

MOTION NO. 2669

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A MOTION requesting that the County Executive perform a study to determine the accessibility of the electoral process to the mentally, physically, and sensory handicapped citizens; make recommendations to the Council, including time frames and anticipated expense, to implement corrective action where necessary.

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of King County to insure that all citizens enjoy the maximum and equal opportunity to participate effectively in the electoral process, and

WHEREAS, mentally, physically, and sensory handicapped people, qualified to register and vote may be hampered in fully participating in the electoral process by virtue of normally accepted registration processes, and

WHEREAS, citizens with disabilities may be hampered in exercising their franchise by virtue of the physical location or physical configuration of precinct polling places, and

WHEREAS, there are no specific rules or regulations which speak to the issue of minimally acceptable physical standards in precinct polling places to insure equal accessibility to citizens with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, with the upcoming primary election, there exists a unique opportunity to discuss and propose minimal physical standards and verify the physical adequacy of current precinct polling places through a survey or other study mechanism, and

WHEREAS, if changes in the electoral process are required to insure equal accessibility to citizens with disabilities, there exists a need to determine the cost of such changes and how these expenses shall be recouped by the county by virtue of apportioning costs to participating jurisdictions,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

1 The Executive is requested to perform a study, involving
2 such persons he deems necessary, to make recommendations to the
3 Council regarding the improvement of the accessibility of the
4 electoral process to mentally, physically and sensory
5 handicapped individuals.

6 At a minimum, the study, consistent with state law, should
7 propose and recommend;

8 1. Uniform physical standards for all polling places,
9 designed to insure unobstructed and free access to citizens with
10 disabilities; and

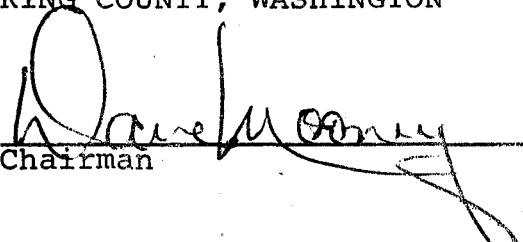
11 2. Changes or innovative procedures to insure equitable
12 opportunity for voter registration by citizens with disabilities;

13 3. Changes or innovative procedures to insure that
14 election personnel at the polling place level are trained and
15 informed to adequately assist persons with disabilities
16 exercising the right to vote, and

17 4. Time frames by which specific recommendations can be
18 implemented, the resultant cost of such changes, and methods by
19 which revenue can be generated to reimburse the County for
20 specific changes in the electoral process.

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23 PASSED this 7th day of September, 1976.

24 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
25 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

26 
27 Chairman

28 ATTEST:

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30 
31 Deputy Clerk of the Council