



Pierce County

Office of the County Council

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2176
(206) 798-7777
FAX (206) 798-7509
1-800-992-2456

TO: Janice Shabro, Auditor
Gerry Horne, Prosecuting Attorney

FROM: Denise D. Johnson, Clerk of the Council

DATE: February 12, 2009

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL -- ORDINANCE NO. 2009-1 (ELIMINATION OF INSTANT RUFFOFF VOTING)**

At the February 10, 2009 Council meeting, the Pierce County Council passed Ordinance No. 2009-1, which proposes Pierce County Charter amendments be submitted to the voters for the November 2009 General Election. The Council requests the Prosecuting Attorney write an appropriate ballot title for said election.

A certified copy of the Ordinance is attached for your records. Please see the Ordinance for specifics.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 6065 or Susan Long at extension 6068.

Attachments

c: Lori Augino
Susan Long
Doug Vanscoy





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www.piercecountywa.org/council

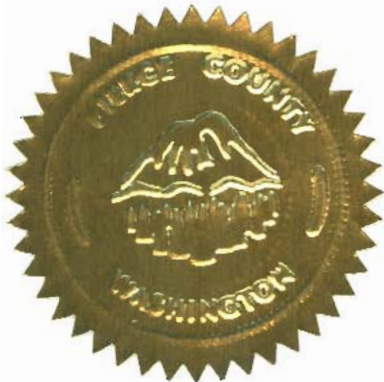
STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF PIERCE)

I, Denise D. Johnson, Clerk of the Pierce County Council, do hereby certify that the attached is a full, true, and correct copy of the following document:

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-1

The original of this document is currently located in the Office of the County Council, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of Pierce County, Washington, this 12th day of February, 2009.



PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Denise D. Johnson
Denise D. Johnson
Clerk of the Pierce County Council



Printed on recycled paper

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Barbara Gelman, Roger Bush,
2 Joyce McDonald, and Timothy M. Farrell
3 Requested by: Pierce County Council
4
5
6
7

File No. 440

8 **ORDINANCE NO. 2009-1**
9

10
11
12
13 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Proposing an Amendment to**
14 **Article 4, "Elections," of the Pierce County Charter to**
15 **Eliminate Instant Runoff Voting and Restore the Primary**
16 **Election for County Elected Offices; Requesting the Auditor**
17 **to Submit this Amendment to the Voters at the November**
18 **2009 General Election; and Requesting the Prosecuting**
19 **Attorney to Draft an Appropriate Ballot Title.**
20

21 **Whereas**, Section 8.50 of the Pierce County Charter (Charter) grants authority to
22 the County Council (Council) to propose Charter amendments to be submitted to the
23 voters at the next November general election occurring at least 90 days after filing; and
24

25 **Whereas**, Section 8.60 of the Charter requires a minimum of two-thirds
26 affirmative vote of the Council to enact an ordinance proposing Charter amendments;
27 and
28

29 **Whereas**, an Ordinance proposing Charter amendments is not subject to the
30 veto power of the Executive; and
31

32 **Whereas**, pursuant to Section 8.50(1) of the Charter, "...an amendment which
33 embraces a single or interrelated subject may be submitted as a single proposition even
34 though it is composed of changes to one or more articles."; and
35

36 **Whereas**, in November 2006, the voters of Pierce County adopted Charter
37 amendments to require the use of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for certain county elective
38 offices, thereby eliminating the primary system for those races; and
39
40



1 **Whereas**, IRV was first used in Pierce County during the November 2008
2 General Election; and

3
4 **Whereas**, the cost of running the IRV portion of the 2008 General Election was
5 \$1,692,663; and

6
7 **Whereas**, the IRV portion of the 2008 General Election provided to be
8 expensive, complicated and confusing, and the results of the IRV races were not
9 available for weeks following the election date; and

10
11 **Whereas**, 66 percent of the 90,738 voters responding to the Auditor's survey
12 indicated that they did not like IRV; and

13
14 **Whereas**, the Council finds that amendments to the Charter to eliminate instant
15 runoff voting and to restore the primary election for county elected offices will serve the
16 needs and best interests of the citizens of Pierce County; **Now Therefore**,

17
18 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**

19
20 Section 1. The Pierce County Council hereby proposes a Charter amendment as
21 set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, for
22 submittal to the voters at the November 2009 General Election.

23
24 Section 2. The Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney is hereby requested to draft
25 an appropriate ballot title for the proposed Charter amendments set forth in Exhibit A.
26



1 Section 3. This Ordinance shall be filed with the Auditor immediately upon
2 adoption for submittal to the voters at the November 2009 General Election.

3
4 PASSED this 10th day of February, 2009.

5
6 ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

7
8
9 Denise D. Johnson
10
11 **Denise D. Johnson**
12 Clerk of the Council

Roger Bush
13
14
15 **Roger Bush**
16 Council Chair

*Signature not required,
per Section 8.60 Pierce County Charter*

Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive
Approved _____ Vetoed _____, this
_____ day of _____,
2009.

17
18
19
20
21 Date of Publication of
22 Notice of Public Hearing: January 20, 2009
23
24 Effective Date of Ordinance: February 20, 2009
25



1
2
3 *Only those portions of Article 4 of the Charter – Elections that are proposed to be*
4 *amended are shown. Remainder of text is unchanged.*
5

6 **Section 4.10 -- Election Procedures**

7 The elections of all County officials, ~~except including judges and the Prosecuting~~
8 ~~Attorney, shall be conducted using instant runoff voting according to the state election~~
9 ~~method. The County Auditor shall implement by July 2008 an instant runoff voting~~
10 ~~protocol according to these guidelines:~~

11 (1) ~~The ballot shall allow voters to rank a number of choices in order of~~
12 ~~preference equal to the total number of candidates for each office; however, if the voting~~
13 ~~system, vote tabulation system, or similar or related equipment used by the County~~
14 ~~cannot feasibly accommodate choices equal to the total number of candidates running~~
15 ~~for each office, then the Auditor may limit the number of choices a voter may rank to no~~
16 ~~fewer than three.~~

17 (2) ~~The instant runoff shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter's~~
18 ~~ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate the voter has~~
19 ~~ranked highest. The candidate or candidates whose combined vote totals are less than~~
20 ~~the next lowest candidate after each round shall be eliminated and their votes~~
21 ~~redistributed. This process of eliminating candidates and transferring their votes to the~~
22 ~~next ranked continuing candidates shall be repeated until a candidate receives a~~
23 ~~majority (fifty percent plus one) of the votes from the continuing ballots. The candidate~~
24 ~~receiving the majority (fifty percent plus one) of votes from the continuing ballots will be~~
25 ~~deemed elected at the time of certification.~~

26 (3) ~~The County Council may adopt additional regulations consistent with this~~
27 ~~subsection and RCW 29.A.53 (excluding the expiration dates) to implement these~~
28 ~~standards.~~

29
30 **4.15 – Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) Candidacies**

31 (1) ~~To be placed on the ballot for an IRV office, a candidate must present to the~~
32 ~~Auditor no later than the end of filing week petition statements supporting the candidacy~~
33 ~~with original signatures of no less than 25 persons qualified to vote for the office the~~
34 ~~candidate is seeking. The County Council may change the signature number~~
35 ~~requirement by ordinance so long as the same number applies to all candidates.~~

36 (2) ~~The County central committee of each major political party may determine~~
37 ~~which candidates may use their party label for each partisan County level office.~~

38 (3) ~~The Minor Party County Executive Committee, or, if there is none, the Minor~~
39 ~~Party State Executive Committee of each minor party who files with the State Public~~
40 ~~Disclosure Commission shall determine which candidates may use their party label for~~
41 ~~each partisan county level office.~~

42 (4) ~~All candidates meeting the foregoing qualifications will appear directly on the~~
43 ~~general election ballot. There will be no publicly financed primary for affected County~~
44 ~~level offices.~~

45 (5) ~~On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate~~
46 ~~for a partisan IRV county level office, anyone qualified to assume office if elected may~~
47 ~~file a declaration of candidacy as an "Independent."~~



1 ~~(6) Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent for a~~
2 ~~partisan IRV county level office shall be placed on the ballot under the title~~
3 ~~"Independent."~~

4 ~~(7) Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy for a non-partisan IRV~~
5 ~~county level office shall be placed on the ballot under the title "Non-Partisan" (NP).~~

6 ~~(8) Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy for an IRV county level office~~
7 ~~shall pay the filing fee required for a declaration of candidacy.~~

8
9 **Section 4.20 — Independent Candidates**

10 ~~(1) On or before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy as a candidate,~~
11 ~~anyone qualified to assume office if elected may file a declaration of candidacy as an~~
12 ~~"Independent".~~

13 ~~(2) Any candidate who files a declaration of candidacy as an independent shall~~
14 ~~be placed on the ballot under the title "Independent."~~

15 ~~(3) Anyone who files a declaration of candidacy as an Independent shall pay the~~
16 ~~filing fee required for a declaration of candidacy.~~

17

