

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

SUPPORTS

Charter Amendment No. 2 to modify the King County Charter to allow a political candidate to satisfy the requirement that campaign-related finance reports be filed with the county Director of Elections by filing those reports with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

General Election, November 2, 2010

SUMMARY OF THE MEASURE

This charter amendment is intended to streamline campaign-related finance reports. Currently, political candidates are required to report campaign receipts and expenditures locally, with King County Elections as well as with the State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). This amendment would eliminate the requirement to file with the County Director of Elections.

Candidates for public office are already required by state law to file monthly reports with the PDC and these reports are placed online, where the public can review them. If this proposed amendment is adopted, it will no longer be necessary to file those same reports with the county Director of Elections since the information they contain will already be accessible on the PDC's website.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE MEASURE

The following arguments were put forth by the proponents of the measure:

- This amendment would streamline the filing of campaign finance reports.
- This change is largely administrative and has no controversy. The state already requires filing with the PDC and these reports are available online.
- This change supports goals of efficiency and transparency – reports are filed in one place and available to the public, online.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE MEASURE

The committee identified the following arguments against the measure:

- This local reporting requirement demonstrates the County's commitment to transparency and accountability in the electoral process. Eliminating the requirement sends the wrong message.
- There are ways other than a Charter amendment to address this issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

The Municipal League of King County recommends supporting the King County charter amendment to streamline the filing of campaign finance reports. The Committee strongly believes in ensuring transparency when it comes to campaign finance reporting. This amendment is largely administrative in nature and will not adversely affect transparency as reports will be filed through the PDC and will be available through the PDC's website.