

Seattle Districts Now: City of Seattle Proposed Charter Amendment No. 19 concerns creating districts to elect seven of nine Seattle City Councilmembers

To the City Council of The City of Seattle: We, the undersigned registered voters of The City of Seattle, State of Washington, propose and ask for the amendment to the City of Seattle Charter known as Charter Amendment Measure No. 19, a full, true and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to present said proposed Charter Amendment to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next general municipal election occurring in accordance with Article XX, Section 2 of the City Charter; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of The City of Seattle, State of Washington, and my residence address is correctly stated.

WARNING: Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (RCW 35.21.005). In addition, 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; Any violation of paragraphs 1, 2, or 3 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. (Seattle Ordinance 94289).

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This is NOT an official petition for signature gathering.

If you would like to help us collect signatures, please click here to go
to the campaign contact page.

This is the full text of the Seattle Districts Now 7-2 proposal
Proposed 2013 Seattle Charter Amendment 13

Ballot Title Prepared by City Attorney: “City of Seattle Proposed Charter Amendment No. 19 concerns creating districts to elect seven of nine Seattle City Councilmembers.

“This measure would require the election of seven City Councilmembers by district and two from the City at-large. Residency must be established 120 days before candidate filing. Every decade a commission would re-draw districts to bring the smallest district’s population within one percent of the largest. Councilmembers elected in 2013 and at-large councilmembers elected in 2015 serve 2-year terms. Thereafter, all councilmembers serve 4-year terms with district positions running together and at-large positions two years later.

“Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes No” [End of Ballot Title]

Charter Amendment:

The People of the City of Seattle, exercising their power to amend the City Charter by popular vote under Article XX, Section 2 of the City Charter, enact the following amendment to the Charter of the City of Seattle. In amending sections, removals are in ~~strikeout~~, additions are underlined; Charter Amendment section headers are in ***Bold Italics***.

Section 1. City Charter Article IV, Section 2, is amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department.

Sec. 2. CITY COUNCIL, MEMBERS:

To ensure members of the city council are closer to the people they represent, to enable voters to better know their Councilmembers, and to provide a mixed system of district and at-large representation, the City Council shall consist of nine (9) members, with positions 1 through 7 elected by districts and positions 8 and 9 elected from the City at-large.

Section 2. City Charter Article IV, Section 2, Subdivision A (“RESERVED”) is replaced by Subdivision B, and amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department.

Sec. 2. Subdivision ~~A~~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 and a resident of The City of Seattle at the time of filing his or her declaration of candidacy from at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to filing the declaration of candidacy through the term of service. A district member shall be a resident of the district represented for at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to filing the declaration of candidacy through the term of service.

Section 3. A new Subdivision B is added to the City Charter, Article IV, Section 2, as follows:

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department.

Sec. 2. Subdivision B. DISTRICTS:

The city council electoral districts are illustrated in the map appended to this charter amendment and made part hereof. The city council electoral district are defined by tract, block, and block group numbers used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the 2010 Census, and by street descriptions as follows:

First district. Census Tracts 96, 97.01, 97.02, 98, 99, 105, 106, 107.01, 107.02, 108, 112, 113, 114.01, 114.02, 115, 116, 120, 121, Blocks 4001 – 3, and 5008, Tract 264, and Blocks 1000,

1002 – 3, 1009, and 5008, Tract 265. Description: From the southwest boundary of city at the extension of Seola Beach Dr SW into Puget Sound, north and east along the west boundary of city in Puget Sound and into Elliott Bay to the mouth of the E. Duwamish Waterway, south along the E. Duwamish and Duwamish Waterways to the south boundary of city, then west along the south boundary of city to origin.

Second district. Census Tracts 91, 93, 100.01, 100.02, 101, 102, 103, 104.01, 104.02, 109, 110.01, 111.02, 117, 118, 119, Block Group 1 of Tract 92, Block Groups 1 and 3 – 5 of Tract 94, Block Groups 3 and 4, Tract 95, and Blocks 1006, 1008, 1023, 1026 – 28, 1031 and 1032 of Tract 260.01. Description: From the intersection of S Jackson St and Elliott Bay, east along south boundaries of the Seventh and Third districts as described below to the intersection of the extension of the north boundary of Colman Park (S Holgate St), then south along east boundary of city in Lake Washington to the southeast corner of the city at the extension of S Ryan St and Lake Washington, then west along the south boundary of city to origin at the intersection of the south city boundary and the Duwamish waterway, then north on Duwamish Waterway and E. Duwamish Waterways along east boundary of First district to origin at extension of S Jackson St.

Third district. Census Tracts 62, 63, 64, 65, 74.01, 74.02, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, Block Groups 1 and 2 of Tract 61, Blocks 1000 – 1023, 1029, 1031 – 1032, and 1035 – 1045 of Tract 66, Block Group 1 of Tract 83, Block Group 2 of Tract 94, and Block Groups 1 and 2 of Tract 95. Description: From the intersection of Westlake Ave and Valley St, north through Waterway N 3 into Lake Union, north to the extension of vacated E Galer St into Lake Union then follow vacated E Galer St and E Galer St to Interstate 5, north on Interstate 5 to Lake Union, east to Lake Washington, then south along the east boundary of city in Lake Washington to the north boundary of Colman Park (S Holgate St), west on said boundary to Lakeside Ave So, then south to Lake Washington Blvd So, then south to Lake Park Dr S, then south to S McClellan St, then west to 33rd Ave S, then north to S Bayview St, then west to Rainier Ave S, then north to 23rd Ave S, then north to S Holgate St, then west to 18th Ave S, then north on 18th Ave S and extension to Interstate 90, then west to 12th Ave S, then north to Yesler Way, then west

to 5th Ave, then follow east boundary of Seventh district, described below, to origin at intersection of Westlake Ave and Valley St.

Fourth district. Census Tracts 24, 25, 26, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43.01, 43.02, 44, 50, 51, 52, 53.01, 53.02, 54, Block Group 4 of Tract 22, Block Group 1 and Blocks 2001 – 2008, 2024 – 2027 of Tract 27, Blocks 1000 – 1033, and 1045 – 1049 of Tract 36, Block Group 1 of Tract 45, Block Groups 3 and 4 of Tract 61, and Block Group 2 and Blocks 1024 – 1028, 1030, and 1033 – 1034 of Block 66. Description: From the intersection of N 85th St and Interstate 5, follow south boundary of the Fifth district described below to Lake Washington, then south along east boundary of city to Union Bay, west through Union Bay and the Lake Washington Ship Canal to Portage Bay to Interstate 5, then south to E Galer St, then west on E Galer St and vacated E Galer St into Lake Union, then north and west in Lake Union to the extension of Aurora Ave N (Troll Ave) into the Lake Washington Ship Canal, then north to origin along the east boundary of the Sixth district as described below.

Fifth district. Census Tracts 1, 2, 3, 4.01, 4.02, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, Block Groups 1 and 2, and Blocks 4000 – 4004 and 4008 of Tract 14, Block Groups 2 and 3 of Tract 17.01, and Block Groups 1 – 3 of Tract 22. Description: From the north city limits at Puget Sound (extension of NW 145th St) east along north boundary of city to Lake Washington, then south along east city limits (Lake Washington) to north boundary of Sandpoint Country Club, west to Sandpoint Way NE, then northwest to Inverness Dr NE, then southwesterly to street terminus at north boundary of Sandpoint Country Club, then west to northeast corner of Sandpoint Country Club, then northwest across Inverness Ravine Park to the east end of NE 87th St, then southwest to 43rd Ave NE, then south to NE 85th St, then west to 28th Ave NE, then south to NE 83rd St, then west to Ravenna Ave NE, then north to NE 85th St, then west to 14th Ave NE, then south to NE 82nd St, then west to Roosevelt Way Northeast, then north to Northeast 85th St, then west on Northeast and North 85th St to Fremont Ave N, then north to North 87th St, then west to Greenwood Ave N, then north to N 105th St, then west on N and NW 105th St to 14th Ave NW, then north to NW Woodbine Way, then west to NW Norcross Way, then northeast to south boundary of Carkeek Park, then west to Puget Sound, then north on west boundary of city to origin.

Sixth district. Census Tracts 15, 16, 17.02, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 46, 47, 48, 49, Block Group 3 and Blocks 4005 – 7 and 4009 – 21 of Tract 14, Block Group 1 of Tract 17, Block Groups 3 and 4 and Blocks 2009 – 23 and 2028 – 31 of Tract 27, Block Groups 2 – 4 and Blocks 1034 - 1044 of Tract 36, and Block Group 2 of Tract 45. Description: From the intersection of south boundary of Carkeek Park with Puget Sound, follow the south boundary of Fifth district described above to the intersection of N 85th St and Interstate 5, then south on Interstate 5 to NE 50th St, then west to Aurora Ave N, then south on Aurora Ave N. to its on ground extension into Lake Washington Ship Canal (Troll Ave), then

west on Lake Washington Ship Canal through Salmon Bay to Shilshole Bay, then north in Puget Sound to origin.

Seventh district. Census Tracts 56, 57, 58.01, 58.02, 59, 60, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 80.01, 80.02, 81, 82, Block Group 2 of Tract 83, and Block Group 2 of Tract 92. Description: From the outlet of the Lake Washington Ship Canal into Shilshole Bay, then southeast through the Lake Washington Ship Canal to Lake Union, south through Waterway No. 3 to the intersection of Westlake Ave and Valley St, then east on Valley St to Fairview Ave N, then south to Interstate 5 on-ramp (intersection of Fairview Ave North and Mercer St), then east on ramp to Interstate 5, then south to Pine St, then east to Minor Ave, then south to University St, then west to Ninth Ave, then south to Marion St, then west on Marion St to 7th Ave, then north to Madison St, then west to 6th Ave, then south to Marion St, then west to 5th Ave, then south to Yesler Way, then west to 4th Ave S, then south to S Jackson St, then west to Elliott Bay, then north along the west boundary of city in Puget Sound to origin in Shilshole Bay and Lake Washington Ship Canal.

In case of any conflict, the census tract and block numbers prevail over the descriptions stated herein. References to a street, or avenue or right of way above refer to the middle of said street, avenue or right of way. Abbreviations used are: “St” for Street, “Ave” for Avenue, “Blvd” for Boulevard, “Dr” for Drive, “city” for the City of Seattle.

Section 4. A new Subdivision D is added to the City Charter, Article IV, Section 2, as follows:

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department.

Sec. 2. Subdivision D. COUNCIL REDISTRICTING:

- (1) By October 31, 2022, and of each tenth year thereafter, a five-member Districting Commission shall be appointed. The Mayor shall appoint two members, and by a two-thirds vote the City Council shall appoint two members. The fifth member shall be appointed by majority vote of the first four members. The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members. No person may serve on the Commission who is an elected official (except precinct committee officer), a registered lobbyist, a candidate for elective office, or a City employee.
- (2) The Districting Commission shall no later than two months after appointment, or November 30, whichever occurs first, appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the Commission is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master by November 30, the Mayor shall appoint a districting master. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, and the Commission shall conduct public forums around the City before adopting any plan. At least one public forum shall be held in each existing District.
- (3) District boundaries shall be drawn to produce compact and

contiguous districts that are not gerrymandered. The population of the largest district shall exceed the population of the smallest by no more than one percent. To the extent practical, district boundaries shall follow existing District boundaries, recognized waterways and geographic boundaries, and Seattle communities and neighborhoods. In drawing the plan, neither the Commission nor the districting master shall consider the residence of any person.

- (4) The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the City, and submit it to the districting Commission by March 15 of the year following their appointment. The Commission shall develop, approve by majority vote, and make public a draft districts proposal and then after public comment, approve by majority vote a final districts plan; and shall have all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose, may employ experts, consultants and attorneys not employed by the city, and shall prepare financial statements and compose and turn over to the City Clerk an official record of all relevant information used. Upon adoption, the districting plan shall be filed with the City Clerk. The plan shall become effective upon filing and cannot be amended by the City Council except to correct data errors upon request by the districting Commission.
- (5) 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 and contractors, and reasonable expenses.

Section 5. A new Subdivision E is added to the City Charter, Article IV, Section 2, as follows:
ARTICLE IV. Legislative Department.

Sec. 2. Subdivision E. TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Notwithstanding Article XIX, Section 3, the four positions elected at the 2013 general municipal

election (positions 2, 4, 6, and 8) shall each be for two year terms ending at midnight, December 31, 2015. The two at large positions created by Section 1 of this Amendment and elected at the 2015 general municipal election shall be for two year terms ending at midnight, December 31, 2017. The seven district positions created by Section 1 of this Amendment and elected at the 2015 general municipal election shall be for four years terms ending at midnight, December 31, 2019. After the 2015 general municipal election, all nine City Council positions shall be for four year terms under Article XIX and this Subdivision shall be of no further effect.

Section 6. City Charter, Article XIX, Section 5 is amended as follows:
ARTICLE XIX. Officers; Terms and Vacancies

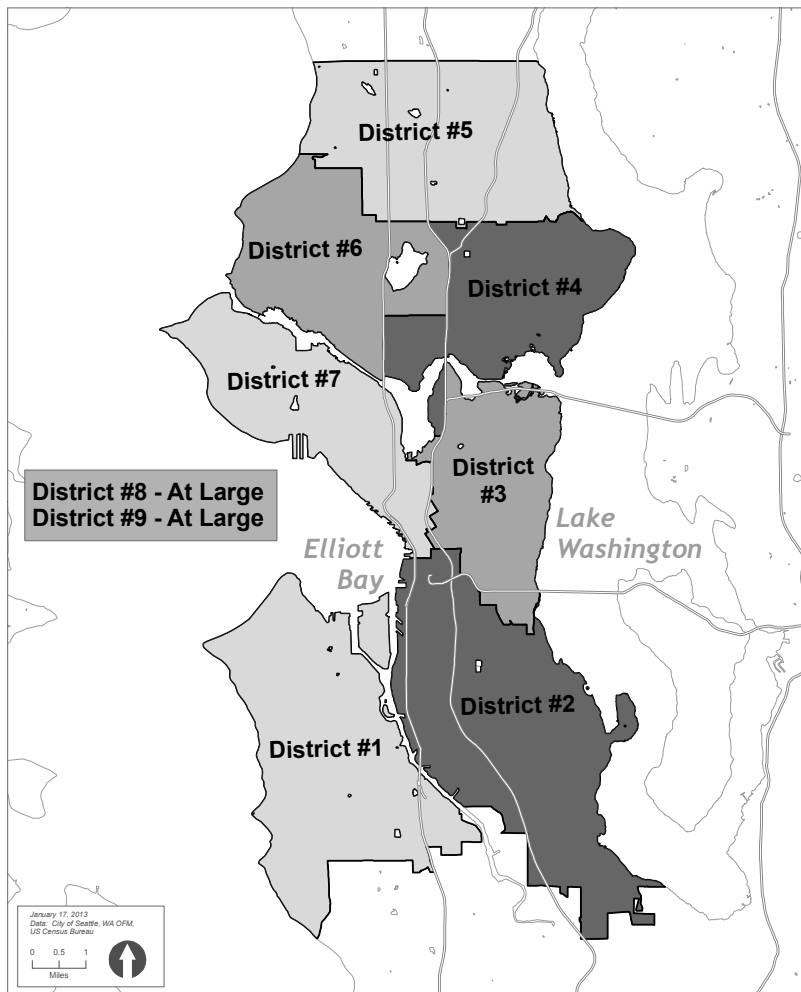
Sec. 5. VACANCIES; FAILURE TO QUALIFY; ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE; DISABILITY

An office becomes vacant on failure to qualify within the time limited by law; upon the death or removal from office or resignation of the incumbent, or his or her removal from or absence from the City for sixty days without leave of the City Council, or upon an adjudication of insanity; by a conviction

of drunkenness, by any permanent disability, preventing the proper discharge of duty; or by any change in residence rendering a member no longer eligible for membership in the position occupied or sought, including change in residence to outside the City of Seattle or, in the case of a district position, change in residence to outside the relevant district.

Section 7. Savings Clause; Liberal Construction

The provisions of this Charter Amendment are to be liberally construed to achieve its purposes. The terms and provisions of this Amendment are severable; if any are found invalid this shall not affect the validity of the remainder.



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