



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 8, 2008**

**Motion 12854**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0461.3

**Sponsors** Ferguson and Constantine

1                   A MOTION requesting the King County citizens' elections  
2                   oversight committee to study rank choice voting and report  
3                   to the council by January 2, 2010.  
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5                   WHEREAS, the King County Charter is the county's constitution and the  
6                   cornerstone of King County government, and

7                   WHEREAS, the King County Charter has served King County well during the  
8                   almost forty years since the charter was originally approved by the voters, and

9                   WHEREAS, in order to keep the charter current to meet the needs of King  
10                  County, the charter provides for a citizen commission to be assembled every ten years to  
11                  review the charter and recommend for consideration by the metropolitan King County  
12                  council any charter amendments that the commission deems necessary, and

13                  WHEREAS, the 2007-2008 King County Charter review commission held its first  
14                  meeting on February 27, 2007, and since then has met, either as a full commission or in  
15                  one of four subcommittees, more than forty times and held thirteen public forums,  
16                  including at least one in every council district, and

17           WHEREAS, the commission has received testimony and reviewed written  
18 submissions from well over one hundred persons and organizations regarding more than  
19 three hundred fifty suggestions for charter amendments, and

20           WHEREAS, the commission has carefully considered all the suggested charter  
21 amendments and has recommended a list of amendments for consideration by the  
22 council, and

23           WHEREAS, the commission transmitted its final report and recommendations to  
24 the metropolitan King County council on May 30, 2008, and

25           WHEREAS, in the exercise of the council's duty under the charter, the council  
26 will carefully review and consider the commission's report and recommendations, and

27           WHEREAS, the commission recommended that the council convene a citizen  
28 commission no later than January 2010 to examine instant runoff voting, also known as  
29 rank choice voting, and report its findings to the council by January 2011, and

30           WHEREAS, the council enacted Ordinance 15453 in April of 2006 that  
31 established the King County citizens' elections oversight committee whose mission is to  
32 help King County restore and maintain public confidence in elections, in part, by making  
33 recommendations to the council to improve the performance of the elections division, and  
34 to help ensure that accountability and performance of the elections division is provided in  
35 a transparent manner that is meaningful to the residents of King County, and

36           WHEREAS, the King County citizens' elections oversight committee has made  
37 well in excess of one hundred recommendations for actions to improve the accuracy and  
38 openness of King County elections, and

39 WHEREAS, nearly all the recommendations of the King County citizens'  
40 elections oversight committee have been implemented and resulted in greatly improved  
41 elections operations and improved public confidence in elections;

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

43 The council hereby requests that the King County citizens' elections oversight  
44 committee study the potential advantages and disadvantages of instant runoff or rank  
45 choice voting and provide a written report to the council, in the form of eleven copies to  
46 the clerk of the council, no later than January 2, 2010.

47 The council further requests that the King County citizens' elections oversight  
48 committee's initial study work focus on whether or not the new elections equipment and  
49 software that the executive intends to purchase would be capable of conducting rank  
50 choice voting. The initial findings on this matter should be reported to the council as

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52 soon as reasonably practicable by letter to councilmembers delivered in the form of  
53 eleven copies to the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers.  
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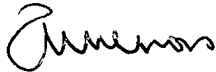
Motion 12854 was introduced on 8/25/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/6/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Phillips  
No: 3 - Mr. Dunn, Mr. von Reichbauer and Ms. Hague  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None