

Amendment B to CB 121130 – Consultant Ethics

Sponsor: Councilmember Saka

Council commitment regarding the delegation of rulemaking authority to SEEC

Effect: This amendment memorializes a commitment by the Full Council if Council at some point in the future considers further amendments to the Code of Ethics. If this circumstance arises, Council will consult with the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission (SEEC) regarding delegation of rulemaking authority over the code of ethics for elected officials. While this Council cannot bind the hands of future Councils, it can signal its strong intent on the direction of the Code of Ethics for the sake of public trust and accountability. For the last two years, the City Council has taken up revisions to the Code of Ethics provisions that impact and regulate elected officials. Each time this exercise has been met with public scrutiny and distrust over the motives and consequences of the ethics code amendments. In order to strengthen public trust and ensure independent regulation of Seattle's elected leaders, Council should only take up the code of ethics again if it intends to pursue greater rulemaking authority for the SEEC whereby they can regulate elected officials using national best practices for a transparent and accountable system.

1. Add a new Section 4 to CB 121130 and renumber subsequent sections as follows:

Section 4. The City Council commits that, if it again takes up amendments to the Code of Ethics, then it will consult with the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) on national best practices to delegate rulemaking authority over ethics regulation to the SEEC and thereby strengthen public trust and government accountability. This work should produce greater SEEC rulemaking authority over ethics regulations applicable to elected officials and strengthen the authority of the SEEC.