

November 10, 1992

Introduced by: Sims
Pullen

Proposed No.: 92-758

ORDINANCE NO.

10632

AN ORDINANCE relating to limits on campaign contributions and payment of matching funds; amending Ordinance 8970, Sections 1 and 4, as amended, Ordinance 10473 Section 6, and K.C.C. 1.05.010, .040 and .135, and repealing, effective December 3, 1992 Ordinance 8970 Sections 6 through 12, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.05.050 through 1.05.110.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 8970, Section 1 and K.C.C. 1.05.010 are hereby amended to read as follows: Findings of fact. A. The county finds that, in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, it is necessary to safeguard the integrity of the political process. Therefore, the county election process and county government should be protected from undue influence by individuals and groups making large contributions to the election campaigns of candidates for executive, county council, and assessor.

B. The county finds that, in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, it is necessary to safeguard the confidence in the political process. Therefore, the county election process and county government should be protected from even the appearance of undue influence by individuals or groups contributing to candidates for executive, county council, and assessor. The confidence of the public in a fair and democratic election process is vital. In the high cost of election campaigning, there can be the problem of improper influence, real or perceived, exercised by campaign contributors over elected officials. It is the policy of this county to foster broad-based citizen involvement in financing election campaigns. The county further finds that public confidence can also be enhanced by broadening public disclosure

1 requirements with respect to the transfer and use of surplus
2 campaign funds.

3 C. The county therefore finds that limitations on
4 contributions of money, services and materials by individuals
5 or groups to county election campaigns should be imposed by law
6 to protect the public health, safety, welfare and the integrity
7 of the process. These limitations, however, should be
8 reasonable, so as not to discourage personal expression.

9 D. The county, therefore, finds it is in the public
10 interest to encourage the widest participation of the public in
11 the electoral process, to reduce the dependence of candidates
12 on large contributions and to increase public knowledge of the
13 candidates and of election issues. The county finds that
14 campaign expenditure limitations are in the best interest of
15 the public. Recognizing that public matching funds for
16 campaign purposes are necessary for voluntary expenditure
17 limitations to be successful and voluntary programs are the
18 only limitations constitutionally permissible, the council
19 finds a program of public matching funds should be established.
20 The council recognizes, however, that effective December 3,
21 1992, Washington Initiative 134 passed by the voters at the
22 November 3, 1992 general election prohibits the use of public
23 funds to finance political campaigns for state or local office.

24 SECTION 2. Ordinance 8970, Section 4, as amended and
25 K.C.C. 1.05.040 are hereby amended to read as follows:
26 Mandatory limitations on contributions.

27 A. No person shall make contributions during the
28 election cycle totalling more than six hundred fifty dollars in
29 the aggregate to any candidate for executive, county council or
30 assessor, nor shall any political committee make contributions
31 during the election cycle totalling more than one thousand
32 dollars in the aggregate to any candidate for executive, county
33 council or assessor.

34 B. No candidate for executive, county council, or
35 assessor shall accept or receive in an election cycle campaign

1 contributions totalling more than six hundred fifty dollars in
2 the aggregate from any person, nor shall any such candidate
3 accept or receive in an election cycle campaign contributions
4 totalling more than one thousand dollars in the aggregate from
5 any political committee.

6 C. The limitations imposed by this section shall not
7 apply to:

8 1. A candidate's contributions of his/her own
9 resources to his/her own campaign; the limitations imposed by
10 this section shall apply to the contributions of all others;
11 and

12 2. Independent expenditures as defined by this
13 chapter; and

14 3. The value of in-kind labor; and

15 4. Contributions to or expenditures from public
16 office funds made consistent with the provisions of RCW Ch.
17 42.17.243.

18 D. Surplus campaign funds, as defined in RCW
19 (~~42.17.030~~) 42.17.020, from a candidate's prior campaign and
20 contributions received by a candidate in connection with a
21 campaign for another office may be used by that candidate for
22 the candidate's current campaign only to the extent that such
23 funds are derived from contributions that were within the
24 dollar limitations imposed by this ordinance. If such funds
25 are from a campaign not governed by this ordinance, a candidate
26 may use only so much of each contribution previously received
27 as would have been allowable as a contribution under this
28 ordinance if it had applied to that campaign. The source of
29 (~~a candidate's surplus campaign~~) such funds shall be
30 determined to be derived from the most recent contributions
31 received by such candidate or that candidate's political
32 committee which in total equal the amount of (~~the surplus~~
33 ~~campaign~~) such funds. A candidate must file a statement with
34 the records and elections division and the Public Disclosure
35 Commission which identifies any funds used pursuant to this

1 section. The statement shall include the following information
2 for each amount transferred: The original contributor,
3 original date of contribution, amount originally contributed,
4 and the portion of each contribution transferred to the current
5 campaign.

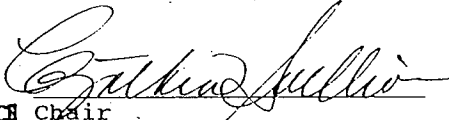
6 SECTION 4. Ordinance 8970, Sections 6 through 12 as
7 amended and K.C.C. 1.05.050 through 1.05.110 are hereby
8 repealed effective December 3, 1992.

9 SECTION 5. Ordinance 10473, Section 6 and K.C.C. 1.05.135
10 are hereby amended as follows: Authority to make rules. The
11 county council shall adopt by ordinance on or before (~~October~~
12 ~~5, 1992~~) January 19, 1993 rules necessary to implement and
13 enforce the provisions of this chapter. The director of
14 executive administration or his/her designee shall assist the
15 county council in the development of rules.

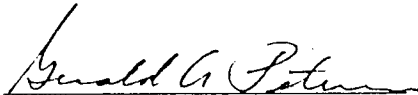
16 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 5th day
17 of October, 1992.

18 PASSED this 9th day of November, 1992.

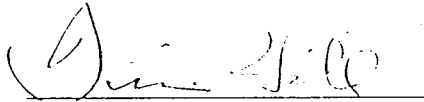
19 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
20 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

21 
22 VICE Chair

23 ATTEST:

24 
25 Clerk of the Council

26 APPROVED this 19th day of November, 1992.

27 
28 King County Executive