



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 3, 2015

Ordinance 17994

Proposed No. 2014-0441.1

Sponsors McDermott

1 AN ORDINANCE related to elections; establishing the
2 position of deputy director of the department of elections
3 and designating the position as a key subordinate unit
4 requiring council confirmation of appointments to the
5 position; amending Ordinance 11955, Section 12, as
6 amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.100 and adding a new section to
7 K.C.C. chapter 2.16.

8 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 9 1. The proper administration of elections is an essential function of
10 county government in Washington state. Public confidence in the prompt
11 and accurate counting of ballots is of the utmost importance to our
12 democratic society. Conducting elections also requires numerous other
13 important administrative matters including voter registration, processing
14 of filings for candidates and measures, and the publication of voters'
15 pamphlets.
- 16 2. Public confidence in the persons who provide and protect our elections
17 requires a selection process offering the greatest possible public scrutiny.
18 Delegation of these vital duties by the elected director to an appointed

19 official requires a process for careful consideration of the professional
20 qualifications of the official.

21 3. On February 4, 2003, the King County council approved Ordinance
22 14570, which required council confirmation of the manager of the records,
23 election and licensing division and the superintendent of elections, the two
24 key positions then responsible for administering elections in King County.
25 On November 19, 2007, the council approved Ordinance 15971 which
26 established the elections division and designated the manager of the
27 division as a key subordinate unit subject to council confirmation.

28 4. On November 4, 2008, the voters of King County approved Initiative
29 25, which established the office of an elected county director of elections
30 to replace the position of the appointed manager of the elections division.

31 5. On November 18, 2008, the King County council approved Ordinance
32 16302, which established qualifications for the office of county director of
33 elections, including the requirement that no later than thirty months after
34 having been elected or appointed to the office of county director of
35 elections, the director shall have earned the certification of elections
36 administrator from the Washington state Office of the Secretary of State,
37 and shall meet all requirements required of an elections administrator by
38 the Secretary of State.

39 6. On June 16, 2009, the King County council approved Ordinance
40 16557, related to conducting elections entirely by mail, and affirmed the

41 continued importance of the superintendent of elections in conducting
42 elections in King County.

43 7. On September 4, 2014, the county director of elections transmitted to
44 the King County council notification of the director's intent to reorganize
45 the department of elections, to abolish the position of superintendent of
46 elections and to create a new position of deputy director.

47 8. Because of the continued importance of ensuring fair and accurate
48 elections, it is vital that the new position of deputy director of the
49 department of elections be held to the same level of scrutiny as the
50 previous position of superintendent of elections and that appointees to this
51 position possess the necessary professional qualifications to assist the
52 county director of elections in managing elections in King County.

53 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

54 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.16 a
55 new section to read as follows:

56 A. The department of elections, as identified in Section 350.20.50 of the King
57 County Charter, shall be managed by the county director of elections who shall perform
58 the duties specified by general law.

59 B. The department of elections is responsible for:

- 60 1. Coordinating and recording the registration of voters in the county;
- 61 2. Conducting all special and general elections held in the county;
- 62 3. Creating and printing the King County voter's pamphlet;

63 4. Maintaining and being the official repository of political boundary maps,
64 geographic information systems data and of the King County copies of campaign
65 financial disclosure forms; and

66 5. Administering other public and nonpublic elections, as required by state law
67 and county code and administrative rules.

68 C. The director may delegate powers and duties in performing the functions in
69 subsection B of this section to a deputy director.

70 D. The deputy director of the department of elections must be a certified
71 elections administrator and continue to meet all certification requirements of the
72 Washington state Office of the Secretary of State.

73 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11955, Section 12, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.100 are
74 each hereby amended to read as follows:

75 A. Exemptions from the requirements of the career service personnel system
76 shall be consistent with the provisions of Sections 550, 350.10 and 350.20 of the King
77 County Charter. Key subordinate units, as determined by the county council, and
78 departmental divisions shall be considered to be executive departments. Divisions of
79 administrative offices shall be considered to be administrative offices for the purpose of
80 determining the applicability of the charter provisions.

81 B. The county administrative officer, directors, chief officers and supervisors of
82 departments, administrative offices, divisions, key subordinate units and other units of
83 county government as required by law shall be exempt from the requirements and
84 provisions of the career service personnel system.

85 C.1. The following are determined by the council to be key subordinate units due
86 to the nature of the programs involved and their public policy implications and
87 appointments to these positions shall be subject to confirmation by the council:

88 a. the chief information officer of the administrative office of information
89 resource management;

90 b. ~~((the manager of the elections division;~~

91 ~~e. the superintendent of elections in the elections division))~~ the deputy director
92 of the department of elections; and

93 ~~((d.))~~ c. the manager of the records and licensing services division.

94 2. When an ordinance is enacted designating a position as a key subordinate
95 unit, no person then serving in the position shall continue to serve for more than ninety
96 days after such enactment, unless reappointed by the executive and confirmed by the
97 council.

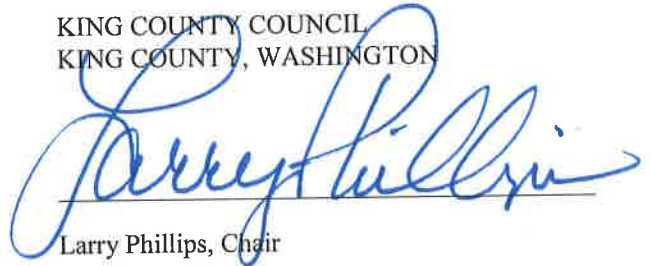
98 D. If an administrative assistant or a confidential secretary, or both, for each
99 director, chief officer of an administrative office and supervisor of a key subordinate unit

100 are authorized, those positions are exempt from the requirements and provisions of the
101 career service personnel system.
102

Ordinance 17994 was introduced on 10/27/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/2/2015, by the following vote:


Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. Upthegrove

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON




Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 12th day of March, 2015.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None