



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 30, 2018

Ordinance 18809

Proposed No. 2018-0528.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of
2 business; increasing options for telephonic participation in
3 county council committee meetings when physical
4 attendance is otherwise not possible; and amending
5 Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C.
6 1.24.145.

7 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

8 SECTION 1. Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.145 are
9 each hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **1.24.145 Rule 15: Quorum and voting - standard, emergencies.**

11 A. The requirements for a quorum of a standing committee are prescribed in Rule
12 6A, K.C.C. 1.24.055.A. The requirements for a quorum of a regional committee are
13 prescribed in Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065. Three members constitute a quorum of the
14 employment and administration committee.

15 B.1. Five members constitute a quorum of the county council, except as provided
16 in subsection B.2. of this section. If there is a lack of a quorum, the chair shall request the
17 clerk of the council to call members so as to constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise
18 required by the King County Charter, a vote of the majority of those present is necessary
19 for the conduct of council business.

20 2. In the event that an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, reduces the
21 number of members, then those members available and present for duty have full authority
22 to act in all matters as the county council. Quorum requirements for the council shall be
23 suspended for the period of the emergency, and where the affirmative vote of a specified
24 proportion of the council is required for approval of an ordinance or other action, the same
25 proportion of those members available shall be sufficient. As soon as practicable
26 thereafter, the available members shall act in accordance with the charter and state law to
27 fill existing vacancies on the council.

28 3. Members participating by telephone or other electronic means as allowed under
29 subsection C. of this section are present for quorum purposes. The clerk of the council, in
30 consultation with the chair, shall establish authentication and operating procedures, which
31 must comply with all state and county laws regarding open public meetings. It shall be
32 noted in the minutes when members participate by telephone or other electronic means.

33 C.1. Members may participate and vote in meetings of standing committees of
34 which they are members and in meetings of the full council by telephone or other electronic
35 means under the following circumstances:

36 a. under any circumstances up to five times per calendar year per
37 councilmember; and

38 b. under circumstances constituting good cause, which include:

39 i. an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010;

40 ii. special meetings (~~convened during the council's summer or winter recess~~);

41 or

42 iii. urgent circumstances as defined in subsection C.5. of this section, if the

43 member's attendance is approved in accordance with subsection C.2. of this section.

44 2. A member wishing to participate and vote in a full council or standing
45 committee meeting by telephone or other electronic means under subsection C.1.b.iii. of
46 this section shall use the following process:

47 a. The member shall declare orally or in writing to the chair of the meeting that
48 the member requests to participate and vote by telephone or other electronic means because
49 of urgent circumstances;

50 b. After receiving the request from the member, the chair shall promptly approve
51 or deny the request and so inform the member, who may accept the chair's ruling or appeal
52 the chair's ruling to the members present at the meeting; and

53 c. Reversal of the chair's ruling requires an affirmative vote of a two-thirds
54 majority of the members present at the meeting. For a full council meeting, reversal of the
55 chair's ruling also requires that a quorum be present.

56 3. In notifying the meeting chair of the member's intent or request to participate
57 and vote by telephone or other electronic means under this subsection C., the member shall
58 specify the specific provision of this subsection C. on which the member is relying.

59 4. To facilitate connection to the broadcasting system, notices or requests for
60 participation by telephone or other electronic means should be made half an hour in
61 advance of the meeting when possible, and the member should promptly inform the clerk
62 of the meeting of the notice or request. When participating by telephone or other electronic
63 means, the member shall speak audibly so that the public can hear the discussion and
64 voting process.

65 5. For the purposes of this subsection C., "urgent circumstances" means when a

66 member experiences one or more of the following:

67 a. inclement weather, such as a flood alert or snow in the member's district, that

68 results in circumstances that make it unsafe for the member to attend the meeting; and

69 b. the member or an immediate family member, as "immediate family" is

70 defined in K.C.C. 3.12.010, has a medically-related issue or other urgent need for

71 assistance, including without limitation the death of an immediate family member, that

72 makes it difficult for the member to attend the meeting.

73 D. There may not be voting by proxy on a question before the council. A member

74 who is in the council chambers or present via telephone or other electronic means when the

75 question is put shall vote unless excused by the council for special reasons. A motion to

76 excuse a member must be made before the call for "ayes" and "nos" is commenced.

77 E. A vote before the council must be recorded as to the "ayes" and "nos." Upon the

78 final passage of legislation before the council, the vote must be taken by oral roll call. On

79 any other matter, the vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by at least one

80 member. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. The order of names on

81 the roll call must be alphabetical by last name except for the chair, who votes last when the
82 "ayes" and "nos" are called.
83

Ordinance 18809 was introduced on 10/22/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/29/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci
No: 3 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Upthegrove
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



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APPROVED this 5 day of NOVEMBER, 2018.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None