



City of Seattle
Mayor Edward B. Murray

August 2, 2017

Monica Martinez Simmons
Seattle City Clerk
600 4th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons,

I am returning Council Bill 118984 without my signature, understanding that it will become law.

This legislation increases the size of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, Seattle LGBTQ Commission, and Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities from 16 members to 21 members per commission. This will align the size of these commissions with the 21-member Seattle Women's Commission. I support this section of the Council Bill.

However, I do not support the legislation's modification to Seattle Municipal Code 3.14.920(B), which changes *who* appoints the commission members to these four commissions. Specifically, this legislation significantly expands the number of members appointed by the commissions themselves, as opposed to the regular Mayor and Council appointment process.

Historically, appointments to nearly all of our City boards and commissions have been split on a 50-50 basis between the Mayor and Council. This makes sense, as board and commission members are appointed to serve in an advisory role to the Mayor and Council. Given that advisory boards and commissions are created to provide guidance to the Mayor and Council on policy and other issues, it is therefore important for the Mayor and Council to retain the power of determining who will actually advise them.

While this bill modifies the appointment process for only four commissions, it sets a new precedent for all of the City's 70+ boards and commissions. I caution future mayors and councils against further delegation of their appointment powers to boards and commissions, or else they may run the risk that these bodies will become unaccountable to the City officials they are charged with advising.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Murray
Mayor of Seattle