



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 14, 2008**

**Ordinance 16205**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0359.1

**Sponsors** Phillips, Hague and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to Section  
2 230.10 of the King County Charter, Section 270.20 of the  
3 King County Charter and Section 270.30 of the King County  
4 Charter, to reduce the number of county council members  
5 on regional committees, establish a vice chair position on  
6 regional committees, authorize the regional policy  
7 committee to adopt its own work program and add  
8 authority for regional committees to initiate legislation; and  
9 submitting the same to the voters of the county for their  
10 ratification or rejection at the November 2008 general  
11 election.

12  
13 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

14 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the voters of King County for their  
15 approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county  
16 occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment  
17 to Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County Charter as set forth herein:

18           **Section 230.10. Introduction and Adoption.**

19           Proposed ordinances shall be limited to one subject and may be introduced by any  
20 councilmember, by initiative petition, by proposal of a regional committee in accordance  
21 with Section 270.30 of this charter or by institutional initiative. At least seven days after  
22 the introduction of a proposed ordinance, except an emergency ordinance, and prior to its  
23 adoption or enactment, the county council shall hold a public hearing after due notice to  
24 consider the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, a  
25 minimum of five affirmative votes shall be required to adopt an ordinance.

26           **Section 270.20. Composition of Regional Committees.**

27           Each regional committee shall consist of ~~((twelve))~~ nine voting members. ~~((Six))~~  
28 Three members shall be metropolitan county councilmembers appointed by the chair of  
29 the council, and shall include councilmembers from districts with unincorporated  
30 residents. Each county councilmember vote shall be weighted as two votes. The  
31 remaining six members of each committee except the water quality committee shall be  
32 local elected city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of:  
33 (i) the city with the largest population in the county and (ii) the other cities and towns in  
34 the county. Committee members from the city with the largest population in the county  
35 shall be appointed by the legislative authority of that city. Committee members from the  
36 other cities and towns in the county shall be appointed in a manner agreed to by and  
37 among those cities and towns representing a majority of the populations of such cities and  
38 towns, provided, however, that such cities and towns may appoint two representatives for  
39 each allocated committee membership, each with fractional (1/2) voting rights.

40           The special purpose districts providing sewer service in the county shall appoint

41 two members to serve on the water quality committee in a manner agreed to by districts  
42 representing a majority of the population within the county served by such districts. The  
43 remaining four local government members of the water quality committee shall be  
44 appointed in the manner set forth above for other regional committees. The council may  
45 by ordinance authorize the appointment to the water quality committee of additional,  
46 nonvoting members representing entities outside of the county that receive sewerage  
47 treatment services from the county. Allocation of membership of each committee's  
48 members who are city and town representatives shall be adjusted January 1 of each even-  
49 numbered year beginning in 1996 based upon current census information or, if more  
50 recent, official state office of financial management population statistics.

51 In the event any areas are annexed pursuant to powers granted to metropolitan  
52 municipal corporations under state law, the populations of any cities and towns in such  
53 annexed areas shall be considered as if they were within the county for purposes in this  
54 section with regard to regional committee participation on policies and plans which  
55 would be effective in such annexed areas.

56 Members representing six and one-half votes constitute a quorum of a regional  
57 committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee may perform all committee  
58 functions except for voting on legislation or a work program. Each committee shall have  
59 a chair and a vice-chair with authority as specified by ordinance. The chair shall be a  
60 county councilmember appointed by the chair of the county council. The vice-chair shall  
61 be appointed by majority vote of those committee members who are not county  
62 councilmembers, in accordance with voting rights that are apportioned as provided in this  
63 section.

64                   **270.30. Powers and Duties.**

65                   Each regional committee shall develop, propose, review and recommend action  
66                   on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending (~~county-wide~~) transit,  
67                   water quality or other regional countywide policies and plans (~~relating to~~) within the  
68                   subject matter area (~~for which a regional~~) of the committee (~~has been established~~).  
69                   The subject matter area of the regional policies committee (~~may, by majority vote,~~  
70                   ~~request that the county council assign to the committee proposed policies and plans~~  
71                   ~~concerning other regional issues including but not limited to public health, human~~  
72                   ~~services, regional services financial policies, criminal justice and jails, and regional~~  
73                   ~~facilities siting~~) shall consist of those countywide plans and policies included in the  
74                   committee's work program by a majority of the members present and voting, with no  
75                   fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes.

76                   The(~~metropolitan~~) county council shall (~~assign~~) refer each such proposed  
77                   ordinance or motion, except those developed and proposed by a regional committee, to a  
78                   regional committee for review. (~~When a proposed policy or plan is referred to a~~)The  
79                   regional committee (~~for~~) shall complete review(~~, a time limit for such review shall be~~)  
80                   and recommend action within one hundred twenty days or such other time as is jointly  
81                   established by the (~~metropolitan~~) county council and the committee, which shall be  
82                   confirmed in the form of a motion by the (~~metropolitan~~) county council. If the  
83                   committee fails to act upon the proposed (~~policy or plan~~) ordinance or motion within  
84                   the established time limit, the (~~metropolitan~~) county council may adopt the proposed  
85                   (~~policy or plan~~) ordinance or motion upon six affirmative votes. The committee may  
86                   request, by motion to the county council, additional time for review.

87           A proposed ~~((policy or plan recommended))~~ ordinance or motion that has been  
88 reviewed and recommended or developed and proposed by a regional committee may be  
89 adopted, without amendment, by the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council by five affirmative  
90 votes. If the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council votes prior to final passage thereof to amend  
91 a proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion that has been reviewed or  
92 recommended or proposed by a regional committee, the proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~  
93 ordinance or motion, as amended, shall be referred back to the appropriate committee for  
94 further review and recommendation. The committee may concur in, dissent from, or  
95 recommend additional amendments to the ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or motion. After  
96 the regional committee has had the opportunity to review all ~~((metropolitan))~~ county  
97 council amendments, final action to adopt any proposed ~~((policy or plan))~~ ordinance or  
98 motion that differs from the committee recommendation shall require six affirmative  
99 votes of the ~~((metropolitan))~~ county council.

100           Each regional committee may develop and propose directly to the council an  
101 ordinance or motion adopting, amending or repealing a countywide policy or plan within  
102 the subject matter area of the committee. Such proposals must be approved by a majority  
103 of the members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative  
104 votes. Within one hundred twenty days of introduction or such other time as is jointly  
105 established by the county council and the committee, which shall be confirmed in the  
106 form of a motion by the county council, the council shall consider the proposed  
107 legislation and take such action thereon as it deems appropriate, as provided by  
108 ordinance.

109           The council shall not call a special election to authorize the performance of an

110 additional metropolitan municipal function under state law unless such additional  
111 function is recommended by a regional policy committee, notwithstanding the provisions  
112 of Section 230.50.10 of this charter. Such recommendation shall require an affirmative  
113 vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each of: (1) metropolitan  
114 councilmembers of the committee; (2) members from the city with the largest population  
115 in the county; and (3) other city or town members of the committee. Nothing in this  
116 section prohibits the metropolitan county council from calling a special election on the  
117 authorization of the performance of one or more additional metropolitan functions after  
118 receiving a valid resolution adopted by city councils as permitted by RCW  
119 35.58.100(1)(a) and RCW 35.58.100(1)(b), or a duly certified petition as permitted by  
120 RCW 35.58.100(2).

121        SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager  
122 of the elections division, in substantially the following form, with such additions,  
123 deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

124            Shall Sections 230.10, 270.20 and 270.30 of the King County Charter be  
125 amended to reduce the number of county council members on regional  
126 committees, establish a vice chair position on regional committees,

127 authorize the regional policy committee to adopt its own work program  
128 and add authority for regional committees to initiate legislation?  
129

Ordinance 16205 was introduced on 6/30/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/14/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 25 day of July, 2008.

  
Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL