

..Drafter

Clerk 4/24/2007

..Title

A MOTION creating a consulting group to propose
locations for regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes.

..Body

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Washington state legislature amended Title 29A RCW
to allow counties the option of conducting all elections by mail, and

WHEREAS, the number of King County voters who vote by absentee ballot
currently fluctuates between approximately seventy and eighty percent in any given
election, and

WHEREAS, sixty-two percent of all registered voters in King County are
currently registered to automatically vote by absentee ballot, and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2005 King County Executive Ron Sims announced
his desire to adopt an all mail voting system in King County, and

WHEREAS, the council on June 19, 2006, passed Ordinance 15523 authorizing
the director of the records, elections and licensing services division to conduct all
elections entirely by mail ballot in accordance with state laws beginning in 2007 or 2008
as determined by the director if certain conditions are met, and

WHEREAS, conducting all elections in King County by mail will allow the
county to focus resources and systems to gain efficiencies and increase security by
limiting dependency on human interaction and ballot handling, and

WHEREAS, the council on November 20, 2006, adopted Ordinance 15652, which included a budget proviso requesting a plan and schedule for the transition to vote by mail and information regarding regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes;

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

The council approves the county executive's creation of a consulting group composed of representatives from the following groups maintaining geographical and qualified major parties diversity: the King County elections section staff; the citizens' elections oversight committee; the metropolitan King County council staff, as designated by the council chair; the elections disability advisory committee; and the Voting Rights Act Section 203 community coalition. The consulting group shall submit to the council proposed locations for regional voting centers and ballot drop locations no later than July 27, 2007. The consulting group shall be chaired by the King County elections staff

member and shall seek the advice and feedback of the King County elections disability advisory committee in accordance with RCW 29A.46.260.