



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**June 25, 2013**

**Ordinance 17612**

**Proposed No. 2012-0090.3**

**Sponsors McDermott**

1           AN ORDINANCE relating to King County's code of  
2           ethics; authorizing elected officials, or employees who are  
3           acting on behalf of elected officials, to solicit and receive  
4           public office fund contributions; adding a new section to  
5           K.C.C. chapter 3.04 and adding a new section to K.C.C.  
6           chapter 2.80.

7           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

8           **SECTION 1. Findings:**

9           A. As part of their official county duties, county office holders are often called  
10          upon to participate in various official events and functions and to undertake certain  
11          official duties and related activities that might involve expense to the county or to the  
12          individual office holders.

13          B. Such expenses include, among other matters, costs of travel, meals,  
14          accommodations, event admissions and gifts presented on behalf of the county or a county  
15          official in recognition of services or to promote goodwill.

16          C. While expenses of this nature are nominal in terms of the overall county  
17          budget and may not always be subject to public reimbursement, they nonetheless can  
18          result in additional public cost that can be avoided or reduced if privately paid for.

19 D. This ordinance establishes a mechanism for allowing office holders to solicit  
20 or accept private funds to defray such expenses to the public or to the office holder that  
21 are incurred while he or she is carrying out public responsibilities.

22 E. The solicitations or receipts are allowed by this ordinance only under specified  
23 conditions that appropriately safeguard against potential for unjust and inequitable  
24 treatment or conflicts of interest.

25 F. Private office funds authorized by this ordinance may only be used for  
26 reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out activities related to the elected  
27 official's public office responsibilities; may not be transferred to a political committee or  
28 used to promote or oppose a candidate or ballot measure; and limit individual  
29 contributions to no more than an average of two hundred and fifty dollars per year over  
30 any four year time period.

31 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 3.04 a  
32 new section to read as follows:

33 A. It is not a violation of this chapter for an elected official to solicit or receive  
34 contributions for or from a public office fund, as described in this section, if the  
35 solicitation occurs outside of the workplace and without use of county facilities. An  
36 elected official is authorized to solicit and receive such contributions.

37 B. For purposes of this section, "public office fund" means a privately  
38 administered account that:

39 1. Is established for the sole purpose of directly paying or reimbursing an  
40 elected official or employee acting on the official's behalf for expenses that are incurred  
41 in carrying out activities relating to the official's public office responsibilities, including,

42 among other matters, costs of travel, meals, accommodations, event admissions and gifts  
43 presented on behalf of the county or county official to recognize service or promote  
44 goodwill, and excluding the purchase of goods or services for the official's personal use  
45 or enrichment;

46           2. Precludes fund amounts from being transferred to a political committee or  
47 used to promote or oppose a candidate or ballot measure;

48           3. Limits contributions from a person or legal entity to an amount of no more  
49 than an average of two hundred and fifty dollars per year over any four year time period;  
50 and

51           4. Provides that any funds or property acquired through funds remaining in  
52 possession of the fund or the official after all permissible public office related expenses  
53 have been paid shall be:

54           a. returned to contributors in amounts not exceeding their respective  
55 contributions;

56           b. donated to a charitable organization registered in accordance with chapter  
57 19.09 RCW; or

58           c. transferred to the county.

59           C. Within two weeks of establishing a public office fund, the elected official shall  
60 file a statement with the board of ethics, identifying the fund administrator, indicating the  
61 amount and source of all contributions received by the public office fund and identifying  
62 all items and services acquired or reimbursed through any payments made from the  
63 public office fund and associated amounts paid. Quarterly statements updating such

64 information shall be filed with the board of ethics by the 20th day of the month following  
65 the end of each calendar quarter.

66 D. Nothing in this section is intended to alter the requirements imposed by  
67 chapter 42.17 RCW, the county charter or county ordinance regarding campaigns for  
68 elected office or ballot measures.

69 E. By November 1, 2013, the board of ethics shall establish a limit on the total  
70 amount of money to be held in any given public office fund at any given time. The board  
71 of ethics shall analyze the issue and establish a revised limit at least once every four  
72 years. The board of ethics analysis shall include consideration of all state, federal and  
73 other legal requirements.

74 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.80 a  
75 new section to read as follows:

76            This chapter does not apply to gifts or donations made to or received from a  
77 public office fund as defined in section 2 of this ordinance.  
78

Ordinance 17612 was introduced on 4/30/2012 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/24/2013, by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski  
No: 3 - Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Dunn  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

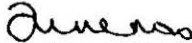
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

RECEIVED  
2013 JUN 27 PM 3: 25  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 27 day of JUNE, 2013.



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Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None