



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**November 18, 2008**

**Ordinance 16301**

**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

229

Ordinance 16301

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230 proposed amendments to Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County  
231 Charter, pertaining to the regional committees.  
232

Ordinance 16301 was introduced on 11/10/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/17/2008, by the following vote:

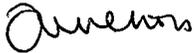
Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



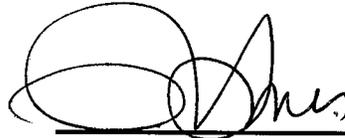
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 25 day of NOVEMBER, 2008.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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2008 NOV 26 AM 8:29  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
CLERK