



Skyline Tower
Suite 1500
10900 NE 4th Street
Bellevue, WA 98004

Kinnon W. Williams
Attorney at Law
Dir: 425.450.4225
kwilliams@insleebest.com

June 19, 2018

Rod Dembowski
King County Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: *King County Charter Review Commission*

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2018, regarding the King County Charter Review Commission and my nomination. In response to your letter, I submit the following:

1) What are your views on the powers of the branches of King County government as set forth in the charter? Would you make adjustments or suggest changes and if so, what changes do you believe may be warranted?

Overall, I believe the division of powers are appropriate, although many provisions should likely be pared down as the degree of specificity inhibits innovation in problem solving as our social fabric changes. It appears that certain provisions in the Charter sound more like code provisions, procedures or policy statements. Other provisions appear unnecessary, for example Section 830 related to Open Public Records. Further, certain Sections, such as Section 690.10 limiting campaign contributions and expenditures and Section 560 Political Activities need to be re-examined in light of recent First Amendment rulings and the *Citizens United* case. Finally, I also have questions about the role of Cities in relation to the power of regional committees in Section 270.30 – is too much power given to regional committees? Are cities given fiat over regional decisions?

From my initial review, it appears to me that the Charter should be revised to be more “constitutional” and eliminate the provisions that are more appropriately codified in statute or procedure.

Attorneys at Law
Richard A. Bersin
Kay L. Brossard
Curtis J. Chambers
Don E. Dascenzo
Eric C. Frimodt
Henry R. Hanssen, Jr.
J. Todd Henry
Anneliese E. Johnson
Rod P. Kaseguma
Rosemary A. Larson
David J. Lawyer
Mark S. Leen
William A. Linton
Dan S. Lossing
James K. McBain
John W. Milne
Christopher W. Pirnke
Dawn F. Reitan
Milan Gail Ryder
Daniel N. Shin
Jacob J. Stillwell
Andrew L. Symons
Gregory L. Ursich
Katherine F. Weber
Barbara A. West
Brett N. Wiese
Kinnon W. Williams
Juliana U. Wong

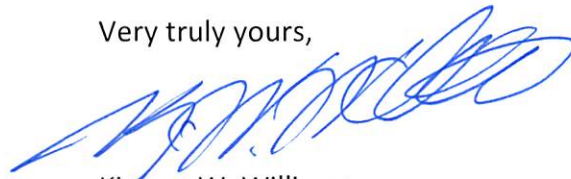
2) Considering our region's population growth and the regional response that will increasingly be necessary to respond to associated challenges, what changes, including additional powers or changes in state law (if necessary), would you suggest to help the county address what it will likely face in the next 25-50 years?

While changes in state law will likely be necessary, the County should be given additional authority to manage regional issues that have no real boundaries, such as storm and waste water, emergency services and transportation, with zoning and permitting remaining under local control. This may require changes to legislation relating to the numerous special purpose districts throughout the county as guided by the growth management act, where such special purpose legislation currently inhibits regionalization.

3) Please list any actual or perceived potential conflicts of interest you may have associated with this appointment or its underlying duties. How do you intend to address these conflicts?

As I mentioned in my earlier submittals, I represent a number of municipal entities including cities and special purpose districts, including the Northshore Parks and Recreation District and the King County Flood Control District, which consist of certain King County Councilmembers. However, I do not see my representation of any of these entities as creating a conflict regarding larger policy issues. If a conflict were to arise, I would let the other members of the committee know as well as the County Council and address the issue at that time.

Very truly yours,



Kinnon W. Williams

KWW:cmh