

Esther Handy

Date: December 10, 2021

Version: 1

Amendment A2

to

RES 32029 – General Rules and Procedures

Sponsor: CP González and CM Pedersen

Abstentions on Certain Resolutions

Beginning on p. 17 of Attachment 1 to Resolution 32029, make the following changes:

V. CITY COUNCIL VOTING

A. Voting Required; Disqualification Process.

1. Every CM in attendance shall vote on all actions before the City Council, except when CMs must disqualify themselves from voting as required by either the City’s Code of Ethics¹ or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine. CMs may also disqualify themselves from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, unless a majority of those present vote that there is no conflict.
(See Rule V.D.2 Announcing and Recording Votes.)

2. Abstentions are not allowed on actions, other than Resolutions ~~not from the Select Budget Committee~~ that, in the sole discretion of the Council President, are not materially related to City government. CMs not having abstained or disqualified themselves pursuant to Rule V.A.1 shall vote “Aye” or “No.”

3. All votes shall be recorded by the City Clerk in the Journal of the Proceedings.²

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Effect: The Governance and Education Committee took action on December 8 recommending the Council pass a resolution that would allow Councilmembers to abstain from Council votes on resolutions that were referred either to the Council directly or to most standing and select committees prior to a Council vote. However, Councilmembers would not be allowed to abstain from Council votes on resolutions that come to the Council with recommendations from the Select Budget Committee.

Based on discussions of various options at the Governance and Education Committee, this amendment would allow Councilmembers to abstain on any resolution that – in the sole discretion of the Council President – does not pertain materially to the City of Seattle.

¹ SMC Chapter 4.16.

² Charter, Art. IV, § 4.