



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**January 29, 2016**

**Ordinance**

**Proposed No.** 2016-0044.1

**Sponsors** Gossett and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King  
2 County Charter to make the office of King County  
3 prosecuting attorney nonpartisan; amending Section 610 of  
4 the King County Charter; adding a new Section 649 to the  
5 King County Charter; amending Section 680.10 of the King  
6 County Charter; and submitting the same to the qualified  
7 voters of the county for their approval or rejection at the  
8 next general election occurring more than forty-five days  
9 after the enactment of this ordinance.

10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

11 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the voters of King County for their  
12 approval or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more  
13 than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Section 610  
14 of the King County Charter; the addition of a new Section 649 to the King County  
15 Charter; and an amendment to Section 680.10 of the King County Charter, to read as  
16 follows:

17 **Section 610 Election Procedures.**

18 The nominating primaries and elections for the offices of King County executive,  
19 King County assessor (~~and~~), King County council and King County prosecuting

20 attorney shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of  
21 nonpartisan county officers.

22 **Section 649 Prosecuting Attorney.**

23 The county prosecuting attorney shall be elected as a nonpartisan office by the  
24 voters of the county, and the term of office shall be four years and until his or her  
25 successor is elected and qualified. Notwithstanding any section of this charter to the  
26 contrary, the qualifications for office and the timing of election shall be as prescribed in  
27 state law.

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

29 Immediately upon commencing their terms of office, the county executive, county  
30 assessor, county director of elections, county prosecuting attorney and county sheriff  
31 shall each designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such  
32 office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of the  
33 county executive, county assessor, county director of elections, county prosecuting  
34 attorney or county sheriff, respectively.

35 Except for a designation made by the metropolitan county council, a designation  
36 of an interim official shall only be effective if the county executive, county assessor,  
37 county director of elections, county prosecuting attorney and county sheriff, each for his  
38 or her elective office, complies with the following procedure: commits the designation to  
39 writing; identifies the order of precedence if more than one county officer or employee is  
40 designated; signs the written designation; has the written designation notarized; files the  
41 written designation with the county office responsible for records; and provides a copy of  
42 the written designation to the chair of the metropolitan county council. The county

43 executive, county assessor, county director of elections, county prosecuting attorney and  
44 county sheriff may, at any time, amend such designation by complying with the same  
45 procedure established for making the designation.

46         In the event the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections,  
47 county prosecuting attorney or county sheriff neglects or fails to make such a designation  
48 within seven calendar days of commencing his or her term of office, the metropolitan  
49 county council may by ordinance designate one or more employees who serve as a  
50 deputy or assistant in such office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy  
51 in the elective office of the county executive, county assessor, county director of  
52 elections, county prosecuting attorney or county sheriff, respectively. A designation  
53 made by the metropolitan county council shall be effective upon adoption of the  
54 ordinance therefor and may be amended by ordinance; provided that a designation by the  
55 county executive, county assessor, county director of elections, county prosecuting  
56 attorney or county sheriff which occurs subsequent to the adoption of an ordinance shall  
57 take precedence over the designation by ordinance.

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

62         The metropolitan county council shall, after being appraised of a vacancy in the  
63 elective office of county executive, county assessor, county director of elections, county  
64 prosecuting attorney or county sheriff, fill the vacancy by the appointment of an  
65 employee who served as a deputy or assistant in such office at the time the vacancy

66 occurred as an acting official to perform all necessary duties to continue normal office  
67 operations. The acting official shall serve until the vacancy is filled by appointment  
68 pursuant to general law for nonpartisan county elective offices.

69         A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and  
70 general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy  
71 shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general  
72 election as provided in Sections 640 and 645 of this charter. The term of office of an  
73 officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of  
74 the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he  
75 or she is elected and qualified.

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

79         SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the county  
80 elections director, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or

81 modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

82            Shall the King County Charter be amended to make the elected office of King

83            County prosecuting attorney nonpartisan?

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None