



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Committee of the Whole**

**Staff Report**

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Agenda item No:	<b>7</b>	Date:	<b>July 21, 2008</b>
Motion No:	<b>2008-0381</b>	Prepared by:	<b>Mike Alvine</b>

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**SUBJECT**

A motion approving a plan for regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes as required by Ordinance 15523 and giving approval for the executive to enter into an interlocal agreement to implement the plan.

**SUMMARY**

The proposed motion, if approved, would establish the number and location of Regional Voting Centers (RVCs) and ballot drop boxes as required by Ordinance 15523 that established a timeline and conditions for the County to move to all-mail elections.

**Background**

On June 19, 2006 the Council enacted Ordinance 15523 that will have King County join 37 other counties in Washington state to conduct elections entirely by mail. Only Pierce county will continue to operate both poll sites and a mail ballot operation. The Elections Division anticipates that the County will begin all-mail elections in February of 2009. There are several conditions that must still be met before the County can transition to all-mail elections. In addition to approving a plan for RVCs and ballot drop boxes, the Council must confirm a superintendent of elections and approve an elections security plan.

**Analysis**

Following passage of Ordinance 15523 the Executive formed a volunteer consulting advisory group with diverse membership to recommend a plan for RVCs and ballot drop boxes. The plan recommended by the group identified 17 RVCs located throughout the County as well as locations for 36 ballot drop boxes.

The 2008 Executive proposed budget included funding for two 20-day RVCs; one was the headquarters of the Elections Division in Renton and the second was to be in downtown Seattle. The Council deliberated and decided to eliminate the 20-day RVC in downtown Seattle (estimated to cost \$250,000) and add 11 four-day RVCs throughout

the County. This required an additional appropriation of \$220,560 in general fund revenues.

In January of 2008 it became clear that it would not be possible to go to vote-by-mail until 2009. Also in the first part of this year it became clear that the County is facing a significant shortfall in general fund revenues. The subject legislation was introduced with the intention of meeting the need for RVCs in locations that have good public transportation while at the same time exercising fiscal restraint. The tables below identify the costs and savings of operating 11 versus two four-day RVCs for even and odd years. The County's costs in odd years are less than those in even numbered years because there are more jurisdictions sharing the cost of elections in odd numbered years.

**Table 1**

<b>Costs for 11 four-day RVCs with 5 voting machines</b>			
Type of cost	\$	2009 CX Cost	2010 CX Cost
One time costs	\$17,068	\$187,748	NA
Ongoing costs	\$18,340	\$252,181	\$322,792
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$439,929</b>	<b>\$322,792</b>

**Table 2**

<b>Costs for two four-day RVCs with 10 voting machines</b>			
Type of cost	\$	2009 CX Cost	2010 CX Cost
One time costs	\$26,808	\$53,616	NA
Ongoing costs	\$18,340	\$45,851	\$58,689
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$99,467</b>	<b>\$58,689</b>

**Table 3**

<b>CX Savings achieved by new RVC plan</b>	
2009	2010
<b>\$340,462</b>	<b>\$264,103</b>

**Restrictions** – The motion places restrictions on moving RVCs and ballot drop boxes. Unless there is an emergency, the number and location of RVCs shall not change without Council approval by motion. In an emergency, the Director of Elections may relocate RVCs in order to conduct an election, but must notify the Council. Since the ballot drop boxes are being located on the property of other public agencies, the motion allows for ballot drop box relocation if asked or required by the hosting agency, and the Director of Elections must notify the Council of any changes.

## **Amendments**

***Amendment 1 (Days of Service)*** – This amendment makes it clear that the Renton RVC will be open for 20 days (including election day) and that the Seattle and Bellevue RVCs will be open for four days.

***Amendment 2 (Ballot drop box list)*** – Elections staff transmitted an outdated list of ballot drop box locations to Council staff for inclusion in the motion. Amendment 1 would attach the correct, updated list of locations based on agreements with sponsoring agencies. The difference between the two lists is that based on the reduction in RVCs, Elections felt it was more appropriate to add drop boxes in Burien and Maple Valley and eliminate drop boxes in Tukwila and Issaquah.

***Title Amendment*** – The subject motion was introduced title only and refers to authorizing the Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement with the city of Seattle for the location of ballot drop boxes. In the past authority to enter into interlocal agreements was granted by motion. The current practice is to do so by ordinance. A separate ordinance has been introduced to authorize the interlocal agreement with Seattle and title amendment has been prepared for this motion.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2008-0381
2. Amendment 1
3. Amendment 2
4. Title Amendment

## **INVITED**

- Sherril Huff, Director, Elections Division, DES
- Bill Huennekens, Manager, Vote-by-mail Project, Elections Division, DES
- Alex Herzog, Analyst, Vote-by-mail Project, Elections Division, DES





**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**July 18, 2008**

**Motion**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0381.1

**Sponsors** Constantine

1           A MOTION approving a plan for regional voting centers  
2           and ballot drop boxes as required by Ordinance 15523 and  
3           giving approval for the executive to enter into an interlocal  
4           agreement to implement the plan.

5  
6           WHEREAS, on June 19, 2006, the council adopted Ordinance 15523 establishing  
7           that King County will conduct elections entirely by mail beginning in 2007 or 2008 only  
8           after certain conditions had been met, and

9           WHEREAS, Ordinance 15523 requires that the council approve by motion a plan  
10          for regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes, and

11          WHEREAS, King County currently plans to hold all-mail elections beginning in  
12          February 2009, and

13          WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the orderly planning and implementation of  
14          regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes, the council is committed to making a  
15          timely decision to determine the locations of these facilities;

16          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

**Motion**

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17           A. This motion constitutes a plan for regional voting centers and ballot drop  
18 boxes as required in Ordinance 15523, Section 2 C.

19           B. Regional voting centers shall be located in:

- 20                 1. The elections division headquarters building in Renton;  
21                 2. Union Station in downtown Seattle; and  
22                 3. Bellevue city hall.

23           C. Ballot drop boxes shall be located in accordance with Attachment A to this  
24 motion.

25           D. The number and location of regional voting centers shall not be changed  
26 without prior approval of the council by motion.

27           E. Notwithstanding subsection D. of this motion, if an emergency makes it  
28 impossible to use one or more regional voting centers for an election, the director of the  
29 elections division may find alternate facilities to serve as regional voting centers and  
30 must notify the council in writing of the actions being taken, by filing eleven copies with  
31 the clerk of the council for distribution to all councilmembers.

32           F. The location of ballot drop boxes may from time to time be changed to meet  
33 the needs of the organizations that host the ballot drop boxes. However, the relocation,  
34 removal or addition of ballot drop boxes shall not occur until the director of the elections

**Motion**

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35 division has notified the council in writing, by filing eleven copies with the clerk of the  
36 council for distribution to all councilmembers.

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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ATTEST:

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**Attachments**      A. City of Seattle Ballot Drop-Off Locations

## ATTACHMENT A

<b>City of Seattle Ballot Drop-Off Locations</b>	
<b><i>Neighborhood Service Centers</i></b>	
North/Lake City	Ballard
Delridge/West Seattle	Southeast
Central	Northeast/University District
<b><i>Other</i></b>	
King County Administration Building**	

<b>Outside of Seattle Ballot Drop-Off Locations</b>	
<b><i>King County Library System</i></b>	
Algona Pacific Library ( <i>Pacific</i> )**	Lake Forest Park Library Connection ( <i>Lake Forest Park</i> )**
Auburn Library ( <i>Auburn</i> )	Crossroads Library Connection ( <i>Bellevue</i> )**
Black Diamond Library ( <i>Black Diamond</i> )**	Mercer Island Library ( <i>Mercer Island</i> )
Boulevard Park Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )	Muckleshoot Library ( <i>Auburn</i> )
Carnation Library ( <i>Carnation</i> )	Newport Way Library ( <i>Bellevue</i> )
Covington Library ( <i>Covington</i> )	North Bend Library ( <i>North Bend</i> )
Des Moines Library ( <i>Des Moines</i> )**	Richmond Beach Library ( <i>Shoreline</i> )
Duvall Library ( <i>Duvall</i> )	Sammamish Library ( <i>Sammamish</i> )
Fairwood Library ( <i>Renton</i> )	Skykomish Library ( <i>Skykomish</i> )
Fall City Library ( <i>Fall City</i> )**	Skyway Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )
Federal Way ( <i>Federal Way, 320<sup>th</sup></i> )	Valley View Library ( <i>SeaTac</i> )
Foster Library ( <i>Tukwila</i> )	White Center Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )
Issaquah Library ( <i>Issaquah</i> )	Woodinville Library ( <i>Woodinville</i> )
Bothell ( <i>Bothell</i> )	Woodmont Library ( <i>Des Moines</i> )
Kingsgate Library ( <i>Kirkland</i> )	
City of Kent – Location to be determined by director of elections division.	
<b><i>City Library</i></b>	
Enumclaw Public Library ( <i>Enumclaw</i> )	

**\*\*To be implemented in August 2008**





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July 18, 2008

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Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed No.: 2008-0381

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2008-0381, VERSION 1**

2 On page 2, after line 22, insert:

3 "C. The regional voting center in Renton shall be open for twenty days including  
4 election day. The regional voting centers in Seattle and Bellevue shall be open for four  
5 days including election day."

6 Renumber the remaining subsections consecutively and correct any internal references  
7 accordingly.

8 **EFFECT: The amendment makes it clear that the Renton RVC will be open for 20**  
9 **days and that the Seattle and Bellevue RVCs will be open for four days.**



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July 18, 2008

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Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed No.: 2008-0381

- 1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2008-0381, VERSION 1**
- 2 Delete Attachment A dated July 10, 2008, and insert a new Attachment A dated July 21,
- 3 2008
- 4 **EFFECT: The amendment replaces an out of date list of ballot drop box locations**
- 5 **with an updated list.**

## ATTACHMENT A Ballot Drop Box Locations

July 21, 2008

<b>Outside of Seattle Ballot Drop-Off Locations</b>	
<b>King County Library System</b>	
Algona Pacific Library ( <i>Pacific</i> )**	Lake Forest Park Library ( <i>Lake Forest Park</i> )**
Auburn Library ( <i>Auburn</i> )	Library Connection @ Crossroads ( <i>Bellevue</i> )**
Black Diamond Library ( <i>Black Diamond</i> )**	Mercer Island Library ( <i>Mercer Island</i> )
Boulevard Park Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )	Muckleshoot Library ( <i>Auburn</i> )
Carnation Library ( <i>Carnation</i> )	Newport Way Library ( <i>Bellevue</i> )
Covington Library ( <i>Covington</i> )	North Bend Library ( <i>North Bend</i> )
Des Moines Library ( <i>Des Moines</i> )**	Richmond Beach Library ( <i>Shoreline</i> )
Duvall Library ( <i>Duvall</i> )	Sammamish Library ( <i>Sammamish</i> )
Fairwood Library ( <i>Renton</i> )	Skykomish Library ( <i>Skykomish</i> )
Fall City Library ( <i>Fall City</i> )**	Skyway Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )
Federal Way 320 <sup>th</sup> Library ( <i>Federal Way</i> )	Valley View Library ( <i>SeaTac</i> )
Burien Library ( <i>Burien</i> )	White Center Library ( <i>Seattle</i> )
Maple Valley Library ( <i>Maple Valley</i> )	Woodinville Library ( <i>Woodinville</i> )
Bothell Library ( <i>Bothell</i> )	Woodmont Library ( <i>Des Moines</i> )
Kingsgate Library ( <i>Kirkland</i> )	
<b>City Library</b>	
Enumclaw Public Library ( <i>Enumclaw</i> )	
City of Kent – Location to be determined by the Director, Elections Division	

<b>City of Seattle Ballot Drop-Off Locations</b>	
<b>Neighborhood Service Centers</b>	
North/Lake City	Ballard
Delridge/West Seattle	Southeast
Central	Northeast/University District
<b>Other</b>	
King County Administration Building**	

\*\* To be implemented in August 2008

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July 18, 2008

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Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed No.: 2008-0381

- 1 **TITLE AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2008-0381, VERSION 1**
- 2 On page 1, line 2, after "Ordinance 15523" delete "and giving approval for the executive
- 3 to enter into an interlocal agreement to implement the plan"
- 4 **EFFECT: The amendment makes the title conform to the body of the motion.**