



**King County**

**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**June 23, 2009**

**Motion 13017**

**Proposed No.** 2009-0382.2

**Sponsors** Ferguson and Hague

1                   A MOTION establishing the process for appointing a  
2                   county assessor.

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4                   WHEREAS, the King County council is committed to principles of good  
5 government and the transparency of its proceedings, and

6                   WHEREAS, fair and accurate property assessment is the cornerstone of King  
7 County's property tax system, and

8                   WHEREAS, the King County assessor has resigned from the assessor's elected  
9 office, and

10                  WHEREAS, the King County council has a duty under the county charter to fill  
11 the resulting vacancy in the office of assessor by appointment of an individual to serve as  
12 assessor until the assessor's successor is elected and qualified in the November 2009  
13 general election, and

14                  WHEREAS, it will be important for an appointed county assessor to focus on the  
15 operation of the department of assessments, rather than on the demands of campaigning  
16 for office;

17                  NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

18           A. In order to preserve public confidence in the process for selecting a county  
19 assessor, a selection committee is hereby established for the purpose of reviewing eligible  
20 candidates. The committee shall establish an expedited process that will facilitate prompt  
21 appointment of an assessor. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute  
22 a quorum.

23           B.1. The appointed members of the committee are:

24           a. Will Ibershof, Mayor of Duvall, representative from the Suburban Cities  
25 Association;

26           b. Jim Dierst, a member of the Seattle King County Association of  
27 REALTORS;

28           c. Noel Treat, chief of staff to the county executive; and

29           d. Tom Bristow, chief of staff to the county council.

30           2. The four members of the committee appointed in accordance with subsection  
31 B.1. of this motion shall select a fifth member of the committee and shall appoint a chair.

32           C. The county council will issue a press release on the day this motion is adopted,  
33 inviting persons interested in serving as assessor to submit to the clerk of the council, by  
34 noon on July 6, 2009, a written statement of interest and the following documents

35           1. A resume, including the candidate's address, phone number, and email  
36 address;

37           2. Three references with contact information;

38           3. Other supporting documentation, if any; and

39           4. Answers to the following questions:

40           a. What are the duties of the King County assessor as you understand them?

41           b. What do you consider the most important qualifications of an excellent  
42 county assessor, and why?

43           c. What are your qualifications for serving as county assessor?

44           d. Do you intend to run for the office of King County assessor in the  
45 November 2009 general election?

46           e. Why are you interested in this temporary appointment?

47           D. The documents described in subsection C. of this motion ("application  
48 materials") may be submitted by email, but in any event must be received by noon on  
49 July 6, 2009. No later than July 7, 2009, the clerk of the council shall assemble and  
50 forward the candidates' application materials to all councilmembers and to the selection  
51 committee.

52           F. No later than noon on July 10, 2009, the selection committee shall meet to  
53 review candidates. The chair of the council shall schedule the meeting of the committee  
54 after consultation with the committee co-chairs.

55           G. Evaluation criteria for the selection committee shall include, but not be limited  
56 to:

57           1. Demonstrated leadership skills;

58           2. Appropriate education, training, and experience;

59           3. Demonstrated proficiency in problem solving, interpreting statutory and  
60 regulatory requirements, conducting good public relations, and maintaining effective  
61 group and interpersonal relationships;

62           4. Demonstrated ability to respond to public concerns about the policies and  
63 practices of the county department of assessments, including, but not limited to, meeting

64 with taxpayer groups, officials, individuals and attorneys to discuss assessment practices  
65 and issues, and to ensure that taxpayers' concerns are reviewed and addressed;

66 5. A commitment to maintaining the functions and structure of the county  
67 department of assessments without disruption during the election of a new county  
68 assessor; and

69 6. A commitment to the immediate business of the county department of  
70 assessments that would make it unlikely that the appointee would run for any elective  
71 office while serving as appointed assessor.

72 H. No later than noon on July 10, 2009, the selection committee shall provide to  
73 the chair of the county council a list of two to five recommended candidates and  
74 observations about the strengths of each. The committee's recommendations shall not

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76 limit the council's authority under the King County Charter to appoint any citizen  
77 meeting the qualifications for office.

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Motion 13017 was introduced on 6/22/2009 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/22/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

No: 1 - Mr. Gossett

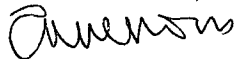
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None