



**King County**  
**Metropolitan King County Council**  
**Committee of the Whole**

**STAFF REPORT**

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<b>Agenda Item No.:</b> 6	<b>Date:</b>	<b>17 Nov 2008</b>
<b>Ordinance No.:</b> 2008-0609	<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Nick Wagner</b>

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**SUMMARY**

Proposed Ordinance 2008-0609 would amend Council Rule 7, which governs the order of business in the regional committees, to conform to the recently-passed King County Charter Amendment No. 3.<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND**

The three regional committees were created as part of the Metro merger in 1992.<sup>2</sup> Voting power on each committee has always been divided equally between the county councilmembers and the city or other non-county officials on each committee.<sup>3</sup> Six councilmembers have served on each committee and held one vote each, and six votes were divided among the city and other non-county officials.

When the King County Charter Review Commission (“CRC”) was convened in 2007, both the Council and the cities asked the CRC to consider recommending changes in the membership and operation of the regional committees, as described below.

**Council proposals**

Because of the downsizing of the Council from 13 to nine members in 2004 and the resulting additional workload that each councilmember had to take on, the Council proposed reducing the number of councilmembers on each regional committee from six to three, while maintaining the balance of voting power on each committee.

**City proposals**

The cities, for their part, supported the following changes: (1) allow the Regional Policy Committee to develop its own work program without the need for Council approval, (2) allow all the regional committees to introduce legislation in the Council, and (3) allow

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<sup>1</sup> Election returns show the charter amendment passing by a 2-1 margin. Certification of the election results is expected on November 25th. The charter amendment will become effective December 5th.

<sup>2</sup> The three committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Transit Committee, and the Regional Water Quality Committee.

<sup>3</sup> On the Regional Water Quality Committee, sewer district representatives received one-sixth of the voting power on the committee, and the city members received one-third, for a total between them of one-half.

the cities to designate a vice-chair of each committee to work with the Council-appointed chair.<sup>4</sup>

### **CRC-facilitated compromise**

The CRC received extensive input on these issues, discussed them at length, and then formed a work group that negotiated a compromise proposal to amend both (1) the King County Charter provisions related to the regional committees and (2) Council Rule 7, which governs the order of business in the regional committees. The proposed charter amendment is shown by the redlining in Attachment 2 (pp. 17-24 of these materials). The proposed amendments to Rule 7 are shown by the redlining in Attachment 1 (pp. 5-16 of these materials), which is Proposed Ordinance 2008-0609.<sup>5</sup>

In general terms, the proposed amendments would:

- Reduce county council membership on each regional committee from six to three, while allocating two votes for each councilmember, thereby maintaining the balance of voting power between county councilmembers and city and other non-county officials (pp. 5-6, lines 15-19 and 26-31);
- Allow the Regional Policy Committee to develop its own work plan, within its charter purview, without Council approval (p. 10, lines 113-117);
- Allow the regional committees to introduce legislation and require Council “action” on such legislation within a prescribed time limit (pp. 14-15, lines 203-222);
- Provide for a vice-chair of each regional committee, to be selected by non-Council members (p. 6, lines 24-25 and 38-39), and require the chair to consult with the vice-chair on the development of the work program and the schedule for its implementation and on canceling or changing the date, time, or place of meetings (with any disagreements between the chair and vice-chair to be resolved by the full committee) (p. 8, lines 77-81);
- Allow special purpose districts located outside the county that receive sewerage treatment services from the county to jointly designate one nonvoting representative to serve on the Regional Water Quality Committee (p. 6, lines 36-38).

Attachment 3 (pp. 25-26 of these materials) is a more detailed, council staff summary of the proposed changes, with references to the applicable charter and rule provisions. The word “Council” or “Cities” before each change indicates the proponent of the change.

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<sup>4</sup> In addition, the City of Bellevue sought its own seat, with one half-vote, on each of the three regional committees, on the basis of proportional representation. The City of Seattle supported Bellevue’s request, but the Suburban Cities Association was adamantly opposed. Ultimately, Bellevue’s proposal was not included in King County Charter Amendment No. 3.

<sup>5</sup> The actual language of the proposed ordinance was negotiated by the CRC work group, though some technical changes have been made on the advice of legal counsel and the code reviser.

Attachment 4 (p. 27 of these materials) is a table showing the path that legislation would take if the proposed changes were adopted, depending on whether the legislation was initiated by the Council or a regional committee.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2008-0609**

As recommended by the CRC, the Council placed the proposed charter amendment on the ballot as King County Charter Amendment No. 3. Earlier this month, the voters approved the amendment by a 2-1 margin.

It now remains for the Council to amend Council Rule 7 to conform to the charter amendment and to complete the implementation of the compromise facilitated by the Charter Review Commission. Proposed Ordinance 2008-0609 would adopt those amendments.

**INVITEES**

Members of the King County Charter Review Commission

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Signature Report

November 14, 2008

Ordinance

**Proposed No.** 2008-0609.1

**Sponsors** Phillips and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of  
2 business for regional committees; and amending Ordinance  
3 11683, Section 7, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.065.  
4

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 SECTION 1. Ordinance 11683, Section 7, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.065 are  
7 each hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **Rule 7: Regional committees.**

9 A. Establishment. Three regional, standing committees are established as  
10 provided under the King County Charter to develop, recommend and review regional  
11 policies and plans for consideration by the council: the regional transit committee, the  
12 regional water quality committee and the regional policies committee.

13 B. Membership.

14 1. Composition of committees.

15 a. The regional policies committee and regional transit committee are to each  
16 have ~~((twelve))~~ nine voting members. ~~((Six))~~ Three members of each committee, including  
17 the chair of each, must be county councilmembers appointed by the chair of the council and

18 must include councilmembers from districts with unincorporated residents. Each county  
19 councilmember vote shall be weighted as two votes. The chair of the county council shall  
20 also appoint the chair of each committee. The remaining members of each committee must  
21 be local elected city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations  
22 of the city of Seattle and the other cities and towns in the county. Cities and towns other  
23 than the city of Seattle may appoint two persons for each of their allocated memberships in  
24 each committee, each person with one-half vote. A vice-chair of each committee shall be  
25 elected by majority vote of the committee members who are not county councilmembers.

26 b. The regional water quality committee is to have ~~((twelve))~~ nine voting  
27 members. ~~((Six))~~ Three members of the committee, including the chair, must be county  
28 councilmembers appointed by the chair of the council, and must include councilmembers  
29 from districts with unincorporated residents. The chair of the county council shall also  
30 appoint the chair of the committee. Each county councilmember vote shall be weighted as  
31 two votes. The remaining members of the committee must be local elected city officials  
32 appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of the city of Seattle and the  
33 other cities and towns in the county, and two members from special purpose districts  
34 providing sewer service in King County. Cities and towns other than the city of Seattle  
35 may appoint two persons for each of their allocated memberships, each person with one-  
36 half vote. Special purpose districts located outside of the county that receive sewerage  
37 treatment services from the county may jointly designate one nonvoting representative to  
38 serve on the committee. A vice-chair of the committee shall be elected by majority vote of  
39 the committee members who are not county councilmembers.

40           2. Alternating memberships. Each appointing authority may alternate members in  
41 accordance with the procedures established by the authority. The appointments must be  
42 announced at the beginning of each regional committee meeting to the committee chair or  
43 vice-chair and committee secretary by a person authorized by the appointing authority.  
44 Each appointing authority shall identify those members to receive mailings and notices of  
45 meetings.

46           3. Powers and duties of the chair. The chair of the committee has the following  
47 powers and duties:

48           a. The chair shall:

49           (1) call the committee to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a  
50 quorum is present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;

51           (2) proceed with the order of business; and

52           (3) adjourn the committee upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of  
53 members present;

54           b. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency  
55 may impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public  
56 and members of the committee;

57           c. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the committee. The chair's act  
58 of adding to, removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted  
59 agenda may be appealed to the full body by members whose cumulative voting power is at  
60 least two votes. The chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The  
61 chair shall endeavor to facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

62 d. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to  
63 other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any  
64 members whose cumulative voting power is at least two votes to immediately request that  
65 the decision be placed before the body. If a majority of votes present agrees to the ruling of  
66 the chair, the business of the committee must proceed without further debate. If a majority  
67 of the votes present does not support the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately  
68 allow a procedural motion to dispense with the issue in question, proceeding until a  
69 decision of the committee is secured and the business of the committee is allowed to  
70 proceed; and

71 e. The chair shall provide copies to all committee members of all official  
72 communications and requests for committee action addressed to the chair.

73 4. Powers and duties of the vice-chair.

74 a. There shall be one vice-chair of each committee.

75 b. At committee meetings, the vice-chair shall exercise the duties, powers and  
76 prerogatives of the committee chair in the chair's absence.

77 5. Chair actions, vice-chair consultation.

78 a. The chair shall consult with the vice-chair in:

79 (1) developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee;

80 (2) setting a schedule for carrying out the committee's work program; and

81 (3) cancelling or changing the date, time or place of committee meeting.

82 b. If the vice-chair disagrees with a chair's proposed decision regarding the  
83 matters under subsection B.5.a. of this rule, the chair shall not take unilateral action and  
84 shall refer the matters to the full committee.



85 C. Quorum, notice and voting. Members representing six and one-half votes  
86 constitute a quorum of a regional committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee  
87 may perform all committee functions except for voting on legislation or a work program.  
88 Notice of all regular and special meetings must be provided as specified in the Open Public  
89 Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW, and notice must be given to members of the  
90 committees, including members who at any time during the calendar year have served on  
91 the committee or have been designated by their appointing authority to receive notice. All  
92 recommendations of a regional committee on council-referred ordinances or motions must  
93 be approved by a majority of the members present and voting (~~and must consist of at~~  
94 ~~least~~), with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes. All recommendations must  
95 be signed only by members who were present and voting on the matter and be made on a  
96 committee report form supplied by the council. There may not be voting by proxy.

97 D.1.a. Referral to the regional transit committee. The chair of the council shall  
98 refer to the regional transit committee countywide policies and plans related to the transit  
99 services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. If a standing  
100 committee of the council is considering an issue that, upon the standing committee's  
101 subsequent review, the standing committee believes should be considered as a countywide  
102 policy or plan related to transit, then the standing committee shall so inform the chair of the  
103 council. The chair of the council may then determine whether the policy or plan is to be  
104 referred to a regional committee.

105 b. Referral to the regional water quality committee. The chair of the council  
106 shall refer to the regional water quality committee countywide policies and plans related to  
107 the water quality services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. If

108 a standing committee of the council is considering an issue that, upon the standing  
109 committee's subsequent review, the standing committee believes should be considered as a  
110 countywide policy or plan related to water quality, then the standing committee shall so  
111 inform the chair of the council. The chair of the council may then determine whether the  
112 policy or plan is to be referred to a regional committee.

113 2. Regional policies committee work program. The regional policies committee  
114 shall establish its subject matter through a work program adopted by ~~((ordinance by the~~  
115 ~~council))~~ a majority of those committee members present and voting, with no fewer than  
116 three and one-half affirmative votes, though the work program shall be limited as provided  
117 by charter or ordinance, including but not limited to, subsection K. of this rule. Once the  
118 work program is adopted, all regional policies and plans related to the subject matter must  
119 be referred to the committee by the council.

120 3. Provisions applicable to referrals by council chair and rereferrals. Referrals  
121 by the council chair or rereferrals are subject to the procedures, rights and constraints of  
122 Rules 13, 17 and 26, K.C.C. 1.24.125, 1.24.165 and 1.24.255.

123 ~~((4. Proposals and recommendations. If a regional committee develops a~~  
124 ~~proposed countywide policy or plan, or amendment or repeal of a policy or plan, and~~  
125 ~~adopts a recommendation with respect to the policy, plan, amendment or repeal, a county~~  
126 ~~councilmember may introduce the appropriate legislation to adopt the recommended policy~~  
127 ~~or plan.))~~

128 E. Time for review -- committees. A regional committee shall review legislation  
129 referred to it by the county council within one hundred twenty days of the legislation's  
130 referral or such other time as is jointly established by the council and the committee, which

131 shall be confirmed in the form of a motion adopted by the council. However, the  
132 committee may request, and the county council may grant by motion, additional time for  
133 review. If the committee fails to act upon the proposed policy or plan within the  
134 established time limit, the county council may adopt the proposed policy or plan upon six  
135 affirmative votes.

136 F. Time for review – council. The council shall amend, adopt or defeat the  
137 legislation referred to a regional committee within ninety days after receipt of an initial  
138 regional committee recommendation. However, upon receipt of the council chair's written  
139 request for an extension of the time limit, the committee may approve the request in writing  
140 by a majority vote at a special meeting or the next regular meeting of the committee.

141 G. Adoption.

142 1. A proposed policy or plan recommended by a regional committee may be  
143 adopted, without amendment, by the county council by five affirmative votes.

144 2. A proposed policy or plan that differs from the policy or plan recommended by  
145 a regional committee may be adopted by the county council by six affirmative votes after  
146 the regional committee has had the opportunity to review all county council amendments.

147 H. Amendments and rereferral.

148 1. If the county council votes before the final passage to amend a proposed policy  
149 or plan that has been reviewed or recommended by a regional committee, the proposed  
150 policy or plan, as amended, must be referred to the appropriate regional committee for  
151 further review and recommendation.

152 2. The timeline for the committee's review after rereferral may not be greater than  
153 sixty days. However, the committee may request, and the county council may grant by

154 motion, additional time for review. The committee may concur in, dissent from or  
155 recommend additional amendments to the policy or plan.

156 3. The council shall amend, adopt or defeat the legislation within sixty days after  
157 receipt of a regional committee recommendation following rereferral by the council.

158 I. Regional committee consideration of other regional issues. The chair of the  
159 council may request that one or more regional committees examine and comment upon  
160 other pending issues that are not countywide policies or plans but would benefit from  
161 interjurisdictional discussion. The issues may include, but are not limited to, operational,  
162 organizational or implementation measures for countywide plans and policies. This type of  
163 regional committee analysis and comment is not subject to the mandatory procedural  
164 requirements of Section 270.30 of the King County Charter and the county council may  
165 need to act on such issues before comment from the regional committee.

166 J. The regional committee is governed by the King County Charter, the King  
167 County Code and, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise, the rules and  
168 procedures established for standing and special committees in this chapter.

169 K. Role of regional committees.

170 1. A regional committee shall focus on planning and policy setting in program  
171 areas where it has been determined that regional service or facility planning is required and  
172 in area where it is agreed the opportunity and need for the planning exist. A regional  
173 committee is not responsible for routine review and recommendation on operational and  
174 administrative matters such as contracts, budgets, appropriations, and fares and rates,  
175 formerly performed by the council of metropolitan Seattle. A regional committee may,

176 however, deal with policies to develop fares and rates within the committee's subject matter  
177 area.

178           2. The regional transit committee shall develop, review and recommend  
179 countywide policies and plans related to the transportation services formerly provided by  
180 the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be assigned to the  
181 committee include, but are not limited to, the long-range transit system and capital  
182 improvement plans, service design, development and allocation policies, financial policies,  
183 fare policies, facility siting policy and major facilities siting process, and review and  
184 comment upon Regional Transit Authority plans.

185           3. The regional water quality committee shall develop, review and recommend  
186 countywide policies and plans related to the water pollution control functions formerly  
187 provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be  
188 assigned to the committee include, but are not limited to, water quality comprehensive and  
189 long-range capital improvement plans, service area and extension policies, rate policies,  
190 and the facility siting policy and major facilities siting process.

191           4. The regional policies committee shall review and recommend regional policies  
192 and plans, other than transit and water quality plans, that are within the subject matter area  
193 for the committee. Also, the committee may develop proposed policies and plans on issues  
194 of countywide significance but, unless referred to the committee by the county council, the  
195 policies and plans are not subject to the procedural requirements of Section 270.30 of the  
196 King County Charter. Issues that may be referred to the committee or be the subject of the  
197 committee's policy development include, but are not limited to, public health, human  
198 services, open space, housing, solid waste management, regional services financial policies,

199 criminal justice, jails and district court services, and regional facilities siting. In addition,  
200 the regional policies committee may consider major regional governance transition and  
201 consolidation issues, particularly those involving potential changes in organization and  
202 responsibilities with other county, city or regional organizations.

203 L. Policies or plans proposed by regional committees. A regional committee may  
204 develop and propose directly to the council, an ordinance or motion adopting, amending or  
205 repealing a countywide policy or plan regarding regional transit, water quality or other  
206 countywide policies and plans within the subject matter area of the committee. The  
207 proposals must be approved by a majority of the committee members present and voting,  
208 with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes. For purposes of this subsection,  
209 "the subject matter area" of the regional policies committee includes matters in the  
210 committee's adopted work program. Within one hundred twenty days of introduction by  
211 the committee, the council or a standing committee shall consider the proposed legislation  
212 and take such action on the proposed legislation as the council or standing committee  
213 deems appropriate, including approval, rejection, amendment and rereferral,  
214 postponement or any other action of record during a council or standing committee  
215 meeting. Within five calendar days following council or standing committee action, the  
216 clerk of the council or the standing committee shall notify the vice-chair of the committee  
217 of the action taken. If the council amends the proposed legislation, the procedures  
218 described in subsection H. of this rule shall be followed, except that the council's duty to  
219 act on the legislation under subsection H.3. of this rule shall be satisfied by approval,  
220 rejection, amendment and rereferral, postponement or any other action of record taken

221 during a council or standing committee meeting within sixty days following receipt of the  
222 legislation from the regional committee.

223 M. To assist each regional committee in evaluating countywide policies and plans,  
224 the committee may conduct public meetings and hearings and request briefings and other  
225 information from citizens, county, state and local agencies, business entities and other  
226 organizations.

227 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect ten days following and only upon the  
228 certification by the canvassing board of voter approval in November 2008 of the

**Ordinance**

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229 proposed amendments to Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County  
230 Charter, pertaining to the regional committees.  
231

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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ATTEST:

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APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Attachments**      None





# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

July 14, 2008

### Ordinance 16205

**Proposed No.** 2008-0359.1

**Sponsors** Phillips, Hague and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to Section  
2 230.10 of the King County Charter, Section 270.20 of the  
3 King County Charter and Section 270.30 of the King County  
4 Charter, to reduce the number of county council members  
5 on regional committees, establish a vice chair position on  
6 regional committees, authorize the regional policy  
7 committee to adopt its own work program and add  
8 authority for regional committees to initiate legislation; and  
9 submitting the same to the voters of the county for their  
10 ratification or rejection at the November 2008 general  
11 election.

12  
13 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

14 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the voters of King County for their  
15 approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county  
16 occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment  
17 to Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County Charter as set forth herein:

18                   **Section 230.10. Introduction and Adoption.**

19                   Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be introduced by any  
20 councilmember, by initiative petition, by proposal of a regional committee in accordance  
21 with Section 270.30 of this charter or by institutional initiative. At least seven days after  
22 the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its  
23 adoption or enactment, the county council shall hold a public hearing after due notice to  
24 consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a  
25 minimum of five affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

26                   **Section 270.20. Composition of Regional Committees.**

27                   Each regional committee shall consist of ~~((twelve))~~ nine voting members. ~~((Six))~~  
28 Three members shall be metropolitan county councilmembers appointed by the chair of  
29 the council, and shall include councilmembers from districts with unincorporated  
30 residents. Each county councilmember vote shall be weighted as two votes. The  
31 remaining six members of each committee except the water quality committee shall be  
32 local elected city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of:  
33 (i) the city with the largest population in the county and (ii) the other cities and towns in  
34 the county. Committee members from the city with the largest population in the county  
35 shall be appointed by the legislative authority of that city. Committee members from the  
36 other cities and towns in the county shall be appointed in a manner agreed to by and  
37 among those cities and towns representing a majority of the populations of such cities and  
38 towns, provided, however, that such cities and towns may appoint two representatives for  
39 each allocated committee membership, each with fractional (1/2) voting rights.

40                   The special purpose districts providing sewer service in the county shall appoint

41 two members to serve on the water quality committee in a manner agreed to by districts  
42 representing a majority of the population within the county served by such districts. The  
43 remaining four local government members of the water quality committee shall be  
44 appointed in the manner set forth above for other regional committees. The council may  
45 by ordinance authorize the appointment to the water quality committee of additional,  
46 nonvoting members representing entities outside of the county that receive sewerage  
47 treatment services from the county. Allocation of membership of each committee's  
48 members who are city and town representatives shall be adjusted January 1 of each even-  
49 numbered year beginning in 1996 based upon current census information or, if more  
50 recent, official state office of financial management population statistics.

51 In the event any areas are annexed pursuant to powers granted to metropolitan  
52 municipal corporations under state law, the populations of any cities and towns in such  
53 annexed areas shall be considered as if they were within the county for purposes in this  
54 section with regard to regional committee participation on policies and plans which  
55 would be effective in such annexed areas.

56 Members representing six and one-half votes constitute a quorum of a regional  
57 committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee may perform all committee  
58 functions except for voting on legislation or a work program. Each committee shall have  
59 a chair and a vice-chair with authority as specified by ordinance. The chair shall be a  
60 county councilmember appointed by the chair of the county council. The vice-chair shall  
61 be appointed by majority vote of those committee members who are not county  
62 councilmembers, in accordance with voting rights that are apportioned as provided in this  
63 section.

64                   **270.30. Powers and Duties.**

65                   Each regional committee shall develop, propose, review and recommend action  
66                   on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending ((county-wide)) transit,  
67                   water quality or other regional countywide policies and plans ((relating to)) within the  
68                   subject matter area ((for which a regional)) of the committee ((has been established)).  
69                   The subject matter area of the regional policies committee ((may, by majority vote,  
70                   request that the county council assign to the committee proposed policies and plans  
71                   concerning other regional issues including but not limited to public health, human  
72                   services, regional services financial policies, criminal justice and jails, and regional  
73                   facilities siting)) shall consist of those countywide plans and policies included in the  
74                   committee's work program by a majority of the members present and voting, with no  
75                   fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes.

76                   The~~((metropolitan))~~ county council shall ~~((assign))~~ refer each such proposed  
77                   ordinance or motion, except those developed and proposed by a regional committee, to a  
78                   regional committee for review. ~~((When a proposed policy or plan is referred to a))~~The  
79                   regional committee ~~((for))~~ shall complete review((, a time limit for such review shall be))  
80                   and recommend action within one hundred twenty days or such other time as is jointly  
81                   established by the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council and the committee, which shall be  
82                   confirmed in the form of a motion by the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council. If the  
83                   committee fails to act upon the proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion within  
84                   the established time limit, the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council may adopt the proposed  
85                   ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion upon six affirmative votes. The committee may  
86                   request, by motion to the county council, additional time for review.

87           A proposed ~~((policy or plan recommended))~~ ordinance or motion that has been  
88 reviewed and recommended or developed and proposed by a regional committee may be  
89 adopted, without amendment, by the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council by five affirmative  
90 votes. If the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council votes prior to final passage thereof to amend  
91 a proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion that has been reviewed or  
92 recommended or proposed by a regional committee, the proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~  
93 ordinance or motion, as amended, shall be referred back to the appropriate committee for  
94 further review and recommendation. The committee may concur in, dissent from, or  
95 recommend additional amendments to the ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion. After  
96 the regional committee has had the opportunity to review all ~~((metropolitan))~~ county  
97 council amendments, final action to adopt any proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or  
98 motion that differs from the committee recommendation shall require six affirmative  
99 votes of the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council.

100           Each regional committee may develop and propose directly to the council an  
101 ordinance or motion adopting, amending or repealing a countywide policy or plan within  
102 the subject matter area of the committee. Such proposals must be approved by a majority  
103 of the members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative  
104 votes. Within one hundred twenty days of introduction or such other time as is jointly  
105 established by the county council and the committee, which shall be confirmed in the  
106 form of a motion by the county council, the council shall consider the proposed  
107 legislation and take such action thereon as it deems appropriate, as provided by  
108 ordinance.

109           The council shall not call a special election to authorize the performance of an

110 additional metropolitan municipal function under state law unless such additional  
111 function is recommended by a regional policy committee, notwithstanding the provisions  
112 of Section 230.50.10 of this charter. Such recommendation shall require an affirmative  
113 vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each of: (1) metropolitan  
114 councilmembers of the committee; (2) members from the city with the largest population  
115 in the county; and (3) other city or town members of the committee. Nothing in this  
116 section prohibits the metropolitan county council from calling a special election on the  
117 authorization of the performance of one or more additional metropolitan functions after  
118 receiving a valid resolution adopted by city councils as permitted by RCW  
119 35.58.100(1)(a) and RCW 35.58.100(1)(b), or a duly certified petition as permitted by  
120 RCW 35.58.100(2).

121         SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager  
122 of the elections division, in substantially the following form, with such additions,  
123 deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:


124                 Shall Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County Charter be  
125 amended to reduce the number of county council members on regional  
126 committees, establish a vice chair position on regional committees,

127 authorize the regional policy committee to adopt its own work program  
128 and add authority for regional committees to initiate legislation?  
129

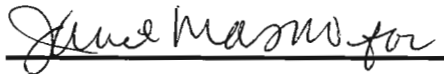
Ordinance 16205 was introduced on 6/30/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/14/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 25 day of July, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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2008 JUL 25 PM 3:05  
KING COUNTY CLERK





## **Staff Summary of Charter Review issues involving the Regional Committees**

- **COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>**: Reduce the number of County Council members who serve on committees from six to three without affecting the 50/50 balance in voting power (This is achieved by giving each K.C. Council member 2 votes and leaving the suburban city fractional voting formula the same.) [charter § 270.20]
- **CITIES**: Provide for committees to **set their own work programs** to address issues **within the charter purview of the committees.** [charter § 270.30]
- **CITIES**: Allow committees to **initiate motions and ordinances within the charter purview of the committees.** [charter § 230.10]
- **CITIES**: **Simple, not absolute, majority** vote of regional committees required for taking action on **work programs and proposed legislation.** [charter § 270.30]
  - **COUNCIL**: **Quorum requirement** (6.5 votes) applies to votes on both proposed legislation and work programs. [charter § 270.20; Council Rule 7.C]
- **CITIES**: **Require County Council to act within 120 days** on all proposed motions and ordinances sent by committees. [charter § 270.30]
  - **COUNCIL**: **“Action” defined by ordinance to “includ[e] approval, rejection, amendment and re-referral, postponement, or any other action of record during a council meeting.”** [Council Rule 7.L]
  - **COUNCIL**: **Action may be taken by either the full Council or a standing committee.** [Council Rule 7.L]
  - **COUNCIL**: **Council and Regional Committee can agree to modify 120-day time limit.** [charter § 270.30]
- **CITIES**: **Chair and vice-chair**: Provide for a chair appointed by County Council and a vice-chair selected by the non-County-Council members of the committee. [charter § 270.20]
  - **CITIES**: Draft implementing ordinance (revision of Council Rule 7) provides for **chair to consult with vice-chair** on the decisions listed below.  
**Disagreements are to be resolved by the full committee [new Rule 7.B.5]:**
    - a. Developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee;
    - b. Setting a schedule for carrying out the committee’s work program;

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<sup>1</sup> The all-caps entry at the beginning of each bullet point indicates which party initiated the proposed change.

- c. Canceling or changing the date, time, or place of a committee meeting.

**Note:** The net effect as to **point (c)** (cancellation, etc., of meetings) is that the vice-chair has the power to **veto** the chair's cancellation or re-scheduling of a committee meeting, since the meeting must occur as originally scheduled in order for the committee to resolve any disagreement between the chair and the vice-chair.

- o New language for **resolution of challenges to the chair's rulings** [new Rule 7.B.3] has been imported from existing Council Rules 2 and 3 for standing committees. [Follows from existing Rule 7.J.]
- **EXECUTIVE:** Empower the county council to add, by ordinance, **non-voting representation** to the **Regional Water Quality Committee** for areas served by King County sewage treatment services under contracts but outside of King County's boundaries. [charter § 270.20]

Council-initiated legislation	Authority	RC-initiated legislation	Authority
Mandatory referral to RC	Charter § 270.30	RC introduction of legislation	Charter § 230.10, as amended
RC action within 120 days <sup>1</sup>	Charter § 270.30		
Council adopt/defeat/amend within 90 days <sup>2</sup>	Council Rule 7.F	Council action <sup>3</sup> within 120 days <sup>4</sup>	Charter § 270.30, as amended; proposed new Council Rule 7.L
If amend, then re-refer to RC	Council Rule 7.H.1	If amend, then re-refer to RC	Council Rule 7.H.1
RC action within 60 days <sup>5</sup>	Council Rule 7.H.2	RC action within 60 days	Council Rule 7.H.2
Council adopt/defeat/amend within 60 days	Council Rule 7.H.3	Council action <sup>6</sup> within 60 days	Council Rule 7.H.3; proposed new Council Rule 7.L

<sup>1</sup> Or such other time limit as agreed between Council and RC. If RC fails to act, Council may adopt proposed legislation by six affirmative votes.

<sup>2</sup> Or such other time limit as agreed between Council and RC.

<sup>3</sup> Includes “approval, rejection, amendment and re-referral, postponement, or any other action of record during a council or standing committee meeting.”

<sup>4</sup> Or such other time limit as agreed between Council and RC.

<sup>5</sup> Or such other time limit as agreed between Council and RC.

<sup>6</sup> Proposed new Council Rule 7.L would make clear that “action” required is “approval, rejection, amendment and re-referral, postponement, or any other action of record during a council or standing committee meeting,” not “adopt, defeat, or amend.”