



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**November 18, 2008**

**Ordinance 16302**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0615.2

**Sponsors** Patterson

1 AN ORDINANCE establishing qualifications for the  
2 elected office of King County director of elections; and  
3 adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.  
4

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. Initiative 25 placed a charter amendment on the November 4, 2008,  
7 ballot asking the electorate if it wants to amend the King County Charter  
8 to establish the office of an elected director of elections.
- 9 2. Ordinance 16206 placed a charter amendment on the November 4,  
10 2008, ballot asking the electorate if it wants the county council to have the  
11 authority to establish qualifications for office for a variety of county  
12 officials including an elected director of elections.
- 13 3. Conducting accurate, fair and transparent elections is one of the most  
14 important functions of King County government.
- 15 4. King County has made significant improvements in the conduct of  
16 elections since the general election of 2004.

17           5. It is critical to continue to make improvements to elections operations  
18           both for reasons of governance as well as maintaining public confidence.

19           6. Conducting elections is very challenging and requires strong technical  
20           skills as well as top level management skills and integrity.

21           7. It is in the public interest that minimum qualifications for an elected  
22           director of elections be established in order to help ensure that the director  
23           of elections has the requisite skills and character to properly manage the  
24           function.

25           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

26           SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 6 of this ordinance should constitute a new  
27           chapter in K.C.C. Title 2.

28           NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. In addition to qualifications in the King County  
29           Charter, the qualifications for the office of King County director of elections are:

30           A. The person shall not hold an office in a political party while serving as the  
31           director of elections;

32           B. For one year immediately before filing to run for, being appointed to or  
33           holding the office, the person shall not be or have been employed by, or performed  
34           compensated services for or hold a financial interest in, a nongovernmental entity that  
35           designs, manufactures or sells elections tabulation or voter registration equipment or  
36           software. For the purposes of this subsection, "financial interest" means an interest that  
37           exceeds one-tenth of one percent of the outstanding securities of the nongovernmental  
38           entity; or if the interest is in an unincorporated business concern, exceeds one percent of  
39           the net worth of such concern; or the financial interest in the nongovernmental entity

40 exceeds five percent of the net worth of the person and the person's immediate family, as  
41 defined in K.C.C. 3.04.017.H. Nothing in this subsection is intended to prevent a person  
42 from holding the office who has been employed by, performed services for or holds a  
43 financial interest in a nongovernmental entity that sells, designs or manufactures  
44 equipment or software that has broad commercial application beyond the field of  
45 elections tabulation or voter registration; and

46 C. No later than thirty months after having been elected or appointed to the office  
47 of elections director, the director shall have earned the certification of elections  
48 administrator from the Washington state Office of the Secretary of State, and shall meet  
49 all continuing education requirements of the Secretary of State.

50 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. This chapter does not prevent an elected official  
51 from holding another public office while filing and running as a candidate for King  
52 County director of elections.

53 NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. This chapter does not prevent the director of  
54 elections from filing and running for another public office while still serving as the  
55 director of elections.

56 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. For the initial election of a director of elections,  
57 the manager of the elections division shall establish a candidate filing form for the office  
58 of director of elections whereby candidates filing for office swear or affirm that they  
59 comply with all the qualifications for the office as established by state law, the King  
60 County Charter and the King County Code. The filing form shall contain the specific  
61 requirements of this chapter. Following the initial election, the elected director of

62 elections shall establish the filing form in conformance with applicable King County  
63 Charter and King County Code provisions.

64 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. The director of elections shall continue to fulfill  
65 the qualifications established in this chapter for the term of office. The failure to  
66 continue to fulfill any qualification of this chapter causes a vacancy in the office, which  
67 shall be filled in accordance with Section 680.10 of the King County Charter.

68 SECTION 7. This ordinance takes effect if the canvassing board certifies voter  
69 approval in November 2008 of proposed Charter Amendment 4, amending Section 630 of

70

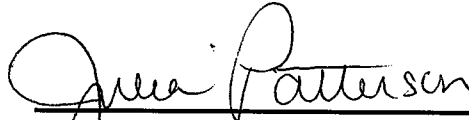
71 the King County Charter, pertaining to the establishment by the council of additional  
72 qualifications for separately elected officials who head executive departments.

73

Ordinance 16302 was introduced on 11/10/2008 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/17/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



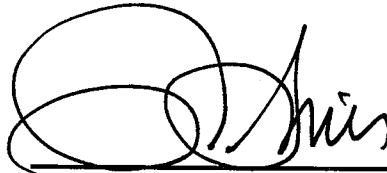
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 19 day of NOVEMBER, 2008.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

RECEIVED  
2008 NOV 21 PM 4: 27  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL