

ORDINANCE NO. 4930

AN ORDINANCE relating to the King County Superior Court; approving the addition of five new judgeships in accordance with 1980 state legislation, and stating Council intent with respect thereto.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. STATEMENT OF FACT.

A. The legislature, by chapter 183, Laws of 1980, has authorized creation of five additional superior court judges effective January 1, 1981, conditioned upon the requisite approval by the Council.

B. As passed overwhelmingly by both houses of the legislature prior to the Governor's attempt to veto portions of the bill, SSB No. 3207 reflects a strong legislative preference that the people of King County be permitted to elect the persons to fill these five additional judgeships.

C. An ad hoc committee composed of members of the Council, the Executive, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and representatives of the bar association has reviewed issues associated with the needs and operations of the court system in King County in light of this legislation.

D. The Council recognizes the need for additional judgeships, but intends that a cooperative planning process be established with representatives from the interests reflected on the ad hoc committee to explore and coordinate on a long-term basis any future court expansion, and to study the whole range of measures which might be undertaken to assure adequate planning for future facility and operational needs of the judicial system.

E. With respect to expansion of court facilities, the Council intends that the present and future planning processes shall not assume a full service courtroom with attached chambers

1 and conference room for each judge. Various concepts involving
2 the development and early implementation of shared courtrooms
3 must be pursued in the interest of economy of government to
4 determine feasibility and adequacy for public service needs.
5 Planning should consider among other possibilities expanding
6 on the foundation of the 1977 county construction of courtrooms
7 which featured the implementation of the concept of dual jury
8 rooms and combined chamber/conference room facilities, to include:

9 1. Single jury room serving or accessible to a
10 number of courtrooms;

11 2. Judge's chambers accessible to a number of
12 courtrooms and not physically attached or limited to a single
13 courtroom;

14 3. Develop courtrooms of varying sizes and purposes,
15 depending on anticipated use requirements;

16 4. Security and specialty courtrooms.

17 F. The Council intends that the cooperative planning process
18 should consider the widest range of subjects germane to
19 the future expansion and operation of the county's superior
20 court system. In addition to facilities needs, the specific
21 subjects of consideration shall include but not necessarily
22 be limited to:

23 1. Establishing regular or special sessions of the court
24 at locations in King County outside the County seat;

25 2. Continuation of the pro tem judge program;

26 3. Expansion of the criminal and civil jurisdiction
27 of district courts;

28 4. Holding night sessions of the court;

29 5. Extending the regular court day by thirty minutes;
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1 6. Establishing regular or special sessions of the
2 court on Saturdays;

3 7. Approaching the State legislature and the State
4 Supreme Court to statutorily and procedurally implement the
5 provisions of this ordinance;

6 8. Provision of funding for existing and future
7 judges, including the question of full state funding in
8 light of State Initiative No. 62.

9 G. With respect to the new judgeships approved by this
10 ordinance, these new judges shall be provided with offices and
11 shall utilize existing courtrooms, and the cooperative planning
12 process shall lead to recommendations to the Council as to what
13 facilities, if any, should be provided thereafter for these and
14 any other judges.

15 SECTION 2. In accordance with the 1980 enactment by the
16 legislature of SSB No. 3207, five additional judicial positions
17 are approved for the King County Superior Court effective
18 January 1, 1981.

1 SECTION 3. The five additional judicial positions approved
 2 by section 2 of this ordinance shall be filled by persons elected
 3 and qualified at the general election immediately preceding
 4 January 1, 1981, and the appropriate County election officials
 5 shall accept declarations of candidacy for such positions in the
 6 manner provided by law.

7 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 9th day
 8 of June, 1980.

9 PASSED this 16th day of June, 1980.

10 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 11 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

12 Bill Reams
 13 Chairman

14 ATTEST:

15
 16 Quincy M. Owens
 17 Deputy Clerk of the Council

18 APPROVED this 16th day of June, 1980

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 20 [Signature]
 21 King County Executive