



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 18, 2017

Ordinance 18572

Proposed No. 2017-0301.2

Sponsors Dembowski, McDermott and Kohl-
Welles

1 AN ORDINANCE creating the Ruth Woo emerging
2 leaders fellowship program; and adding a new section to
3 K.C.C. chapter 3.12.

4 PREAMBLE:

5 The Ruth Woo emerging leaders fellowship program is named after
6 revered community leader Ruth Woo. Woo started her career in public
7 service as an administrative professional to former Governor Dan Evans
8 and later became a mentor to several elected officials, including former
9 King County Executive Gary Locke.

10 At a young age, Woo witnessed the impacts of policymaking when she
11 and her family were incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II. This
12 life event motivated Woo to use her influence to increase diversity in
13 government institutions to ensure they reflect the communities they serve.

14 In memory of her public service and to commemorate her passing on July
15 13, 2016, this program honors her life's work and passion in opening doors
16 for youth from backgrounds that have historically lacked equitable access
17 to education, employment and professional development opportunities to
18 enter public service.

19 This program will also further the county's Equity and Social Justice

20 Strategic Plan 2016-2022 objectives that, "(by) 2022, all departments and
21 agencies have fully active school-to-work pipelines from economically
22 disadvantaged communities." In addition, it will further the plan's goal
23 that "(m)ost of our workforce - at every level of all agencies/departments -
24 consistently reflect our region's changing demographics."

25 It is the county's desire that upon completion of the fellowship, the Ruth
26 Woo fellow understands the branches of government and the importance
27 of civic engagement, and appreciates public service in its many forms,
28 such as by elected officials, staff, stakeholders and the public.

29 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

30 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 3.12 a
31 new section to read as follows:

32 A. The Ruth Woo emerging leaders fellowship is hereby created. The fellowship
33 shall be a paid, full-time, term-limited temporary position and shall be awarded to a
34 person who has demonstrated a commitment to public service. Priority in selection will
35 be given to economically disadvantaged college graduates from backgrounds that have
36 historically lacked equitable access to education, employment, and professional
37 development opportunities. There shall be one fellow at a time in county employment,
38 who shall serve for a term of one year.

39 B. The fellow shall be an employee of the human resources management
40 division. The fellow shall be assigned to work in various county agencies for periods of
41 three to four months at a time with the written approval of the presiding elected official or
42 designee of such agency. The assignments shall include periods with the council and

43 with executive branch agencies. While assigned to an agency the fellow shall be subject
44 to the administrative supervision of that agency.

45 C. The Ruth Woo fellow shall have the following responsibilities:

46 1. Assignments may include following a piece of legislation through the
47 legislative process, preparing briefings, correspondence or other documents,
48 communicating with constituents and other county departments, assisting in outreach and
49 executive branch policy administration;

50 2. The work in the branches and departments shall include:

51 a. working on projects related to each branch or department and seeing them to
52 completion;

53 b. experiencing by directly working on how policies are developed and
54 implemented and how they relate to the communities served by the county;

55 c. participating in internship orientations, workshops and policy exercises; and

56 d. maintaining professional, nonpartisan conduct.

57 D. Each agency shall reimburse the human resources management division for
58 the cost of the fellow for the period assigned to the agency.

59 E. Annually, a committee to review applicants for the fellowship shall be formed,
60 composed of members appointed by the executive and the chair of the council. The
61 committee shall recommend to the human resources management division criteria for the

62 selection of applicants, shall screen, interview and score the applicants and shall
63 recommend to the human resources management division appointment of the fellow.
64

Ordinance 18572 was introduced on 7/17/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 9/18/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



APPROVED this 29TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2017.

Dwight R. Dively for
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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CLERK