



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 25, 2013

Ordinance 17612

Proposed No. 2012-0090.3

Sponsors McDermott

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to King County's code of
2 ethics; authorizing elected officials, or employees who are
3 acting on behalf of elected officials, to solicit and receive
4 public office fund contributions; adding a new section to
5 K.C.C. chapter 3.04 and adding a new section to K.C.C.
6 chapter 2.80.

7 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

8 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

9 A. As part of their official county duties, county office holders are often called
10 upon to participate in various official events and functions and to undertake certain
11 official duties and related activities that might involve expense to the county or to the
12 individual office holders.

13 B. Such expenses include, among other matters, costs of travel, meals,
14 accommodations, event admissions and gifts presented on behalf of the county or a county
15 official in recognition of services or to promote goodwill.

16 C. While expenses of this nature are nominal in terms of the overall county
17 budget and may not always be subject to public reimbursement, they nonetheless can
18 result in additional public cost that can be avoided or reduced if privately paid for.

19 D. This ordinance establishes a mechanism for allowing office holders to solicit
20 or accept private funds to defray such expenses to the public or to the office holder that
21 are incurred while he or she is carrying out public responsibilities.

22 E. The solicitations or receipts are allowed by this ordinance only under specified
23 conditions that appropriately safeguard against potential for unjust and inequitable
24 treatment or conflicts of interest.

25 F. Private office funds authorized by this ordinance may only be used for
26 reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out activities related to the elected
27 official's public office responsibilities; may not be transferred to a political committee or
28 used to promote or oppose a candidate or ballot measure; and limit individual
29 contributions to no more than an average of two hundred and fifty dollars per year over
30 any four year time period.

31 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 3.04 a
32 new section to read as follows:

33 A. It is not a violation of this chapter for an elected official to solicit or receive
34 contributions for or from a public office fund, as described in this section, if the
35 solicitation occurs outside of the workplace and without use of county facilities. An
36 elected official is authorized to solicit and receive such contributions.

37 B. For purposes of this section, "public office fund" means a privately
38 administered account that:

39 1. Is established for the sole purpose of directly paying or reimbursing an
40 elected official or employee acting on the official's behalf for expenses that are incurred
41 in carrying out activities relating to the official's public office responsibilities, including,

42 among other matters, costs of travel, meals, accommodations, event admissions and gifts
43 presented on behalf of the county or county official to recognize service or promote
44 goodwill, and excluding the purchase of goods or services for the official's personal use
45 or enrichment;

46 2. Precludes fund amounts from being transferred to a political committee or
47 used to promote or oppose a candidate or ballot measure;

48 3. Limits contributions from a person or legal entity to an amount of no more
49 than an average of two hundred and fifty dollars per year over any four year time period;
50 and

51 4. Provides that any funds or property acquired through funds remaining in
52 possession of the fund or the official after all permissible public office related expenses
53 have been paid shall be:

54 a. returned to contributors in amounts not exceeding their respective
55 contributions;

56 b. donated to a charitable organization registered in accordance with chapter
57 19.09 RCW; or

58 c. transferred to the county.

59 C. Within two weeks of establishing a public office fund, the elected official shall
60 file a statement with the board of ethics, identifying the fund administrator, indicating the
61 amount and source of all contributions received by the public office fund and identifying
62 all items and services acquired or reimbursed through any payments made from the
63 public office fund and associated amounts paid. Quarterly statements updating such

64 information shall be filed with the board of ethics by the 20th day of the month following
65 the end of each calendar quarter.

66 D. Nothing in this section is intended to alter the requirements imposed by
67 chapter 42.17 RCW, the county charter or county ordinance regarding campaigns for
68 elected office or ballot measures.

69 E. By November 1, 2013, the board of ethics shall establish a limit on the total
70 amount of money to be held in any given public office fund at any given time. The board
71 of ethics shall analyze the issue and establish a revised limit at least once every four
72 years. The board of ethics analysis shall include consideration of all state, federal and
73 other legal requirements.

74 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.80 a
75 new section to read as follows:

76 This chapter does not apply to gifts or donations made to or received from a
77 public office fund as defined in section 2 of this ordinance.
78

Ordinance 17612 was introduced on 4/30/2012 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/24/2013, by the following vote:

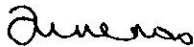
Yes: 5 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski
No: 3 - Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Dunn
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

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2013 JUN 27 PM 3:25
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 27 day of JUNE, 2013.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None