

ORDINANCE NO. 2280

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AN ORDINANCE relating to the formulation of ballot titles, providing that ballot titles shall be phrased in language so that a yes vote will clearly be a vote in favor and a no vote will clearly be a vote in opposition, and adding the time for filing referendum petitions, and amending Ordinance 159, Section 3, and KCC 1.16.030; amending Ordinance 159, Section 4, and KCC 1.16.040; amending Ordinance 159, Section 5, and KCC 1.16.050; and amending Ordinance 159, Section 6, and KCC 1.16.060.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 159, Section 3, and KCC 1.16.030 are hereby amended:

~~((Time-for-filing-initiative-petitions-))~~

Time for filing initiative and referendum petitions.

Initiative petitions containing the required signatures of registered voters of the county as provided in Section 230.50 of the Charter, must be filed within sixty days from the date of approval of such form by the clerk of the council. If petitioner fails to file such petition within the prescribed time limit, it shall have no validity and the petition will not be considered by the council as an initiative petition.

Referendum petitions containing the required signatures of registered voters of the county, as provided in Section 230.40 of the Charter, must be filed within sixty days after the enactment of the ordinance to be referred to the voters. If the petitioner fails to file such petition within the prescribed time limit, it shall have no validity and will not be referred to the voters.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 159, Section 4, and KCC 1.16.040 are hereby amended:

The clerk of the council shall assign a serial number to each initiative measure or referendum petition, using a separate series for each, and forthwith transmit one copy of the measure proposed, bearing its serial number, to the department of records and

1 elections and the office of the prosecuting attorney. Thereafter
2 a measure shall be known and designated on all petitions, ballots
3 and proceedings as "Initiative Measure No. . . ." or "Referendum
4 Measure No. . . .".

5 SECTION 3. Ordinance 159, Section 5, and KCC 1.16.050 are
6 hereby amended:

7 Within five days after the receipt of an initiative
8 measure or referendum petition the ~~((department-of-records-and~~
9 ~~elections))~~ prosecuting attorney shall ~~((formulate-therefer-and~~
10 ~~transmit-to-the-clerk-of-the-council-a-statement-of-not-to-exceed~~
11 ~~one-hundred-words7))~~ prepare a ballot title and transmit it to
12 the clerk of the council and the department of records and
13 elections bearing the serial number of the measure. ~~((The~~
14 ~~statement-may-be-distinct-from-the-petitioner's-title-of-the~~
15 ~~measure,-and-shall-express-and-give-a-true-and-impartial-statement~~
16 ~~of-the-purpose-of-the-measure,-it-shall-not-be-intentionally-an~~
17 ~~argument,-nor-likely-to-create-prejudice,-either-for-or-against~~
18 ~~the-measure.--In-addition-to-such-statement,-the-department-of~~
19 ~~records-and-elections-shall-also-prepare-a-caption,-not-to-exceed~~
20 ~~five-words-in-length,-to-permit-the-voters-readily-to-identify~~
21 ~~the-initiative-measure-and-distinguish-it-from-other-questions-on~~
22 ~~the-ballot.--This-caption-and-the-statement-together-shall~~
23 ~~constitute-the-ballot-title.--The-ballot-title-formulated-by-the~~
24 ~~department-of-records-and-elections-shall-be-the-ballot-title-of~~
25 ~~the-measure-))~~ The ballot title shall be a concise statement in
26 the form of a question containing the essential features of the
27 measure and not exceeding twenty words and may be drafted in
28 common language for greater clarity. The ballot title shall be
29 phrased in language so that a yes vote will clearly be a vote in
30 favor of the action or condition that would result from the
31 approval of the measure, and a no vote will clearly be a vote in
32 opposition to such action or condition. In the case of a
33 referendum to ratify or revoke some prior action, the ballot title

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may refer directly to the prior action rather than to the ratification or revocation of said action.

SECTION 4. Ordinance 159, Section 6, and KCC 1.16.060 are hereby amended:

Upon the filing of the ballot title for an initiative or referendum measure in that office, the department of records and elections shall forthwith notify the persons proposing the measure, by mail, of the exact language thereof. Thereafter, such ballot title shall be the title of the measure in all proceedings in relation thereto. ((The ballot title of a referendum shall be the title of the ordinance as it was passed by the council.---In addition, the department of records and elections shall also prepare a caption, not to exceed five words in length, to permit the voters to readily identify the referendum.))

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 30th day of December, 1974.

PASSED this 13th day of January, 1975.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Bill Reames
Chairman

ATTEST:

Dorothy M. Quinn
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 14th day of January, 1975.

[Signature]
King County Executive