

**DRAFT
PROPOSITION 2**

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(Issue No. 4: Biennial Budgeting)

A. Proposed Ballot Title:

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The Snohomish County Charter Review Commission proposed an amendment to the Snohomish County Charter to allow the county council to adopt a biennial budget. This measure would give the county council the discretion to budget either annually or biennially in accordance with state law. Should this proposal be:

Approved.....

Rejected.....

B. Charter Amendments Required:

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New Section:

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Section 6.05 Biennial Budgets.

The County Council may budget either annually or biennially in accordance with state law. The procedure and steps for adopting a biennial budget shall conform with the procedure and steps for adopting an annual budget. References in this charter to the fiscal year or to specific dates shall apply to the corresponding annual or biennial period or date. References to “quarterly” shall mean three months.

Section 5.30 Initiative — Limitations

Ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees, redistricting of council districts, authorization or repeal of any appropriation of money or any portion of the budget, and authorization or repeal of taxes or fees, shall not be subject to initiative.

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Section 5.70 Referendum — Limitations

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Emergency ordinances and ordinances or portions of ordinances providing for the compensation or working conditions of county employees, authorizing or repealing any appropriations of money or any portion of the budget and authorizing or repealing taxes or fees, shall not be subject to referendum.

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Section 6.20 Presentation of Proposed Budget

At least seventy-five days prior to the end of each fiscal year, the county executive shall present to the county council a complete proposed budget and budget message, including a budget ordinance which identifies proposed operating and capital

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appropriations and estimated revenues and reserves necessary to balance the budget. The county executive shall present to the county council proposed tax and revenue ordinances which may be necessary to generate additional resources not being collected in the current year. The county executive also shall present to the county council a proposed capital improvement program for the next six fiscal years. Copies of the proposed budget, budget message, ordinances and capital improvement program shall be delivered to each council member. Copies of the proposed budget, budget message and ordinances shall be furnished by the county executive to any interested person for a reasonable fee as established by ordinance and shall be available for public inspection at the office of the county executive.

Section 6.50 Consideration and Adoption of the Budget

At least thirty days prior to the end of the fiscal year, the county council shall adopt budget, tax and revenue ordinances for the next fiscal year. Prior to the adoption of any budget ordinance for the next fiscal year, the county council shall hold a public hearing to consider the proposed budget presented by the county executive and shall hold any other public hearings on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The county council in considering the budget ordinance proposed by the county executive, may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditure of certain appropriations, provided that the county council shall adopt a six (6) year capital improvement program as an adjunct to the budget, including a balance of proposed expenses and potential revenue sources.

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The appropriations included in the budget ordinance adopted by the county council shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves. However the county council may increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget proposed by the county executive by reestimating the amount by motion passed by a minimum of four affirmative votes, by utilizing reserves in a manner not proposed by the county executive or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the county executive.

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Section 6.60 Budget Control

Every three months, and more often if required, the county executive shall submit to the county council a written report showing the relation between the estimated income and expenses and actual income and expenses to date. If it shall appear that the income is less than anticipated, the county council may reduce appropriations, except amounts required to meet contractual obligations and for debt, interest and other fixed charges, to such a degree as may be necessary to keep expenditures within the cash income.

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Section 6.70 Contingency Appropriations

The budget ordinance may include contingency appropriations within various funds which shall not be expended unless the county executive certifies in writing that sufficient funds are available and the county council approves a budget transfer.

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