



1st Legislative District Democrats

ENDORSE 2020 KING COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Whereas, the First District Democrats (FDD) have historically supported measures that recognize and support peoples of all backgrounds; and

Whereas, the FDD supports Black Lives Matter and support measures that reduce and prevent excessive use of force by law enforcement; and

Whereas, the FDD supports measures that assist the disadvantaged and low-income individuals and families; and

Whereas, on the 2020 General Election Ballot in King County 7 amendments have been proposed to the King County Charter, which address the issues supported above;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the First District Democrats endorse the following amendments to the King County Charter:

1. Inquests:
 - a. To clarify that an inquest is required when a member of a law enforcement agency's action, decision, or possible failure to offer appropriate care might have contributed to an individual's death; and
 - b. To provide an attorney at the county's expense to represent the decedent's family in the inquest proceeding; and
2. Affordable Housing: to remove a charter restriction on the county's authority to transfer, lease or sell real property for less than fair market value when the property will be used for affordable housing; and
3. Clarification that King County provides services to include residents who are not US citizens: to replace the word "citizen" with "public," "member of the public" or "resident," as applicable?
4. Office of Law Enforcement Oversight: to authorize the civilian Office of Law Enforcement Oversight to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence related to its investigations and reviews of county law enforcement officers; and
5. Appointment of County Sheriff: to return the position of King County sheriff to an appointed position with a requirement for consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process and to make the county executive responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees; and
6. Structure and Duties of the Department of Public Safety: amend the charter so that the duties of the county sheriff and the structure and duties of the department of public safety are established by county ordinance, and the county executive is responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees; and
7. Non-Discrimination: to prohibit discrimination in county employment and in county contracting with nongovernmental entities on the basis of status as a family caregiver, military status or status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or who was discharged solely as a result of the person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

Therefore, Be it Further Resolved, that the FDD urge all residents of King County to Vote YES on the King County Charter Amendments on the 2020 General Election Ballot.

Proposed by David Hablewitz on September 30, 2020

Recommend DO PASS by the Issues Committee, October 1, 2020