

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</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 submitting a proposition to the qualified electors of the City to amend Section 2 of Article IV and Section 3 of Article XIX of the City Charter to provide for changes to the terms of office under specified conditions; authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed amendment to appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot and in the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed amendment on the November 5, 2024 ballot; and providing for publication of the amendment.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

This Resolution would place a proposed Charter Amendment on the next general election ballot to modify City Council terms. Under the current City Charter, the seven Council district positions are up for election at the same time. The two Citywide Council positions are up for election two years after the district election position.

The proposed Charter Amendment would change Councilmember terms by limiting the term terms for District seats 2, 4, and 6 to two years starting in 2027. All even-numbered Council positions and the two citywide positions would be up for election in 2029, 2033, 2037 and every four years after that. Terms for the odd District seats would end in 2027, 2031, 2035 and every four years after that. Those positions would then be up for four-year terms after subsequent elections.

### 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?**

Yes, if the proposed Charter Amendment is approved by the voters, there would be four positions up for election 2025 and 2027 that otherwise would not be up for election. Those additional positions would require additional funding for democracy vouchers. Costs to the City for democracy vouchers for one race average \$750,000. So, the total increased cost of

adding these races would be \$2,250,000. The Democracy Voucher program is funded through a dedicated levy which runs through 2025 and can accommodate the increased costs in 2025. The levy will be up for renewal in 2025 and can be sized to accommodate the additional costs for three additional races in 2027.

King County elections allocates costs for participating in elections based on the number of registered voters in each jurisdiction. Consequently, changing the number of candidates on the ballot would not change those costs. Costs for mailing the voters pamphlet are allocated the same way.

However, costs for preparing and printing the voters pamphlet is driven by the number of pages in the voters' pamphlet for each jurisdiction. There would be some increased cost to the City to have additional positions on the ballot in 2025, but it would be a relatively small share of all costs and would be driven by the number of candidates for these positions.

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

None identified

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
Changing Council terms could require the Democracy Voucher program of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to offer vouchers to additional candidates in 2025 and 2027.
- 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?**  
District 2 is the most diverse Council District, and the only majority Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) district in Seattle. District 6 is the least diverse Council district. The Councilmember elected in 2027 to each of these positions would serve for a two-year term, alongside the Councilmember representing District 4. These positions would have elections three times over seven years, rather than three times over nine years. Campaign costs would increase in these districts over this period, and these districts may have less stable representation on the Council over this period.

**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)?**

Not applicable.

DRAFT