

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 15 PM 1:42

CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King
2 County Charter to create the elective office of county
3 director of elections; amending Section 350.20 of the King
4 County Charter, adding a new Section 350.20.50 to the
5 King County Charter, adding a new section 647 to the King
6 County Charter and amending Section 680.10 of the King
7 County Charter, and submitting the same to the voters of
8 the county for their ratification or rejection.

9 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

10 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for
11 their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this
12 county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an
13 amendment to the King County Charter by amending section 350.20 of the King County
14 Charter, adding a new Section 350.20.50 to the King County Charter, adding a new
15 Section 647 to the King County Charter and amending Section 680.10 of the King
16 County Charter and to read as follows:

17 **Section 350.20. Executive Departments.**

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

23 **Section 350.20.50. Department of Elections.**

24 The department of elections shall be administered by the county director of
25 elections who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county director of
26 elections shall be elected by the voters of King County, and his or her term of office shall
27 be four years. The department of elections: shall be an executive department subject to
28 the career service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative
29 offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any
30 other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties

31 decreased by the county council or executive. The department of elections shall be
32 responsible for the registration of voters in the county; shall conduct all special and
33 general elections held in the county; shall be responsible for creating and printing the
34 King County voter's pamphlet; shall maintain and be the official repository of political
35 boundary maps, geographic information systems data and of the King County copies of
36 campaign financial disclosure forms; and shall administer other public and nonpublic
37 elections, as required by state law and county code and administrative rules.

38 **Section 647. County Director of Elections, Term of Office and Compensation.**

39 The county director of elections shall be elected as a nonpartisan office by the
40 voters of the county. The term of office of the initial county director of elections shall
41 end on December 31, 2011. Subsequent elections for the county director of elections
42 shall occur at the general election in 2011 and every four years thereafter. The county
43 director of elections shall receive compensation as provided by ordinance.

44 **Section 680.10. Designation, Appointment and Election to Fill Vacancy.**

45 Immediately upon commencing their terms of office, the county executive, county
46 assessor, county director of elections and county sheriff shall each designate one or more
47 employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to serve as an interim official
48 in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of county executive, county assessor,
49 county director of elections or county sheriff, respectively.

50 Except for a designation made by the metropolitan county council, a designation
51 of an interim official shall only be effective if the county executive, county assessor,
52 county director of elections and county sheriff, each for his or her elective office,
53 complies with the following procedure; commits the designation to writing; identifies the
54 order of precedence if more than one county officer or employee is designated; signs the
55 written designation; has the written designation notarized; files the written designation
56 with the county office responsible for records and elections; and((;)) provides a copy of
57 the written designation to the chair of the metropolitan county council. The county
58 executive, county assessor, county director of elections and county sheriff may, at any
59 time, amend such designation by complying with the same procedure established for
60 making the designation.

61 In the event the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or
62 county sheriff neglects or fails to make such a designation within seven calendar days of
63 commencing his or her term of office, the metropolitan county council may by ordinance
64 designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to
65 serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of the county
66 executive, county assessor, county director of elections or county sheriff, respectively. A
67 designation made by the metropolitan county council shall be effective upon adoption of
68 the ordinance therefor and may be amended by ordinance; provided that a designation by
69 the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or county sheriff
70 which occurs subsequent to the adoption of an ordinance shall take precedence over the
71 designation by ordinance.

72 The designated county officer or employee shall immediately upon the occurrence
73 of a vacancy serve as the interim official and shall exercise all the powers and duties of
74 the office granted by this charter and general law until an acting official is appointed as
75 provided in this section.

76 The metropolitan county council shall, after being appraised of a vacancy in the
77 elective office of county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or
78 county sheriff, fill the vacancy by appointment of an employee who served as a deputy or
79 assistant in such office at the time the vacancy occurred as an acting official to perform
80 all necessary duties to continue normal office operations. The acting official shall serve
81 until the vacancy is filled by appointment pursuant to Article II, section 15, of the
82 Washington State Constitution for partisan county elective offices or pursuant to general
83 law for nonpartisan county elective offices, as applicable.

84 A vacancy in the elective office shall be filled at the next primary and general
85 election which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not
86 be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as
87 provided in Sections 640 and 645. The term of office of an officer who has been elected
88 to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose
89 office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he or she is elected and
90 qualified.

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

94 SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager
95 of the records, elections and licensing services division, in substantially the following
96 form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for the
97 proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

98 Shall the King County Charter be amended to require that the county
99 director of elections be a nonpartisan elected office?

100 SECTION 3. Following approval by the voters at a general election of the
101 amendment to Articles 3 and 6 of the King County Charter as provided in this ordinance,
102 the initial election for county director of elections shall occur on the February special
103 election date of the following year, as provided in RCW 29A.04.330. The amendment to
104 Articles 3 and 6 of the King County Charter takes effect upon certification of the results
105 of the election of the initial county director of elections.