



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

June 28, 2017

### Ordinance 18545

Proposed No. 2017-0173.1

Sponsors Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE increasing district court small claims  
2 court surcharge to the state statutory limit; and amending  
3 Ordinance 12214, Section 2, and K.C.C. 4A.634.020.

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 5 1. In 1984 the Washington state Legislature adopted the Court  
6 Improvement Act of 1984, which, in part, established the goal of creating  
7 a system of dispute resolution centers statewide.
- 8 2. With the adoption of the Court Improvement Act of 1984, the statewide  
9 goal was to establish dispute resolution centers to provide alternative  
10 dispute resolution, mediation and training services. Those centers are  
11 mandated to provide services independent of a clients' ability to pay,  
12 guaranteeing that all citizens have access to a low-cost resolution process  
13 in lieu of more costly civil litigation or when mediation can bring about a  
14 better outcome.
- 15 3. King County has the King County Dispute Resolution Center, which is  
16 one of the twenty dispute resolution centers statewide. The Dispute  
17 Resolution Center of King County is a nonprofit organization that has  
18 provided affordable mediation and conflict resolution services for  
19 individuals, businesses, and families in King County since 1986. The

20 center uses professional mediators from the community who volunteer  
21 their time to help us solve over one thousand disputes each year. Using  
22 volunteer mediators helps the center to keep the cost of providing services  
23 low to ensure greater access to a low-cost resolution process.

24 4. For the purpose of funding dispute resolution centers, chapter 7.75  
25 RCW allows the county legislative authority to impose a surcharge of up  
26 to ten dollars on each civil filing fee in district court and a surcharge of up  
27 to fifteen dollars on each filing fee for small claims actions. Surcharges  
28 are collected by the clerk of the court and remitted to the county treasurer  
29 for deposit in a separate account used solely for the dispute resolution  
30 centers.

31 5. In 1991, the county established: a surcharge of ten dollars to district  
32 court civil filing fees, the maximum allowable under state statute; and an  
33 eleven-dollar surcharge to small claims court filing fees, which is less than  
34 the amount allowed by state statute.

35 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

36 SECTION 1. Ordinance 12214, Section 2, and K.C.C. 4A.634.020 are each  
37 hereby amended to read as follows;

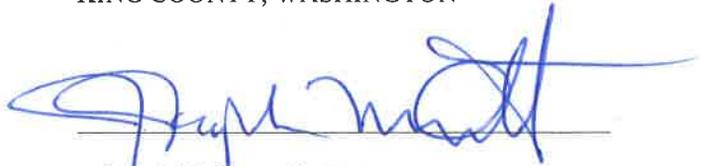
38 The King County council hereby establishes a surcharge of ~~(((\$11.00))~~ fifteen  
39 dollars to small claims court filing fees to be used for funding dispute resolution services.  
40 This surcharge shall be collected by the King County district court, which shall establish

41 a procedure for collection and segregation of this surcharge in accordance with ((RCW))  
42 chapter 7.75 RCW.  
43

Ordinance 18545 was introduced on 4/10/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/26/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. Gossett

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017

  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
CLERK

Attachments: None