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Introduced By:

Proposed No.: 97-404

ORDINANCE NO.

**12847**

1  
2 AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County Charter  
3 regarding filling vacancies in elective county offices; amending  
4 section 680.10 in Article 6 of the Charter; and submitting the same  
5 to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the  
6 November 1997 general election.

7 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

8 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their  
9 approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county  
10 occurring more than 45 days after the enactment of this ordinance, amendments to Article 6 of the  
11 King County Charter to amend section 680.10 as set forth herein.

12 SECTION 2. Section 680.10 **Designation, Appointment and Election** ((~~or Appointment~~))  
13 to Fill Vacancy.

14 Immediately upon commencing their terms of office, the county executive, assessor and sheriff  
15 shall each designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to serve  
16 as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of county executive, assessor, or  
17 sheriff, respectively.

18 Except for a designation made by the metropolitan county council, a designation of an interim  
19 official shall only be effective if the county executive, assessor and sheriff, each for his or her elective

1 office, complies with the following procedure: commits the designation to writing; identifies the order  
2 of precedence if more than one county officer or employee is designated; signs the written  
3 designation; has the written designation notarized; files the written designation with the county office  
4 responsible for records and elections; and, provides a copy of the written designation to the chair of  
5 the metropolitan county council. The county executive, assessor and sheriff may, at any time, amend  
6 such designation by complying with the same procedure established for making the designation.

7 In the event the county executive, assessor, or sheriff neglects or fails to make such a  
8 designation within seven calendar days of commencing his or her term of office, the metropolitan  
9 county council may by ordinance designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant  
10 in such office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of county  
11 executive, assessor, or sheriff, respectively. A designation made by the metropolitan county council  
12 shall be effective upon adoption of the ordinance therefor and may be amended by ordinance;  
13 provided that a designation by the county executive, assessor, or sheriff which occurs subsequent to  
14 adoption of an ordinance shall take precedence over the designation by ordinance.

15 The designated county officer or employee shall immediately upon the occurrence of a  
16 vacancy serve as the interim official and shall exercise all the powers and duties of the office granted  
17 by this charter and general law until an acting official is appointed as provided in this section.

18 The metropolitan county council shall, after being appraised of a vacancy in the elective office  
19 of county executive, assessor or sheriff, fill the vacancy by the appointment of an employee who  
20 served as a deputy or assistant in such office at the time the vacancy occurred as an acting official to  
21 perform all necessary duties to continue normal office operations. The acting official shall serve until  
22 the vacancy is filled by appointment pursuant to Article II, section 15, of the Washington State  
23 Constitution for partisan county elective offices or pursuant to general law for nonpartisan county  
24 elective offices, as applicable.

1 A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and general elections  
2 which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not be held if the  
3 successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as provided in Sections  
4 ~~((620 and 630))~~ 640 and 645. The term of office of an officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy  
5 shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and  
6 shall commence as soon as he or she is elected and qualified.

7 A majority of the county council may temporarily fill a vacancy by appointment until the  
8 vacancy has been filled by election or the successor to the office has been elected and qualified.

9 SECTION 3 The manager of the division of records and elections shall cause notice of the  
10 proposed amendment to Article 6 of the King County Charter to be published in accordance with  
11 the State Constitution and general law and placed on the ballot at the November 4, 1997 election,  
12 which is the next general election occurring more than 45 days after enactment of this ordinance.

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SECTION 4. If any provision of this amendment to the charter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the amendment, or its application to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of

July, 1997

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1997

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jane Hague  
Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Clerk of the Council

DEEMED ENACTED WITHOUT  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S SIGNATURE.  
DATED: 9/8/97

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
King County Executive