



**King County**  
**Metropolitan King County Council**  
**Committee of the Whole**

**STAFF REPORT**

---

<b>Agenda Item No.:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3 Jan 2010</b>
<b>Proposed Motion No.:</b>	<b>2010-0555</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Nick Wagner</b>

---

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Motion 2010-0555 (pp. 3-5 of these materials) would appoint four members of a five-member districting committee to determine the boundaries of King County's council districts in light of the most recent federal census data. Those four members are then required by the King County Charter, no later than 31 January 2011, to choose a fifth member as chair. In its current form the motion has blanks for the names of the persons to be appointed.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 650.30.10 (p. 7 of these materials) of the King County Charter provides that the boundaries of each council district "shall correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of the election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and shall be: drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population."

Charter section 650.30.20 (p. 7 of these materials) provides for a five-member districting committee to be appointed every ten years, for the council to appoint four persons to the committee, and for those four to appoint a fifth person, who shall serve as the chair of the districting committee. That section also calls upon the committee to appoint a districting master by April 1. Section 650.30.30 (p. 7 of these materials) sets forth the procedure for consideration, adoption and filing of the districting plan. Additional requirements are contained in RCW Chapter 29A.76 (pp. 9-11 of these materials).

**THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Besides appointing four members of the districting committee, Proposed Motion 2010-0555 would ask the committee "to conduct its business according to the standards of the Open Public Meetings Act and to conduct at least one public hearing before adopting the districting plan."

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed motion itself has no financial impact; however, the 2011 annual budget includes an appropriation of \$280,000 for the districting committee (Ordinance 16984 § 14). Part of those funds will need to be used to retain a professional districting master to assist the committee.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The motion will need to be amended to specify the names of the persons to be appointed. A blank amendment is included at page 13 of these materials.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **Page**

1. Proposed Motion 2010-0555 .....	3
2. King County Charter § 650 .....	7
3. RCW Chapter 29A.76 .....	9
4. Amendment 1 .....	13



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**December 28, 2010**

**Motion**

**Proposed No. 2010-0555.1**

**Sponsors Ferguson**

1                   A MOTION appointing members to the districting  
2                   committee in accordance with Section 650.30.20 of the  
3                   King County Charter.

4                   WHEREAS, Section 650.30.10 of the King County Charter provides that the  
5                   boundaries of each council district "shall correspond as nearly as practical with the  
6                   boundaries of the election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and shall be: drawn  
7                   to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and  
8                   geographic units and approximately equal in population," and

9                   WHEREAS, Section 650.30.20 of the King County Charter provides for a five-  
10                  member districting committee to be appointed every ten years, for the council to appoint  
11                  four persons to the committee, and those four to appoint a fifth person, who shall serve as  
12                  the chair of the districting committee, and

13                  WHEREAS, Section 650.30.30 of the King County Charter sets forth the  
14                  procedure for consideration, adoption and filing of the districting plan, and

15                  WHEREAS, chapter 29A.76 RCW provides for redistricting by counties,  
16                  municipal corporations and special purpose districts, and

17                  WHEREAS, the districting process should be conducted in a manner that ensures  
18                  the public the opportunity for public participation;

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

20           In accordance with Section 650.30.20 of the King County Charter, the following  
21 persons are hereby appointed to the districting committee:

22           1. \_\_\_\_\_

23           2. \_\_\_\_\_

24           3. \_\_\_\_\_

25           4. \_\_\_\_\_

26           The districting committee is requested to conduct its business according to the

- 27 standards of the Open Public Meetings Act and to conduct at least one public hearing  
28 before adopting the districting plan.  
29

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

---

Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:

---

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

---

Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

[blank page]

## **King County Charter § 650**

### **Section 650 Councilmembers.**

#### **650.10 Districts.**

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine. (Ord. 14767 § 1, 2004: Ord. 10530 § 1, 1992).

#### **650.20 Nomination and Election.**

County councilmembers shall be nominated and elected as nonpartisan offices by the voters of each councilmember's respective district. The nomination and election of councilmembers shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing in even-numbered districts with the election of 1971 and in odd-numbered districts with the election of 1973. (Initiative 26 § 1, 2008).

#### **650.30 Districting.**

##### **650.30.10 District Boundaries.**

The boundaries of each district shall correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and shall be: drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

##### **650.30.20 Districting Committee.**

During the month of January, 2001, and by January 31 of each tenth year thereafter, a five-member districting committee shall be appointed. The county council shall appoint four persons to the committee, the four to appoint the fifth who shall be the chairperson. The districting committee shall no later than April 1 following their appointment meet and appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the districting committee is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master by April 1, the county council shall appoint a districting master by May 31 of that year. (Initiative 26 § 1, 2008: Ord. 12191 § 1, 1996: Ord. 2494 § 1, 1975).

##### **650.30.30 Districting Plan.**

The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the county which shall be submitted by December 31 of the same year to the districting committee for adoption with or without amendment. The districting committee shall adopt the districting plan within fifteen days. Upon adoption, the districting plan shall be submitted to the clerk of the county council by the districting committee. The plan shall become effective upon filing. (Ord. 12191 § 1, 1996: Ord. 2494 § 1, 1975).

## **650.40 Transitional Provisions.**

### **650.40.15 Districting in 2004.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this charter, the districting committee called for in Section 650.30 of this charter also shall be appointed and shall perform its duties in 2004 according to the months and days specified in Section 650.30 of this charter to prepare a districting plan for nine council districts. (Ord. 14767 § 1, 2004).

### **650.40.25 Elections and terms of office for 2004 and thereafter.**

Elections for all council districts, as redistricted under Section 650.40.15 of this charter, shall be held in 2005. Councilmembers elected in 2005 to represent districts one, three, five, seven and nine each shall serve four-year terms. Councilmembers elected in 2005 to represent districts two, four, six and eight each shall serve an initial term of two years. Councilmembers elected in 2007 to represent districts two, four, six and eight each shall serve a term for four years. All subsequent elections shall be held according to the existing provisions of this charter. (Ord. 14767 § 1, 2004).



## Chapter 29A.76 RCW Redistricting

RCW Sections

[29A.76.010](#) Counties, municipal corporations, and special purpose districts.

[29A.76.020](#) Boundary information.

[29A.76.030](#) Precinct boundary change -- Registration transfer.

[29A.76.040](#) Maps and census correspondence lists -- Apportionment -- Duties of secretary of state.

---

### **29A.76.010**

#### **Counties, municipal corporations, and special purpose districts.**

(1) It is the responsibility of each county, municipal corporation, and special purpose district with a governing body comprised of internal director, council, or commissioner districts not based on statutorily required land ownership criteria to periodically redistrict its governmental unit, based on population information from the most recent federal decennial census.

(2) Within forty-five days after receipt of federal decennial census information applicable to a specific local area, the commission established in RCW [44.05.030](#) shall forward the census information to each municipal corporation, county, and district charged with redistricting under this section.

(3) No later than eight months after its receipt of federal decennial census data, the governing body of the municipal corporation, county, or district shall prepare a plan for redistricting its internal or director districts.

(4) The plan shall be consistent with the following criteria:

(a) Each internal director, council, or commissioner district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each and every other such district comprising the municipal corporation, county, or special purpose district.

(b) Each district shall be as compact as possible.

(c) Each district shall consist of geographically contiguous area.

(d) Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party.

(e) To the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the municipal corporation, county, or district, the district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.

(5) During the adoption of its plan, the municipal corporation, county, or district shall ensure that full and reasonable public notice of its actions is provided. The municipal corporation, county, or district shall hold at least one public hearing on the redistricting plan at least one week before adoption of the plan.

(6)(a) Any registered voter residing in an area affected by the redistricting plan may request review of the adopted local plan by the superior court of the county in which he or she resides, within forty-five days of the plan's adoption. Any request for review must specify the reason or reasons alleged why the local plan is not consistent with the applicable redistricting criteria. The municipal corporation, county, or district may be joined as respondent. The superior court shall thereupon review the challenged plan for compliance with the applicable redistricting criteria set out in subsection (4) of this section.

(b) If the superior court finds the plan to be consistent with the requirements of this section, the plan shall take effect immediately.

(c) If the superior court determines the plan does not meet the requirements of this section, in whole or in part, it shall remand the plan for further or corrective action within a specified and reasonable time period.

(d) If the superior court finds that any request for review is frivolous or has been filed solely for purposes of harassment or delay, it may impose appropriate sanctions on the party requesting review, including payment of attorneys' fees and costs to the respondent municipal corporation, county, or district.

[2003 c 111 § 1901. Prior: 1984 c 13 § 4; 1983 c 16 § 15; 1982 c 2 § 27. Formerly RCW [29.70.100](#).]

**Notes:**

**Severability -- 1984 c 13:** See RCW [44.05.902](#).

**Contingent effective date -- Severability -- 1983 c 16:** See RCW [44.05.900](#) and [44.05.901](#).

---

## **29A.76.020**

### **Boundary information.**

(1) The legislative authority of each county and each city, town, and special purpose district which lies entirely within the county shall provide the county auditor accurate information describing its geographical boundaries and the boundaries of its director, council, or commissioner districts and shall ensure that the information provided to the auditor is kept current.

(2) A city, town, or special purpose district that lies in more than one county shall provide the secretary of state accurate information describing its geographical boundaries and the boundaries of its director, council, or commissioner districts and shall ensure that the information provided to the secretary is kept current. The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each county in which a city, town, or special purpose district is located information regarding the boundaries of that jurisdiction which is provided to the secretary.

[2003 c 111 § 1902. Prior: 1991 c 178 § 2. Formerly RCW [29.15.026](#), [29.04.220](#).]

---

## **29A.76.030**

### **Precinct boundary change — Registration transfer.**

If the boundaries of any city, township, or rural precinct are changed in the manner provided by law, the county auditor shall transfer the registration cards of every registered voter whose place of residence is affected thereby to the files of the proper precinct, noting thereon the name or number of the new precinct, or change the addresses, the precinct names or numbers, and the special district designations for those registered voters on the voter registration lists of the county. It shall not be necessary for any registered voter whose residence has been changed from one precinct to another, by a change of boundary, to apply to the registration officer for a transfer of registration. The county auditor shall mail to each registrant in the new precinct a notice that his or her precinct has been changed from . . . . . to . . . . ., and that thereafter the registrant will be entitled to vote in the new precinct, giving the name or number.

[2003 c 111 § 1903; 1971 ex.s. c 202 § 27; 1965 c 9 § [29.10.060](#). Prior: 1933 c 1 § 17; RRS § 5114-17. Formerly RCW [29.10.060](#).]

## **29A.76.040**

### **Maps and census correspondence lists — Apportionment — Duties of secretary of state.**

(1) With regard to functions relating to census, apportionment, and the establishment of legislative and congressional districts, the secretary of state shall:

- (a) Coordinate and monitor precinct mapping functions of the county auditors and county engineers;
- (b) Maintain official state base maps and correspondence lists and maintain an index of all such maps and lists;
- (c) Furnish to the United States bureau of the census as needed for the decennial census of population, current, accurate, and easily readable versions of maps of all counties, cities, towns, and other areas of this state, which indicate current precinct boundaries together with copies of the census correspondence lists.

(2) The secretary of state shall serve as the state liaison with the United States bureau of census on matters relating to the preparation of maps and the tabulation of population for apportionment purposes.

[2003 c 111 § 1904; 1989 c 278 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 128 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 2. Formerly RCW [29.04.140](#).]

#### **Notes:**

**Severability -- 1977 ex.s. c 128:** See note following RCW [29A.16.040](#).

**Effective date -- 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129:** "This 1976 amendatory act shall take effect on February 1, 1977." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 5.]

**Severability -- 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129:** "If any provision of this 1976 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 6.]

[blank page]

Jan. 3, 2011

nw

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed No.: 2010-0555

1    **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2010-0555, VERSION 1**

2    On page 2, delete lines 22-25, and insert:

- 3    "        1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4            2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5            3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6            4. \_\_\_\_\_ "

7    **EFFECT: Inserts the names of the appointees.**