



# Pierce County

Office of the County Council

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046  
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2176  
(206) 798-7777  
FAX (206) 798-7509  
1-800-992-2456

RECEIVED  
Pierce County Auditor

DEC 30 2008

Pat McCarthy

TO: Pat McCarthy, Auditor  
Gerry Horne, Prosecuting Attorney

FROM: Denise D. Johnson, Clerk of the Council

DATE: December 29, 2008

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL -- ORDINANCE NO. 2008-113**

At the December 2, 2008 Council meeting, the Pierce County Council passed Ordinance No. 2008-113, which proposes Pierce County Charter amendments be submitted to the voters for the November 2009 General Election. The Council requests the Prosecuting Attorney write an appropriate ballot title for said election.

A certified copy of the Ordinance is attached for your records. Please see the Ordinance for specifics.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 6065 or Susan Long at extension 6068.

## Attachments

c: Lori Augino  
Susan Long  
Doug Vanscoy





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[www.piercecountywa.org/council](http://www.piercecountywa.org/council)

STATE OF WASHINGTON     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF PIERCE     )

I, Denise D. Johnson, Clerk of the Pierce County Council, do hereby certify that the attached is a full, true, and correct copy of the following document:

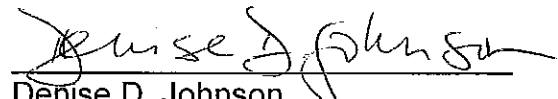
### ORDINANCE NO. 2008-113

The original of this document is currently located in the Office of the County Council, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of Pierce County, Washington, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.



PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL  
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Denise D. Johnson  
Clerk of the Pierce County Council



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5 **ORDINANCE NO. 2008-113**

6  
7 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Proposing Amendments to**  
8 **Sections 4.80 and 4.90 of the Pierce County Charter to Move**  
9 **the Elections of Certain County Elective Offices to Odd-**  
10 **Numbered Years and to Set the Limit on Terms for**  
11 **Councilmembers and Executive to Three Consecutive 4-Year**  
12 **Terms; Requesting the Auditor to Submit these Amendments**  
13 **to the Voters at the November 2009 General Election; and**  
14 **Requesting the Prosecuting Attorney to Draft Appropriate**  
15 **Ballot Titles.**  
16

17 **Whereas**, Section 8.50 of the Pierce County Charter (Charter) grants authority to  
18 the County Council (Council) to propose Charter amendments to be submitted to the  
19 voters at the next November general election occurring at least 90 days after filing; and  
20

21 **Whereas**, Section 8.60 of the Charter requires a minimum of two-thirds  
22 affirmative vote of the Council to enact an ordinance proposing Charter amendments;  
23 and  
24

25 **Whereas**, an Ordinance proposing Charter amendments is not subject to the  
26 veto power of the Executive; and  
27

28 **Whereas**, pursuant to Section 8.50(1) of the Charter, "...an amendment which  
29 embraces a single or interrelated subject may be submitted as a single proposition even  
30 though it is composed of changes to one or more articles."; and  
31

32 **Whereas**, even-year ballots typically contain many federal and state measures  
33 which can overshadow the county races and issues; and  
34

35 **Whereas**, moving the elections of Councilmembers, Executive, Auditor,  
36 Assessor-Treasurer and Sheriff to odd-years will align these County elections with the  
37 elections of other municipal officials; and  
38

39 **Whereas**, the voters of Pierce County approved Charter amendments in 2007  
40 extending term limits to three terms for the Auditor, Assessor-Treasurer, and Sheriff;  
41 and



1       **Whereas**, allowing the Executive and Councilmembers to serve three  
2 consecutive 4-year terms will provide consistency among County elective offices' term  
3 limits; and  
4

5       **Whereas**, the Council finds that amendments to the Charter moving the elections  
6 of Councilmembers, Executive, Auditor, Assessor-Treasurer and Sheriff to odd-  
7 numbered years, and setting the limit on terms for Councilmembers and Executive to  
8 three consecutive 4-year terms will serve the needs and best interests of the citizens of  
9 Pierce County; **Now Therefore**,

10  
11       **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**  
12

13       Section 1. The Pierce County Council hereby proposes Charter amendments to  
14 Sections 4.80 and 4.90 of the Charter, addressing the terms and election years of the  
15 Council and Executive, as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and  
16 incorporated herein by reference, for submittal to the voters at the November 2009  
17 General Election.  
18

19       Section 2. The Pierce County Council hereby proposes amendments to Section  
20 4.80 of the Charter, addressing the election years for the Auditor, Assessor-Treasurer  
21 and Sheriff, as set forth in Exhibit B, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein  
22 by reference, for submittal to the voters at the November, 2009 General Election.  
23

24       Section 3. The Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney is hereby requested to draft  
25 appropriate ballot titles for the proposed Charter amendments set forth in Exhibit A and  
26 Exhibit B.  
27



1 Section 4. This Ordinance shall be filed with the Auditor immediately upon  
2 adoption for submittal to the voters at the November 2009 General Election.

3  
4 PASSED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

5  
6 ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL

Pierce County, Washington

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8  
9 Patricia L. Face

10 Patricia L. Face

11 Acting Clerk of the Council

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Terry Lee

Council Chair

Signature not required, per  
Section 8.60 Pierce County Charter

John W. Ladenburg

Pierce County Executive

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Vetoed \_\_\_\_\_, this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2008.

Date of Publication of

Notice of Public Hearing: November 13, 2008

Effective Date of Ordinance: December 12, 2008



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**Section 4.80 -- Commencement of Terms of Office**

~~Except as provided herein, the election of County officials provided for in this Charter shall be held on even-numbered years as provided by general law and the provisions of this Charter. The election of Councilmembers and Executive shall be held on odd-numbered years as provided by general law and the provisions of this Charter. The term of office of each elected official and department head shall be for four years commencing January 1 following election and until a successor is elected, qualified, and has commenced to serve. Provided, the election of Councilmembers representing Districts 1, 5 and 7 shall be held in 2010 for a term of three years. This 3-year term shall constitute a full term for purposes of calculating the limitation of terms under Section 4.90 of this Charter. Further provided, the election of Executive and Councilmembers representing Districts 2, 3, 4 and 6 shall be held in 2012 for a term of three years. This 3-year term shall constitute a full term for purposes of calculating the limitation of terms under Section 4.90 of this Charter.~~

**Section 4.90 -- Limitation on Terms of Office**

~~No person shall be allowed to serve in County elective office for more than two consecutive 4-year terms in the same position as a Councilmember or Executive. No person shall be allowed to serve in County elective office for more than three consecutive 4-year terms in the same position as Councilmember, Executive, Sheriff, Assessor-Treasurer or Auditor. Service as the Assessor-Treasurer or Auditor prior to January 1, 2009, and service as Councilmember or Executive prior to January 1, 2010, shall be counted as part of such consecutive terms. Establishment of residency in an alternate district will not circumvent this restriction.~~



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**Section 4.80 -- Commencement of Terms of Office**

~~Except as provided herein~~ The election of County officials provided for in this Charter shall be held on even-numbered years as provided by general law and the provisions of this Charter. ~~The election of Auditor, Assessor-Treasurer, and Sheriff shall be held in odd-numbered years as provided by general law and the provisions of this Charter.~~ The term of office of each elected official and department head shall be for four years commencing January 1 following election and until a successor is elected, qualified, and has commenced to serve. ~~Provided, the term of office of the Auditor, Assessor-Treasurer and Sheriff shall be for three years following the 2012 election only and for four years following the 2015 election and thereafter. The 3-year term following the 2012 election shall be considered a full term for purposes of calculating the limitations of terms under Section 4.90 of this Charter.~~

