

Amendment 1 Version 3 to RES 32173 - Council Rules Updates

Sponsor: Councilmember Kettle

Amendment Deadlines

Effect: This amendment adds a deadline to the Council Rules for Standing Committees and Select Committees sections by which an amendment must be reviewed by the Law Department and circulated to members, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk in order for the amendment to be presented at a meeting. An amendment must be transmitted to these entities 24 hours before the meeting. This amendment is intended to bring consistency to the Council's amendment development process and allow greater time for amendment drafting, legal review, and clerk functions. Additionally, this amendment requires 24 hour advance notice of amendments for City Council Meetings.

1. Amend Resolution XX Attachment 1 General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council to amend Rule III.A.8 as follows:

III. City Council Business

A. Legislation – Introduction; Referral; Requirements.

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8. Amendments to Bills and Resolutions shall not be presented at a City Council meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least ~~((two hours before the meeting))~~ 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. In cases, including but not limited to, amendments to development regulations subject to the Growth Management Act, a statute may require additional public notice and opportunity for public comment before an amended Bill may be passed.

2. Amend Resolution XX Attachment 1 General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council to add a new subsection to Rule VI.H.4. and renumber subsequent subsections as follows:

VI. Standing Committees

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H. Voting, Referral, and Reporting.

1. Only members of a standing committee (or the alternate if serving as a member) may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.
2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment shall be limited to recommendations for the City Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.
3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.

4. Amendments to Bills and Resolutions shall not be presented at a meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk. Circulation via email must occur at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

~~((4.))~~ 5. Referral.

- a. A Committee may recommend legislation to the next regular City Council meeting if the vote to refer occurs before 1 p.m. on the Thursday before the next regular Council meeting and such vote is unanimous. If the vote occurs after 1 p.m. on the Thursday before the next regular City Council meeting and/or the vote is non-unanimous, then the legislation shall be referred to the second City Council meeting after the date of referral.
- b. The Council President retains discretion to set agendas for regular and special City Council meetings. A Committee that refers legislation may include a referral date preference to a particular regular City Council meeting.
- c. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.

~~((5.))~~ 6. Committee Reports. Committees shall report their final recommendations on legislation to the City Council. Reports shall include the committee recommendation, the names of CMs in attendance and the decision of each CM on the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, or abstaining from voting. Reports of standing committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings.

~~((6.))~~ 7. Divided Votes. A report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation, including an indication of how each CM voted and a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.

- a. Such reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. If a report is made, it shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.

- b. When the City Council receives such report, the first position considered shall be the majority position (or the Chair's position if there is no majority).

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3. Amend Resolution XX Attachment 1 General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council to add a new subsection to Rule VII.G.4. and renumber subsequent subsections as follows:

VII. Select Committees

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G. Voting, Referral, and Reporting

1. Only members of a select committee meeting may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.

2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, is limited to recommendations for the City Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.

3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.

4. Amendments to Bills and Resolutions shall not be presented at a meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk. Circulation via email must occur at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

~~((4.))~~ 5. Referral.

a. A Committee may recommend legislation to the next regular City Council meeting if the vote to refer occurs before 1 p.m. on the Thursday before the next regular Council meeting and such vote is unanimous. If the vote occurs after 1 p.m. on the Thursday before the next regular City Council meeting and/or the vote is non-unanimous, then the legislation shall be referred to the second City Council meeting after the date of referral.

b. The Council President retains discretion to set agendas for regular and special City Council meetings. A Committee that refers legislation may include a referral date preference to a particular regular City Council meeting.

c. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.

~~((5.))~~ 6. Committee Reports: Committees shall report their final recommendations on legislation reported to the City Council. Reports shall include committee recommendation, the names of CMs in

attendance and the decision of each CMs on the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, or abstaining from voting. Reports of select committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings.

~~((6-))~~ 7. Divided Votes. A report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation, including an indication of how each CM voted and a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.

a. Such reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. If a report is made, it shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.

b. When the City Council receives such report, the first position considered shall be the majority position (or the Chair's position if there is no majority).

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