

Part I

Sec. 1

1872



INDEX

Minutes and records. King County Freeholders.

PART I:

- Sec.1 Minutes, December 5, 1967 - July 22, 1968, pp.1-375.  
Statements and reports of John A. Donaho. May 3, 1968 and June 28, 1968.  
pp.1A-18A.  
Final draft of adopted charter. September 5, 1968.  
Article, American County Government, by Paul Meyer, Charter no.38."  
pp.69A-73A.  
Index.
- Sec.2 Minutes, July 31, 1968 - September 6, 1968. pp.381-602.  
Report, pp.378-380. Resolutions, pp.602-608.
- Sec.3 Budget, agreements, legal opinion, matrixes, memos to freeholders from  
chairman. December 22, 1967 - May 18, 1968. pp.610-797.
- Sec.4 Correspondence - incoming and outgoing. February 6, 1968 - August 2, 1968.  
pp.798-1114.
- Sec.5 Correspondence - incoming and outgoing. January 4, 1968 - November 1, 1968.  
pp.1115-1561.

PART II:

- Sec.1 Chronological catalogue of newspaper clippings, October 15, 1970<sup>67</sup> - September 11, 1968. pp.1-200.
- Sec.2 Chronological catalogue of newspaper clippings, September 25, 1968 - November 20, 1968. pp.201-500.
- Sec.3 Minutes, correspondence and newspaper clippings, charter of 1952 King County Freeholders. December 18, 1950 - October 18, 1952. pp.374-500.

45 imp. ...  
Sugarcane government ...  
714 acres - 3 plots -  
2.35,000 -

Imp. least Sept  
E. Sea - discharged -

Trade by fields -

Admin. Res. of T. in

Investigate

Young' emulsion fl.

75 yrs.

Polking eggs -

7 buildings - shops

to prime houses

56 steel beams -

05 - imp. eggs (area)

Shops lease

QAB - FAN -

Area -

Reserve for  
reported depreciation

Most cost of lines -

biggest tenant -

Prop ACENT -

9 years lease - 30 mo -  
Budget 1.2 buildings

50% of field -

See 18 - RECD -

Young - April - Dec -  
negotiations

14 - 1919. fee -  
24 - fuel fees

1-66 - 1-67 - Young  
All over per mo.

Young with lease  
Young -

1955 - State begins

- power to lease  
75 yrs for country -

INDEX

MINUTES AND RECORDS OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

December 5, 1967 - December 11, 1969

PART 1:

I. Pages 1-609 Minutes of Freeholders' Meetings, and Related Documents

- pp 1-375  
Sec 2  
pp 381-609
1. Pages 104-136 First Draft of Charter, 6/5/68
  2. Pages 317-339 First Districting Report 7/3/68
  3. Pages 378-380 Revised Districting Report 7/23/68
  4. Pages 586-597 Adopted Districting Report 8/29/68

II. Pages 610-778 Budget, Agreements, Legal Opinion, Matrixes  
Memos to Freeholders from Chairman

- pp 1  
Sec 2
1. Pages 610-655 Budget
  2. Pages 667-678 Agreements: Legal Counsel, 667-678  
Districting Consultant 679-680  
Charter Consultant 656-682
  3. Pages 683-714d Legal Opinions
  4. Pages 715-721 Matrixes (Graphed Information on other Counties)
  5. Pages 722-778 Memos to Freeholders from Chairman
  6. Pages 779-797 Misc. Work Schedules, News Releases,  
5/15/68 & 7/1/68 Outlines for Charter Drafts

III. Pages 798-1483 Correspondence - Incoming and Outgoing

- Sec 4  
Sec 5
1. Pages 798-1114 Chairman Albrecht and Paul Meyer, Executive Secty.
  2. Pages 1115-1322 Letters and statements from Citizens
  3. Pages 1323-1358 Correspondence from Special Districts
  4. Pages 1359-1424 Correspondence regarding Office of Coroner
  5. Pages 1425-1483 Misc. Correspondence Written to Chairman  
Albrecht, Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary

IV. Pages 1484-1562 Charter Election and Campaign

1. Pages 1484-1493 Miscellaneous- Endorsements, Speaking  
Schedule, News Releases, Work Schedules,  
Progress Reports
2. Pages 1494-1561 Speaking Engagements and Letters of Confirmation

PART 2:

- Sec 1  
pp 1-200  
Sec 2-201-500
- Sec 3
- pp 501-600
- I. Pages 1-373 Chronological Catalogue of Newspaper Clippings
  - II. Pages 374-500 Minutes, Correspondence and Newspaper Clippings, Charter,  
of 1952 King County Freeholders
  - III. Un-numbered- Incomplete Newspaper Clippings on 1968 Snohomish  
County Freeholders

Addendum- 6/15/68

- pp 1  
Sec 1
1. Pages 1A-18A Statements and Reports of John A Donaho, Management  
Consultant to the Charter, 5/3/68 and 6/28/68
  2. Pages 19A-68A Final Draft of Adopted Charter 9/5/68
  3. Pages 69A-73A Article, American County Government, April, 1969,  
CHARTER NO. 38, Paul R. Meyer, Former  
Executive Secretary to the King County  
Freeholders

6/23/69

MEMORANDUM

RE: LOCATIONS OF COPIES OF THE KING COUNTY FREEHOLDER MINUTES & RECORDS  
From: Mrs. George Gunby, former King County Freeholder  
2540 N.E. 90th, Seattle, Wn. 98115

There have been numerous requests recently for information on the location of the King County Freeholder's Minutes and Records.

The original Minutes and Records are presently in the office of the King County Chief Civil Deputy, James Kennedy, on a loan from the office of the King County Administrative Officer, John Porter. No copies of the originals are available in the Courthouse.

Microfilm copies of the Minutes and Records (4 rolls, 2 positive and 2 negative) are stored in the King County Office of System Services, Wayne Smith, Administrator. Mr. Glen Nelson of the King County Department of Judicial Administration has stated that one of their departmental microfilm readers could be used. Authorization for the use of the films must be requested through the King County Executive's office.

A second set of microfilm copies has been sent to Dr. George Condon, Director, Division of Governmental Studies and Services, Washington State University and will be available at the library of the University.

We are grateful to the Washington State Library, Olympia, for reproducing 6 sets of copies of our complete Records and Minutes. These sets have been distributed to the following locations:

1. Seattle Public Library, Mr. Willard Youngs, Director
2. Seattle Municipal Library, Mr. Harrold Wilson, Librarian
3. Political Science Library, University of Washington, Ruth Jeffries, Librarian
4. Washington State Library, Olympia, Wn., Charlotte Woods  
Administrative Assistant
5. Washington State University Library, G. Donald Smith, Director

6. Mr. Paul Meyer, Consultant, State Department of Health, Olympia

Recently, in checking through a set of the minutes and records I became aware of the loss of the Index and the need of some additional reports which would make the records more complete. The Index, two reports from John Donaho, Management Consultant, the final approved 8x10 typed copy of the Charter, and an article from the April 1969, American County Government, written by Paul Meyer, former Executive Secretary, King County Freeholders, are being sent to the five libraries listed above and to Mr. James Kennedy, King County Chief Civil Deputy.

Wide distribution of this Memorandum and the Index will be sent to the enclosed list, to help inform all who may be interested in the availability of copies for use by public officials and citizens.

Copy given to  
King Co. Records  
office -

6/24/69

COPIES OF MEMORANDUM ON KING COUNTY FREEHOLDER MINUTES AND RECORDS  
WERE SENT TO:

County Executive, John Spellman

King County Council

King County Administrative Officer, John Porter

King County Chief Civil Deputy, James Kennedy

King County System Services, Wayne Smith

King County Department of judicial Administration, Glen Nelson

Mr. Richard Albrecht, former Chairman, King County Freeholders

Mr. John Strassburger, former Legal Counsel, King County Freeholders

Mr. Paul Meyer, former Executive Secretary, King County Freeholders

Mrs. Helen Grigsby, former Office Secretary, King County Freeholders

Miss Ruth Ittner, Bureau of Governmental Research and Services,  
University of Washington

Washington Association of Counties, Olympia Wn.

Washington State Library, Olympia Wn.

King County Library System

City of Bellevue Library

City of Renton Library

Seattle Public Library

Municipal Reference Library, Seattle Municipal Bldg.

Political Science Library, University of Washington

Washington State University Library

Seattle-King County Municipal League, Mr. Wm. Massey

Puget Sound Leagues of Women Voters, Mrs. Shirley Charnell

Mr. Wayne Jacobi, Seattle Post Intelligencer

Mr. Jerry Bergsman, Seattle Times

Prof. James Best, University of Washington

Father Costello, Seattle University

A STATEMENT BY

JOHN A. DONAHO, PRESIDENT  
John A. Donaho and Associates, Inc.

to the Board of  
KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

May 3, 1968

You have asked for my views on a possible King County Charter. You have indicated several areas of concern upon which you specifically wish comment. Other areas I have decided to comment upon because they are decidedly relevant.

The views expressed are the result of:

1. A series of studies of King County, made in 1958-60.
2. A recent study of the public works functions of the County.
3. Experience with many home rule charters and studies in other jurisdictions.

A good charter must be tailor made for each jurisdiction. Matters that are of Charter moment in one jurisdiction may not be of Charter significance in another. State law and the degree of political and administrative sophistication are significant. What a good charter should embrace is thus varied. Above all it is desirable to keep in mind the need of the public for better services. How can these be best achieved?

Let us treat the key charter elements.

I. The Legislative Body.

There is no constitutional requirement that the separation of powers must obtain in local government. At the present time the Board of County Commissioners exercises both legislative (policy making) and executive or administrative powers. Under the Council-Manager form the elected Council possesses both legislative and executive powers but it can exercise its executive powers only through its appointed agent, the Manager.

Experience demonstrates that the Council-Manager form operates best under these conditions:

- a. Homogeneous population.
- b. Non-partisan elections.
- c. A strong good government movement.

Regardless of the form of government, experience demonstrates that local legislative bodies, unlike State and national legislative bodies, must meet with some frequency, usually every two weeks, to make policy determinations on such matters as utilities, zoning and transportation. Experience also demonstrates that a local Council is best which meets these criteria:

- a. It must be small enough to be deliberative, but large enough to be representative.
- b. Election at large yields the best candidates.
- c. Quality varies inversely with pay.
- d. Terms should not be staggered.
- e. There should be no standing committees.

If there is to be an elected chief executive then under the separation of powers he should not preside over the Council but have veto power. To have full time councilmen or commissioners would create competitive power centers with the chief executive and create conflicts which would damage the orderly processes of government.

A legislative body of not less than 5 nor more than 11, elected at large but representing districts, and serving at compensation of about \$3600.00 annually should suffice.

## 2. The Chief Executive.

We do not believe that an appointed administrator or the Council-manager plan fits the needs of King County. The situation is too complex and volatile. There should be an elected chief executive upon whom, to the extent permitted by law, should be centered all authority and responsibility for administration. The strong executive form of government is needed. The elected executive should be responsible for budget preparation and execution and his appointees should serve at his pleasure not subject to confirmation. Election at large on a partisan basis should serve to strengthen responsible and responsive government.

It would then be possible to shore up under the elected executive with professional administration.

Until there is Constitutional reform in Washington it will not be possible to have a fully integrated county administration. Legal counsel is a case in point. Washington has the unique system wherein civil and criminal work is unified in the office of the Prosecutor. The charter cannot change this. Changes in other elected offices can be made, however, and to the extent possible these should be abolished and responsibility integrated within a unified County government. The offices of Auditor, Treasurer and Assessor are cases in point. No real system of financial administration can be developed until the functions of these offices are an integral part of the County Government. It is necessary to think of the executive as responsible for directing and coordinating all County efforts to provide the best possible services at the least cost. Obviously he can neither direct nor coordinate officers who do not report to him.

3. Professional Administration and the County Administrative Structure.

What type of professional assistance the Chief Executive should have is directly related to the scope of the functions assigned to the County Executive and with consideration for the future functional expansion of the County.

It doesn't take much research to see that the County is not only mal-organized but not providing many services which the urban county can best provide. At the same time it is wise not to over-organize at this stage. What is done to the elective offices will be a critical factor in how staff resources are to be organized. There should be a basic organization plan.

As of now, the County is essentially composed of a road engineering department, a recreation and parks agency, plus a few minor line agencies and a series of small staff units. If this type of organization is continued then it would be ludicrous to have a line administrative officer under the Chief Executive whose principal task would be to supervise the County Road Engineer. A staff role for the administrative officer would be indicated.

4. Finance - Personnel - Purchasing.

The treatment of the key administrative processes raises the fundamental question of just how much detail should be spelled out in the Charter. Much depends on the history of the jurisdiction. The better the administrative history, the less the Charter must proscribe.

In King County we know that in the past ten years the County has failed to develop a personnel system or an adequate budget system. Thus, the Charter should probably treat these areas in some detail.

We would envision the County having very positive programs in these three fields with each headed by a top flight person answerable to a professional administrative director. In personnel there should be an appeal board to protect employee rights and to hear aggrieved employees.

# JOHN A. DONAHO AND ASSOCIATES

*Management Consultants*

---

ROOM 320 - 10 LIGHT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD. 21202  
LE 9-4570

BRANCH OFFICE  
ROUTE 6 BOX 217  
OLYMPIA, WASH. 98501  
357-6137

June 28, 1968

Honorable Board of King County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with our agreement we have reviewed the most recent drafts of the proposed King County Charter and analyzed them from the standpoints of feasibility, completeness, consistency, draftsmanship, and omissions.

Our comments upon the Charter have fallen into three general classifications:

- (1) The recommendations of a minor nature involving language or minor additions of a non-policy character which we have reviewed with your executive secretary, legal counsel, and your chairman. The suggestions are being incorporated by counsel. Suggestions made involve sections 120, 320.20, 330, 340.10, 340.40, 350.10, 350.10.20, 350.20.70, 350.20.80, 460.20, 750, 760, and 790.
- (2) Major areas of policy which involve substantial change or redrafting. These involve three major areas: budgetary and fiscal procedures, personnel, and planning.
- (3) Lesser matters of policy involving changes of substance and draftsmanship.

In general the drafts reviewed set forth in concise form the salient points or elements which should be included in a Charter, subject, of course, to the recommendations of the kind

enumerated above. The Charter substantially alters the structure of government and provides for the separation of powers. It avoids overly detailed prohibitions and restrictions. In our judgment, in the personnel, planning, and fiscal areas, it does not as yet deal with either the traditional or emerging concepts of governmental administration to an adequate degree. With some of the polishing we have recommended and the improvements which will be subsequently set forth, the proposed document should provide an adequate framework for the operation and improvement of King County government in the foreseeable future, assuming, of course, that the officials elected under its provisions perform well. No Charter can guarantee performance of public officials, it can merely guide them into the right channels and attempt to prevent patent wrongdoing. The saleability of the Charter as an improvement over the present form will be something with which you will have to concern yourselves.

A question has been raised with me concerning the so-called "Fordham" approach to home rule. Local governments are the beneficiaries of delegated powers and must operate under the rule of law that that which is not specifically enabled can not be undertaken. To attempt the "Fordham" approach under which local governments would possess all powers possessed by the state not specifically denied to them would require constitutional reform. Your Section 110 anticipates this.

Our interest in this review is focused upon the practical elements of the workability of the Charter. Does it protect the public interest? Does it provide for adequate representation?

Does it assure fiscal responsibility? Does it follow the canons of efficiency as to executive authority, responsibility and accountability and of unity of command? As executive power is increased, is legislative power increased to provide proper balance?

We would like to treat the various policy recommendations of both a minor and major character seriatim in order to provide for an orderly and sequential discussion convenient to you and your staff.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Section            Heading

Preamble

The wording of the Preamble may be improved. We suggest "We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, promote the general welfare and secure the benefits of home rule and self government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this Charter."

110                    General Powers

This section could be improved by stating, "The County shall possess all of the powers of a home rule county delegated to it under the State Constitution." Should constitutional reform with the "Fordham" rule come to the State of Washington subsequently, the Charter will have anticipated this.

220.30            Organization (Legislative Branch)

This section now makes the appointed clerk the supervisor of the staff of the Board of County Commissioners. Will he supervise the auditor? Will he supervise the ombudsman? One of the critical needs of the Board of County Commissioners will be for fiscal and legislative analysis. This kind of work is usually not done by persons of an office manager type such as clerk nor are such duties well carried out by personnel skilled in auditing. We suggest a re-working of this section. We find no provision for the board to elect one of its members as chairman or presiding officer. It would be well to specify this so that subsequently someone will not say that it is not enabled.

220.40            Rules of Procedure

One of the most important provisions of the Charter for protection of the public interest concerns the rules under which the council shall legislate. The draft merely provides "ample opportunity" for public hearings. This is not specific enough. The time for hearings for other than emergency ordinances should be specified. We suggest a specific period of at least seven days after the introduction of an ordinance for a public hearing thereon. The following language may suffice: "Not later than the next calendar day following the introduction of a bill, the chairman (or clerk) of the Board of County Commissioners shall schedule a public hearing thereon which shall not be less than seven days after its introduction." This will prevent any railroading. Emergency ordinances are otherwise provided for.

220.50            Relationship with other Branches

Some means must be found for the Board of County Commissioners, in concert, to make inquiries or statements of public policy, possibly the Charter should provide for action by resolution.

230.20            Executive Veto

The executive veto on an item basis has been eliminated in the draft. It would be well to consider giving the county executive item veto power over the appropriation ordinances. The veto of emergency appropriation ordinances could be expressed here as well as in 230.40.

230.40            Emergency Ordinances

The county executive has a specific responsibility for maintaining the fiscal integrity and financial soundness of the county. The least that should be done is to add the words, "unless it is an appropriation ordinance" to make certain that the county executive may veto an appropriation ordinance which may be excessive or deplete the funds of the county. Some Charters provide that no appropriation ordinance may be considered unless it is recommended by the chief executive and it is certified that funds are available. This is a good idea.

250                County Auditor

The duties of the County Auditor should be clarified. The draft provides for an annual audit of the operation of county

government. What is an audit of the operation? I do not know. Is it to be a management audit, a performance audit? To whom will the audit be submitted? The following language is suggested. "The County Auditor shall, not later than six months after the close of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the County Commissioners and the county executive a complete financial audit on the agencies of the county government, together with such explanatory comments as he shall deem appropriate." It should be borne in mind that the county audit is now really made by the state auditor. Who will do the financial audit? What will the county auditor do?

It should also be made clear that in assigning additional duties to the county auditor that he may not be assigned duties within the province of the executive branch, such as accounting or the pre-audit of expenditures. Possibly adding the language, "provided that the duties assigned may not duplicate nor interfere with functions within the province of the executive branch." at the end will suffice.

320.20

Powers and Duties of the County Executive

It should be kept in mind that the county executive as the chief executive officer has certain non-delegable management functions for which he is personally responsible. Chief among these are budget, personnel, and planning. This section provides for the presentation of performance and line-item budgets. Both

of these are technical terms which have been so construed as to cause no end of difficulty in budget formulation and presentation. In fact, the whole budget process should be treated in a separate chapter as is personnel. It should also be made clear that the county executive is responsible for entering into contracts and signing instruments. More will be said about the budget system under 350.10.

340.50

Qualifications requiring the county administrative officer and the chief officers "to have administrative experience in either private or public organizations" is so vague and limited as to be meaningless and would be better abandoned.

350

Executive Offices and Departments

Section 350 sets forth the organization structure of the executive branch. You will note our subsequent comments on the relationship of budget and planning which could well be developed into an integrated agency.

Section 350.20.50 creates a department of finance which could well be called a department of revenue or treasury as it embraces basically the functions of the current county treasurer's office. Also, it is made a line agency when this is basically a staff function. A department of accounts and revenue could also be created, thus placing together two fiscal functions which involve a processing of the various financial routines. Many public organizations have so-called integrated departments of finance in

which budg ting purchasing collecting investing accounting and assessing are all located. Like functions are thus grouped and the overall span of control reduced. There is no magic in this organization for other than these reasons. In fact, bud- geting is as closely related to planning as it is to accounting, if not more so. The budget-planning organization approach would bring together both long range physical and fiscal planning and cost benefit analysis of long range programs.

350.10.10 Office of Budgets and Accounts

Minimally, 350.10.10 should be amended to read at the end, "the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made."

More importantly, consideration should be given to having a budget section in the charter mentioned previously. That budget section should treat the following elements:

- (1) The development and presentation of a complete budget and financial plan embracing all funds received and disbursed by the county for current expenses and capital budgets.
- (2) A budget message explaining the financial plan and fiscal policy.
- (3) Prescribing the form of the budget upon which the board of county commissioners will act by appropriate appropriation ordinances so as to show all receipts and revenues and proposed expenditures by fund including indicating surpluses or deficits in each fund "for each program or project classified by agency character and objective and supported by any other material which the county executive may deem it advisable or the county council by ordinance may require."

To require line-item budgets would be to set the county back 40 years in time. Line-item budgets focus upon the things that are to be bought rather than the programs or services to be performed or rendered. It took the state 10 years to accomplish reform of its line--item structure. Line items are actually objects of expense and should be thought of as appropriate financial supporting data for the budget and for accounts in the county's uniform chart of expenditure accounts. Classification by character refers to expenditures based on the time of benefit or the fiscal periods benefitting. Thus debt retirement is not truly a current expense as is interest on the debt.

- (4) When and how the budget is to be adopted and how it is to be amended. Amendment of the capital budget is especially important because the comments of the planners should be received before any amendment to a capital program is enacted. Furthermore budgeting is basically an executive process and amending, increasing, or supplementing the budget is of basic concern to the executive.
- (5) How many copies of the budget will be available? Will they be available to the public?
- (6) There should be public hearings on the budget as on any ordinance. These hearings have special characteristics so that the public may be heard, agencies may be examined by the board of county commissioners and a hearing on the budget as a whole held.
- (7) The budget should be balanced. At the same time that the appropriation ordinances are adopted, they should be funded by tax, service charge, or borrowing ordinances.
- (8) There should be limitations on additional appropriations so that these do not exceed the amount of contingency funds available.
- (9) No funds should be disbursed from the treasury except in consequence of an appropriation.
- (10) The county executive should be empowered to avoid the incurring of a deficit by over-obligation, excessive rate or expenditure, or a failure to realize estimated revenues. This is usually accomplished by the allotment process to control the rate at which appropriations are expended.

- (11) Something should be said about borrowing. What will be the term of bonds? How will they be authorized?

Presence of the above elements will enhance the opinion of the county by the financial rating agencies in New York.

Further, consideration should be given to the current trend to combine the budget and planning agencies. The budget is also a plan, albeit a work plan with dollar signs attached. The new planning, programming, budgeting system approach means that the budgeteers, planners, and economists must work very closely together. This change in organization structure would recognize this trend in the organization structure.

350.10.20 The Office of Personnel

This agency, headed by a personnel officer, will be responsible for administration of Article 5, the Personnel system.

Personnel administration in the county will involve more than merely the duties and responsibilities related to the classified or non-exempt employees in the designated "personnel system." It must concern itself with employees in the exempt classes with the relative value of all jobs or positions based upon their duties and responsibilities and the pay plan should cover the entire hierarchy from lowest employee to county executive. Thus job titles and pay in the exempt service must be re-classified related to the non-exempt or ~~exxt~~ service. For example, as a rule of thumb, the county executive should be paid approximately 30% more than his highest paid chief subordinate and the next level should be 20-30% over the next lower level of supervision. The

county must take care that persons with similar duties and responsibilities in the exempt service do not receive more pay than those in the classified service with comparable duties and responsibilities.

Thus Article 5 should be revised to consider the total aspects of the classification and pay plan, to clarify its language, to make certain that the personnel officer is the officer responsible for personnel matters on a county-wide basis. As to rule making and the hearing of aggrieved employees provided in Section 550, the role of the personnel board as now envisioned should be somewhat altered. We suggest the board be increased to five members to make certain of a quorum, that its rule-proposing authority be limited to personnel matters of a non-financial character, and that its duties be largely those of an appeal board.

350.20.70 Department of Planning

The planning functions and processes of the county and its organization for carrying them out must be viewed within the context of the entire structure and functioning of the government. We have already said something about the planning-budgeting relationship. The existence of a full-time board of county commissioners will have an effect upon the role of a traditional planning board or commission. Were it not for the presence of a full-time legislative body, we might suggest a lay advisory planning board to bring citizen participation and flavor into the appeal and rezoning processes inherent in any flexible system of planning.

Planning is a staff process. The director of planning

14A

should report to the county administrative officer. He should be responsible under the Charter for providing planning advice and developing comprehensive master plans and capital improvement programs. Zoning enforcement is to be a responsibility of the department of buildings.

The planning process is somewhat unique in that the planner is expected to both look into the future and yet deal with the practical problems of everyday economic development and growth. As these developments do affect the character and integrity of the long range plans, the director of planning could be required to receive and consider all zoning applications and make decisions upon zoning variances and conditional use permits, subject to appeal to the board of appeals. Also, the director of planning should consider and make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on applications for rezoning or original zoning. The former may prove to be burdensome and divert scarce energies and skills from the long range planning process. If so, the future may require the designation of some quasi-judicial hearing officer to hear these matters, in which instance the planners role would be that of presenting expert testimony before the hearing officer and subsequently, the board of appeals or the board of county commissioners as the case may be. Some consideration should be given to creating or authorizing a zoning hearing officer in the Charter.

560           Agreements with other Personnel Agencies

In the development of classification and pay plans, in examining and recruitment and in other aspects of personnel administration, the personnel officer may wish to enter into agreements with other governments, persons or organizations on either a continuing or special basis. If so, execution of these agreements should be the prerogative of the county executive.

570           Political Activities

Political activity on the part of employees in the "personnel system" is prohibited in regard to any elective county office. A public employee in a non-elective or non-policy making job simply can not be a civil servant one day and a politician the next. Partisan political activity in city, state, or national elections can bring the employee and the county service into public disfavor just as well as activity in regard to elective county office. The privilege of public employment does not embrace the right to unrestricted political participation. The prohibition should be broadened.

620           Powers--Board of Appeals

Under the charter draft, the board of appeals is largely a board of zoning appeals. This may be the time to empower it to hear persons aggrieved or damaged by the denial of licenses or permits as well.

740           Anti-Discrimination

This section may be saleable but now redundant.

ILA

790            Citizens Service Office

If the job of the "ombudsman" is largely to investigate inquiries and complaints concerning the executive branch, then it should not be located in the executive branch.

850            Compensation

Fixing the compensation of the county executive at one and one-half times the compensation specified by county law for county commissioners, although applicable only during the first term of office, establishes a fictitious relationship which may hold the proposed charter up to ridicule. We know of no relationship between the pay of a councilman and the pay of a chief executive. The relationship of the pay of the executive is to that of his subordinates and that of his subordinates to him. Low pay for the county executive will result in low pay for his subordinates.

Establishing a legislative-executive pay relationship may bring nothing but grief by establishing a rule under which subsequent increases for the county executive will mean corresponding increases for county commissioners. In order to accomplish subsequent changes in pay for either, some form of collusion may have to occur.

860.10        Personnel Board Members

If the personnel board is largely a grievance hearing board, we can see no objection to staggered terms. If it is to be an

17A

active participant in personnel policy formulation and execution, staggered terms are objectionable because the personnel board could be an election issue.

860.30            Positions Exempt from the Personnel System.

Exemptions from the personnel system or classified service should be warily granted. Of course, elected officers, policy-making department heads, employees of the county commissioners, and confidential secretaries to the top brass, plus specialists employed in a professional or scientific capacity deserve exempt status. Others are questionable, particularly so as many of them will be performing jobs comparable to those in the "personnel system." It would be particularly unfortunate if the elected county executive were to build up a small army of exempt appointees within his office.

The present language exempts all appointed officers of the executive branch. Who is not appointed? Who is an officer? Some clarification is in order.

Please consider adoption of more workable numbering system for Charter sections.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Donaho,  
President

nbg

18A

9/5/68  
(final  
approved  
Charter)

KING COUNTY CHARTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble		1
Article 1	POWERS OF THE COUNTY	1
Section 110.	General Powers	1
Section 120.	Intergovernmental Relations	1
Section 130.	Construction	1
Section 140.	Name, Boundaries and County Seat	2
Article 2	THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	2
Section 210.	Composition	2
Section 220.	The County Council	2
220.10.	Composition and Terms of Office	2
220.20.	Powers	2
220.30.	Organization	3
220.40.	Rules of Procedure	3
220.50.	Relationship With Other Branches	4
Section 230.	Ordinances	4
230.10.	Introduction and Adoption	4
230.20.	Executive Veto	4
230.30.	Emergency Ordinances	5
230.40.	Referendum	5
230.50.	Initiative	6
230.60.	Referendum and Initiative Petitions	7
230.70.	Effective Date of Ordinances	7
Section 240.	Motions	8
Section 250.	County Auditor	9
Section 260.	Office of Citizen Complaints	9
Article 3	THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH	10
Section 310.	Composition and Powers	10
Section 320.	County Executive	10
320.10.	Election, Term of Office and Compensation	10
320.20.	Powers and Duties	10
Section 330.	County Administrative Officer	11
Section 340.	Appointments, Confirmation and Removal	12
340.10.	Appointments by the County Executive	12
340.20.	Appointments by the County Administrative Officer	12
340.30.	Appointments by the Chief Officers	12
340.40.	Confirmation	12
340.50.	Qualifications	12
340.60.	Removal	13
Section 350.	Administrative Offices and Executive Departments	13
350.10.	Administrative Offices	13
350.20.	Executive Departments	13

350.20.10.	Department of Assessments	13
350.20.20.	Department of Judicial Administration	14
Article 4	FINANCIAL PROCEDURES	14
Section 410.	Presentation and Adoption of Budgets	14
Section 420.	Budget Information	15
Section 430.	Contents of Budget	15
Section 440.	Budget Message	15
Section 450.	Copies of Budget	16
Section 460.	Consideration and Adoption of	16
	Appropriation Ordinances	16
Section 470.	Additional Appropriations	17
470.10.	Contingency Appropriations	17
470.20.	Emergency Appropriations	17
470.30.	Additional Capital Budget Appropriations	17
Section 475.	Work Programs and Allotments	17
Section 480.	Lapses of Appropriations	18
Section 490.	Interfund Borrowing and Reimbursement	18
Section 495.	Illegal Contracts	18
Article 5	THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM	19
Section 510.	Purpose	19
Section 520.	Administration	19
Section 530.	Personnel Rules	19
Section 540.	The Personnel Board	20
Section 550.	Career Service Positions	21
Section 560.	Political Activities	22
Article 6	ELECTIONS	23
Section 610.	Election Procedures	23
Section 620.	Independent Candidates	23
Section 630.	Qualifications	23
Section 640.	County Executive and County Assessor	24
Section 650.	Councilmen	24
650.10.	Districts	24
650.20.	Nomination and Election	24
650.30.	Districting	25
650.30.10.	District Boundaries	25
650.30.20.	Districting Ordinances	25
650.30.30.	Districting Committee	25
650.30.40.	Consideration by County Council	26
650.30.50.	Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance	26
Section 660.	Commencement of Terms of Office	26
Section 670.	Recall	27
Section 680.	Vacancies	27
680.10.	Election or Appointment to Fill Vacancy	27
Section 690.	Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures	28
Article 7	BOARD OF APPEALS	28
Section 710.	Composition, Appointment, Removal	28
Section 720.	Powers	29
Section 730.	Rules of Practice and Procedure	29

Article 8

- Section 800.
- Section 810.
- Section 815.
- Section 820.
- Section 830.
- Section 840.
- Section 850.
- Section 860.
- Section 870.
- Section 880.
- Section 890.
- Section 895.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Charter Review and Amendments 29
- Severability and Construction 30
- Contracts and Competitive Bidding 30
- Conflict of Interest 31
- Public Inspection of Public Records 31
- Anti-discrimination 31
- Delegation of Authority 32
- References to County Agencies and Officers in the Constitution or General Law 32
- Additional Compensation 33
- Compilation and Codification of Ordinances 33
- Employee Representation 33
- Mandatory Inquests 34

Article 9

- Section 900.
- Section 910.
- Section 920.
- 920.10.
- 920.10.10.
- 920.10.20.
- 920.10.30.
- 920.10.40.
- 920.20.
- 920.20.10.
- 920.20.20.
- 920.20.30.
- 920.20.40.
- 920.20.50.
- 920.20.60.
- 920.20.70.
- 920.20.80.
- 920.30.
- Section 930.
- Section 940.
- Section 950.
- Section 960.
- Section 970.
- 970.10.
- 970.20.
- 970.30.
- 970.40.
- 970.50.
- Section 980.
- Section 990.

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

- Effective Date and Elections 34
- Councilman Districts 35
- Administrative Offices and Executive Departments 38
- Administrative Offices
  - Office of Budgets and Accounts 38
  - Office of Personnel 38
  - Office of Systems Services 38
  - Office of Property and Purchasing 38
- Executive Departments 39
  - Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation 39
  - Department of Public Safety 39
  - Department of Public Health 39
  - Department of Records and Elections 39
  - Department of Finance 40
  - Department of Parks 40
  - Department of Planning 40
  - Department of Building 41
- Modification of Administrative Offices and Executive Departments 41
- County Commissioners 41
- County Assessor 42
- Commencement and Terms of Office 42
- Compensation 42
- The Personnel System 43
  - Personnel Board Members 43
  - Effective Date 43
  - Elective County Officers 44
  - County Employees 44
  - Sheriff's Civil Service System 45
- Board of Appeals 45
- Transition 46

PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

ARTICLE 1

POWERS OF THE COUNTY

Section 110. General Powers.

The county shall have all of the powers which it is possible for a home rule county to have under the state constitution.

Section 120. Intergovernmental Relations.

The county may, in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its functions and services, agree by contract or otherwise to participate jointly or in cooperation with any one or more other governments, governmental agencies, and municipal corporations, and to share the costs and responsibilities of such powers, functions and services.

Section 130. Construction.

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be

construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended from time to time. This charter and the ordinances enacted hereunder shall supersede special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter and ordinances to the extent permitted by the state constitution.

Section 140. Name, Boundaries and County Seat.

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed. Branch county offices may be established by ordinance.

ARTICLE 2

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 210. Composition.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the county council.

Section 220. The County Council.

220.10. Composition and Terms of Office.

The county council shall consist of nine members. The county shall be divided into nine districts, and one councilman shall be nominated and elected by the voters of each district. The term of office of each councilman shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

220.20. Powers.

The county council shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The county council shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate

revenue and adopt budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; except as otherwise provided herein shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities; shall adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths, but the subpoena power of the county council shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances which are being considered by the county council, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. The specific statement of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the county council.

220.30. Organization.

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

220.40. Rules of Procedure.

The county council shall adopt by ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings and hearings and the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of ordinances.

All meetings shall be open to the public, and a verbatim public record shall be kept of each meeting and the votes taken therein in the form, and for a reasonable period of time, as provided by ordinance.

220.50. Relationship With Other Branches.

The county council and the individual councilmen shall not interfere in the administration, and shall not issue orders to any officer, agent or employee, of any other branch of the county government.

Section 230. Ordinances.

230.10. Introduction and Adoption.

Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be reintroduced by any councilman or by initiative petitions. At least seven days after the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its adoption or enactment, the county council shall hold a public hearing after due notice to consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a minimum of five affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

230.20. Executive Veto.

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

statement of the reasons for his partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

#### 230.30. Emergency Ordinances.

Any proposed ordinance may be enacted as an emergency ordinance if the county council finds as a fact, and states in the ordinance, that an emergency exists and that the ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions. A minimum of seven affirmative votes shall be required to enact an emergency ordinance; and unless it is an emergency appropriation ordinance, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

#### 230.40. Referendum.

Except as provided herein, an enacted ordinance may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the county council prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than eight percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the next special or general election occurring more than forty-five days after the petitions are filed.

An appropriation ordinance; an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions; an ordinance proposing amendments to this charter; an ordinance providing for collective bargaining; an ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement; an ordinance providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees; or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

#### 230.50. Initiative.

Ordinances except ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees may be proposed by filing with the county council petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The county council shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred thirty-five days after the petitions are filed or at an earlier election as designated by the county council. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum.

If the county council rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the

substitute ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall first be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for either, then the ordinance receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither ordinance shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

230.60. Referendum and Initiative Petitions.

The county council shall establish by ordinance the form to be used for referendum and initiative petitions. All referendum and initiative petitions shall be sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval of the clerk of the county council as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. Within five days after the form of the proposed petitions is submitted to him, the clerk of the county council shall return it to the sponsor with an indication of his approval or with a detailed written explanation of his objections to the form.

230.70. Effective Date of Ordinances.

Except as provided herein, the effective date of an ordinance shall be ten days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance may be subjected to a referendum as provided in Section 230.40 and if a proposed referendum petition is submitted to the clerk of the county

council as provided in Subsection 230.60 prior to the tenth day after its enactment; the effective date of the ordinance shall be forty-five days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance is subjected to referendum, it shall not become effective until after it is approved by the voters. If it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the effective date of an ordinance which is subjected to referendum or proposed by initiative, or a substitute ordinance proposed by the county council as provided in Subsection 230.50, shall be ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. The effective date of an emergency ordinance shall be the date of its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. An ordinance which is subject to the veto power of the county executive and which is not vetoed, or the approved portions of an appropriation ordinance which has been partially vetoed, shall be deemed enacted on the date that it is approved by, or ten days after it is presented to, the county executive. An ordinance which is vetoed or the vetoed portions of an appropriation ordinance shall be deemed enacted on the date that the county council overrides the veto or partial veto. An ordinance which is not subject to the veto power of the county executive shall be deemed enacted on the date it is approved by the county council.

Section 240. Motions.

The county council may pass motions to confirm or reject appointments by the county executive, to organize and administer the

the legislative branch, to make declarations of policy which do not have the force of law and to request information from any other agency of county government. Motions shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive, and the county council in passing motions need not comply with the procedural requirements for the introduction, consideration and adoption of ordinances.

Section 250. County Auditor.

The county auditor shall be appointed by a majority of the county council, shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a current post-audit of the financial operations of the county government, shall review and report to the county council concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs and operations of the county and shall consult with the county executive concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch. Annual audits shall continue to be performed by the state in accordance with general law.

Section 260. Office of Citizen Complaints.

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in his own behalf.

ARTICLE 3

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 310. Composition and Powers.

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council and the members of boards and commissions except the board of appeals and the personnel board. The executive branch shall have all executive powers of the county under this charter.

Section 320. County Executive.

320.10. Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive compensation at least one and one half times the compensation paid to a councilman.

320.20. Powers and Duties.

The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other specific elective officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council; shall be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a county

commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, but if more than one county commissioner was required to serve, the county council shall appoint a councilman or councilmen to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the county council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary; shall prepare and present to the county council budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the county council except as otherwise provided in this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

Section 330. County Administrative Officer.

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

Section 340. Appointments, Confirmation and Removal.

340.10. Appointments by the County Executive.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer and the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and shall appoint the members of all boards and commissions except as otherwise provided in this charter.

340.20. Appointments by the County Administrative Officer.

The county administrative officer shall appoint the chief officer of each administrative office.

340.30. Appointments by the Chief Officers.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department and shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and employees to positions covered by the career service.

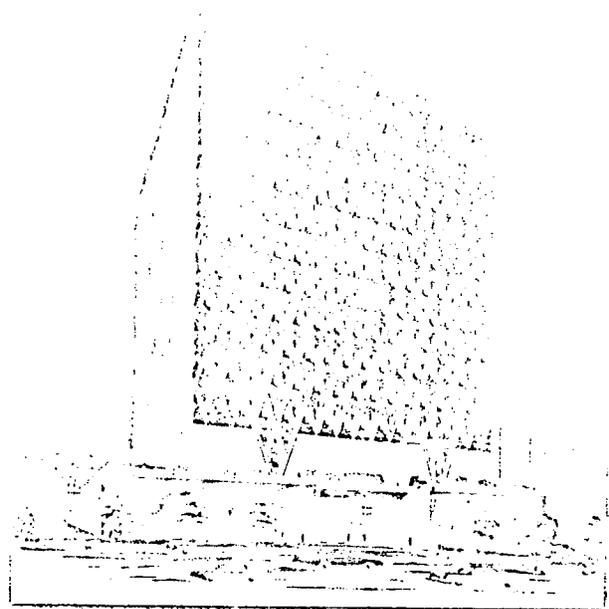
340.40. Confirmation.

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. The appointments by the county administrative officer shall be subject to approval by the county executive.

340.50. Qualifications.

The county administrative officer and the chief officers appointed by either the county executive or the county administrative officer shall be appointed on the basis of their abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience concerning the duties of the office to which they shall be appointed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
FINANCIAL CONTROL  
BOARD OF THE WORLD OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF



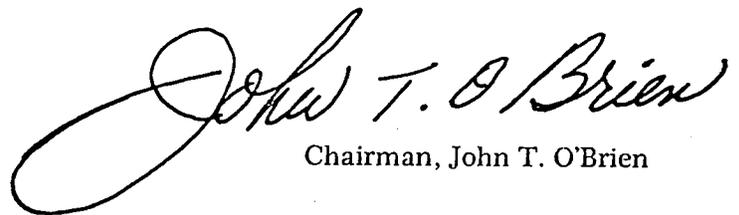
THE PEOPLE OF KING COUNTY:

In 1948 the people of this state granted to counties an opportunity to frame a home rule charter. There are many problems which we as a Board face, making it difficult to meet the urgent demands of an urban county with 1,200,000 people.

Under the powers granted to us, we must seek changes through the enactment of state legislation when problems could be solved through the home rule process established by the 21st Amendment.

A home rule charter has been prepared for your consideration and is now being offered for your acceptance or rejection at the November, 1968, general ballot. We urge you to read the proposed charter carefully. If you think it provides an improvement over the present form of government, then you should vote for its passage; if you do not think so, then vote against it. Whatever the outcome may be, the effort expended by the Board of Freeholders has resulted in a higher level of interest in county government.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chairman, John T. O'Brien

  
Commissioner, Ed Munro

  
Commissioner, John D. Spellman

September 26, 1968

TO THE PEOPLE OF KING COUNTY:

Last November you elected fifteen freeholders to prepare and propose a home rule charter for King County pursuant to the 21st Amendment to the Washington Constitution.

The freeholders began by adopting rules to provide for orderly consideration and deliberation of charter proposals. Meetings were held with all elected officials and department heads charged with responsibility for the present administration of King County. We studied home rule charters from other counties throughout the country, listened to county officials, consultants and professors, and held a series of public forums before making any decisions on the content of the charter.

After deliberation and revision of a first draft of the charter, 1,500 copies were made available for comment and criticism by interested citizens and organizations. There were two public hearings on the draft charter before we undertook final deliberations leading to adoption of the proposed charter.

The freeholders have represented you well. Coming from all parts of the county and representing all political and philosophical points of view, the freeholders have in their deliberations raised arguments for and against all of the provisions suggested for inclusion in the charter. Each freeholder brought to the task a sense of personal dedication to the development of a governmental structure that will serve this county well for many years to come.

We commend this proposed charter to you as a good framework to bring home rule to King County.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS



RICHARD R. ALBRECHT, Chairman

Sept. 6, 1968

## PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, insure responsibility and accountability, enable effective citizen participation, preserve a healthy environment and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

## ARTICLE 1 POWERS OF THE COUNTY

### Section 110. *General Powers.*

The county shall have all of the powers which it is possible for a home rule county to have under the state constitution.

### Section 120. *Intergovernmental Relations.*

The county may, in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its functions and services, agree by contract or otherwise to participate jointly or in cooperation with any one or more other governments, governmental agencies, and municipal corporations, and to share the costs and responsibilities of such powers, functions and services.

### Section 130. *Construction.*

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended from time to time. This charter and the ordinances enacted hereunder shall supersede special and general laws which are inconsistent with the charter and ordinances to the extent permitted by the state constitution.

### Section 140. *Name, Boundaries and County Seat.*

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed. Branch county offices may be established by ordinances.

## ARTICLE 2 THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

### Section 210. *Composition.*

The legislative branch shall be composed of the county council.

### Section 220. *The County Council.*

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

The county council shall consist of nine members. The county

shall be divided into nine districts, and one councilman shall be nominated and elected by the voters of each district. The term of office of each councilman shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

**220.20. Powers.**

The county council shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The county council shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; except as otherwise provided herein shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities; shall adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans including improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths, but the subpoena power of the county council shall be limited to matters relating to proposed ordinances which are being considered by the county council, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. The specific statement of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the county council.

**220.30. Organization.**

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

**220.40. Rules of Procedure.**

The county council shall adopt by ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings and hearings and the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of ordinances. All meetings shall be open to the public, and a verbatim public record shall be kept of each meeting and the votes taken therein in the form, and for a reasonable period of time, as provided by ordinance.

**220.50. Relationship with Other Branches.**

The county council and the individual councilmen shall not

interfere in the administration, and shall not issue orders to any officer, agent or employee, of any other branch of the county government.

**Section 230. Ordinances.**

**230.10. Introduction and Adoption.**

Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be introduced by any councilman or by initiative petition. At least seven days after the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its adoption or enactment, the county council shall hold a public hearing after due notice to consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a minimum of five affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

**230.20. Executive Veto.**

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the county executive shall have the right to veto any ordinance or any object of expense of an appropriation ordinance. Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its adoption or enactment by the county council. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto the ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his partial veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes.

**230.30. Emergency Ordinances.**

Any proposed ordinance may be enacted as an emergency ordinance if the county council finds as a fact, and states in the ordinance, that an emergency exists and that the ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions. A minimum of seven affirmative votes shall be required to enact an emergency ordinance; and unless it is an emergency appropriation ordinance, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

**230.40. Referendum.**

Except as provided herein, an enacted ordinance may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the county council prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than eight percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the special or general election occurring more than forty-five days after the petitions are filed.

An appropriation ordinance; an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions; an ordinance proposing amendments to this charter; an ordinance providing for collective bargaining; an ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement; an ordinance providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees; or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative shall not be subject to a referendum.

**230.50. Initiative.**

Ordinances except ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees may be proposed by filing with the county council petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The county council shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred thirty-five days after the petitions are filed or at an earlier election designated by the county council. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum.

If the county council rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall first be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for either, then the ordinance receiving the majority of

The votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither ordinance shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

**230.60. *Referendum and Initiative Petitions.***

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

**230.70. *Effective Date of Ordinances.***

Except as provided herein, the effective date of an ordinance shall be ten days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance may be subjected to a referendum as provided in Section 230.40 and if a proposed referendum petition is submitted to the clerk of the county council as provided in Subsection 230.60 prior to the tenth day after its enactment, the effective date of the ordinance shall be forty-five days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. If an ordinance is subjected to referendum, it shall not become effective until after it is approved by the voters. If it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the effective date of an ordinance which is subjected to referendum or proposed by initiative, or a substitute ordinance proposed by the county council as provided in Subsection 230.50, shall be ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. The effective date of an emergency ordinance shall be the date of its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance.

An ordinance which is subject to the veto power of the county executive and which is not vetoed, or the approved portions of an appropriation ordinance which has been partially vetoed, shall be deemed enacted on the date that it is approved by, or ten days after it is presented to, the county executive. An ordinance which is vetoed or the vetoed portions of an appropriation ordinance shall be deemed enacted on the date that the county council overrides the veto or partial veto. An ordinance which is not subject to the veto power of the county executive shall be deemed enacted on the date it is approved by the county council.

Section 240. *Motions.*

The county council may pass motions to confirm or reject appointments by the county executive, to organize and administer the legislative branch, to make declarations of policy which do not have the force of law and to request information from any other agency of county government. Motions shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive, and the county council in passing motions need not comply with the procedural requirements for the introduction, consideration and adoption of ordinances.

Section 250. *County Auditor.*

The county auditor shall be appointed by a majority of the county council, shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a current post audit of the financial operations of the county government, shall review and report to the county council concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs and operations of the county and shall consult with the county executive concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch. Annual audits shall continue to be performed by the state in accordance with general law.

Section 260. *Office of Citizen Complaints.*

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of citizen complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in his own behalf.

ARTICLE 3  
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 310. *Composition and Powers.*

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council and the members of boards and commissions except the board of appeals and the personnel board. The executive branch shall have all executive powers of the county under this charter.

Section 320. *County Executive.*

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

The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive compensation at least one and one-half times the compensation paid to a councilman.

320.20. *Powers and Duties.*

The county executive shall be the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all the executive powers of the county which are not expressly vested in other specific elective officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the county council; shall be the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, but if more than one county commissioner was required to serve, the county council shall appoint a councilman or councilmen to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the county council an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary; shall prepare and present to the county council budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans including capital improvement plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the county council except as otherwise provided in this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; and shall sign, or cause to be signed, on behalf of the county all deeds, contracts and other instruments. The specific statement of particular executive powers shall not be construed as limiting the executive powers of the county executive.

Section 330. *County Administrative Officer.*

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

Section 340. *Appointments, Confirmation and Removal.*

340.10. *Appointments by the County Executive.*

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer and the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and shall appoint the members of all boards and commissions except as otherwise provided in this charter.

340.20. *Appointments by the County Administrative Officer.*

The county administrative officer shall appoint the chief officer of each administrative office.

340.30. *Appointments by the Chief Officers.*

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department and shall comply with the rules of the personnel system when appointing officers and employees to positions covered by the career service.

340.40. *Confirmation.*

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. The appointments by the county administrative officer shall be subject to approval by the county executive.

340.50. *Qualifications.*

The county administrative officer and the chief officers appointed by either the county executive or the county administrative officer shall be appointed on the basis of their abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience concerning the duties of the office to which they shall be appointed.

340.60. *Removal.*

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

Section 350. *Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.*

The executive branch shall be divided by the county council by ordinance into administrative offices and executive departments.

350.10. *Administrative Offices.*

The administrative offices shall consist of those agencies of the executive branch which provide administrative services for the various agencies of county government.

350.20. *Executive Departments.*

The executive departments shall consist of the department of assessments, the department of judicial administration and those agencies of the executive branch which are primarily engaged in the execution and enforcement of ordinances and statutes concerning the public peace, health and safety and which furnish or provide governmental services directly to or for the residents of the county.

350.20.10. *Department of Assessments.*

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

350.20.20. *Department of Judicial Administration.*

The department of judicial administration shall be administered by the superior court clerk who shall be appointed by the county executive from a list of three or more nominees submitted by a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration shall maintain the official court files, records and indexes necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the court system and shall perform such other duties assigned to it by a majority of the superior court judges in the county.

The department of judicial administration shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished by the county council.

ARTICLE 4

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 410. *Presentation and Adoption of Budgets.*

At least seventy-five days prior to the end of each fiscal year, the county executive shall present to the county council a complete budget and budget message, proposed current expense and capital budget appropriation ordinances, and proposed tax and revenue ordinances necessary to raise sufficient revenues to balance the budget; and at least forty-five days prior to the end of the fiscal year,

the county council shall adopt appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances for the next fiscal year.

**Section 420. *Budget Information.***

At least one hundred thirty-five days prior to the end of the fiscal year, all agencies of county government shall submit to the county executive information necessary to prepare the budget.

**Section 430. *Contents of Budget.***

The budget shall include all funds, revenues and reserves; shall be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense and shall include supporting data deemed advisable by the county executive or required by ordinance; shall indicate as to each program, project or object of expense the actual expenditures of the preceding fiscal year, the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested appropriations for the next fiscal year; and shall include the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. The expenditures included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

**Section 440. *Budget Message.***

The budget message shall explain the budget in fiscal terms and in terms of the goals to be accomplished and shall relate the requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

**Section 450. *Copies of Budget.***

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

**Section 460. *Consideration and Adoption of Appropriation Ordinances.***

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the county council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearing on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The county council in considering the appropriations ordinances proposed by the county executive may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditures of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the county executive. The appropriation ordinances adopted by the county council shall not

exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the county council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the county executive by re-estimating the amount by motion passed by a minimum of six affirmative votes or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive.

Section 470. *Additional Appropriations.*

470.10. *Contingency Appropriations.*

The appropriation ordinances shall include contingency funds which shall not be expended unless the county executive certifies in writing that sufficient funds are available and the county council adopts an additional appropriation ordinance after being requested to do so by the county executive.

470.20. *Emergency Appropriations.*

The county council may adopt an emergency appropriation ordinance which may appropriate contingency funds, revenues received in excess of the revenues estimated in the budget and funds from any other source available to the county in an emergency.

470.30. *Additional Capital Budget Appropriations.*

The county council shall not adopt an additional or amended capital budget appropriation ordinance during the fiscal year unless requested to do so by the county executive.

Section 475. *Work Programs and Allotments.*

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.

During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to transfer appropriations between agencies of county government; but a capital budget project shall not be abandoned thereby unless its abandonment is recommended by the executive department responsible for planning.

Section 480. *Lapses of Appropriations.*

Unless otherwise provided by the appropriation ordinances, all unexpended and unencumbered appropriations in the current expense appropriation ordinances shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year. An appropriation in the capital budget appropriation ordinances shall lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three years.

Section 490. *Interfund Borrowing and Reimbursement.*

One agency of county government or fund may reimburse another agency or fund for services rendered, and the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to provide for temporary interfund borrowing.

Section 495. *Illegal Contracts.*

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, any contract in excess of an appropriation shall be null and void; and any officer, agent or employee of the county knowingly responsible shall be personally liable to anyone damaged by his action. The county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance permitting the county to enter into contracts requiring the payment of funds from appropriations of subsequent fiscal years, but real property shall not be leased to the county for more than one year unless it is included in a capital budget appropriation ordinance.

ARTICLE 5  
THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Section 510. *Purpose.*

The county shall establish and maintain an effective personnel system for the county which will assure: recruitment, selection and retention of county employes on the basis of merit; the development of a county career service; promotion on the basis of demonstrated ability; and compensation and personnel practices which will keep the county system competitive.

Section 520. *Administration.*

The county executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the county council by ordinance. The county administrative officer shall prepare and present proposed personnel rules to the county executive who shall present a proposed ordinance establishing the personnel rules to the county council which shall adopt the ordinance with or without amendments.

Section 530. *Personnel Rules.*

The personnel rules shall provide for: the classification of all employed positions based on the duties, authority and responsibility of each position with adequate provisions for reclassification of any position whenever warranted; a pay plan for all county positions; methods for determining the merit and fitness of candidates for appointment or promotion; policies and procedures concerning reductions in force and removal of employees; hours of work, attendance, regulations and provisions for vacations and sick leaves; policies and procedures for persons holding provisional appointments; policies and procedures governing relationships with employee organizations; ~~policies governing relationships with employee organizations~~; policies governing in-service training; grievance procedures; procedures for disciplinary actions for just cause; penalties for violation of the provisions of Section 560; and other related policies and procedures.

Section 540. *The Personnel Board*

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

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

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

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

**Section 550. *Career Service Positions.***

All county employees and officers shall be members of the career service except those in the following positions: all elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the county council; the county administrative officer; the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office; the members of all boards and commissions; administrative assistants for the county executive and one administrative assistant each for the county administrative officer, the county auditor, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office and for each board and commission; a chief deputy for the county assessor; one confidential secretary each for the county executive, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified herein; all employees of those officers who are exempted from the provisions of this charter by the state constitution; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; administrative interns; election precinct officials; all persons serving the county without compensation; physicians; surgeons; dentists; medical interns; and student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

**Section 560. *Political Activities.***

The county administrative officer, the chief officer of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments, the officers and employees of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments who are not members of the career service and all members of the career service shall not engage in any political activity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office. A member of the career service may be elected and serve as a precinct committeeman without violating the provisions of this section. A member of the career service may file for a compensated elective office, but he shall take and be granted a leave of absence until the date of the election and until his term of office expires if he is elected.

ARTICLE 6  
ELECTIONS

Section 610. *Election Procedures.*

Except as provided in this Article, the nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

Section 620. *Independent Candidates.*

On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate in a major political party primary, anyone qualified to assume office if elected may file a declaration of candidacy as an "independent."

Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall be placed on the primary ballots under the title "independent"; and, if the total number of votes cast for independent candidates for an office is equal to at least twenty percent of the total number of votes cast for that office in the primary, then the candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for independent candidates for that office shall be the independent nominee for that office and shall be placed on the general election ballots under the title "independent."

Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall not be a candidate for any political party in that primary or in the succeeding general election and shall pay the filing fee required for a declaration of candidacy for a major political party primary.

Section 630. *Qualifications.*

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, at least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each councilman shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a councilman's district which shall cause him to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

Section 640. *County Executive and Assessor.*

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing with the election of 1971 for the county assessor and with the election of 1973 for the county executive.

Section 650. *Councilmen.*

650.10. *Districts.*

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine.

650.20. *Nomination and Election.*

The nomination and election of councilmen shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing in even numbered districts with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election of 1973.

650.30. *Districting.*

650.30.10. *District Boundaries.*

The boundaries of each district shall correspond as nearly as practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities and census tracts and shall be: drawn to produce districts with compact and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic units and approximately equal in population.

650.30.20. *Districting Ordinances.*

A districting ordinance shall be enacted by the county council by April 30, 1971, and at least every five years thereafter. If the size, shape and population of the districts comply with the requirements of this charter, the county council shall enact an ordinance retaining the district boundaries without change. A districting ordinance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

650.30.30. *Districting Committee.*

If the county council does not adopt a districting ordinance during the first two months of any year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the county executive shall appoint within ten days a districting committee of at least five members subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council which shall provide for their compensation. No more than a simple majority of the committee shall be affiliated with the same political party. The districting committee shall present a districting recommendation to the county council within twenty-one days after the committee has been appointed and confirmed.

650.30.40. *Consideration by County Council.*

The county council may either accept, modify or reject the recommendations of the districting committee. If its recommendations are rejected, the committee may, but shall not be required to, present alternate recommendations. If the recommendations are

neither accepted, modified nor rejected within thirty days after they are presented to the county council by the districting committee, they shall become effective on the thirty-first day after their presentation as if they had been enacted by ordinance.

**650.30.50. *Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance.***

If the county council fails to enact a districting ordinance by April 30 of each year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the compensation of the councilmen shall be suspended from the first day of May of that year until a districting ordinance is enacted. Upon enactment of a districting ordinance, one half of the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the councilmen who would have received it but for the suspension; and the other one half of the suspended compensation shall be forfeited.

**Section 660. *Commencement of Terms of Office.***

The terms of office of elected county officers shall commence on the date specified by general law for public officers elected at city general elections.

**Section 670. *Recall.***

The holder of any elective office may be recalled in accordance with the provisions of general law.

**Section 680. *Vacancies.***

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the county council; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office; provided, however, that an elective county office shall not become vacant as the result of a criminal conviction or declaration of incompetency until the conviction or declaration has become final and is no longer subject to appeal.

**680.10. *Election or Appointment to Fill Vacancy***

A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as provided in Sections 620 and 630. The term of office of an officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he is elected and qualified.

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

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

Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall, within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an itemized statement with the executive department responsible for conducting elections showing all campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material made to him or on his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him or on his behalf. Such statement when filed shall be a public record. The county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form of such statement. A willful violation of this section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

**ARTICLE 7**

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

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

**Section 720. *Powers.***

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the executive branch and from any valuation by the department of assessments. The county council may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive department or administrative office. The decision of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a state agency as provided by general law or appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction within the time limits established by ordinance or general law.

**Section 730. *Rules of Practice and Procedure.***

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board and shall provide for the selection of those of its members who shall serve with representatives of cities or other agencies of government on any joint board or commission established by general law which hears appeals which would otherwise be within the jurisdiction of the board of appeals established by this charter.

**ARTICLE 8  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 800. *Charter Review and Amendments.***

At least every ten years after the adoption of this charter, the county executive shall review, or shall cause to be reviewed, the charter and shall present, or cause to be presented, to the county council a written report recommending those amendments, if any, which should be made to the charter.

The county council may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general law. If the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the amendment.

**Section 810. *Severability and Construction.***

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable, it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provision of this charter.

**Section 815. *Contracts and Competitive Bidding***

The construction of all public buildings and works shall be performed by independent contractors; except that county road projects having a value of less than fifteen thousand dollars may be performed by county employees. Whenever the county would have been required to do so by general law if it had not adopted this charter, it shall purchase all property and award all contracts by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures established by ordinance.

**Section 820. *Conflict of Interest.***

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

**Section 830. *Public Inspection of Public Records.***

All official acts and documents except those which have been specifically prepared for use by the county in court proceedings, criminal and law enforcement files, those which would invade a person's right of privacy and those which are specified as confidential by general law shall be open for public inspection; and the agency having custody and control of public records shall upon request supply certified copies of the records requested for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

**Section 840. *Anti-Discrimination.***

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation or age except by minimum age and retirement provisions; and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm, organization or corporation which discriminates on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation or age except by minimum age and retirement provisions.

**Section 850. *Delegation of Authority.***

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

**Section 860. *References to County Agencies and Officers in the Constitution or General Law.***

Whenever the state constitution or a general law which has not been superseded by this charter or by the ordinances enacted hereunder refers to an agency or officer of county government who has been superseded by this charter, it shall be deemed to refer to the agency or officer designated by this charter or by the county council to perform the functions of the superseded agency or officer or in the absence of such a designation to the agency or officer designated by the county executive.

**Section 870. *Additional Compensation.***

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

**Section 880. *Compilation and Codification of Ordinances.***

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the county council shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the county council and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The county council shall also provide for an annual supplement.

**Section 890. *Employee Representation.***

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

**Section 895. *Mandatory Inquests.***

An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE 9  
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

The provisions of this article relate to the transition from the existing form of government to the form of government established by this charter; and where inconsistent with the foregoing articles of this charter, the provisions of this article shall constitute exceptions.

*Section 900. Effective Date and Elections.*

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969, except that special nominating primaries and a special election shall be held on February 11, 1969, and March 11, 1969, respectively, to elect the first county executive, county assessor and councilmen to be elected after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries and election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 610 and 620, except that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primaries shall be filed during December 16-20, 1968; provided, however, that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primary for a councilman district in which a county commissioner elected in 1966 or 1968 resides shall be December 23-27, 1968, if that county commissioner resigns or files a declaration of candidacy for county executive or county assessor. A candidate may withdraw his nomination in accordance with the provisions of the last paragraph of RCW 29.18.030, and a vacancy on a party ticket may be filed in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.18.150.

*Section 910. Councilman Districts.*

Until they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the districts of the councilmen shall be as follows:

Councilman District No. 1 shall consist of: the following precincts in Legislative Districts 44, 45 and 46 and all precincts lying north of them: 44-85 through 44-88, 45-98 through 45-100, 46-97 through 46-101, 46-106, 46-115 and 46-116; all precincts in Legislative District No. 1 except those south of precincts Juanita, Bokirk, Phyllis, Firlock and Willows; and precinct Woodinville in Legislative District No. 48.

Councilman District No. 2 shall consist of precincts 32A-1 through 32A-51, 32B-82 through 32B-119, 43-1 through 43-29, 43-106, 45-1 through 45-33, 45-42 through 45-45, 45-54 through 45-59, 45-61 through 45-68, 45-81, 45-97, 46-1 through 46-96, 46-102 through 46-105 and 46-127.

Councilman District No. 3 shall consist of: all precincts in Legislative District No. 48 except precinct Woodinville; the following precincts in Legislative District No. 41 and all precincts lying north of them: Enatai, Bellevue No. 1, Bellevue No. 62, Bellevue No. 65, Bel-Air, Beachcrest, Squak Mountain, Gilman, Tiger Mountain and Hutchinson; and precincts Lorraine and Timber Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

Councilman District No. 4 shall consist of precincts 44-1 through 44-84, 45-34 through 45-41, 45-46 through 45-53, 45-60, 45-69, 45-70 through 45-79, 45-82 through 45-96, 32B-60 through 32B-81, 43-85, 43-92, 43-100, 43-101, 43-103, 37-1 through 37-4, and all precincts in Legislative District No. 36.

Councilman District No. 5 shall consist of precincts 37-5 through 37-106, 43-30 through 43-84, 43-86 through 43-91, 43-93 through 43-99, 43-102, 43-104, 43-107 through 43-109, 33-1 through 33-50, 33-54 through 33-56, and 34-96 through 34-114.

Councilman District No. 6 shall consist of all precincts on Mercer Island and all of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: 33-100, 33-101 and 33-107 in Legislative District No. 33; 35-6, 35-7, 35-9, 35-17, 35-18, 35-19, Laurel and Lakeridge in Legislative District No. 35; Bryn Mawr, Fillmore, and Renton No. 1 through Renton No. 57 in Legislative District No. 47; Olympic, McDivitt, Hazelwood, Lake Heights, Mocking Bird and Newport in Legislative District No. 41; Bellevue No. 66, Eastgate, Arline, Horizon, Willowridge and Cougar Mountain in Legislative District No. 47; Kathleen, Hi-Valley, Maple Hills, Cedar Mountain, Arthur, Spring Lake and Milwaukee in Legislative District No. 41; Fairway, Merrihill, Petrovitsky, Iowa, Darlene and Tukwila No. 1 through Tukwila No. 5; and Renthree, Thorndyke, Galway, Showalter, Riverton, Quarry, Duwamish, Boeing, Avon, 35-21, 35-16, 35-11 and 35-12 in Legislative District No. 35.

Councilman District No. 7 shall consist of all precincts on Vashon Island and Maury Island and the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Virginia, Nokomis, Seahurst, Seapark, Shoreview, Shorewood, Scola, Qualheim, Aquaview, Greene, Wynona, Mount View, Kingston, Greendale, Marian and Sylvan in Legislative District No. 31; Florina, Emeline, South Park, Danish, Meath, Military Road, Charlotte, Val-Vue, Earlcoe, Duncan, Ford, Falcon, Airport, Moriarity, McMicken, Sunrise, Emerald and Leinster in Legislative District No. 35; and Cork, Crestview, Tyee, Diane, Lakefront, Columbus, Mansion Hill, Ferdinand, Mayo, Midway, Redwood, Sequoia, Zedinick, Zenith, Des Moines No. 1 through Des Moines No. 8, Marine View, Normandy Park No. 1 through Nor-

mandy Park No. 9, Crescent, Three Tree Point and Maplewild Legislative District No. 30.

Councilman District No. 8 shall consist of: precincts 33-51 through 33-53, 33-57 through 33-99, 33-102 through 33-106, 33-108 and 34-1 through 34-95, 35-1 through 35-5, 35-13 through 35-15; the following precincts and all precincts in Legislative District No. 31 lying north of them: 31-1 through 31-64, Sunnywood, Seaview, Oakpark, Bangor, Center, Heights, and Norfolk.

Councilman District No. 9 shall consist of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Lakeland, St. George, Pierce, Netac, Candlewood, Palisades, Lakota, Adelaide, Buenna, Delray, Redondo, Soundcrest, Woodmont, Salt Water, Seacom, Kent No. 1 through Kent No. 27, Roosevelt, Grandview, O'Brien, Wayne, and Sue City in Legislative District 30; Fuller, Wanda, Carriage Lane in Legislative District No. 47; Lake Desire, Shadow Lake, Riverside, Pipe Line, Dorre Don, Tahoma, Hobart, Lester, Sno Pass, Chinook, Sierra, Boise, Osceola, White River, Wabash and Muckleshoot in Legislative District No. 41; and Stuck, Pacific City and Trout Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

As used in this section, "precincts" refers to King County Voting Precincts as they were established by Resolution No. 35545 as passed by the Board of King County Commissioners on June 24, 1968, and all prior resolutions.

**Section 920. *Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.***

The initial administrative offices and executive departments of the executive branch shall include the following:

**920.10. *Administrative Offices.***

**920.10.10. *Office of Budgets and Accounts.***

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county as provided in Article 4, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made.

**920.10.20. *Office of Personnel.***

The office of personnel shall have the responsibilities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to it by the chief administrative officer.

**920.10.30. *Office of Systems Services.***

The office of systems services shall establish and maintain a modern system for processing information in accordance with the

eds of county government and shall provide central services for all branches of county government.

**920.10.40. *Office of Property and Purchasing.***

The office of property and purchasing shall assign the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall maintain all property unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by this charter, by ordinance or by the county executive, shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property, shall contract for all services and public works which are not performed by county employees and shall purchase all real and personal property purchased by the county.

**920.20. *Executive Departments.***

**920.20.10. *Department of Public Works, Utilities, and Transportation.***

The department of public works, utilities and transportation shall administer the construction and maintenance of the county road system and related facilities and shall be responsible for flood control, garbage disposal and other public works and utilities.

**920.20.20. *Department of Public Safety.***

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail and shall be responsible for civil defense.

**920.20.30. *Department of Public Health.***

The department of public health shall administer all health programs under the control of the county including all medical services necessary to assist the department of public safety and shall perform autopsies.

**920.20.40. *Department of Records and Elections.***

The department of records and elections: shall record, file and register all documents presented to it which by general law may be recorded, filed or registered to provide constructive legal notice and all other documents specified by ordinance; shall maintain the county archives to store all county records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current operation of county government; shall be responsible for the registration of voters in unincorporated areas of the county; and shall conduct all special and general elections held in the county.

**920.20.50. *Department of Finance.***

The department of finance shall collect all county revenue, shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts and shall be responsible for investing county funds.

920.20.60. *Department of Parks.*

The department of parks shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreational facilities and programs and shall be responsible for public open space and other related public community services.

920.20.70. *Department of Planning.*

The department of planning shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans for adoption by ordinance with or without amendments; shall advise all agencies of the county on planning; shall coordinate planning of the county with other governmental agencies; and shall assist the office of budgets and accounts in developing capital improvement programs and capital budgets.

The department of planning shall receive and consider all zoning applications. It shall make the initial decision concerning all applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits, and its decisions shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals. It shall consider and make recommendations to the county council concerning all applications for rezoning or original zoning.

920.20.80. *Department of Building.*

The department of building shall be responsible for the issuance of building permits and shall administer and enforce building codes, zoning ordinances, fire regulations and other codes and regulations assigned to it.

920.30. *Modification of Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.*

For a period of two years after the effective date of this charter, the county council shall not abolish, combine or divide the administrative offices and the executive departments specified in this section and shall not transfer the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another; except that the county council may adopt an ordinance to combine the department of planning and the budget function of the office of budgets and accounts and to combine the departments of finance and the accounting function of the office of budgets and accounts.

Section 930. *County Commissioners.*

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the shall be appointed for the following terms: ~~one for a five-year term,~~ general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to assume a position as a councilman on the county council

established by this charter and shall represent the councilman district established by this charter in which he resides on September 1, 1968, in which case a special election for the first councilman for that district shall not be held.

**Section 940. County Assessor.**

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or councilman, the county assessor elected at the general election in 1966 shall be entitled to assume the position as the county assessor established by this charter in which case a special election for the first county assessor after the adoption of this charter shall not be held.

**Section 950. Commencement and Terms of Office.**

The terms of office of officers elected at the special election on March 11, 1969, and the county commissioners or assessor elected at the general elections in 1966 or 1968 who assume positions as councilmen or assessor in the offices established by this charter, shall commence on May 1, 1969. The terms of office of the county assessor and councilmen representing even numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1971, have qualified and have commenced their terms of office. The terms of office of the county executive and councilmen representing odd numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1973, have qualified and have commenced their terms of office.

**Section 960. Compensation.**

The councilmen and county assessor who take office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during their first term of office under this charter the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners and county assessors, respectively. The county executive who takes office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during his first term of office under this charter one and one-half times the compensation paid to a councilman. Thereafter all compensation shall be established by the county council by ordinance.

**Section 970. The Personnel System.**

**970.10. Personnel Board Members.**

The original members of the personnel board shall be appointed and confirmed or elected by June 1, 1969. The appointed members shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a five year term, one for a four year term, one for a three year term and one for a two year term; and the member elected by the members of the career service shall be elected for one year. Thereafter, any new appoint-

ment or election, except to fill out an unexpired term, shall be for a five year term.

**970.20. *Effective Date.***

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

**970.30. *Elective County Officers.***

Every elected county officer except a county commissioner whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the rate of compensation specified by general law for the office which he held on the effective date of this charter until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter; and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative position covered by the career service subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

**970.40. *County Employees.***

A non-elective county officer or employee employed by the county on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to a similar position covered by the career service for which he is qualified subject to all of the personnel rules including those concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed without just cause prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to a position covered by the career service similar to that in which he was employed on June 1, 1968. A non-elective county officer or employee employed in a position which is not covered by the career service on the effective date of the personnel system shall have the right to be appointed to a position which is covered by the career service which is as nearly comparable as possible to the position which he held on the effective date of the personnel system when he is removed from that position subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning

compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

**970.50. Sheriff's Civil Service System.**

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the personnel system. At the end of the two year period, the county council may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel system established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law; and, if a personnel rule cannot be applied to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system, the county council may adopt special rules which will apply only to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system.

**Section 980. Board of Appeals.**

The original members of the board of appeals shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following terms: two for a four year term, two for a three year term, two for a two year term and one for a one year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a four year term.

**Section 990. Transition.**

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter holding office on April 30, 1969, shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All boards and commissions whose functions have not been transferred by this charter to another agency of county government established by this charter shall continue to function for one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this charter, at the end of which time they are hereby abolished unless re-established or continued by ordinance. All ordinances, resolutions and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in

effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

RESOLUTION

We, the duly elected members of the Board of King County Freeholders, having been elected on November 7, 1967, pursuant to Article 11, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Washington, as amended, and having been empowered to prepare and propose a "Home Rule" charter for the government of the county, have prepared and do hereby propose the foregoing King County Charter for adoption by the voters of King County. We request the Board of King County Commissioners to take whatever action may be necessary to place the following question before the voters of the county at the general election to be held on November 5, 1968:

Shall the proposed Home Rule Charter for King County providing for the separation of legislative and executive powers and for improved administration be adopted?

For Home Rule Charter

Against Home Rule Charter

We, the undersigned Freeholders of King County, do hereby approve the above resolution:

*Manson B. Beck* *Fred R. Schneider*  
*Richard Helbrecht* *Dallen McDonald*  
*Robert Blum* *James L. McKenna*  
*Norman E. Bothell* *Lois H. North*  
*James H. Pearson* *James N. O'Connor*  
*Robert J. Edgar* *Virginia H. Gandy*  
*Walter Melville* *Simon Rampold*  
*Jack M. Geoffrey*

FREEHOLDER STAFF:

Paul R. Meyer, Executive Secretary  
John H. Strasburger, Legal Counsel, representing the law firm  
of Short, Cressman & Cable  
Helen Grigsby, Secretary

CONSULTANTS:

Others who have assisted the freeholders during the course of their deliberations in various capacities include:  
Virginia Galle, Research Consultant; Raj Joshi, Urban Planning Consultant; John A. Donaho, Management Consultant; Nancy Goodfellow, transcription.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
PERSONAL DATA

COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT #1

Robert J. Block  
1617 E. Boston Terrace

James N. O'Connor  
127 39th Ave.E.

Robert Eberle  
3229 74th Ave. S.E.  
Mercer Island, Wash.

Paul S. Friedlander  
1526 Lakeside Ave. So.

Jack Geoffroy  
3216 Magnolia Blvd. W.

44, businessman, attended Stanford University and University of Wash.

32, partner in law firm, graduate Yale University Law School.

33, research engineer, graduate with M.S., University of Alabama.

56, president of Seattle business firm, graduate University of Washington Law School.

56, administrative vice president Seattle Chamber of Commerce, graduate, University of Washington.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT #2

Norman B. Ackley  
16923 A Maplewild S.W.

Howard E. Bothell  
1440 A 17th Ave. So.  
Auburn, Wash.

James P. Curran  
720 Guiberson  
Kent, Wash.

Terrance R. McKenna  
202 Alexander St.  
Kent, Wash.

Lyle R. Schneider  
37901 183rd Ave. S.E.  
Auburn, Wash.

48, attorney in private practice, graduate, University of Washington.

41, president of automobile company, attended Seattle University and Central Washington College.

50, partner in law firm, graduate, University of Washington Law School.

38, airline pilot, attended Seattle University.

51, partner in law firm, graduate, University of Washington Law School.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT #3

Richard R. Albrecht  
1115 N.W. 196th

Virginia Gunby  
2540 N.E. 90th St.

Donald N. McDonald  
15565 62nd Ave. N.E.  
Bothell, Wash.

Lois H. North  
10023 Vinton Ct. N.W.

Simon Wampold  
186 131st N.E.  
Bellevue, Wash.

36, partner in law firm, graduate University of Iowa Law School.

37, housewife, graduate, University of Washington.

38, contractor, graduate, University of Washington.

47, housewife, graduate, University of California.

60, partner in law firm, graduate, Harvard Law School.

## INDEX

	Section		Page
<b>ADMINISTRATION, Non-interference</b> .....	220.50		4
<b>APPEALS</b>			
Right to appeal .....	540		15
Personnel decision .....	540		16
Board of— .....	710		20
<b>APPOINTMENTS</b>			
By County Executive .....	340.10		10
By Chief Administrative Officer .....	340.20		10
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
Transfer of .....	480		14
Lapses .....	480		14
<b>ASSESSOR</b> .....	350.20.10		11
<b>AUDITOR (County)</b>			
Appointed by .....	250		8
Duties .....	250		8
<b>BOARDS (and Commissions)</b>			
Members, appointment of .....	340.10		10
Executive Branch .....	320.20		9
Personnel .....	540		15
<b>BUDGET</b>			
Budget message .....	410		11
Schedule .....	420		12
Capital budget .....	430		12
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>			
Budget, copies of .....	450		12
Public inspection of .....	450		12
<b>CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>			
Appointed by .....	340.20		10
Appointments .....	340.30		10
<b>CAREER SERVICE</b>			
Definition .....	550		16
Development of .....	530		15
Appeals to Personnel Board .....	540		15
Positions .....	550		16
Exempt positions .....	550		16
<b>CLERK, County Council</b>			
Appointment of .....	220.30		4
Duties .....	220.30		4
<b>CLERK, Superior Court</b>			
Method of Selection .....	350.20.20		11
<b>COLLECTIVE BARGAINING</b> .....	230.40		6
<b>COMPENSATION</b>			
Establishment of, county offices & employees .....	220.20		4
County Executive .....	320.10		9
Additional compensation .....	710		20
<b>COMPLAINTS</b>			
Office .....	260		8
Investigation of .....	260		8
<b>CONTRACTS</b>			
Illegal .....	495		14
<b>COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>			
Election .....	320.10		9
Term .....	320.10		9
Successor .....	320.10		9
Compensation .....	320.10		9
Powers .....	320.20		9
Duties .....	320.20		9
Appointive powers .....	340.10		10
<b>COUNCIL, COUNTY</b>			
Powers .....	220.20		4
Legislative organization, Chairman .....	220.30		4
Councilmen .....	220.10		3
Term .....	220.10		4
Compensation .....	960		29
District .....	910		24

<b>ELECTIONS</b>		
County Executive .....	640	17
County Assessor .....	640	18
County Councilmen .....	650.20	18
Districts .....	650.30.10	18
Nomination .....	650.20	18
<b>FINANCIAL—ANNUAL STATEMENT</b>		
Budget .....	410	11
Budget Message .....	440	12
<b>HEARINGS, PUBLIC</b>		
Budget hearing .....	460	12
County Council .....	220.40	4
<b>INITIATIVE</b> .....		
	230.50	6
<b>LEGISLATIVE BRANCH</b>		
Compensation .....	960	29
Organization .....	220.30	4
Powers .....	220.20	4
Rules .....	220.40	4
<b>ORDINANCES</b>		
Subject of .....	230.10	5
Veto of .....	230.20	5
Emergency ordinances .....	230.30	5
Appropriations .....	460	12
Charter amendments .....	800	21
Effective date .....	230.20	5
Compilation and verification of .....	880	23
<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
Office of .....	920.10.10	26
System .....	510	14
Exempt positions .....	550	16
Positions covered .....	550	16
Board .....	540	15
Purpose .....	510	14
Members .....	540	15
Rules .....	530	15
Sheriff .....	970.50	31
<b>POWERS</b>		
Legislative .....	220.20	4
Executive .....	320.20	9
Delegation of .....	850	22
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
Chief Administrative Officer .....	340.50	10
Chief officers .....	340.50	10
<b>RECORDS, Public</b> .....		
	830	22
<b>REDISTRICTING</b>		
Committee .....	650.30.30	18
Boundaries .....	650.30.10	18
Criteria .....	650.30.10	18
<b>REFERENDUM</b>		
County Council .....	230.40	6
By the people .....	230.60	7
Election .....	230.70	7
<b>REMOVAL</b> .....		
	340.60	10
<b>RULES</b>		
County Council .....	220.40	4
Personnel .....	530	15
Board of Appeals .....	730	21
<b>SEVERABILITY</b> .....		
	810	21
<b>TERM OF OFFICE</b>		
County Executive .....	320.10	9
Elected County officers .....	970.30	30
Commencement .....	950	29
<b>VACANCIES</b>		
How filled .....	680.10	19
Defined .....	680	19
<b>VETO, Executive</b> .....		
	230.20	5
<b>TRANSITORY PROVISIONS</b> .....		
	900	24

340.60. Removal.

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

Section 350. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

The executive branch shall be divided by the county council by ordinance into administrative offices and executive departments.

350.10. Administrative Offices.

The administrative offices shall consist of those agencies of the executive branch which provide administrative services for the various agencies of county government.

350.20. Executive Departments.

The executive departments shall consist of the department of assessments, the department of judicial administration and those agencies of the executive branch which are primarily engaged in the execution and enforcement of ordinances and statutes concerning the public peace, health and safety and which furnish or provide governmental services directly to or for the residents of the county.

350.20.10. Department of Assessments.

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall perform the duties specified by general law. The county assessor shall be elected by the voters of the county unless general law shall provide otherwise, and his term of office

shall be four years. The department of assessments shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council.

*Receipt admin assist -  
personnel secretary -*

350.20.20. Department of Judicial Administration.

The department of judicial administration shall be administered by the superior court clerk who shall be appointed by the county executive from a list of three or more nominees submitted by a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration shall maintain the official court files, records and indexes necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the court system and shall perform such other duties assigned to it by a majority of the superior court judges in the county.

The department of judicial administration shall be an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished by the county council.

ARTICLE 4

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 410. Presentation and Adoption of Budgets. At least seventy-five days prior to the end of each fiscal year, the county executive shall present to the county council a complete budget and budget message, proposed current expense and capital budget.

appropriation ordinances, and proposed tax and revenue ordinances necessary to raise sufficient revenues to balance the budget; and at least forty-five days prior to the end of the fiscal year, the county council shall adopt appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances for the next fiscal year.

Section 420. Budget Information.

At least one hundred thirty-five days prior to the end of the fiscal year, all agencies of county government shall submit to the county executive information necessary to prepare the budget.

Section 430. Contents of Budget.

The budget shall include all funds, revenues and reserves; shall be divided into programs, projects and objects of expense and shall include supporting data deemed advisable by the county executive or as required by ordinance; shall indicate as to each program, project or object of expense the actual expenditures of the preceding fiscal year, the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested appropriations for the next fiscal year; and shall include the proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. The expenditures included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

Section 440. Budget Message.

The budget message shall explain the budget in fiscal terms and in terms of the goals to be accomplished and shall relate the requested appropriations to the comprehensive plans of the county.

Section 450. Copies of Budget.

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

Section 460. Consideration and Adoption of Appropriation Ordinances.

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the county council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearing on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The county council in considering the appropriation ordinances proposed by the county executive may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditures of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the county executive. The appropriation ordinances adopted by the county council shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the county council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the county executive by re-estimating the amount by motion passed by a minimum of six affirmative votes or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive.

Section 470. Additional Appropriations.

470.10. Contingency Appropriations.

The appropriation ordinances shall include contingency funds which shall not be expended unless the county executive certifies in writing that sufficient funds are available and the county council adopts an additional appropriation ordinance after being requested to do so by the county executive.

470.20. Emergency Appropriations.

The county council may adopt an emergency appropriation ordinance which may appropriate contingency funds, revenues received in excess of the revenues estimated in the budget and funds from any other source available to the county in an emergency.

470.30. Additional Capital Budget Appropriations.

The county council shall not adopt an additional or amended capital budget appropriation ordinance during the fiscal year unless requested to do so by the county executive.

Section 475. Work Programs and Allotments.

Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures

within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.

During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to transfer appropriations between agencies of county government; but a capital budget project shall not be abandoned thereby unless its abandonment is recommended by the executive department responsible for planning.

Section 480. Lapses of Appropriations.

Unless otherwise provided by the appropriation ordinances, all unexpended and unencumbered appropriations in the current expense appropriation ordinances shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year. An appropriation in the capital budget appropriation ordinances shall lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three years.

Section 490. Interfund Borrowing and Reimbursement.

One agency of county government or fund may reimburse another agency or fund for services rendered, and the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to provide for temporary interfund borrowing.

Section 495. Illegal Contracts.

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, any contract in excess of an appropriation shall be null and void; and any officer, agent or employee of the county knowingly responsible shall be personally liable to anyone damaged by his action. The county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance

... permitting the county to enter into contracts requiring the payment of...  
... of funds from appropriations of subsequent fiscal years, but real...  
... property shall not be leased to the county for more than one year...  
... unless it is included in a capital budget appropriation ordinance.

ARTICLE 5

THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Section 510. Purpose.

The county shall establish and maintain an effective personnel system for the county which will assure: recruitment, selection and retention of county employees on the basis of merit; the development of a county career service; promotion on the basis of demonstrated ability; and compensation and personnel practices which will keep the county system competitive.

Section 520. Administration.

The county executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the county council by ordinance. The county administrative officer shall prepare and present proposed personnel rules to the county executive who shall present a proposed ordinance establishing the personnel rules to the county council which shall adopt the ordinance with or without amendments.

Section 530. Personnel Rules.

The personnel rules shall provide for: the classification of all employed positions based on the duties, authority and responsibility of each position with adequate provisions for reclassification.

...tion of any position whenever warranted; a pay plan for all county positions; methods for determining the merit and fitness of candidates for appointment or promotion; policies and procedures concerning reductions in force and removal of employees; hours of work, employment attendance, regulations and provisions for vacations and sick leaves; policies and procedures for persons holding provisional appointments; policies and procedures governing relationships with employee organizations; policies governing in-service training; grievance procedures; procedures for disciplinary actions for just cause; penalties for violation of the provisions of Section 560; and other related policies and procedures.

Section 540. The Personnel Board.

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

of personnel board members on a per diem basis.

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

Any member of the career service may appeal to the personnel board: from any action pertaining to the methods of examination, appointment or promotion; from any suspension for more than sixty days, reduction in rank or pay, or removal; and from any classification or reclassification of positions. The personnel board shall hold a public hearing to consider an appeal and shall issue such orders as it deems proper including but not limited to the restoration of rank or pay, with or without loss of benefits and pay, and the allocation and reallocation of positions. The decision of the personnel board shall be final unless reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 550. Career Service Positions.

All county employees and officers shall be members of the career service except those in the following positions: all elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the county council; the county administrative officer; the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office; the members of all boards and commissions; administrative assistants for the county executive and one administrative assistant each for the county administrative officer, the county auditor, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office and for each board and commission; a chief deputy for the county assessor; one confidential secretary each for the county executive,

the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified herein; all employees of those officers who are exempted from the provisions of this charter by the state constitution; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; administrative interns; election precinct officials; all persons serving the county without compensation; physicians; surgeons; dentists; medical interns; and student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

Section 560. Political Activities.

The county administrative officer, the chief officer of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments, the officers and employees of each administrative office and executive department except the department of assessments who are not members of the career service and all members of the career service shall not engage in any political activity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office. A member of the career service may be elected and serve as a precinct committeeman without violating the provisions of this section. A member of the career service may file for a compensated elective office, but he shall take and be granted a leave of absence until the

date of the election and until his term of office expires if he is  
elected.

## ARTICLE 6

### ELECTIONS

#### Section 610. Election Procedures.

Except as provided in this Article, the nominating primaries  
and elections shall be conducted in accordance with general law  
governing the election of partisan county officers.

#### Section 620. Independent Candidates.

On or before the last day for filing a declaration of  
candidate as a candidate in a major political party primary, anyone  
qualified to assume office if elected may file a declaration of  
candidate as an "independent."

Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an  
independent shall be placed on the primary ballots under the title  
"independent"; and, if the total number of votes cast for independent  
candidates for an office is equal to at least twenty percent of the  
total number of votes cast for that office in the primary, then the  
candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for independent  
candidates for that office shall be the independent nominee for that  
office and shall be placed on the general election ballots under the  
title "independent."

Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent  
shall not be a candidate for any political party in that primary  
or in the succeeding general election and shall pay the filing fee  
required for a declaration of candidacy for a major political party

primary.

Section 630. Qualifications.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, at least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each councilman shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a councilman's district which shall cause him to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

Section 640. County Executive and County Assessor.

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in their county commencing with the election of 1971 for the county assessor and with the election of 1973 for the county executive.

Section 650. Councilmen.

650.10. Districts.

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine.

650.20. Nomination and Election.

The nomination and election of councilmen shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general

election for cities in the county commencing in even numbered districts  
with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election  
of 1973.

650.30. Districting.

650.30.10. District Boundaries.

The boundaries of each district shall correspond as nearly as  
practical with the boundaries of election precincts, municipalities,  
and census tracts and shall be: drawn to produce districts with compact  
and contiguous territory, composed of economic and geographic  
units and approximately equal in population.

650.30.20. Districting Ordinances.

A districting ordinance shall be enacted by the  
county council by April 30, 1971, and at least every five years thereafter.  
If the size, shape and population of the districts comply with the re-  
quirements of this charter, the county council shall enact an ordinance  
retaining the district boundaries without change. A districting ordi-  
nance shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive.

650.30.30. Districting Committee.

If the county council does not adopt a districting ordinance  
during the first two months of any year in which it is required to do  
so by this charter, the county executive shall appoint within ten  
days a districting committee of at least five members subject to confir-  
mation by a majority of the county council which shall provide for their

compensation. No more than a simple majority of the committee shall be affiliated with the same political party. The districting committee shall present a districting recommendation to the county council within twenty-one days after the committee has been appointed and confirmed.

650.30.40. Consideration by County Council.

The county council may either accept, modify or reject the recommendations of the districting committee. If its recommendations are rejected, the committee may, but shall not be required to, present alternate recommendations. If the recommendations are neither accepted, modified nor rejected within thirty days after they are presented to the county council by the districting committee, they shall become effective on the thirty-first day after their presentation as if they had been enacted by ordinance.

650.30.50. Failure to Enact a Districting Ordinance.

If the county council fails to enact a districting ordinance by April 30 of each year in which it is required to do so by this charter, the compensation of the councilmen shall be suspended from the first day of May of that year until a districting ordinance is enacted. Upon enactment of a districting ordinance, one half of the suspended compensation shall be paid without interest to the councilmen who would have received it but for the suspension; and the other one half of the suspended compensation shall be forfeited.

Section 660. Commencement of Terms of Office.

The terms of office of elected county officers shall commence on the date specified by general law for public officers elected at city general elections.

Section 670. Recall.

The holder of any elective office may be recalled in accordance with the provisions of general law.

Section 680. Vacancies.

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the county council; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office; provided, however, that an elective county office shall not become vacant as the result of a criminal conviction or declaration of incompetency until the conviction or declaration has become final and is no longer subject to appeal.

680.10. Election or Appointment to Fill Vacancy.

A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as provided in Sections 620 and 630. The term of office of an officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he is elected and qualified.

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

Section 690. Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures.

Every candidate for nomination or election to an elective county office shall, within ten days after the primary, general or special election as the case may be, file an itemized statement with the executive department responsible for conducting elections showing all campaign contributions and pledges of manpower and material made to him or on his behalf and all campaign expenditures and obligations incurred by him or on his behalf. Such statement when filed shall be a public record. The county council shall by ordinance prescribe the form of such statement. A willful violation of this section shall disqualify the candidate from holding county elective office.

ARTICLE 7

BOARD OF APPEALS

Section 710. Composition, Appointment, Removal.

The board of appeals shall be composed of seven members appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. Each member of the board of appeals shall serve a four year term and until his successor is appointed. Two members shall be appointed each year; except that every fourth year, only one member shall be appointed. A majority of the county council, but not the county executive, may remove a board of appeals member for just cause after written charges have been served on the board of appeals member and a public hearing has been held by the county council. The county council shall provide for the compensation of

the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

Section 720. Powers.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the executive branch and from any valuation made by the department of assessments. The county council may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive department or administrative office. The decision of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a state agency as provided by general law or appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction within the time limits established by ordinance or general law.

Section 730. Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board and shall provide for the selection of those of its members who shall serve with representatives of cities or other agencies of government on any joint board or commission established by general law which hears appeals which would otherwise be within the jurisdiction of the board of appeals established by this charter.

ARTICLE 8

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 800. Charter Review and Amendments.

At least every ten years after the adoption of this charter, the county executive shall review, or shall cause to be reviewed, the charter and shall present, or cause to be presented, to the county

council a written report recommending those amendments, if any, which should be made to the charter.

The county council may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general law. If the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the amendment.

Section 810. Severability and Construction.

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable, it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provision of this charter.

Section 815. Contracts and Competitive Bidding.

The construction of all public buildings and works shall be performed by independent contractors; except that county road projects having a value of less than fifteen thousand dollars may be performed by county employees. Whenever the county would have been required to do so by general law if it had not adopted this charter, it shall purchase all property and award all contracts by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures established by ordinance.

Section 820. Conflict of Interest.

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

Section 830. Public Inspection of Public Records.

All official acts and documents except those which have been specifically prepared for use by the county in court proceedings, criminal and law enforcement files, those which would invade a person's right of privacy and those which are specified as confidential by general law shall be open for public inspection; and the agency having custody and control of public records shall upon request supply certified copies of the records requested for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

Section 840. Anti-discrimination.

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of sex, race, color,

national origin, religious affiliation or age except by minimum age and retirement provisions; and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm, organization or corporation which discriminates on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation or age except by minimum age and retirement provisions.

Section 850. Delegation of Authority.

Any power or duty of a county officer except the veto power of the county executive may be delegated by that officer to another officer or employee under his control and supervision; provided, however, that the delegating officer shall continue to be responsible for the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty delegated.

The county council shall not delegate its legislative power except to the extent that it delegates to a county officer the authority to promulgate regulations in accordance with adequate standards established by the county council.

Section 860. References to County Agencies and Officers in the Constitution or General Law.

Whenever the state constitution or a general law which has not been superseded by this charter or by the ordinances enacted hereunder refers to an agency or officer of county government who has been superseded by this charter, it shall be deemed to refer to the agency or officer designated by this charter or by the county council to perform the functions of the superseded agency or officer or in the absence of such a designation to the agency or officer designated by the county executive.

Section 870. Additional Compensation.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter. [An elected officer of the county shall not be appointed to any other compensated county office or position during his term of office.]

Section 880. Compilation and Codification of Ordinances.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the county council shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the county council and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The county council shall also provide for an annual supplement.

Section 890. Employee Representation:

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of

negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

Section 895. Mandatory Inquests.

An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE 9

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

The provisions of this article relate to the transition from the existing form of government to the form of government established by this charter; and where inconsistent with the foregoing articles of this charter, the provisions of this article shall constitute exceptions.

Section 900. Effective Date and Elections.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969, except that special nominating primaries and a special election shall be held on February 11, 1969, and March 11, 1969, respectively, to elect the first county executive, county assessor and councilmen to be elected after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries and election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 610 and 620, except that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primaries shall be filed during December 16-20, 1968; provided, however, that the declarations of candidacy for the nominating primary for a councilman district in which a county commissioner elected in 1966 or 1968 resides shall be filed December 23-27, 1968, if that county commissioner resigns or files a

declaration of candidacy for county executive or county assessor. A candidate may withdraw his nomination in accordance with the provisions of the last paragraph of RCW 29.18.030, and a vacancy on a party ticket may be filled in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.18.150.

Section 910. Councilman Districts.

Until they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the districts of the councilmen shall be as follows:

Councilman District No. 1 shall consist of: the following precincts in Legislative Districts 44, 45 and 46 and all precincts lying north of them: 44-85 through 44-88, 45-98 through 45-100, 46-97 through 46-101, 46-106, 46-115 and 46-116; all precincts in Legislative District No. 1 except those south of precincts Juanita, Bokirk, Phyllis, Firlock and Willows; and precinct Woodinville in Legislative District No. 48.

Councilman District No. 2 shall consist of precincts 32A-1 through 32A-51, 32B-82 through 32B-119, 43-1 through 43-29, 43-106, 45-1 through 45-33, 45-42 through 45-45, 45-54 through 45-59, 45-61 through 45-68, 45-81, 45-97, 46-1 through 46-96, 46-102 through 46-105 and 46-127.

Councilman District No. 3 shall consist of: all precincts in Legislative District No. 48 except precinct Woodinville; the following precincts in Legislative District No. 41 and all precincts lying north of them: Enatai, Bellevue No. 1, Bellevue No. 62, Bellevue No. 65, Bel-Air, Beachcrest, Squak Mountain, Gilman, Tiger Mountain and Hutchinson; and precincts Lorraine and Timber Lake in Legislative District No. 47.

Councilman District No. 4 shall consist of precincts 44-1 through

44-84, 45-34 through 45-41, 45-46 through 45-53, 45-60, 45-69, 45-70 through 45-79, 45-82 through 45-96, 32B-60 through 32B-81, 43-85, 43-92, 43-100, 43-101, 43-103, 37-1 through 37-4, and all precincts in Legislative District No. 36.

Councilman District No. 5 shall consist of precincts 37-5 through 37-106, 43-30 through 43-84, 43-86 through 43-91, 43-93 through 43-99, 43-102, 43-104, 43-107 through 43-109, 33-1 through 33-50, 33-54 through 33-56, and 34-96 through 34-114.

Councilman District No. 6 shall consist of all precincts on all of Mercer Island and all of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: 33-100, 33-101 and 33-107 in Legislative District No. 33; 35-6, 35-7, 35-9, 35-17, 35-18, 35-19, Laurel and Lakeridge in Legislative District No. 35; Bryn Mawr, Fillmore, Renton No. 1 through Renton No. 57 in Legislative District No. 47; Olympic, McDivitt, Hazelwood, Lake Heights, Mocking Bird and Newport in Legislative District No. 41; Bellevue No. 66, Eastgate, Arline, Horizon, Willowridge and Cougar Mountain in Legislative District No. 47; Kathleen, Hi-Valley, Maple Hills, Cedar Mountain, Arthur, Spring Lake and Milwaukee in Legislative District No. 41; Fairway, Merrihill, Petrovitsky, Iowa, Darlene and Tukwila No. 1 through Tukwila No. 5; and Renthree, Thorndyke, Galway, Showalter, Riverton, Quarry, Duwamish, Boeing, Avon, 35-21, 35-16, 35-11 and 35-12 in Legislative District No. 35.

Councilman District No. 7 shall consist of all precincts on Vashon Island and Maury Island and the following perimeter precincts and

581

small precincts lying within them: Virginia, Nokomis, Seahurst, Seapark, Shoreview, Shorewood, Seola, Qualheim, Aquaview, Greene, Wynona, Mount View, Kingston, Greendale, Marian and Sylvan in Legislative District No. 31; Florina, Emeline, South Park, Danish, Meath, Military Road, Charlotte, Val-Vue, Earlcoe, Duncan, Ford, Falcon, Airport, Moriarity, McMicken, Sunrise, Emerald and Leinster in Legislative District No. 35; and Cork, Crestview, Tye, Diane, Lakefront, Columbus, Mansion Hill, Fernidand, Mayo, Midway, Redwood, Sequoia, Zedinick, Zenith, Des Moines No. 1 through Des Moines No. 8, Marine View, Normandy Park No. 1 through Normandy Park No. 9, Crescent, Three Tree Point and Maplewild in Legislative District No. 30.

Legislative District No. 30.

Councilman District No. 8 shall consist of: precincts 33-51 through 33-53, 33-57 through 33-99, 33-102 through 33-106, 33-108 and 34-1 through 34-95, 35-1 through 35-5, 35-13 through 35-15; the following precincts and all precincts in Legislative District No. 31 lying north of them: 31-1 through 31-64, Sunnywood, Seaview, Oakpark, Bangor, Center, Heights, and Norfolk.

Councilman District No. 9 shall consist of the following perimeter precincts and all precincts lying within them: Lakeland, St. George, Pierce, Netac, Candlewood, Palisades, Lakota, Adelaide, Buenna, Delray, Redondo, Soundcrest, Woodmont, Salt Water, Seacoma, Kent No. 1 through Kent No. 27, Roosevelt, Grandview, O'Brien, Wayne, and Sue City in Legislative District 30; Fuller, Wanda, Carriage Lane in Legislative District No. 47; Lake Desire, Shadow Lake, Riverside, Pipe Line, Dorre Don, Tahoma, Hobart, Lester, Sno Pass, Chinook, Sierra, Boise, Osceola, White River, Wabash and Muckleshoot in Legislative District No. 41; and

Stuck, Pacific City and Trout Lake in Legislative District No. 47. As used in this section, "precincts" refers to King County Voting Precincts as they were established by Resolution No. 35545 as passed by the Board of King County Commissioners on June 24, 1968, and all prior resolutions.

Section 920. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

The initial administrative offices and executive departments of the executive branch shall include the following:

920.10. Administrative Offices.

920.10.10. Office of Budgets and Accounts.

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county as provided in Article 4, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or appropriation ordinance under which the disbursement is to be made.

920.10.20. Office of Personnel.

The office of personnel shall have the responsibilities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to it by the chief administrative officer.

920.10.30. Office of Systems Services.

The office of systems services shall establish and maintain a modern system for processing information in accordance with the needs of county government and shall provide central services for all branches of county government.

920.10.40. Office of Property and Purchasing.

The office of property and purchasing shall assign the use of

all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall be maintained unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by ordinance or by the county executive; shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property, shall contract for all services and public works which are not performed by county employees and shall purchase all real and personal property purchased by the county.

920.20. Executive Departments.

920.20.10. Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation.

The department of public works, utilities and transportation shall administer the construction and maintenance of the county road system and related facilities and shall be responsible for flood control, garbage disposal and other public works and utilities.

920.20.20. Department of Public Safety.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail and shall be responsible for civil defense.

920.20.30. Department of Public Health.

The department of public health shall administer all health programs under the control of the county including all medical services and necessary to assist the department of public safety and shall perform autopsies.

920.20.40. Department of Records and Elections.

The department of records and elections: shall record, file and register all documents presented to it which by general law

may be recorded, filed or registered to provide constructive legal notice and all other documents specified by ordinance; shall maintain the county archives to store all county records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current operation of the county government; shall be responsible for the registration of voters in unincorporated areas of the county; and shall conduct all special and general elections held in the county.

920.20.50. Department of Finance.

The department of finance shall collect all county revenue, shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts and shall be responsible for investing county funds.

920.20.60. Department of Parks.

The department of parks shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreational facilities and programs and shall be responsible for public open space and other related public community services.

920.20.70. Department of Planning.

The department of planning shall prepare and present to the county council comprehensive plans for adoption by ordinance with or without amendments; shall advise all agencies of the county on planning; shall coordinate planning of the county with other governmental agencies; shall assist the office of budgets and accounts in developing capital improvement programs and capital budgets. The department of planning shall receive and consider all zoning applications. It shall make the initial decision concerning all applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits.

and its decisions shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals. It shall consider and make recommendations to the county council concerning all applications for rezoning or original zoning.

920.20.80. Department of Building.

The department of building shall be responsible for the issuance of building permits and shall administer and enforce building codes, zoning ordinances, fire regulations and other codes and regulations assigned to it.

920.30. Modification of Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

For a period of two years after the effective date of this charter, the county council shall not abolish, combine or divide the administrative offices and the executive departments specified in this section and shall not transfer the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another; except that the county council may adopt an ordinance to combine the department of planning and the budget function of the office of budgets and accounts and to combine the departments of finance and the accounting function of the office of budgets and accounts.

Section 930. County Commissioners.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the next general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to assume a position as a councilman on the county council established by this charter and shall represent the councilman district established by this charter in which he resides on September 1, 1968.

in which case a special election for the first councilman for that district shall not be held.

Section 940. County Assessor.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or councilman, the county assessor elected at the general election in 1966 shall be entitled to assume the position as county assessor established by this charter in which case a special election for the first county assessor after the adoption of this charter shall not be held.

Section 950. Commencement and Terms of Office.

The terms of office of officers elected at the special election on March 11, 1969, and the county commissioners or assessor elected at the general elections in 1966 or 1968 who assume positions as councilman or assessor in the offices established by this charter, shall commence on May 1, 1969. The terms of office of the county assessor and councilmen representing even numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1971, have qualified and have commenced their terms of office. The terms of office of the county executive and councilmen representing odd numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1973, have qualified and have commenced their terms of office.

Section 960. Compensation.

The councilmen and county assessor who take office on their effective date of this charter shall receive during their first term

of office under this charter the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners and county assessors, respectively. The county executive who takes office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during his first term of office under this charter one and one-half times the compensation paid to a councilman. Thereafter all compensation shall be established by the county council by ordinance.

Section 970. The Personnel System.

970.10. Personnel Board Members.

The original members of the personnel board shall be appointed and confirmed or elected by June 1, 1969. The appointed members shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a five year term, one for a four year term, one for a three year term and one for a two year term; and the member elected by the members of the career service shall be elected for one year. Thereafter, any new appointment or election, except to fill out an unexpired term, shall be for a five year term.

970.20. Effective Date.

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

970.30. Elective County Officers.

Every elected county officer except a county commissioner whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the rate of compensation as specified by general law for the office which he held on the effective date of this charter until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter; and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative position covered by the career service subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.40 County Employees.

A non-elective county officer or employee employed by the county on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to a similar position covered by the career service for which he is qualified subject to all of the personnel rules including those concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed without just cause prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to a position covered by the career service similar to that in which he was employed on

June 1, 1968. A non-elective county officer or employee employed on or before June 1, 1968, in a position which is not covered by the career service on the effective date of the personnel system shall have the right to be appointed to a position which is covered by the career service which is as nearly comparable as possible to the position which he is then holding on the effective date of the personnel system when he is removed from that position subject to all of the rules of the personnel system including rules concerning compulsory retirement but excluding the rules concerning initial appointment.

970.50. Sheriff's Civil Service System.

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the effective date of the personnel system. At the end of the two year period, the county council may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel system established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the county council shall not be applied so as to decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent permitted by the state constitution and general law; and, if a personnel rule cannot be applied to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system, the county council may adopt special rules which will apply only to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system.

Section 980. Board of Appeals.

The original members of the board of appeals shall be appointed

and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following terms: two for a four year term, two for a three year term, two for a two year term and one for a one year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a four year term.

Section 990. Transition.

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter holding office on April 30, 1969, shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All boards and commissions whose functions have not been transferred by this charter to another agency of county government established by this charter shall continue to function for one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this charter, at the end of which time they are hereby abolished unless re-established or continued by ordinance. All ordinances, resolutions and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

# Charter No. 38

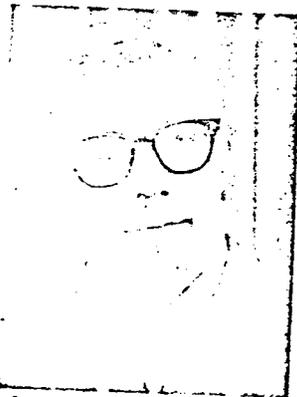
by Paul R. Meyer

The framework for home rule in Washington State is established by the 21st amendment to the state constitution. The constitution establishes the limits for local autonomy:

Any county may frame a "home rule" charter for its own government subject to the constitution and laws of this state. . . . Such proposed charter . . . shall become the charter of said county and shall become the organic law thereof and supersede any existing charter including amendments thereto, or any existing form of county government and all special laws inconsistent with such charter.

The home rule charter adopted November 5, 1968,

*Paul R. Meyer works in Olympia as a consultant to the state Department of Health. He served as executive secretary to the King County freeholders. Prior to his assignment with the freeholders, he was assistant executive secretary for the Washington State Association of County Commissioners in Olympia. Meyer was a member of the 1961 Ford Foundation Project staff which studied the Seattle metropolitan region for potential areas of change.*



by the citizens of King County, Wash., a metropolitan area containing roughly 1,200,000 people is the "38th" to be adopted in the country. Seven other counties which adopted home rule charters that same day could also claim to be No. 38.

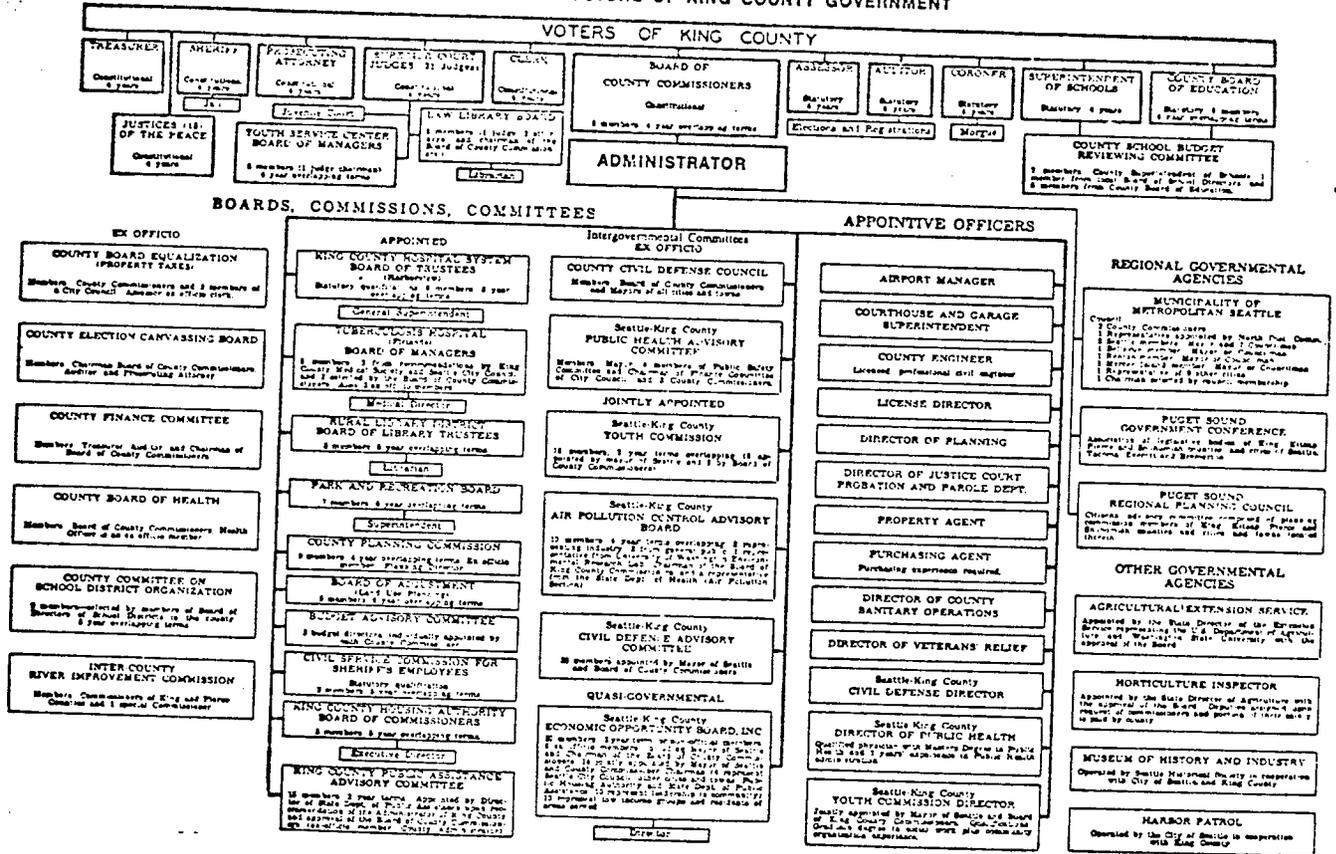
The King County charter continues the trend of recent charters which have incorporated the elected chief executive. Just as charters passed in counties like Nashville-Davidson, Tenn.; Jacksonville-Duval, Fla.; Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties, Md.; and Honolulu, Hawaii, have had an influence in shaping the charter form in Washington, the King County charter will be a guide in shaping subsequent charters in other counties in Washington and perhaps other states.

Already this is becoming quite evident. Snohomish County, an urban county bordering King County to the north, started to develop a charter several months after King. Snohomish County's first draft, of its charter, includes an elected chief executive.

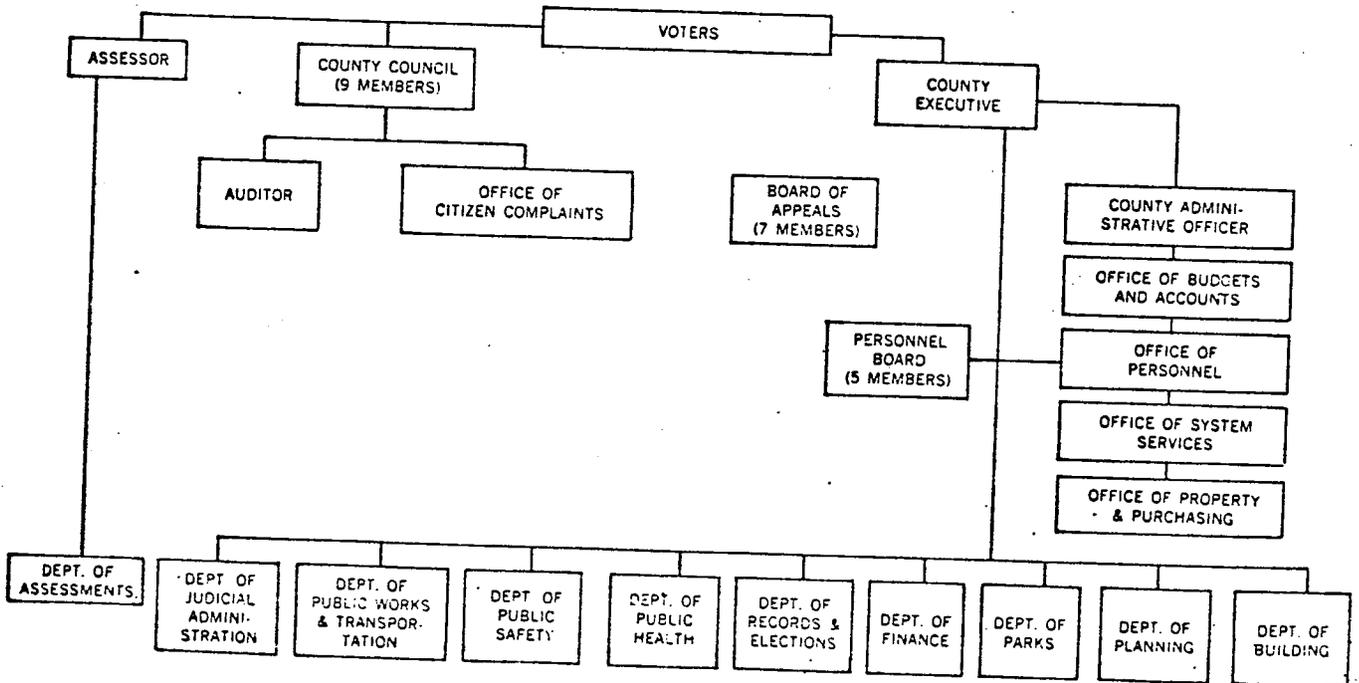
## Preparation

The preparation of the home rule charter in King County was the result of 15 elected freeholders (those charged with the responsibility of preparing and proposing a document and required to have lived in the county at least five years) working intensively over a ten-month period, beginning in December, 1967, through September, 1968. The freeholders recognized the need to take the best of local political and administrative tradition and fuse it

### FORMER STRUCTURE OF KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT



### HOME RULE CHARTER STRUCTURE



with emerging forms of government into a document which would be acceptable to the electorate and point a new direction for county government in Washington.

The adoption of the charter last November was the second attempt in Washington to bring home rule to county government. Two years after the enabling provisions were added to the constitution in 1948, a petition campaign was initiated in Seattle to elect a charter-writing body. A charter was presented to the voters in 1952 and was defeated by almost a two-to-one majority.

### Constitutional Exclusions

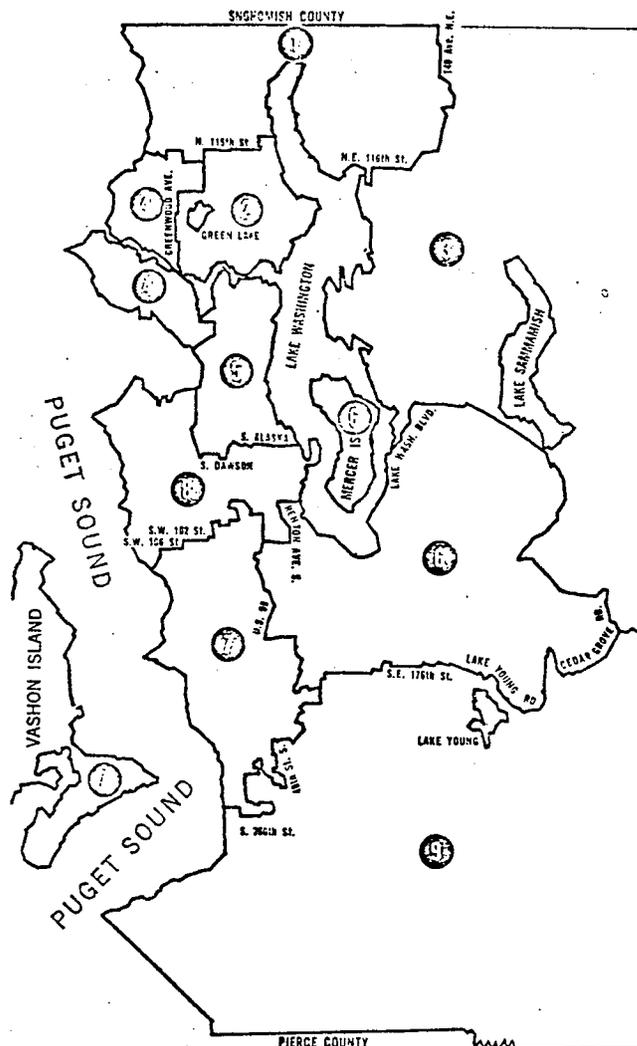
The earlier charter proposed an appointive executive, an appointive assessor, a legislative body elected at large, and the establishment of a legal department. The home rule amendment to the constitution excludes the offices of prosecuting attorney, superintendent of schools, and judges of the superior and justice courts from being altered by the charter. These offices are all elected in Washington.

Some lawyers contend that the words used in the constitution only mean that the office must remain elective, but the duties can be changed. The prosecuting attorney has both civil and criminal responsibility. Those who were responsible for drafting the 1952 charter assumed that the civil duties of the prosecuting attorney could be placed under the executive and did just that. The upshot was the forceful opposition of the King County prosecuting attorney. The same individual still serves as prosecuting attorney and indicated to a number of people that if the 1968 freeholders attempted to tamper with his office or duties, he would mobilize his deputies just as he had done in 1952 by giving hundreds of speeches throughout the county in opposition to the charter.

### Political Power

It is interesting to note the impact one politically powerful individual can have on the outcome of a new system of government. In many counties the prosecuting attorney serves not only as a legal counsel to all county departments but to the executive as well. In Washington, with the traditional three elected commissioners who set policy, the prosecuting attorney is sometimes referred to as the "fourth commissioner."

In discussing the King County charter and what made it possible to have it passed by a 62 per cent majority of the voters, it is difficult to ignore some of the courthouse in-fighting which went on during the document's preparation. Along with the support of the major newspapers, television stations, community leaders, and civic organizations, the quiet victories of overcoming the harassment from within contributed to the eventual success.



POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS OF KING COUNTY

Budgetary control is often used to maintain direction of an effort. Had the King County freeholders known when they began to meet that the courthouse employee groups and a number of elected county officials would oppose the charter, they would have been more careful in establishing a separate and distinct appropriation of funds. This was not done; consequently, funds to pay staff salaries and obtain equipment and supplies were on a catch-as-catch-can basis. The net effect was delay after delay.

### Subtle Opposition

It became apparent that a pattern of subtle opposition had developed. Minimal or below-standard (based on what regular county departments were receiving) equipment and service were provided to the freeholder staff. Supplies and services took weeks to obtain, and then only after numerous complaints and meetings with those responsible. It was more than the usual bureaucratic inefficiency.

The inability of the freeholders to maintain frequent contact with the public through the telephone is one prime example of a service which caused

some concern. The telephone trunk lines coming into the courthouse exchange were frequently busy. A separate direct line seemed the only answer, and at an additional modest cost, the communication capability of the staff would have been greatly enlarged. Judging from the difficulty of obtaining approval for the service, one would have thought that the request was for a \$1,000,000 hook-up to the telephone satellite!

### In-house Sabotage

With this kind of in-house sabotage, little time or energy was left to the main job at hand, that of preparing a home rule charter. If other county charter efforts have been hampered like King County's, by the opposing forces, it is no wonder that only 45 charters have been adopted country-wide.

In overcoming controls as an attempt to defeat or emasculate a charter, another major factor in a successful effort is the freedom to choose independent legal counsel. Prior to the election of the board of King County freeholders in November, 1967, the prosecuting attorney had requested an increase in

his budget to accommodate an additional lawyer who would be assigned to the freeholders as a special deputy under the prosecutor. Washington law provides that any county officer who wishes to have his own legal counsel apart from the prosecutor's office must petition the superior court and request permission. One of the county commissioners who had been elected in 1966 on a platform to bring home rule to King County saw the liability of allowing the prosecutor to have such control and was able to have the increase eliminated from his budget and open the way for the freeholders to contract later for independent legal counsel.

The upshot was the realization by the freeholders that the \$42,200 which had been promised for staff services and supplies might never be provided. With this as a distinct possibility, the freeholders demanded that a separate budget be established which could be drawn upon without going through so many devious maneuvers and various funds for support. This was accomplished in five months, or halfway through the charter-writing period.

Opposition to the charter came primarily from courthouse employee groups, the labor unions, and

---

## King County's New Charter

by James A. Metcalf

King County's voters on November 5, 1968, overwhelmingly (by a 62 per cent affirmative vote) adopted a home rule charter, revamping the county government structure in one of the most far-reaching developments in Washington local government in decades. The charter's success, regarded by most local government observers as a true test of feasibility of reforming county government is of statewide significance. The charter may well provide the impetus for other populous counties in the state to take advantage of the 20-year-old constitutional amendment which grants home rule to counties.

The charter will go into effect May 1, 1969. Primary elections in February and a general election in March elected six "county councilmen" who will serve with the three incumbent commissioners on a nine-man legislative board. Each county councilman will be nominated and elected by the voters of each district to four-year terms. A county executive ran at large throughout the county.

The charter primarily provides for a definite sepa-

ration of legislative and executive powers of county officials. The council will be a legislative branch only, prohibited by the charter from injecting itself into the administrative process. The county executive may veto county council legislation, and any such veto may be overturned by two-thirds of the council. The county executive, with the advice and consent of the council, will appoint a county administrative officer.

### Elected Officials

The charter eliminates all other elected officials except the assessor. Constitutional provisions, however, require the continued election of the prosecuting attorney, the superintendent of schools and the superior and justice court judges. It also gives King County citizens the right of initiative and referendum, processes not available to them before. Another provision establishes an "ombudsman" office to serve in a citizen complaint center.

The wide approval of the charter indicates an acceptance by the general public of the need to change governmental structures in rapidly urbanizing western Washington. This success may well spur additional efforts to provide alternate forms of achieving home rule status.

---

*James A. Metcalf is the publications director of the Washington State Association of County Commissioners.*

conservative political factions. The conservative elements of both the Democratic and Republican parties in King County showed subtle opposition to the charter. When the central Democratic committee met to consider whether it would endorse the charter and consequently give approval for precinct committee workers to hand out charter literature, two powerful long-time Democrats walked out of the meeting to prevent a quorum for a vote, though a majority of the Democrats present favored endorsing the charter. A similar situation existed in the Republican central committee, but rather than bring the issue to a vote, the Republicans chose not to take action.

In Washington the only charter development process available is through the election of freeholders. Those elected receive no compensation except for travel expenses and meals, and their offices terminate when the charter is completed. The election of freeholders would normally be a non-partisan activity. With strong interest in reform of county government long before the freeholder election, many candidates spoke at community clubs, feature articles began to appear in newspapers, and television programs about charter efforts were shown. This activity resulted in over 100 candidates filing for the 15 positions in 1967, which would normally be considered an off-election year.

Not fully known until the time of the filing, several of those later elected to the freeholder board were planning campaigns for higher office. Three of the 15 who were elected had formerly been members of the Washington State legislature. In addition to working on the charter, one member launched a campaign for congress and another attempted to become executive secretary to King County's central Republican committee.

### Politically Sophisticated

In all, those elected were a politically sophisticated group. Their decisions throughout the deliberations were made with an awareness of what kind of charter would be acceptable to the electorate. Testimony found throughout the freeholder records shows that the community wanted a county government which was responsive to the will of the people and subject to political pressure brought to bear upon its leaders. This is probably one reason why the assessor was not made an appointive office; the executive was elected; the legislative body was selected by district rather than at large; an office of ombudsman was created; and offices were filled on a partisan basis. The political feedback indicated that the community would not accept a charter which was not politically sensitive.

Community feedback was determined through public forums. Throughout the 55 formal meetings held by the board of freeholders, all sessions were open—no executive meetings were held. Subjects

to be aired at the public forums were announced beforehand through the news media and letters mailed to community organizations. Major subject discussions were selected for presentation at the forums. For example, one discussion focused on the chief executive, another on the legislative branch, another on personnel, and still another on the administrative arrangement of services. Collectively, the freeholders provided a great deal of exposure to the public. Just as the study of charters in other states provided a background, the testimony of the citizens reflected many alternatives. Altogether some 250 hours were spent reflecting upon the research material gathered by the staff and testimony accumulated through forums and public hearings.

### Subcommittees

During the course of deliberations and study, several attempts were made to divide the freeholders into subcommittees which would study various aspects of the county system in greater detail. These efforts were resisted for fear that a minority of the freeholders would attempt to hamper the charter efforts by delaying subcommittee reports. In the early months of preparation several members indicated opposition to making any sweeping changes in the form and were alien to the idea of eliminating elective offices. Also, a minority report and alternate proposals presented to the voter were both distinct possibilities. Because of the risk of division from within, the only use of subcommittees was to select the staff and work out a districting plan.

### Community Participation

The charter movement had been borne on a wave of community participation. During the course of preparing the charter numerous organizations asked for speakers to report the progress of the work. Newspapers and television stations were liberal in the time they devoted to the charter. One factor which contributed to this was that the freeholders chose to conduct all matters in open session. How much this resulted in witnesses being reluctant to talk freely is hard to determine. It could not have had too much of an effect, because in one instance, an appointed county official admitted candidly that his office should be abolished by the charter.

Any account of how the King County charter was prepared would not be complete without mentioning the contribution made by John A. Donaho of Baltimore. His work with the King County government included a thorough management study conducted in 1958 and a limited one in 1967. The freeholders asked him to meet with them. Donaho visited Seattle during the early fact-gathering period and met again with the staff and freeholders to critique a preliminary draft. His major contributions in shaping the final document were in the areas of personnel, budget procedures, and financial safeguards.



# A Synopsis

The Washington Constitution recognizes that citizens in a county may adopt their own constitutional document (in the words of the constitution—a "Home Rule Charter") to provide for the organization and operation of their county government.

The present state legislation concerning county government is applied essentially to all of the 39 counties in the State. A form of county government which is suitable for some of the smaller counties is not necessarily appropriate for King County, which has a population larger than 15 states.

By adopting and periodically amending their own charter, the voters of the county can create and maintain a form of government for the changing needs of the county.

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The charter provides for increased citizen participation by (1) requiring that the council provide notice of public hearings before adopting ordinances; (2) requiring that all council held public meetings be open to the press and the public and by providing that a verbatim record be kept of the discussion and the votes; (3) making available for the first time at the county level procedures for initiative and referendum; (4) providing for the nomination and election of the councilmen from districts of equal population; (5) providing for the establishment of an office of citizens' complaints; and (6) providing the continuation that county records shall be open to public inspection.

The charter provides that the councilmen shall be nominated and elected by districts and that the county executive and county assessor are to be nominated and elected at large. The terms of office of all elected officers are four years. The elections will be partisan, but the Charter permits independents to run for county office without seeking to be the candidate of one of the major political parties.

The charter requires that the councilmen districts be redistricted every five years to keep them approximately equal in population. Failure to redistrict will result in forfeiture by the councilmen of one-half of their pay.

The charter prohibits county employees from contributing to or being asked to contribute to anyone seeking election to a county office, and requires all candidates to reveal the amount and source of their campaign funds.

## BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY:

The charter requires that the annual budget of the county be balanced and establishes a system for controlling the expenditure of funds to provide for efficient administration and to prevent deficits.

## SEPARATION OF POWERS:

The charter provides for the separation of legislative and executive powers. These powers are presently combined in the Board of King County Commissioners. When the same body is responsible for both adopting and implementing ordinances, both functions may frequently suffer. The legislative powers are held by the nine-member county council. The council exercises its legislative powers by adopting ordinances after holding public hearings. The council also selects a county auditor who is responsible for auditing the expenditures and the performance of the executive branch.

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

The executive branch is headed by the county executive, who is elected by the voters of the county, and he is assisted by a county administrative officer who is appointed on the basis of his professional qualifications. The charter establishes the initial departments and offices of the executive branch, but it provides that the council may establish new departments and reorganize the executive branch as the needs of the county change.

## BOARD OF APPEALS:

The charter creates a seven-member board of appeals to hear assessment appeals, appeals concerning a zoning variance or conditional use permit, and other matters assigned to it by ordinance. The charter requires these appeals to be conducted in a judicial manner with the right of all participants to present evidence and witnesses and examine opposing witnesses.

## PERSONNEL SYSTEM:

The charter establishes a career service to insure that county employees will be hired, promoted and replaced on the basis of merit. A personnel board will hear appeals concerning the application of the system. Only department heads, their assistants and confidential secretaries are exempted from the system.



PART I

SEE I

M I N U T E S

AND RECORDS .

OF THE

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

December 5, 1967

through

December 11, 1968

1/4/20-21

## Freeholders Seek Budget of \$60,000+

The King County Board of Freeholders, elected to draft a proposed county charter for submission to the voters, last night approved a preliminary budget request of more than \$60,000 to finance its operations.

However, the freeholders made it clear that, while they will ask the Board of County Commissioners for a budgetary appropriation of about that amount, they don't intend to spend all the money.

If office space and equipment are provided by the county, the amount would be reduced considerably, Jack M. Geoffroy, chairman of the Housekeeping Committee, reported.

**THE PROPOSED** budget would provide about \$22,000 to hire a director and a secretary, about \$20,000 to hire an attorney, and a \$20,000 contingency fund.

The freeholders also voted to request an additional \$10,000 for printing the proposed charter.

In another action the freeholders elected Richard B. Albrecht permanent chairman, Simon Wampold vice chairman and Mrs. Virginia Gunby secretary. The three had been named temporarily to those posts at the previous meeting.

**THE BOARD** adopted a set of rules and bylaws presented by Wampold, an attorney, voting down a number of amendments pro-

posed by a minority group headed by Don McDonald and Robert Eberle.

The rules provide that the freeholders can adopt a charter for submission to the voters by a majority vote of the entire 15 members of the board. The amendments voted down would have required a two-thirds vote of the members.

It was argued that it would be a mistake to enable just six freeholders to stymie the whole undertaking.

**BACKING** Wampold, freeholder Norman Ackley declared:

"A two-third vote requirement would make things very difficult for ourselves. To say at the outset that we should restrict ourselves — put chains on ourselves — would be a mistake."

Also overridden was an objection that Wampold's rules made the chairman a virtual "dictator." Wampold explained the rules gave the membership the power to overrule the chairman.

The next meeting was set for 7:30 p.m. January 10 in Room 402, King County Courthouse.

The freeholders announced that they intend to go out into the county to hold some of their future meetings so that residents of all parts of the county will be able to attend and voice their views.

1-10-20-21

## Freeholder Meet Off

The King County Freeholders' meeting scheduled for tonight in the County Courthouse has been postponed until further notice.

Freeholder committee chairman, Richard Albrecht, said information needed from King County Commissioners for the meeting had "not been forthcoming."

The 15 freeholders — elected last November — will draft a King County charter to be approved or rejected at the polls.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
Organizational Meeting  
December 5, 1967

John O'Brien, Chairman of the Board of King County Commissioners, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 402, King County Courthouse. Present: Freeholders Ackley, Albrecht, Block, Bothell, Curran, Eberle, Friedlander, Geoffroy, Gunby, McDonald, McKenna, North, O'Connor, Schneider and Wampold. Commissioners O'Brien and Spellman welcomed the newly elected officials.

I.        ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES

Mr. Block moved the temporary rules of the organization be Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. McDonald moved to amend that Robert's Rules of Order be adopted as the permanent rules of the organization. There was no second to the proposed amendment. The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

II.       ELECTION OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS

Temporary Chairman

Mr. O'Connor proposed that the first order of business under these rules is the election of a temporary Chairman.

Richard Albrecht and Paul Friedlander were nominated for the position of Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Curran moved that the election be by written ballot. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

At the request of Commissioner O'Brien, Mr. Hammond and Mr. Bosserman tallied the vote; nine votes were cast for Mr. Albrecht and six for Mr. Friedlander.

Mr. Albrecht was congratulated by Commissioner O'Brien and assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Temporary Vice Chairman

Simon Wampold was nominated for the position of temporary vice chairman. It was moved, seconded and carried that the temporary secretary, when elected, cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Wampold.

Temporary Secretary

Virginia Gunby and Lois North were nominated for the position of temporary secretary. At the request of Mr. Albrecht, Mr. Bosserman tallied the vote; ten votes were cast for Mrs. Gunby and four votes were cast for Mrs. North.

III. TEMPORARY ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Block moved that the Chairman appoint a temporary Committee to prepare permanent rules and organizational framework after receiving individual recommendations from all 15 Freeholders. The Committee will propose rules and organization of Freeholders at the next meeting. Unanimously approved.

Temporary Chairman Albrecht appointed temporary Vice Chairman Wampold, Chairman with members Don McDonald, Norman Ackley, and Lois North. Chairman Albrecht will sit with the Committee.

IV. NEXT MEETING

Following a brief discussion of recommended meeting times, Mr. Wampold moved the next meeting time be Wednesday, January 3, 1968 at 7:30 p.m., Room 402, King County Courthouse. Mr. Friedlander wished to be placed on record that he would not be able to attend the January 3 meeting. He asked that the meeting time not be changed for him. Motion carried. A room reservation was placed on the Courthouse calendar.

V. TEMPORARY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

Motion by Mr. Wampold that a Fact-Finding Committee be appointed to investigate and gather information on budget, office, staff and other housekeeping needs. This Committee would meet with the Board of County Commissioners in an informal fact-finding discussion and report back at the next regular meeting. Unanimously approved. Temporary Chairman Albrecht appointed Mr. Geoffroy Chairman, with members Mr. McKenna, Mrs. Gunby and Mr. Schneider. Mr. Albrecht will meet with this Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wampold asked that all Freeholders communicate with him before December 11th so that the Temporary Organizational Committee can incorporate everyone's

ideas into the proposed rules and organization.  
Meeting time preferences or conflicts should be  
included in this information.

Mr. Block moved for adjournment. The motion was unanimously  
carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*

Virginia Gunby  
Temporary Secretary

*Approved 1-3-67 as mailed -*

A G E N D A

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

January 3, 1968 - 7:30 P.M.  
Room 402, King County Courthouse

1. ✓ Call to Order. 7:40-
2. ✓ Roll call.
3. ✓ Minutes of December 5, 1967 meeting.
4. ✓ Report of Committee on Rules and Organization.
5. ✓ Election of Officers. *Block - Temp officers permanent  
Freeholder Records - 10 -  
3 nos*
6. ✓ Report of Committee on Budget, Staff and Housekeeping. - *Submit in proper form -  
Discussion -*
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting. - *Wed - 7:30 -  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup>*
8. Discussion of Subject Matter and Procedure for next several meetings. -
9. Other New Business.
10. Adjournment.

MINUTES  
BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
January 3, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, temporary chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in Room 402, King County Courthouse.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders were present except Messrs. Ackley, McKenna and Schneider. Mr. Ackley arrived at 8 p.m. Mrs. Lee Arbuthnot, an employee of the County Planning Department, was present to record the minutes for the meeting.

3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the organizational meeting held December 5, 1967, were distributed to all members prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections and the minutes were approved as distributed.

4. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORGANIZATION.

Mr. Wampold, Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Organization, presented a report concurred in by a majority of that committee. Mr. Wampold moved adoption of the rules and bylaws as distributed by the Rules Committee to the Freeholders, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Eberle moved that the rules and bylaws proposed by the Rules Committee be amended in accordance with the "Proposed Amendments to the Rules and Bylaws, by the Minority" distributed to the Freeholders by Mr. McDonald, a member of the Rules Committee.

QUESTION: On amending the rules and bylaws.

Vote: For - three  
Against - nine  
Present and not voting - one  
Absent - two

The motion to amend failed.

QUESTION: On the adoption of the rules and bylaws submitted by the Rules Committee.

Vote: For - nine  
Against - three  
Present and not voting - one  
Absent - two

Rules and bylaws adopted as submitted.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Block moved that the temporary officers of the Board of Freeholders become the permanent officers.

QUESTION: On election of officers.

Vote: For - ten  
Against - three  
Absent - two

The temporary officers were elected as permanent officers of the Board.

6. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, STAFF AND HOUSEKEEPING.

Mr. Geoffroy, Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Staff and Housekeeping, presented a report and distributed to the Freeholders the recommendations of his committee, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Geoffroy reported that two members of the committee who were absent from this meeting had seen the report and concurred in it.

Mr. Geoffroy moved that the Board of Freeholders approve the report of budgetary requirements as set forth in the memorandum from the Housekeeping Committee, dated December 22, 1967, and authorize the committee to forward these requirements to the Board of King County Commissioners in such form as the Commissioners require; further that the Board of King County Commissioners be urged to act expeditiously and favorably upon this report.

Mr. Wampold moved to strike the words "minimum and maximum" on page 2 of the report and to delete the entire column of figures appearing under the word "minimum."

QUESTION: On the amendment proposed by Mr. Wampold.

Vote: For - eleven  
Against - two  
Absent - two

Report of Budget Committee so amended.

Mr. Wampold moved to amend the Budget Committee report by insertion of an item numbered 7 for travel expenses of \$10,000. After a brief discussion the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Wampold and by Mr. Block, who had seconded it.

Mr. McDonald moved to delete items 2(a) (director) and 2(b) (secretary to freeholders) and item 4 (attorney's services) from the report of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Eberle moved that the question be divided to consider the deletion of item 4 separately. The division of the question was agreed upon by general consent.

QUESTION: On the amendment of the Budget Committee's report by deleting items 2(a) and 2(b).

Vote: For - four  
Against - nine  
Absent - two

Motion to amend by deleting items 2(a) and 2(b) failed.

QUESTION: On the amendment of the Budget Committee's report by deleting item 4.

Vote: For - two  
Against - eleven  
Absent - two

Motion to amend by deleting item 4 failed.

Mr. O'Connor moved that the Budget Committee report be amended by eliminating one of the two secretaries.

QUESTION: On Mr. O'Connor's motion.

Vote: For - seven  
Against - six  
Absent - two

Motion to amend carried and report amended by deleting provision for one of two secretaries.

Moved by Mr. Ackley that item 5 (employment of consultant or consultant firm) be deleted from the report of the Budget Committee.

QUESTION: On the amendment of the report of the Budget Committee by deleting item 5.

Vote: For - seven  
Against - six  
Absent - two

Amendment carried and report amended by deleting item 5.

Mr. Friedlander moved that item 6 (contingency fund) be increased to \$20,000.

Mr. Ackley moved that the motion to amend be amended to make the contingency fund figure \$10,000.

QUESTION: On the amendment to the motion to amend proposing a \$10,000 contingency fund.

Vote: For - five  
Against - seven  
Absent - two

Amendment to motion to make the contingency fund amount \$10,000 failed.

QUESTION: On the amendment of the report of the Budget Committee making the contingency fund amount \$20,000.

Vote: For - nine  
Against - four  
Absent - two

Amendment passed and report amended to make contingency fund amount \$20,000.

Mr. Block moved that a new item 5 be inserted to provide for printing of the final report of the Board in the amount of \$10,000.

QUESTION: On amendment of the Budget Committee report by inserting a new item 5 for printing costs in the amount of \$10,000.

Vote: For - eight  
Against - five  
Absent - two

Amendment passed and report amended to insert new item 5 for printing costs of \$10,000.

QUESTION: On Mr. Geoffroy's main motion and adoption of the report as amended.

Vote: For - ten  
Against - three  
Absent - two

Report adopted as amended and committee directed to proceed as outlined in main motion.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

A discussion was held concerning future meetings of the Board of Freeholders. It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 1968, at 7:30 p.m., Room 402, King County Courthouse.

The Chairman will attempt to arrange a meeting for Saturday morning, January 13, 1968, for the purpose of orientation sessions with some county officials.

The Chairman was requested to prepare a suggested calendar for Freeholder meetings several months in advance for consideration at the next meeting.

8. SUBJECT MATTER AND PROCEDURE FOR NEXT MEETING.

It was generally agreed that staff procurement and implementation of the budget should be considered at the next meeting.

9. OTHER NEW BUSINESS.

Mrs. Gunby distributed up-to-date lists of King County officials and an annotated bibliography on county reorganization to all present.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

# Freeholders Meet and Discuss Bylaws for Group

Thirteen of the 15 King County freeholders, seated at the table, took a break from a debate over by-laws. From left were Mrs. Lois North, Robert J. Block, Richard R. Albrecht (chairman), Jack Geoffrey, Paul S. Friedlander, Mrs. Virginia K. Gundy, Mrs. Leo Arbutnot (board secretary), Robert Eberle, James P. Curran, Howard E. Boinell, James N. O'Connor, Simon Wampold and Don McDonald. Absent from the meeting Wednesday evening in the Courthouse were Terry McKenna and Lyle R. Schneider. The freeholders are drafting a county charter.

TERRY MCKENNA

LYLE R. SCHNEIDER

BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEHOLDERS

Preliminary conclusions of "Housekeeping Committee",  
for discussion with County Budget Directors

- 1) Office space requirements:
  - a. Suitable space for a minimum staff of 3, as detailed in No. 2 below.
  - b. Location in Courthouse desired; if space is not available in Courthouse, then next preference is for an office in a building in close proximity to the Courthouse
- 2) Staff requirements:
  - a. Executive director -- skilled in research technique, and a capable administrator.
  - b. A secretary for the director
  - c. A secretary for the freeholders -- able to handle minutes; meeting notices; service to various committees; tasks assigned by the Chairman; etc.
- 3) Office equipment and supplies requirements:
  - a. Standard items of equipment, such as -- 3 desks; 2 typewriters; dictating equipment; 3 chairs for staff, plus 2 for visitors; file cabinet; staplers; desk calendars; rulers, scissors, etc.
  - b. Tape recorder -- for use at freeholders meetings and for public hearings.
  - c. Duplicating facilities, if not available through some office of the County.
  - d. Initial outfit of stationery and supplies -- letterheads, envelopes, carbon paper, etc., plus continuous purchase of consumed items.
- 4) Attorney:
  - a. Retain services of outside counsel, or hire an attorney as an employee.
  - b. Attorney must work closely with the executive director, as the director will be expected to handle the bulk of the research and the compilation of all items except those involving legal issues.
- 5) Employment of a consultant or consulting firm:
  - a. The Housekeeping Committee is aware of the broad range of services available from individual consultants or consulting firms.
  - b. The Committee is recommending that a consultant or consulting firm be employed for only 2 specific tasks, as follows:
    - 1) To develop a reconnaissance report -- review existing King County government -- outline general problems which appear to exist -- suggest areas for the freeholders to consider -- suggest methodology -- compile bibliography. (John Donaho estimates the compilation of a report of this nature would require a period of from 2 to 4 weeks.)
    - 2) Review of charter as produced by freeholders just prior to its approval in final form.
- 6) Contingency fund - this fund to be spent only under the order of a majority of the freeholders, for payment -- if required -- of such items as travel expenses of expert witnesses; rental for halls to hold hearings throughout county; etc.

7) Summary of range of estimated costs:

- a. This summary estimates that the freeholders will be in active operation for the 10-month period from mid-January, 1968, to mid-November, 1968. Cost estimate will vary if the period is shorter or longer.
- b. It should be noted that there should be no totalling of the costs listed below at this time, pending receipt of information from the County Budget Directors as to the extent of the services and facilities which can be supplied to the freeholders by the County.

c. <u>Item</u>	<u>Estimate for 10 months</u>	
	<u>-Minimum</u>	<u>-Maximum</u>
1) <u>Office, if provided by County</u>		
Office, if rented	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
2) <u>Staff</u>		
a) Director (range \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum)	12,500	16,666
b) Secretary to director	4,500	5,000
c) <del>Secretary to freeholders</del>	<del>4,500</del>	<del>5,000</del>
3) <u>Office equipment and supplies</u>		
a) 2 typewriters, rented @ \$25 per month	*	500
b) 3 desks, rented @ \$10 per month	*	300
c) Dictating equipment, rented @ \$25 per month	*	250
d) 5 chairs, rented @ \$3 per month	*	150
e) File cabinet, rented @ \$3 per month		30
f) Staplers, desk calendars, rulers, etc.	50	100
g) Tape recorder rental	100	150
h) Duplicating facilities rental (maximum figure assumes a photo copier also.)	*	200 to 500
i) Initial outfit of stationery and supplies	200	300
j) Ten months of supplies	250	500
4) <u>Attorney's services</u>	15,000	20,000
5) <u>Employment of a consultant or consulting firm</u>		
a) To prepare a reconnaissance report	2,400	5,000
b) To review charter before final adoption	1,500	2,500
6) Contingency fund	3,000	5,000

7/6

~~\$20,000~~  
\$10,00

5. Printing & Charter -

\* - These items may be available to the Freeholders on a loan basis from County

Submitted for the Housekeeping Committee:

*Jack Geoffroy*

Jack Geoffroy, Chairman  
Mrs. Virginia Gunby  
Terry McKenna  
Lyle R. Schneider

Hammond - Departmental

BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS  
King County, Washington

January 5, 1968

The Honorable John T. O'Brien, Chairman  
Board of King County Commissioners  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Commissioner O'Brien:

The Board of Freeholders at a regular meeting on January 3, 1968 adopted a resolution approving a budget and directing that it be submitted to the Board of King County Commissioners as a request for a budget for the operations of the Freeholders. The resolution urged that your Board act expeditiously and favorably upon this request.

A copy of the Freeholders' budget request is attached. It has been discussed in preliminary form with the County Budget Directors prior to its submission to the Freeholders. Although the budget is submitted as a series of items, we believe it is important that the Freeholders have an opportunity to discuss the total budget with your Board.

There is a sense of urgency to this request based upon the Freeholders' desire to be able to complete their work in time to submit a charter to the electorate during 1968. The Freeholders have scheduled their next meeting for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 10. We hope you can provide an opportunity for the designated members of the Board of Freeholders to meet with the Commissioners to discuss this request and answer your questions before our January 10 meeting.

We will attempt to arrange a meeting on short notice at the convenience of the Commissioners. My office telephone is Mutual 2-8770. If I am not available will you please contact Mr. Jack Geoffroy, Chairman of the Freeholders Budget and Housekeeping Committee, at Main 2-5060.

May we hear from you soon?

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman  
Board of Freeholders

RRA/kes  
Enc.

## BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEHOLDERS

### 1. Office space requirements:

- a. Suitable space for a minimum staff of 2, as detailed in No. 2 below.
- b. Location in Courthouse desired; if space is not available in Courthouse, then next preference is for an office in a building in close proximity to the Courthouse.

### 2. Staff requirements:

- a. Executive director - skilled in research technique, and a capable administrator.
- b. A secretary for the director and the freeholders - able to handle minutes; meeting notices; service to various committees; tasks assigned by the Chairman, etc.

### 3. Office equipment and supplies requirements:

- a. Standard items of equipment, such as desks, typewriters, dictating equipment, chairs for staff and visitors, file cabinet, staplers, desk calendars, rulers, scissors, etc.
- b. Tape recorder - for use at freeholders' meetings and for public hearings.
- c. Duplicating facilities, if not available through some office of the County.
- d. Initial outfit of stationery and supplies - letterheads, envelopes, carbon paper, etc., plus continuous purchase of consumed items.

### 4. Attorney:

Retain the services of outside counsel, or hire an attorney as an employee.

5. Printing:

Cost of printing proposed charter and final report.

6. Contingency fund:

This fund is to be spent only under the order of a majority of the Freeholders, for payment - if required - of such items as consultants' fees and services, travel expense of expert witnesses, extra secretarial help, rental for halls to hold hearings throughout county, and other necessary expenses unforeseen at this time.

BUDGET REQUEST

(Based upon assumption that the Freeholders will be in active operation for the 10-month period from mid-January, 1968, to mid-November, 1968. Cost estimates will vary if the period is shorter or longer.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
1. Office space	\$ 3,000	County Courthouse -
2. <u>Staff</u>		
a. Director (range \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum)	16,666	
b. Secretary	5,000	
3. <u>Office equipment and supplies</u>		
a. 2 typewriters, rented at \$25 per mo.	500	*
b. 3 desks, rented at \$10 per mo.	300	*
c. Dictating equipment, rented at \$25 per mo.	250	*
d. 5 chairs, rented at \$3 per mo.	150	*
e. File cabinet, rented at \$3 per mo.	30	*
f. Staplers, desk calendars, rulers, etc.	100	
g. Tape recorder rental	150	
h. Duplicating facilities rental (maximum figure assumes a photo copier also)	200 to 500	*
i. Initial outfit of stationery and supplies	300	
j. Ten months of supplies	500	
4. <u>Attorney's services</u>	20,000	
5. <u>Printing costs</u>	10,000	
6. <u>Contingency fund</u>	20,000	

77,666

\*Appropriation requested unless available to the Freeholders from existing County departments.

KING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
402 KING COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

RALPH R. STENDER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

January 23, 1968

Mr. Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman  
King County Freeholders  
1900 Washington Building  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

The 1968 Budget request for the administrative and operational needs of King County Freeholders' offices has been received and discussed with the Board of King County Commissioners.

After a thorough consideration of all budget items requested, and the availability of funds established in the 1968 Current Expense Budget, the following recommendations are made:

1. Office Space: Suitable space requirements have been allocated on the ninth floor of the King County Courthouse. This space will be made available immediately.
2. Staff Requirements: (a) An executive Secretary will be contracted for under existing funds. Freeholders recommendations for an individual or firm should be submitted.  
  
(b) Secretary's position is available under existing Budget funds.
3. Office Equipment and Supplies: The items listed in your request will be provided.
4. Attorney's Services: In compliance with the Prosecuting Attorney's Opinion dated January 17, 1968, provisions for Attorney's services will be considered when submitted.

5. Printing Costs: Any printing costs in connection with Charter preparations will be provided under existing facilities.
6. Contingency Fund: Necessary funds for consultants, expert witnesses and extra help will be provided upon request.

Expenditures under the various Budgetary items should not exceed:

Executive Secretary (10 months)	\$15,000
Secretary	5,700
Extra Help	2,500
Attorney	10,000
Printing	1,500
Advisory	7,500

Any additional expenditures required will be considered. <sup>42,200</sup>

Sincerely,



John E. Hammond, Chairman  
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

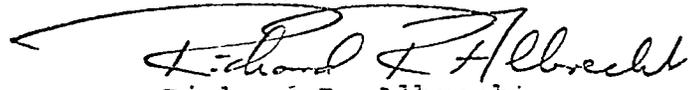
January 9, 1968

To: FREEHOLDERS

The County Commissioners have not had an opportunity to review the freeholders' budget request and discuss it with the budget committee. I have discussed the subject with those of you I was able to reach on the telephone today and the sentiment of most of those I reached was that we should not hold a meeting tomorrow evening unless we either had some report on budget and staff matters or could arrange a productive session with county officials or resource people to give us some background on the problems with which we will be dealing.

Because of the relatively short time available, I was unable to arrange a suitable alternative and I therefore propose that no meeting be held on Wednesday, January 10. I will still attempt to arrange an orientation meeting with some county officials for Saturday, January 13.

Yours very truly,

  
Richard R. Albrecht

BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS  
King County, Washington

AGENDA FOR JANUARY 10, 1968 MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Room 402,  
King County Courthouse

1. Call to order.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Report of budget and housekeeping committee.
4. Discussion of procedure to be followed in the hiring of staff.
5. Review and discussion of proposed meeting calendar and topics.
6. Other new business.
7. Adjournment.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a proposed tentative schedule of further Freeholder meetings as a starting point for discussion. Please let me know immediately if any of the January meetings present a serious problem, as we must arrange for meeting rooms and secretarial assistance soon.

- Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m. Informal meeting for orientation by county officials.
- Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m. (if necessary) For further action with respect to budget and staff, plus orientation by county officials.
- Saturday, January 20, 9 a.m. Informal meeting for orientation by county officials.
- Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m. Public hearing for discussion of county administrative procedures with county commissioners.
- Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m. Public hearing to discuss county administrative procedures with department heads.
- Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 p.m. Meeting to discuss administrative procedures and proposed changes which might be incorporated in charter.

January 10, 1968

TO: FREEHOLDERS

Arrangements have been made for an informal meeting of the Freeholders for Saturday forenoon, January 13, at room 402 of the King County Courthouse. It will be an informal meeting for the purpose of acquainting the Freeholders with the operation of several county departments. Arrangements have been made with the Clerk's office, the Assessor's office and the Auditor's office for a description of the functions performed by those offices and a review of how they are performed, together with a tour of the physical facilities of those departments.

The next formal meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m. with the following proposed agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of January 3 meeting
3. Report of budget and finance committee
4. Discussion of procedure for employing staff members
5. Discussion of future meeting schedule and meeting subjects
6. New business
7. Adjournment.

I hope each of you will make a real effort to attend on Saturday to get acquainted with these county departments.

Richard R. Albrecht

MINUTES  
BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
January 17, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. in Room 402, King County Courthouse.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders were present except Mr. Geoffroy. Mrs. Lee Arbuthnot, an employee of the County Planning Department, was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the January 3, 1968 meeting were approved as distributed. At the suggestion of Mr. Eberle, the Secretary was requested to attach to all future minutes an appendix depicting the vote of each Freeholder on each roll call vote.

4. BUDGET.

Mr. Albrecht reported that the Freeholders' budget request was on the agenda of the King County Commissioners for January 15, 1968. The Commissioners took the request under advisement and requested a meeting with the budget committee. This meeting was held on January 16. The Commissioners were generally responsive to the request of the Freeholders but no action has been taken on the request.

The meeting was informed of an opinion of the Prosecuting Attorney suggesting that counsel for the Freeholders might be provided by the Commissioners retaining a private attorney.

Mr. Wampold moved that consideration of an attorney for the Freeholders be deferred until the Commissioners have acted on the budget request.

QUESTION: On deferring consideration of the selection of an attorney.

Vote:           For     -     Fourteen  
                  Against -     None  
                  Absent -     One

5. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF.

Mr. Block moved that the Chairman be authorized to employ a secretary to the Freeholders at such time as the County Commissioners authorize a secretary.

QUESTION: On authorizing Chairman to employ a secretary.

Vote: For - Fourteen  
Against - None  
Absent - One

Mr. Block moved that the Chairman appoint a committee to interview applicants for the position of Executive Secretary.

QUESTION: On the appointment of an interviewing committee.

Vote: For - Twelve  
Against - Two  
Absent - One

The Chairman appointed the following to serve on that committee:

Albrecht, Wampold, Block, O'Connor, McKenna, Friedlander.

6. PROPOSED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FURTHER MEETINGS.

An informal discussion was held concerning further informal orientation meetings with County officials and heads of County Departments. A number of suggestions were made concerning additional departments to be contacted.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*  
Virginia Gunby, Secretary

MAR 10 1953

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

All About Politics Notes and Comment



By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Freeholders Eye Olympia?

Updating the Commissioners' Race

Briefly Noted

If Kenneth Rogstad, King County Republican chairman, has it right, four Valley-area freeholders may make a try for the upcoming legislative seats in their respective districts next fall.

These include Howard Bothell, Auburn car dealer, and Terry McKenna, Kent airline pilot, who are considering running for House seats in the 47th Legislative District, and Bob Eberle, a former legislator, who is considering either a try at the 41st Legislative District House race, or, possibly, challenging Brock Adams, Seventh District Democratic congressman.

Rogstad, despite his focus on the running battle he's had over the where, when, and who of Republican precinct caucuses, has been spending a considerable amount of time attempting to fill the Republican legislative ticket.

Besides freeholders interested in House seats, Rogstad reports several others eyeing the race in the Valley's three legislative districts. These include Art Krauser, former Republican area chairman, and Jim Atterbury, Boeing engineer, both of whom are considering the House race in the 30th District. In the 41st, George Clarke and Brian J. Lewis, Republican incumbents, are considering a try at the new senatorial seat due to be filled next fall. So far, Rogstad says, no other Republican except Eberle is on the horizon in the House.

Three other candidates besides Bothell and McKenna are reported to be considering the House race in the 47th District. These include James Topham, who ran previously; Hal Edgar, and Auburn insurance man, and Art Thompson, a Boeing engineer.

Democrats seem to be slower in lining up potential candidates. According to Jeanette Williams, County chairman, only one Democratic possibility has emerged in the 30th: Georgette Vally, a former Legislator, and, possibly Alva Long, Auburn Attorney. No Democrats have surfaced to challenge Republican control in the 41st or incumbent Democratic control in the 47th to date, she says....

The eagerness of a great many persons to file for freeholder — an unsalaried post with lots of work attached — could be explained, Ed Munro, Second District commissioner, wryly observed last week, as their interest in greater, political horizons. Makes sense since legislative seats are a traditional first step in political careers.

UPDATING THE COMMISSIONERS' RACE....

With Dave Mooney's fund-raising dinner due next weekend, the former Kent Mayor's campaign to wrest the Democratic nomination from Munro is off and running. So far, Mooney seems to be the only opposition to appear on either ticket. Rogstad is talking to possible challengers, but to date no Republican, apparently aware of Munro's smashing successful double-shirted dinner last month in Seattle, seems too eager to make the race.

MAR 10 1953

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

FOL. 931

Leave the Commissioners The Way They Are: O'Brien

John O'Brien, chairman of the Board of King County Commissioners, joined the parade of county officials appearing before the freeholders last week to discuss what they should do about his job. The group is engaged in writing a new county charter.

If he has his way (and his words were well-heeded Wednesday night) he'd leave things in the County Commissioners' office pretty much as they are.

In the process, he predicted it might be necessary to adopt a "Metro" approach to the problems of solving surface drainage — now plaguing many portions of the Valley floor.

Lamenting the failure of the Forward Thrust proposal to provide funds for storm drainage, O'Brien said the county has insufficient funds to handle the job that needs to be done... even with available funds from other governmental levels.

"It may not be another Metro as we now know it, but I believe we should explore the same type of basic regional approach to solving this urgent problem," O'Brien stated.

As for the job he's held for the past eight years, he has some pretty specific ideas as to how the freeholders should tackle it.

He believes no less than three commissioners (at present) and not more than five would be sufficient to handle the county's business... that they should be full-time officials elected county-wide and they should be elected on a partisan basis.

In fact, the former big league sports champ said, he is of the opinion all county offices except the clerk and superintendent of schools could and should be elected, including the coroner.

"There's always an element of politics in government... and making the elections non-partisan won't remove it," O'Brien, notably apolitical, stated. He did observe however, that he was of the belief there was not as much of the spoils system in King County politics as most people imagined, stating that he, a Republican, had on many occasions made long-service awards to county employees surviving at the Court House because of merit, not politics.

O'Brien said many of the administrative problems now concerning the three commissioners would be eliminated by

the arrival of John Porter, the county's newly-appointed administrator reporting for work April 1. Porter is likely to help O'Brien put into effect the latter's administrative reorganization plan announced several weeks ago.

Surprisingly, in view of the fact they are concerning themselves with the problem of how best to streamline the county's administrative functions, freeholders had little to say about the O'Brien plan other than to question him closely concerning his feelings of a larger board of commissioners with purely legislative functions. At present, the Board serves in executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial functions.

"I feel a larger board could result in individual commissioners protecting the interests of a particular segment of the county," he stressed. "As the board is presently constituted, I think all three commissioners work for the best interests of all the county despite the fact they are elected in the primaries from one specific district."

O'Brien said if he had his choice he would delegate some of the commissioners' present duties — including bid openings and rezoning appeals. As for the length of commissioners' terms he believed the present four year term was reasonable.

"Actually, that's not as long as it seems. When you're sitting there, it seems to come every two days," he quipped.

O'Brien noted there were at least 30 persons employed by King County who receive more than the \$15,000.

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

chairman, only one Democratic possibility has emerged in the 30th: Georgette Vally, a former Legislator, and, possibly Alva Long, Auburn Attorney. No Democrats have surfaced to challenge Republican control in the 41st or incumbent Democratic control in the 47th to date, she says....

The eagerness of a great many persons to file for freeholder — an unsalaried post with lots of work attached — could be explained. Ed Munro, Second District commissioner, wryly observed last week, as their interest in greater, political horizons. Makes sense since legislative seats are a traditional first step in political careers.

#### UPDATING THE COMMISSIONERS' RACE....

With Dave Mooney's fund-raising dinner due next weekend, the former Kent Mayor's campaign to wrest the Democratic nomination from Munro is off and running. So far, Mooney seems to be the only opposition to appear on either ticket. Rogstad is talking to possible challengers, but to date no Republican, apparently aware of Munro's smashingly successful double-shifted dinner last month in Seattle, seems too eager to make the race.

In the Central District, Rogstad still is optimistic, John O'Brien, board chairman, will run again, but insiders think the affable Commissioners has his eye on other things — among them, a possible connection with big-league sports. That is, after the new stadium is officially in the works and the big leagues have exercised their options. O'Brien is well liked among his Courthouse colleagues and would be a cinch to hold his seat if he decides he wants it after all.

Whether O'Brien is in the race or not, Democrats are eyeing possible candidates for their sides of the ticket, including, Charles (Streetcar) Carroll, a city councilman, who polled a staggering victory in Seattle's municipal elections; M. J. R. (Mel) Williams, county treasurer, who has established a reputation for deft handling of his county job; and James Dore, Seattle district judge. Dore has been mentioned as a Demo possibility for other spots in the past...whether he would make a try this time would probably depend on the opposition and available financing. Look for a possible surprise entry in the person of an aide on the Seattle municipal scene. It's under wraps now...but Seattle's Mayor Dorm Braman's decision on another term (chances are it's yes) will be a factor.

#### BRIEFLY NOTED.....

Robert Kull, Demo State Chairman, back tomorrow after spending last week in Washington, D.C., conferring with officials of the Democratic National Committee. For the record, this is first time in history the party picked up expenses for such a meeting of all the nation's state chairmen... John J. O'Connell Attorney General ended a long spell of no-speech fund-raising dinners ten days ago with a remarkably toned-down attack on the present administration. Some who've heard him in his more fiery moments hoped he'd open up...but the rapidly climbing John chose to play it cool.... Meanwhile, Gov Dan Evans, same place (Olympic Hotel Grand Ballroom) one week later, toolled up the campaign to an overflow crowd of Republicans. Among the out-of-state VIPs honoring Evans: Colorado's Gov. John Love, Republican County Chairman Rogstad's joint suit with three other county chairmen to revise the structure of the Republican State Central Committee gets an assist from across the aisle: He's retained the firm of Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, & Tausend. Tausend, incidentally, is one of the sparkplugs in the O'Connell campaign and a fast-rising young Democratic attorney.... Still hush-hush, insiders report the team of site consultants now at work to determine where the new stadium should be put favor not a location in downtown Seattle, nor the Valley, but, in all places, Factoria! Seattle minded members of the stadium commission might find themselves winding up refusing to take the recommendations of their expensive experts!

opinion all county offices except the clerk and superintendent of schools could and should be elected, including the coroner.

"There's always an element of politics in government. . .and making the elections non-partisan won't remove it," O'Brien, notably apolitical, stated. He did observe however, that he was of the belief there was not as much of the spoils system in King County politics as most people imagined, stating that he, a Republican, had on many occasions made long-service awards to county employees surviving at the Court House because of merit, not politics.

O'Brien said many of the administrative problems now concerning the three commissioners would be eliminated by

MAR 6 1968

# Ex-Dallas Man to Handle Freeholder Legal Tasks

A lawyer who came to Seattle four years ago from Dallas, Texas, will be recommended to the county Board of Freeholders tonight as the attorney to handle its legal responsibilities in drafting a new county charter.

He is John Strasburger, Bellevue, who was the unanimous choice of the freeholders' attorney-selection committee.

Strasburger, 30, is a member of the Seattle law firm of Short, Cressman & Cable. His selection, which is expected to be approved by the full group tonight, was a turnaround for Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll. Carroll had sought to preserve a degree of control over actions of

the freeholders through selection of an attorney of his own choosing — preferably a deputy prosecutor from his own staff or a former deputy.

The selection also was a surprise to all three county commissioners, each of whom had favorites waiting in the wings they probably would have pushed if they had been consulted.

Despite this, it is expected all three commissioners will concur in Strasburger's nomination, which is considered likely at tonight's meeting. Strasburger has not taken part in political activities since moving to Seattle.

Seattle, Wash.  
Shopping News  
(Cir. 2xW. 151,000)  
MAR 11 1968

Allan's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## A REPORT

2177  
The 15 King County freeholders have been meeting twice weekly to learn more about county government.

All major functions of the county have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county.

Building a base of knowledge about the existing operation of county government is as important as knowing what new form of government will work best. Included in the process of building a better system will be a visit to Multnomah County, Oregon, to study how Oregon's largest metropolitan center has fared with a year of home rule under its governmental belt.

The freeholders, at their last business meeting on February 28th, adopted a future work schedule which includes two community forums — the first to be held

on March 16th at the King County Courthouse, and the second on April 2nd at Bellevue's Public Library.

At the community forums, citizens of King County will be able to express their views to the freeholders about certain elements of the charter. The March 16th forum will concentrate on the legislative body, its size, composition, selection and duties.

Comments on other aspects of the charter will be encouraged, but persons appearing at the forum will be requested to concentrate on the legislative body and to submit written statements outlining their views on other matters.

The April 2nd forum will concentrate on the chief executive. Subjects to be considered at subsequent meetings will be announced later.

MAR 13 1968

Allan's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Community Forums Set By Freeholders

The 15 King County freeholders have been meeting twice weekly to learn more about county government.

All major functions of the city have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county.

Building a base of knowledge about the existing operation of county government is as important as knowing what new form of government will work best. Included in the process of building a better system will be a visit to Multnomah

County, Oregon, this coming Saturday, to study how Oregon's largest metropolitan center has fared with a year of home rule under its governmental belt.

The freeholders, at their last business meeting on February 28th, adopted a future work schedule which includes two community forums -- the first to be held on March 16th at the King County courthouse and the second on April 2nd at Bellevue's public library.

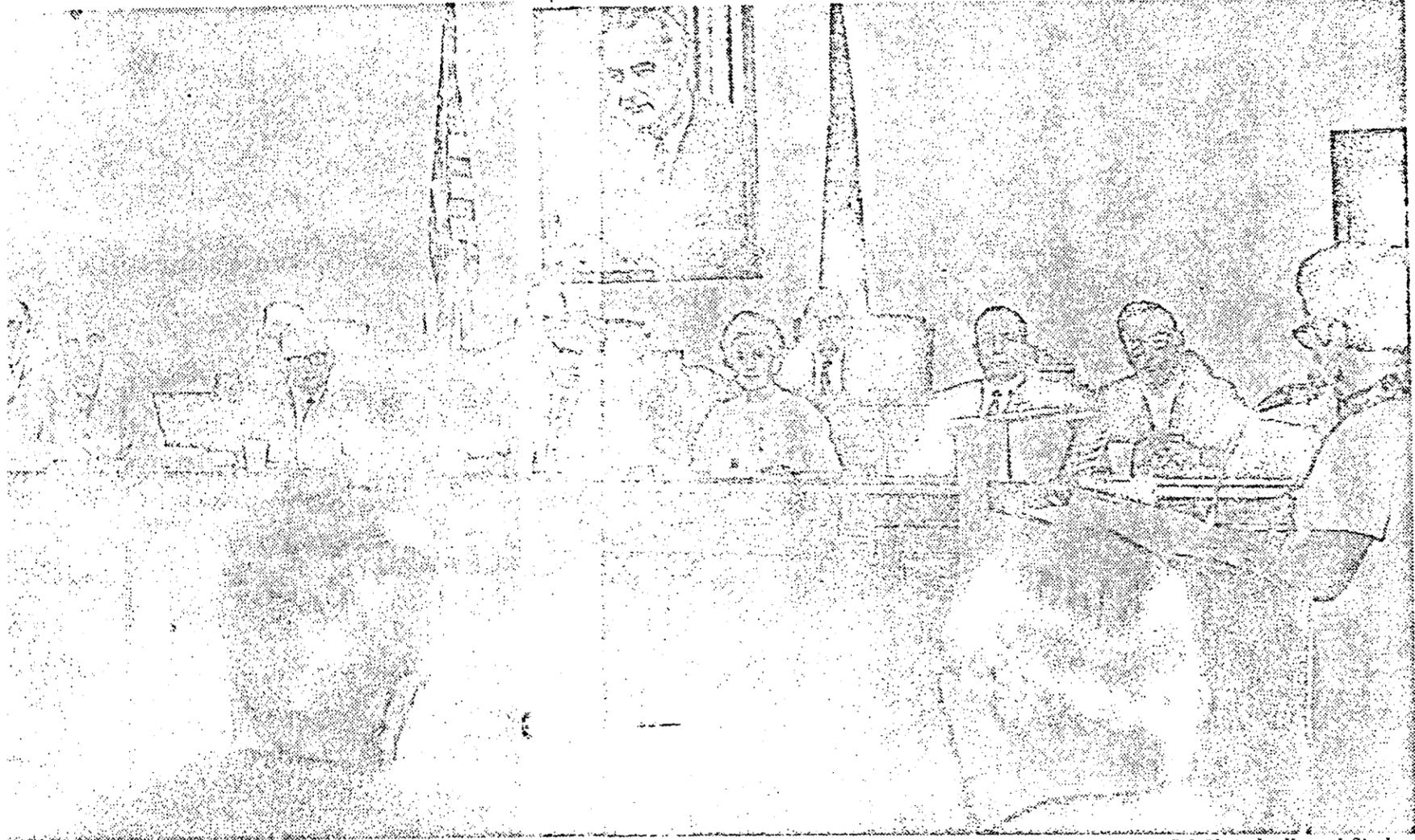
At the community forums citizens of King County will be able to express their views to the freeholders about certain elements of the charter. The March 16th forum will concentrate on the legislative body, its size, composition, selection and duties.

Comments on other aspects of the charter will be encouraged, but persons appearing at the forum will be requested to concentrate on the legislative body and to submit written statements outlining their views on other matters.

The April 2nd forum will concentrate on the chief executive.

# Governmental Merger Urged on Freehold

## Ed Mu For U



-P-I Photo by Howard Staples.

INTENTLY AS MRS. LUDWIG LOBE, RIGHT, OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOLD OF HER GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
sider, Rob Block, Jim Curren, Virginia Gunby, Don McDonald, Chairman Dick Albrecht, Jack Geoffroy, Lois North, Simon Wampold, Howard Bothel, Norman Ackley.

County Commis  
Munro yester  
freeholders to  
city and county g  
in King County.  
Munro spoke p  
freeholders' first i  
of public forums  
to give groups and  
als the chance to  
views on a new  
charter.  
"There should b  
governing body  
County," Munro sa  
"You should be  
your approach. (t  
tion is coming, wh  
people do it or not

ASKED IF the  
ers had the power  
idate government a  
gested, Munro repl  
"You can get  
legislation from l  
legislature if neces  
Munro suggested  
lative body of at l  
members, drawing  
of a minimum of \$  
month, and an elec  
utive officer with  
of at least \$20,000  
"These salary fig  
absolute minimum  
said. "I'd like to se  
lot higher."  
The commissio  
posed also that the  
be partisan, full-ti  
four-year staggere  
and be nominated  
districts and elect  
county as a whole.

TO SOLVE the  
elimination of j  
held by elected c  
city officials. M  
gested those offici  
pointed to the  
body until their te  
fice expire.  
"This is a con  
political reality."  
At the open foru  
ers representing  
ganizations—and  
spoke only for t  
—recommended  
the legislative  
general feeling v  
three-man board  
missioners could  
quately serve the  
Nine members  
figure most agr  
but that range  
from 11 to one p  
32 or 50.  
ORGANIZATIO  
from included the  
Women Voters, t  
pal League, Shor  
munity Developn  
cil, Vashon Civi  
tion, Associated  
the North End ar  
eral Way Commu

76  
county.  
administrative head of the  
election and duties of the  
It will be concerned with  
at Bellevue.  
run would be held April 2  
nounced the next public fo-  
to the freeholders and an-  
mit their ideas in writing  
interested citizens to sub-  
Richard Albrecht urged all  
Freeholder chairman an  
tricts rather than at large.  
election should be by dis-  
system, though some felt  
expansion of the present  
All agreed to a need for  
Frank Matz.  
Dr. Mrs. George Perry and  
Brown, Dr. Brantley Holt  
Individuals were Art  
cil.  
eral Way Community Coun-  
the North End and the Fed-  
tion, Associated Clubs of  
cil, Vashon Civic Associa-  
munity Development Coun-  
pal League, Shoreline Com-  
Women Voters, the Munic-  
from included the League of  
ORGANIZATIONS heard  
32 or 50.  
from 11 to one proposal for  
but that ranged upward  
figure most agreed upon.  
Nine members was the  
quately serve the county.  
missioners could not ade-  
three-man board of com-  
general feeling was that a  
the legislative body. The

Seattle, Wash.  
U. District Herald  
(Cir. W. 25,105)

MAR 13 1963

Allen P.C.B. Est. 1888

### Freeholders Plan Forums

The 15 King County freeholders have been meeting twice weekly to learn more about county government.  
All major functions of the county

have been studied, including personal interviews with over 30 department heads of the county.  
The Freeholders, at their last business meeting on Feb. 28, adopted a future work schedule

which includes two community forums — the first to be held on March 16th at the King County Courthouse, and the second on April 2nd at Bellevue's public library.

MINUTES  
BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

January 31, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in Room 402, King County Court House.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders except Mrs. North, Mr. Ackley, Mr. Curran and Mr. O'Connor were present.

3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the January 17, 1968 meeting were approved as distributed. Copies of minutes will be mailed to members not present.

4. STAFF SELECTION .

Mr. Albrecht reported that he hopes to have hired a Secretary by next week, so that the Freeholders' office on the 9th floor (Room 905) can be opened. All members were invited to tour the office at the close of the meeting.

The activities of the Staff Selection Committee were reviewed. Candidates who have been interviewed for the position of Executive Secretary are as follows: John Current, Larry Howard and Fred Utevsky. Other applicants to be interviewed next week are: Gregory Cullins, John Porter and Paul Meyer. Mr. McDonald suggested Myrle Hrdlicka. The Committee will report its recommendations at the next business meeting.

5. LEGAL SERVICES.

Mr. Albrecht reported that the action of the County Commissioners on the Freeholders' request for the services of an attorney indicated it would now be appropriate for them to recommend to the Commissioners counsel to be retained for the Freeholders.

Mr. Block moved that the Chairman appoint a committee to interview applicants for the position of counsel to the Freeholders and to make a recommendation to the Freeholders.

QUESTION: On the appointment of a committee to interview for the position of counsel.

VOTE: For, 11; Against, 0; Absent, 4.

The Chairman appointed the following to serve on that Committee:

Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Albrecht, Mr. Curran, Mr. Eberle and Mr. Schneider.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS,

Mr. Albrecht reported that he attended a meeting on the Civil Service Initiative at the invitation of the King County Employees' Association and the Washington Association of Elected County Officials. He has invited them to present their positions to the Freeholders at some future time.

Pacific Lutheran University has invited Mr. Albrecht to speak at their Third Conference, February 16, 1968, on the "Potential for a County Home Rule Charter". PLU will be sending announcements to Freeholders on this and a future meeting March 21, 1968.

7. MEETING SCHEDULE.

- Sat., Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m. - Dr. Sanford Lehman, Director,  
Seattle-King County Health Dept.,  
Mr. Herbert Mutschler, Head Librarian,  
King County Library District.
- Wed., Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. - Report of Staff Selection Committee  
Informal Orientation to be announced.
- Wed., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. - Informal Orientation, Mr. Jean DeSpain,  
King County Engineer.
- Sat., Feb. 17, 9:30 p.m. - SEMINAR FOR FREEHOLDERS - sponsored  
by the Bureau of Governmental Research  
and Services, 3935 University Way N. E.  
(Specific program to be sent to  
Freeholders).

Previously scheduled Public Hearings will be postponed until after February 20, 1968.

8. REPORTS.

Mr. Friedlander participated in an all-day seminar on Local Governmental Structure sponsored by the College of Urban Planning, University of Washington. He has requested recordings of the meeting.

Mr. Schneider distributed program material he received at the Pacific Lutheran University "Second Conference on Community Planning".

9. ADJOURNMENT.

The Business meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Informal orientation meetings with Mr. Sand and Mr. Sowers followed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Cunby*  
Virginia Cunby, Secretary

# M I N U T E S

## BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

February 7, 1968

### 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. in Room 402, King County Court House. Prior to this, an executive session had been conducted in Room 403, in order to acquaint the members of the Board with Mr. Paul Meyer, whom the Selection Committee had chosen to be recommended to the Board of King County Commissioners to act as Executive Secretary for the Freeholders.

### 2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders were present at both the Executive Session and the public meeting.

### 3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the January 31, 1968 meeting were approved as distributed.

### 4. STAFF SELECTION.

The Chairman publicly thanked the Selection Committee, comprised of the Messrs. Albrecht, Block, Friedlander, McKenna, O'Connor and Wampold, for being present at the two early-morning meetings at which the nine applicants for the position of Executive Secretary to the Freeholders were interviewed. He then introduced Mr. Paul Meyer, whom the Committee had selected; and Mr. Block moved that the Freeholders recommend to the Board of King County Commissioners that Mr. Meyer be retained by them as Executive Secretary to the Freeholders. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

### 5. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

- Sat., Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. - Informal orientation meeting with department heads. Business meeting, if necessary.
- Wed., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. - Informal orientation meetings with department heads.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
Minutes of 2/7/68 Meeting - Contn'd.

- Fri., Feb. 16 - Conference on Regional Planning at  
PLU in Tacoma, Xavier Hall.
- Sat., Feb. 17 - Seminar sponsored by the Bureau of  
Governmental Research & Services  
and the Graduate School of Public  
Administration for Freeholders' benefit.  
(Communication to be received by the  
Freeholders directly from the University  
of Washington concerning this seminar.)

6. NEW BUSINESS:

The Chairman reported that Mr. McKenna is checking into the possibility of acquiring the services (at no pay) of interns from either Seattle University or the University of Washington to assist Mr. Meyer in his work as Executive Secretary to the Freeholders. Mr. Block suggested that Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Geoffroy ascertain whether or not some funds might be available from outside services to pay for the services of interns.

Mrs. Gunby suggested to the Freeholders that they might keep any literature or pamphlets they have, which pertain to their work, in the office at 905-A King County Court House, so that all members might have access to this information.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Informal orientation meeting with Mr. James Ewing followed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*  
Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

REVISED MINUTES

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

February 28, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the public meeting to order in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse at 8:00 p.m. Prior to this, an executive session had been held by the members of the Board in Room 403, in order to acquaint them with John Strasburger, the unanimous choice of the Selection Committee as legal counsel to the Freeholders.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders except Mr. Terry McKenna and Mr. James Curran were present at both the Executive Session and the Public Meeting.

3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the February 7, 1968 meeting were approved as corrected.

4. STAFF SELECTION.

The Chairman publicly thanked the Attorney Selection Committee--- Messrs. Curran, Eberle, Schneider, Albrecht and O'Connor (chairman) ---for their efforts in securing qualified applicants for the position of legal counsel to the Freeholders. He then introduced publicly Mr. John Strasburger, of the firm of Short, Cressman & Cable, the unanimous recommendation of the Selection Committee.

ACTION:

MOTION #1:

MOVED and SECONDED that the report of the Selection Committee be adopted, and that the Board of King County Freeholders recommend to the Board of King County Commissioners the appointment of the legal firm of Short, Cressman & Cable as counsel to the Freeholders, with John Strasburger of that firm to have primary responsibility.

MOTION #2:

Mr. McDonald moved to table the motion before the Board.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

VOTE ON MOTION #1:

AYES, 12; NAYES, 1; ABSENT, 2. (MOTION CARRIED).

Mr. Robert Eberle requested that the following statement be made a part of the record of this meeting:

"Let the Record show that a vote in favor of John Strasburger as the legal counsel to the Freeholders does, in no way, signify approval of the hiring of legal counsel at this time. With seven members of the 15-member Freeholder Board being lawyers, it is clear that we, the Freeholders, do not require the services of a lawyer at this time, with its inevitable and unnecessary expenditure of public funds."

The Chairman indicated that it was expected the agreement with the firm of Short, Cressman & Cable would provide that legal services would be made available to the Freeholders only as requested, and that no compensation would be paid to counsel unless and until they were called upon to provide legal services.

5. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

Mr. Block moved to adopt the tentative work schedule as distributed with the exception of changing the proposed date of Tuesday, March 5th to Wednesday, March 6th, at 7:30 p.m., as March 5th was the date set for the Republican Party precinct caucuses; and that the work schedule was subject to such revisions as may be necessary at the discretion of the Chairman. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of Freeholders present.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Informal orientation meeting with Comm. John Spellman followed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

PROPOSED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FURTHER MEETINGS  
January 17, 1968

Sat January 20 Informal orientation *Staff, also the same -*

Tues January 23 *7:30* Informal orientation

Sat January 27 Informal orientation

Wed January 31 Business meeting; report of staff selection committee

Sat February 3 Informal orientation

Wed February 7 Informal orientation

Wed February 14 Public hearing for general comments by civic and community groups

Wed February 21 Public hearing for discussion of county administrative procedures with county commissioners

Sat February 24 Public hearing for discussion of county administrative procedures with department heads

\* \* \* \* \*

Proposed subjects of further orientation meetings

*Sheriff's office*  $\rightarrow$  *10<sup>th</sup> floor*

*Sheriff - 9:30/1/68 -*

Coroner	County Commissioners
Treasurer	Park Department
Engineer	Planning Department
Professors from University of Washington (e.g. Warren and Denny)	John Chambers

M E M O R A N D U M

January 19, 1968

TO: FREEHOLDERS  
FROM: RICHARD R. ALBRECHT

Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Carroll's opinion to Commissioner O'Brien concerning the manner of providing legal services to the Freeholders. We have been advised by Mr. Hammond that the County Commissioners would like to follow the alternative course outlined in the statute quoted at the top of page 3 of the prosecuting attorney's opinion. This would involve the Commissioners entering into a written contract with an attorney or firm of attorneys and obtaining the approval of a majority of the judges of the King County Superior Court. The Commissioners have asked us to recommend attorneys or firms of attorneys that would be acceptable to the Freeholders. At the meeting on January 17 it was suggested that the same committee be used to screen prospective legal counsel as has been appointed to interview applicants for the position of executive director. In order to move forward without unnecessary delay, I propose to have that committee undertake this additional function unless I hear an objection from a substantial number of the Freeholders.

We have been given authority to employ a secretary to the Freeholders. As soon as we have a secretary, we will be provided with office space in the courthouse, together with necessary furnishings, equipment and supplies. If any of you has a suggestion of a competent and qualified secretary to man our offices, I would appreciate hearing from you promptly. I am hopeful we can have the office in operation by the end of next week.

An informal orientation session has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m., at Room 402 of the King County Courthouse. If the planning commission meeting scheduled for earlier that day in Room 402 has not adjourned by 7:30 p.m., I propose we meet in the hallway and adjourn to the Treasurer's office. Mr. Williams, the County Treasurer, will describe the operation of his office and give us a tour of his facilities. Following that, Mr. Wayne Smith, Director of the King County Systems Services, will explain the operation of the County's data processing center and give us a tour of the data processing equipment.

Mr. Callum, the King County Airport Manager, has

MEMORANDUM TO FREEHOLDERS

January 25, 1968

We will meet informally with Stanley Gallup, King County Airport Manager, on Saturday, January 27, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be in Mr. Gallup's office, which is located in the one-story Roman brick building with the flat roof. This building is across Perimeter Road from the entrance to the airport. It is expected the meeting with Gallup will last until 11:30 or 12.

Mr. McKenna has arranged a no-host luncheon for the Freeholders at Meekers Landing Restaurant in Kent following our meeting with Mr. Gallup.

At 1:30 we will be meeting with Mr. Shay, the Manager of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport at his office. Mr. Shay's office is on the third floor of the passenger terminal building - room 328. I am hopeful you will all be able to arrange to attend the luncheon and the afternoon session although this is fairly short notice. It seemed appropriate to attempt to schedule the meeting with Mr. Shay as soon after the meeting with Mr. Gallup as possible.

The agenda for next Wednesday's meeting at room 402 of the King County Courthouse is as follows:

1. Call to order - 7:30 p.m.
2. Minutes of last meeting.
3. Report of staff selection committee.
4. New business.
5. Announcements.
6. Informal orientation meeting with Ed Sand, King County Planning Director, at approximately 8:30 p.m.
7. Adjournment.

Richard R. Albrecht

26

*Handwritten notes:*  
llw  
590  
lbc  
603  
Free  
pp  
ll  
lba  
Free  
llw  
llw  
llw

M I N U T E S

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

February 28, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Richard Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of King County Freeholders, called the public meeting to order in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse at 8:00 p.m. Prior to this, an executive session had been held by the members of the Board in Room 403, in order to acquaint them with John Strasburger, the unanimous choice of the Selection Committee as legal counsel to the Freeholders.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders except Mr. Terry McKenna and Mr. James Curran were present at both the Executive Session and the Public Meeting.

3. MINUTES.

The minutes of the February 7, 1968 meeting were approved as corrected.

4. STAFF SELECTION.

The Chairman publicly thanked the Attorney Selection Committee--- Messrs. Curran, Eberle, Schneider, Albrecht and O'Connor (chairman) ---for their efforts in securing qualified applicants for the position of legal counsel to the Freeholders. He then introduced publicly Mr. John Strasburger, of the firm of Short, Cressman & Cable, the unanimous recommendation of the Selection Committee.

ACTION:

MOTION #1:

MOVED and SECONDED that the report of the Selection Committee be adopted, and that the Board of King County Freeholders recommend to the Board of King County Commissioners the appointment of the legal firm of Short, Cressman & Cable as counsel to the Freeholders, with John Strasburger of that firm to have primary responsibility.

(See attached statement relating to discussion on Motion #1--- inserted at request of Mr. Eberle.)

MOTION #2:

Mr. McDonald moved to table the motion before the Board.

MOTION died for lack of Second.

VOTE ON MOTION #1:

AYES, 12; NAYES, 1; ABSENT, 2. (MOTION CARRIED.)

The Chairman indicated that it was expected the agreement with the firm of Short, Cressman & Cable would provide that legal services would be made available to the Freeholders only as requested, and that no compensation would be paid to counsel unless and until they were called upon to provide legal services.

5. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

Mr. Block moved to adopt the tentative work schedule as distributed with the exception of changing the proposed date of Tuesday, March 5th to Wednesday, March 6th, at 7:30 p.m., as March 5th was the date set for the Republican Party caucus; and that said work schedule was subject to such revisions as may be necessary at the discretion of the Chairman. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of Freeholders present.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Informal orientation meeting with Comm. John Spellman followed.

Respectfully submitted,



Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

2/28/68

Statement regarding Motion #1 :

"Let the Record show that a vote in favor of John Strasburger as the legal counsel to the Freeholders does, in no way, signify approval of the hiring of legal counsel at this time. With seven members of the 15 member Freeholder board being lawyers, it is clear that we, the Freeholders, do not require the services of a lawyer at this time, with its inevitable and unnecessary expenditure of public funds."

(Signed)  
BOB EBERLE

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

Questions for Consideration at Public Forum

March 16, 1968 - 10:00 a.m.

Room 402, King County Court House

Subject: THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY.

1. What should be its size?
2. How should they be chosen?
  - a. by district?
  - b. at large?
  - c. combination of above?
3. What should be the length of office?
4. Should they be elected on a partisan or non-partisan basis?
5. How should they be compensated?
  - a. per diem?
  - b. salary?
  - c. combination of above?
6. Should they be considered part-time or full-time officials?
7. Should they be given any powers and duties beyond the passage of ordinances and policy guidelines?
  - a. administrative (which areas?)
  - b. judicial or quasi-judicial (which areas?)

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEMENHOLDERS  
 KING COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
 Seattle, Washington 98104

LEGISLATIVE BODY - MARCH 16, 1968

Public Forum

NAME (vs Speaker)

ORGANIZATION

Frank Math	NONE
Dr. George Terry	"
Walter W. Irvine	Municipal League
George M. Mack	" "
Glen Patton	North End Assoc. Club
Mr. &	

RESULTS OF MARCH 16, 1968, PUBLIC FORUM AND  
 RESPONSE TO LETTER MAILED TO 116 INDIVIDUALS  
 AND ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING LEGISLATIVE BODY  
 OF PROPOSED KING COUNTY CHARTER

Number	Size	Selection		Combination	Part-Time	Full-Time	Partisan	Non- Partisan	Term	Salary
		District	At-Large							
1.	7-9	X				X	X		4	--
2.	7-9	X				X	X		4	--
3.	5-9									
4.	9		X			X	X		4	--
5.	7+			X		X				
6.	9-15			X	X			X	4 Stag.	
7.	40		X			X			4	
8.	3	X								
9.	7-9	X			X				4 Stag.	
10.	16	X			X		X		4	
11.	7-9			X	X		X		4	
12.	5-7							X		30

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

WORK SHEET

FOR LEGISLATIVE BODY DELIBERATIONS

March 30, 1968

1. FULL-TIME BODY:
  - A. Size.
  - B. Minimum Salary.
  
2. PART-TIME BODY:
  - A. Size.
  - B. Minimum Salary.
  
3. SELECTION:
  - A. District.
  - B. At-Large.
  - C. Combination.
  
4. POLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS:
  - A. Partisanship.
  - B. Non-Partisanship.
  - C. Partisanship - Independent Candidates.
  
5. TERM OF OFFICE:
  - A. Length.
  - B. Staggered.
  - C. Year of Election.

M I N U T E S  
BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
PUBLIC FORUM - DELIBERATION ON LEGISLATIVE BODY

March 30, 1968  
- - - - -

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order 10:10 a.m. in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse by Richard Albrecht, Chairman.

2. ROLL CALL.

All Freeholders were present except Mr. Paul Friedlander and Mr. Lyle Schneider. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary, and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel.

ACTION:

MOTION #1:

MOVED by Mr. Wampold and SECONDED by Mr. Curran, that Legislative Body be made full-time.

MOTION #2:

MOVED by Mr. O'Connor and SECONDED by Mr. Geoffroy that Motion #1 be tabled.

MOTION #2 PASSED BY MAJORITY OF FREEHOLDERS PRESENT.

The Chairman read a letter from Freeholder Lyle Schneider, expressing his views on the Legislative Body. Also, the Chairman stated the purpose of the meeting was for preliminary discussion, and he stressed that all action be subject to later revision and tentative in nature.

Paul Meyer reviewed provisions for legislative bodies in other counties of similar size and views expressed at public forum of March 16, 1968. General discussion followed on the questions regarding the legislative body. The Chairman called on each Freeholder to specifically state their positions. Recordings of their statements are on file in the Freeholders' office.

MOTION:

MOVED by Mr. Wampold that the County Legislative Body consist of 9 full time members, two to be nominated and elected from each of the present commissioner districts, and 3 to be nominated and elected at-large; that redistricting procedures be established by the Charter; and that members of the legislative body be paid minimum salaries of \$20,000 per annum.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

MOTION:

MOVED by Mr. Geoffroy and SECONDED by Mr. Curran that the Freeholders indicate their desire to establish a full-time legislative body for King County.

VOTE: For, 11; Against, 2; Absent, 2.

MOTION:

MOVED by Mr. O'Connor and SECONDED by Mr. Curran that the legislative body consist of 9 members, nominated and elected by geographic districts.

AMENDMENT #1:

MOVED by Mr. Geoffroy to AMEND the main motion to read as follows: "That the legislative body shall consist of 9 members".

AMENDMENT #2:

Mr. Ackley MOVED to AMEND the first motion to Amend by changing the number 9 to 16.

QUESTION: On Mr. Ackley's Motion To Amend.

For, 3; Against, 10; Absent, 2.

There followed further discussion concerning the size of the Legislative Body.

QUESTION: On Mr. Geoffroy's motion to Amend the main motion:

For, 10; Against, 3; Absent, 2.

QUESTION: On the Main Motion as Amended: "Shall the Legislative Body consist of 9 members?"

For, 10; Against, 2; Absent, 2,  
Present and not voting, 1.

MOTION:

MOVED by Mr. Geoffroy and SECONDED by Mrs. Gunby that, if it is necessary for this charter to specify minimum salaries for members of the legislative body, that such salaries be \$18,000 per annum the same as are provided by general law for County Commissioners in Class AA counties at the time the charter becomes effective.

AMENDMENT:

Mr. Block MOVED to AMEND the main Motion to read: "The Freeholders suggest that the Charter shall specify a minimum salary of \$18,000 per annum for each member of the Legislative Body."

VOTE: For, 4; Against, 9; Absent, 2.

QUESTION on Main Motion: For, 7; Against, 3; Absent, 2.  
Present and not voting, 3.

MOTION:

Mr. Eberle MOVED that the member of the Legislative Body be nominated and elected from single-member districts.

AMENDMENT:

Mr. Block MOVED to Amend the Motion to read that the intent of the Freeholders is to provide nomination and election of the members of the Legislative Body from single-member districts, but that the existing districts be used during the period of transition.

AMENDMENT #2:

Mr. Geoffroy MOVED to AMEND the MOTION to AMEND to read "The members of the Legislative Body shall be nominated by district."

NO VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MAIN MOTION OR THE AMENDMENTS.

At this point Mr. Curran suggested that the Chairman go through the list of questions and take a vote. By common consent the Chairman posed the following questions:

1. a. Shall all of the members of the Legislative Body be nominated by district:  
For, 12; Against, 0; Absent, 2; Present and not voting, 1.
- b. Shall all of the members of the Legislative Body be elected by geographic district:  
For, 11; Against, 1; Absent, 2; Present and not voting, 1.
- c. Shall the Freeholders go on record as favoring the ultimate creation of single-member districts:  
For, 11; Against, 1; Absent, 2; Present and not voting, 1.
2. Shall the members of the Legislative Body be chosen in partisan elections:  
For, 13; Against, 0; Absent, 2.
3. Shall the members of the Legislative Body be elected for 4-year terms?  
For, 13; Against, 0; Absent, 2.

*7580P  
Shall we  
Reelect*

4. Shall the members of the Legislative Body be elected to staggered terms?

For, 11; Against, 1; Absent, 2; Present and not voting, 1.

ADJOURNED: 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

*Approved as corrected 4-20-62-*

*Virginia Gunby*

VG:hg

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
 KING COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
 Seattle, Washington 98104

Article known since 7, 1967 Billings, The Executive

NAME (Speakers) ✓	ORGANIZATION
Harriet A. Spaul	LWV
✓ Mrs. Harold M. Mozer	LWV
✓ RE. Peterson *	B.A.S.I.C. Govt Comm
A. J. Verrari	BASIC Govt. Committee City mgr. - Bellevue
✓ L. Joe Miller	Pres. Wash City Managers Assn
Albin [unclear]	City Manager [unclear]
Robert [unclear]	The Dist of [unclear]
Wendell [unclear] Pres	East Lake Sound [unclear]
Mrs. [unclear]	Wendell [unclear] [unclear]
George C. [unclear]	[unclear] U.P.U.W
[unclear]	Eggen [unclear] [unclear]
William Carlson	Haller Lake Improvement Club
D. [unclear]	"
Johnny [unclear]	"
Mrs. & Mrs. Fred [unclear]	B.A.S.I.C. Govt Comm.
Richard [unclear]	Rep. Board 3rd Dist Spide
[unclear]	Beaumont [unclear] [unclear]
✓ Ken [unclear]	HIMSECT
✓ Jay [unclear]	of [unclear]
Frank [unclear]	[unclear]
[unclear]	[unclear]
✓ Jim [unclear]	[unclear]

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Work Sheet - - Public Forum

April 2, 1968 - Bellevue

<u>Name</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Appt.</u>	<u>Elect</u>
1. Municipal League	X		
2. League of Women Voters		X	
3. B.A.S.I.C.		X	
4. Republicans		X	
5. Democrats			X
6. Federal Way Comm. Council			X
7. Joe Miller (Bellevue City Mgr.)		X	
8. Mr. Haux (Kirkland)		X	
9. Mrs. Heiser (property owners, Issaquah)		X	
10. Ken Windley		X	
11. Mr. Gould			X
12. Comm. Ed Munro			X
13. Comm. John Spellman			X
14. Shoreline Community Council		X	
15. Ed Michaelian (Westchester, N.Y. Exec)			X
16. Comm. Gleason (Multnomah Cty., Ore.)	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	1	8	7

A G E N D A

DELIBERATION ON THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

April 20, 1968

= = = = =

1. Call to Order - 10:00 a.m.
2. Minutes of March 30th meeting.
3. Reports and Announcements by Chairman.
4. Staff report concerning chief executive officer.
5. General discussion of individual views concerning chief executive officer.
6. Deliberations - Questions as outlined in Work Sheet.
7. Adjournment - Not later than 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

WORK SHEET

DELIBERATION ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE

April 20, 1968

1. MANNER OF SELECTION:

- A. Shall the Chief Executive be separately elected?
- B. Shall the Chief Executive be appointed by the Legislative Body?
- C. Shall the Chief Executive be chosen among the members of the Legislative Body?

2. RELATIONSHIP TO LEGISLATIVE BODY:

- A. Shall the Chief Executive be given veto power?
- B. Shall the Chief Executive be given a vote on issues before the Legislative Body?
- C. Shall the Chief Executive preside at the meetings of the Legislative Body?

3. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICE:

- A. Shall the Charter require a county or state residence for the Chief Executive (if elected)?
- B. Shall the Charter require any degree of education or experience in Public Administration (if appointed)?

4. POLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS (if elected):

- A. Should the Chief Executive be elected on a partisan basis?
- B. Should the Chief Executive be elected on a non-partisan basis?
- C. Should the Chief Executive be allowed to run without party affiliation or label?

5. LENGTH OF OFFICE:

- A. If elected, what term of office should be given to the Chief Executive?
- B. If appointed, should the Chief Executive be given tenure?

6. RELATION TO DEPARTMENTS:

- A. Should the Chief Executive be allowed to appoint all non-elected department heads?
- B. Should the Chief Executive be allowed to remove all non-elected department heads?
- C. Should appointment and removal of non-elected department heads be subject to review by the Legislative Body?

M I N U T E S

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

DELIBERATION ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE

April 20, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Richard Albrecht, Chairman. All Freeholders were present except Mr. Lyle Schneider. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary, and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the March 30th meeting were approved as corrected.

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN.

Letters received from individuals and groups interested in the work of the Freeholders were circulated by the Chairman. The Superior Court Judges have appointed a committee to consult with the Freeholders on matters of concern to the Judges. The deliberation on the county departments which had been scheduled for May 4th was changed to May 11th at 10:00 a.m. Mr. John Donaho, Baltimore management consultant, agreed to meet with the Freeholders on May 4th at 9:00 a.m. After discussion, it was generally agreed that efforts should be made to reschedule Mr. Donaho's appearance for Friday, May 3rd, at 7:30 p.m.

The scheduling of future deliberations and the need for more information on personnel systems was discussed briefly.

4. STAFF REPORT CONCERNING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Paul Meyer reviewed his research on the chief executive in the 28 charter counties in the United States. He distributed copies of the Baltimore County charter article dealing with the chief executive branch. He also thanked Virginia Galle for her help in gathering this information. Mr. Block requested copies be made for the Freeholders of the information matrix on the provisions for the executive-administrator in charter counties.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION.

The Chairman then called on each Freeholder present to give his views on the chief executive by answering the questions on the work sheet which had been distributed. (Recordings of the statements are available in the Freeholders' office.)

ACTION:

MOTION:

MOVED by Mr. O'Connor and SECONDED by Mr. Friedlander that the Freeholders provide in the charter for a chief executive to be elected at large by the voters of King County.

MOTION #2:

MOVED by Mr. Wampold and SECONDED by Mr. Curran that Motion be tabled.

VOTE: For, 6 Against, 8 Absent, 1.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED.

QUESTION: On Main Motion - "Shall the Freeholders go on record as supporting a chief executive for King County who is elected at large by the voters of King County?"

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 6 Absent, 1.

After further discussion, it was suggested that the Chairman pose questions concerning additional features to be included in the Charter concerning the chief executive officer. It was pointed out that all such questions should assume that the chief executive would be elected and the decisions would not necessarily be applicable if the tentative decision in favor of an elected executive were later changed.

The Chairman then posed the following questions;

QUESTION:

1. Assuming an elected chief executive for King County, should he be given veto power over all legislative action by the legislative body?

VOTE: For, 5 Against, 7 Present & Not Voting, 2 Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

2. Assuming an elected chief executive, should he be given a veto power, subject to being over-ridden by the legislative body, on all legislation except planning and tax matters?

VOTE: For, 5 Against, 5 Present & Not Voting, 4 Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

3. Assuming an elected chief executive, should he be given a veto power, subject to being over-ridden by a 2/3 vote of the legislative body, in all legislative matters subject to certain exceptions to be determined later?

VOTE: For, 11      Against, 2      Present & Not Voting, 1      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

4. Assuming an elected chief executive for King County, shall the Charter specify any qualifications other than his being a registered voter in King County prior to his election?

VOTE: For, 5      Against, 8      Present & Not Voting, 1      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

5. Assuming an elected chief executive for King County, should the Charter require any education or experience for that office?

MAJORITY of members present AGAINST by voice vote.

QUESTION:

6. Assuming an elected executive for King County, should he be elected in partisan elections?

VOTE: For, 11      Against, 3      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

7. Assuming an elected chief executive for King County, should he be permitted to run without party affiliation or label?

VOTE: For, 5      Against, 7      Present & Not Voting, 2      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

8. Should the chief executive be elected for a four-year term?

VOTE: For, 13      Against, 1      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

9. Should the Charter limit the Chief Executive to two successive 4-year terms?

VOTE: For, 5      Against, 8      Present & Not Voting, 1.

QUESTION:

10. Assuming an elected chief executive, should he be allowed to appoint all non-elected department heads?

VOTE: For, 9      Against, 3      Present & Not Voting, 2      Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

11. Assuming an elected chief executive, should his appointment of some department heads be subject to the concurrence of the legislative body?

VOTE: For, 13 Against, 1 Absent, 1.

It was pointed out that identification of which appointments should require approval of the legislative body should be made at the time of our deliberations on the department heads.

QUESTION:

12. Assuming an elected chief executive, should the concurrence of the legislative body be required for the removal of all department heads for whose appointment the approval of the legislative body was required?

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 5 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 1.

QUESTION:

13. Assuming an elected chief executive, should the Charter require him to appoint a chief administrative officer with qualifications of experience or education?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 2 Present & Not Voting, 2 Absent, 1.

Mr. John Strasburger, attorney for the Freeholders, recommended that the initial salary of all elected officials be established by the Charter.

ADJOURNED, 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

*Virginia Gunby*

VG/hg

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEMASONS  
 KING COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
 Seattle, Washington 98103

APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>

PUBLIC FORUM. DEPARTMENT HEADS

NAME (Speakers) ✓	ORGANIZATION
ART BROWN	None <span style="float: right;">Speak</span>
Evelyn Gannon	Village of ...
Val Williams	79th District Rep Club ✓
Ken Minally	" " " " Professional
Wm. Stewart	33rd Dist Rep Club
Harry Jordan	Interested Voter

A G E N D A  
DELIBERATION ON DEPARTMENTS  
AND RELATED SUBJECTS

May 11, 1968

1. Call to order - 9:30 a.m.
2. Minutes of April 27th meeting.
3. Reports & Announcements by Chairman.
4. Staff Report.
5. General Discussion.
6. Deliberation - Questions.
7. Adjournment by 12:30 p.m.

# M I N U T E S

## DELIBERATION ON DEPARTMENTS AND RELATED SUBJECTS

MAY 11, 1968

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chairman Richard Albrecht. All Freeholders were present except Norman Ackley, Robert Block, James Curran, and Lois North. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary, and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the April 27th meeting were approved as distributed.

3. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN.

The May 14th orientation with the special districts of King County was confirmed, and set for 7:30 p.m. in Room 402 of the Courthouse. The meeting place for the May 18th Deliberation was changed from the Olympic Hotel to Room 402 of the King County Courthouse, with an all-day session planned for that day, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

4. STAFF REPORT CONCERNING DEPARTMENTS.

Paul Meyer indicated that rather than presenting the material on the departments which he had prepared before the deliberation, he would make his report concerning specific questions as they were covered.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Mr. Wampold commented upon the great amount of time that Virginia Gunby has spent in doing research work on behalf of the Freeholders and wished this to be recognized publicly.

The Chairman then called for general discussion on the questions on the work sheet before any action was taken on them. He stated the Freeholders who were absent from this deliberative session had mailed in their answers to the questions on the work sheet, and that these answers would be made a part of the record. (However, where a question on the work sheet has been reworded to change the emphasis, the absentee votes have not been recorded.)

APR 25 1953

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Freeholders Remain Split on Status of Admini

By JERRY BERGSMAN

The split over whether a county administrator should be elected or appointed continued to plague the Board of Freeholders at a public hearing last night.

Discussion at the hearing showed that the issue still is very much alive. Efforts will be made to reconsider the tentative position taken Saturday that the chief executive be elected. The vote then was 8 to 6.

Status of county department heads under a charter was the topic for the public hearing at Shoreline High School. But the question of the administrator kept coming up because of his relationship to department heads.

Speakers generally favored appointment of department heads now elected. In order not to jeopardize approval of a charter by voters, however, some felt the posts of assessor, auditor and sheriff probably should continue to be elective.

Lois North, a freeholder, contended voters can show disapproval of the executive only at the ballot box and that appointment of an executive blurs the separation of legislative and administrative functions.

Terry McKenna, another

freeholder, said appointment of an administrator is the only way to bring professional management to county government.

Robert J. Sill, president of the Community Council of Shoreline, said election of the auditor, assessor and sheriff should continue so that voters will not reject a charter. Ideally, he said, all should be appointed. He said the council feels the clerk and treasurer should be appointed and the coroner should be an appointed physician.

Sill said the council supported the concept of an appointed administrator, election of seven of nine commissioners on a partisan basis by districts and redistricting of commissioner districts by Superior Court judges.

"We feel the present system of electing some of the administrative department heads is a fundamental weakness of the existing form of county government," he said.

He said the position of not opposing election of the audi-

tor, assessor and sheriff was a "practical compromise on our part."

William Massey, assistant director of the Municipal League, repeated the league's position that presently elected department heads should be appointed.

Asked by Virginia Gunby, a freeholder, if he felt appointment of all department heads would jeopardize passage of a charter, Massey replied: "I think the climate for change is much better

now than it was in 1952 or 1952." In 1952, a proposed county charter was defeated by a large margin.

Art Brown, 16020 Densmore Ave. N., supported appointment of all department heads. He said the change might be easier to accept if the auditor was called the controller and the assessor was called the appraiser.

He contended all policy should be set by the legislative body rather than the department heads.

PHOTO

6. Question No. 6 was rephrased and combined with Question No. 8, as follows:

"Shall the Charter provide that the Superior Court Judges be given the power to appoint the Clerk, and shall the Clerk serve at their pleasure?"

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 2 Present & Not Voting, 1.

7. Shall the Charter require the Clerk to have professional qualifications or specialized training?

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 10.

8. (See Question No. 6).

9. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Coroner?

VOTE: For, 5 Against, 6

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 0 Against, 3 (Create office of Medical Examiner, 1)

10. Shall the Charter require the person heading the department to have a medical degree or specialized training in a medical field such as pathology?

VOTE: For, 0 Against, 11

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 2 Against, 2

11. (A) Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Sheriff?

VOTE: For, 4 Against, 6 Present & Not Voting, 1.

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 0 Against, 4

- (B.) (Added) Assuming the appointment of the Sheriff, should the appointment be by the legislative body and not by the chief executive?

VOTE: For, 3 Against, 6 Present & Not Voting, 1.

12. Shall the Charter require the Sheriff to have professional qualifications or specialized training?

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 9 Present & Not Voting, 1

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 3 Against, 1

13. (A) Shall the Charter provide for the appointment of the Treasurer?

VOTE: Yes, 11 No, 0

ABSENTEE VOTES: Yes, 4 No, 0

- (B) Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Treasurer?

VOTE: For, 0 Against, 11 ABSENTEE: For, 0 Against, 4

14. Shall the Charter require the (appointed) Treasurer to have professional qualifications or specialized training?

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 10

15. Question No. 15 was rephrased and limited to only the office of the Assessor, as follows:

"Should the office of Assessor be elected on a partisan basis?"

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 3

Mr. Wampold suggested that some of the remaining questions on the work sheet didn't appear to be controversial in nature, and that he thought the Chairman should go down the list and determine which ones could be answered by the Freeholders at this session. This was done, with the following results:

16. Hold over until May 18th.

17. Hold over until May 18th.

18. Should the Charter provide any restrictions upon present county office holders running for elective offices established in the Charter?

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 10

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 0 Against, 4

19. Hold over until May 18th.

20. Hold over until May 18th.

21. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to create new Departments?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 1

ABSENTEE VOTE: For, 4 Against, 0.

22. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to transfer or consolidate departments?

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 1 Present & Not Voting, 1

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 4 Against, 0

23. Should the Charter prohibit the altering of any departmental arrangement where such a department is headed by an elected official?

VOTE: For, 4 Against, 6 Present & Not Voting, 1

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 0 Against, 3 Not Voting, 1.

24. Hold over until May 18th.

25. Hold over until May 18th.

26. Hold over until May 18th.

27. Should the Charter provide for an initiative procedure?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Present & Not Voting, 1

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 2 Against, 1 Not Voting, 1

28, 29 & 30. Hold over until May 18th.

31. Should the Charter provide for a referendum to the people provided by the legislative body?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 1

ABSENTEE VOTES: For, 2 Against, 1 Not Voting, 1

32. Should the Charter provide for a recall of elected officials?

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0

ABSENTEE VOTE: For, 2 Against, 1 Not Voting, 1.

33, 34, 35 & 36. Hold over until May 18th.

37. Should the Charter require that the executive prepare a budget which reflects the program to be carried out for the ensuing year?

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0

ABSENTEE VOTE: For, 3 Not Voting, 1

38, 39, 40, 41 & 42. Hold over until May 18th.

Meeting Adjourned - 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

*Approved. 5/18/68*  
*Virginia Gunby*

LAW OFFICES

CUPPAN, KLEWENO & CUPPAN

JAMES P. CURRAN  
CHARLES P. (PETE) CURRAN  
MELVIN L. KLEWENO, JR.

POST OFFICE BOX 26  
213 4TH AVENUE SOUTH

Kent, Washington 98031

TELEPHONES  
ULRICK 2-2345  
ULRICK 2-2346

STEPHEN L. JOHNSON

May 6, 1968

Mr. Richard P. Albrecht  
Chairman  
King County Homeholders  
1800 Washington Building  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

Your memorandum of May 1, 1968 has been reviewed. Dick, I want to express my appreciation for your having made the move to cut down on the number of meetings and head into some serious deliberating sessions to settle the issues and problems which confront the Board and also try to bring the membership of the Board in closer harmony with reference to their final thinking as to a matter.

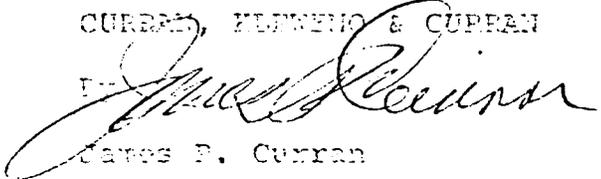
In regard to the further deliberations, I believe that I would like some kind of an opinion from our attorney as to what legal right or authority we might have with reference to special districts. I have not seen anything on this and I am again wondering whether or not this could be considered by our attorney and an opinion rendered to us on that.

I am sorry that I was not able to be present for your Friday evening meeting with Donahue but because of the burdens of the extended trial I am now in I did not feel I could take the time that evening. I would, however, like to hear what Donahue had to say and I request that the staff be asked to transcribe and make available to me his remarks so that I may review them.

The weekend retreat idea might be a worthwhile suggestion, provided it were well planned and we did definitely have something to be accomplished at that time. Certainly substantial advance notice should be made available to all as many of us make plans for weekends quite far in advance during the summer.

Very truly yours,

CUPPAN, KLEWENO & CUPPAN

  
James P. Curran

JPC/un

cc: Mr. Paul Meyer  
Executive Secretary

LAW OFFICES

CURRAN, KLEWENO & CURRAN

POST OFFICE BOX 26

213 4TH AVENUE SOUTH

Kenl, Washington 98031

TELEPHONES  
ULRICK 2-2345  
ULRICK 2-2346

JAMES P. CURRAN  
CHARLES P. (PETE) CURRAN  
MELVIN L. KLEWENO, JR.

STEPHEN L. JOHNSON

May 10, 1968

Mr. Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman  
Board of King County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

Since I have another, urgent commitment on Saturday, May 11, I will be unable to attend your meeting of that date, which unfortunately is one of the most important meetings we will have with reference to tentative decisions.

First of all, I wish to go on record at this time as changing my position with reference to the manner of selection of the chief executive for the county. After further reflection, study and consideration of the remarks of more recent speakers, and finally in deference to the problem of getting the charter accepted by the people, I have concluded that the chief executive should be elected in a partisan election, countywide.

I have some misgivings about the tentative decisions that we made with reference to the legislative body both in regard to the full-time activities and also the matter of election by districts. This I will reserve, I guess, until we can be together at a future time to discuss it further.

To set forth my views on the many questions raised in your work sheet for May 11 and May 18 deliberation would unduly prolong this letter. I, therefore, simply answered each question with my best judgment at this time. To briefly comment in general, I believe that all financial matters should be placed in a department of finance. Included in this department should be a professional auditing department and the county should not rely on the state for its audit functions. I think that all officers now elective in the administrative fields <sup>that</sup> can be converted to appointive by the executive without prejudicing the ultimate passage of the charter should be so designated. The only ones that I would ~~except~~ <sup>accept</sup> from appointment because of the possible problems of passing the charter would, I think, be the assessor and possibly the sheriff.

I think that something should be done to try to insure the support of the present elected officials. In order to do this I think that you must protect their existing term of office and also provide some means for them to see a job for themselves in the future. Therefore, I do not believe they should be restricted from attempting to secure election under the charter. I recommend that the executive be given the strongest possible powers to operate the county under the jurisdiction of the legislative body.

Mr. Richard R. Albrecht  
May 10, 1968  
Page two

I think that he should not be a member of the legislative body but that he should have veto power over the legislative body.

Finally, I have made some answers to your questions on the Planning Commission and zoning. This is a very troublesome field. I do not believe that we have heard enough about it in our meetings. At least, I have not been present at any meeting where this particular function has been discussed or debated at any length. My answers to the questions, therefore, are just based on my personal opinion from prior experience with the Planning Commission and the remarks of Simon Wampold heard from time to time.

I hope you have a successful meeting on Saturday, May 11, and will look forward to being with you on Saturday, May 18, or at any other meetings that may be scheduled. May I again reiterate my position that we should try to get away from the Saturday meetings during the summer months, if at all possible.

Very truly yours,

CURRAN, KLEWENO & CURRAN

By

  
James P. Curran

JPC/mn

cc: Mr. Paul Meyer  
Executive Secretary

16. Should the Charter allow the incumbent elected officers to complete their terms of office? *yes*
17. Should any elected official whose office is abolished by the Charter be allowed to serve beyond the effective date of the Charter? *yes*
18. (Some county charter have restricted incumbents from running for offices provided in the charter.) Should the Charter provide any restrictions upon present county office holders running for elective offices established in the Charter? *NO*
19. Should the Charter specify functional areas for performing services, or should it be silent in the establishing of offices and departments?
20. Should the Board of Freeholders direct the staff to prepare a Charter with existing departmental activities grouped into functional areas of public works, finance, public safety, medical and social services, and administrative services? *Should Specify functional areas - with authority legislative body to change after 2 years operation*
21. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to create new departments? *yes*
22. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to transfer or consolidate departments? *yes*
23. Should the Charter prohibit the altering of any departmental arrangement where such a department is headed by an elected official? *NO*
24. Should the Charter require legislative confirmation for the appointment of any department head by the chief executive? *NO*
25. Should the chief executive be allowed to remove department heads without cause? *yes*
26. Should the Charter provide for a public hearing upon the removal of a department head by the chief executive? *NO*
27. Should the Charter provide for an initiative procedure? *yes*
28. Should the Charter make any restriction as to any subject which cannot be referred to the people for a vote? *NO*
29. Shall the Charter require that all referendums be first passed as ordinances by the legislative body before submission to the people? *yes*

30. Should the Charter provide for referendum as the result of petition signed by citizens?  
A
31. Should the Charter provide for a referendum to the people provided by the legislative body?  
yes
32. Should the Charter provide for a recall of elected officials?  
yes
33. Should the Charter provide for an office to handle citizen complaints?  
yes - I have a feeling it should be elected
34. Should the Charter provide that the individual in charge of receiving citizen complaints be appointed by the legislative body?  
See above
35. Should the Charter provide for a board to hear zoning appeals?  
yes
36. Should the Charter attempt to abolish the Planning Commission and transfer its responsibility to the legislative body?  
yes
37. Should the Charter require that the executive prepare a budget which reflects the program to be carried out for the ensuing year?  
yes
38. Should the Charter attempt to eliminate the Park Board and transfer its responsibilities to the legislative body and the executive?  
yes
39. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an independent legal department to assist the chief executive?  
yes
40. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an office of Public Defender?  
yes
41. Should the Charter require that the personnel board rules and regulations be ratified by the legislative body?  
yes
42. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to amend any rules and regulations adopted by the personnel board?  
No

5. Yes. He should be a CPA and have had not less than 5 years of actual experience in auditing. (The 1952 King Co. Charter, page 11, has good, clear statement on Auditor).

### Clerk

6. No. Judges of Superior Courts submit list of nominees to Chief Executive & he appoints Clerk with approval of legislature.  
Please, can he be re-named County Court Clerk so he doesn't get confused with Clerk (Raepl, Stender, of the Board of County Commissioners.
7. Yes. He shall have had experience in the legal field.
8. They should nominate several candidates, but the Chief Executive makes the decision.

### Coroner

9. No. He should be appointed by the Chief Executive with confirmation by legislature. This job should be in the Dept. of Public Safety along with Sheriff, etc., or in Dept. of Health, preferably Dept. of Health.

I would like to see us take beginning steps toward a Medical Examiner System. Charter should be worded so that our "Coroner" could be included as part of any future State Medical Examiner System.

BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

WORK SHEET FOR MAY 11TH & MAY 15TH DELIBERATIONS

1. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Assessor?  
*yes*
2. Shall the Charter require the Assessor to have professional qualifications or specialized training?  
*yes*
3. Shall the Charter provide for the election of an Auditor? *No*
4. Shall the Charter limit an Auditor's responsibility to post-audit functions?
5. Shall the Charter require an Auditor to have professional qualifications or specialized training?
6. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Clerk? *No*
7. Shall the Charter require the Clerk to have professional qualifications or specialized training?  
*No*
8. Should the Superior Court Judges be given the opportunity to select the Clerk?  
*No*
9. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Coroner?  
*No*
10. Shall the Charter require the Coroner to have a medical degree or specialized training in a medical field such as pathology?  
*yes*
11. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Sheriff?  
*No*
12. Shall the Charter require the Sheriff to have professional qualifications or specialized training?  
*yes*
13. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Treasurer?  
*No*
14. Shall the Charter require the Treasurer to have professional qualifications or specialized training?  
*No*
15. Assuming the Charter provides for the election of the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, Sheriff or Treasurer, should any one or all be elected on a non-partisan basis?  
*No*

Assessor

No. Ideally, Assessor should be appointed by the Chief Executive & confirmed by legislative body. (If it is the consensus of the Freeholders that the Assessor must be elected in order to pass the Charter, O.K. I realize many voters do not understand that the Assessor merely appraises and does not set the millage level.)

Please - can we change his title to County Appraiser

2. Yes. Appraiser must be a member of the MAI (Master Appraisal Institute).

Auditor

No. The office of Auditor should be abolished altogether as the title is a complete misnomer. Two men from the State Auditor's Office checking daily in the Treasurer's Office is enough "watch dogging."

The odd collection of jobs presently handled in Auditor's Office) should be regrouped in a Department of Elections, Licenses, & Records.

4. Yes. If we have to have an Auditor, limit his responsibility to post-audit functions. Perhaps some time later, the duplication with what the State Auditor is doing can be pointed out, so the Auditor can be eliminated.

10. Yes. Both. Medical degree and at least 2 years post graduate training in pathology.

Sheriff

11. No. He should be appointed by Chief Executive with confirmation of legislature.

12. Yes. Either a degree or experience in the field of Police Administration.

Treasurer

13. No. He should be appointed by the Chief Executive with confirmation of legislature.

He should be in the newly created Dept. of Finance (~~a staff dept.~~)

14. Yes. He should be trained in financial administration with either governmental or private business experience.

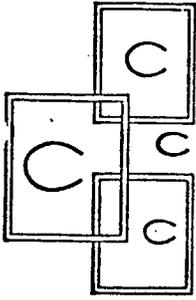
15. Just leave the matter open. The qualifications are more important than party declaration.

16. Yes. Absolutely.

17. Yes. He should serve until his term of office expires. He should be on an "Advisory Council" to the new Executive for the transitional period. He should continue to receive his salary until his term of office expires.



23. No. Even though county govt. might get stuck with some old elected officials, the Chief Executive & legislature should be able to rearrange depts.
24. Yes — for Heads of Line Depts (see # 20 above)  
No — for Heads of Staff Depts. (see # 20 above)
25. Yes.
26. No — only if requested by the department head who is fired.



# COLUMBIA - CASCADE CORPORATION

500 UNION STREET  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101  
TELEPHONE MAIN 2-7202

Dear Dick:

Since I will be out of the city May 11th and May 18th, I would like to respond to the questions which have been provided concerning Charter provisions outlined in your memorandum of May 7th, 1968.

1. I think the Charter should provide for the appointment of the Assessor by the elected Chief-Executive Officer.
2. I think the qualifications of the Assessor should be limited to residence and to 5 years of executive responsibility in the public or private sector.
3. I think the position of an Auditor should be eliminated, and his clerical functions consolidated.
4. I think the elected Commissioners should have the authority to select their own Auditor who would be responsible to the Commissioners, and would provide a post-audit function, and an investigative function.
5. I think the qualifications for the Auditor should be limited to 5 years of executive experience, public or private sector, plus a residence qualification.
6. I think the Clerk should be appointed.
7. I think the Clerk's qualification should be limited to 5 years of executive experience in the public or private sector; and residence requirements.
8. I think the Clerk should be appointed by the Chief-Executive Officer, but his appointment should be subject to the approval of the Superior Court Judges of King County, and not the Commissioners.

Mr. Richard Albrecht

May 9, 1968

Page 2

9. I think the office of Coroner should be abolished and a Medical Examiner should be created.
10. I think the Medical Examiner should not be required to have a medical degree, but could have a medical degree, - or be a qualified pathologist or criminalist.
11. I think the Sheriff should be appointed by the Chief-Executive Officer.
12. I think the Sheriff should be required to have 5 years of senior law-enforcement experience, and a residence requirement.
13. I think the Treasurer should be changed to a Finance Officer, and he should be appointed by the Chief-Executive Officer.
14. I think the requirements beyond residence should be that the Financial Officer should have 5 years of senior banking, or financial administration in the public or private sector.
15. All elected positions should be partisan.
16. I think the incumbent elected officials should not be allowed to complete their terms. On the election of a Chief-Executive Officer and a Board of County Commissioners, or County Councilmen, I think the Charter should go into effect within a specified period of time. Many of the now-elected officials would be considered as appointive officials in a reorganized system, so I would think there would be little hardship.
17. I think no elected official whose office is abolished by the Charter should be allowed to serve beyond the effective date of the Charter, subject to my comments in Paragraph 16.
18. I think there should be no restrictions on incumbents running for offices provided in the Charter.

Mr. Richard Albrecht

May 9, 1968

Page 3

19. I think the Charter should be silent in structuring offices and departments beyond general recommendations; however, I do think that there could be comments in the report of the Freeholders outside of the Charter, - which might be used as guidelines for community discussion. I think the Chief-Executive Officer, with the consent of elected Commissioners, should have broad powers to establish new administrative procedures.
20. I think the Charter should define functional areas of government as outlined in Question 20; however, I also think that the Chief Executive and the elected Commissioners should have the opportunity to revise, easily, these administrative areas.
21. The Chief-Executive Officer should be expected to create the new administrative procedures, subject to the consent of the elected Commissioners.
22. The Charter should allow the Chief-Executive Officer to recommend any transfer or consolidation of services, subject to the consent of the Legislative Body.
23. I'm not prepared to answer 23, since I do not suggest that there be any elected officials outside of the Chief-Executive Officer.
24. The Charter should require legislative confirmation for the appointment of any Department Head by the Chief Executive, except, the Chief Administrative Officer, who should be selected by the Chief Executive, and who may be removed by the Legislature, but need not approve his appointment.
25. The Chief Executive should be allowed to remove Department Heads, subject to the safety considerations of a Personnel Review Board.
26. I think the hearings on the removal of Department Heads should be closed, and only the results should be made public.

Mr. Richard Albrecht

May 9, 1968

Page 4

27. I think the Charter should provide for initiative procedure.
28. I am not prepared to comment on any restrictions that should be made to referring matters to the electorate, although I can see that certain areas might be so restricted.
29. I think the Charter should have a referendum provision. I would assume that it would be necessary for the Legislature to pass an ordinance in order for a referendum to be initiated.
30. I think the Charter should provide for referendum by petition of citizens.
31. I think the Legislative Body should also have the power of referendum.
32. I think the Charter should provide for a process of recall of any elected official.
33. I think the Charter should provide for a position of Ombudsman to be appointed by the Superior Court Judges, and serve at their pleasure.
34. I think the Ombudsman should be selected by the Superior Court Judges, and not by the Legislative Body.
35. I think the Charter should provide for the Commissioners to hear planning and zoning appeals.
36. I think the Charter should abandon the Planning Commission and transfer the responsibility to the Legislative Body; or, if they do not do this, establish a Planning Commission and have them paid a substantial per diem for this function.
37. I think the Charter should require the Executive to prepare a program budget.

Mr. Richard Albrecht  
May 9, 1968  
Page 5

38. I think the Charter should eliminate the Park Board and transfer the authority to the Chief Executive; however, I would recommend the establishment of an Advisory Park Board to be established by the Chief Executive.
39. Within the limits of what the Charter can do, everything should be done to establish an independent Civil Legal Department for the Chief Executive.
40. If it's possible, the Charter should provide for a Public Defender to work in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
41. I would suggest that the Personnel Board Rules and Regulations not be referred to the Legislative Body, but could be vetoed by the Chief-Executive Officer and then referred to the Legislative Body to be acknowledged or overruled.
42. I think the Legislative Body should have no authority to amend the rules and regulations of the Personnel Board except through the process of Executive veto.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Block

RJB:j

May 9, 1968

Mr. Richard Albrecht, Chairman  
Board of King County Freeholders  
905 King-County Building  
Seattle, Washington 98104

A G E N D A  
DELIBERATION ON DEPARTMENTS  
AND RELATED SUBJECTS

May 11, 1968

1. Call to order - 9:30 a.m.
2. Minutes of April 27th meeting.
3. Reports & Announcements by Chairman.
4. Staff Report.
5. General Discussion.
6. Deliberation - Questions.
7. Adjournment by 12:30 p.m.

## BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

## WORK SHEET FOR MAY 11TH &amp; MAY 18TH DELIBERATIONS

1. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Assessor?  
First choice: No. Second choice: Let this question be an alternate vote.
2. Shall the Charter require the Assessor to have professional qualifications or specialized training? Yes, member of MAI or five years appraising experience or equivalent
3. Shall the Charter provide for the election of an Auditor? First choice: No. Second choice: alternate vote.
4. Shall the Charter limit an Auditor's responsibility to post-audit functions? Yes.
5. Shall the Charter require an Auditor to have professional qualifications or specialized training? Yes. CPA or LPA or equivalent
6. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Clerk? No.
7. Shall the Charter require the Clerk to have professional qualifications or specialized training? No.
8. Should the Superior Court Judges be given the opportunity to select the Clerk? No. (appointed by executive, subject to confirmation by Superior Court Judges)
9. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Coroner? No.
10. Shall the Charter require the Coroner to have a medical degree or specialized training in a medical field such as pathology? I would prefer an appointed medical examiner rather than a coroner but if there must be a coroner, he should be a doctor.
11. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Sheriff? First choice: No. Second choice: Alternate vote.
12. Shall the Charter require the Sheriff to have professional qualifications or specialized training? Yes. Degree in law enforcement or five years experience or equivalent.
13. Shall the Charter provide for the election of the Treasurer? No.
14. Shall the Charter require the Treasurer to have professional qualifications or specialized training? Not applicable.
15. Assuming the Charter provides for the election of the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, Sheriff or Treasurer, should any one or all be elected on a non-partisan basis? No.



30. Should the Charter provide for referendum as the result of petition signed by citizens? No.
31. Should the Charter provide for a referendum to the people provided by the legislative body? No, no, no!
32. Should the Charter provide for a recall of elected officials? First choice: No. Second choice: Yes.
33. Should the Charter provide for an office to handle citizen complaints? Yes.
34. Should the Charter provide that the individual in charge of receiving citizen complaints be appointed by the legislative body? No; he should be appointed by the Superior Court Judges. *CITIZENS' REPRESENTATIVE*
35. Should the Charter provide for a board to hear zoning appeals? Yes.
36. Should the Charter attempt to abolish the Planning Commission and transfer its responsibility to the legislative body? Yes.
37. Should the Charter require that the executive prepare a budget which reflects the program to be carried out for the ensuing year? Yes.
38. Should the Charter attempt to eliminate the Park Board and transfer its responsibilities to the legislative body and the executive? Yes.
39. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an independent legal department to assist the chief executive? Yes.
40. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an office of Public Defender? Yes.
41. Should the Charter require that the personnel board rules and regulations be ratified by the legislative body? No.
42. Should the Charter allow the legislative body to amend any rules and regulations adopted by the personnel board? No.

INITIATIVE REFERENDUM PROCEDURES  
OF SELECTED METROPOLITAN HOME RULE COUNTIES

County	Referendum		Initiative		Recall	
	People	Legis.	Limitations	% Signatures Required	Offices Subject to Recall	
Allegheny	X	X	No amendment of ordinances - 1 yr. limit	(Procedure identical for all 3) 5% last vote gov.	Any number of Bd. of Co. Commissioners, Sheriff, Judges.	
Anderson	X	X	Gen'l Law and 20% Quali. voters - Council - No proposed amendments more than twice during term		Mayor, Vice Mayor, council Metro. Bd. or comm., Ousted - Tenn. Code.	
Chester	--	X	Bond issues mandatory - 1 million\$ or more	---	---	
Clara	X	--	"Provision of general law"	enabled in Gen'l statement	Gen'l Law	Any elective office after holding office six months.
Donah	X	--	Specifically: Public Impr. & remonstrance (delay)	30 days' notice 15% voters	"An elective officer may be recalled in manner & with effect prescribed by state law"	
Timore	X	--	10% (vote-Gov.) Borrowing must be approved-ref. annual	Charter Amendment - 20% or 10,000 voters	---	---
Sau	X	--	Mandatory Ref. & detailed limits	---	---	---
Polulu	X	X	Charter revision- (Mandatory)	---	---	---
Del	X	No	Exceptions listed- annual budget, capital program, or repeal appropriation	Limits on power 10% (Gov.)	---	---
Washington	X	X	Laws necessary for public peace, health or safety exempted	10% of voters		No judges of court of record.

A G E N D A

DELIBERATION SESSION - MAY 18, 1968

1. Call to Order.
2. Reading and approval of minutes of May 11th meeting.
3. Reports and Announcements by Chairman.
4. Staff Report.
5. General Discussion.
6. Adjournment (Time not Determined).

REVISED WORK SHEET

MAY 18TH DELIBERATION SESSION

1. Should the Charter allow the incumbent elected officers to complete their terms of office?
2. Shall the Charter make any distinction for incumbent County Commissioners to allow them to serve as members of the newly-created legislative body?
3. As a further refinement in the selection of the Assessor, should the Charter provide that he be selected from a list of qualified candidates, appointed by the executive, confirmed by the legislative body and required to run as a single candidate every four years on the question whether he should be continued in office?
4. Shall the Charter refer to what is now the Assessor as the Appraiser?
5. Shall the Charter refer to the legislative body as (Commissioners), (Supervisors), (Councilmen), (Legislators), (Freeholders)?
6. Shall the Charter refer to the chief executive as the (County Mayor), (County Manager), (County Executive), (Administrative Officer)?
7. Shall the Charter provide that the chief executive's salary be (A fixed amount), (150% of the legislators), (180% of the legislators)?
8. Should the Board of Freeholders direct the staff to prepare a Charter with existing departmental activities grouped into functional areas such as public works, finance, public safety, medical and social services, and administrative services?
9. Should the Charter require legislative confirmation for the appointment of any department head by the chief executive?

10. Should the Charter provide that the chief executive be allowed to remove department heads without cause?
11. Should the Charter provide for a public hearing upon the removal of a department head by the chief executive?
12. Should the Charter make any restriction as to any subject which cannot be referred to the people for a vote?
13. Shall the Charter require that all referendums be first passed as ordinances by the legislative body before submission to the people?
14. Should the Charter provide for referendum as the result of petition signed by citizens?
15. Should the Charter provide for an office to handle citizen complaints?
16. Should the Charter attempt to abolish any statutory boards or commissions and transfer their functions to either the executive or legislative branch?
17. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an independent legal department to assist the chief executive?
18. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an office of public defender?
19. Should the Charter provide that policies adopted by the personnel board be reviewed and approved by the legislative body?

A D D E N D U M

TO WORK SHEET

FOR

MAY 11TH & MAY 18TH DELIBERATIONS

1. Shall the Charter make any distinction for incumbent County Commissioners to allow them to serve as members of the newly-created legislative body?
2. Shall the Charter refer to the legislative body as (Commissioners), (Supervisors), (Councilmen), (Freeholders), (Legislators)?
3. Shall the Charter refer to the chief executive as the (County Mayor), (County Manager), (County Executive), (Administrative Officer)?
4. Shall the Charter provide that the chief executive's salary be (twice that of the legislators), (150% of the legislators), (180% of the legislators), (200% of the legislators)?
5. Shall the Charter require that a county administrative code be established following adoption?

# MINUTES

## DELIBERATION ON DEPARTMENTS AND RELATED SUBJECTS

(Continued from May 11, 1968)

May 18, 1968

### 1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chairman Richard Albrecht. All Freeholders were present except Robert Block and Howard Bothell. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary, and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel.

### 2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the May 11th meeting were approved as distributed.

### 3. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN.

The revision in the Freeholders' budget allocation from the King County Commissioners, changing the provision for Salaries and Wages to Contractual Services, was explained. The voucher submitted for Virginia Galle for her research activities was approved for payment, and Mrs. Galle was thanked for her work thus far by the Freeholders.

### 4. STAFF REPORT.

Paul Meyer reported that many persons were stopping by the Freeholders' office in order to obtain information about the Charter provisions; and that County employees, in particular, were showing a great deal of interest in the personnel system section of the Charter. A representative of the State Grange was gathering information for an article he intended to write for the "Grange News".

Mr. Meyer supplemented his written memorandum to the Freeholders on the public defender vs. assigned counsel system with additional information, and concluded that the main difference was the cost--- with a public defender program requiring substantially more funds.

He also brought up the subject of a Complaint Department for citizens, and particularly the "Ombudsman" in Nassau County. There was general discussion regarding this, and Mr. Wampold suggested that a copy of the Nassau County Charter be obtained, as Nassau County is the only county which incorporates the Ombudsman concept.

Mr. Meyer also mentioned that he had talked to certain attorneys who had business before the King County Planning Commission, and that he was in the process of gathering all the information possible regarding the activities of the Planning Commission. He stated that the attorneys with whom he had discussed the planning procedures of King County indicated they thought there should continue to be

some sort of intermediary body to review zoning changes before consideration by the legislative body. Mrs. North requested a meeting on planning procedures and ideas, alternative planning procedures and additional information on planning concepts to be presented to the Freeholders.

5. DELIBERATION.

The Chairman then posed the following questions to the Freeholders who were present, using the revised work sheet as a guide:

1. (This question was rephrased by the Chairman to read as follows):

Shall the Charter allow the incumbent elected department heads to continue in county employment for a period of time at least equal to the balance of their elected terms and at the same salary?

VOTE: For, 13 Against, 0 Absent, 2.

2. (This question, also, was rephrased by the Chairman, and divided into the three following questions):

A. Should the Charter allow the King County Commissioners who are elected in November, 1968 to hold their positions as members of the legislative body of King County without running again for election for their positions after the Charter goes into effect?

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 2 Absent, 2.

B. Should the Charter allow the King County Commissioner who began his term of office in November of 1966 to hold his position as a member of the legislative body without running again for election to this position after the Charter goes into effect?

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 2 Absent, 2.

C. Should the Charter provide that the department heads, after the expiration of the terms to which they were elected, be allowed to continue their employment with the County in some administrative capacity at a salary comparable to that which they had previously received?

VOTE: For, 12 Against, 1 Absent, 2.

- 3 & 4. Question 3 was not voted on, and 4 was divided into two questions by the Chairman, as follows:

A. Shall the Assessor be known as the Appraiser in the Charter?

VOTE: For, 2 Against, 11 Absent, 2.

B. Shall the elected Assessor be limited to two full terms?

VOTE: For, 2 Against, 11 Absent, 2.

5. Shall the Charter refer to the legislative body as:

A. Commissioners? VOTE: For, 12 Present & Not Voting, 1  
Absent, 2.

B. Supervisors? (None) C. Councilmen? (None)

D. Legislators? " E. Freeholders? "

6. Shall the Charter refer to the chief executive as the:

A. County Mayor? (None)

B. County Manager? "

C. County Executive? VOTE: For, 10 Against, 2 Absent, 2  
Present & Not Voting, 1.

D. Administrative Officer? (None)

E. County Chief Executive? VOTE: For, 4 Against, 8 Absent, 2  
Present & Not Voting, 1.

7. A. Shall the Charter provide that the chief executive's initial salary be:

1. A fixed amount? (None)

2. 150% of the legislators? VOTE: For, 9 Against, 3  
Present & Not Voting, 1  
Absent, 2.

3. 180% of the legislators? (None)

(At this point Mr. Friedlander asked to have his vote recorded that he is not in favor of the salary being set forth in the Charter.)

B. Should the Charter provide that the Chief Executive's minimum salary be fixed as a multiple of the salary of the members of the Legislative Body at all times?

VOTE: For, 7 Against, 6 Absent, 2.

8. Should the Board of Freeholders direct the staff to prepare a Charter with existing departmental activities grouped into functional areas such as public works, finance, public safety, medical and social services, and administrative services?

VOTE: For, 13 Against, 0 Absent, 2.

9. Question 9 was rephrased and divided into the two following questions by the Chairman:

A. Should the Charter require legislative confirmation for the appointment of any line department head by the chief executive?

VOTE: For, 13 Against, 0 Absent, 2.

B. Should the Charter require legislative confirmation for the appointment of any Staff department head by the Chief Executive?

VOTE: For, 0 Against, 13 Absent, 2.

10. Should the Charter provide that the chief executive be allowed to remove department heads?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Present & Not Voting, 3 Absent, 2

11. Should the Charter permit a department head who has been removed to demand a hearing upon removal by the chief executive?

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 11 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.

12. Question 12 was rephrased by the Chairman and divided into two questions as follows:

A. Should the limitation upon the right of the people for a referendum on matters passed by the legislature be patterned after the Washington State provisions?

VOTE: For, 9 Against, 0 Present & Not Voting, 4 Absent, 2.

B. Should the Charter prohibit the legislative body from referring legislative matters to the people on their motion?

VOTE: For, 5 Against, 7 Present & Not Voting, 1  
Absent, 2.

13. Shall the Charter require that all referenda be first passed as ordinances by the legislative body before submission to the people?

VOTE: For, 12 Against, 1 Absent, 2.

14. Should the Charter provide for referenda as the result of petition signed by citizens?

VOTE: For, 12 Against, 1 Absent, 2.

15. Question 15 read, "Should the Charter provide for an office to handle citizen complaints?" This question was not voted on, but the following three votes were taken with regard to it:

A. Shall Question 15 be deferred for consideration at a later time?

VOTE: For, 3 Against, 10 Absent, 2.

B. Shall Question 15 on the work sheet be stricken?

VOTE: For, 4 Against, 8 Present & Not Voting, 1  
Absent, 2.

- C. Should the staff be directed to propose alternate provisions reflecting the views of the various Freeholders as to method of selection and placement in the Charter for a provision for a citizen complaint office?  
 VOTE: For, 11 Against, 1 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.
16. Question 16 was divided and rephrased into the following three questions by the Chairman:
- A. Should the Charter attempt to bypass the present Planning Commission and submit hearings on land use directly to the legislative body?  
 VOTE: For, 9 Against, 3 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.
- B. Should the Charter attempt to propose a quasi-judicial appeal board to hear zoning classification appeals?  
 VOTE: For, 12 Against, 0 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.
- C. Should the Charter attempt to abolish any statutory boards or commissions, excluding the Planning Commission, and transfer their functions to either the executive or legislative branches?  
 VOTE: For, 10 Against, 1 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.
17. Question 17 was rephrased and divided into two questions by the Chairman as follows:
- A. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an independent legal department to assist the chief executive?  
 VOTE: For, 6 Against, 6 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.
- B. Should we ask the staff to include in the Charter a provision permitting the establishment of an independent legal department at such time as State law permits?  
 VOTE: For, 8 Against, 5 Absent, 2.
18. Should the Charter attempt to provide for an office of public defender?  
 VOTE: For, 0 Against, 13 Absent, 2.
19. Question 19 was rephrased and divided into two questions by the Chairman, as follows:
- A. Should the Charter provide that policies adopted by the personnel board be submitted for approval or rejection by the legislative body?  
 VOTE: For, 9 Against, 1 Present & Not Voting, 3 Absent, 2.

19. B. Should the Charter provide that policies adopted by the personnel board may be amended by the legislative body?

VOTE: For, 4 Against, 6 Present & Not Voting, 3 Absent, 2.

After general discussion, the Freeholders decided to add the following two questions to those on the work sheet, and a vote was taken on them.

20. Should the Charter attempt to provide that elections of officials of the County be during the year in which municipal elections are held, which is now in the "odd-numbered" years?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 2 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 2.

21. (A rephrasing of the May 11th deliberation questions on the Sheriff's qualifications).

Should the Charter require that the Sheriff have certain professional qualifications or special training?

VOTE: For, 5 Against, 8 Absent, 2.

Mr. Curran requested the Charter be drafted to provide for the County to assume special districts (water, sewer & fire) services, and to decentralize the location of the courts and other County services.

The Chairman announced there would be a showing of a new film recently released by the Washington State Association of County Commissioners, after adjournment, for those who wished to remain and view it.

MEETING ADJOURNED - 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*  
Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

LAW OFFICES

LYCETTE, DIAMOND & SYLVESTER

JOHN P. LYCETTE (1965)  
JOSEF DIAMOND  
JOHN N. SYLVESTER  
EARLE W. ZINN  
LYLE L. IVERSEN  
HERMAN HOWE  
JOHN P. LYCETTE, JR.  
SIMON WAMPOLD  
ALBERT O. PRINCE  
WILLIAM J. MILLARD, JR.  
RALPH M. BREMER  
-RICHARD M. FOREMAN

FOURTH FLOOR HOGE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 98104  
MAIN 3-1330 - MAIN 2-4590  
AREA CODE 206

May 31, 1968

Mr. Paul Meyer  
Executive Secretary  
Board of County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse - Room 905A  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Paul:

Referring to the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 1968, it appears that the portion thereof relative to the Planning Commission does not accurately reflect the action taken.

After full discussion at the meeting, it was determined by a vote of 9 to 3 that individual zoning and land use, as distinguished from comprehensive planning, should be fixed and established by the planning staff with appeals directly to the County Commissioners, thus eliminating the intermeditate step of hearings before the Planning Commission. This issue was directly posed, directly discussed, and directly passed upon. The vote was to eliminate the Planning Commission in connection with individual zoning and items of particular land use.

Thereafter Mrs. North and Mrs. Gunby stated that various studies had been made on the subject of land use, and that the freeholders should have the benefit of those studies. Mr. Norman Ackley then suggested that our staff might well look into these studies and perhaps consider some form of quasi-judicial review of the actions of the planning staff.

No one had any objection to having our staff make this study. It was unanimous that we should have the benefit of all information on the subject. That action was not in derogation of previous action by the freeholders relative to the elimination of individual hearings before the Planning Commission, it was not an amendment of the previous action, it was not an exception to the previous action -- it was merely an expression of an open mind to allow our staff to make its studies and any suggestions which might emanate therefrom.

Mr. Paul Meyer  
 May 31, 1968  
 Page two

Having in mind the foregoing, it definitely appears that the minutes as now written are out of context with what actually occurred relative to the Planning Commission. I therefore ask that the minutes be corrected or that this letter be attached to the minutes as further amplification of what action was taken.

Since I will be out of town for several weeks commencing June 10, I believe it well for me to take this opportunity to express my views on several matters on which the consensus of the freeholders has perhaps not yet completely crystalized:

(1) Merit System

- (a) The merit system for county employees should provide a plain, speedy and simple way for a citizen to complain if he feels that he has not been treated courteously or impartially by a county employee.

I want to protect the employee in his job security but also I want to protect the public from abuse by employees who may grow complacent within the haven of a civil service system.

Under our present system of county government, the deportment of county employees in their relationships with the public has been exemplary. I think that it will continue in that manner but I want to safeguard it and to preserve it.

- (b) The merit system must provide some method by which employment and job advancement is not to be solely dependent on pedagogical standards of written examinations.

Many persons who are not adept at taking written examinations may make fine and outstanding county employees.

Furthermore, the standards for promotion should be simple and general rather than detailed and dogmatic.

The recommendations of the official who is responsible for the successful conduct of the office should be weighed heavily in the fixing of any formula to govern new hires, and also as to promotions.

Mr. Paul Meyer  
May 31, 1968  
Page three

The Personnel Board should primarily limit itself to hearing appeals from employees who feel that they have not been treated fairly and equitably. Certain minimum standards of employment practices must of course be established, either by the Personnel Board or by the executive arm of government. But the Personnel Board should not become an employment agency, and the supervision of personnel must primarily rest with the official who is charged with the responsibility of making the office function.

While I believe in a charter which is flexible rather than one tied down with detail, I do believe that in the realm of the merit system, certain safeguards along the lines suggested by me above must be inserted.

(2) The Office of County Auditor Should Be Elective

We have recognized in our deliberations that there is a need for an independent post-audit review of county officials. We have also expressed a consensus for some type of ombudsman or citizen-complaint review board.

If we will but make the auditor elective, we can accomplish the foregoing objectives within the framework of the auditor's office.

The Auditor should be the watchdog of the county ... And also the conscience of the county ... A one-man grand jury but without the evils attendant on periodically and hastily assembled grand juries as we have known them in the past.

Is there any better way to activate an office to scrutinize without fear or favor than to independently elect the officer who is to make the scrutiny?

I sincerely hope that we will give further consideration to this important matter of electing an officer who is to stand as the guardian against loss, waste, theft, or undesirable practices in county government. He will need an independence which he can only achieve through election by the people.

Mr. Paul Meyer  
May 31, 1968  
Page four

I trust that the staff will keep my foregoing views in mind when they formulate a draft for presentation to us.

I will also ask that you bring this letter to the attention of the other freeholders.

Very truly yours,



SIMON WAMPOLD

SW/rj

cc: Mr. Richard Albrecht  
1900 Washington Building  
Seattle

June 3, 1968

TO: All Freeholders

FROM: Richard R. Albrecht, Chairman

SUBJECT: Draft Charter

Enclosed is a draft charter prepared by our staff, together with a cover letter from John Strasburger, our attorney. Please consider this draft as a staff report to the Freeholders which will provide a more useful basis for deliberations at our meeting on Saturday, June 8th, if it is not released to the press or other public media prior to that meeting.

1. Call to order - 9:30 a.m., Room 402 King County Courthouse.
2. Roll Call.
3. Minutes of May 18th Meeting.
4. Announcements.
5. Proposal for the drawing of commissioner district boundaries.
6. Proposal for professional critique of draft charter.
7. Consideration of proposed changes to draft charter.
8. Consideration of future meeting dates.
9. Adjournment - no later than 12:30 p.m.

In order to make our consideration of this draft as orderly as possible, I urge each of you who has a specific change to propose, to advise the Freeholder office before Saturday of the nature of the change, and, if possible, the specific language which you propose. In this way we may be able to avoid some duplication and can arrange the agenda in a more orderly manner. It is my suggestion that we consider first those suggestions which have been previously forwarded to the office, and to entertain suggestions from the floor after all of the former have been considered.

Mr. Raj Joshi, an expert in population data analysis, is willing to undertake the task of drawing the initial commissioner district boundaries within guide lines established by the Freeholders. His resume and proposal is enclosed. As you will note from the proposed agenda, I believe we should consider retaining Mr. Joshi to provide this service.

It has also been suggested at various times that the Freeholders contract for a professional critique of our draft charter by a consultant experienced in dealing with local governments and in drafting home rule charters. Mr. John Donaho, who has spoken to the Freeholders, and who is knowledgeable concerning King County, would be available to perform such a service. It is possible we will have a specific proposal from him for consideration at Saturday's meeting. If you prefer consideration of a different expert, please let me know.

Thursday, June 13th, Mr. William Cassella, assistant director of the National Municipal League, and a recognized expert in constitution and charter drafting, will be appearing at a seminar on constitutional revision at the University of Washington. It may be possible for us to arrange a meeting with Mr. Cassella on Wednesday evening, June 12th. On the assumption that we should take advantage of every opportunity to hear the advice of recognized experts, particularly when this can be done at little or no cost, I have asked Paul Meyer to attempt to arrange such a meeting unless a substantial number of Freeholders call and state that they consider such a meeting unwise, unnecessary or inappropriate. You will be notified later concerning the time and place of such a meeting.

I expect that Saturday's session will not give us an opportunity to consider all proposed changes to the draft charter which should be considered prior to its distribution to interested individuals and organizations in advance of public hearings. I hope we can adopt a schedule calling for frequent meetings of the Board of Freeholders after June 8th until the draft reaches a stage where we are ready to submit it at the public hearings. I have asked Paul Meyer to have a proposed schedule for tentative dates on public hearings and meetings on the proposed draft charter ready by Saturday.

KENNETH P. SHORT  
PAUL R. CRESSMAN  
DONALD A. CABLE  
WILLIAM L. HINTZE  
JOHN O. BURGESS  
DOUGLAS R. HARTWICH  
JOAN E. HANSEN  
JOHN C. HOOVER  
ROBERT E. HEATON  
JOHN H. STRASBURGER  
DONALD W. FERRELL  
PHILLIP OFFENBACKER  
PAUL A. BARRETT  
EDWARD R. LANGENBACH, JR.

LAW OFFICES OF  
**SHORT, CRESSMAN & CABLE**  
SUITE 1107 OLYMPIC NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING  
SECOND AVENUE AT MADISON STREET  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

AREA CODE 206  
MU. 2-3333

June 3, 1968

Board of King County Freeholders  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Freeholders:

Enclosed is the first proposed draft of the charter. In addition to the tentative decisions reached by the freeholders, it was requested that the draft include alternate provisions concerning the procedure for handling citizens' complaints. However, to avoid confusion, only the first alternative has been specifically included; and section 220.20 of the draft directs the board of county commissioners to create a citizens' service office to receive and investigate complaints. The alternate provisions which have not been included are:

To include in section 260 a provision requiring the auditor to:

". . . receive and investigate citizens' complaints concerning the operation of county government and report to the county commissioners the results of his investigations. . . ."

To include in the executive branch, Article 3, a new subsection:

"350.10.60. Office of Citizens' Complaints.

The office of citizens' complaints shall receive and investigate complaints concerning the operation of county government and the conduct of county officers and employees."

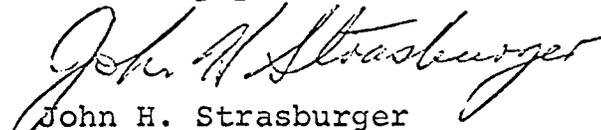
Since the tentative decisions by the freeholders have been basically limited to broad matters of substance, many provisions have been included in the draft which have not yet been discussed. The majority of these deal with matters of procedure such as the number of votes required to override an executive veto and the effective dates of ordinances. However, substantive matters have also been included. Some of the more controversial items are the placement

Board of King County Freeholders  
June 3, 1968  
Page 2

of the administrative offices (staff) directly under the county administrative officer, the creation of a board of appeals to hear and determine appeals from the executive branch concerning property valuations and certain zoning applications, and the inclusion of conflict of interest provisions in Article 7. These and other provisions have been included in order to present a comprehensive draft and to assist the freeholders in determining the additional provisions which should and should not be included in the charter.

Since any charter which is adopted by the freeholders will be subject to the provisions of the state constitution and at least some of the state statutes, substantial research must be performed to determine that the charter does not conflict with mandatory provisions and that all matters have been considered which should be included in the charter to eliminate as far as possible future disputes concerning its interpretation. This research has been commenced but has not been concluded, and it may be necessary to alter some of the language and provisions in the draft as a result of this research.

Sincerely yours,

  
John H. Strasburger

JHS:cj  
Enclosure

## Mrs. North To Speak At Luncheon

Mrs. Douglass C. North will speak to the Mercer Island Federated Republican Women at luncheon beginning at 11:45 a.m. Monday, June 3, at the home of Mrs. C. A. Newell, 6043 78th S.E.

Mrs. North will discuss the proposed King County charter, and some of the ideas being advanced by the Board of County Freeholders, of which she is a member.

Mrs. North is a past president of the Seattle League of Women Voters, and is currently a candidate for the Republican nomination for State representative from the 44th legislative district.

Cost of the luncheon is \$1.50. The public is welcome. No babysitting service will be available at this meeting.

## Stadium Stand Is Approved

Mr. John L. Fournier,  
Editor and Publisher  
Dear John:

Thanks for sending me your editorial on "Let's Not Deceive Voters on the Stadium." I agree with you that we do have a problem in that \$40,000,000 will not provide parking for a stadium. \$40,000,000 will be needed for a covered stadium and the problem of parking will still exist.

Along side of that editorial you had another editorial on "A King County Sugar-Plum Tree." After I read it I certainly agree with your thinking that perhaps we could get the county commissioners to serve at \$1 per year. I will bring this up at the next Freeholders meeting which is this coming Saturday. Thanks for remembering me.

Sincerely,  
Paul S. Friedlander,  
Member, Board of King  
County Freeholders.

Seattle, Wash.

Argus  
(Cir. W. 7,210)

JUN 7 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Letters to the Argus

Dear Sir: 2177

I disagree. The governments of King County and the City of Seattle should remain separate. In addition, the Freeholders have a most difficult, yet most necessary and urgent job to do and do well.

The Wall Street Journal on 3 October 1967 pointed out that the combined government of the County and City of Honolulu has all the problems of any big city in the U.S., and has the same lack of solutions. Many political scientists place the blame for these problems of cities on the patchwork of local governments. Consolidation they maintain will permit solution of these problems.

Honolulu has a consolidated government. According to the Journal, its worst problem is a lack of planning. Therefore, the Honolulu experience indicates that large, central governments do not provide "better" planning or "better" urban development.

To paraphrase Professor Robert Warren of the University of Washington (a political scientist) a central, combined government does not per se make master plans easy or workable. Small area problems remain the same regardless of the size of Government. In addition, big government is not necessarily efficient or coordinated. May I add, as an example, our Federal Government?

I request that you encourage the Freeholders to devise a simple, efficient and workable organization for our county. To quote the League of Women Voters, whom you have asked for help, "the unwieldy structure of county government makes it difficult for the citizen to understand, to vote intelligently, or to know whom he can contact for answers to his governmental problems."

FRANK MATZ

### Meeting Postponed<sup>2177</sup>

The County Board of Freeholders meeting scheduled tomorrow was postponed today because of the mourning for Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Richard Albrecht, chairman, said the meeting will be held June 15.

JUN 10 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Progress Report On Local Government

Presently <sup>2177</sup> numerous changes and improvements are underway in both city and county governments, but change for the sake of change is not necessarily desirable. We are interested in change for the sake of improvement and we believe that presently this is the brand that is being 'sold.'

Some citizens think that local government is stagnant, unbending, uninteresting and uninterested. This type of thinking has not always been without cause but credit should be given where it is due.

### CITY

Here are some of the changes for the better in Seattle which clearly show the responsiveness of the city government toward better administration.

1. In 1967 a highly select and well qualified committee of citizens appointed by the Mayor studied the City Charter and recommended a number of important changes which were received and analyzed by the city government and subsequently approved by the voters in November. They are in the process of being implemented and undoubtedly will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of city administration.

2. The city administration reacted promptly in the summer of 1967 to the increasing poverty and race problems and by developing some well considered actions helped calm an uneasy situation. Additional programs in this area have since been developed and major strides are being made toward permanent solutions to some of the problems.

3. A comprehensive survey of the Seattle Police Department has been made by the International Association of Police Chiefs, an organization with experienced and highly competent analysts. The findings of the study, when implemented, undoubtedly will result in an improved Police Department.

4. A job classification survey of over 10,000 positions in city government has been undertaken. It will go a long way toward updating many jobs because of changes in technology, systems and procedures, and in the operation of city departments.

5. Another highly select and well qualified committee of citizens is studying, in detail, the procedures and operations of the City Council with the objective of determining what changes could improve and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of that important and busy legislative body.

6. Finally, it must be recognized that the Forward Thrust proposals were developed under the sponsorship of both the City and the County government. Those proposals that were approved by the voters are being implemented with a cooperative effort in an attempt to give citizens the most for their Forward Thrust tax dollar.

## OMBUDSMAN

The concept of an "Ombudsman," to deal with citizen complaints has been gaining favor in many quarters by students of government. The League's King County Government Committee recommended the establishment of an Ombudsman's office in the charter now being drafted by the Freeholders. This recommendation appears to have caught the fancy of the Freeholders for they have incorporated the provision for such a function in their preliminary draft of the charter.

Studies of this approach in dealing with citizen complaints have been developed by the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California. A paper entitled "The Citizen and the Bureaucracy," it was noted that a paradox often develops, wherein the citizen seeks to control the bureaucracy that he has indirectly established to control, in part, his own activities. The paper describes and evaluates the role of the legislative branch as a "collective Ombudsman," and its continuing capacity to handle citizen complaints in the absence of new institutions.

The Institute of Government Studies has contributed several articles to the continuing study of the Ombudsman with the premise that the present social structure is essentially bureaucratic in both public and private sectors. The report says that public bureaucracies wield great power. They can be a source of abuse and injustice even assuming the best of motives since the frequency of contacts between a citizen and the government has increased.

The Ombudsman concept is practiced in several European countries with considerable effectiveness in some instances but has yet to be instituted on a large scale in this country. Critics of the proposal say that establishment of this new ser-

has been made by the International Association of Police Chiefs, an organization with experienced and highly competent analysts. The findings of the study, when implemented, undoubtedly will result in an improved Police Department.

4. A job classification survey of over 10,000 positions in city government has been undertaken. It will go a long way toward updating many jobs because of changes in technology, systems and procedures, and in the operation of city departments.

5. Another highly select and well qualified committee of citizens is studying, in detail, the procedures and operations of the City Council with the objective of determining what changes could improve and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of that important and busy legislative body.

6. Finally, it must be recognized that the Forward Thrust proposals were developed under the sponsorship of both the City and the County government. Those proposals that were approved by the voters are being implemented with a cooperative effort in an attempt to give citizens the most for their Forward Thrust tax dollar.

#### COUNTY

As of now we can't point to as many changes in the county government as we credit to the city, but there actually could be more by this time next year.

1. The action with potentially the greatest impact on county government is the preparation of a new County Charter by the fifteen Freeholders elected last November. They have spent much time and effort following a carefully considered and well organized program to come up with the most suitable and acceptable county government they can humanly put together. If this Charter is accepted by the voters in November it will bring much needed improvement to county government.

2. Forward Thrust of course was based to a large extent on proposals affecting the entire county and had strong county government support. The county is moving ahead promptly in implementing the successful proposals.

3. A big step in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the government of the county was the appointment of a County Administrator. This was an important and long overdue change.

4. Another improvement which undoubtedly will bring about greater efficiency was the consolidation of the two County Road Districts. This is another step forward.

It is good once in awhile to sit down, resurvey the situation and recognize the signs of progress and improvement. Everything isn't all bad. We do have many hard-working, dedicated people, in and out of local government, struggling to provide effective and efficient government. The Municipal League is dedicated to this endeavor.

The Institute of Government Studies has contributed several articles to the continuing study of the Ombudsman with the premise that the present social structure is essentially bureaucratic in both public and private sectors. The report says that public bureaucracies wield great power. They can be a source of abuse and injustice even assuming the best of motives since the frequency of contacts between a citizen and the government has increased.

The Ombudsman concept is practiced in several European countries with considerable effectiveness in some instances but has yet to be instituted on a large scale in this country. Critics of the proposal say that establishment of this new service would more than add to the already over-burdened operations of local government. A bill proposing an Ombudsman office be established for state government failed in the last session of the Legislature.

Proponents of the concept say that bureaucracies are so large and unwieldy and remote from the individual citizen that it is extremely difficult for him to know where to take his grievance.

COMMENT: Most people agree that some procedure should be established for servicing citizen complaints but the comment was made by Herb Robinson in the Seattle Times, that another name should be offered up in place of "Ombudsman," which few people understand let alone are able to pronounce.

## Best's Moonlighting

The revelation that City Councilman Ted Best is on the payroll of the Washington Optometric Association, as its executive secretary, raises some serious questions regarding the salaries and responsibilities of elected public officials.

City Council positions, which command annual salaries of \$15,000, are supposed to be full-time jobs. It's difficult to believe that Best can devote a proper amount of time to the city while earning an extra \$5,400 a year from another employer.

Even assuming that Best, who we regard as an able councilman, is giving the city a fair shake, the question of ethics arises. We believe there is an inevitable conflict of interest when an elected public official accepts pay from a private source, particularly one which may have legislative goals.

The citizens of Seattle have a right to demand that their city councilmen

stick to their jobs as councilmen. Accordingly, they should be paid enough to preclude the necessity of their seeking outside income.

On the matter of salaries for public officials, the King County Board of Freeholders has recommended that county commissioners to be elected under the proposed new charter receive \$18,000 annually and the county's chief elected administrator \$27,000. The theory is that these salaries will be high enough to attract qualified candidates and to insure that they devote all of their working hours to the county. It's a good theory, and we subscribe to it.

IT MAY BE that the level of City Council salaries is due for a review. We think a reasonable argument can be made that councilmanic salaries should at least equal those of the county commissioners.

In the meantime, we suggest that Councilman Best halt his moonlighting.

Renton, Wash.  
Record Chronicle  
(Cir. W. 19,180)

MAY 26 1968

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## New County Charter's Almost Done

By Our County News Bureau

A wrapup of the work produced by the Board of King County Freeholders in six months on the job was issued late last week by Paul Meyer, executive secretary of the board. Included in his report were the major points of agreement on what will be in the new county charter, due for its first unveiling June 8.

In it are decisions involving the restructuring of King County in its legislative and executive functions, including a proposal to provide for a full-time legislative body of nine commissioners nominated and elected by district. This group would have only legislative responsibilities and would be paid a salary no less than that which AA-class county commissioners receive — which will be \$18,000 yearly after next fall's elections. Elections would be on a partisan basis.

Freeholders also decided the new charter should include a chief executive independently elected at large, also on a partisan basis, and that he should have on his staff a professional administrator who would be responsible for staff administration. The board pegged salary of the chief executive at one to one and a half times that of county legislators.

In a third major decision, freeholders approved the creation of a personnel system for the county in a separate body apart from the executive and the legislature. The director of this system and the board's members should be appointed by the county chief executive, with the board's chief function primarily the hearing of grievances. Other policies involving hiring and examinations were judged to be an executive matter within the preview of the personnel director.

Some political activity should be allowed at the state or federal level, freeholders argued, but prohibited such activity for county employees. Those persons presently employed by the county, they felt, should have assurance of continued employment with the requirement they pass satisfactorily a job examination.

The present offices of assessor, auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff, and treasurer — presently all elective, would be (except for assessor) appointive offices under the new charter. Freeholders decided that all appointments are to be made by the county chief executive with the exception of an auditor, whose appointment will be made by the legislative body. All others will be confirmed by the legislative body.

Although freeholders agreed the charter should include additional provisions setting up initiative referendum and recall procedures and that there should be provision for an office to receive citizen's complaints, the precise nature of these proposals will wait until the first draft is approved.

Meyer said freeholders had met 35 times since December 5, 1967, to hold orientation sessions, deliberative sessions (at which votes were taken) and public forums. A new series of public forums is being planned throughout the county during July and August on the proposed charter, following which freeholders will again reconsider the charter. A final vote, based on a section by section analysis, will be taken by late August.

The charter is expected to be ready for ballot certification in September, permitting it to be placed on the November, 1968, general election ballot.



# Publisher's Corner

by John S. Murray

2/77

Compiling the answers to the questionnaire that appeared in this column two weeks ago turned out to be a most enlightening experience. I asked for candid opinions and got them. They ranged from "You are doing a great job, keep it up," to "What have you ever done to deserve re-election?"

The first fourteen questions are from a questionnaire being used by many Republican candidates throughout the state. There will be an opportunity later to compare the thinking within the 36th district with that of other districts throughout the state. The last six questions were added to cover local issues and to get some idea of current thinking about the governor and myself.

Questionnaires such as this are most helpful to a representative and I certainly appreciate the efforts of those who took the time to fill them out and return them. I doubt that there are any two that give all the same answers. Adding them all together however, one gets a very good cross-section of the thinking throughout the district.

In almost all cases, my thinking and my actions in the legislature are in accord with the general thinking of the people I represent. Listed below are the questions, your answers and my answers to the same questions.

1. Are enough parks and recreational facilities being provided for our people?  
Yes 28% No 56% No Opinion 16%  
NO—Forward Thrust will be a great help but we still need the passage of the \$40 million state bond issue that will be on the ballot this fall. We must take action now to meet the tremendous demand of the immediate future.
2. Should Washington abolish capital punishment?  
Yes 36% No 54% No Opinion 10%  
YES—From a practical standpoint we do not have it now, nor does any other state. This week's Life Magazine points out that there are over 450 people in Death Row throughout the country but no one has been executed in the past year.
3. Do you favor a state income tax?  
Yes 29% No 54% No Opinion 16%  
Of those answering Yes some 9% favored a flat rate tax and 26% favored a graduated tax. Some people answered the question "No" and then marked one of the rates.  
NO—An income tax should be imposed only as part of a tax reform package that will improve our total tax picture. See question No. 14.
4. Should special levies be eliminated as a regular method of financing public schools?  
Yes 62% No 21% No Opinion 17%  
YES—We must find a way to finance our public schools that is regular and dependable without sacrificing the quality of our education. Eliminating special levies will be impossible without major tax

3% OF THE FUND-This seems like a reasonable margin for error in making estimates up to 2 1/2 years in advance. With a larger contingency fund we could get along without annual sessions for a few more years.

11. Do you favor the "Implied Consent" Law for suspected drinking drivers? Yes 63% No 14% No Opinion 23%

YES-Such a bill was one of the governor's request bills but failed to pass during the last session primarily because of politics. There will be another attempt made during the coming session.

Do you feel that enough is being done by our state government in the field of human rights? Yes 47% No 27% No Opinion 26%

NO-There are too many programs in effect right now, but nearly all of them are federal programs. The state must do more to get the control closer to home. State and local government must do more or the federal government will fill the void.

Please rate these services of state government. CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS Very Good 6% Good 37% Poor 19% No Opinion 38%

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS Very Good 6% Good 38% Poor 22% No Opinion 34%

HIGHWAYS Very Good 22% Good 38% Poor 13% No Opinion 27%

STATE PARKS Very Good 22% Good 44% Poor 7% No Opinion 25%

TOURIST PROMOTION Very Good 16% Good 41% Poor 15% No Opinion 28%

EDUCATION Very Good 24% Good 43% Poor 10% No Opinion 23%

GOOD-All of them are good, none of them are good enough.

14. Would you favor a state income tax if it were accompanied with a reduction of the sales tax, a reduction of the business and occupation tax, the elimination of the sales tax on food and drugs, the limitation of the assessment ratio on property to 25% and the reduction of special levies for schools? Yes 48% No 32% No Opinion 20%

YES-This is essentially the tax package the Republicans attempted to pass through the House during the last session. Such total tax reform

5. Should public employees have "the right to strike?" Yes 17% No 67% No Opinion 16%

NO-The right to organize and bargain but not the right to strike against the public. Their bosses and their customers are the same people. They knew that when they took the job and it should be well understood before they ever start to work.

6. Should industry be given tax incentives for compliance with strict air and water pollution control laws? Yes 55% No 38% No Opinion 7%

YES-But only under limited conditions. I played a major part in getting such a bill through the House during the last session with the cooperation of Tax Commissioner George Kinnear. We gave industry a two year limit, excluded new industry or new plants who know the new rules, and limited the state's liability if there are federal concessions. Where we require an old plant to meet a new standard it is only fair to give them some help for immediate compliance, but for a new plant or an old one that has to be forced there should be no concessions.

7. Should voters authorize the modernization of the State Constitution by a Constitutional Convention? Yes 53% No 18% No Opinion 29%

YES-We need to do something to bring our constitution up to date. This is one way to do it. I have voted for all measures that would make it easier to change the constitution.

8. On the basis of priority are you more interested in developing more and better arterials or more and better freeways? Arterials 64% Freeways 12% No Opinion 24%

ARTERIALS-That is exactly the action that was taken by the last session of the legislature. The increase in the gas tax will be used for such work. The results of our actions are just starting to take effect.

9. Do you favor removal of the existing restrictions on California wines? Yes 71% No 11% No Opinion 18%

YES-I voted for such a bill during the last session and will do so again this time. With better handling in the legislature, which will happen this time, the measure should pass.

10. Should the state government have a cash reserve? Yes 71% No 6% No Opinion 23%

portion to the population and the circulation of the Queen Anne News and the Magnolia Journal.

Out of nearly seven hundred people who are on my sponsoring committee as it appeared in last week's paper, there were 27 whose names appeared as a result of their responding to the questionnaire but only eight of their balance of the sponsoring committee turned in questionnaires. This is a little discouraging from the standpoint of my friends but also means that the results of the survey are not loaded with my known friends. That should mean that it is much more valid to an objective observer.

R.H. Westenberg wrote a two page letter to amplify his views and many others also wrote shorter notes. Some of the more interesting comments that were written were: "Stop all parking on arterials." "Both parties seem to be trying to give away all of our resources in one generation." "It would be a full time job to be well informed on all issues and all candidates." "This is a good idea to find out what people think." "Keeps voters informed-good man." "I favor strict air and water pollution control." "Tourist promotion is too good." "I'm a Republican-non Rogstad." "Full, open, honest public statements without concealment is necessary for public approval of change, anywhere, anytime on anything." "We are a captive district and disgusted with the crowd followers - get out of the rut." "You do not respond to letters - two last session. You voted for the gas tax increase, already too high. You voted for Forward Thrust and the stadium hoax, et al." "Income tax - too difficult for too many people to prepare."

Well, I asked for it. Thank you.

2/7/68

taken by the last session of the legislature. The increase in the gas tax will be used for such work. The results of our actions are just starting to take effect.

9. Do you favor removal of the existing restrictions on California wines?

Yes 71% No 11% No Opinion 18%

YES—I voted for such a bill during the last session and will do so again this time. With better handling in the legislature, which will happen this time, the measure should pass.

10. Should the state government have a cash reserve?

Yes 71% No 6% No Opinion 23%

YES—This question should have had more

7 Gold Stars 14 Gold Stars 15 Sam Hale 14  
14 Gold Stars 7  
Elks 2509 of Stanley S. Yantis, of 2509  
Elks 14 Gold Stars 7

14.

No Opinion 23%

GOOD—All of them are good, none of them are good enough.

Would you favor a state income tax if it were accompanied with a reduction of the sales tax, a reduction of the business and occupation tax, the elimination of the sales tax on food and drugs, the limitation of the assessment ratio on property to 25% and the reduction of special levies for schools?

Yes 48% No 32% No Opinion 20%

YES—This is essentially the tax package the Republicans attempted to pass through the House during the last session. Some such total tax reform package is an absolute necessity to solve the state's problems. No one step will really help and it is doubtful that any one step could get the necessary votes to pass through either house of the legislature.

Do you favor a rapid transit system for King County?

Yes 64% No 16% No Opinion 20%

YES—This Forward Thrust measure will come up again. Let us hope that the 64% figure will hold up in the next election.

Do you favor major changes in the King County Charter?

Yes 53% No 12% No Opinion 35%

YES—The King County Freeholders, now in the process of drafting a new charter for the county, could do much to solve our local problems. Let us all hope that their efforts meet with success.

How do you feel Dan Evans is doing his job as Governor?

Very Well 38% Well 20% Average 15%

Not Very Well 6% Unacceptable 6%

No Opinion 15%

VERY WELL—Dan Evans has grown with the job. I was one of his original backers when I handled publicity for the Republicans during the 1963 session. He has done an outstanding job that we can all be proud of for the state of Washington.

How do you feel John Murray is doing his job as your State Representative?

Very Well 31% Well 29% Average 11%

Not Very Well 3% Unacceptable 1%

No Opinion 25%

WELL—This is a tough one to be objective about. I am prejudiced, but I also know what I have been able to do and what I have failed in better than anyone else. A freshman sitting in the very back row, who is naturally the quiet type, should not be expected to change state government in his first session. I didn't. I was able to get some of my friends down in front to say some things that I had suggested and thought were good.

One can help to overcome the handicap of being quiet and bashful by always attending all meetings, doing one's homework, and being fair to all parties. I have tried to do that during my first session.

Do you consider yourself a

Republican 42% Democrat 9% Independent 32%

No Opinion 17%

REPUBLICAN—I was very surprised at the high number of people who classified themselves as Independents.

For the benefit of any statisticians in the crowd, it is that the responses were quite evenly distributed throughout the district. The response from Queen Anne is a little over twice that from Magnolia, but this is

## Commission-Unit Boundaries May Stay in Charter — Curran

Freeholders have decided tentatively to retain in a new King County charter the present three commissioner districts, with three commissioners to be elected from each district to create the nine-member board recommended.

James Curran, Kent attorney and one of 15 members of the Board of King County Freeholders, told members of the Kent Rotary Club at luncheon yesterday the commissioner-district decision is one of several incorporated into the first draft of a proposed new charter.

The actual draft will be unveiled for the first time at a meeting of the freeholders in the courthouse Saturday forenoon.

Before Curran's disclosure of the plan to retain the present boundaries for commissioner districts, there had been speculation in some quarters that it might be necessary to create nine new commissioner districts to provide that one commissioner be elected from each district.

For practical purposes, the present three commissioner districts split the county into a north district and a south district, with a third, or central district, embracing primarily the City of Seattle.

Curran prefaced his capsule preview of the first charter draft by pointing out that one of the first concerns of the charter drafters was to provide a way of separating the county commissioners' dual functions of policy-making and of administration.

To make that separation possible, the charter is expected to propose:

1. An elected county executive who would be responsible for county administration, and, operating under him, by appointment, trained departmental administrators.

2. Expansion of the Board of County Commissioners from three to nine members, all still elected on a partisan political basis with three to represent each present commissioner district. The expanded board then would function primarily as the policy-making body.

3. The number of elected county officials now serving primarily as administrators would be trimmed to two—the county assessor and the prosecuting attorney. Curran explained that state statute requires that the county prosecutor be elected.

Curran told his fellow Rotarians that the freeholders had made a special effort "to solve this county personnel situation."

"We adopted a personnel board with an appointed director of personnel," the attorney explained, "and we set up a merit system whereby persons can be procured on a system other than the spoils system."

The first draft of the proposed new basic law for the county also contains provisions which "enlarge the right of the people to challenge the law," Curran explained.

He said that in addition to retaining citizen rights to recall, the initiative and the referendum, the freeholders have put into the document a process whereby "people actually can submit an ordinance if they can't get it adopted any other way."

Another change, he said, will shift county elections to coincide with municipal elections.

Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of Freeholders, explained the background of the charter and discussion sessions in which the freeholders have engaged for several months. He also showed a short motion picture depicting various functions of county government throughout Washington State.

Meyer said the freeholders expect to have the new document ready for submission to voters at the November general election.

It is considered likely that several changes will be made in the first draft of the document after it is unveiled Saturday and before it is polished into final form for acceptance or rejection by the electorate.

## Commissioners May Be Kept In New Charter, Curran Says

Freeholders have decided tentatively to retain in a new King County charter the present three commissioner districts, with three commissioners to be elected from each district to create the nine-member board recommended.

James Curran, Kent attorney and one of 15 members of the Board of King County Freeholders, told members of the Kent Rotary Club at luncheon yesterday the commissioner-district decision is one of several incorporated into the first draft of a proposed new charter.

The actual draft will be unveiled for the first time at a meeting of the freeholders in the courthouse Saturday forenoon.

Before Curran's disclosure of the plan to retain the present

boundaries for commissioner districts, there had been speculation in some quarters that it might be necessary to create nine new commissioner districts to provide that one commissioner be elected from each district.

For practical purposes, the present three commissioner districts split the county into a north district and a south district, with a third, or central district, embracing primarily the City of Seattle.

Curran prefaced his capsule preview of the first charter draft by pointing out that one of the first concerns of the charter drafters was to provide a way of separating the county commissioners' dual functions of policy-making and of administration.

To make that separation possible, the charter is expected to propose:

1. An elected county executive who would be responsible for county administration, and, operating under him, by appointment, trained departmental administrators.

2. Expansion of the Board of County Commissioners from three to nine members, all still elected on a partisan political basis with three to represent each present commissioner district. The expanded board then would function primarily as the policy-making body.

3. The number of elected county officials now serving primarily as administrators would be trimmed to two—the county assessor and the prosecuting attorney. Curran explained that state statute requires that the county prosecutor be elected.

Curran told his fellow Rotarians that the freeholders had made a special effort to solve this county personnel situation.

"We adopted a personnel board with an appointed director of personnel," the attorney

explained, "and we set up a merit system whereby persons can be procured on a system other than the spoils system."

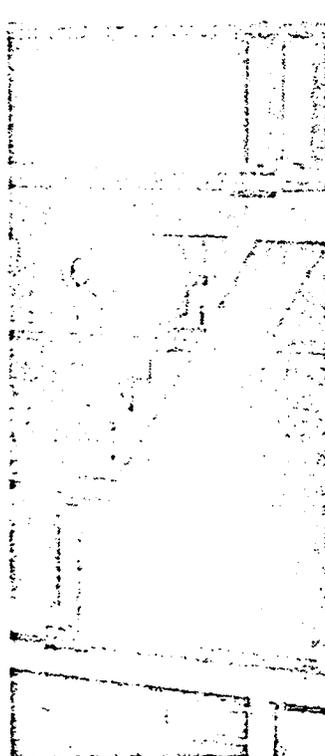
The first draft of the proposed new basic law for the county also contains provisions which "enlarge the right of the people to challenge the law," Curran explained.

He said that in addition to retaining citizen rights to recall, the initiative and the referendum, the freeholders have put into the document a process whereby "people actually can submit an ordinance if they can't get it adopted any other way."

Another change, he said, will shift county elections to coincide with municipal elections.

Paul R. Meyer, executive secretary of the Board of Freeholders, explained the background of the charter and discussion sessions in which the freeholders have engaged for several months. He also showed a short motion picture depicting various functions of county government throughout Washington State.

Meyer said the freeholders expect to have the new document ready for submission to voters at the November general election.



What is this man doing?  
... Answer on Page 14.

# Freeholders Hire Consultant to Critique Charter

voting in the preceding gubernatorial election. This amounts to 40,000 signatures now. Provides for recall of elected officials.

**APPEALS BOARD** — Establishes seven-member appeals board appointed by the executive, with confirmation of the commissioners, to hear zoning variances and conditional use permits for land and against tax assessments. Replaces boards of adjustment and equalization. Allows hearings if requested by the commissioners.

**OMIBDSMAN** — Provides for appointment by the commissioners of a citizen-service office to accept inquiries and complaints and gives the right to investigate and make and publicize recommendations and findings.

**COMMISSIONER BOUNDARIES** — Provides for establishment by appointment of the chief executive of a five-member committee to review in 1971 and each five years thereafter the boundaries of county commissioner districts. The membership cannot be more than three from one political party. County commissioners either must accept or reject proposed boundary changes, but cannot alter executive would not have the veto power over redistricting. (See Page 1 for other freeholder story.)

commissioners, appoints directors of public health and welfare and transportation, public safety, public health and welfare, records and elections, finance, public services and recreation, planning and zoning, and court clerk.

**PAY** — Initially, commissioners and assessor will receive \$18,000 and chief executive \$27,000 a year. Later commissioners set salary.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** — Bans officers and employees from financial interest in services or property in which county has interest, or from accepting gifts, rebates or special services from firms dealing with civil and criminal penalties against employe and firms who violate prohibitions.

**POLITICAL ACTIVITY** — In effect bans "flower funds" and those covered by personnel system from political activities involving county elected officials.

**DISCRIMINATION** — Bans discrimination based on age, sex, race, national origin or religion in employment.

**REFERENDUM INITIATIVE, RECALL** — Provides for local bans contracting with firms that discriminate. Referendum and initiative by petition bearing signatures of registered voters amounting to 10 per cent of the number

and continued by the commissioners must be appointed by June 1, 1969, and rules recommended by the personnel board must be approved by commissioners by January 1, 1970.

Charter gives employe right to appeal firing, promotion, suspension or other applications of rules to the personnel board. Exempt from coverage are elected officials, employees of county commissioners, appointed officers and aides of executive and administrative branch and officers, court and hospital personnel. Charter would continue the sheriff's civil service system in force at least two years. Thereafter, county commissioners are allowed but not required to place system under county personnel board.

**COMMISSIONERS** — Confined to policy making and confirming department heads appointed by chief executive. Appoints auditor and clerk to board.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH** — Includes executive administrative and assessor. Executive supervises administrative and executive departments, prepares budget, appoints administrator and has veto over legislation. Commissioners may override veto by vote of six commissioners.

Administrator appoints, with confirmation of heads of budget, personnel, data-processing, building and purchasing departments. Executive, with confirmation of

board of County Freeholders agreed yesterday to Donato & Associates, consultant, to critique the county charter and make recommendations.

consulting firm will be paid \$1,745. Work will begin or provisions in the preliminary draft of the charter likely.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS** — Nine county commissioners by districts, chief executive and assessor elected by wide, all partisan. Vacancies filled by a majority of commissioners or by special election if that route chosen by voters.

**ELECTIONS** — Charter goes into effect May 1, 1969, at primary election February 11, 1969, and special election March 11, 1969, for county officials. Elections after in odd-numbered years. Three present county commissioners and assessor continue in office until terms expire. Present elected officials whose offices are abolished will continue on county payroll at present rate.

**PERSONNEL** — Employees covered by personnel system locked into job if employed as of June 1, 1969. A personnel director appointed by the executive member personnel board appointed by the executive

Elected Auditor Plans Rejected

Assessor Speaks to Freeholders

110

110

# Auditor Rejected

## Assessor Speaks to Freeholders

GSTIAN  
make the county  
ad of appointed  
y charter was re-  
ingly yesterday.  
County Freeholders  
gainst making the au-  
ed official. Under the  
arter the auditor will be  
y the Board of County  
ners to check on the exe-  
nch of government.

After a months tour of the  
county, the Snohomish Coun-  
ty Board of Freeholders came  
home to the courthouse June  
5 for their regular meeting.  
Carroll L. Barlow, the coun-  
ty assessor, was the speaker  
on the agenda for the evening.  
For over two hours he dis-  
cussed the operation of the  
assessor's office. He started  
with the field deputies and  
their appraisal problems and  
went on through to the final  
work done by the office staff.  
When he had finished, he an-  
swered all of the questions  
asked by the board of free-  
holders.

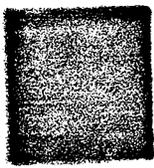
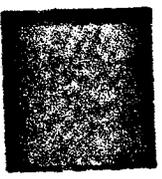
THE freeholders did make  
what amounts to a decision to draft  
specific boundaries in the charter for  
nine commissioner districts.  
They agreed to hire Rai Joshi, an  
urban-planning consultant, to draft

proposed boundaries. His work  
should be completed early in July.  
FREEHOLDERS hope to com-  
plete study of a draft Tuesday night,  
put it in final form by July 9, hold  
public hearings in mid-July and  
adopt the final proposal by Septem-  
ber 4. That would place the proposed  
charter on the November 5 general  
election ballot.

If approved, the draft calls for a  
special primary election of new offi-  
cials February 11, 1969, and a gener-  
al election March 11, 1969. The  
charter would go into effect May 1,  
1969.  
(See Page 39 for other details.)

When Barlow was through,  
Dick Welch, committee chair-  
man, asked if anyone of the  
visitors had any comments  
they wished to make. Geoff  
frey Buyer of Marysville  
said that he wished to make  
a report on 150 people that  
he had polled in the Marys-  
ville area. He said that the  
greatest majority were in  
favor of public officials.

All board meetings are open  
to the public.



## ARTICLE 3

### THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### Section 310. Composition and Powers.

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners and the members of boards and commissions except the board of county commissioners, the board of appeals and the personnel board. The executive branch shall have all executive powers of the county under this charter.

#### Section 320. County Executive.

##### 320.10. Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive compensation at least one and one half times the compensation paid to a county commissioner.

##### 320.20. Powers and Duties.

The county executive is the chief executive officer of the county and shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners; execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; serve on all boards and commissions on which a county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, and if more than one county commissioner

was required to serve, to appoint an additional person or persons to serve on the board or commission; present to the board of county commissioners an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary, including proposed ordinances, prepare and present to the board of county commissioners a budget and budget message setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; have the power to veto all or any part of any ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners except as otherwise provided by this charter; and have the right, subject to approval by a majority of the board of county commissioners, to arrange for one or more functions of the county to be performed by an independent contractor or to be performed in cooperation with, or by, other units of government and to arrange for one or more functions of other units of government to be performed by the county.

Section 330. County Administrative Officer.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer who, under the general supervision of the county executive, shall assist him, shall supervise the administrative offices and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to him by the county executive.

Section 340. Appointments, Confirmation and Removal.

340.10. Appointments by the County Executive.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and the superior court clerk and the members of all boards and commissions except the board of county commissioners.

340.20. Appointments by the County Administrative Officer.

The county administrative officer shall appoint the chief officer of each administrative office.

340.30. Appointments by the Chief Officers.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department which are not subject to the provisions of the personnel system.

340.40. Confirmation.

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. The appointments by the county administrative officer shall be subject to confirmation by the county executive.

340.50. Qualifications.

The county administrative officer and the chief officers appointed by either the county executive or the county administrative officer shall have administrative experience in either private or public organizations and shall be appointed solely on the basis of their abilities, qualifications and integrity.

340.60. Removal.

Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not subject to the provisions of the personnel system may be removed at any time by the person who appointed him with the exception that the members of the personnel board and the board of appeals can be removed only by a majority of by the board of county commissioners as provided for in Article 5.

Section 350. Executive Offices and Departments.

The executive branch shall include the following offices and departments:

350.10. Administrative Offices:

350.10.10. Office of Budgets and Accounts.

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or ordinance under which the disbursement is requested.

350.10.20. Office of Personnel.

The personnel director shall administer the office of personnel, shall have the responsibilities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to him by the chief administrative officer.

350.10.30. Office of Data Processing.

The office of data processing shall establish and maintain a modern system for processing information in accordance with the needs of county government and shall provide data processing services for all branches of county government.

350.10.40. Office of Buildings and Property.

The office of buildings and property shall manage, assign, maintain and control the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county and shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property.

350.10.50. Office of Purchasing.

The office of purchasing shall purchase, or shall establish the rules and procedure for purchasing by others, all real and personal property acquired by the county using competitive bidding whenever possible.

350.20. Executive Departments.

350.20.10. Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The department of public works and transportation shall administer the construction and maintenance of the county road system and related facilities and shall be responsible for flood control, garbage disposal and other public works.

350.20.20. Department of Public Safety.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, administer the county jail and investigate deaths and shall be responsible for fire prevention and inspection and civil defense.

350.20.30. Department of Public Health and Welfare.

The department of public health and welfare shall administer all health and welfare programs under the control of the county, including all medical services necessary to assist the department of public safety.

350.20.40. Department of Records and Elections.

The department of records and elections shall record, file and register all documents presented to it which by general law may be recorded, filed or registered to provide constructive legal notice, shall maintain the county archives to store all county records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current

operation of county government, shall be responsible for the registration of voters in unincorporated areas of the county, and shall conduct all special and general elections held in the county.

350.20.50. Department of Finance.

The department of finance shall collect and invest all county revenue and shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts.

350.20.60. Department of Public Services and Recreation.

The department of public services and recreation shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreation facilities and programs and shall be responsible for open space development, the issuance of licenses and the operation of extension and other public services.

350.20.70. Department of Planning and Zoning.

The department of planning and zoning shall prepare and propose comprehensive plans to be presented to the board of county commissioners for the present and future development of the county and shall be responsible for administering and enforcing the zoning and building codes. Its decisions concerning applications for conditional use permits and variances shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals, and it shall make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on all applications for zoning or rezoning.

350.20.80. Department of Assessments.

The department of assessments shall be administered by the county assessor who shall be elected by the voters of the county, and

his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The department of assessments shall determine the assessed value of all taxable property within the county in accordance with general law and the state constitution. The department of assessments is an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall be served by the administrative offices and the department of finance; but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other department or office and shall not have duties decreased by the board of county commissioners.

350.20.90. Department of Judicial Administration.

The department of judicial administration shall be administered by the superior court clerk who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration shall maintain the official court files, records and indexes necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the court system and shall perform such other duties assigned to it by a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration is an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall be served by the administrative offices and the department of finance.

ARTICLE 4

ELECTIONS

Section 410. Qualifications.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States and a

resident and registered voter of King County; and each county commissioner shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a county commissioner's district which shall cause a county commissioner to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

Section 420. Elections.

420.10. County Executive and County Assessor.

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities, towns and districts in the county commencing with the election of 1971. The nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

420.20. County Commissioners.

420.20.10. Districts.

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine.

420.20.20. Nomination and Election.

The nomination and election of county commissioners shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities, towns and districts in the county commencing in even numbered districts with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election of 1973. The

nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

420.20.30. Redistricting.

420.20.32. Redistricting Committee.

The boundaries of the county commissioner districts shall be reviewed in 1971 and at least every five years thereafter by a committee of at least five members who shall be appointed by the chief executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners which shall also provide for their compensation. No more than a simple majority of the committee shall be affiliated with the same political party.

420.20.34. District Boundaries.

The committee in reviewing district boundaries shall consider geographic and economic units, municipal and election precinct boundaries and shall use all available data and sources of information indicating the nature and location of the population of the county in order to produce districts which are approximately equal in population, homogeneous in character, and composed of natural geographic units. All district boundaries shall follow, as nearly as possible, the boundaries of established census tracts. The committee, subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners, may retain a private or public organization or agency to assist it.

420.20.36. Approved by Board of County Commissioners.

The committee shall present a districting plan to the board of county commissioners which may either accept or reject it but may

not amend it. If it is accepted by a majority of the board of county commissioners, it shall be enacted as an ordinance which shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. If it is rejected, the committee may, but shall not be required to, present an alternate plan to the board of county commissioners. If a districting plan is neither accepted nor rejected within sixty days after it is presented to the board of county commissioners, it shall become effective on the sixty first day after it was presented as if it had been adopted by ordinance.

Section 430. Commencement of Terms of Office.

The terms of office of elected county officers shall commence on the date specified by general law for public officers elected at city, town and district general elections.

Section 440. Recall.

The holder of any elective office may be recalled in accordance with the provisions of general law.

Section 450. Vacancies.

450.10. When Vacant.

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the board of county commissioners; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office.

## ARTICLE 6

### BOARD OF APPEALS

#### Section 610. Composition, Appointment, Removal.

The board of appeals shall be composed of three members appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. Each member of the board of appeals shall serve a six-year term and until his successor is appointed with one member being appointed every two years. A majority of the board of county commissioners, but not the county executive, may remove a board of appeals member for just cause after written charges have been served on the board of appeals member and a public hearing has been held by the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall provide for the compensation of the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

#### Section 620. Powers.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the department of planning and zoning and from any valuation by the department of assessments. The board of county commissioners may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive office or department.

#### Section 630. Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The board of appeals shall prepare and publish and amend from time to time rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board; specifying the types of evidence

which will be considered by the board in reaching its decision; guaranteeing the right for all parties to examine and cross-examine all witnesses; providing for the procedure to be followed in the conduct of its hearings, for written transcripts to be kept of all testimony and argument, and for copies to be furnished to any interested party at cost upon request; providing for the issuance of its orders and its reasons therefor in writing; and for a permanent and properly indexed record to be kept of its decisions.

## ARTICLE 7

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section 710. Severability and Construction.

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable, it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provision of this charter. The provisions of this charter shall be liberally construed to provide for the efficient and businesslike management of county affairs.

#### Section 720. Conflict of Interest.

##### 720.10. Prohibitions.

An officer or employee of the county shall not receive or have, directly or indirectly, any financial interest in any sale to or by the county of any services or property, except in his official capacity as a representative of the county, and shall not receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any service or thing of value from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally or accept any gift from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county.

720.20. Exceptions.

The board of county commissioners may adopt ordinances providing for individual exceptions to the prohibitions by specifically authorizing a county officer or employee to own stock in certain corporations and to establish or maintain a financial interest in certain businesses dealing with the county on condition that full disclosure be made to the board of county commissioners and that the board of county commissioners finds that the stock ownership or financial interest does not violate the public interest.

720.30. Penalties.

The board of county commissioners shall adopt an ordinance specifying the civil and criminal penalties for the willful or negligent violation of the prohibitions by any county officer or employee and shall also adopt an ordinance establishing civil and criminal penalties for any person, firm or corporation doing business with the county which offers, pays, refunds, or rebates any part of any fee, commission or other form of compensation to any county officer or employee except in his official capacity as a representative of the county.

Section 730. Public Inspection of Public Records.

All official acts and documents except those which have been specifically prepared for use by the county in court proceedings, criminal and law enforcement files of the department of public safety and those which would invade a person's right of privacy shall be open for public inspection; and the officer, department, agency, board or commission having custody and control of public records shall upon request supply certified copies of the records requested for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

Section 740. Anti-discrimination.

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation; and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm or corporation which discriminates on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation.

Section 750. Delegation of Authority.

Any power or duty of a county officer except the veto power of the county executive may be delegated by that officer to another officer or employee under his control and supervision; provided, however, that the delegating officer shall continue to be responsible for the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty delegated. The board of county commissioners shall not delegate its legislative power except to the extent that it delegates to another officer or branch of county government the authority to promulgate regulations in accordance with adequate standards established by the board of county commissioners.

Section 760. Inapplicable References in the Constitution or General Law.

Whenever the constitution or general law refers to a department or office of county government which has been abolished or whose duties have been substantially altered by or pursuant to this charter, the constitution or general law shall be deemed to refer to the department or office designated by the board of county commissioners or in the alternative to the department or office which is performing functions essentially the same as the department or office referred

to in the constitution or general law.

Section 770. Additional Compensation.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter.

Section 780. Compilation and Codification of Ordinances.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the board of county commissioners shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and all regulations having the force of law. Each codification shall be presented to the board of county commissioners and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published in book form together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The board of county commissioners shall also provide for an annual supplement.

ARTICLE 8

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

The provisions of this article relate to the transition from the existing form of government to the form of government established by this charter; and where inconsistent with the foregoing articles of this charter, the provisions of this article shall constitute exceptions.

Section 810. Effective Date and Elections.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969. Special elections held in accordance with general law shall be

held to elect the first county executive, county assessor and county commissioners after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries shall be held on February 11, 1969, and the first election shall be held on March 11, 1969. Until they are changed by a redistricting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the county commissioner districts shall be as follows:

Section 820. County Commissioners.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the general election in November 1966 or 1968 shall be entitled to remain as a county commissioner on the board of county commissioners established by this charter and shall represent the commissioner district established by this charter in which he resides on the date when this charter is adopted in which case a special election for the first county commissioner for that district shall not be held.

Section 830. County Assessor.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county commissioner, the county assessor elected at the general election in 1966 shall be entitled to remain as the county assessor established by this charter in which case a special election

for the first county assessor after the adoption of this charter shall not be held.

Section 840. Commencement and Terms of Office.

The terms of office of officers elected at the special election on March 11, 1969, and the county commissioners and assessor elected at the general elections in 1966 or 1968 who remain as commissioners and assessor in the offices established by this charter, shall commence on May 1, 1969. The terms of office of the county executive, the county assessor and county commissioners representing even numbered districts shall expire when their successors have been elected at the general election in 1971 and have taken office. The terms of office of county commissioners representing odd numbered districts shall expire when their successors have been elected at the general election in 1973 and have taken office.

Section 850. Compensation.

The county commissioners and county assessor who take office, or continue in office, on the effective date of this charter shall receive during their first term of office under this charter the compensation specified in general law for county commissioners and county assessors, respectively. The county executive who takes office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during his first term of office under this charter one and one half times the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners.

Section 860. The Personnel System.

860.10. Personnel Board Members and Board of Appeals Members.

The original members of the personnel board and the board of appeals shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall

be appointed for the following terms: one from each for a six year term, one from each for a four year term, and one from each for a two year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a six year term.

860.20. Effective Date.

The personnel board shall adopt and present to the board of county commissioners a comprehensive set of personnel rules as soon as possible, and the effective date of the personnel system shall be no later than January 1, 1970. Prior to the effective date of the personnel system, all employees shall be appointed, promoted, suspended and removed by the officer in whose office they serve.

860.30. Positions Exempt From the Personnel System.

For the first two years after the effective date of the personnel system, the following positions shall be exempt from the personnel system: all elected officers; the county auditor; the clerk and all other employees of the board of county commissioners; all appointed officers of the executive branch; the members of all boards and commissions; all employees serving in the office of the county executive and the county administrative officer; one administrative assistant for the county auditor, for the county assessor, for each of the appointed officers of the executive branch and for each board and commission; one confidential secretary for the county auditor, the county assessor, for each appointed officer of the executive branch and for each administrative assistant; physicians, surgeons, dentists, interns, student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county; all court reporters, court commissioners, bailiffs and

dance with the provisions of this charter; and all board and commissions shall continue to function until such time as they are combined or abolished by ordinance. All ordinances and other official actions of the board of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings, and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

June 8, 1965

Dear Paul and John,

I think you've done an excellent job on the first draft of the Charter! It's well organized and the wording is so clear & easy to understand. I like the style.

You've asked for comments in writing, so here they are:

### Article 2

Section 216. Strike out the words "and the county auditor". It bothers my literal sense, because the auditor is not going to legislate. True, he'll be appointed by the legislative body, but he is on a higher plane & shouldn't be given this pronounced spot. I'd like to eliminate the Auditor completely from the scene (the 2 Auditors who are in the Treasurer's Office daily from the State Auditor's Office are enough - but I guess the voters would get scared if we didn't have someone listed).

Section 220.10. After the first sentence insert the following: "For the first election of county commissioners after adoption of this Charter the present three County Commissioners & Districts shall be in effect. Two Commissioners shall be elected from each of the present three districts. The three incumbent Commissioners shall continue to serve in their capacity until their term of office expires." Continue with "In 1971 <sup>prior to the elections,</sup> the county shall be divided into more districts on the basis of population." The latter two words "on the basis of population" must be in there.

regardless of whether we establish 9 districts now or later.

After the phrase "and one commissioner shall be named and elected by the voters of each district," insert the following sentences: "In the year following each federal decennial census, the legislative districts shall be apportioned and districted anew. See Article 4 of this Charter for the Redistricting procedure."

If you don't mind, I'd like to jump to page 16 of Article 4 on the Redistricting subject.

420.20, 32. Change 5 years to 10 years. It will be tough enough to get it done once every 10 years.

All of 420.20, 32, 34, 36 is good until page 17, third line. Change wording to "If it is rejected, the committee shall present an alternate plan to the board of county commissioners." This gives some leeway for compromise. Change timing from 60 days to 30 days. My hunch is the Committee will be under the gun to accomplish its job in time for the September Primary, & the County Commissioners don't need that much time to make up their minds.

Now, the crux of the problem hasn't been solved. There are no teeth in this Charter to force redistricting. <sup>if they get to 2 terms down by the Commission</sup> I would suggest writing in a clause to the effect that all ordinances of the county commission will be null & void until redistricting is accomplished. See "Thigpen vs. Meyers" 1963 - 1965 Judges Becker, Lindberg, & Jutberg. This is case where League of Women Voters of Wash. was victorious & this is how the Federal Court finally forced the State

legislature to do the job. All the legislators sat around  
the in Olympia until this job was done. 3

If we were to threaten with "elections at large"  
that's probably what would happen as Redistricting  
is so political & so tough to accomplish that it would  
be the voters of King County who would suffer in the end.  
~~Prohibiting the enactment of~~  
Canceling out any County ordinance as of a  
certain date, would mean County govt. would grind  
to halt & a plan would be accepted rather soon  
by the Commissioners.

Section 220, 20 5<sup>th</sup> line add the phrase "shall make appropriations for  
county purposes" after the words "enactment of ordinances";

Section 226, 20

Remove the words "shall establish a citizens'  
service office ..... findings". Put it in Article 3,  
new subsection 350, 10, 60 Office of Citizens' Complaints

The idea of placing this under the auditor is  
ridiculous. I have yet to see a financial officer who  
would be warm & sympathetic to a citizens complaint  
bureau. We'd ~~have~~ create a schizophrenic position. Don't  
need an Ombudsman - just a good, strong Office of  
Citizens' Complaints under the Executive.

Section 220, 40 remove the words "on the zoning & rezoning  
of property". There will be many hearings on many  
subjects - these words are too confining & don't belong.

Section 230, 30 45 days seems long for effective date of  
Ordinances. 30 days should be enough. 135

Section 246.10 Strike all of this section. I don't see any need for the Board of County Commissioners to have Referendum. Section 246.30 By the People - yes Commissioners are full time jobs - they should be in touch with their constituents & know their thoughts. Also, Commissioners can hold hearings, so they should not be in doubt on issues. If people don't like action of Commissioners they can institute Referendum

Pg. 6 Strike words "by referendum" in line 3

Pg. 6 246.30 shall become effective 30 days after the date of the election.

Pg. 7 shall become effective 30 days after the date of the election

### Section 260. County Auditor

If we have to have one, strike the last phrase "and shall perform any other duties assigned" ... commissioners let's prevent him from acquiring marriage licenses, automobile licenses, recording of corporations, etc., etc.

910

### Article 3

346.10 delete the words "and the superior court clerk." I would urge that the justices of the Superior Court present a list of Nominations to the County Executive & that the County Executive (not the Judges) appoint the Clerk of the Superior Court. This way the Clerk is not trying to please many bosses, but is ultimately responsible to 1 man, the County Executive. 111

Article III is good & I like the way you have named the Staff Office as Office of Purchasing, etc. and the Line Office as Department of Public Health, etc.

All Staff Offices sound fine. Can we get a mention of Office of Public Information in there somewhere? Could it be part of 350.10.60 "Office of Citizens' Complaints and Public Information"? or as a separate Office 350.10.70.

Under 350.20.10. Is it possible to include sewer and water functions here? Thinking ahead, hopefully the County may be able to consolidate & operate some of the multitude of Special Districts. The last state legislature did give Counties right to operate in sewer water field. After words "garbage disposal", insert "sewer or water services" and other public works.

Should Airport be mentioned here? It's Transportation.

350.20.20. Is this wording broad enough so County could eventually go into Fire Dept. Service? Have to look ahead ☺.

350.20.70. Planning. Let's have an Briefing Session for all Freeholders first & then look at this.

350.20.90. Dept. of Judicial Administration.  
Change clerk to be appointed by County Executive.

4/5

Article 6. Increase number of people on Board of Appeals to 5 or 7. Wider representation<sup>14</sup>.

is desirable for this type of Board. I like the removal of Tax Assessment Appeals from the County Commissioners to this new Board.

Again, we need to clarify entire planning function before we can say just what role this Board of Appeals should have in the planning area.

### Article 8

Page 28 Omit sentence spelling out the county commission districts. I feel that we have a big enough job to "sell" the Charter without the double burden of "selling new districts." Redistricting is a political hot potato.

§ 20 next to last line "in which case a special election for the other two County Commissioners for that district shall be held."

~~§ 30 Add a final sentence to this section specifying that the ~~first~~ regular election for Auditor shall be in the fall of 1971. Taken care of in § 40.~~

§ 60.40 This is not clear to me. Are we locking an elected County officer into his present salary for life?

We need a final Article 9 spelling out the Amendment process. Just quote process in Amend. 2 to State Constitution. 222

- I. Major directional changes to basic policy decisions of the Board.
  1. Election of the Auditor: It is proposed that additional consideration be given to making the Auditor an elective official. Change in language would need to be made in Article 2, Sec. 210, and Article 9, election.
  2. Change in the number of Commissioners: It is proposed that additional consideration be given to reducing the number of Board members to a lesser number than the present nine contained in Article 2, The Legislative Branch.
  3. Amendment of Charter: It is proposed that an additional approach be allowed to amend the Charter by the people through the petition method. The only method allowed under the draft is by proposals submitted to the electors by the legislative body, which is spelled out in the 21st Amendment. It is further suggested that a separate section be added to the Charter detailing the procedure for amendment.
  4. Method of selecting Clerk: It is proposed that the Superior Court Judges present a list of nominees for Clerk to the County Executive, and that the executive select the Clerk.
  5. County Utilities: It is proposed that the Charter include language which would clearly indicate the County's authority to enter the water and sewerage service areas.
  6. Planning: It is proposed that Planning be changed, taking it out of departmental status and placing it in a separate category, with an article written to give it greater emphasis and attention.
- II. Modification of existing decisions which change emphasis, but do not change basic policy decisions.
  1. Executive Veto: It is proposed that the executive veto be changed to require a minimum of 6 votes rather than 7 (P.4, Sec. 23.10).
  2. Redistricting Committee: It is proposed that four members of the committee be chosen by the central committees of the two major political parties -- two representatives from each, the fifth member to be chosen by the executive.
  3. Board of Appeals: It is proposed that this board be increased from three members to either five or seven (P.23, Sec. 610).
  4. Political Activities: It is proposed that the phrase "in a position covered by the personnel system" be deleted, in order to place restrictions on all county employees (P.22, Sec. 570).
  5. Collective Bargaining: It is proposed that the responsibility for collective bargaining be vested with the Personnel Director (P. 18, Sec. 520).
  6. District Boundaries: It is proposed that all ordinances of the county commissioners be null and void until redistricting is accomplished, (P. 16, Sec. 420.20.34).

III. Changes in language and construction which do not alter substantive decisions.

1. Legislative Powers: Additional language is proposed which will clearly indicate responsibility for setting tax rates, appropriations and establishing the budget (P. 2, Sec. 220.20).
2. The Executive: It is proposed that language be added to clearly indicate the executive as chief peace officer of the county (P. 8, Sec. 320.20).
3. The County Auditor: It is proposed that the phrase "and the County Auditor" be deleted from the draft to give greater emphasis to the Board of County Commissioners (P. 2, Sec. 210).
4. County Offices: It is proposed that the office of Data Processing be changed to the Office of Central Services to broaden the area of responsibility (P. 11, Sec. 350.10.30).
5. County Departments: It is proposed that the department of Planning & Zoning be changed to the Department of Planning & Development (P. 13, Sec. 350.20.70).
6. Personnel Director: It is proposed that language be added to clearly indicate that the Personnel Director is appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer, (P. 18, Sec. 520).

# M I N U T E S

## DELIBERATION ON FIRST DRAFT OF PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER

June 15, 1968

### 1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chairman Richard Albrecht. All Freeholders were present except Mr. Wampold, Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Ackley. Mr. Ackley arrived at 10:30 a.m. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary, and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel. Mr. McKenna left at 10:15 a.m., Mr. Albrecht at 11:15, and Mr. Block at 12:00.

### 2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the May 18th meeting were approved as corrected.

### 3. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman reminded the Freeholders that Tuesday, June 18th, and Tuesday, July 9th, were confirmed as meeting dates, with both meetings to be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 402 of the Courthouse. Mr. McKenna mentioned that he would not be able to attend the June 18th meeting, and wondered if it could be moved to Thursday, June 20th. A voice vote was taken, and it was determined that the majority of Freeholders would better be able to attend on June 18th.

### 4. PROPOSAL FOR THE DRAWING OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

Paul Meyer reported that he was able to secure from Mr. Raj Joshi, Urban Planning Consultant, a firm offer to contract to furnish population data figures and draw commissioner district boundaries for the Freeholders. After general discussion, it was decided by majority vote to retain the services of Mr. Joshi.

### 5. PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL CRITIQUE OF DRAFT CHARTER.

Paul Meyer reported that he had discussed with John Donaho, Baltimore management consultant, the possibility of retaining his services for a professional critique of the draft of the proposed Home Rule Charter. Mr. Donaho agreed verbally to provide such a critique for a sum not to exceed \$1,745. After general discussion, the following action was taken:

MOTION: MOVED and SECONDED that the Board of King County Freeholders retain the services of John Donaho to provide a critique of the draft Charter for an amount not to exceed \$1,745; and that this amount would cover Mr. Donaho's trip to Seattle and his written comments to the Freeholders concerning the draft.

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 1 Absent, 3 Not Voting, 1.

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT CHARTER.

The Chairman entertained suggestions from the floor as to any specific changes the Freeholders would like made in the draft which had been distributed to them. General discussion followed, Mr. Ackley stated he thought the draft was much too lengthy, and preferred a "bare bones" charter, and Mr. O'Connor concurred with this position. Mr. Curran and Mr. Albrecht said they felt the Charter was short enough. Mr. McDonald stated he felt the list of proposed changes as distributed should be taken in order and voted on, and moved as follows:

Section I.

MOTION:

1. MOVED and SECONDED that the position of County Auditor be removed from the legislative branch responsible to the County Commissioners, and that he be made an independent elected official.

VOTE: For, 1 Against, 11 Absent, 2 Not Voting, 1

2. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the Freeholders change their position with respect to the number of County Commissioners from 9 to 7.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that Motion be amended to call for an automatic increase to up to a maximum of 9 commissioners to allow for an increase in population.

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

VOTE ON MOTION: For, 2 Against, 10 Absent, 3.

At this point the Chairman had to leave, and appointed Mr. Curran to chair the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Curran continued with the prepared Agenda with with proposal No. 3 of Section I being the next in order. Mr. Block moved that this item be deferred to the next meeting to give the staff time to prepare a report on how an amendment could be made to the Charter by means of petition by the people. This motion was not seconded, and after general discussion, Mr. Block withdrew his motion. Mr. Geoffroy then made the following motion:

3. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the Staff be instructed to prepare a provision within the Charter which would mimic the present constitutional provision.

VOTE: For, 9 Against, 1 Present & Not Voting, 2 Absent, 3.

4. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the appointment of the Superior Court

Clerk be by the County Executive, using a list of candidates provided by the Superior Court Judges.

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0 Present & Not Voting, 1 Absent, 3.

5. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that language be included in the section dealing with executive departments, providing that the Department of Public Works and Transportation have responsibility for various public utilities.

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0 Absent, 4.

6. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that Item 6 under Section I be deferred for consideration until after Mr. Donaho has had an opportunity to critique the Charter.

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0 Absent, 4.

The discussion then moved into the area of Section II, Modification of Previous Decisions, and the following actions were taken after discussion of each item:

Section II.

1. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the executive veto be changed to require a minimum of 6 votes rather than 7 from the legislative body to over-ride an executive veto.

VOTE: For, 11 Against, 0 Absent, 4.

Three additional proposals were made at this point, in addition to proposed changes on the Agenda:

a. MOVED and SECONDED that additional language be added to the draft to provide that ordinances adopted by the legislative body be limited to single subjects; and that the Executive veto of such ordinances be of the entire ordinance and not by line item.

VOTE: For, 7 Against, 3 Not Voting, 1 Absent, 4.

b. MOVED and SECONDED that the matter of referendum by the legislative body to the people be entirely eliminated from the draft, i.e., the deletion of Section 240.10).

VOTE: For, 7 Against, 2 Not Voting, 1 Absent, 5.

c. MOVED and SECONDED to continue in the Charter the section on item veto by referendum of an ordinance.

VOTE: For, 2 Against, 7 Not Voting, 1 Absent, 5.

2. MOTION #1:

MOVED and SECONDED that consideration of Item 2, Section .II (Redistricting Committee), of proposed changes of draft be postponed indefinitely for consideration at some time in the future.

MOTION #2:

MOVED and SECONDED that Motion #1 be tabled.

VOTE: For, 7 Against, 4 Absent, 4.

3. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the number of members of the Board of Appeals be increased from three to seven.

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

4. MOTION:

MOVED and SECONDED that the proposed change in Section 570 of the draft, i.e., "Political Activities", deleting the phrase "in a position covered by the personnel system" be tabled.

VOTE: For, 7 Against, 4 Absent, 4.

At this point a motion was made to adopt the proposed revision on collective bargaining, but no vote was taken, and the question was deferred until the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 18th, at 7:30 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*

Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/bg

A D D E N D U M

June 18, 1968

I. INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM:

It is proposed that the provisions for Initiative and Referendum in the draft Charter be changed to correspond to the same requirements as provided in the State Constitution. (Pages 5, 6 & 7, Sec. 240 & 250)

II. REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

It is proposed that a permanent redistricting committee be established which would accumulate data on a continuing basis regarding the establishment and revision of legislative districts. (P. 16, Sec. 420.20.32)

III. ADDENDUM TO PROPOSED CHARTER:

CHARTER REVISION: It is proposed that language be added which will require the establishment of a Charter revision Commission to review the Charter no less than every ten years..





# Freeholders Name

## Redistrict Group

Five King County Freeholders yesterday were named to a subcommittee charged with drafting a proposal to redistrict King County.

Richard Albrecht, Lynnwood chairman of the Freeholders, named the special committee. He will serve as its chairman.

Others on the committee are James O'Connor, Seattle; Terry McKenna and James P. Curran, Bellevue; and Simon Wampold, Bellevue. Freeholders voted Monday about two weeks.

# Divided Freeholders May Seek Yet Another Redistrict Plan

**BY VIRGINIA BURNSIDE**  
**Our County News Bureau**

Speculation mounted at the weekend that the trigger-hot matter of dividing the county into seven- or nine-man commissioner districts, approximately equal in population, but varying widely in economic and political implications. The nine-member plan (currently favored by freeholders as the size of the engrossed Board of King County Commissioners) would cut the Valley into two parts, with the southern part of the Valley comprising one commissioner district extending from the Pierce County boundary line on the south to the Snohomish County line on the north.

Political implications of the plan drew the most fire last week when Wampold charged that either plan, if adopted, would result in King County being regarded as traditionally Democratic.

As prepared by a Seattle critic — becoming "forever after Republican."

"I am not saying I want the county divided in such a way as to favor either party, but it should at least be fair," he declared. He urged that both county and state chairman of each major political party be solicited for their comments on the impact of the two plans on the political balance in the county.

Concerned with the effect of the two plans on Valley interests, Terry McKenna, Kent freeholder, charged that neither plan meets the needs of the Valley where, he said, the majority of the county's growth in the next 10 years will occur. He urged that neither the seven- or nine-man plan be included in the Project Endangered.

Acknowledging the explosive nature of the proposals before them, most freeholders informally agreed that adopting either plan could endanger seriously passage of the new charter they have spent the last seven months framing.

Simon Wampold, Bellevue, and James O'Connor and Albrecht, both of Seattle. They met today with Rajnikant Joshi, consultant who drafted alternate plans for seven and nine commissioner districts. These were found unacceptable by the freeholders, although they favor a nine-district plan.

Members of the committee are James Curran, Kent; Howard Bothell, Auburn; Richard Albrecht, chairman of the Board of Freeholders, said the plan will be ready before the end of next week.

objections to Joshi's nine-district proposal are that it calls for one commissioner district including the Kent Valley and all of East King County and does not put all of Seattle's central area in a single district.

The freeholders intend to include a plan for nine districts in the county charter they are preparing.

# Freeholders Plan 9 County Districts

Seattle, Wash.  
 U. District Herald  
 (Ch. W. 25,105)  
 JUL 24 1968

## Freeholders Set Public Hearing

The Board of King County Freeholders Chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the board on July 31 at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

Under consideration by the board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the board and its staff have been working the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.

As to November 5, King County election officials believe that the general-election ballot could well be no room left on the voting machines for inclusion of the fluoridation question.

Edward J. Logan, county elections superintendent, noted that 12 state-wide propositions—constitutional amendments, bond issues and the like—already are certain entries on the November ballot and two state initiative proposals evidently have received enough signatures to join the list.

Logan said two remaining ballot positions tentatively have been "reserved" for an expected Seattle School District special levy and for a proposed home-rule charter now being written into final form by the Board of County Freeholders.

"Since we are practically 'out of space' on our voting machines," Logan said, "we have advised the city of the situation and have tried to discourage them from seeking a fluoridation vote this fall."

The September primary would have been a logical time, but because of technical reasons it is already too late to certify the measure to the September ballot.

Looking ahead, however, there is evidence that Seattle voters will not have a chance to decide the question in either the September 17 primary election or the general election November 5.

The September primary would have been a logical time, but because of technical reasons it is already too late to certify the measure to the September ballot.

In abandoning the fate of fluoridation to the voters, the Council did not spell out the date for an election. That is to be studied by a Council committee, and a decision made later.

Looking ahead, however, there is evidence that Seattle voters will not have a chance to decide the question in either the September 17 primary election or the general election November 5.

The September primary would have been a logical time, but because of technical reasons it is already too late to certify the measure to the September ballot.

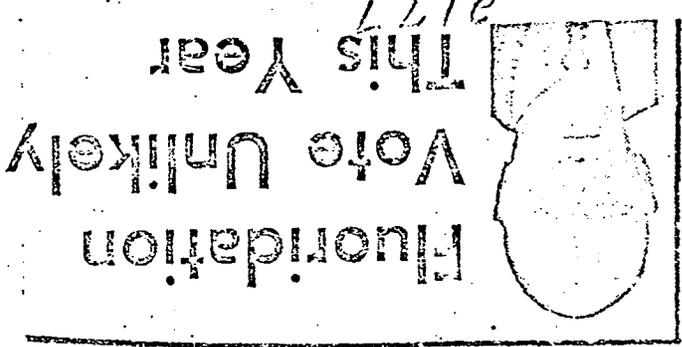
Although the City Council now has decided to leave the fluoridation issue up to the voters, there is a strong likelihood that the question will not reach the ballot until sometime in 1969.

In June, a Council majority signified its intention to enact a fluoridation ordinance with a 30-day "delayed action" clause, to provide opponents with an opportunity to circulate referendum petitions before the measure actually became law.

This week, however, there was a surprise shift in the positions of some Council members and the body voted 6 to 3 to place the question before the electorate, an action that eliminated the necessity for a referendum-petition campaign. (For Times editorial, see Page 10.)

Associate Editor, The Times  
 BY HERB ROBINSON

**Fluoridation**  
**Vote Unlikely**  
**This Year**



The Board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the Board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the Charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the Charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberating session of the board will be on July 17 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the board are open to the public.

Under consideration by the Courthouse.

Board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the Board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the Charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the Charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberating session of the board will be on July 17 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the board are open to the public.

The Board of King County Freeholders Chairman, Richard Albrecht, announced today that a public hearing will be held by the Board on July 31 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

Under consideration by the Courthouse.

Board of Freeholders will be a preliminary draft of the King County Charter, on which the Board and its staff have been working for the past seven months. A second public hearing has tentatively been set for August 7.

Further hearings will be held as necessary to give all interested citizens an opportunity to be heard. Announcement of the time and place for additional hearings will be made later.

Copies of the Charter draft are being distributed to interested citizens and organizations. Copies will also be supplied to all libraries in the county.

The board will continue to meet regularly, deliberating on proposed changes to the draft. The Freeholders expect to have the Charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November, 1968 ballot.

The next scheduled deliberating session of the board will be on July 17 at 7:30 pm in room 402 of the King County Courthouse. All sessions of the board are open to the public.

**County Charter**  
**To Be Considered**  
**At Public Hearing**

**Charter**  
**Hearing**  
**July 31**

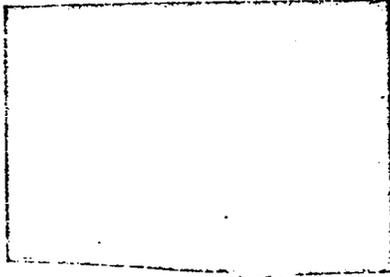
The Board of King County Freeholders will hold the first public hearing on a charter for the county on Wednesday, July 31. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in room 402 of the King County Courthouse.

The preliminary draft of the charter will be open to public discussions at the hearings. A second is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 7. The Board of Freeholders and staff have been drawing up the first charter for King County for the past seven months.

They expect to have the charter in final form early in September so that it can be placed on the November 1968 ballot.

Seattle, Wash.  
 White Center News  
 (Cir. W. 5,862 Paid 7,758 Free)

JUL 24 1968  
 Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1835



# Freeholders Start Anew On Redistricting County

By VIRGINIA BURNSIDE

Our County News Bureau

The controversial plans before the King County Board of Freeholders drawing up a new charter which would divide the county into a seven- or nine-man commissioner district went back to the drawing board Monday night.

Only this time freeholders decided to do it themselves.

The actions, approved by the three Valley freeholders who attended the meeting, came after a lengthy debate at which a series of counterproposals were offered to the group . . . only to be withdrawn.

Throughout the meeting there was little sentiment in favor of postponing the districting job until after the charter is approved. Most felt freeholders should do the job themselves, predicated on the basis of a nine-man board of county commissioners.

Before the decision was reached, both districting plans drawn by Board Consultant Rajan Kant N. Joshi came in for extensive criticism, particularly from Simon Wampold, vice chairman of the group, who charged that the districts proposed by Joshi would make King

County "forever Republican."

"If we accept either of these plans (which he's put together like a mathematician) without making the study ourselves, we're endangering the charter," Wampold emphasized. "We've labored too hard . . . too long . . . and too well to sacrifice our efforts to the proposals of a consultant."

Job Is 'Explosive, Important'

Wampold labeled the districting proposals as not only the most explosive matter to be considered by the freeholders, but the most important.

Others likewise expressed concern, including Kent Attorney James Curran, who declared: "I am disappointed this thing has gotten into the realm of politics which hasn't contributed to anything but dissension. I don't like political leaders calling 'wolf' before they know a wolf is in the woods." Curran referred to an analysis submitted by Wampold by Democratic County Chairman Jeannette Williams in which she said either plan would lead to five Republican districts controlling King County.

Aside from the political objections to the two plans, most criticism was voiced to the inequities posed by the propos-

als to South King County interests — particularly the Valley area.

Noting that most complaints about the two proposals came from the South County area, Chairman Richard Albrecht, labeling them legitimate ones, declared he saw "no way to make everyone happy, but we can attempt to make as many persons happy with our work as possible."

Committee Approach Favored

An alternate plan drawn and submitted to the freeholders by Albrecht was withdrawn when it became apparent the majority favored appointment of a subcommittee to redraw the lines and submit them to the freeholders at a later meeting.

The decision was spurred by Robert Eberle, 7th District congressional candidate, who accused the group of "not wanting to draw district lines because you want to fool people . . . just like in the stadium situation."

Opposition to deferring the districting or placing it in the hands of another body was also expressed by Curran who said he felt that "unincorporated areas ought to have something to say about what's done in areas like mine without leaving

that decision up to some blue-ribbon committee from Seattle's central area.

Also opposed to deferring the districting was Auburn Freeholder Howard Bothell, who told board members they were charged with trying to make county government more responsive to the wishes of the people. "In view of the fact neither of the plans before us does that, I believe we should go ahead and do the job ourselves."

Time Is Running Short

Although board members are in apparent agreement they should attempt to do the districting job themselves, observers noted little concern Monday night for the time element involved in their critical decision.

With a public hearing on the nearly complete charter scheduled for next Wednesday night at 7:30 in the King County Courthouse, and the deadline to finish the document in time to place it on the November ballot challenging their efforts, freeholders could become snarled in their own inability to draw a plan that would please all members.

But as of last Monday night, they agree to try.

## A G E N D A

Deliberation  
BOARD OF KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS  
June 20, 1968

1. County Commissioner Status:

It is proposed that the salaries of the Board of King County Commissioners be reduced to a nominal amount to clearly indicate their part-time status.

2. County Departments:

It is proposed that the building inspection function be removed from the Department of Planning and be established in a separate Department of Buildings.

3. Budgeting:

It is proposed that language be added to the Charter which will clearly indicate a requirement of a line item as well as a performance-type budget.

4. Non-Interference Clause:

It is proposed that language be added which will allow County Commissioners in an individual capacity to investigate grievances from citizens regarding the administration of county departments and offices.

5. Investigation of Deaths:

It is proposed that language be added to make mandatory the conducting by the executive, or that he cause to be conducted, the investigation of any death where a county employee is involved.

6. Boards & Commissions:

It is proposed that where the County is to be represented on a board or commission, that the Executive and the County Commissioners have equal status.

7. Field Appraiser:

It is proposed that language be added in the personnel section to exempt field appraisers from classified services, and that they be subject to general law provisions governing assessment personnel practices.

8. Department of Assessments:

It is proposed that the language of the Charter be amended to substitute County Assessor for the Department of Assessments.  
(Page 13, Sec. 350.20.80).

9. Emergency Ordinances:

It is proposed that 8 out of 9 votes be required for the passage of emergency ordinances. (Page 5, Sec. 230.40).

10. Contracting:

It is proposed that the Charter include language which clearly indicates a requirement of competitive bidding on public works projects and purchases over a given amount.

11. Capital Project Planning:

It is proposed that language be added which will require the Department of Planning to review all capital programs prior to approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

M I N U T E S

DELIBERATION ON FIRST DRAFT  
OF PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER

June 20, 1968

(Continuation of Deliberation of June 15 & June 18)

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m. All Freeholders were present with the exception of Mr. Curran, Mr. Eberle, Mrs. North, Mr. McKenna & Mr. Wampold. Also present were Paul Meyer, Executive Secretary and John Strasburger, Legal Counsel.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT CHARTER.

The Chairman then proceeded to go through the proposed changes to the draft charter as outlined on the Agenda; however, since Mr. Friedlander, who had proposed the first item, was not yet in attendance, the second question on the Agenda was asked first, as follows:

Item 2 of Agenda:

QUESTION:

Shall the building inspection function be removed from the Department of Planning and established as a separate department of buildings with the responsibility for building permits and inspection?

VOTE: For, 8 Against, 2 Absent, 5.

Mr. Friedlander then arrived, and the Chairman suggested that he might wish to reword Question #1. Mr. Friedlander explained that this question was not really his, but the suggestion of Mr. John Fournier, Editor of The Kent News Journal, and a 1952 Freeholder. He had asked Mr. Friedlander to put the question before the Board. These remarks led to the following action on Item No. 1 of the Agenda:

QUESTION:

Shall the Freeholders thank Mr. Fournier for his comments and interest in the draft Charter, with the understanding that the Freeholders tentatively reaffirm their former conclusions as to the salaries of the Board of King County Commissioners; and shall Mr. Fournier be formally invited to meet with the Freeholders at a future date?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5

Item 3:

QUESTION:

Shall language be added to the Charter which will clearly indicate a requirement of a line item as well as a performance-type budget?

VOTE: For, 9 Against, 1 Absent, 5.

Item 4:

QUESTION:

Shall language be added to the Charter which will allow County Commissioners in an individual capacity to investigate grievances from citizens regarding the administration of county departments and offices?

This question was withdrawn, and the following question was substituted:

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter replace present draft provisions with language similar to that in the Multnomah County, Oregon, Charter on non-interference of legislative members with administrative departments?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

Item 5:

QUESTION:

Shall question 5 as shown on Agenda be deferred, and the staff requested to do more research as to who should investigate deaths where county employees are involved?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

Item 6:

QUESTION:

Shall the wording on the top of Page 6 of the draft Charter be changed to indicate that the executive have the right to appoint a commissioner rather than a "person or persons" to serve on a board or commission?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

Item 7: (This item was reworded as follows:)

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter include language indicating that up to four of the chief deputies in the Assessor's office be exempt from the classified service?

VOTE: For, 9 Against, 1 Absent, 5.

Item 8:

QUESTION:

Shall the language of the Charter be amended to substitute County Assessor for the Department of Assessments, and also to indicate that the County Assessor is the head of the Department?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

Item 9:

Question 9, regarding Emergency Ordinances, was withdrawn by common consent from the Agenda.

Item 10:

Shall language be included in the Charter indicating that competitive bidding on public works projects and purchases of the County be in line with the present requirements under State general law?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

Item 11:

Before asking the question on Item 11, "Capital Project Planning", the Chairman recommended that the staff concentrate on the concept of rather than the language used in the section on Planning.

He then divided Item II into the two following questions:

QUESTION:

a. Shall language be added to the Charter requiring a review of capital improvement programs by the Department of Planning prior to approval of those programs by the Board of County Commissioners?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

QUESTION:

b. Shall the duties of the Chief Executive be expanded to include the preparation of long-range capital improvement programs, and the review of such programs as proposed by other County Departments?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

The following items were added to the Agenda by individual Freeholders and voted on as follows:

Item 12: (Page 13, Sec. 350.20.60):

QUESTION:

a. Shall the Department of Public Services and Recreation be called the Department of Parks and Community Services?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

QUESTION:

b. Shall the issuance of licenses be removed from the responsibilities of the Department of Parks & Community Services, and the Charter remain silent on the assignment of the issuance of licenses?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

QUESTION:

c. Shall the words "development and the operation of extension" be deleted from Sec. 350.20.50 of the Charter, and the word "community" be substituted for "public" to be consistent with the change in department title?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

General discussion was held regarding the present preamble to the draft Charter, with Mr. Block and Mr. O'Connor agreeing that it was "dull and drab", and Mr. O'Connor suggesting that it be deleted altogether and the staff be requested to prepare a new preamble. The Chairman suggested using the word "efficient" to describe the new form of government, but discounted using the word "economy".

Item 13:

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter include a provision that 5% of the votes at the last election of the Chief Executive, with a minimum of 20,000 votes, be required for a referendum?

Amendment to Question:

Shall we amend the main question by substituting a straight 8% of the votes at the last election of the Chief Executive, rather than the 5%- 20,000 vote formula?

VOTE on Amendment: For, 5 Against, 5 Absent, 5.

VOTE on main Question: For, 5 Against, 5 Absent, 5.

Both the main Question and the Amendment failed for lack of majority.

Executive Secretary Paul Meyer reported on redistricting machinery based upon information from the University of Washington staff. There are no new creative methods in redistricting. Three basic approaches are: 1. Allow legislative body to redistrict and set up a master or commission if they don't; 2. Allow legislative body to redistrict in good faith, then court action to enforce; 3. Set up a commission or master to propose new boundaries at regular intervals to legislative body.

Item 14: (On Redistricting Machinery provision in Charter):

QUESTION:

Shall the provision for redistricting in the draft Charter be left as it is for now?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5

QUESTION:

Shall the staff prepare a report on the two alternate proposals for redistricting for the Freeholders' consideration?

VOTE: For, 10 Against, 0 Absent, 5.

IV. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman stated that he expected Mr. John Donaho to submit his critique on the Charter to the Freeholders before the Charter is released to the public; and Paul Meyer indicated that Mr. Donaho would be available to meet with the Freeholders on either Thursday, June 27th, or Friday, June 28th.

The Chairman also announced there would be no meeting as previously tentatively scheduled on July 9th, but that July 17th would be set for a public hearing instead, and that a memo setting forth the exact time and place of the meeting would be sent to the Freeholders.

ADJOURNED - 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Virginia Gunby*  
Virginia Gunby, Secretary

/hg

PROPOSED DRAFT

KING COUNTY CHARTER

June 24, 1968

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble		1
Article 1	POWERS OF THE COUNTY	1
Section 110.	General Powers	1
Section 120.	Construction	1
Section 130.	Name, Boundaries and County Seat	1
Article 2	THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	2
Section 210.	Composition	2
Section 220.	The Board of County Commissioners	2
220.10.	Composition and Terms of Office	2
220.20.	Powers	2
220.30.	Organization	3
220.40.	Rules of Procedure	3
220.50.	Relationship With Other Branches	3
Section 230.	Ordinances	3
230.10.	Introduction and Adoption	3
230.20.	Executive Veto	4
230.30.	Effective Date of Ordinance	4
230.40.	Emergency Ordinances	5
Section 240.	Referendum and Initiative	5
240.10.	Referendum	5
240.20.	Initiative	6
240.30.	Referendum and Initiative Petitions	7
Section 250.	County Auditor	7
Article 3	THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH	7
Section 310.	Composition and Powers	8
Section 320.	County Executive	8
320.10.	Election, Term of Office and Compensation	8
320.20.	Powers and Duties	8
Section 330.	County Administrative Officer	9
Section 340.	Appointments, Confirmation and Removal	10
340.10.	Appointments by the County Executive	10
340.20.	Appointments by the County Administrative Officer	10
340.30.	Appointments by the Chief Officers	10
340.40.	Confirmation	10
340.50.	Qualifications	10
340.60.	Removal	10
Section 350.	Executive Offices and Departments	11
350.10.	Administrative Offices	11
350.10.10.	Office of Budgets and Accounts	11
350.10.20.	Office of Personnel	11
350.10.30.	Office of Data Processing	11
350.10.40.	Office of County Property	12
350.10.50.	Office of Purchasing	12

350.20.	Executive Departments	12
350.20.10.	Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation	12
350.20.20.	Department of Public Safety	12
350.20.30.	Department of Public Health and Welfare	12
350.20.40.	Department of Records and Elections	13
350.20.50.	Department of Finance	13
350.20.60.	Department of Parks and Community Services	13
350.20.70.	Department of Planning	13
350.20.75.	Department of Buildings	14
350.20.80.	Department of The County Assessor	14
350.20.90.	Department of Judicial Administration	14
Article 4	ELECTIONS	15
Section 410.	Qualifications	15
Section 420.	County Executive and County Assessor	15
Section 430.	County Commissioners	16
430.10.	Districts	16
430.20.	Nomination and Election	16
430.30.	Redistricting	16
Section 440.	Commencement of Terms of Office	17
Section 450.	Recall	17
Section 460.	Vacancies	17
460.10.	When Vacant	17
460.20.	Appointment or Special Election	18
Article 5	THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM	18
Section 510.	Composition and Purpose	18
Section 520.	The Personnel Director	18
Section 530.	The Personnel Board	19
530.10.	Composition, Appointment and Removal	19
530.20.	Positions Covered by the Personnel System	20
530.30.	Rules	20
Section 540.	Rule Proposal	21
Section 550.	Appeals	22
Section 560.	Agreements with Other Personnel Agencies	22
Section 570.	Political Activities	22
Article 6	BOARD OF APPEALS	23
Section 610.	Composition, Appointment, Removal	23
Section 620.	Powers	23
Section 630.	Rules of Practice and Procedure	24
Article 7	GENERAL PROVISIONS	24
Section 700.	Amendments to the Charter	24
Section 710.	Severability and Construction	24

Section 720.	Conflict of Interests	25
720.10.	Prohibitions	25
720.20.	Exceptions	25
720.30.	Penalties	25
Section 730.	Public Inspection of Public Records	26
Section 740.	Anti-discrimination	26
Section 750.	Delegation of Authority	27
Section 760.	Inapplicable References in the Constitution or General Law	27
Section 770.	Additional Compensation	27
Section 780.	Compilation and Codification of Ordinances	27
Section 790.	Citizens' Service Office	28
Section 795.	Employee Representation	28
Article 8	TRANSITORY PROVISIONS	28
Section 810.	Effective Date and Elections	29
Section 820.	County Commissioners	29
Section 830.	County Assessor	30
Section 840.	Commencement and Terms of Office	30
Section 850.	Compensation	30
Section 860.	The Personnel System	31
860.10.	Personnel Board Members	31
860.20.	Effective Date	31
860.30.	Positions Exempt From the Personnel System	31
860.40.	Elective County Officers	32
860.50.	County Employees	33
860.60.	Sheriff's Civil Service System	33
Section 870.	Board of Appeals	34
Section 880.	Administrative Offices and Executive Departments	34
Section 890.	Transition	34

## PREAMBLE

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to obtain the benefits and responsibilities of home rule and self-government in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington and to create an efficient form of county government which will serve our present and future needs do adopt this charter.

## ARTICLE 1

### POWERS OF THE COUNTY

#### Section 110. General Powers.

The county shall have all of the powers which it is possible for a home rule county to have under the state constitution.

#### Section 120. Construction.

The powers of the county granted by this charter shall be liberally construed, and the specific statement of particular powers shall not be construed as limiting the general powers. Reference to the state constitution and general law in this charter shall be construed as a continuing reference to them as they may be amended from time to time. Special and general laws inconsistent with this charter or the ordinances enacted hereunder are superseded to the extent permitted by the state constitution.

#### Section 130. Name, Boundaries and County Seat.

The name, boundaries and county seat of the county shall remain as they are on the date of the enactment of this charter until changed.

ARTICLE 2

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 210. Composition.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the board of county commissioners.

Section 220. The Board of County Commissioners.

220.10. Composition and Terms of Office.

The board of county commissioners shall consist of nine members. The county shall be divided into nine districts, and one commissioner shall be nominated and elected by the voters of each district. The term of office of each county commissioner shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

220.20. Powers.

The board of county commissioners shall be the policy determining body of the county and shall have all legislative powers of the county under this charter. The board of county commissioners shall exercise its legislative power by the adoption and enactment of ordinances; shall levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county; shall establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and shall provide for the reimbursement of expenses; shall have the power to conduct public hearings on matters of public concern to assist it in performing its legislative responsibilities and to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records and other evidence; and shall have the power to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to prescribe their duties.

220.30. Organization.

The board of county commissioners shall be responsible for its own organization and for the employment and supervision of those employees which it deems necessary to assist it or individual county commissioners in the exercise of their legislative powers and shall appoint a clerk to maintain its records and to supervise its staff.

220.40. Rules of Procedure.

The board of county commissioners shall adopt and publish rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings and hearings and the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of ordinances to guarantee ample opportunity for the people to be heard and adequate consideration by the board of county commissioners. All meetings shall be open to the public, and a verbatim public record shall be kept of each meeting and the votes taken therein.

220.50. Relationship With Other Branches.

The board of county commissioners and the individual commissioners shall not, except through the enactment of ordinances, issue orders to any officer, agent or employee of any other branch of the county government.

Section 230. Ordinances.

230.10. Introduction and Adoption.

Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be introduced by any county commissioner, by the county executive or by initiative petitions. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a minimum of five votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

230.20. Executive Veto.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the county executive shall have the right to veto any ordinance. Every ordinance shall be presented to the county executive within five days after its adoption or enactment by the board of county commissioners. Within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners or veto the ordinance and return it to the board of county commissioners with a written and signed statement of the reasons for his veto. If an ordinance is not returned by the county executive within ten days after its presentation, it shall be deemed enacted without his signature. Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned, the board of county commissioners may override the veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six votes.

230.30. Effective Date of Ordinance.

The effective date of an ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, shall be forty five days after its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance.

An ordinance which is not vetoed shall be deemed enacted on the date that it is approved by, or ten days after it is presented to, the county executive. An ordinance which is vetoed shall be deemed enacted on the date that the board of county commissioners overrides the veto. An ordinance which has been submitted to the voters by referendum or initiative shall be deemed enacted when it is approved by the voters. An ordinance which is not subject to the veto power of the county executive shall be deemed enacted on the date it is

approved by the board of county commissioners.

230.40. Emergency Ordinances.

Any proposed ordinance may be enacted as an emergency ordinance if the board of county commissioners finds as a fact, and states in the ordinance, that an emergency exists and that the ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public peace, health or safety. A minimum of seven votes shall be required to enact an emergency ordinance, and it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive and shall be effective on the date of its enactment unless a later date is specified in the ordinance.

Section 240. Referendum and Initiative.

240.10. Referendum.

An enacted ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, an ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions, or an ordinance which has been approved by the voters by referendum or initiative, may be subjected to a referendum by the voters of the county by filing with the board of county commissioners prior to the effective date of the ordinance petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the ordinance to be referred. The ordinance subject to referendum shall not become effective until it is approved by the

voters. The ordinance to be referred shall be placed on the ballot at the next special or general election occurring more than forty five days after the petitions are filed. If approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the ordinance shall become effective forty five days after the date of the election.

240.20. Initiative.

Ordinances may be proposed by filing with the board of county commissioners petitions bearing signatures of registered voters of the county equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of county executive at the last preceding election for county executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

The board of county commissioners shall consider the proposed ordinance. If the proposed ordinance is not enacted as provided in Section 230 within ninety days after the petitions are presented, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special election occurring more than one hundred and thirty five days after the petitions were presented or at an earlier election designated by the board of county commissioners. However, if the proposed ordinance is enacted at any time prior to the election, it shall not be placed on the ballot or be voted on unless it is subjected to referendum. If the board of county commissioners rejects the proposed ordinance and adopts a substitute or amended ordinance concerning the same subject matter, the substitute or amended ordinance shall be placed on the same ballot with the proposed ordinance; and the voters shall be given the choice of adopting one of the ordinances and rejecting

the other or of rejecting both ordinances.

If it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, the ordinance shall become effective forty five days after the date of the election.

240.30. Referendum and Initiative Petitions.

All referendum and initiative petitions shall be sponsored by an individual or committee of individuals which shall secure the approval of the clerk of the board of county commissioners as to the form of the proposed petitions before circulating them. At any time more than forty five days prior to a referendum or initiative election, the sponsor or a majority of the sponsoring committee may withdraw the petitions by filing with the clerk of the board of county commissioners a signed statement asking that the referendum or initiative petitions be withdrawn setting forth the reasons for the withdrawal. The filing of such a request shall cause the petitions to be of no force and effect, and the referendum or initiative election shall be canceled.

Section 250. County Auditor.

The county auditor shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners and shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an annual audit of the operation of county government; shall consult with the office of budgets and accounts concerning the accounting procedures to be used by the executive branch; shall make any limited and periodic audits which he deems necessary; and shall perform any other duties assigned to him by the board of county commissioners.

ARTICLE 3

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 310. Composition and Powers.

The executive branch shall be composed of the county executive, the county administrative officer, the county assessor, the officers and employees of administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners and the members of boards and commissions except: the board of county commissioners, the board of appeals and the personnel board. The executive branch shall have all executive powers of the county under this charter.

Section 320. County Executive.

320.10. Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The county executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The county executive shall receive compensation at least one and one half times the compensation paid to a county commissioner.

320.20. Powers and Duties.

The county executive is the chief executive officer of the county and shall have all executive power of the county which is not expressly vested in other specific officers by this charter; shall supervise all administrative offices and executive departments established by this charter or created by the board of county commissioners; is the chief peace officer of the county and shall execute and enforce all ordinances and state statutes within the county; shall serve on all boards and commissions on which a county commissioner was required to serve prior to the adoption of this charter, and if

more than one county commissioner was required to serve, shall appoint a county commissioner or county commissioners to serve on the board or commission with him; shall present to the board of county commissioners an annual statement of the financial and governmental affairs of the county and any other report which he may deem necessary, including proposed ordinances; shall prepare and present to the board of county commissioners performance and line item budgets and budget messages setting forth the programs which he proposes for the county during the next fiscal year; shall prepare and present to the board of county commissioners comprehensive plans for the present and future development of the county; shall have the power to veto any ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners except as otherwise provided by this charter; shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance; and shall have the right, subject to approval by a majority of the board of county commissioners, to arrange for one or more functions of the county to be performed by an independent contractor or to be performed in cooperation with, or by, other units of government and to arrange for one or more functions of other units of government to be performed by the county.

Section 330. County Administrative Officer.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer who, under the general supervision of the county executive, shall assist him, shall supervise the administrative offices and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to him by the county executive.

Section 340. Appointments, Confirmation and Removal.

340.10. Appointments by the County Executive.

The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive department except the county assessor and the members of all boards and commissions except the board of county commissioners.

340.20. Appointments by the County Administrative Officer.

The county administrative officer shall appoint the chief officer of each administrative office.

340.30. Appointments by the Chief Officers.

The chief officer of each administrative office and executive department shall appoint all officers and employees of his office or department.

340.40. Confirmation.

The appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. The appointments by the county administrative officer shall be subject to confirmation by the county executive.

340.50. Qualifications.

The county administrative officer and the chief officers appointed by either the county executive or the county administrative officer shall have had prior administrative experience in either private or public organizations and shall be appointed on the basis of their abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience.

340.60. Removal.

Any officer, board or commission member, or employee who is not subject to the provisions of the personnel system may be removed

at any time by the person who appointed him except that the members of the personnel board and the board of appeals can be removed only by a majority or by the board of county commissioners as provided in Articles 5 and 6.

Section 350. Executive Offices and Departments.

The executive branch shall include the following administrative offices and executive departments:

350.10. Administrative Offices:

350.10.10. Office of Budgets and Accounts.

The office of budgets and accounts shall prepare a proposed annual budget for the county, shall prescribe the accounting procedures to be used by the county and shall check all disbursement requests to determine that funds have been appropriated and are available and that the requested disbursements are in accordance with the terms of the contract or ordinance under which the disbursement is requested.

350.10.20. Office of Personnel.

The personnel director shall administer the office of personnel, shall have the responsibilities established by Article 5 and shall perform any other duties assigned to him by the chief administrative officer.

350.10.30. Office of Data Processing.

The office of data processing shall establish and maintain a modern system for processing information in accordance with the needs of county government and shall provide data processing services for all branches of county government.

350.10.40. Office of County Property.

The office of county property shall assign the use of all real and personal property owned or leased by the county, shall maintain all property unless its maintenance is otherwise assigned by this charter, by ordinance or by the county executive and shall negotiate the lease or sale of county property.

350.10.50. Office of Purchasing.

The office of purchasing shall purchase, or shall establish the rules and procedure for purchasing by others, all real and personal property acquired by the county and shall use competitive bidding whenever practical.

350.20. Executive Departments.

350.20.10. Department of Public Works, Utilities and Transportation.

The department of public works, utilities and transportation shall administer the construction and maintenance of the county road system and related facilities and shall be responsible for flood control, garbage disposal and other public works and utilities.

350.20.20. Department of Public Safety.

The department of public safety shall enforce law and order, shall administer the county jail, shall investigate deaths and shall be responsible for civil defense. An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of the department of public safety.

350.20.30. Department of Public Health and Welfare.

The department of public health and welfare shall administer all health and welfare programs under the control of the county including all medical services necessary to assist the department of

public safety.

350.20.40. Department of Records and Elections.

The department of records and elections shall record, file and register all documents presented to it which by general law may be recorded, filed or registered to provide constructive legal notice, and all other documents specified by ordinance and shall maintain the county archives to store all county records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current operation of county government, shall be responsible for the registration of voters in unincorporated areas of the county and shall conduct all special and general elections held in the county.

350.20.50. Department of Finance.

The department of finance shall collect and invest all county revenue and shall make all disbursements approved by the office of budgets and accounts.

350.20.60. Department of Parks and Community Services.

The department of parks and community services and recreation shall operate and develop all county parks and other recreational facilities and programs and shall be responsible for open space development and other community services.

350.20.70. Department of Planning.

The department of planning in coordination with all agencies of county government shall prepare and propose comprehensive plans, including capital improvement plans, for the present and future development of the county. The department of planning shall receive and consider all zoning applications. Its decisions concerning

applications for zoning variances and conditional use permits shall be final unless appealed to the board of appeals, and it shall make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on all applications for rezoning or original zoning. All capital improvement projects shall be submitted to the department of planning before they are submitted to the board of county commissioners.

350.20.75. Department of Buildings.

The department of buildings shall be responsible for the issuance of building permits and shall administer and enforce building codes, fire regulations and other codes and regulations assigned to it.

350.20.80. Department of The County Assessor.

The department of the county assessor shall be administered by the county assessor who shall be elected by the voters of the county, and his term of office shall be four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The department of the county assessor shall determine the assessed value of all taxable property within the county. The department of the county assessor is an executive department subject to the personnel system and shall be served by the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the board of county commissioners.

350.20.90. Department of Judicial Administration.

The department of judicial administration shall be administered by the superior court clerk who shall be appointed by the county ex-

ecutive from a list of three or more nominees submitted by a majority of the superior court judges in the county. The department of judicial administration shall maintain the official court files, records and indexes necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the court system and shall perform such other duties assigned to it by a majority of the superior court judges in the county.

#### ARTICLE 4

#### ELECTIONS

##### Section 410. Qualifications.

Each county officer holding an elective office shall be, at the time of his appointment or election and at all times while he holds office, 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident and registered voter of King County; and each county commissioner shall be a resident of the district which he represents. Any change in the boundaries of a county commissioner's district which shall cause a county commissioner to be no longer a resident of the district which he represents shall not disqualify him from holding office during the remainder of the term for which he was elected or appointed.

##### Section 420. County Executive and County Assessor.

The nomination and election of the county executive and county assessor shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing with the election of 1971. The nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

Section 430. County Commissioners.

430.10. Districts.

The county shall be divided into nine districts numbered one through nine.

430.20. Nomination and Election.

The nomination and election of county commissioners shall be held every four years as a county general election at the same time as the general election for cities in the county commencing in even numbered district with the election of 1971 and in odd numbered districts with the election of 1973. The nominating primaries and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general law governing the election of partisan county officers.

430.30. Redistricting.

Section 440. Commencement of Terms of Office.

The terms of office of elected county officers shall commence on the date specified by general law for public officers elected at city general elections.

Section 450. Recall.

The holder of any elective office may be recalled in accordance with the provisions of general law.

Section 460. Vacancies.

460.10. When Vacant.

An elective county office shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death; resignation; recall; conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, unlawful destruction of court records, or other crime pertinent to his office; declaration of incompetency by a court of competent jurisdiction; absence from the county for a

period of more than thirty days without the permission of a majority of the board of county commissioners; or failure to fulfill or continue to fulfill the qualifications for office.

460.20. Appointment or Special Election.

Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the board of county commissioners or, in the event of a vacancy in the office of county commissioner, by a majority of the remaining county commissioners. Appointments shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant. The board of county commissioners may make a temporary appointment to fill a vacated office and schedule a special election to fill the vacated office.

ARTICLE 5

THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Section 510. Composition and Purpose.

The personnel system shall be composed of the personnel director and the personnel board. The purpose of the personnel system shall be to establish and maintain a personnel administration which will result in a dedicated and efficient body of employees to serve the people and government of the county.

Section 520. The Personnel Director.

The personnel director shall be appointed by the county executive and shall be responsible for recruiting prospective employees for the positions covered by the personnel system; presenting proposed personnel rules to the personnel board for its consideration; recommending to the officers of the county who have the power to appoint

and promote employees to positions covered by the personnel system those individuals best qualified to fill the positions as determined in accordance with the personnel rules; assigning each position covered by the personnel system to a pay grade classification in accordance with the personnel rules; making periodic wage surveys to determine the level of compensation being paid to private and other public employees for the types of work being performed by county employees covered by the personnel system; investigating grievances by county employees covered by the personnel system; and reporting to the personnel board, the county executive and the board of county commissioners the results of his wage surveys and grievance investigations and concerning any other matter which he deems relevant to the personnel system.

Section 530. The Personnel Board.

530.10. Composition, Appointment and Removal.

The personnel board shall be composed of three members who shall be appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the county commissioners. A personnel board member shall serve a six year term and until his successor is appointed, with one member being appointed every two years. A majority of the board of county commissioners, but not the county executive, may remove a personnel board member for just cause after written charges have been served on the personnel board member and a public hearing has been held by the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall provide for the compensation of the personnel board members on a per diem basis.

530.20. Positions Covered by the Personnel System.

The personnel board may as often as it deems necessary divide the various county government positions into those which are covered by the personnel system and those which are exempt and present its proposals to the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners may either adopt or reject the proposed division by an ordinance, but a minimum of seven votes shall be required to amend the proposed division. If the proposed division is neither adopted, amended nor rejected within sixty days after it is presented to the board of county commissioners, it shall become effective on the sixty first day after it was presented as if it had been adopted by ordinance. If a new type of position is created which is not similar to an existing position which is covered by the personnel system, it shall be treated as exempt until such time as it is added to the positions covered by the personnel system by ordinance.

530.30. Rules.

The personnel board shall adopt proposed personnel rules consistent with the purposes and provisions of this article including but not limited to rules concerning the appointment and promotion of applicants to positions covered by the personnel system which shall fairly measure the relative fitness of applicants to discharge the duties of the positions which they seek; rules concerning the training of applicants and employees through apprenticeship programs; rules concerning vacations and sick leaves with pay, leaves of absence without pay, and reemployment preferences after temporary suspensions due to lack of work or funds; rules concerning classification of all

positions covered by the personnel system into pay grades on the basis of the duties and level of responsibility of each position; rules permitting reinstatement of an employee who has been appointed to a position which is not covered by the personnel system to his former or a similar position on the expiration of his appointment; rules concerning disciplinary action which shall assure that every demotion, suspension and removal is for just cause; rules concerning appeals which an employee in a position covered by the personnel system may take to the personnel board concerning the application of the personnel rules by the personnel director or any other officer of the county and rules concerning any other area designated by ordinance.

The proposed personnel rules adopted by the personnel board shall be presented to the board of county commissioners. A proposed personnel rule adopted by the personnel board shall not be effective until it is approved by the board of county commissioners by ordinances. The board of county commissioners cannot amend a personnel rule either before or after it is approved. If a proposed rule is neither adopted nor rejected by the board of county commissioners within sixty days after it is presented to the board of county commissioners, it shall become effective on the sixty first day after it is presented to the board of county commissioners as if it had been adopted by ordinance.

Section 540. Rule Proposal.

The personnel director, the county executive, a county commissioner, any organization representing county employees, or any other interested organization or county resident may present proposed

personnel rules to the personnel board. The personnel board shall not adopt a personnel rule until after a public hearing has been held after adequate publication of the proposed rule.

Section 550. Appeals.

Any employee in a position covered by the personnel system may appeal to the personnel board from any action by the personnel director or any other officer concerning the application of the personnel rules. The personnel board shall hold a hearing to ascertain the facts and shall issue such order as it deems proper including an order restoring an employee to the position from which he was demoted, suspended or removed with or without loss of benefits and pay. The decision of the personnel board shall be final unless it is reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 560. Agreements with Other Personnel Agencies.

Subject to approval by the board of county commissioners by ordinance, either the personnel board except in its capacity as a board of appeals or the personnel director may enter into agreements with other governmental personnel agencies concerning the performance of their duties and may enter into contracts with persons or organizations having special qualifications and experience in public personnel administration.

Section 570. Political Activities.

A county employee employed in a position covered by the personnel system shall not engage in any political activity on behalf of, and shall not pay or be asked to pay any assessment or contribution which will benefit directly or indirectly, anyone occupying or

seeking appointment, nomination or election to any elective county office.

## ARTICLE 6

### BOARD OF APPEALS

#### Section 610. Composition, Appointment, Removal.

The board of appeals shall be composed of seven members appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by a majority of the board of county commissioners. Each member of the board of appeals shall serve a seven year term and until his successor is appointed with one member being appointed each year. A majority of the board of county commissioners, but not the county executive, may remove a board of appeals member for just cause after written charges have been served on the board of appeals member and a public hearing has been held by the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall provide for the compensation of the board of appeals members on a per diem basis.

#### Section 620. Powers.

The board of appeals shall hear and decide all appeals from the granting or rejecting of an application for a zoning variance or conditional use permit by the department of planning and from any valuation by the department of the county assessor. The board of county commissioners may by ordinance provide for an appeal to the board of appeals from any other order by an executive office or department. The decisions of the board of appeals shall be final unless reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 630. Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The board of appeals shall prepare, publish and amend rules of practice and procedure establishing the method for appealing to the board; specifying the types of evidence which will be considered by the board in reaching its decisions; guaranteeing the right for all parties to examine and cross-examine all witnesses; providing for the procedure to be followed in the conduct of its hearings, for written transcripts to be kept of all testimony and argument, and for copies to be furnished to any interested party at cost upon request; providing for the issuance of its orders and its reasons therefor in writing; and for a permanent and properly indexed record to be kept of its decisions.

ARTICLE 7

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 700. Amendments to the Charter.

The board of county commissioners may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring more than forty five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general law. The proposed amendment shall become effective forty five days after it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue.

Section 710. Severability and Construction.

The provisions of this charter are severable; and, if any

provision should be declared to be unconstitutional or inapplicable, it shall not affect the constitutionality or applicability of any other provision of this charter. The provisions of this charter shall be liberally construed to provide for the efficient and businesslike management of county affairs.

Section 720. Conflict of Interest.

720.10. Prohibitions.

An officer or employee of the county shall not receive or have, directly or indirectly, any financial interest in any sale to or by the county of any services or property, except in his official capacity as a representative of the county, and shall not receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any service or thing of value from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally or accept any gift from any person, firm, or corporation having dealings with the county.

720.20. Exceptions.

The board of county commissioners may adopt ordinances providing for individual exceptions to the prohibitions by specifically authorizing a county officer or employee to own stock in certain corporations and to establish or maintain a financial interest in certain businesses dealing with the county on condition that full disclosure be made to the board of county commissioners and that the board of county commissioners finds that the stock ownership or financial interest does not violate the public interest.

720.30. Penalties.

The board of county commissioners shall adopt an ordinance

specifying the civil and criminal penalties for the willful or negligent violation of the prohibitions by any county officer or employee and shall also adopt an ordinance establishing civil and criminal penalties for any person, firm or corporation doing business with the county which offers, pays, refunds, or rebates any part of any fee, commission or other form of compensation to any county officer or employee except in his official capacity as a representative of the county.

Section 730. Public Inspection of Public Records.

All official acts and documents except those which have been specifically prepared for use by the county in court proceedings, criminal and law enforcement files of the department of public safety and those which would invade a person's right of privacy shall be open for public inspection; and the officer, department, agency, board or commission having custody and control of public records shall upon request supply certified copies of the records requested for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance.

Section 740. Anti-discrimination.

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of age except by retirement provisions, sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation; and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm or corporation which discriminates on the basis of age except by retirement provisions, sex, race, color, national origin or religious affiliation.

Section 750. Delegation of Authority.

Any power or duty of a county officer except the veto power of the county executive may be delegated by that officer to another officer or employee under his control and supervision; provided, however, that the delegating officer shall continue to be responsible for the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty delegated. The board of county commissioners shall not delegate its legislative power except to the extent that it delegates to another officer or branch of county government the authority to promulgate regulations in accordance with adequate standards established by the board of county commissioners.

Section 760. Inapplicable References in the Constitution or General Law.

Whenever a general law which has not been superseded by this charter or the ordinances enacted hereunder or the state constitution refers to an agency or officer of county government, it shall be deemed to refer to the agency or officer designated by the board of county commissioners or in the alternative to the agency or officer who is performing functions essentially the same as the agency or officer referred to in the state constitution or general law.

Section 770. Additional Compensation.

Any county officer or employee who is compensated by salary shall not receive any additional compensation for serving on any board or commission or in any other position established by or pursuant to this charter.

Section 780. Compilation and Codification of Ordinances.

Within two years after the effective date of this charter

and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, the board of county commissioners shall provide for a compilation and codification of all county ordinances and regulations which have the force of law and are permanent or general in nature. Each codification shall be presented to the board of county commissioners and, when adopted by ordinance, shall be known as the "King County Code." It shall be published together with this charter, a detailed index and appropriate notes, citations and annotations. The board of county commissioners shall also provide for an annual supplement.

Section 790. Citizens' Service Office.

The board of county commissioners shall establish a citizens' service office to receive inquiries and complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings.

Section 795. Employee Representation.

The board of county commissioners may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and it shall designate, or provide for the selection of, the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

ARTICLE 8

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

The provisions of this article relate to the transition from the existing form of government to the form of government established by this charter; and where inconsistent with the foregoing articles of this charter, the provisions of this article shall constitute exceptions.

Section 810. Effective Date and Elections.

The effective date of this charter shall be May 1, 1969. Special elections held in accordance with general law for the election of partison county officers shall be held to elect the first county executive, county assessor and county commissioners to be elected after the adoption of this charter. The nominating primaries shall be held on February 11, 1969, and the election shall be held on March 11, 1969. Until they are changed by a districting ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this charter, the county commissioner districts shall be as follows:

Section 820. County Commissioners.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county assessor, a county commissioner elected at the

general election in November 1966 or November 1968 shall be entitled to remain as a county commissioner on the board of county commissioners established by this charter and shall represent the commissioner district established by this charter in which he resides on the date when this charter is adopted in which case a special election for the first county commissioner for that district shall not be held.

Section 830. County Assessor.

Unless he resigns or seeks nomination to the office of county executive or county commissioner, the county assessor elected at the general election in 1966 shall be entitled to remain as the county assessor established by this charter in which case a special election for the first county assessor after the adoption of this charter shall not be held.

Section 840. Commencement and Terms of Office.

The terms of office of officers elected at the special election on March 11, 1969, and the county commissioners and assessor elected at the general elections in 1966 or 1968 who remain as commissioners and assessor in the offices established by this charter, shall commence on May 1, 1969. The terms of office of the county executive, the county assessor and county commissioners representing even numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1971 and have qualified. The terms of office of county commissioners representing odd numbered districts shall expire when their successors are elected at the general election in 1973 and have qualified.

Section 850. Compensation.

The county commissioners and county assessor who take office,

or continue in office, on the effective date of this charter shall receive during their first term of office under this charter the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners and county assessors, respectively. The county executive who takes office on the effective date of this charter shall receive during his first term of office under this charter one and one half times the compensation specified by general law for county commissioners.

Section 860. The Personnel System.

860.10. Personnel Board Members.

The original members of the personnel board shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a six year term, one for a four year term, and one for a two year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a six year term.

860.20. Effective Date.

The personnel board shall adopt and present to the board of county commissioners a comprehensive set of personnel rules as soon as possible, and the effective date of the personnel system shall be no later than January 1, 1970. Prior to the effective date of the personnel system, all employees shall be appointed, promoted, suspended and removed by the officer in whose office they serve.

860.30. Positions Exempt From the Personnel System.

For the first two years after the effective date of the personnel system, the following positions shall be exempt from the personnel system: all elected officers; the county auditor; the

clerk and all other employees of the board of county commissioners; all appointed officers of the executive branch; the members of all boards and commissions; all employees serving in the office of the county executive and the county administrative officer; one administrative assistant for the county auditor, for the county assessor, for each of the appointed officers of the executive branch and for each board and commission; one confidential secretary for the county auditor, the county assessor, for each appointed officer of the executive branch and for each administrative assistant; physicians, surgeons, dentists, interns, student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county; all court reporters, court commissioners, bailiffs and employees serving in the offices of the superior court judges; court commissioners, clerks and personal secretaries serving in offices of the justices of the peace; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part time and temporary employees; election precinct officials; and all persons serving the county without compensation.

860.40. Elective County Officers.

Every elected county officer whose office is abolished or made appointive by the adoption of this charter and who holds office on the effective date of this charter shall be continued in county employment at the same rate of compensation until the date when the term of office to which he was elected would have expired but for the adoption of this charter and, thereafter, he shall be entitled to be appointed at the same rate of compensation to an administrative

position covered by the personnel system subject to all of the rules of the personnel system except those concerning initial appointment.

860.50. County Employees.

A county employee employed in a position covered by the personnel system on the effective date of the personnel system shall be entitled to be appointed to that position subject to all of the personnel rules except the rules concerning initial appointments; provided, however, that a county employee who was employed by the county on June 1, 1968, and was involuntarily suspended, demoted or removed prior to the effective date of the personnel system shall have a preferential right to be appointed to the position in which he was employed on June 1, 1968, if it is covered by the personnel system. If a position is exempt from the personnel system, the employee shall have the right to be appointed to a position covered by the personnel system which is as nearly comparable as possible to his former position.

860.60. Sheriff's Civil Service System.

The sheriff's civil service system as provided by general law shall continue in full force and effect for a period of two years after the adoption of this charter. At the end of two years, the board of county commissioners may by ordinance provide that the sheriff's civil service commission be terminated and that its duties be assumed by the personnel board established by this charter. In such an event, the personnel rules adopted by the personnel board shall not decrease or eliminate any of the rights, privileges and protections granted to the deputy sheriffs and other employees covered by the sheriff's civil service system except to the extent

permitted by the state constitution and general law.

Section 870. Board of Appeals.

The original members of the board of appeals shall be appointed and confirmed by June 1, 1969, and shall be appointed for the following terms: one for a seven year term, one for a six year term, one for a five year term, one for a four year term, one for a three year term, one for a two year term and one for a one year term. Thereafter, any new appointment, except to fill out an unexpired term, and any reappointment shall be for a seven year term.

Section 880. Administrative Offices and Executive Departments.

For a period of two years after the effective date of this charter, the board of county commissioners shall not abolish, combine or divide the administrative offices and the executive departments specified in this charter and shall not transfer the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another.

Section 890. Transition.

Except as provided by this article, the terms of office of elective county officers subject to this charter shall terminate on the effective date of this charter. All appointed officers and employees holding office on the effective date of this charter shall continue in the performance of their duties until their successors are appointed or until their duties are transferred, altered or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this charter; and all board and commissions which are not abolished or combined by this charter shall continue to function until such time as they are combined or abolished by ordinance. All ordinances and other official actions of the board

of county commissioners which are in effect on the effective date of this charter and which are not inconsistent with this charter shall continue in effect until they are amended, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this charter. All rights, claims, actions, orders, obligations, proceedings and contracts existing on the effective date of this charter shall not be affected by the adoption of this charter.

2

Please  
continue  
to the next  
folder . . . .