

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: CB 118397 Version: 1 Name: CB 118397

Type: Council Bill (CB) Status: Retired

In control: City Clerk

On agenda: 5/20/2015

Final Action: Ord. No.

Title: AN ORDINANCE related to regulation of political campaigns; amending Section 2.04.300 of the

Seattle Municipal Code to clarify proper uses of public office facilities for political purposes; and

ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Sponsors:** Tom Rasmussen

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Mayor Staff Memo, 2. Summary and Fiscal Note, 3. Central Staff Memo

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/10/2017	1	City Clerk	Retired	
1/4/2016	1	City Council	re-referred	
5/20/2015	1	Education and Governance Committee		
5/18/2015	1	City Council	referred	
5/12/2015	1	Council President's Office	sent for review	
5/12/2015	1	City Clerk	sent for review	
5/12/2015	1	Mayor	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	

#### CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE						
COUNCIL BILL						

AN ORDINANCE related to regulation of political campaigns; amending Section 2.04.300 of the Seattle Municipal Code to clarify proper uses of public office facilities for political purposes; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the City of Seattle to ensure that no elected official be allowed to use taxpayer funded staff and resources to coordinate and assist their election campaigns; and

WHEREAS Seattle's ethics and elections codes are often cited as national models for upholding public trust and faith in the conduct of government employees and elected officials; and

WHEREAS the current election code is unclear on what is and is not an indirect use of City resources as it

relates to political campaign activities; NOW, THEREFORE,

### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 2.04.300 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 117308, is amended as follows:

### 2.04.300 Prohibition against use of public office facilities in campaigns((-,))

No elected official nor any employee of ((his or her))an elected official's office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition.

No elected official, nor the official's agent, shall engage in activities for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition at, or adjacent to, any official city public event that is organized by that elected official or any employee of the official's office. Activities for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition may not occur during the event or at any time that attendees of the public event are present.

Facilities of public office or agency include but are not limited to use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the officer or agency; provided, that the foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to the following activities:

- A. Action taken at an open public meeting by the City Council to express a collective decision or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as:
- $(((+))1_{\underline{\cdot}}((+)))((+))\underline{A}$ ny required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition: ((-1)) and
- $((f))2\underline{\cdot}((f))$  (f)  $\underline{M}$  embers of the City Council or members of the public are afforded an approximate equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;
- B. A statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry; and

Section 2. Ratify and Confirm	n. Any act consistent with		~ ·
passage and prior to its effective date	is ratified and confirmed.		
Section 3. This ordinance sha not approved and returned by the Ma		•	s approval by the Mayor, but if
Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.	020.		
Passed by the City Council th		, 2015, and	
signed by me in open session in author	entication of its passage thi	is	
day of	_, 2015.		
	Presidentof t		
Approved by me this da	y of	, 2015.	
	Edward B. Murray, Mayo	r	
Filed by me this day of		, 2015.	
(Seal)	Monica Martinez Simmon	as, City Clerk	_

File #: CB 118397, Version: 1