



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 18, 2003

Ordinance 14758

Proposed No. 2002-0603.2

Sponsors Irons, Phillips, Patterson, Lambert,
McKenna, Hague, von Reichbauer
and Sullivan

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to Article 4 of
2 the King County Charter; authorizing the council to adopt
3 ordinances providing for biennial budgeting, and
4 submitting the same to the voters of the county for their
5 ratification or rejection at the November 2003 general
6 election.

03 SEP 19 AM 9:12

7
8
9 **PREAMBLE:**

10 King County's total 2003 budget is proposed at \$3.1 billion.

11 The county's proposed 2003 current expense (CX) fund budget is \$495
12 million.

13 The CX fund is experiencing a fiscal shortfall that is the result of declining
14 revenue growth and increasing governmental expenses.

15 King County is aggressively reviewing CX expenditures for reductions.

16 King County reduced the CX fund budget by \$41 million in 2002
17 faces continuing general fund deficits of \$52 million for 2003 and

**KING COUNTY RECORDS, ELECTIONS
AND LICENSING SERVICES
Election Section**
RECEIVED BY: *Michael Badger*

18 additional reductions of \$24 million in 2004 and another \$24 million in
19 2005, for a total of \$141 million over four years.

20 The citizens of King County have requested the council and the executive
21 to improve county processes and programs so that there are efficiencies
22 and economies realized in the funding and provision of county services.

23 Solutions to the fiscal crisis and the general fund structural deficit require
24 consistent planning and effort over more than one calendar year.

25 The citizens of King County have requested the council and the executive
26 to improve county processes and programs so efficiencies and economies
27 are realized in the funding and provision of county services.

28 In response to the budget crisis, the council has formed the King County
29 commission on governance and the executive formed the King County
30 general government budget advisory task force advisory bodies to review
31 the budget crisis and make recommendations to address the county's
32 general fund revenues and efficiency and accountability of services and
33 programs funded by the general fund.

34 The council and executive desire to respond quickly to the
35 recommendations of both advisory groups and have identified the
36 potential use of biennial budgets as a tool to respond to these
37 recommendations which currently can not be used based upon wording in
38 the King County Charter.

39 The King County Charter specifies preparation and administration of an
40 annual county budget, and to authorize enactment of biennial budget
41 procedures in King County requires amendment of the charter.

42 The state legislature authorized the use of biennial budgets for counties in
43 1995 and in 1997 for individual funds. Biennial budgeting can provide
44 significant benefits to the public, and government policy makers,
45 managers, and employees, including promoting longer-term strategic
46 planning, increasing the time available for detailed review of funds
47 presenting significant fiscal and policy issues, and reducing the routine
48 tasks associated with annual budget preparation and adoption.

49 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

50 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for
51 their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this
52 county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an
53 amendment to Article 4 of the King County Charter as set forth herein.

54 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to the King County
55 Charter a new section to read as follows:

56 **Section 405. Biennial budgets.**

57 The county council may, subject to the provisions of section 230 of this charter,
58 adopt an ordinance providing for a biennial budget cycle for any or all county funds, with
59 a midbiennium review and modification for the second year of the biennium, including
60 specifying the process and timeline for major tasks in the biennial budget process.

61 References in this charter to the fiscal year or to specific dates shall apply to the

62 corresponding annual or biennial period or date for any such fund or funds. Any
63 references to a "quarter of a fiscal year" mean three months. The county council may
64 adopt additional and emergency appropriations ordinances for such fund or funds in the
65 same manner and subject to the same conditions as otherwise provided in this charter.
66 The county council may repeal such an ordinance and revert to adopting annual budgets
67 for any fund or funds, commencing after the end of any biennial budget cycle.

68 SECTION 3. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager
69 of the records, elections, and licensing services division, in substantially the following
70 form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for the
71 proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

72 Shall the King County Charter be amended to authorize the King County
73 Council to adopt an ordinance to provide for a biennial budget cycle for
74 any or all county funds with a midbiennium review and modification for
75 the second year of the biennium, and to authorize the King County
76 Council to repeal such a biennial budget ordinance and revert to an annual

77 budget cycle, all as provided in Ordinance No. 14758?

78

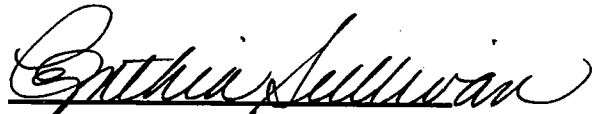
Ordinance 14758 was introduced on 12/9/2002 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/18/2003, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Hammond and Mr. Irons

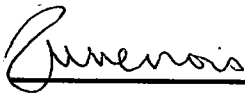
No: 1 - Mr. Gossett

Excused: 2 - Ms. Hague and Ms. Patterson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None