



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

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

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2020-0204.1

Sponsors Dembowski and Kohl-Welles

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County
2 Charter to change references to citizen to either public or
3 resident where applicable in the King County Charter;
4 amending the Preamble and Sections 260 and 800 of the
5 King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters
6 of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next
7 general election to be held on November 3, 2020.

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for
10 their approval and ratification or rejection, at the November 3, 2020, general election, an
11 amendment to the Preamble and to Section 260 and Section 800 of the King County
12 Charter to read as follows:

13 **Preamble**

14 We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and
15 orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, ensure
16 responsibility and accountability for local and regional county governance and services,
17 enable effective ((~~citizen~~)) public participation, preserve a healthy rural and urban
18 environment and economy and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in
19 accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

20 **Section 260 Office of ((Citizen)) Public Complaints.**

21 The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints
22 concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit
23 it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations
24 concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other
25 evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of ((citizen)) public
26 complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a ((~~citizen of the county~~))
27 member of the public, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel.
28 Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in
29 the individual's own behalf.

30 **Section 800 Charter Review and Amendments.**

31 At least every ten years after **the** adoption of this charter, the county executive shall
32 appoint a ((citizen)) resident commission of not less than fifteen members whose mandate
33 shall be to review the charter and present, or cause to be presented, to the county council a
34 written report recommending those amendments, if any, which should be made to the
35 charter. Appointees shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council.
36 This ((citizen)) resident commission shall be composed of at least one representative from
37 each of the county council districts. The county council shall consider the commission's
38 report and recommendations and decide at an open public meeting how to proceed on each
39 of the commission's recommended charter amendments, as provided by ordinance.

40 The county council may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an
41 ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general
42 election occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An

43 ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of
44 the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to
45 the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general
46 law. If the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the
47 issue, it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a
48 later date is specified in the amendment.

49 SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director
50 of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or
51 modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

52 Shall the Preamble and Sections 260 and 800 of the King County Charter be amended to
53 replace citizen with public and resident where appropriate?
54

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None