



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 6, 2006

Motion 12299

Proposed No. 2006-0230.3

Sponsors Patterson, Ferguson and Phillips

1 A MOTION establishing county policy on certain elections
2 issues and requesting the executive to perform specific
3 actions related to elections processes and facilities and
4 establishing timelines for executive and council actions.
5
6

7 WHEREAS, three citizens groups, an expert audit of elections, two management
8 consultants and the Secretary of State have reviewed King County elections and made
9 recommendations to the county on ways to improve the conduct of elections, and

10 WHEREAS, in response to the King County citizens' elections oversight
11 committee detailed report that included six high-priority recommendations, management
12 and staff of the elections section have worked hard and made many improvements and
13 have conducted successful elections in 2005 and 2006, and

14 WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has recommended reconfiguring elections
15 facilities to be more functional and the King County citizens' election oversight
16 committee and the Elections Center recommended consolidating elections operations into
17 a single facility, and

18 WHEREAS, efforts to acquire or construct a new consolidated elections facility
19 should proceed quickly but thoughtfully so that consolidation can occur in a timely way
20 prior to the next presidential election, and

21 WHEREAS, the King County citizens' election oversight committee and the
22 Elections Center found a number of problems with voter registration records including
23 voters improperly registered, felons registered who were ineligible to vote and deceased
24 voters were not removed from voter registration records in a timely way, and

25 WHEREAS, in January 2006, all counties in Washington State began operating in
26 coordination with the Secretary of State's statewide voter database; and

27 WHEREAS, the King County citizens' election oversight committee and the
28 Elections Center recommended that elections operations and facilities needed improved
29 security, and

30 WHEREAS, the King County citizens' election oversight committee and the
31 Independent Task Force on Elections and the executive have recommended that a
32 management consultant be hired to assist the King County elections section become a
33 high performing organization, and

34 WHEREAS, the King County council wishes to receive regular reports on
35 elections from the director of records, elections and licensing services, and

36 WHEREAS, the council, the executive, elections section management and staff
37 understand that continual improvement is necessary, and

38 WHEREAS, the council will continue its active oversight of elections and may
39 mandate additional measures to ensure the continual improvement in the conduct of
40 elections;

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

42 A. King County shall consolidate all elections operations into a single facility;

43 B. The executive is requested to transmit an ordinance to the council by August
44 15, 2006, to acquire or construct a specific facility into which all elections operations will
45 be consolidated. The council will act on the ordinance by October 2;

46 C. The executive is requested to provide a report to the council on progress made
47 to improve the accuracy of voter registration records and how these actions respond to
48 recommendations of the elections audit and the citizens' election oversight committee
49 recommendations. The executive is further requested to transmit to the council a plan for
50 further improving and maintaining voter registration records. The plan shall be
51 transmitted to the council by August 15, 2006. When providing either the report or the
52 plan requested under this subsection, eleven copies of the report or plan shall be filed
53 with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers;

54 D. The executive is requested to provide a progress report to the council on
55 progress made to improve elections security and how these actions respond to
56 recommendations of the elections audit and the citizens' election oversight committee
57 recommendations. The executive is further requested to evaluate elections security and
58 to transmit to the council a security plan by July 31, 2006, that addresses security related
59 to facilities, personnel, electronic systems and ballots. When providing either the report
60 or the plan requested under this subsection, eleven copies of the report or plan shall be
61 filed with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers;

62 E. The executive is requested to hire a management consultant to assist the
63 director of records, elections and licensing services. The role of the consultant is to help

64 the director lead the organization to become a model elections operation and to function
65 at a very high level of competence with high morale, low turnover and full staffing; and

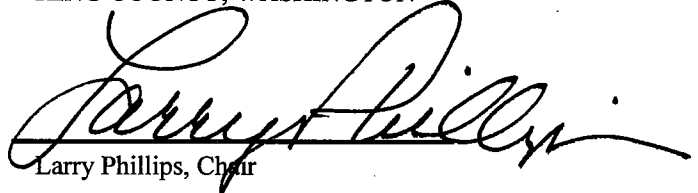
66 F. The director of records, elections and licensing services is requested to report
67 to the council quarterly regarding improvements made by the director's and the director's
68 staff to the conduct of elections and improvements that are in process or have yet to be
69 made. The first report shall cover the last quarter of 2006. The director shall submit the
70 original and ten copies of the quarterly reports to the clerk of the council two weeks after

71 the end of each calendar quarter. The clerk shall distribute the report to all
72 councilmembers.
73

Motion 12299 was introduced on 5/8/2006 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/5/2006, by the following vote:


Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None