

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Legislative	Ben Noble	NA

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Ethics Code; prohibiting political consultants from concurrently performing consulting work with the City; establishing a cooling-off period for political consultants; adding a new Section 4.16.072 to the Seattle Municipal Code; and amending Section 4.16.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

This Revised Summary and Fiscal Note highlights the changes to CB 121130 based on a Substitute Version passed in the Governance, Accountability, and Economic Development Committee on December 11, 2025.

In the revised CB 121130, the legislation would:

- Create a new section in SMC 4.16 Code of Ethics
- Defines the term “political consultant” and “political consulting services” in the code of ethics and narrows the term to only those compensated to perform political consulting services. Volunteers are thereby not included within the regulations of CB 121130.
- Prohibit individuals from working with the City in a consulting capacity while concurrently providing services for an election campaign for city office or ballot measure.
- Establish a one year “cooling off” period after termination of a city consulting contract before the consultant can provide political consulting services. Likewise, it establishes a one-year “cooling off” period after termination of political consulting services work before a political consultant may accept a consulting contract with the City.
- Requires that a consultant accepting a City consulting contract attest in their City contract that they are not in violation of the newly created SMC 4.16.072.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please fill out the table below and attach a new (if creating a project) or marked-up (if amending) CIP Page to the Council Bill.
Please include the spending plan as part of the attached CIP Page. If no, please delete the table.

Project Name:	Master Project I.D.:	Project Location:	Start Date:	End Date:	Total Project Cost Through 2030:

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If there are no projected changes to expenditures, revenues, or positions, please delete the table below.

Expenditure Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			\$148,000	\$152,000	\$157,000
Expenditure Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			\$148,000	\$152,000	\$157,000

Revenue Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			\$0	\$0	\$0

Number of Positions	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			1.0	1.0	1.0
Total FTE Change	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
			1.0	1.0	1.0

If there are no changes to expenditures, revenues, or positions, please delete Sections 3.a, 3.b, and 3.c and answer the questions in Section 4.

The costs summarized in the table above reflect the addition of one Strategic Advisor II (SA II) position to staff and implement these new regulations. The duties of this position would include such things:

- Monitoring political consulting activities for code of ethics and election law violations;
- Investigating complaints derived from conduct of City consultants and political consultants; and
- Enforcing the Act, including rendering any civil penalties, participation in appeals, and performing related enforcement duties.

The cost estimate presented here assumes that this will require a dedicated full-time staff, but at this stage the volume of work is not known. Costs will vary from this estimate if substantially more or less staff time is needed to support the new work. In any case, this legislation does not appropriate funding for this position, nor does it authorize the creation of the new position. Subsequent legislation will be needed to provide sufficient funding and the required position authority. More information about the potential scope of the work might be available before the funding and position authority are provided.

3.a. Appropriations

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

Fund Name / Number	Dept	Budget Control Level Name/Number*	2025 Appropriation Change	2026 Estimated Appropriation Change
TOTAL				

**See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.*

Appropriations Notes: This authorizing legislation does not appropriate the resources needed to implement the proposed regulatory structure. Separate legislative action, through a supplemental budget amendment, will be needed to create the required position and appropriate the funding needed for that position and the other attendant costs.

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Fund Name / Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2025 Revenue	2026 Revenue Est.
TOTAL				

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

3.c. Positions

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through This Legislation, Including FTE Impact:

Position # for Existing Positions	Position Title & Department*	Fund Name & Number	Program & BCL	PT/FT	2025 Positions	2025 FTE	Does it sunset? (If yes, explain below in Position Notes)
TOTAL							

** List each position separately.*

Position Notes: As described above, the legislation does not create the position needed to implement the proposed regulatory structure. Subsequent legislation will be needed to create and fund this new position.

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c?

It does not.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

There are none.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department. The legislation could reduce the number of potential consultants available to other departments to act as contract consultants, due to the disqualification of political consultants performing consulting work simultaneous to any campaign work or within one year of such work.

- a. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property.** No
- b. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.** – No analysis conducted.
- c. **Climate Change Implications** - None
- d. **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)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?** See legislative summary on the first page.

5. CHECKLIST

Please click the appropriate box if any of these questions apply to this legislation.

- ☐ **Is a public hearing required?** No
- ☐ **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?** No
- ☐ **If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?** N/A
- ☐ **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?** No
If yes, please review requirements in Resolution 31203 for applicability and complete and attach “Additional risk analysis and fiscal analysis for non-utility partner projects” form.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: