



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 11, 2005

Motion 12206

Proposed No. 2005-0401.3

Sponsors Lambert and Hague

1 A MOTION requesting the county executive to undertake
2 actions to improve the conduct of the elections process in
3 King County.

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6 WHEREAS, voter confidence in the elections process is paramount to
7 maintaining the integrity of our democracy, and

8 WHEREAS, the county council is concerned about the errors that have occurred
9 in recent elections, and

10 WHEREAS, the county council has taken action to begin restoring public
11 confidence and trust in King County elections operations by creating the citizens
12 elections oversight committee in 2003, by reconstituting the committee with a new
13 mission in April 2005 and, most recently, by commissioning a management audit of the
14 county's elections operations, and

15 WHEREAS, although the management audit has just been published, and
16 although the report of the new citizens elections oversight committee is not due until
17 February 1, 2006, other reports and studies have been released since 2003 identifying

18 problems with the county's elections operations and recommending potential corrective
19 measures and actions, and

20 WHEREAS, it is prudent to take action now on some of these measures and
21 corrective actions, while continuing to review and evaluate recommendations from the
22 reports and studies;

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

24 A. Beginning with the November, 2005 general election and continuing
25 thereafter:

26 1. The elections section shall, through whatever means it determines to be
27 appropriate, instruct the United States Postal Service to return to the elections section any
28 absentee ballots in instances where a permanent change of address form has been filed
29 with the Postal Service;

30 2. The elections section shall continue its current practice of ensuring that
31 absentee ballots are automatically forwarded by the United States Postal Service to
32 registered voters in instances where a temporary change of address form has been filed
33 with the Postal Service;

34 3. The elections section shall periodically use the United States Postal Service's
35 change of address database for the purposes of: (a) deleting from the county's voter
36 registration database the names of registered voters who have moved permanently outside
37 of King County; and (b) identifying the names of registered voters who have moved
38 permanently within King County and following the appropriate procedures to change the
39 voter's address in the county's voter registration database;

40 4. The elections section shall periodically obtain records from the King County
41 vital statistics section for the purpose of deleting the names of deceased persons from the
42 county's voter registration database;

43 5. When regularly notified by a county, state or federal court of a felony
44 conviction, the elections section shall promptly remove the individual from the voting
45 database if they are a registered voter;

46 6. The major political parties recognized in accordance with the criteria set forth
47 in state law shall be equally represented by the political party affiliations of staff hired to
48 recruit poll workers;

49 7. The elections section electronic data files shall indicate the name of the
50 elections section employee who verified each voter signature on absentee and provisional
51 ballots;

52 8. All absentee ballots presented in person to the main office of the elections
53 section shall be stamped with the date and time at the time at which they are presented;

54 9. Poll judges shall be sworn in using the oath contained in RCW 29A.44.510;

55 10. King County shall adhere to the requirements for provisional ballots
56 contained in WAC 434-253-045 and the federal Help America Vote Act, including
57 requiring voters to provide written declarations that they are registered and qualified to
58 vote; and

59 11. King County shall adhere to the requirements of RCW 29A.44.240, which
60 allow a person with a sensory or physical disability to designate an individual of the
61 person's choice, or two elections officers from opposite political parties, to accompany

62 the person into the voting machine booth and record the person's vote at the person's
63 direction.

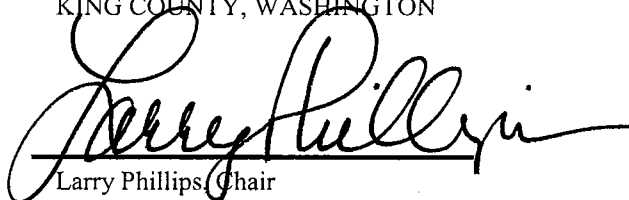
64 B. On July 1 of each year the executive shall submit to the council a report that
65 contains the names of any voters deleted from the voter registration list during the
66 preceding year, along with the reason the name was deleted. The report shall be filed
67 with the clerk of the council for distribution to each councilmember, to the chair of the

68 labor, operations and technology committee, or its successor committee, and to the lead
69 staff for the labor, operations and technology committee, or its successor committee.
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Motion 12206 was introduced on 9/26/2005 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/10/2005, by the following vote:

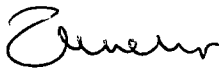
Yes: 10 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 3 - Ms. Edmonds, Mr. Pelz and Mr. Ferguson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None