



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**January 10, 2012**

**Ordinance 17250**

**Proposed No. 2011-0473.2**

**Sponsors McDermott, Ferguson, Patterson  
and Hague**

1 AN ORDINANCE related to salaries of county  
2 councilmembers; providing for the reduction of annual  
3 increases to the compensation paid to councilmembers;  
4 amending Ordinance 8066, Section 1.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

7 A. King County has been experiencing severe fiscal crises for several  
8 consecutive budget years.

9 B. The county has worked collaboratively with its represented and unrepresented  
10 employees to reduce employee compensation including reductions in the annual increases  
11 intended to offset the cost of living.

12 C. The county has worked with its employees to reduce the cost of providing  
13 other benefits to county employees through reductions in the costs associated with  
14 providing healthcare including increased employee contributions to the cost of health  
15 care.

16 D. Section 220.20 of the King County Charter requires the county council to  
17 establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees. In 1983,  
18 Ordinance 6603 enacted an annual increase of six percent per year for councilmembers.

19 In 1987, Ordinance 8066 reduced this to an annual increase in compensation of three  
20 percent.

21 E. In periods of significant inflation this adjustment resulted in a lower increase  
22 in compensation than that provided to employees. Cost-of-living increases for employees  
23 have been based on changes in the consumer price index. It is appropriate to limit  
24 increases in councilmember compensation so that they will not exceed increases in the  
25 consumer price index.

26 F. The state constitution prohibits reduction of salaries of elected officials after  
27 their election or during their term of office. This creates significant lag time in reducing  
28 the increase in their salaries.

29 SECTION 2. Ordinance 8066, Section 1, is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 A. Consistent with Article XI, Section 8 of the Washington State Constitution,  
31 RCW 36.40.205, and Section ~~((960))~~ 220 of the King County Charter~~((;))~~, the  
32 compensation for all elective county council positions shall be increased annually as set  
33 forth in this section.

34 B. For councilmembers representing odd-numbered districts, compensation for  
35 2013 shall be increased on January 1 at the rate of three percent per year. For  
36 councilmembers representing even-numbered districts, compensation for 2013, 2014 and  
37 2015 shall be increased on January 1 at the rate of three percent per year.

38 C. Subject to the equalization provision set forth in subsection D. of this section,  
39 beginning in 2014, for councilmembers representing odd-numbered districts, and in 2016,  
40 for councilmembers representing even-numbered districts, compensation shall annually  
41 be increased on January 1 at the rate of ~~((3% per year))~~ the lesser of either: three percent;

42 or ninety percent of the annual average growth rate of the bimonthly Seattle-Tacoma-  
43 Bremerton Area consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-  
44 W), July of the previous year to June of the year preceding a possible increase in  
45 compensation. If the consumer-price-index-based amount is below zero, then there shall  
46 be no increase in compensation on January 1 for the subsequent year.

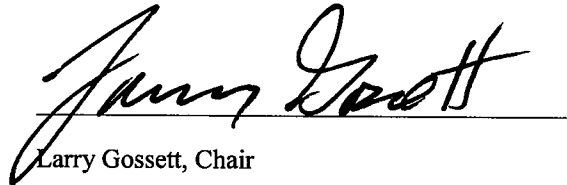
47 D. Beginning January 1, 2016, annual compensation for councilmembers from all  
48 districts shall be equalized by reducing compensation for each councilmember to the

49 lowest amount of compensation of any member, after first applying the rate set forth in  
50 subsection C. of this section.  
51

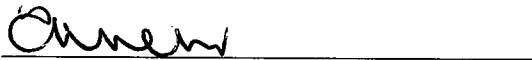
Ordinance 17250 was introduced on 11/14/2011 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 1/9/2012, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

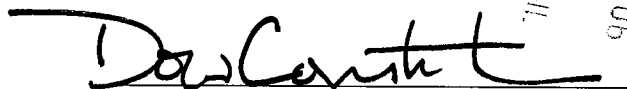
  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 21 day of JANUARY, 2012.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK