



CO00036216

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 08-138

RELATING TO COUNTY BUDGETS AND BUDGET PROCEDURES, PROVIDING
FOR ANNUAL BUDGETS, REMOVING AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A BIENNIAL
BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2009, AMENDING
SCC 4.26.015, AND REPEALING SCC 4.26.017, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY,
AND CONTAINING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the 2006 Charter Review Commission proposed an amendment to the Snohomish County Charter to give the County Council discretion to budget either annually or biennially in accordance with state law, which amendment was approved by the electorate at the general election held on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the County Council adopted Amended Ordinance No. 07-015 to provide for biennial budgets when consistent with the county election cycle and when authorized by separate ordinance adopted pursuant to the County Charter, state law, and Chapter 4.26 SCC; and

WHEREAS, by Amended Ordinance No. 08-004 the County Council authorized the County to implement biennial budgeting beginning with the 2009-2010 biennium as provided by the County Charter, state law, county code; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2008, the County Executive proposed a biennial budget for the 2009-2010 biennium based on revenue estimates for both years of the fiscal biennium; and

WHEREAS, an economic crisis of world-wide proportions has resulted in unprecedented economic volatility and has compromised the County's ability to make reliable revenue estimates, as illustrated by the County Executive's September 30, 2008, recommendation that the County Council reduce 2009 revenue estimates by over five million dollars (\$5,000,000), representing sales tax sourcing and investment interest adjustments; and

WHEREAS, staff projections since September 30 have indicated a need to further reduce 2009 revenue estimates, and have included an anticipated general fund revenue shortfall of increasingly dramatic proportions; and

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4 WHEREAS, the County Council finds that it would not be prudent to adopt the
5 County's first biennial budget in the current economic environment, and that it would be
6 in the best interests of the County and public to adopt annual budgets for the period
7 beginning January 1, 2009, and thereafter as provided herein; and
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9 WHEREAS, emergency action is needed to provide necessary guidance to
10 county officials and staff engaged in the budget process;
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12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:
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14 Section 1. Snohomish County Code Section 4.26.015, last amended by
15 Amended Ordinance No. 08-004 on March 26, 2008, is amended to read:
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17 **4.26.015 Annual or biennial budgets.**

18 (1) The county council may in its discretion budget either annually or
19 biennially in accordance with the county charter, state law, and this chapter;
20 provided that the council shall adopt an annual budget for any year for which a
21 biennial budget is not authorized by separate ordinance as provided in this
22 section.

23 (2) An ordinance authorizing a biennial budget must

24 (a) provide for mid-biennium review and modification for the second year
25 of the biennium as provided in RCW 36.40.250 and SCC 4.26.117;

26 (b) take effect on or before March 15 of the year prior to the fiscal
27 biennium; and

28 (c) include such further direction regarding the budget process as the
29 council finds necessary.

30 (3) The first year of a fiscal biennium must be an odd-numbered year. If
31 an ordinance providing for biennial budgets is repealed, the council will revert to
32 adopting annual budgets for the period commencing after the end of the last
33 ((biennial)) budget cycle.

34 (4) Any ordinance authorizing a biennial budget of a general and
35 permanent nature within the meaning of county charter section 2.100 shall be
36 incorporated into this chapter.
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38 Section 2. Snohomish County Code Section 4.26.017, adopted by Amended
39 Ordinance No. 08-004 on March 26, 2008, is repealed.
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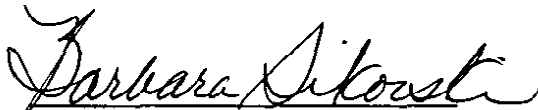
1 Section 3. Findings and effective date. The County Council finds as a fact that
2 the Council cannot reasonably expect to forge a budget for the second year of the
3 2009-2010 biennium based on revenue estimates and other information available to the
4 Council in the current economic climate, that it is necessary and appropriate to focus
5 the budget process on the 2009 budget as provided for herein, and that this ordinance
6 is necessary for the support of county government and its existing institutions. Based
7 on the foregoing, the County Council declares that an emergency exists and that this
8 ordinance shall take effect immediately.

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10 PASSED this 22nd day of October, 2008.

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12 SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
13 Snohomish County, Washington

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16 _____
17 Chairperson

18 ATTEST:

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20 _____
21 Asst. Clerk of the Council

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24 () APPROVED

25
26 () EMERGENCY

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28 () VETOED

29 DATE: _____

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32 _____
33 County Executive

34 ATTEST:

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40 Approved as to form only:

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42 _____
43 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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