



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**April 7, 2009**

**Motion 12953**

**Proposed No.** 2009-0188.2

**Sponsors** Hague, Constantine and Lambert

1                   A MOTION establishing the process for appointing the  
2                   county executive in the event of a vacancy in the office.

3  
4                   WHEREAS, the King County council is committed to principles of good  
5 government and the transparency of its proceedings, and

6                   WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the King County executive will shortly resign  
7 the executive's elected office for a federal position, and

8                   WHEREAS, the King County council has the duty under the county charter to fill  
9 the resulting vacancy in the office of executive by appointment of an individual to serve  
10 as executive until the executive's successor is elected and qualified at the November 2009  
11 general election, and

12                   WHEREAS, the Washington state Attorney General's office has opined that a  
13 board of county commissioners may not appoint one of their members to a vacant  
14 position that they have the duty to fill, and

15                   WHEREAS, the challenges facing an appointed county executive during the  
16 intervening months before a November election will be enormous and are expected to  
17 include substantial budget shortfalls, and

18 WHEREAS, criminal justice and public safety programs are likely to be the most  
19 severely impacted by those budget shortfalls, and

20 WHEREAS, strong leadership by the King County executive will be essential to  
21 securing "life boat" funding and ensuring that the county accesses appropriate federal  
22 stimulus package funds, and

23 WHEREAS, the King County executive is considered to be one of the highest  
24 ranking elected officials in Washington state, and

25 WHEREAS, the Municipal League of King County has published ratings of  
26 candidates for public office, reviewed and made recommendations on proposed ballot  
27 measures and closely monitored the workings of local government for almost a century,  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, it will be critically important for an appointed county executive to  
30 focus attention on the business of King County rather than the demands of campaigning  
31 for office, and

32 WHEREAS, in order to expedite a difficult budget process, an interim county  
33 executive will need to have strong ties and relationships with the state Legislature, other  
34 governments, transportation groups, environmental groups, labor groups and suburban  
35 cities within King County;

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

37 A. In order to preserve public confidence in the selection process for an  
38 appointed county executive, a blue ribbon selection committee is hereby established for  
39 the express purpose of reviewing eligible candidates for appointment to the office of

40 county executive. The committee shall establish an expedited process that will facilitate  
41 prompt appointment of an executive.

42 B. The committee shall consist of citizen members representing the economic,  
43 geographic and ethnic diversity of the county, together with members representing the  
44 county's criminal justice and public safety systems.

45 C. The appointed members are:

46 1. Citizen members:

47 a. Norm Rice, Cochair;

48 b. Suzette Cooke, Cochair;

49 c. Becky Cox;

50 d. Joan Crooks;

51 e. Adrian Diaz;

52 f. David Freiboth;

53 g. Beretta Gomillion;

54 h. Nancy Hutto;

55 i. Sharon Maeda;

56 j. Ted Choi Tam;

57 k. Bob Wallace;

58 l. Tayloe Washburn; and

59 2. Members representing the county's criminal justice and public safety systems:

60 a. Bruce Hilyer;

61 b. Barbara Linde;

62 c. Sue Rahr; and

63 d. Dan Satterberg.

64 D. Candidates for review shall be those nominated by three or more King County  
65 councilmembers by written memorandum to the clerk of the council within three days of  
66 the passage of this motion. The memorandum may be submitted by email. Each  
67 councilmember may nominate no more than two individuals. Each candidate nominated  
68 by at least three councilmembers shall submit a resume, supporting documentation and  
69 three references with contact information to the clerk of the council. The clerk shall  
70 forward to the council and the committee the names of each individual receiving a  
71 nomination from at least three councilmembers.

72 E. The clerk shall assemble the application materials for each candidate and  
73 provide those application materials directly to the committee.

74 F. Within one week of a vacancy occurring in the office of county executive, the  
75 committee shall hold a meeting to interview candidates and shall forward to the King  
76 County council its top two to five recommendations. The chair of the council shall  
77 schedule the meeting of the committee after consultation with the committee cochairs.  
78 The recommendations shall not limit the council's authority under the King County  
79 Charter to appoint any citizen meeting the qualifications for office.

80 G. Evaluation criteria for the blue ribbon selection committee shall include, but  
81 not be limited to:

- 82 1. Knowledge of the functions of King County government;
- 83 2. Knowledge of the issues and challenges facing King County government;
- 84 3. A demonstrated ability to develop a responsible budget;
- 85 4. A demonstrated ability to respond to public concerns;

86                   5. Demonstrated leadership skills;

87                   6. A commitment to the immediate business of King County that would make it  
88 unlikely that the appointee would run for any elective office while serving as appointed  
89 executive;

90                   7. A commitment to maintaining the functions and structure of county  
91 government without disruption during the election of a new county executive; and

92                   8. Demonstrated skills in pursuing a legislative agenda at the local, state and  
93 federal level.

94                   H. The committee shall deliver a set of written materials arranged to allow  
95 councilmembers to make direct comparisons between the candidates. The committee  
96 shall provide a list of two to five recommended candidates and observations about the  
97 strengths of each.

98                   I. Because of the Municipal League's long record of public service in reviewing  
99 candidates for election, the Municipal League is encouraged to review the candidates

100

**Motion 12953**

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101 presented for consideration to the committee and forward any recommendations to the  
102 council.

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Motion 12953 was introduced on 3/9/2009 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/6/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None