

PROPOSITION NO. 3

County Policy on Nondiscrimination

A. Proposed Ballot Title:

The Snohomish County Charter Review Commission has proposed amendments to the Snohomish County Charter concerning county policy on nondiscrimination. This proposition would revise existing county policy on nondiscrimination to incorporate protections provided by state and federal anti-discrimination laws and eliminate outdated or incomplete references to protected classes, substitute gender neutral language for masculine pronouns, and repeal inconsistent transition provisions. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

B. Charter Amendments Required:

AMENDED SECTIONS:

Section 2.30 Composition

The county council shall consist of five members nominated and elected from districts. Councilmembers shall be residents and registered voters of the district they represent at the time of filing for election to said office and at all times during their terms. Any change in the boundaries of a councilmember’s district which shall cause ~~((him))~~ the councilmember to be no longer a resident shall not disqualify ~~((him))~~ the councilmember from holding office during the remainder of the term for which ~~((he))~~ the councilmember was elected or appointed.

Section 2.110 Ordinances — Enactment

Proposed ordinances may be introduced by any councilmember, mini-initiative or initiative. Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in its entirety in writing. At least thirteen days shall pass between the introduction and the final passage of every ordinance, except emergency ordinances. Brief summaries of proposed ordinances providing reasonable notice as to the nature of the action contemplated shall be published before consideration. The council shall hold at least one public hearing after due notice to consider the proposed ordinance. Any proposed ordinance may be amended by motion at hearing without publication, provided, that such amendments shall not change the scope and object of the proposed ordinance. No proposed ordinance shall become a law unless on its

final passage the vote be taken by roll call by yeas and nays. Ordinances, or summaries of them, shall be published after enactment. Except for emergency ordinances, a minimum of three affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five working days after adoption by the county council. Within ten working days after presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it or veto the ordinance and return it to the county council with ~~((his))~~ the executive's written objections. If an ordinance is not returned to the county council within ten working days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without the county executive's signature. If the county executive vetoes an ordinance, the county council shall have thirty days to reconsider the ordinance. If the ordinance receives at least four affirmative votes it shall become law. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all ordinances shall take effect ten days after they are signed by the county executive or otherwise enacted, or at a later date if stated in the ordinance.

Section 4.40 Conflict of Interest

No county elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within county government during ~~((his))~~ the officer's term of office.

Section 4.80 Vacancies

An elective office shall become vacant on the death, resignation or recall of the official or if ~~((he))~~ the official ceases being a resident of Snohomish county or is absent from the county for thirty consecutive days without being excused by the council. The council shall fill a vacancy from a list of three people submitted by the county central committee of the party which the official in office immediately prior to the vacancy represented. In the event that the official in office immediately prior to the vacancy was a non-partisan candidate, the vacancy shall be filled by the council.

Vacancies in elective office shall be filled at the next November general election, unless the vacancy occurs after the last day for filing declarations of candidacy, in which case the vacancy shall be filled at the next succeeding November general election. The person elected shall take office upon certification of the results of the election and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacated office. Until a successor has been elected and certified, a majority of the council shall fill the vacancy by appointment. All persons appointed to fill vacancies shall meet the qualifications for office set forth in this charter.

Section 6.110 Illegal Contracts

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, any contract in excess of an appropriation shall be null and void; and any officer, agent or employee of the county knowingly responsible shall be personally liable to anyone damaged by ~~((his))~~ that person's action. The county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance permitting the county to enter into contracts requiring the payment of funds from appropriations of subsequent fiscal years, but real property shall not be leased to the county for more than one year, unless it is included in a capital budget appropriation ordinance.

Section 9.05 Nondiscrimination

In the exercise of its powers and in the performance of its duties, the county shall ensure that no person is discriminated against ~~((because of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap))~~ in violation of state or federal anti-discrimination law, or on any other basis not reasonably related to the accomplishment of a legitimate governmental purpose, and shall take whatever action necessary to accomplish this purpose as defined in the state and federal constitutions and applicable court interpretations.

REPEALED SECTIONS:

~~((Section 11.40 Budget~~

~~The budget for 2007 which is in effect when this amended charter takes effect, shall remain effective until revised.))~~

~~((Section 11.70 Effective Date~~

~~This amended charter shall take effect January 1, 2007. The term "effective date of this amended charter" shall mean January 1, 2007.))~~