

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the Ethics Code; amending Sections 4.16.030 and 4.16.070 of the Seattle Municipal Code; requiring elected officials to disclose financial interests in legislative matters prior to participating in those matters; and creating a limited exception to the requirement that elected officials disqualify themselves from participating in such matters.

Summary and background of the Legislation: The Ethics Code defines a “Covered Individual” as a City officer, City employee, City contractor or City volunteer. Covered Individual also includes every individual who was a City officer, City employee, City contractor or City volunteer at the time of the act or omission that is alleged to have violated this chapter, even if he or she no longer has that status. Covered Individual includes elected city officials.

Covered individuals are disqualified from acting on City business in certain circumstances. The Ethics code defines the circumstances, relationship and situations where the covered individual would be disqualified.

The proposed ordinance would provide a limited exception for covered individuals who are elected officials, to act on City business if the:

legislative matter establishes or adjusts assessments, taxes, fees or rates for water, utility or other broadly provided public services or facilities are applied equally, proportionally, or by the same percentage to the elected official’s interest and other businesses, properties, or individuals subject to the assessment, tax, fee, or rate and a disclosure is made in accordance with the Ethics code; and

Any other similar circumstance prescribed by the Ethics and Elections Commission.

Before participating the elected official must publicly disclose their financial interest on the officials webpage, file a copy with the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**
No.
- b) **Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**
No.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
The legislative department. Patricia Lee is the Council Central Staff member familiar with the legislation.
- d) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- e) **Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**
No.
- f) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No.
- g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- h) **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**
No.
- i) **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**
No.
- j) **Other Issues:**

List attachments/exhibits below: