

SEATTLE DISTRICTS NOW CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the Charter of the City of Seattle be amended to change the structure of the City Council from an at-large council of nine (9) positions to a council with five (5) district-based and four (4) at-large positions?

I, the undersigned, as a **registered voter** of the **City of Seattle**, have correctly stated my residence address below and hereby petition to have the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Seattle (as specified on the reverse of this form) submitted to a vote

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE:	PRINTED NAME:	HOME ADDRESS, STREET AND NUMBER:
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1 EMAIL:	DATE:	CONTACT PHONE:
2 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
2 EMAIL:	DATE:	CONTACT PHONE:
3 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
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4 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
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6 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
6 EMAIL:	DATE:	CONTACT PHONE:
7 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
7 EMAIL:	DATE:	CONTACT PHONE:
8 PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	HOME ADDRESS, NUMBER AND STREET
8 EMAIL:	DATE:	CONTACT PHONE:

Complete Text of Proposed Charter Amendment

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department. * Sec. 2. CITY COUNCIL, MEMBERS:**

To ensure better democracy in the City of Seattle and that City Council members are accountable to the residents of Seattle, the City Council shall consist of nine (9) members, with five (5) members elected by geographic districts and four (4) members elected from the City at large.

The five (5) City Council seats subject to election in November 2011 shall be elected by geographic council districts beginning with the 2011 election and thereafter. The four (4) City Council seats subject to election in November 2013 shall remain at large seats. The five (5) council districts shall be established and modified as necessary by the Seattle Districting Commission pursuant to Subdivision A of this section.

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department. Sec. 2. Subdivision A. ~~RESERVED.~~ COUNCIL DISTRICTS:

(1) By January 31, 2010, a Seattle Districting Commission shall be appointed with five (5) members, of whom two (2) shall be appointed by the Mayor and three (3) shall be appointed by the City Council. Each Commission member shall reside in, and be a registered voter of, the City of Seattle. No Commission member shall, while serving on the Commission, nor for two (2) years thereafter, be a candidate for the City Council, nor actively participate in or contribute to any Seattle City Council campaign, nor be a registered lobbyist while serving on the Commission, nor have been a registered lobbyist for one (1) year prior to serving on the Commission. The Districting Commission shall have all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose, including employing experts, consultants and attorneys. The City Council shall take all steps necessary to enable the Commission to function, including appropriations sufficient to provide a reasonable per diem for Commission members, compensation for staff or contractors, and reasonable expenses.

(2) The Districting Commission shall elect a chair from its members and shall operate by majority vote. It shall develop, adopt and comply with a public participation plan, rules and procedures for the Commission's actions. In drawing district boundaries, the Commission shall comply with all statutory and constitutional requirements, respect neighborhoods and sub-communities and geographical features, as practicable, but shall not consider the residency of City Council members or candidates.

(3) The Seattle Districting Commission shall develop and publicize a draft districts map by June 1, 2010 and shall adopt a final districts map by September 1, 2010.

(4) In drawing district boundaries, the Seattle Districting Commission (i) shall conform to the one-person-one-vote principle and Federal and State constitutional law, ensuring nearly equal populations in districts (excluding nonresident military personnel) based on U.S. Census information, (ii) shall not divide any precinct among districts; (iii) should, to the maximum extent consistent with the foregoing clauses, (A) ensure that districts are compact, convenient, and contiguous, and not gerrymandered; and (B) insofar as practicable, ensure that district boundaries recognize traditional or recognized neighborhoods or geographical subcommunities within Seattle, considering for this purpose popular usages as to neighborhoods and things such as Community Councils; and (iv) shall not consider the locations of any residence of any incumbent City Council member or candidate or potential candidate for City Council. The Seattle Districting Commission shall assign numbers and may adopt names for districts.

(5) The district map shall be effective upon adoption by a majority of the Districting Commission and promptly shall be submitted to the City Council and filed by the City Clerk. The City Council shall not be empowered to modify the districts map, except to correct data or clerical errors upon the request of the Districting Commission.

(6) Upon the adoption of a final districts map, and the conclusion of any challenges thereto, the Commission shall cease operations and shall be reconstituted only when the completion of a subsequent U.S. Census shows sufficient demographic changes to constitutionally require modification of the districts map, in which case such redistricting shall follow the procedures outlined in this subsection. A five (5) percent or greater difference in the population between any two districts shall be considered a sufficient demographic change. The Commission shall adopt a new districts map by December 31st of the year in which U.S. Census data is released to the states and the new map shall apply for City Council elections in the following year.

(7) In the event district boundaries are redrawn by the Commission as a result of the U.S. Census data, any City Council member who is an incumbent representing a redrawn district, whose terms of office is not completed at the time, shall continue to serve the full four (4) year term in office representing the same district, even if such incumbent no longer resides in such district for the sole reason that its district boundaries have been changed. Such residency exemption expires at the end of the City Council member's four (4) year term, and affected Council member would then have to seek election in his or her new district.

(8) Any elector objecting to the districts map shall commence any legal challenge within thirty (30) days of final adoption of the map, citing his or her objections to such map, and such challenge shall be heard and resolved at the earliest time available to the Court. In such event, the City Attorney shall be responsible for defending the actions of the Districting Commission. If the Districting Commission fails to meet the requirements of this subsection, any elector or member of the Districting Commission will have standing to request a Court of competent jurisdiction to mandate that the Commission complete its duties or to judicially adopt a proper manner of districting.

(9) The provisions of this section are to be liberally construed to achieve the purposes of having five members of the City Council elected by geographic district. The terms and provisions of this section are severable; if any are found invalid this shall not affect validity of the remainder.

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department. Sec. 2. Subdivision B. ELIGIBILITY:

No person shall be eligible for membership in the City Council unless he or she shall be a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the State of Washington and a registered voter of The City of Seattle at the time of filing his or her declaration of candidacy. In addition, candidates seeking to represent a geographic district on the City Council must be a resident of the relevant district during his or her term in office and for at least ninety (90) days before filing his or her declaration of candidacy.

WARNING: Ordinance 94289 provides as follows: **Section 1.** It is unlawful for any person: **1.** To sign or decline to sign any petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment, in exchange for any consideration or gratuity or promise thereof; or **2.** To give or offer any consideration or gratuity to anyone to induce him or her to sign or not to sign a petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment; or **3.** To interfere with or attempt to interfere with the right of any voter to sign or not to sign a petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment by threat, intimidation or any other corrupt means or practice; or **4.** To sign a petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment with any other than his or her true name, or to knowingly sign more than one (1) petition for the same initiative, referendum or Charter amendment measure, or to sign any such petition knowing that he or she is not a registered voter of The City of Seattle. **Section 2.** Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall upon conviction thereof be punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or by imprisonment in the City Jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.