Legislation Text

File #: 2007-0439, **Version:** 2

.Drafter

Clerk 9/4/2007

> AN ORDINANCE relating to elections, approving the random sampling statistical procedure for verification of signatures on initiative and referendum petitions, changing the threshold for the determination of valid signatures, and clarifying the treatment of multiple signatures on an initiative or referendum petition; amending Ordinance 832, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.16.100 and adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 1.16.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. **Findings:**

A. K.C.C. 1.16.100 authorizes the records, elections and licensing services division to use any statistical sampling techniques that have been approved by the county council for verification of signatures on initiative and referendum petitions.

B. WAC 434-379-010 outlines the type of random sampling statistical test that may be used for verification of signatures on statewide initiative and referendum petitions. The minimum random sample is three percent of the signatures submitted.

C. The current policy of the records, elections and licensing services division is to verify one hundred and five percent of required signatures for each initiative. The records, elections and licensing services division is authorized by county code to verify signatures based on a random sample of signatures which would provide for a more timely and efficient signature verification process.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 384, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.16.100 are each hereby amended as follows:

A. When petitions for initiative ((and/))or referendum action are filed with the county council, the records ((and))‚ elections and licensing services division shall ((forthwith)) proceed to canvass and count the names of the legal voters ((thereon)) on the initiative or referendum. The records ((and))‚ elections and licensing services division may use any statistical sampling techniques for this canvass ((which)) that have been approved by the county council. ((Provided)) However, ((that)) no petition ((will)) shall be rejected on the basis of any statistical method employed((; provided further, that)) and no petition ((will)) shall be accepted on the basis of any statistical method employed if ((such)) that method indicates that the petition contains ((less than one hundred ten percent of)) fewer than the requisite number of signatures of legal voters. If the records ((and))‚ elections and licensing services division finds the same name signed to more than one petition‚ it shall ((reject the name as often as it appears)) count only the first valid signature and shall reject all subsequent instances of the signature of the same person on the petition. After the petitions are processed, the records ((and))‚ elections and licensing services division shall transmit a certified copy of the facts relating to the filing of the petition and the canvass ((thereof)) to the county council.

B. In the verification of signatures on initiative and referendum petitions, the records, elections and licensing services division shall use the random sampling statistical procedure as authorized by WAC 434-379-010.