



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 12, 2016**

**Ordinance 18316**

**Proposed No. 2016-0311.2**

**Sponsors Kohl-Welles, Balducci,  
McDermott, Upthegrove, Lambert,  
Dembowski and Gossett**

1           AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King  
2           County Charter to make the language of the charter gender-  
3           neutral; amending Sections 220.10, 220.30, 220.50, 230.20,  
4           230.60, 260, 320.10, 320.20, 330, 340.30, 340.60,  
5           350.20.10, 350.20.40, 350.20.50, 450, 495, 540, 630, 645,  
6           680, 680.10, 690, 710, 820, 843, 850, 870, 895 and 970.20  
7           of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the  
8           qualified voters of the county for their approval or rejection  
9           at the next general election occurring more than forty-five  
10          days after the enactment of this ordinance.

11          BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

12          SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the voters of King County for their  
13 approval or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more  
14 than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Sections  
15 220.10, 220.30, 220.50, 230.20, 230.60, 260, 320.10, 320.20, 330, 340.30, 340.60,  
16 350.20.10, 350.20.40, 350.20.50, 450, 495, 540, 630, 645, 680, 680.10, 690, 710, 820,  
17 843, 850, 870, 895 and 970.20 of the King County Charter, to read as follows:

18          **220.10 Composition and Terms of Office.**

19           The metropolitan county council shall consist of nine members. The county shall  
20 be divided into nine districts, and one councilmember shall be nominated and elected by  
21 the voters of each district. The term of office of each councilmember shall be four years  
22 and until ~~((his or her))~~ the councilmember's successor is elected and qualified.

23           **220.30 Organization.**

24           The county council shall elect one of its members as ~~((chairman))~~ chair, shall be  
25 responsible for its own organization and for the employment and supervision of those  
26 employees whom it deems necessary to assist it or individual ~~((councilmen))~~  
27 councilmembers in the exercise of their legislative powers and shall appoint a clerk to  
28 maintain its records.

29           **220.50 Relationship with Other Branches.**

30           The county council and the individual ~~((councilmen))~~ councilmembers shall not  
31 interfere in the administration, and shall not issue orders to any officer, agent or  
32 employee, of any other branch of the county government.

33           **230.20 Executive Veto.**

34           Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the county executive shall have the  
35 right to veto any ordinance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance.  
36 Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its  
37 adoption or enactment by the county council. Within ten days after its presentation, the  
38 county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto  
39 the ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of  
40 the reasons for ~~((his or her))~~ the veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance  
41 and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for

42 ((his or her)) the partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive  
43 within ten days after its presentation it shall be deemed enacted without ((his or her)) the  
44 executive's signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned  
45 or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto  
46 by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

47 **230.60 Referendum and Initiative Petitions.**

48 The county council shall establish by ordinance the form to be used for  
49 referendum and initiative petitions. All referendum and initiative petitions shall be  
50 sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval  
51 of the clerk of the county council as to the form of the proposed petitions before  
52 circulating them. Within five days after the form of the proposed petitions is submitted to  
53 ((him,)) the clerk of the county council, the clerk shall return it to the sponsor with an  
54 indication of ((his)) the clerk's approval or with a detailed written explanation of ((his))  
55 the clerk's objection to the form.

56 **Section 260 Office of Citizen Complaints.**

57 The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints  
58 concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to  
59 permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize  
60 recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses,  
61 documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office  
62 of citizen complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of  
63 the county, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any

64 individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in  
65 ~~((his))~~ the individual's own behalf.

66 **320.10 Election, Term of Office and Compensation.**

67 The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county,  
68 and ~~((his))~~ the executive's term of office shall be four years and until ~~((his))~~ the  
69 executive's successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive  
70 compensation at least one and one-half times the compensation paid to a ~~((councilman))~~  
71 councilmember.

72 **320.20 Powers and Duties.**

73 The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall  
74 have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other  
75 specific elective officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and  
76 executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council; shall  
77 be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and  
78 state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a  
79 county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, but if  
80 more than one county commissioner was required to serve, the county council shall  
81 appoint ~~((a councilman or councilmen))~~ one or more councilmembers to serve on the  
82 board or commission with ~~((him))~~ the county executive; shall present to the county  
83 council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and  
84 any other report which ~~((he))~~ the county executive may deem necessary; shall prepare  
85 and present to the county council budgets and a budget message setting forth the  
86 programs which ~~((he))~~ the county executive proposes for the county during the next fiscal

87 year; shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans including  
88 capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall  
89 have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the county council except as otherwise  
90 provided in this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices  
91 and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by  
92 ordinance; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds,  
93 contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers  
94 shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

95 **Section 330 County Administrative Officer.**

96 The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer who, under  
97 the general supervision of the county executive, shall assist ~~((him))~~ the county executive,  
98 shall supervise the administrative offices and shall perform such other duties as are  
99 delegated to ~~((him))~~ the county administrative officer by the county executive.

100 **340.30 Appointments by the Chief Officers.**

101 The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall  
102 appoint all officers and employees of ~~((his))~~ the chief officer's office or department and  
103 shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and  
104 employees to positions covered by the career service.

105 **340.60 Removal.**

106 Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not a member of  
107 the career service may be removed at any time by the officer who appointed ~~((him))~~ that  
108 person, except that a member of the personnel board or the board of appeals may be  
109 removed only by a majority of the county council as provided in this charter.

110           **350.20.10 Department of Assessments.**

111           The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who  
112 shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county assessor shall be elected by  
113 the voters of the county unless general law shall provide otherwise, and ~~((his))~~ the  
114 assessor's term of office shall be four years. The department of assessments shall be an  
115 executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the  
116 administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or  
117 combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have  
118 its duties decreased by the county council.

119           **350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

120           The department of public safety shall be administered by the county sheriff who  
121 shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county sheriff shall be elected by  
122 the voters of the county, and ~~((his or her))~~ the sheriff's term of office shall be four years.  
123 The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil  
124 service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and  
125 the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other  
126 executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by  
127 the county council.

128           **350.20.50 Department of Elections.**

129           The department of elections shall be administered by the county director of  
130 elections who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county director of  
131 elections shall be elected by the voters of King County, and ~~((his or her))~~ the director's  
132 term of office shall be four years. The department of elections: shall be an executive

133 department subject to the career service personnel system and shall utilize the services of  
134 the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or  
135 combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have  
136 its duties decreased by the county council or executive. The department of elections  
137 shall be responsible for the registration of voters in the county; shall conduct all special  
138 and general elections held in the county; shall be responsible for creating and printing the  
139 King County voter's pamphlet; shall maintain and be the official repository of political  
140 boundary maps, geographic information systems data and of the King County copies of  
141 campaign financial disclosure forms; and shall administer other public and nonpublic  
142 elections, as required by state law and county code and administrative rules.

143 **Section 450 Copies of Budget.**

144 Copies of the budget and budget message shall be delivered to the clerk and each  
145 ~~((councilman))~~ councilmember. Prior to the public hearing on the budget, the budget  
146 message and supporting tables shall be furnished to any interested person upon request,  
147 and copies of the budget shall be furnished for a reasonable fee as established by  
148 ordinance and shall be available for public inspection.

149 **Section 495 Illegal Contracts.**

150 Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, any contract in excess of an  
151 appropriation shall be null and void; and any officer, agent or employee of the county  
152 knowingly responsible shall be personally liable to anyone damaged by ~~((his))~~ the action.  
153 The county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an  
154 ordinance permitting the county to enter into contracts requiring the payment of funds  
155 from appropriations of subsequent fiscal years, but real property shall not be leased to the

156 county for more than one year unless it is included in a capital budget appropriation  
157 ordinance.

158 **Section 540 The Personnel Board.**

159 There shall be a personnel board composed of five members, four of whom shall  
160 be appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the county  
161 council. One member of the personnel board shall be elected by secret ballot by the  
162 county employees who are members of the career service according to the procedure  
163 established by ordinance. A personnel board member shall serve a five year term and  
164 until ((his)) the member's successor is appointed or elected, with one member being  
165 appointed each year. A majority of the county council, but not the county executive, may  
166 remove a personnel board member for just cause after written charges have been served  
167 on the personnel board member and a public hearing has been held by the county council.  
168 The county council may provide for the compensation of personnel board members on a  
169 per diem basis.

170 The personnel board shall report at least once a year to the county executive  
171 concerning the operation of the personnel system with any recommendations it may have  
172 for its improvement.

173 Any member of the career service may appeal to the personnel board; from any  
174 action pertaining to the methods of examination, appointment or promotion; from any  
175 suspension for more than sixty days, reduction in rank or pay, or removal; and from any  
176 classification or reclassification of positions. The personnel board shall hold a public  
177 hearing to consider an appeal and shall issue such orders as it deems proper including but  
178 not limited to the restoration of rank or pay, with or without loss of benefits and pay, and

179 the allocation and reallocation of positions. The decision of the personnel board shall be  
180 final unless reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

181 **Section 630 Qualifications.**

182 Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of ~~((his))~~ the  
183 officer's appointment or election and at all times while ~~((he))~~ the officer holds office, at  
184 least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered  
185 voter of King County; and each councilmember shall be a resident of the district that the  
186 councilmember represents. Any change in the boundaries of a councilmember's district  
187 that causes the councilmember to be no longer a resident of the district that the  
188 councilmember represents shall not disqualify the councilmember from holding office  
189 during the remainder of the term for which the councilmember was elected or appointed.  
190 Additional qualifications for those separately elected officials who head executive  
191 departments may be established by ordinance.

192 **Section 645 Sheriff; Election, Term of Office and Compensation.**

193 The county sheriff shall be nominated and elected as a non-partisan office by the  
194 voters of the county, and the term of office shall be four years and until ~~((his or her))~~ the  
195 sheriff's successor is elected and qualified. The initial election for county sheriff shall be  
196 at the general election in 1997. The county sheriff shall receive compensation as  
197 provided by ordinance.

198 **Section 680 Vacancies.**

199 An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death;  
200 resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful  
201 destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to ~~((his))~~ the incumbent's office;

202 declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the  
203 county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the  
204 county council; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office;  
205 provided, however, that an elective county office shall not become vacant as the result of  
206 a criminal conviction or declaration of incompetency until the conviction or declaration  
207 has become final and is no longer subject to appeal.

208 **680.10 Designation, Appointment and Election to Fill Vacancy.**

209 Immediately upon commencing their terms of office, the county executive, county  
210 assessor, county director of elections and county sheriff shall each designate one or more  
211 employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to serve as an interim official  
212 in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of the county executive, county assessor,  
213 county director of elections or county sheriff, respectively.

214 Except for a designation made by the metropolitan county council, a designation  
215 of an interim official shall only be effective if the county executive, county assessor,  
216 county director of elections and county sheriff, each for ~~((his or her))~~ that officer's  
217 elective office, complies with the following procedure; commits the designation to  
218 writing; identifies the order of precedence if more than one county officer or employee is  
219 designated; signs the written designation; has the written designation notarized; files the  
220 written designation with the county office responsible for records; and provides a copy of  
221 the written designation to the chair of the metropolitan county council. The county  
222 executive, county assessor, county director of elections and county sheriff may, at any  
223 time, amend such designation by complying with the same procedure established for  
224 making the designation.

225           In the event the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or  
226 county sheriff neglects or fails to make such a designation within seven calendar days of  
227 commencing (~~his or her~~) that person's term of office, the metropolitan county council  
228 may by ordinance designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in  
229 such office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office  
230 of the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or county sheriff,  
231 respectively. A designation made by the metropolitan county council shall be effective  
232 upon adoption of the ordinance therefor and may be amended by ordinance; provided that  
233 a designation by the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or  
234 county sheriff which occurs subsequent to the adoption of an ordinance shall take  
235 precedence over the designation by ordinance.

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

240           The metropolitan county council shall, after being appraised of a vacancy in the  
241 elective office of county executive, county assessor, county director of elections or  
242 county sheriff, fill the vacancy by the appointment of an employee who served as a  
243 deputy or assistant in such office at the time the vacancy occurred as an acting official to  
244 perform all necessary duties to continue normal office operations. The acting official  
245 shall serve until the vacancy is filled by appointment pursuant to general law for  
246 nonpartisan county elective offices.

247           A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and  
248 general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy  
249 shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general  
250 election as provided in Sections 640 and 645 of this charter. The term of office of an  
251 officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of  
252 the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he  
253 or she is elected and qualified.

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

257           **Section 690 Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures.**

258           Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall,  
259 within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an  
260 itemized statement with the executive department responsible for conducting elections  
261 showing all campaign contributions and pledges of (~~manpower~~) labor and material  
262 made to the candidate or on the candidate's behalf and all campaign expenditures and  
263 obligations incurred by the candidate or on the candidate's behalf. Such statement when  
264 filed shall be a public record. The county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form  
265 of such statement. Timely filing of a statement of campaign receipts and expenditures  
266 with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission in accordance with chapter  
267 42.17 RCW satisfies the filing obligations of this section. A willful violation of this  
268 section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

269           **Section 710 Composition, Appointment, Removal.**

270 The board of appeals shall be composed of seven members appointed by the  
271 county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. Each  
272 member of the board of appeals shall serve a four year term and until ((his)) the member's  
273 successor is appointed. Two members shall be appointed each year; except that every  
274 fourth year, only one member shall be appointed. A majority of the county council, but  
275 not the county executive, may remove a board of appeals member for just cause after  
276 written charges have been served on the board of appeals member and a public hearing  
277 has been held by the county council. The county council shall provide for the  
278 compensation of the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

279 **Section 820 Conflict of Interest.**

280 The county council shall adopt an ordinance prohibiting an officer or employee of  
281 the county when it might conflict with the performance of ((his)) the officer's or  
282 employee's official duties from directly or indirectly; receiving or having any financial  
283 interest in any sale to or by the county of any service or property; accepting or seeking  
284 for others any service or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to the  
285 public generally from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with county; or  
286 accepting any gift from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the county.  
287 The ordinance shall include civil and criminal penalties for the negligent or willful  
288 violation of this section by any county officer or employee or by any person, firm or  
289 corporation having dealings with the county.

290 **Section 843 Freedom of religion guarantee.**

291 Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and  
292 worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or

293 disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience  
294 hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify  
295 practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property  
296 shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or  
297 the support of any religious establishment: ~~((PROVIDED, HOWEVER, T))~~provided,  
298 however, that this section shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the  
299 county of a chaplain for such of the county custodial, correctional, and mental  
300 institutions, or by a county public hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as may be  
301 allowed by law. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or  
302 employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of  
303 ~~((his))~~ the person's opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of  
304 justice touching ~~((his))~~ the person's religious belief to affect the weight of ~~((his))~~ the  
305 person's testimony. This section shall not diminish or limit any other protections  
306 guaranteed by Article I, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution or by the first  
307 amendment of the United States Constitution.

308 **Section 850 Delegation of Authority.**

309 Any power or duty of a county officer except the veto power of the county  
310 executive may be delegated by that officer to another officer or employee under ~~((his))~~  
311 the delegating officer's control and supervision; provided, however, that the delegating  
312 officer shall continue to be responsible for the exercise of the power or the performance  
313 of the duty delegated. The county council shall not delegate its legislative power except  
314 to the extent that it delegates to a county officer the authority to promulgate regulations in  
315 accordance with adequate standards established by the county council.

316           **Section 870 Additional Compensation.**

317           Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive  
318 any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other  
319 position established by or pursuant to this charter. An elected officer of the county shall  
320 not be appointed to any other compensated county office or position during ~~((his))~~ the  
321 officer's term of office.

322           **Section 895 Mandatory Inquests.**

323           An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death  
324 involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of  
325 ~~((his))~~ the member's duties.

326           **970.20 Effective Date.**

327           The county executive shall present to the county council a proposed ordinance  
328 containing a comprehensive set of personnel rules as soon as possible, and the effective  
329 date of the personnel system shall be no later than January 1, 1970. Prior to the effective  
330 date of the personnel system, each employee shall be appointed, promoted, suspended  
331 and removed by the officer in whose office ~~((he))~~ the employee serves.

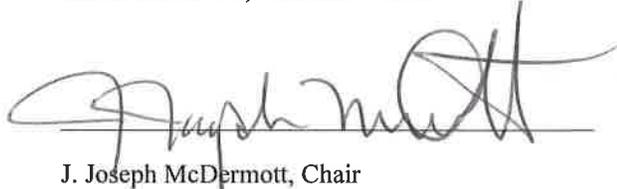
332           SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the county  
333 elections director, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or  
334 modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

335 Shall the King County Charter be amended to make its language  
336 gender-neutral?  
337

Ordinance 18316 was introduced on 6/27/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/11/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016



← Dow Constantine, County Executive

RECEIVED  
2016 JUL 15 PM 4:05  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None