



Legislation Text

File #: 2005-0348, **Version:** 1

Clerk 08/12/2005

AN ORDINANCE making a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 to records, elections and licensing services; and amending the 2005 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 15083, Section 25, as amended.

PREAMBLE:

King County executive Ron Sims appointed the King County Independent Task Force on elections ("the task force") in April 2005 and charged them with developing short and long-term recommendations that would have a meaningful and enduring positive impact on the elections process in King County.

The King County independent task force on elections consisted of people with diverse backgrounds, interests, training and political perspectives and included several widely respected elections professionals, including:

1. Cheryl Scott, Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Group Health;
2. Patricia Aitken (Retired Superior Court Judge), Arbitrator/Mediator, Judicial Arbitration and Medication Services;
3. David Boerner, Associate Professor of Law, Seattle University;
4. Philip Eaton, President, Seattle Pacific University;
5. Nick Handy, Director of Elections, State of Washington;
6. Susan Hutchison, Executive Director, Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences;
7. Joe Knight, Dean, University of Washington School of Law;

8. John Lindback, Elections Director, State of Oregon;
9. Suzanne Sinclair, Auditor, Island County; and
10. Stephen Sundborg, President, Seattle University.

The ultimate goal of the task force is, to restore public trust in King County's elections system not only by improving it, but by building a secure foundation for King County to have a model elections system for the nation.

Task force members devoted hundreds of hours of time to their work, providing thoughtful examination of the issues, and a frank, candid assessment of the challenges the elections division faces that resulted in first rate, targeted recommendations that will assist King County in restoring public confidence in King County elections.

The task force stated in its final report that ". . . We deeply appreciate what a solemn public trust it is to guarantee and protect the most powerful of all civic rights, the right to vote. We anchored all our deliberations on the powerful ideal that every vote does indeed count. This ideal, we believe, is at the heart of our democracy, and must be restored and sustained for the people of King County and all citizens of the state."

The task force believed that a turnaround team, reporting to the executive, is the key component in achieving real and significant change in the organizational culture in the elections section.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. From the current expense fund there is hereby approved and adopted a total of \$500,000 to records, elections and licensing services for a turnaround team recommended by the independent elections task force.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 15083, Section 25, as amended, is hereby amended by adding thereto and inserting therein the following:

RECORDS, ELECTIONS AND LICENSING SERVICES - From the current

expense fund there is hereby appropriated to:

Records, elections and licensing services

\$500,000