the charter. It's hard to glamorize and arouse interest in such legislation, no matter how well written



NOTE:
Prosecuting Attorney, Superior Court Judges, J.P.'s, Intermediate Superintendent of Schools, County Board of Education are exempted from provisions of the Charter.

Board of Appeals appointments are made by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council as are the members of the Personnel Board.



actionary, too, when it comes to [illegible]rnmental changes.

Favoring its acceptance are the King County Commissioners. They have endorsed the charter, and as Commissioner John Spellman said, "It is quite unique to be supported by those in government . . . the reason is we do need revisions."

Many questions about the charter have been posed to the freeholders. The following ones are considered those most frequently asked . . . and the answers are by the people who have had the opportunity to study and research the charter as the instrument which could streamline King County's government.

THE "TROIKA"

"One outstanding achievement of this charter, which entitles it to pass, is that there will be one executive to run King County," Simon Wampold, Bellevue's freeholder has said. "We've had three commissioners with equal authority and responsibility. Can you imagine running the U.S. government with 3 presidents? Or any corporation? Or any state? By the way, King County is larger than 15 states in the union. Running a large organization with authority vested in three people makes it hard to get decisions, and inevitably leads to buck-passing; a situation where no one assumes full responsibility. One executive can run it like it should be run."

Commissioner Spellman agrees. "Commissioners enact rules, carry them out, judge . . . wear three hats, like the Russian "troika" . . . strikes us as absurd, but we have it in King County . . . lacks separation of powers which is built n to our federal constitution."

Another concern of many is he nine-member county council . . . and how the $18,000 annual salary figure was arrived at.

The answer to that, according to Freeholder Chairman Richard Albrecht is that the freeholders understood that the people of King County wanted closer representation, therefore the nine-member council. The salary schedule is the same that will be paid to county commissioners after election. Each commissioner will represent about 130,000 people, rather than the entire county.

Along this same line, all of the commissioners would not be Seattle residents or Seattle oriented as it sometimes appears now. Seattle would have a maximum of four resident commissioners. Bellevue and the area to the east of it would have its own commissioner.

FINANCING

The question about how government under the charter will be financed; and "would more councilmen increase cost of government?" brought these answers.

At the present time, county government is financed through limited sources, which would not be increased. The more efficient set-up in the new charter to run the county on a 24-hour basis would, in the long run, result in substantial savings and better government. Costs would be no more than now, with the charter enabling the combining of existing departments for more efficiency.

The present county budget is $50-60 million annually, and the amount paid county officials in salaries is small compared to those of big corporation officers.

There is no differece in restraint or pressure on the assessor whether there is a charter or not. The county operates on eight mills . . . state laws impose the lid on assessed valuation. The Freeholders were of the opinion that reevaluation sho[illegible] be solved on a state-wide [illegible]el.

In this vein, Commissioner Spellman pointed out that consolidation of departments, such as property and purchasing, public works, transportation, airport, sanitation, etc., would bring the number down to about ten under the charter. Presently there are 20 departments.

"This would undoubtably result in tax savings," Spellman said.

Wampold pointed out that the charter does not give any increased taxing power to the county. Assessments are now made by the elected assessor, and will continue to be made by the assessor, who remains an elected official under the charter.

PERSONNEL SYSTEM

The charter provides for a merit system for county employees. Some of the personnel of the sheriff's department are fighting approval of the charter, fearing that it would take away their civil service system.

In answer to this declared opposition, Albrecht reminded that the charter provides that the sheriff's civil service system will be maintained for two years, and after that the employees of that department can decide if they want to be incorporated into the regular county personnel system. The charter further provides that in no case can any of the benefits they now enjoy be taken from them.

Spellman calimed that the charter allows for the best of modern personnel systems . . . does away with partisan "spoils" system and made a point of saying that the county is presenting the "last bastion" for political favors.

Wampold brought attention to the fact that the personnel system protects both employee and citizens of the county . . . that any citizen can go and complain about anything he doesn't like about county government, to the office-of-citizen's-complaints.

"We hope to avoid corruptin or discourtesy in this way . . . all complaints will be given a hearing," the Bellevue freeholder said.

ALL OR NOTHIN'

Another question posed asked, "If we vote yes, the commissioner system will be dissolved. If not, what happens. Are there any provisions to amend action the freeholders have taken?

The answer to that one was:

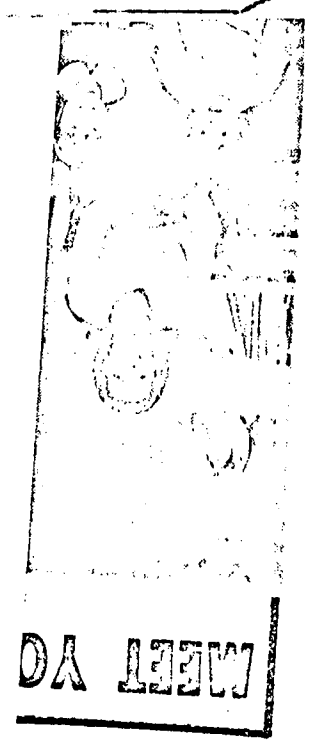
The voting machine will have a King County proposition for the King County Charter or against it. It reads:

Shall the proposed [illegible]e-rule charter for King County, providing for the separation of the legislative and executive powers and for functional administration, be adopted?

If the majority of voters push the "yes" lever, it will go into effect May 1, 1969. If the vote goes against it, King County will have the same form of government it has since 1853.

There is no maybe, no partial acceptance or rejection.

As Commissioner John Spellman said in one interview on the charter, "Democracy is not inexpensive . . . we indulge ourselves with representation and have been willing to pay the price. Present county government is very inefficient, and I do not believe it will be expensive to change."



Virginia

Burnside

2177

All About Politics

Notes And Comment

The Twist Of Fate In The Gubernatorial Campaign

Atty. Gen. John J. O'Connell had it right: The controversy over his cardplaying could cost him the election! For one simple reason. Whenever a reasonable doubt is created in the mind of a voter about a candidate or an issue, that voter, almost like Pavlov's dog, will vote "no."

That's not to say where the right and wrong lies in this instance.

Certainly there seems some legitimate doubt that Governor Evans did not know of the "document" before the charge was made public. The existence of the "document" was known by key Democrats months before this and it seems highly doubtful Evans' chief political adviser, State Republican Chairman C. Montgomery Johnson, failed to discuss when — and if — O'Connell should be faced with the evidence.

Particularly is it is so when primary election results showing O'Connell in a strong position demonstrated the need for help at the polls this kind of public charge would automatically produce. But if Evans did know of the existence of the document before he said he did, then this in itself is not as he said it was.

On the other hand, although O'Connell has done nothing legally wrong in admitting he played cards for high stakes with his personal funds, he still has publicly revealed himself to be a card player and promises, if elected, to do so no more.

On the face of things, his declaration is incredible, but in an election year like this one, this turn of events in the state's chief political race is in keeping with the amazing sequence of improbabilities—many tragic—that have turned this election into a fantastic series of devastating twists of fate.

Certainly O'Connell will preserve his hard-core nub of Democratic supporters who vote for Democratic candidates regardless. And he will keep — or get — other votes from persons who admire the courageous gallantry and skill with which he has attempted to fend off what must be one of the most virulent attacks in state political history. And he could get support from persons questioning the means by which records somehow wound up in the hands of a state Republican chairman and/or Seattle newspaper in a crucial election year.

Unfortunately for both a qualified candidate and his idealistic supporters, this year that probably won't be enough.

publican bulldog, but that of author might. Republicans, if they lose him, won't find his likes again.

* * *

400,000 Property Owners Can't Be Wrong—Or Right—On This One

Certainly King County elected officials aren't saying so aloud, but there's considerable dissatisfaction over means to explain to the public what the taxpayers' suit filed by 10 North Shore School District people protesting their 1967 taxes is all about, and, secondly, the instruction by staff members of Prosecuting Attorney Charles O. Carroll for taxpayers to "consult their own attorney."

The case is now being viewed by some courthouse observers as a vast and costly exercise in public confusion.

The real clincher is that whether the county's 400,000-plus property owners file a written notice of exclusion from the suit or not, later action by the Supreme Court when the case goes to appeal could include them no matter what action they decide on now.

Confused? Everyone is . . . with most lawyers equally so. Deadline for those wishing to exclude themselves from these goings-on is November 7. File with the county clerk.

* * *

Broader Meaning Of Class/Mass Suit

In a broader context, the challenge to a state law that is being flouted (in this case a constitutional requirement that all real property be assessed at 50 per cent of its true and fair value) is linked to two other on-going challenges presaging a new interest in the literal interpretation of the state constitution. The recent modification of the state's blue laws was a case in point; so is the current ruckus over the personal card-playing of John O'Connell, (legal in Nevada) but not so here where a tolerance policy on card rooms and mechanical gambling devices has become a major campaign issue in this law-and-order gubernatorial campaign. Another example here in the Valley: Auburn Attorney Alva Long's suit against the Auburn Elks on the grounds that bingo games constitute a violation of present state law.

What the eventual outcome of these many-faceted attacks on "morality" laws being broken every day in this state can't be predicted now. One thing is obvious: There's been no similar focus on the contrast between what the law says and how it's actually enforced before in state history.

What Makes Gummie Johnson Run?

C. Montgomery Johnson, the man behind the scenes in the move against O'Connell, in the past has usually stayed there – as a lobbyist, as a ghost writer and publicist, and as a closed-door political strategist. This time the Republican chairman has demonstrated for the entire state to see his exceptional instinct for the jugular.

Euphemistically, this is termed "a will to win." And Johnson has that . . . in spades. Fortunately for Governor Evans, this spills over to the campaign for the governorship, and what Evans lacks in political expertise Johnson manages to complement with a skill and toughness that has left other past Republican and Democratic state chairmen far in the shade.

Because Johnson, like him or not, is a real political pro the likes of which this state hasn't seen recently . . . if ever. A complete realist, but shrewd and innovative in trying new solutions to old problems, Johnson is attracting considerable respect and interest in national Republican circles. And, if Nixon wins in November as now seems likely, the beefed-up National Republican Committee could well request the use of his considerable talents.

At this point, Johnson is already a member of the national party group and stands sixth in seniority for the top leadership post. But he's not much interested at this point, he told this reporter last week.

Nor would he consider any cabinet post within Governor Evans' second-term administration. There's too much of a conflict between his party role and that of a state administrative position, he claims. And there is even, he admits, some question in his mind if he will even seek a third term.

For the record, Johnson isn't saying now what his decision will be . . . and he still has nearly three months in which to make it. But no matter how able the man, the life of a state or county party chairman is strictly limited – a fact of which Johnson is well aware – and it may be that, despite his great success at it, he may opt out.

That could come hard for Gummy. His accomplishments for the party have been substantial in the past, and his latest role in the O'Connell coup de grace could zoom his stock even higher with his Republican followers.

It may be that no matter what he believes he should or would do about another term, pressures within the party will make him decide to stay on. Years of victory on the presidential level, the state level, and possibly on the legislative level could be a pretty sweet period for those who have grappled as hard as Johnson has.

Surprisingly, if all these alternatives pall, there's one new direction Johnson has up his sleeve that will bemuse most people: He's on chapter 11 of a book tentatively entitled "What Shall I Tell Children About Freedom?" and is talking with publishers about what that and future books he's planning that would include "What Shall I Tell My Children About Politics?"

Johnson knows what he's talking about . . . he's been a political leader since his school days at the University of Washington when he was ASUW president. Since then, he's been involved in 30th Legislative District politics, notably on behalf of John Stender and present 30th District State Representative Norwood Cunningham. And he's brought about some substantial lobbying victories when he worked for the Washington Education Association and Weyerhaeuser before he became state GOP chairman.

One thing he won't do: Teach political science at some college or university. The groves of [illegible] hold little charm for this doughty Re-

Briefly Noted:

It had to happen: The first bumper sticker proclaiming Martin Durkan for Governor in 1972 . . . Speaking of bumper strips, the newest in Los Angeles declares that "if you liked Hitler . . . you'll love Wallace . . . At home, GOP County Chairman Kenneth Rogstad maintains – along with most Democrats – that a vote for Wallace is a vote wasted . . . Rogstad discounts the size and strength of Wallace support here; not so others . . . The "defection" of McCarthy leaders back to the Humphrey fold brought a counter response from do-or-die McCarthy-ites who called a retaliatory press conference of their own to announce they would have no part in the return to Humphrey. One reaction the McCarthy hang-toughs didn't expect: that a Seattle television station would walk out. That's what happened last week when Channel 4 packed up its cameras and took off . . . Expect little to happen from the recall movement mounted by the Black Panthers against Prosecuting Attorney Charles O. Carroll . . . There's been a perceptible switch in public reaction to recent charges against Carroll . . . not so much pro-Carroll as against unsubstantiated attacks of this nature . . . Freeholders and other supporters of the county's first home-rule charter proposal are worried about what Nixon describes as the "quiet American" – those who aren't being heard from on the charter either for or against. So far, the pro-charter forces have garnered an impressive array of prestige endorsements compared to three groups declared in opposition . . . Add candidates to the Seattle mayor's race: Secretary of State Lud Kramer who's had an eye on the spot for several years. Expect nothing from Lud on this for some time . . . Sagging polls apparently are showing difficulties ahead for GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, Art Fletcher, and, less so, Demo nominee for attorney general, John McCutcheon . . . Fletcher is being buffeted by the same kind of cross winds affecting Spiro Agnew, only with a racial twist in this state . . . Snafus in the Humphrey campaign continue locally with a regional director from national headquarters in town for five days without most Demo VIPs aware of it . . . A new citizens' group for Humphrey/Muskie, incidentally, is booming ahead, if late, on plans for a "I Hate Dick" party next Friday . . .

VOTER GUIDE
A New Charter for King County?

New County Charter — Will It Win Approval?

(Continued from Page 1)

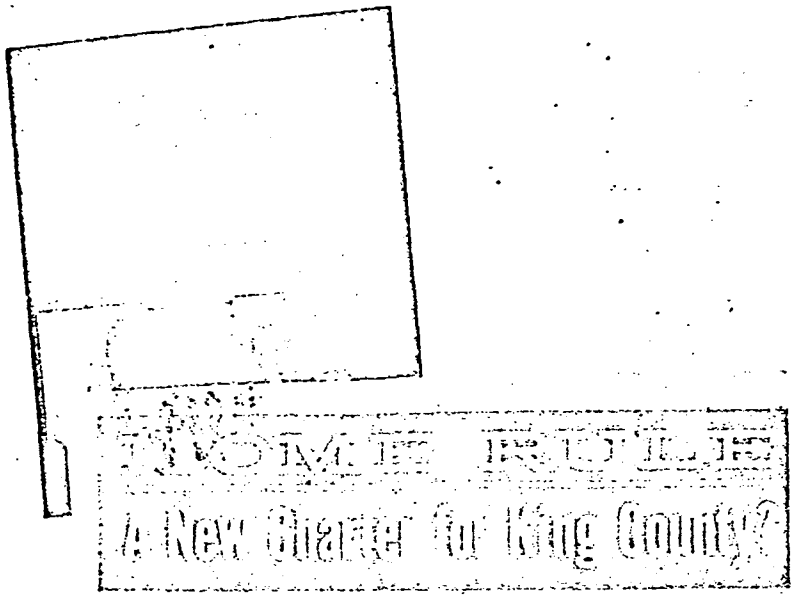
could help bring the new charter to victory," he observed.

Further, he points out, there are only 36 home-rule counties in the nation — but a hopeful sign is that 22 of those have been adopted since 1950.

"This could be a good year for King County to try," he added.

'No' — say its four opponents

Four organizations — King County Labor Council, King County Sheriff's Union Local 519, King County Employees Association and Young Men's Democratic



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Freeholder supports county gover

By BETTY HOWE

Need for change in county government will be the prime consideration when voters in the county approve or reject the proposed home rule charter for King County Nov. 5.

Heartily supporting need for change is one of the 15 freeholders drafting the charter, Simon Wampold, an attorney living in Bellevue. Wampold is the only one of the freeholders who lives on the east side of the lake.

Wampold was vice chairman of the freeholders' group.

"I think the one outstanding accomplishment of the charter, which justifies its passage, is the provision for an elected county executive to run the county," Wampold said. "The county presently is run by three elected county commissioners who have equal authority and equal responsibility, which becomes a triple-headed authority," Wampold declared.

The charter as drafted by the freeholders provides for nine elected county councilmen as the legislative branch of the government and an elected county executive to head the executive branch. Division of functions is considered by Wampold to be an advantage over the present county government.

* * *

SUBSTANTIALLY King County has the same government as it had in 1853 when it was organized before statehood, Wampold maintains.

In 1948 the legislature adopted an amendment to the state constitution that grants counties the right to frame a home rule charter within the limits of other existing laws. As yet, no county has enacted such a charter. A proposed charter for King County was defeated by the voters in 1952.

In November 1967 King County voters elected 15 freeholders to prepare a home rule charter for the county. Wampold was one of the freeholders.

Wampold said he thought it was interesting that the three present county commissioners have endorsed the charter in spite of the fact that they will lose their "status", if the charter is acceptable to voters.

The freeholders were not paid for their work but had a budget of approximately $36,000 to pay for an executive assistant, clerical help, and supplies.

* * *

STARTING to work in January, 1968, the freeholders unanimously signed the drafted charter in early September after 55 meetings. Each spent far in excess of 200 hours and furnished their own coffee at the courthouse where work sessions were held, Wampold said.

One economy practiced by the freeholders was to schedule experts to advise them when the experts already were in the Seattle area, Wampold explained.

The 15 freeholders were a diverse group differing in politics, economic viewpoints and social philosophies. The fact that 15 signed the completed charter is a testimony to the democratic process, Wampold maintains.

One of the disputes among the freeholders was whether the nine county councilmen should select the county executive similar to the council-city manager form of government as exists in Kirkland.

Those who felt the county executive should be elected won out. However, a charter provision makes it mandatory for the executive to appoint an administrative officer, subject to approval of the council.

The administrative officer, in turn, appoints administrative department chiefs to perform staff functions. The executive officer appoints executive department chiefs, subject to approval of the councilmen.

* * *

ALL COUNTY employees, other than appointive heads of departments, are protected by the merit system. A personnel board is provided for in the

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

OCT 2 1958

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

Proposed Charter

By MRS. EVELYN AMYES

Official observer for the League Of Women Voters at the sessions of the King County Freeholders

Lois North, Republican nominee for State Representative from Position 2, 44th District, was one of the freeholders who wrote the proposed County Charter.

The proposed King County Charter, approved unanimously by the 15 elected Freeholders recently, now is in the hands of the County Commissioners and is ready for the November 5 ballot.

The proposed charter allows the negotiation of contracts between the county and any other governments or governmental agencies to provide services or share costs and responsibilities. It does not abolish special districts but allows cooperation with them. It provides for partisan elections but allows independent candidates to run in the primary and, if qualified by votes, in the general election.

The county executive will be granted all executive powers of the county. He will be elected for a four year term at a salary at least 1½ times that of the councilmen ($27,000 per year in the first period). He will prepare and present to the council a budget, a comprehensive plan and a state of the county message, will appoint boards and commissions, serve on those now served by a county commissioner, will be the chief peace officer; sign all contracts, sign or veto all council ordinances. Appoint, with council concurrence, or remove the chief administrative officer and all executive department chiefs; and supervise all executive and administrative offices.

When the charter is adopted, the executive departments will be the departments of: public works, utilities and transportation, public safety, public health, records and elections, finance, parks, planning, and building.

The chief administrator will appoint, with executive approval, or remove heads of administrative offices. On adoption of the charter, they will be the offices of: budgets and accounts, personnel, systems and services, and property and purchasing. State law does not allow creation of a civil legal department to advise the executive.

The assessor will remain elective unless state law in this respect is

Everett, Wash.
Herald
(Cir. D. 32,565)

OCT 2 1958

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

Freeholders Asked to Reconsider Elected Exec

By JOHN WOLCOTT
Staff Writer

The League of Women Voters last night reaffirmed their earlier stand for a council - manager form of county government before a meeting of the Snohomish County Freeholders and then asked the freeholders to reconsider their decision for a proposed elected executive.

Freeholders have so far shown preference for an elected executive, with power to appoint a professional government administrator as his right-hand man, and a five member County Council as major tenets of the new county charter they are preparing for voters next year.

The league's proposal would mean a manager - administrator appointed by the council, with council members being the elected officials. Barbara Skinner, representing the league's county government study group, told the freeholders:

"You have given a great deal of thoughtful concern and study to the problems of effective county management. Your decision to propose a larger elected legislative council and to remove and transfer their administrative responsibilities should satisfactorily meet the needs of our rapidly growing county.

"After a two-year study of county government, the League of Women Voters came to the consensus that the administrative problems of Snohomish County deserve the attention of someone with specialized training.

"For this reason, at the public hearing in Edmonds (of the freeholder board), May 8, we asked the freeholders to consider making provision for a professional administrator (which the freeholders have done by authorizing the elected executive to hire a professional in county government management — Ed. Note.)

"It is our belief that such an administrator should be appointed by the legislative council and be responsible to them. [illegible] board [illegible] place the appointment of the executive officer not the council — Ed. Note.)

"The qualifications for this position should be developed by the elected council and carefully followed when the appointment is made.

"We ask that you reconsider your decision to incorporate the position of the elected county executive in the county charter," she said.

Voting on several issues important to the writing of the charter last night, the Freeholders showed preference for:

—Requiring candidates for council to be registered voters and a resident in the district in which they are campaigning.

—That the elected executive be responsible for hiring department heads with confirmation by the council.

—That the executive be able [illegible] employees without confir-

veto power over the council's policy decisions and other actions, but the veto could be overruled by a majority of the council plus one.

—Councilmen and the executive should be elected in odd-numbered years.

—Two councilmen and the executive would be elected together and three councilmen together in the next election, with staggered terms, after the tial six are elected at one next year.

The Freeholders meet Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the Agriculture Building Rockefeller Avenue across the courthouse. Comments citizens are always welc the board said Wednesday.

The council will adopt ordinances; pass motions which, though not law, can state council objectives; override executive vetos by vote of six or more councilmen; levy taxes; adopt a budget; adopt comprehensive plans which include capital improvement plans; conduct hearings on legislation under consideration; serve on boards where more than one commissioner now serves, establish or abolish boards and commissions; and, after the initial two year period, can establish, abolish, or combine administrative offices or executive departments except those of assessment or judical administration.

The county auditor will be appointed by the council to make a post audit of financial operations, review accounting procedures and efficiency of operations of the county. Annual audits, by the state, of county finances will continue unchanged.

Some quasi-judicial duties now handled by the commissioners will go to a seven member board of appeals appointed for four year rotating terms, with per diem pay, by the executive with the confirmation of the council. This board will hear appeals from zoning variances, tax assessment valuations, and other appeals assigned by the council. Its decisions may be appealed to the courts.

A unified county budget is provided. It must include all funds, revenues, and reserves, must be divided into programs including capital expenditure plans, and must be balanced.

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

NOV 10 1969

Allen, P.C.B. Est. 1888

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All About Politics

Notes And Comment

THE NATIONAL SCENE: Why Humphrey Failed

Self-evident? Not really! Although most defeats, like most victories, are put together out of a combination of factors, Humphrey's defeat — as it now appears in the electoral college only — could be, simply read, that he had more things going against him than did Richard Nixon.

Certainly he had the cards stacked against him in this one: He was nominated at a disastrously violent national convention, he faced a south going Republican for the first time since Reconstruction days, racial revolution was rumbling in the streets of urban America, and a corrosive war in Vietnam was souring the mood of the nation and splintering his own party.

Taken singly, each of these cruelly negative factors could have lost Humphrey the election. But where he really lost it was at the grass roots — in the thousands of precincts throughout the country where apathy, poor organization and important leaders had choked the vital functioning of the Democratic party.

It's true nationally where President Johnson over a period of years blocked funds and leadership, thus vitiating any real power base on which Humphrey could have built his campaign when his time finally came. And certainly it's true in our own state and country where candidates organizations performed the workhorse job of delivering the Democratic victories here — including that of Humphrey's.

Nixon, on the other hand, capitalized on Humphrey's mistakes, and cut of a nation yearning for stability, peace, and order felt even by Democrats fashioned a satisfying if not overwhelming win. Ahead for Nixon, probably, is four years of government by consensus in which he speaks to the middle rather than to those on either the right or left. And for Humphrey, it will probably be back to the U.S. Senate in 1971.

• • •

THE STATE SCENE: The Slate That Failed

The team effort by which Governor Dan Evans and Republican state chairman C. Montgomery Johnson hoped to achieve control of the state's elective offices (plus the state legislature) in one tight power bloc never came off, despite record funds and energies poured into the try. It was a good show for all concerned at the start: money, attractive candidates, and a united party. But a first-rate challenge at mid-point from Democratic nominee John O'Connell changed all that, and the focus veered, instead, to the men at the head of the slate rather than those upon it.

As it turned out, once the gambling disclosure was made, the money, time, and effort spent to elect Governor Evans was never necessary. He had it made all the way during the last 10 days of the campaign and he could have shoved all his resources to his teammates who needed it more.

Now it looks like the mixture as before during the next four years, with Democrats still controlling the Senate and a majority of the state elected officers. It was a good try, however, and a logical one. At the very least, it will provide a good base on which Evans can build what will probably be a more liberal program during his next four years than he did in the preceding ones.

• • •

ON THE LOCAL SCENE: One that Won

The resounding success of the home rule county charter has, within 24 hours of its victory, created one of the biggest political scramblings al political leaders, past and present, are eyeing the race.

Those names include, at this point, County Commissioner Ed Munro (regarded as the most qualified to hold the job), Freeholder Richard Albrecht, who distinguished himself as the board's chairman; Slade Gorton (particularly if he falls in his bid for attorney general), and Albert Rosellini, whose administrative skills as Washington's two-term governor could make him formidable competition on either ticket.

The next year will be a crucial one for King County: not only who is elected March 11, but just how well those who are elected translate the high hopes freeholders held for the charter when they drafted it and voters felt when they approved it into reality.

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BRIEFLY NOTED . . .

Commissioner Ed Munro's reelection is being touted as a defeat for Seattle's pro daily's attempt to destroy all county commissioners who had anything to do with courthouse remodeling. Munro, interestingly enough, has been a foe of escalating courthouse costs from the beginning . . . Bumped the lid to blow off Friday when the State Stadium Commission meets to decide on the fate of the Seattle Center site for the domed stadium. The nine conditions which must be met are tough ones, despite which, pressure from the Seattle establishment may betoo much for the site selectors to withstand. All facts point to either of the two suburban locations, but facts (and logic) may be out the window on this one . . . There's still some doubt about the Illinois returns in the presidential race over admitted election errors. There are still some haunting questions about the 1960 presidential race, also in Illinois, which it is said Nixon never pressed at the time . . . The Valle race had to be one of the hardest fought legislative campaigns in the entire state. So far, no mention from Georgette whether she intends to make another try . . . Look for the national Democratic party to make a major reorganization. Larry O'Brien, the tactician who nearly did it for Humphrey, probably won't continue as chairman although pressures might persuade him to stay on — notably from Ted Kennedy backers who don't want to see the party organization fall into further disrepair (if possible) before they make their bid in 1972, that try Nixon is waiting for . . . Here in our own state, chances are good that Neale Chaney, former aide to Senator Martin Durkan's campaign for governor, will make the race for Democratic state chairman. Read into that what you will: it will probably be correct . . . Don Cole, who fielded the biggest challenge to Congressman Tom Pelly in his 18-year career, is being urged to keep things alive until 1970. If so, Pelly, who disclaims he intends to step down, couldn't be happier . . . There's some competition among former McCarthy supporters who are angling for Jeanette Williams' job as Demo county chairman: Mike Rye-heard is holding out for a $16,000 yearly salary. But Mike Saslow, also in the running, couldn't come that high: he's out of a job at the present moment . . . And other candidates for county chairman — still undeclared —: John Hammond, Seattle, at present budget director for Commissioner John O'Brien, who may try for district 2; Bob Eberle, defeated Tuesday by Congressman Brock Adams, who is looking at district 6, for which Tom Forsythe is already a candidate; and Freeholder Howard Bothell, Auburn car dealer, who may make a try for district 9 . . . [illegible]

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Charter Seen as Essential Step— South County Pundits

Two local proponents of the proposed King County Charter view the document as the essential first step toward a government that can effectively accommodate a county that has reached an unprecedented growth rate.

In the estimation of County Commissioner Ed Munro, the charter will establish the skeleton of a governmental form which can be subtracted from and built on. He endorsed the charter last week, saying "I'm endorsing it on the basis that it will provide something better than the present system, and I think everyone should endorse the charter on that basis."

Norman Ackley, former 31st District legislator and one of the 15 freeholders who drew up the charter, pointed out that the better structure provided by the charter should satisfy the public feeling about county modernization and improvement.

Both say there are parts of the charter they do not approve, other points they would have liked to have seen included; but they also feel that it's necessary.

The 46-page charter has been meeting the bows and blows from citizens, organizations and county officials since its debut two weeks ago when the County Commissioners placed it on the Nov. 5 ballot.

For a synopsis of the charter see pg. ——, Sec. ——.

Elected Assessor

Generally, the freeholders have been commended, although certain provisions of the charter have been criticized.

In Ackley's estimation setting the assessment level requires a skilled appraiser. "Fixing the value of property shouldn't be a policy making decision," he said. "Even the County Assessor (Allen Morgan) thinks the assessor's post should be appointive."

The charter continues the elective office of Assessor; this was one of the areas of controversy and only one of compromise among the nine liberals and six conservatives on the Board of Freeholders.

Provisions Ackley said would make King County government more democratic and modern: responsive executive branch, expanded base of commissioners, modern performance budget, nine councilman districts apportioned according to population and areas with common interests

No. 34?

Some advantages of the proposed 34th county home-rule charter in the United States, from Munro's view, are no implied powers and an established chain of command.

He added that every successful organization has an executive, which the charter provides for. The most important outline, he continued for local government is the division of the executive and legislative branches.

Munro, who if re-elected to his third term as commissioner will automatically be the legislator or councilman for the 7th district under the new charter, ended his term as president of the National Association of Counties recently.

He pointed out that of the 3,000 counties in the U.S. only about 40 operate under the home-rule charter form of government; most have the commissioner form. This is one of the reasons "counties are in trouble." The most advanced, like Westchester, N.Y., have established the council-executive formula, he said.

(According to research by the freeholders' staff, 33 counties are charter counties, which would make King County number 34 if the charter passes in November. A simple majority of these voting that day is needed for the charter's adoption.)

Munro pointed out the weakness in the system that comes from fragmentation in planning. He said the charter system would allow for the setting up practical functions of government. When a problem arose it could be assigned a certain function instead of the present need for creating a new department to meet a crisis.

Overlapping of functions could be eliminated. Such current agencies as the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, the Air Pollution Control and Metro are needed because up to now the county hasn't been able to handle the jobs created by a rapidly increasing population, he said.

Freeholder Says Union 'No' Vote Is Unfounded

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE
Our County News Bureau

The battle lines are drawn!

This was the reaction yesterday of the chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders to a turn-down voted Tuesday night by the powerful District 751 Lodge of the International Association of Machinists & Aero-Space Workers.

The union's council voted, 29-1, to reject the charter after its legislative committee headed by Tom Finnegan had recommended that the union take no action on the charter either way.

Richard Albrecht declared that "it's a shame organized labor is opposing constructive change on a purely selfish basis when the opportunity for dramatic improvement in county government is being offered."council

Professing ignorance of the reason for the union's refusal, Albrecht noted that any concern the union might have that collective bargaining for county employes has not been provided for in the charter is unfounded

"This was most carefully and deliberately spelled out when Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the board, and myself appeared before the union's legislative committee to explain the charger's provisions, and labor's potential relationship to it," he declared.

Other reasons for the turndown were rumoured to include opposition to the nine-man legislative districting plan from which the county's proposed county council would be chosen.

In comment, Albrecht declared those districts were drawn at first without regard to political consequences.

"Initial allegations these district lines were politically unfair produced a redrawing of lines for the entire county which all 15 of the freeholders agreed was fair," he declared. "It is impossible to predict the political charcter of many districts because the only available information on which these conclusions can be drawn is the result of an election, and this, in turn, depends on who the candidate is."

The rejection of the charter by the union brings to five the number of organizations which have formally opposed the charter, — all labor organizations. The charter is being supported by the majority of "good-government" types of groups, including the Leagues of Women Voters of Puget Sound, Seattle-King County Municipal League and Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

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