## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 8 | **Name:** | Clifton Curry |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0122 | **Date:** | February 23, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

An ordinance adopting the revision of voting precincts of King County for the year 2016.

**SUMMARY:**

As required by state law and King County Code, this ordinance would adopt boundary revisions to the voting precincts of King County for the year 2016. These alterations will equalize precinct populations, reflect annexation activity, and ease election administration.

The precinct alteration process includes a public review period of not less than 10 days and input and review by both major political parties in King County. This year a 12-day public review period was held prior to transmittal of the proposed ordinance to the Council. According to the Department of Elections, no public comments were received on this year's proposed alterations. To comply with state law, the proposed ordinance making the annual precinct alterations must be effective by April 25, 2016.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW 29A.16.040-050) and King County Code (KCC 1.12.010) require the review and alteration of precincts annually. The proposed ordinance making these changes must be effective by April 25, 2016. The reasons for adjusting the precincts are:

* To adjust precinct boundaries to comply with recent city annexation or incorporation activity.
* To equalize voter population of precincts in compliance with the limits prescribed by state law and King County Code.
* To ease election administration.

In 2013, the Council adopted Ordinance 17655, which requires the Director of Elections to provide a 10-day comment period on proposed precinct changes for the political parties and the public prior to the transmittal of the ordinance to Council.

**ANALYSIS:**

Table1 presents a countywide summary of changes to voting precincts as adopted in 2014 and proposed for 2015. Overall there are relatively few precinct changes proposed for 2015.

**Table 1**

**Countywide Summary of Precinct Changes, 2015-2016**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **Proposed 2016** |
| Precincts altered | 27 | **52** |
| Precincts added | 10 | **14** |
| Precincts abolished | 1 | **1** |
| Net gain/loss of precincts | 9 | **13** |

As proposed for 2016, of the current 2,519 voting precincts in King County, 52 precincts were altered, 14 precincts were added, and one precinct was abolished, for a net increase of 13 precincts. If adopted, this legislation will result in 2,532 precincts in King County for 2016.

Table 2 shows the proposed precinct changes for 2016 by Council district.

**Table 2**

**Summary of 2015 Changes by Council District**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Council District** | **Altered** | **Added** | **Abolished** |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | 12 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | 10 | 3 | 0 |

According to the department, the precinct alterations being proposed for 2016 are the result of boundary changes to accommodate precinct balancing, city annexations, and election administrative maintenance.

**Comment Periods.** The precinct alteration process includes input and review by both major political parties in King County. The department conducted a 12-day public comment period and review of the proposed 2016 changes prior to meeting with the parties and transmittal to Council. According to the department, no comments were received.

**Notifying Voters.** The ordinance and attachments become an amendment to the official list of County voting precincts. The department will notify voters of their new precinct status following the Council’s adoption of the ordinance.

**INVITED:**

* Julie Wise, Director, Department of Elections
* Dave Wilson, GIS Supervisor, Department of Elections

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2016-0122, with attachments
2. Transmittal letter