



# CITY OF SEATTLE

## City Council

### Agenda

#### Special Meeting

Thursday, July 14, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

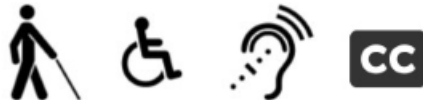
Debora Juarez, Council President  
Lisa Herbold, Member  
Andrew J. Lewis, Member  
Tammy J. Morales, Member  
Teresa Mosqueda, Member  
Sara Nelson, Member  
Alex Pedersen, Member  
Kshama Sawant, Member  
Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8805; [Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov](mailto:Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov)

[Watch Council Meetings Live](#) [View Past Council Meetings](#)

Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

For accessibility information and for accommodation requests, please call 206-684-8888 (TTY Relay 7-1-1), email [CouncilAgenda@Seattle.gov](mailto:CouncilAgenda@Seattle.gov), or visit <http://seattle.gov/cityclerk/accommodations>.



**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**City Council**  
**Agenda**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 14, 2022 - 2:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

---

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public may sign up to address the Council. The time allowed for each individual, and the total time allowed for public comment period at this meeting, will be determined by the number of speakers that are signed up to comment at the start of the meeting.

**D. PRESENTATIONS**

[Inf 2088](#)

Initiative 134 “Approval Voting” and Council Bill 120369 “Ranked Voting.”

**Supporting Documents:**

[Central Staff Memo Presentation](#)

**Presenters: Lish Whitson and Esther Handy, Council Central Staff**

**E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**F. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

1. [CF 314495](#) Report of the City Clerk on the Certificate of Sufficiency for Initiative No. 134, concerning approval voting for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Councilmember primary elections.

**Attachments:** [Report of the City Clerk](#)  
[Att 1 - Certificate of Sufficiency](#)  
[Att 2 - Initiative Petition No. 134 \(Clerk File No. 322196\)](#)

2. [CF 314498](#) City Council motion and declaration of City Council intent to reject Initiative No. 134, relating to voting in city primary elections and placing Initiative No. 134 on the November 8, 2022 ballot in conjunction with the Ranked Choice Voting measure (Council Bill 120369), a proposed alternative measure on the same matter.

**Attachments:** [City Council Motion and Declaration of City Council Intent/Clerk File 314498](#)

3. [CB 120369](#) AN ORDINANCE relating to ranked choice voting; requesting that a special election be held concurrent with the November 8, 2022 general election for submission to the qualified electors of the City of a proposition to institute ranked choice voting for primary elections for City of Seattle elected offices; adding a new Chapter 2.18 to the Seattle Municipal Code; proposing a ballot title; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Supporting Documents:** [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Proposed Amendment 1 version 2](#)

4. [Res 32057](#) A RESOLUTION regarding a voter-proposed Initiative Measure concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections; authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed Initiative Measure to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed Initiative Measure on the November 8, 2022, election ballot; and providing for the publication of such proposed Initiative Measure.

**Attachments:** [Att A - Initiative 134](#)

**Supporting Documents:** [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Proposed Substitute of Resolution 32057](#)

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*Notice of Public Comment relating to Initiative 134**

City of Seattle Initiative Measure 134 concerns allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections. This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council to select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office would advance to the general election, consistent with state law. The City would consult with King County to include instructions on the primary ballot such as “vote for AS MANY as you approve of” for each office. Should this measure be approved?

- Yes
- No

**\*Notice of Public Comment relating to Council Bill 120369**

Council Bill 120369 concerns AN ORDINANCE relating to ranked choice voting; requesting that a special election be held concurrent with the November 8, 2022 general election for submission to the qualified electors of the City of a proposition to institute ranked choice voting or primary elections for City of Seattle elected offices; adding a new Chapter 2.18 to the Seattle Municipal Code; proposing a ballot title; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

- In Support
- Opposed

As provided for under RCW 42.17A.155 and Seattle Municipal Code 2.04.300, the City Council will afford members of the public an opportunity at the July 14, 2022, Special City Council Meeting to express a view that is in support or opposed to the proposed Initiative 134, and Council Bill 120369. An equal opportunity will be given to proponents and opponents of the measure.

The City Council meeting on July 14, 2022 will begin at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at 600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd floor.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Details on how to provide Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the 2:00 p.m. City Council meeting at <http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin two hours before the 2:00 p.m. meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the Public Comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Submit written comments to all Councilmembers at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov).



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Inf 2088, **Version:** 1

---

Initiative 134 "Approval Voting" and Council Bill 120369 "Ranked Voting."

July 12, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Seattle City Council  
**From:** Lish Whitson, Analyst  
**Subject:** Initiative 134 and Council Bill 120369 – New options for primary elections in Seattle

---

On Thursday, July 14, the City Council will hold a meeting to discuss and possibly vote on [Initiative 134](#) (I-134), an initiative to use “approval voting” for primary elections for Mayor, City Councilmembers and City Attorney. The Council will also discuss and may vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120369](#), which would add “ranked choice voting” as an alternative to Initiative 134.

The City’s Election Code, Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) [Section 2.04.300](#) limits the use of City resources to support or oppose any ballot measure. Councilmembers and their staff should limit their activities and public statements regarding I-134 and Council Bill 120369 to the permitted activities listed under SMC 2.04.300.

This memorandum provides a brief description of each measure, and describes the options Council has under the City Charter regarding sending initiatives to the ballot.

### **Initiative 134 “Approval Voting”**

Initiative 134 was drafted by members of the public and proponents of I-134 have filed sufficient signatures to place it on the ballot. I-134 would change the system for voting in primaries for elective office in Seattle. Today, in each race on the ballot, voters may choose one candidate and the top two candidates advance to the general election. If I-134 passes, an approval voting system will be adopted:

In the primary elections for the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, and members of the City Council, voters may select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the greatest total number of votes for each office shall advance to the general election consistent with state law.

I-134 would go into effect as soon as practicable and no later than 2025. Voters would be instructed to: "Vote for AS MANY as you approve of."

Approval voting is currently in use in Fargo, North Dakota and Saint Louis, Missouri.



## **Council Bill 120369 “Ranked Choice Voting”**

Councilmember Lewis has proposed an alternative to I-134, CB 120369. CB 120369 would change primaries for elective office in Seattle to a ranked choice voting system. If CB 120369 passes:

Voters shall receive ballots that enable them to rank candidates in order of preference. King County Elections shall count votes in rounds. In each round, the candidate who received the fewest first choices shall be eliminated and the ballot with each vote cast for the eliminated candidate shall be transferred to that ballot’s next-highest ranked remaining candidate. Counting of top-ranked candidates and elimination of the lowest-ranked candidate shall continue until two candidates remain. Each voter’s ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever of the two remaining candidates the voter has ranked higher. The final two remaining candidates shall be certified as qualified to appear on the general election ballot.

Voters would be able to rank at least five candidates. CB 120369 would go into effect as soon as practicable and no later than 2027. Voters would be instructed to: “Rank candidates in the order of your choice.”

There are several different versions of ranked choice voting used across the United States. The version proposed under CB 120369 is like that used in New York City for their partisan primaries.

### **Process for City Council action on Initiative 134**

The City Charter, [Article IV, Section 1](#), lays out the process for Council action on initiatives. If King County Elections certifies that an initiative receives sufficient signatures to go on the ballot, the City Clerk files that notice of sufficiency with the Council. For Initiative 134, that notice is included in [Clerk File 314495](#). The filing of that notice begins a 45-day clock for Council action on the initiative. For Initiative 134, the Council is required to act by August 9.

The City Charter allows the Council to “enact, or reject, any initiative bill or measure, but shall not amend or modify the same. It may, however, after rejection of any initiative bill or measure, propose and pass a different one dealing with the same subject.”

### **Enacting an Initiative**

If the Council decided to enact I-134, it would (1) vote to file Clerk File 314495 and (2) vote on a Council Bill containing the substance of I-134. If that Council Bill were to pass, it would go into effect under the standard timetable for Ordinances.

At time of publication of this memo, no Councilmember has requested the drafting of a Council Bill containing the substance of I-134, so the Council is not positioned to take an “Enact” action on Thursday, July 14.

### Rejecting<sup>1</sup> or not Acting on the Initiative

If the Council instead wants to send the initiative to the voters, it must (1) vote to file Clerk File 314495 and (2) adopt [Resolution 32057](#), which asks the City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to take all necessary actions to place I-134 on the November 8 General Election ballot.<sup>2</sup>

The Council may also, if it desires, adopt a separate Resolution stating its support or opposition for I-134.

### Proposing an alternative

Councilmember Lewis has proposed CB 120369, as an alternative to I-134. Because both I-134 and CB 120369 relate to how Seattle conducts its primaries, it is on the same subject as I-134.

If the Council wants to place CB 120369 on the ballot as an alternative to I-134, it should take the following steps:

1. Vote to file Clerk File 314495.
2. Vote to file a second Clerk File stating the Council's intent to "reject" I-134 and adopt an alternative (Clerk File 314498).
3. Vote to pass CB 120369, adopting the alternative.
4. Vote to substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057 as shown in Attachment 1 to this memo. This substitute version would ask the Seattle City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to place both I-134 and its alternative on the ballot.

If both I-134 and an alternative are placed on the ballot, the City Attorney's Office will draft the language that describes how they are voted on. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [29.72A.050](#) requires that the question on the ballot of whether to adopt either of the measures use the following questions:

1. Should either of these measures be enacted into law?  
Yes  
No
2. Regardless of whether you voted yes or no above, if one of these measures is enacted, which one should it be?  
Proposition 1 A  
Proposition 1 B

---

<sup>1</sup> "Reject" is the term used in the City Charter for the Council's position toward an initiative it declines to enact. The Council's act of rejecting an initiative does not necessarily convey opposition to or support for the initiative. If the Council intends to voice collective approval or collective disapproval of I-134, it should adopt a separate Resolution stating its reasons for doing so.

<sup>2</sup> Technically, this would be a "special election" on the November 8 ballot. State law classifies voting on any ballot measure as a "special election." This special election would be placed on the November 8 ballot for elective offices and would appear alongside those races in the voter's pamphlet.

If a majority of voters select “yes” on question 1, a new system for primaries will be adopted. The system that gets the most votes in question 2 will be implemented.

If a majority of voters select “no” in question 1, no new system for primaries will be adopted.

### **Next Steps**

If the Council acts on I-134 before August 2, the City Clerk will take the necessary actions to file the Initiative with King County Elections on the November 8, 2022, ballot, either with or without the alternative contained in CB 120369 as described above.

If either I-134 or its alternative is approved by the voters, it would go into effect shortly after the election is certified. I-134 would go into effect by the 2025 election. CB 120369 would go into effect by the 2027 election.

### **Attachments:**

1. Substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057, moving both I-134 and CB 120369 to November 8 Election

cc: Esther Handy, Director  
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director  
Yolanda Ho, Lead Analyst

Lish Whitson  
City Council  
July 14, 2022  
D1

**Substitute Version 2 to RES 32057: A resolution regarding a voter-proposed Initiative Measure**

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Lewis

Substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057 for Version 1 if the Council has voted to send an alternative to Initiative 134 to the ballot

**Effect:** Resolution 32057 asks the Seattle City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to undertake the steps necessary to place Initiative 134 on the November ballot.

Substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057 asks the Seattle City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to undertake the steps necessary to place Initiative 134 and the alternative measure contained in Council Bill 120369 on the ballot together.

If the Council has voted in support of Council Bill 120369, it should move this substitute version of Resolution 32057. If the Council has not voted in support of Council Bill 120369, it should not move this version of the Resolution.

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

A RESOLUTION regarding Initiative 134 concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections (rejected by the City Council on July 14, 2022); authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable proposed Initiative 134 to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and the local voters’ pamphlet in conjunction with the Ranked Choice Voting proposal (City Council Bill 120369), which is a proposed alternative measure on the same subject matter in accordance with Charter Article IV; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed Initiative 134 and its alternate on the November 8, 2022, election ballot in accordance with applicable law; and providing for the publication of such proposed Initiative Measure and its alternate.

..body

WHEREAS, proponents submitted to the City Clerk a ballot measure petition concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections (which the City Clerk designated as Seattle Initiative No. 134 in Clerk File No. 322196); and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk forwarded the petition to the Director of King County Elections for certification of whether the petition bears a sufficient number of valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, the Director of King County Elections has certified that the Initiative No. 134 petition bears sufficient valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 provides that, if the City Council does not enact an initiative bill or measure bearing a sufficient number of signatures, it shall be the duty of the City Council to submit the initiative measure to the voters of the City for their ratification or rejection; and

1 WHEREAS, in accordance with Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 the City Council has  
2 rejected Initiative 134 and has adopted an alternative, Council Bill 120369; and

3 WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Initiative 134 and Council Bill 120369 conflict in certain  
4 particulars regarding the voting procedures for candidates in primary elections; and

5 WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to place both Initiative 134 and its alternative on the ballot  
6 for consideration by the voters of the City of Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

7 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

8 Section 1. In accordance with City Charter Article IV, the Council reviewed Initiative  
9 134 and rejected it by motion approved by the Council. The Council hereby directs that Initiative  
10 134 be placed on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot to be voted on by the people, in  
11 accordance with applicable law.

12 Section 2. Pursuant to City Charter Article IV, Section 1, in addition to placing Initiative  
13 134 on the ballot, the Council adopted Council Bill (CB) 120369, an alternative measure dealing  
14 with the same subject as Initiative 134. CB 120369 and Initiative 134 conflict in several  
15 particulars. The Council is placing CB 120369 on the November 8, 2022, general election ballot  
16 to be voted on by the people at the same time as Initiative 134.

17 Section 3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to  
18 place City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 filed in Clerk File (CF) 322196, a copy of which  
19 is attached as Attachment A to this resolution in conjunction with CB 120369, on the November  
20 8, 2022, election ballot, including but not limited to publishing the proposed Initiative Measure  
21 and its alternate as provided by the City Charter.

22 Section 4. The Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission is authorized  
23 and requested to take those actions necessary to place information regarding City of Seattle

1 Initiative Measure No. 134 in conjunction with CB 120369 in the November 8, 2022, voters'  
2 pamphlet.

3 Section 5. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio  
4 supervisor of elections, is requested to call for a special election and place City of Seattle  
5 Initiative Measure No. 134 in conjunction with CB 120369 on the November 8, 2022, ballot, and  
6 in accordance with applicable law.

7 Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022,  
8 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

12 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)

16 Attachments:  
17 Attachment A - City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 (from Clerk File 322196)



info@seattleapproves.org · [seattleapproves.org](http://seattleapproves.org) · (206) 569-4721  
 Please return signed petitions to PO Box 22322, Seattle, WA 98102

**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.

**INITIATIVE PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL.** 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 enactment as an ordinance of the measure known as **Initiative Measure No. 134** entitled:

City of Seattle Initiative Measure 134 concerns allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections. This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council to select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office would advance to the general election, consistent with state law. The City would consult with King County to include instructions on the primary ballot such as "vote for AS MANY as you approve of" for each office.

Should this measure be approved?

- Yes
- No

a full, true, and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to enact said measure as an ordinance; and, if not enacted within forty-five (45) days from the time of receipt thereof by the City Council, then to be submitted to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next regular election or at a special election in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 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.**

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER)	DATE SIGNED
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			



---

AN ACT related to voting in city primary elections

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:**

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.18 is added to Title 2 of the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**CHAPTER 2.18 APPROVAL VOTING IN CITY PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**2.18.010. Findings**

The People find that a healthy and strong representative democracy depends on voting that allows the people to fully express their will. The City is empowered to provide for its own elections of officers consistent with general election laws, which includes the use of a primary election to winnow candidates to a final list of two for the general election based on the number of votes cast for each candidate. The People find that approval voting allows voters to select ANY candidates whom they support, allowing for the election of candidates with support from the most voters and reflecting a better representation of the voters' will. Approval voting will provide significant improvement in the city's electoral system while still assuring that the two candidates with the greatest number of votes advance from the primary election to the general election.

**2.18.020. Approval voting**

In the primary elections for the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, and members of the City Council, voters may select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the greatest total number of votes for each office shall advance to the general election consistent with state law.

**2.18.030. Ballot instructions**

For any election subject to this chapter, the City Clerk shall consult with the appropriate King County officials to ensure that the ballot includes appropriate instructions to voters to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, such as: "Vote for AS MANY as you approve of," with "AS MANY" being written in uppercase.

Section 2. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented as soon as practicable, and by no later than 2025.



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
**CENTRAL STAFF**

# **Initiative 134 “Approval Voting” and Council Bill 120369 “Ranked Choice Voting”**

---

LISH WHITSON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
JULY 14, 2022

# Initiative 134 – Timeline for Council action

---

- June 28 Certificate of sufficient signatures filed
- August 2 Deadline to place measures on the November 8 Ballot
- August 9 Deadline for Council action under the City Charter

# Options for voting in Seattle primaries

---

- Current system: “Choose One Voting”
- Initiative 134: “Approval Voting”
- Council Bill 120369: “Ranked Choice Voting”

# Current System: “Choose One Voting”

---


- Voters select the candidate they want to win
- The two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes advance to the general election

# Initiative 134: “Approval Voting”

---

- Voters select as many candidates as they approve of for each office (can vote for more than one candidate)
- The two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes advance to the general election

# St. Louis 2021 Mayoral Election – Approval Voting

<p><u>For Polling Place Judges Only</u>          [       ] [       ]          WARD       PCT.          [       ] [       ]          JUDGES' INITIALS</p>	<p><b>OFFICIAL BALLOT</b>  <b>PRIMARY MUNICIPAL ELECTION</b>  <b>CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI</b>  <b>MARCH 2, 2021</b>  <b>ALL RACES</b></p>	 <b>ST. LOUIS BOARD OF ELECTION          COMMISSIONERS</b>
<p><b><u>ATTENTION VOTERS</u></b></p> <p><b>Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of in each race.</b></p>		
<p>TO VOTE, COMPLETELY DARKEN THE OVAL(S) TO THE LEFT OF YOUR CHOICE(S), LIKE THIS: ●</p>		
<p><b>FOR MAYOR</b> (Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of)</p>	<p><b>FOR ALDERMAN WARD 5</b> (Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of)</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> LEWIS REED  <input type="radio"/> CARA SPENCER  <input type="radio"/> TISHAURA O. JONES  <input type="radio"/> ANDREW JONES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> JAMES PAGE  <input type="radio"/> TAMMIKA HUBBARD</p>	
<p><b>FOR COMPTROLLER</b> (Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of)</p>	<p><b>FOR ALDERMAN WARD 7</b> (Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of)</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> DARLENE GREEN</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> JACK COATAR  <input type="radio"/> SHEDRICK [NATO CALIPH] KELLEY</p>	
	<p><b>FOR ALDERMAN</b></p>	

# St. Louis 2021 Mayoral Election – Approval Voting Results

	Primary Voters	Primary Votes	Votes per Voter
Mayoral Primary	44,571	69,661	1.56

Candidates	Primary Votes	% of Voters	General Votes	% of Votes
Lewis Reed	17,186	39%		
Cara Spencer	20,659	46%	27,865	48%
Tishuara Jones	25,388	57%	30,166	52%
Andrew Jones	6,428	14%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,661</b>	<b>156%</b>	<b>58,031</b>	<b>100%</b>



# CB 120369: “Ranked Choice Voting”

---

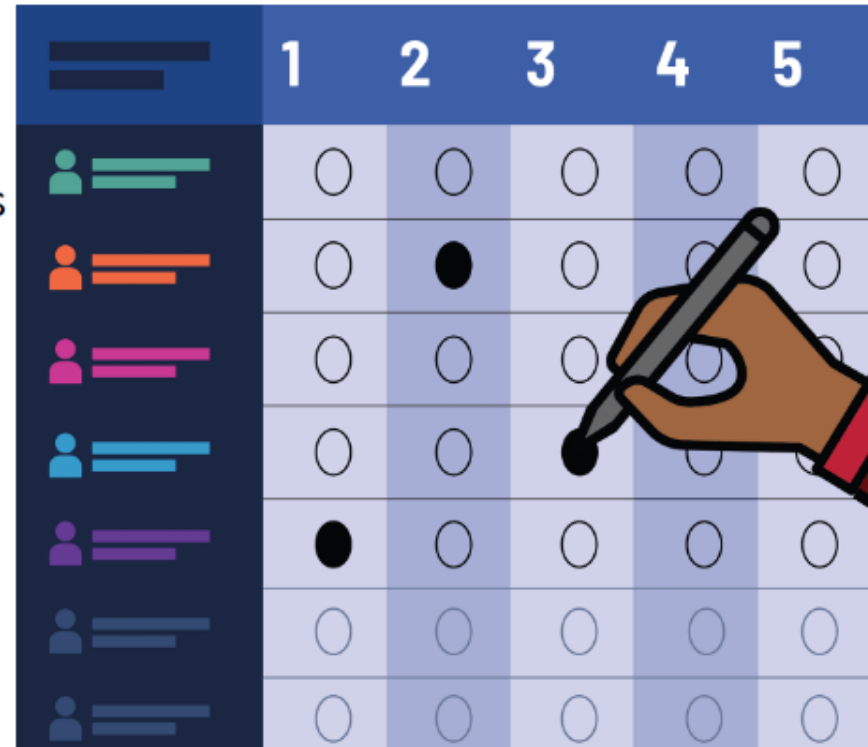
- Voters rank up to 5 candidates in order of preference.
- Counting occurs in rounds
- After each round, lowest-ranked candidate eliminated
- Voter’s ballots count a single vote for the remaining candidate the voter has ranked highest
- The two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes advance to the general election

# New York City “Ranked Choice Voting” Instructions

## How to Mark Your Ballot

**Mark your ballot by order of preference.**

- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like
- Choose one candidate for each column
- 1st choice - Pick your favorite candidate
- 2nd choice - Fill in second column
- Followed by your 3rd, 4th and 5th choice



Source: Board of Elections in the City of New York, <https://vote.ny/page/ranked-choice-voting>

# New York 2021 Democratic Mayoral Primary Ranked Choice Voting (Top 5 Choices)

	Voters	Candidates	Rounds of Counting
Mayoral Election	942,031	14	8

Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
Eric Adams	289,403	289,603	390,055	291,806	295,798	317,092	354,657	404,513
Katherine Garcia	184,463	184,571	184,669	186,731	191,876	223,634	266,932	397,316
Maya Wiley	201,127	201,193	201,518	206,013	209,108	239,174	254,728	Eliminated
Andrew Yang	115,130	115,301	115,502	118,008	121,597	135,686	Eliminated	
* * *								
Aaron Foldenauer	7,742	7,758	7,819	Eliminated				
Art Chang	7,048	7,064	7,093	Eliminated				
Paperboy Prince	3,964	4,007	4,060	Eliminated				
Joycelyn Taylor	2,662	2,683	2,780	Eliminated				
Isaac Wright Jr.	2,242	2,254	Eliminated					

# Council Options under the Charter

---

**Article IV, Section 1, C: COUNCIL MAY ENACT OR REJECT BUT NOT MODIFY; COUNCIL MAY PASS SUBSTITUTE:**

The City Council may enact, or reject, any initiative bill or measure, but shall not amend or modify the same. It may, however, after rejection of any initiative bill or measure, propose and pass a different one dealing with the same subject.

# Council Options: Enact or Reject

---

## Enacting

- File Certificate of Sufficiency (CF 314495)
- Adopt an Ordinance enacting the provisions of I-134

## Rejecting (aka Not Enacting)

- File Certificate of Sufficiency (CF 314495)
- Adopt a Resolution placing the Initiative on the Ballot (Res 32057)

Optional: Adopt a Resolution of Support or Opposition

# Council options: Alternative approach to Issue

---

## Proposing an alternative to go on the ballot

- File Certificate of Sufficiency (CF 314495)
- File Council intent to reject Initiative and propose an alternative (CF 314498)
- Adopt Council Bill enacting the alternative (CB 120369)
- Pass a Resolution placing I-134 and the alternative on the ballot (Substitute Version 2)

# Ballot questions if there is an alternative

---

1. Should either of these measures be enacted into law?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Regardless of whether you voted yes or no above, if one of these measures is enacted, which one should it be?

Proposition 1 A (Approval Voting) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposition 1 B (Ranked Choice Voting) \_\_\_\_\_

# Questions?





Legislation Text

---

**File #:** CF 314495, **Version:** 1

---

Report of the City Clerk on the Certificate of Sufficiency for Initiative No. 134, concerning approval voting for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Councilmember primary elections.

The Report is provided as an Attachment.



MONICA MARTINEZ SIMMONS  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Date: June 15, 2022

To: Seattle City Councilmembers  
*via E-mail: Council@seattle.gov*

From: Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

*Subject: Report on Sufficiency of Signatures for Proposed Initiative Measure No. 134 in re: approval voting for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Councilmember primary elections*

Please be advised on June 15, 2022, King County Department of Elections transmitted to the Office of the City Clerk a Certificate of Sufficiency notification for Initiative Measure No. 134, concerning approval voting for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Councilmember primary elections, proposed by Seattle Approves.

Upon completion of the petition signature verification process, in accordance with the provisions of Revised Code of Washington 35.21.005, King County Elections determined the required number of 26,520 to be registered voters and the petition was determined to be sufficient. The Certificate of Sufficiency is attached herewith, and the Petition is filed under Clerk File No. 322196.

Pursuant to Article IV(1)(B) of the Seattle City Charter, the City Clerk is required to transmit the verification of sufficiency, together with her report thereon to the City Council at a regular meeting not more than twenty (20) days after the City Clerk has received verification of the sufficiency of such petition signatures, and such transmission shall be the introduction of the Initiative Bill or measure to the City Council. This Report will be included on the City Council's June 28, 2022, Regular Meeting Agenda.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

*Attachments: 1. Certificate of Sufficiency  
2. Petition (Clerk File No. 322196)*

cc: Mayor Bruce Harrell  
Wayne Barnett, Executive Director, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission  
Ann Davison, City Attorney  
Gary Smith, Assistant City Attorney  
Esther Handy, Central Staff Director  
Lish Richard Whitson, Legislative Analyst, Council Central Staff  
Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Deputy Director, Office of the City Clerk



# Certificate of Sufficiency

This is to certify that the petition, originally submitted on May 9, 2022, to King County Elections, regarding the proposed City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134, has been examined and the signatures thereon carefully compared with the registration records of the King County Elections Department, and as a result of such examination, found the signatures to be sufficient as required by RCW 35.21.005 and City of Seattle Charter Article IV.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

---

on behalf of

Julie Wise

Director of Elections

**City of Seattle  
Legislative Department  
Office of the City Clerk**



Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

**PROPOSED INITIATIVE PETITION SUBMITTAL RECEIPT**

Initiative No. 134

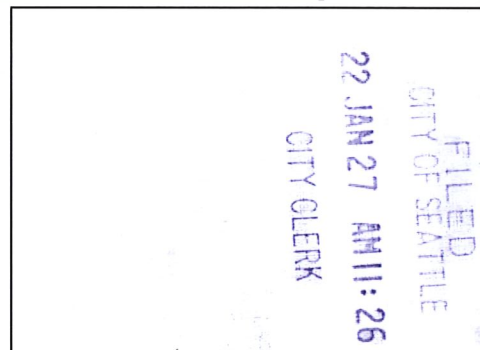
On January 27, 2022 at 11:26 a.m., I filed one paper and one electronic copy of a proposed Initiative Petition with the Seattle City Clerk.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Filed electronically +  
via drop box  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**CITY CLERK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

Date/Time Stamp:



Jaei  
Received by Jaei Dahlvang

January 27, 2022

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk  
600 4th Ave, Third Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104



Delivered by hand and electronically

**Subject:** Letter of transmittal - initiative petition

Hello,

For your review and approval, please find a printed copy of a proposed City of Seattle initiative petition and an electronic copy of the petition text.

This petition replaces a prior petition, which was filed on January 24, 2022 and was designated Initiative Measure No. 133. That petition was withdrawn on January 26, 2022.

For communications from your office or the City Attorney, please contact:

Troy Davis  
Seattle Approves  
PO Box 22322, Seattle, WA 98102

[campaign@seattleapproves.org](mailto:campaign@seattleapproves.org)  
(206) 569-4721

Thank you for reviewing this petition.

Regards,

Troy Davis  
Seattle Approves

Attachments: Printed 8.5x11" initiative petition; electronic copy of petition text

FILED  
CITY OF SEATTLE  
22 JAN 27 AM 11:26  
CITY CLERK

---

AN ACT related to voting in city primary elections

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:**

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.18 is added to Title 2 of the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**CHAPTER 2.18 APPROVAL VOTING IN CITY PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**2.18.010. Findings**

The People find that a healthy and strong representative democracy depends on voting that allows the people to fully express their will. The City is empowered to provide for its own elections of officers consistent with general election laws, which includes the use of a primary election to winnow candidates to a final list of two for the general election based on the number of votes cast for each candidate. The People find that approval voting allows voters to select ANY candidates whom they support, allowing for the election of candidates with support from the most voters and reflecting a better representation of the voters' will. Approval voting will provide significant improvement in the city's electoral system while still assuring that the two candidates with the greatest number of votes advance from the primary election to the general election.

**2.18.020. Approval voting**

In the primary elections for the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, and members of the City Council, voters may select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the greatest total number of votes for each office shall advance to the general election consistent with state law.

**2.18.030. Ballot instructions**

For any election subject to this chapter, the City Clerk shall consult with the appropriate King County officials to ensure that the ballot includes appropriate instructions to voters to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, such as: "Vote for AS MANY as you approve of," with "AS MANY" being written in uppercase.

Section 2. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented as soon as practicable, and by no later than 2025.

---

FILED  
CITY OF SEATTLE  
22 JAN 27 AM 11:26  
CITY CLERK



# Seattle Approves

info@seattleapproves.org · [seattleapproves.org](http://seattleapproves.org) · (206) 569-4721

Please return signed petitions to: PO Box 22322, Seattle, WA 98102

## INITIATIVE \_\_\_\_

INITIATIVE PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL. 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 enactment as an ordinance of the measure known as Initiative Measure No. \_\_\_\_ entitled:

(here set forth the established ballot title of the measure),

a full, true, and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to enact said measure as an ordinance; and, if not enacted within forty-five (45) days from the time of receipt thereof by the City Council, then to be submitted to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next regular election or at a special election in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 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:** 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.

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER)	DATE SIGNED
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** CF 314498, **Version:** 1

---

City Council motion and declaration of City Council intent to reject Initiative No. 134, relating to voting in city primary elections and placing Initiative No. 134 on the November 8, 2022 ballot in conjunction with the Ranked Choice Voting measure (Council Bill 120369), a proposed alternative measure on the same matter.

The Clerk File is provided as an attachment.





# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: FOR CLERK FILE No. 314498

July 14, 2022

## CITY COUNCIL MOTION AND DECLARATION OF CITY COUNCIL INTENT

In accordance with City Charter Article IV, Section 1, the Council hereby rejects Initiative 134, intends on this same day to adopt a different measure (Council Bill 120369) dealing with the same subject but conflicting in several particulars, and directs that both measures be placed on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot to be voted on by the people, in accordance with applicable law. The Council intends to transmit to King County Elections the rejected Initiative 134 via City Council Resolution.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022,  
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

(Seal)



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** CB 120369, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE relating to ranked choice voting; requesting that a special election be held concurrent with the November 8, 2022 general election for submission to the qualified electors of the City of a proposition to institute ranked choice voting for primary elections for City of Seattle elected offices; adding a new Chapter 2.18 to the Seattle Municipal Code; proposing a ballot title; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.18 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**Chapter 2.18 PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**2.18.010 Findings**

The City Council makes the following findings of fact and declarations:

- A. A healthy and strong representative democracy depends on voting that allows the people to fully express their will.
- B. The City is empowered to provide for its own election of officers consistent with general election laws, which includes the use of a primary election to winnow candidates to a final list of two for the general election based on the number of votes cast for each candidate.
- C. Ranked choice voting allows voters to indicate their order of preference for the candidates running in each race and allows for the election of candidates with the greatest support from voters, better reflecting the voters' will.
- D. Ranked choice voting has been used successfully in elections in states and cities across the United States.

### **2.18.020 Ranked choice voting**

Ranked choice voting shall be used in City of Seattle primary elections as soon as practicable for King County Elections. The City Council requests that King County Elections implement the provisions of this Chapter 2.18 no later than 2027 to select the top two candidates for elective offices of The City of Seattle as those offices are designated in City Charter Article XIX.

A. Nominating primaries shall be conducted using the bottoms-up method of ranked choice voting. Voters shall receive ballots that enable them to rank candidates in order of preference. King County Elections shall count votes in rounds. In each round, the candidate who received the fewest first choices shall be eliminated and the ballot with each vote cast for the eliminated candidate shall be transferred to that ballot's next-highest ranked remaining candidate. Counting of top-ranked candidates and elimination of the lowest-ranked candidate shall continue until two candidates remain. Each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever of the two remaining candidates the voter has ranked higher. The final two remaining candidates shall be certified as qualified to appear on the general election ballot.

B. Only the two candidates nominated in the primary shall appear on the ballot of the general election, which shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election.

C. The King County Director of Elections may limit the number of candidates that voters are able to rank, provided that voters are allowed to rank at least five candidates, excluding any write-in candidates, if at least five candidates have filed.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section 2.18.020, if at the end of the candidate filing period two or fewer candidates have filed for an office subject to this Chapter 2.18, the election for that office may be conducted according to general law.

E. For any election subject to this Chapter 2.18, King County Elections will ensure that the ballot includes appropriate instructions to voters to effectuate the purposes of this Chapter 2.18, such as: "Rank candidates in the order of your choice."

Section 2. The City Council and Mayor find that this ordinance is on the same subject as proposed in Initiative 134 - Seattle Approves. The City Council has rejected Initiative 134 and proposes this ordinance as an alternative measure on the same subject pursuant to City Charter Article IV, Section 1. The City Council directs that the City Clerk file this ordinance with the Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of elections, requesting that the Director of Elections call and conduct a special election in the City in conjunction with the state general election to be held on November 8, 2022, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this ordinance pursuant to City Charter Article IV, Section 1 and applicable law as an alternative measure different from Initiative 134 but dealing with the same subject. The City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved by the City Attorney in accordance with responsibilities under RCW 29A.36.071 and RCW 29A.72.050. The following ballot title statement of subject and concise description are submitted to the City Attorney for consideration:

City of Seattle Proposition No. \_\_ concerns allowing voters to rank candidates in primary elections. This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Councilmembers to rank candidates in the voter's order of preference. Each voter's top-ranked vote would be counted first, and the candidate receiving the fewest votes would be eliminated. If a voter's first choice received the fewest votes, then that voter's second choice would be counted in the next round, and so on until two candidates remain to proceed to the general election.

Section 3. Certification of such proposition by the City Clerk to the King County Director of Elections in accordance with law prior to the date of such election on November 8, 2022, and any other act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance, are ratified and confirmed.

Section 4. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of its application to any person or circumstance, does not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or

the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 5. To the extent necessary to submit this ordinance to the vote of the people pursuant to Charter Article IV, subsection 1.D: this ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020. If approved by the people, this ordinance shall take full effect pursuant to Charter Article IV, subsections 1.F and 1.G.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

(Seal)

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Lish Whitson/206-615-1674	N/A

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to ranked choice voting; requesting that a special election be held concurrent with the November 8, 2022 general election for submission to the qualified electors of the City of a proposition to institute ranked choice voting for primary elections for City of Seattle elected offices; adding a new Chapter 2.18 to the Seattle Municipal Code; proposing a ballot title; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

This ordinance would place on the ballot Ranked Choice Voting for primaries in the City of Seattle as an alternative Initiative 134, which would implement approval voting.

Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. Counting of ballots would occur in rounds. In each round, voters' top choice would be counted. After each round, the lowest-ranked candidate would be eliminated, and their voters' next ranked choices would be counted. Counting would stop once the top two primary candidates have been chosen.

In order to provide sufficient time to implement this voting system, the legislation would go into effect as soon as practicable and no later than 2027.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?      \_\_\_ Yes   X   No

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?      \_\_\_ Yes   X   No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

The legislation may increase the costs of elections while King County Elections updates their tabulation system. Implementation of ranked choice voting and approval voting would each require additional outreach and education to voters. Ranked Choice Voting ballots may need to be longer than current ballots, increasing paper costs. King County Elections estimates that these increased costs could be in the range of \$2 million to \$4 million. The City of Seattle would be required to pay some if not all of these costs.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

No

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

The City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections would have roles in placing this measure on the ballot.

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No, however, public comment is required.

**c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

**d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

Experience in other jurisdictions indicates that in the first year of implementation of ranked choice voting, extra voter education is required. King County Elections would lead this outreach and implement a language access plan.

**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

No

**2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

No

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

Ranked-choice voting allows voters to indicate their order of preference for the candidates running in each race and is intended to allow for the election of candidates with the greatest

support from voters, better reflecting the voters' will. This would be measured in voters' satisfaction in the officials elected.



Amendment 1 Version 2 to Council Bill 120369 AN ORDINANCE relating to ranked choice voting

Sponsor: Councilmember Lewis

Clarify language in Council Bill 120369

**Effect:** This amendment would make clarify language in Council Bill 120369 regarding ranked choice voting.

1) Under the proposed bill, each voter would be able to rank their choices of five candidates to move on to the general election. Counting would occur in rounds. The lowest-ranked candidate would be eliminated in each round. If a candidate's first choice is eliminated, their next highest-ranked choice counts as their vote for the next rounds.

The proposed amendments to section 2.18.020 A clarify that each voter's ballot counts as a single vote for whichever candidate the voter has ranked highest in all rounds, not just the final round where there are two candidates left and makes other changes to clarify how ranked choice voting would work.

2) Under the proposed bill King County Elections must allow voters to rank at least five candidates. As drafted, the bill would exclude write-in candidates from that total. The proposed change to section 2.18.020 C would count a write-in candidate as among those five candidates that a voter could rank. State law (RCW 29A.60.021) provides for voters to write-in candidates and specifies when write-in votes should be counted. This amendment removes potential confusion regarding those write-in votes.

Amend proposed Section 2.18.020 in Section 1 of Council Bill 120369, as follows:

**2.18.020 Ranked choice voting**

Ranked choice voting shall be used in City of Seattle primary elections as soon as practicable for King County Elections. The City Council requests that King County Elections implement the provisions of this Chapter 2.18 no later than 2027 to select the top two candidates for elective offices of The City of Seattle as those offices are designated in City Charter Article XIX.

A. Nominating primaries shall be conducted using the bottoms-up method of ranked choice voting. Voters shall receive ballots that enable them to rank candidates in order of

preference. Each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever candidate the voter has ranked the highest. King County Elections shall count votes in rounds. In each round, the candidate who received the fewest ~~((first choices))~~ top rankings shall be eliminated. ~~((and the ballot with each))~~ When a candidate is eliminated, a vote cast for ~~((the eliminated))~~ that candidate shall be transferred to that ballot's next-highest ranked remaining candidate and a new round of counting shall begin. Counting of top-ranked candidates and elimination of the ~~((lowest ranked))~~ candidate with the fewest top rankings shall continue until two candidates remain. ~~((Each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever of the two remaining candidates the voter has ranked higher.))~~ The final two remaining candidates shall be certified as qualified to appear on the general election ballot.

\* \* \*

C. The King County Director of Elections may limit the number of candidates that voters are able to rank, provided that voters are allowed to rank at least five candidates, ~~((excluding any write-in candidates,))~~ if at least five candidates have filed.

\* \* \*



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Res 32057, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION regarding a voter-proposed Initiative Measure concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections; authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed Initiative Measure to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed Initiative Measure on the November 8, 2022, election ballot; and providing for the publication of such proposed Initiative Measure.

WHEREAS, proponents submitted to the City Clerk a ballot measure petition concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections (which the City Clerk designated as Seattle Initiative No. 134 in Clerk File No. 322196); and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk forwarded the petition to the Director of King County Elections for certification of whether the petition bears a sufficient number of valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, the Director of King County Elections has certified that the Initiative No. 134 petition bears sufficient valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 provides that, if the City Council does not enact an initiative bill or measure bearing a sufficient number of signatures, it shall be the duty of the City Council to submit the initiative measure to the voters of the City for their ratification or rejection; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

Section 1. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to place City of

Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 filed in Clerk File 322196, a copy of which is attached as Attachment A to this resolution, on the November 8, 2022, election ballot, including but not limited to publishing the proposed Initiative Measure as provided by the City Charter.

Section 2. The Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission is authorized and requested to take those actions necessary to place information regarding City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 in the November 8, 2022, voters' pamphlet.

Section 3. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of elections, is requested to call for a special election and place City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 on the November 8, 2022, ballot, with the following ballot title approved by the Seattle City Attorney:

City of Seattle Initiative Measure 134 concerns allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections.

This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council to select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office would advance to the general election, consistent with state law. The City would consult with King County to include instructions on the primary ballot such as "vote for AS MANY as you approve of" for each office.

Should this measure be approved?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

---

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 (from Clerk File 322196)



info@seattleapproves.org · [seattleapproves.org](http://seattleapproves.org) · (206) 569-4721  
 Please return signed petitions to PO Box 22322, Seattle, WA 98102

**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.

**INITIATIVE PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL.** 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 enactment as an ordinance of the measure known as **Initiative Measure No. 134** entitled:

City of Seattle Initiative Measure 134 concerns allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections. This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council to select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office would advance to the general election, consistent with state law. The City would consult with King County to include instructions on the primary ballot such as "vote for AS MANY as you approve of" for each office.

Should this measure be approved?

- Yes
- No

a full, true, and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to enact said measure as an ordinance; and, if not enacted within forty-five (45) days from the time of receipt thereof by the City Council, then to be submitted to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next regular election or at a special election in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 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.**

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER)	DATE SIGNED
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

---

AN ACT related to voting in city primary elections

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:**

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.18 is added to Title 2 of the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**CHAPTER 2.18 APPROVAL VOTING IN CITY PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**2.18.010. Findings**

The People find that a healthy and strong representative democracy depends on voting that allows the people to fully express their will. The City is empowered to provide for its own elections of officers consistent with general election laws, which includes the use of a primary election to winnow candidates to a final list of two for the general election based on the number of votes cast for each candidate. The People find that approval voting allows voters to select ANY candidates whom they support, allowing for the election of candidates with support from the most voters and reflecting a better representation of the voters' will. Approval voting will provide significant improvement in the city's electoral system while still assuring that the two candidates with the greatest number of votes advance from the primary election to the general election.

**2.18.020. Approval voting**

In the primary elections for the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, and members of the City Council, voters may select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the greatest total number of votes for each office shall advance to the general election consistent with state law.

**2.18.030. Ballot instructions**

For any election subject to this chapter, the City Clerk shall consult with the appropriate King County officials to ensure that the ballot includes appropriate instructions to voters to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, such as: "Vote for AS MANY as you approve of," with "AS MANY" being written in uppercase.

Section 2. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented as soon as practicable, and by no later than 2025.

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Lish Whitson/206-615-1674	N/A

*\* 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:** A RESOLUTION regarding a voter-proposed Initiative Measure concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections; authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed Initiative Measure to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed Initiative Measure on the November 8, 2022, election ballot; and providing for the publication of such proposed Initiative Measure.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This resolution carries out the City Council's duty under Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 to transmit for ballot placement any voter-proposed initiative for which the petition received a sufficient number of signatures.

### 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**       Yes  No

### 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**       Yes  No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**  
No

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**  
The City Council is required under Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 to transmit for ballot placement any voter-proposed initiative for which the petition received a sufficient number of signatures

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
The legislation requests that the Office of the City Clerk and the Ethics and Elections Commission take the steps necessary to place the initiative on the November 8, 2022 ballot.



**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

**c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

**d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

None identified for this Resolution.

**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

No

**2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

No

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

This answer should highlight measurable outputs and outcomes.

Not applicable

**Summary Attachments:**

None

**Substitute Version 2 to RES 32057: A resolution regarding a voter-proposed Initiative Measure**

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Lewis

Substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057 for Version 1 if the Council has voted to send an alternative to Initiative 134 to the ballot

**Effect:** Resolution 32057 asks the Seattle City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to undertake the steps necessary to place Initiative 134 on the November ballot.

Substitute Version 2 of Resolution 32057 asks the Seattle City Clerk and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to undertake the steps necessary to place Initiative 134 and the alternative measure contained in Council Bill 120369 on the ballot together.

If the Council has voted in support of Council Bill 120369, it should move this substitute version of Resolution 32057. If the Council has not voted in support of Council Bill 120369, it should not move this version of the Resolution.

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

A RESOLUTION regarding Initiative 134 concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections (rejected by the City Council on July 14, 2022); authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable proposed Initiative 134 to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and the local voters’ pamphlet in conjunction with the Ranked Choice Voting proposal (City Council Bill 120369), which is a proposed alternative measure on the same subject matter in accordance with Charter Article IV; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed Initiative 134 and its alternate on the November 8, 2022, election ballot in accordance with applicable law; and providing for the publication of such proposed Initiative Measure and its alternate.

..body

WHEREAS, proponents submitted to the City Clerk a ballot measure petition concerning allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections (which the City Clerk designated as Seattle Initiative No. 134 in Clerk File No. 322196); and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk forwarded the petition to the Director of King County Elections for certification of whether the petition bears a sufficient number of valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, the Director of King County Elections has certified that the Initiative No. 134 petition bears sufficient valid signatures to qualify for introduction to the City Council as provided in Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 provides that, if the City Council does not enact an initiative bill or measure bearing a sufficient number of signatures, it shall be the duty of the City Council to submit the initiative measure to the voters of the City for their ratification or rejection; and

1 WHEREAS, in accordance with Seattle City Charter Article IV, Section 1 the City Council has  
2 rejected Initiative 134 and has adopted an alternative, Council Bill 120369; and

3 WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Initiative 134 and Council Bill 120369 conflict in certain  
4 particulars regarding the voting procedures for candidates in primary elections; and

5 WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to place both Initiative 134 and its alternative on the ballot  
6 for consideration by the voters of the City of Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

7 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

8 Section 1. In accordance with City Charter Article IV, the Council reviewed Initiative  
9 134 and rejected it by motion approved by the Council. The Council hereby directs that Initiative  
10 134 be placed on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot to be voted on by the people, in  
11 accordance with applicable law.

12 Section 2. Pursuant to City Charter Article IV, Section 1, in addition to placing Initiative  
13 134 on the ballot, the Council adopted Council Bill (CB) 120369, an alternative measure dealing  
14 with the same subject as Initiative 134. CB 120369 and Initiative 134 conflict in several  
15 particulars. The Council is placing CB 120369 on the November 8, 2022, general election ballot  
16 to be voted on by the people at the same time as Initiative 134.

17 Section 3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to  
18 place City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 filed in Clerk File (CF) 322196, a copy of which  
19 is attached as Attachment A to this resolution in conjunction with CB 120369, on the November  
20 8, 2022, election ballot, including but not limited to publishing the proposed Initiative Measure  
21 and its alternate as provided by the City Charter.

22 Section 4. The Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission is authorized  
23 and requested to take those actions necessary to place information regarding City of Seattle

1 Initiative Measure No. 134 in conjunction with CB 120369 in the November 8, 2022, voters'  
2 pamphlet.

3 Section 5. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio  
4 supervisor of elections, is requested to call for a special election and place City of Seattle  
5 Initiative Measure No. 134 in conjunction with CB 120369 on the November 8, 2022, ballot, and  
6 in accordance with applicable law.

7 Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022,  
8 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

12 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)

16 Attachments:  
17 Attachment A - City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 134 (from Clerk File 322196)



info@seattleapproves.org · [seattleapproves.org](http://seattleapproves.org) · (206) 569-4721  
 Please return signed petitions to PO Box 22322, Seattle, WA 98102

**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.

**INITIATIVE PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL.** 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 enactment as an ordinance of the measure known as **Initiative Measure No. 134** entitled:

City of Seattle Initiative Measure 134 concerns allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates in primary elections. This measure would allow voters in primary elections for Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council to select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office would advance to the general election, consistent with state law. The City would consult with King County to include instructions on the primary ballot such as "vote for AS MANY as you approve of" for each office.

Should this measure be approved?

- Yes
- No

a full, true, and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to enact said measure as an ordinance; and, if not enacted within forty-five (45) days from the time of receipt thereof by the City Council, then to be submitted to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next regular election or at a special election in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 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.**

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER)	DATE SIGNED
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

---

AN ACT related to voting in city primary elections

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:**

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.18 is added to Title 2 of the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**CHAPTER 2.18 APPROVAL VOTING IN CITY PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**2.18.010. Findings**

The People find that a healthy and strong representative democracy depends on voting that allows the people to fully express their will. The City is empowered to provide for its own elections of officers consistent with general election laws, which includes the use of a primary election to winnow candidates to a final list of two for the general election based on the number of votes cast for each candidate. The People find that approval voting allows voters to select ANY candidates whom they support, allowing for the election of candidates with support from the most voters and reflecting a better representation of the voters' will. Approval voting will provide significant improvement in the city's electoral system while still assuring that the two candidates with the greatest number of votes advance from the primary election to the general election.

**2.18.020. Approval voting**

In the primary elections for the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, and members of the City Council, voters may select on the ballot as many candidates as they approve of for each office. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the greatest total number of votes for each office shall advance to the general election consistent with state law.

**2.18.030. Ballot instructions**

For any election subject to this chapter, the City Clerk shall consult with the appropriate King County officials to ensure that the ballot includes appropriate instructions to voters to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, such as: "Vote for AS MANY as you approve of," with "AS MANY" being written in uppercase.

Section 2. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented as soon as practicable, and by no later than 2025.