

Amendment No. O-11
(Combining Revised O-2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9)

Submitted by Julie Anderson
 Sponsored by Commissioner Merrival

Full text would not be placed on the ballot but ballot title and explanatory statement would make clear that the vote is on the package consisting of all the changes shown here)

Section 5.10 -- Direct Government

(1) The people of Pierce County reserve to themselves the power to make certain proposals at their option, and to enact or reject them at ~~the polls~~ an election, independent of the Council. The veto power of the Executive shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people.

(2) As used in this Article and in Section 8.65, the terms listed below mean as follows:

(a) "business day" means all days except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays officially recognized by Pierce County;

(b) "overvote" and "undervote" mean what they are defined to mean in the current edition of the Washington State Secretary of State Voter Intent manual or any successor publication.

Section 5.40 -- Initiative Procedures

(1) Any legal voter, or organization of legal voters of Pierce County may file an initiative proposal with the filing officer, who, within five business days after receipt thereof, ~~excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The filing officer shall~~ give the proposed initiative a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The filing voter or organization shall submit the petition in substantially the same form and style as prescribed for state initiatives by Chapter 29A.72 RCW and Chapter 434-379 WAC, as now enacted or hereinafter amended.

(2) The filing officer shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who, ~~shall confer with the petitioner to review the legal aspects of the proposal, and who~~ within ten business days after receipt thereof, shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed 20 words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

(3) The petitioner shall then have ~~has~~ 120 calendar days to collect the signatures of the registered voters of the County equal in number to not less than 10 percent of the number of votes cast (to include votes cast for candidates and write-ins, not to include overvotes or undervotes) in the County in the last ~~executive~~ election for the office of Executive. Each petition

shall contain the full text of the proposed measure, ordinance, or amendment to an ordinance and the ballot title

(4) The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition, and if it is validated, submit the proposal to the people at the next general election that is not less than 120 calendar days after ~~the registering of the petition~~ is validated, unless the Council enacts the proposal without change or amendment.

(5) If the Council does not adopt the proposed measure and adopts a substitute measure concerning the same subject matter, the substitute proposal shall be placed on the same ballot with the initiative proposal; and the voters shall be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both and then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other. If a majority of the voters voting on the first issue is for accepting either, then the measure receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither measure shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

Section 5.50 -- Agenda Petition

Any ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance or the Charter may be proposed to the Council by ~~registering~~ filing with the filing officer agenda petitions bearing the signatures of registered voters equal in number to not less than 3 percent of the number of votes cast (to include votes cast for candidates and write-ins, not to include overvotes or undervotes) in the County in the last ~~Executive~~ election for the office of Executive. Upon verifying the sufficiency of the signatures, the filing officer shall transmit the agenda petition to the Council which shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and enact or reject the ordinance within 60 calendar days.

Section 5.60 – The Referendum

The people reserve the power of referendum. A referendum may be ordered on any ordinance, or any section thereof, passed by the Council, except such ordinances as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or support of the County government and its existing public institutions. Upon ~~registration and~~ validation of the signatures on a referendum petition by the filing officer, the measure will be ineffective pending the outcome of the referendum procedure. The ~~registering~~ validation of a referendum petition against one or more sections of any ordinance shall delay only those sections from taking effect.

Section 5.70 -- Referendum Procedures

(1) Any legal voter, or organization of legal voters of Pierce County may file a referendum proposal against any enacted ordinance, or portion thereof, with the filing officer within 15 calendar days after the ordinance is passed by the Council. The filing voter or organization shall submit the referendum proposal in substantially the same form and style as

prescribed for state referenda by Chapter 29A.72 RCW and Chapter 434-379 WAC, as now enacted or hereinafter amended.

(2) Within five business days after receipt thereof, ~~excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays~~ the filing officer shall ~~confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style.~~ The filing officer shall give the referendum proposal a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The filing officer shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten business days after receipt thereof shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed 20 words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the measure being referred. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

(3) The petitioner shall then ~~has~~ have 120 calendar days to collect the signatures of registered voters of the County equal in number to not less than 8 percent of the number of votes cast (to include votes cast for candidates and write-ins, not to include overvotes or undervotes) in the County in the last ~~Executive~~ election for the office of Executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the measure being referred and the ballot title. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition, and if it is validated, submit the measure to the people at the next general election that is not less than 120 days after the registering of the petition.

(4) The County Council may establish, by Ordinance, a referendum filing fee not to exceed the amount imposed by the State for each referendum filed.

Section 8.65 -- Amendments by the Public

(1) The people may propose amendments to the Charter by filing a charter initiative petition with the filing officer.

(2) Any legal voter, or organization of legal voters of Pierce County may file a charter initiative proposal with the filing officer, who within five business days after receipt thereof, ~~excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style.~~ The filing officer shall give the proposed charter initiative a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure. The filing voter or organization shall submit the petition in substantially the same form and style as prescribed for state initiatives by Chapter 29A.72 RCW and Chapter 434-379 WAC, as now enacted or hereinafter amended.

(3) The filing officer shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who ~~shall confer with the petitioner to review the legal aspects of the proposal, and who~~ within ten business days after receipt thereof, shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed 75 words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

(4) The petitioner shall then have 180 calendar days to collect the signatures of the registered voters of the County equal in number to not less than 20 percent of the number of

votes cast (to include votes cast for candidates and write-ins, not to include overvotes or undervotes) in the County in the last ~~executive~~ election for the office of Executive. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment to the Charter and the ballot title.

(5) The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition, and if it is validated, submit the proposal to the people at the next general election that is not less than 120 days after the registering of the petition.