

ORDINANCE NO. 2280

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to the formulation of
3 ballot titles, providing that ballot titles
4 shall be phrased in language so that a yes
5 vote will clearly be a vote in favor and a no
6 vote will clearly be a vote in opposition,
7 and adding the time for filing referendum
8 petitions, and amending Ordinance 159,
9 Section 3, and KCC 1.16.030; amending
10 Ordinance 159, Section 4, and KCC 1.16.040;
11 amending Ordinance 159, Section 5, and
12 KCC 1.16.050; and amending Ordinance 159,
13 Section 6, and KCC 1.16.060.

14 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

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

18 Time for filing initiative and referendum petitions.

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

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

33 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-therefor-and~~
 10 ~~transmit-to-the-clerk-of-the-council-a-statement-of-not-to-exceed~~
 11 ~~one-hundred-words~~) 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~~

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

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

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

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

17 PASSED this 13th day of January, 1975.

18 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
19 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20 Bill Reams
21 Chairman

22 ATTEST:

23
24 Dorothy M. Quinn
25 Clerk of the Council

26 APPROVED this 14th day of January, 1975.

27
28 [Signature]
29 King County Executive