



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 21, 2017**

**Motion 14827**

**Proposed No. 2017-0098.1**

**Sponsors Balducci**

1           A MOTION approving a new policy for accessible voting  
2           centers.

3           WHEREAS, RCW 29A.40.160 requires that each county auditor open a voting  
4 center each primary, special election and general election, and may provide election  
5 services at additional locations at the discretion of the county auditor, and

6           WHEREAS, the King County council passed Motion 12820 in July 2008  
7 approving a plan for regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes that was never fully  
8 implemented, and

9           WHEREAS, the King County council passed Motion 14491 in December 2015  
10 requesting that the director of elections transmit a plan to improve access to and  
11 convenience of ballot drop-off locations in King County, and

12           WHEREAS, Motion 14634 approving the ballot drop-off location plan and  
13 increasing the number of King County drop boxes by thirty-three was approved by the  
14 King County council in May 2016 and fully implemented in advance of the 2016 general  
15 election, and

16           WHEREAS, one of the three priorities of the department of elections is working  
17 to remove barriers to voting at both the individual and community level, and

18           WHEREAS, one of the guiding principles for King County is financial  
19 sustainability, and

20 WHEREAS, accessible voting centers have seen diminishing use since the  
21 county's transition to vote-by-mail in 2009, and

22 WHEREAS, for some recent special elections the cost of operating three  
23 accessible voting centers regardless of which jurisdictions are participating has risen to  
24 more than one thousand dollars per voter, and

25 WHEREAS, since 2008 there have been significant improvements to technology  
26 to support individuals with disabilities and many prefer to use the county's online ballot  
27 marking program, and

28 WHEREAS, the implementation of a new tabulation system will provide more  
29 flexibility and convenience to be able to provide service to voters where they are, and

30 WHEREAS, a new approach to accessible voting centers will allow the county to  
31 utilize staff and resources currently dedicated to fixed, underused locations in a manner  
32 that more effectively meets voters' needs;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

34 A. For special elections, the director of elections shall open accessible voting  
35 centers at:

- 36 1. The elections department headquarters;  
37 2. Additional locations as deemed necessary by the director of elections and in  
38 consultation with the jurisdictions participating in the special election.

39 B. The accessible voting center at the elections department headquarters shall be  
40 open at least eighteen days before election day. If additional locations are opened, their  
41 hours and days of operation will be determined by the director of elections.

42 C. For primary and general elections, the director of elections shall open  
43 accessible voting centers at:

44 1. The elections department headquarters;

45 2. Additional locations throughout the county, to potentially include both  
46 permanent and mobile options, to be distributed in a manner that maximizes resources  
47 and most effectively serves county residents.

48 3. The director of elections will regularly consult with the county's disability  
49 advisory committee, the citizens' election oversight committee, and participating  
50 jurisdictions regarding accessible voting needs and deployment of accessible voting  
51 options.

52 D. The accessible voting center at the elections department headquarters shall be

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54 open at least eighteen days before election day. The hours and days of operation of  
55 additional locations will be determined by the director of elections.  
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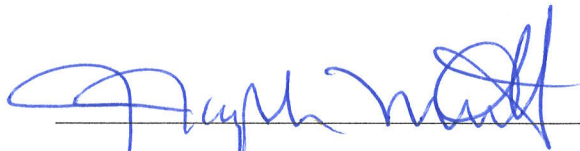
Motion 14827 was introduced on 3/13/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/20/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None