

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-~~06~~ - 08

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter relating to the redistricting process for Clark County Councilor districts.

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter allows for a redistricting committee to be formed after every federal census to adjust the boundaries of the Clark County Council Districts; and

WHEREAS, the current Clark County Home Rule Charter redistricting process allows for the two major parties to submit names to for the Council to nominate members to the redistricting committee; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Home Rule Charter similarly limits the redistricting committee to five (5) members; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council desires to put a proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter that, if enacted by a majority of the voters, will require the County Council to select six (6) members to the redistricting committee without the two major parties submitting candidates for council selection; and

WHEREAS, the Council is considering the matter at a duly-advertised public hearing and concludes that adoption will further the public health, safety and welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendatory. Charter Sections 6.5, Redistricting Committee, and Charter Section 6.6 Redistricting Plan is hereby proposed to be amended as follows:

Article 6 – Elections and Districts

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Section 6.5 Redistricting committee

~~Within sixty (60) days of receipt of federal decennial census data from the state redistricting commission or its successor, No later than September 30 of the year the decennial United States Federal Census is conducted the council shall establish a five (5) seven (7) member redistricting committee and appoint a redistricting master for that committee who is an employee in the Clark County Geographic Information Services department (or successor). The redistricting master shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to draw a redistricting plan. The council shall appoint four (4) six (6) persons to the committee, two (2) from each major political party from a list of five (5) submitted by the party's central committee. The four (4) six (6) members of the redistricting committee shall appoint a fifth seventh member who shall be chair. If a majority of the committee members cannot agree on a committee chair within thirty (30) calendar days after the appointment of the committee members the council, no later than sixty (60) calendar~~

1 days after the appointment of the committee members, shall appoint a seventh person to serve as
2 committee chair. Members of the redistricting committee shall serve without salary but shall be
3 compensated for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The redistricting committee shall, within
4 thirty (30) calendar days of its appointment, meet and appoint a redistricting master. The
5 redistricting master shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a
6 redistricting plan. If the redistricting committee cannot agree on the appointment of a
7 redistricting master within thirty (30) calendar days, the council shall appoint a districting
8 master.

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10 **Section 6.6 Redistricting plan**

11 Within two (2) months after appointment, the redistricting master shall draw a redistricting plan
12 for the county that is consistent with the following and submit the plan to the committee for
13 adoption;

- 14 (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is practicable, excluding
15 nonresident military personnel, based on the population reported in the federal
16 decennial census as adjusted by RCW 44.05.140.
17 (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section the plan should, insofar as
18 practical, accomplish the following:
19 a. District lines should be drawn so as to coincide with the boundaries of local
20 political subdivisions and areas recognized as communities of interest;
21 b. Districts should be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact
22 territory. Land areas may be deemed contiguous if they share a common land
23 border or are connected by a ferry, highway, bridge, or tunnel. Areas
24 separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent
25 transportation within a district should not be deemed contiguous;
26 c. Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a single legislative
27 district; and
28 d. Equalizing population within districts should be done with as few changes to
29 existing boundaries as possible.

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31 (3) The committee shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation
32 and to encourage electoral competition. The committee's plan shall not be drawn
33 purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group. The committee
34 shall conduct a public hearing at least one week before proposed adoption. The
35 redistricting committee shall adopt or amend the redistricting plan within thirty (30)
36 days of submission to the committee. The redistricting plan shall be adopted as
37 submitted by the redistricting master or as amended by ~~two-thirds majority~~ a vote of
38 five (5) of the seven (7) members of the redistricting committee. Upon adoption, the
39 plan shall be filed with the council by the redistricting committee. After submission
40 of the plan, the council shall have thirty (30) calendar days to amend the committee's
41 plan. If the council amends the committee's plan, the amendment must be approved
42 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of council members, and the area amended may

1 not include more than two (2) percent of the population of any council district. No
2 later than ~~eight (8)~~ six (6) months after receipt of the census data, the council shall
3 adopt by ordinance a redistricting plan that is consistent with Section 6.6 (1).(2).(3).
4 The adopted redistricting plan for the county must follow precinct boundaries
5 established by the council prior to that year's candidate filing period.

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7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective on the 10th day following adoption
8 and shall result in the submission of the proposed amendment to the Clark County Home Rule
9 Charter to the voters at the next eligible general election. Should a majority of voters vote in
10 favor of the amendment, the amendment shall be incorporated immediately into the Clark
11 County Home Rule Charter upon certification of the election results.

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13 **Section 3. Instructions to Clerk.** The Clerk of the Council shall:

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15 A. Record and transmit a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor; and
16 B. Cause notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published forthwith, pursuant to
17 Clark County Code 1.02.140.
18 C. Provide a copy of this Ordinance to Code Publishing.
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3 **Section 4. Roll Call Vote.** The following persons voted in favor of the above ordinance:
4 Glen Yung; Gary Medvigy; Karen Dill Bowerman; and Sue Marshall.
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7 The following persons voted in opposition to the above ordinance:
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11 ADOPTED on this 25th day of June, 2024.
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15 Attest:


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19 Clerk to the Council
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CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Gary Medvigy, Chair

21 Approved as to Form Only:
22 ANTHONY GOLIK
23 Prosecuting Attorney
24

Glen Yung, Councilor

25 By: 
26 Leslie Lopez,
27 Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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Michelle Belkot, Councilor

Karen Dill Bowerman, Councilor

Sue Marshall, Councilor

