



WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Please Return Your Petition or Contact Us At:

Compassion Seattle: P.O. Box 21961, Seattle WA 98111
 206-613-3246 Info@CompassionSeattle.org www.CompassionSeattle.org

CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE 29

WARNING: Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, it is unlawful for any person: 1. To sign or decline to sign any petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment, in exchange for any consideration or gratuity or promise thereof; or 2. To give or offer any consideration or gratuity to anyone to induce him or her to sign or not to sign a petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment; or 3. To interfere with or attempt to interfere with the right of any voter to sign or not to sign a petition for a City initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment by threat, intimidation or any other corrupt means or practice; or 4. To sign any City of Seattle initiative, referendum, or Charter amendment knowing that he or she is not a registered voter of The City of Seattle. Any violation of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, or 4 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. (Seattle Ordinance 94289, SMC 2.08.040, RCW 35.21.005).

CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

To the City Council of The City of Seattle:

We, the undersigned registered voters of The City of Seattle, State of Washington, propose and ask for the amendment to the City of Seattle Charter known as Charter Amendment Measure No. 29 entitled:

City of Seattle proposed Charter Amendment No. 29 concerns actions to address homelessness and keep areas clear of encampments.

This measure would require the City to provide 2,000 housing units within one year; and, until 2028: waive land use regulations for units during declared emergencies; adopt homelessness policies; fund behavioral health and addiction treatment; dedicate minimum 12% of annual general fund revenue to homelessness and human services without affecting certain parks funding; implement diversion programs for law violations connected to poverty or behavioral health; and balance keeping public spaces clear of encampments with avoiding harm to individuals.

Should this measure be enacted into law? YES _____ / NO _____ ,

a full, true and correct copy of which is included herein, and we petition the Council to present said proposed Charter Amendment to the qualified electors of The City of Seattle for approval or rejection at the next general municipal election occurring in accordance with Article XX, Section 2 of the City Charter; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of The City of Seattle, State of Washington, and my residence address is correctly stated.

— ONLY REGISTERED SEATTLE VOTERS CAN SIGN THIS CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION —

	Petitioner's Signature	Petitioner's Printed Name	Residence Address (Street/Zip)	Date Signed
SAMPLE	<i>Joan Q Public</i>	Joan Q. Public	2013 Seattle Blvd, 98100	Jan 21, 2013
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____	_____

BOTH SIDES OF THIS PETITION MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A SINGLE SHEET OF PAPER FOR SIGNATURES TO BE COUNTED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

The People of the City of Seattle, exercising their power to amend the City Charter by popular vote under Article XX, Section 2 of the City Charter, enact the following new article to the Charter of the City of Seattle.

Section 1. A new Article IX is added to the City Charter as follows:

ARTICLE IX. PROVISION OF HOMELESS SERVICES

Section 1.

Consistent with this Charter's preamble, it is necessary to protect and enhance the health, safety, environment and general welfare of all people and to support the economic vitality and sustainability of the City for the benefit of all of the people of Seattle.

Section 2.

First. The City shall fund and provide services to improve the lives of all residents of the City. It is City's goal that no one should have to live outdoors in public spaces. The City shall coordinate and engage with the public, community-based organizations, non-profit service providers, philanthropic organizations, businesses, and collective bargaining representatives, to understand and address current and emerging human service needs. It is City policy to fully support, advance and invest in any regional governmental homelessness authorities. When the City works with other public and private entities to meet its obligations under this Charter Article IX it shall collaborate to ensure successful outcomes and support an innovative and effective regional service network. It is City policy to and the City shall work to end chronic homelessness and racial disparities in the homeless population by investing City funds in practices and strategies, including emergency and permanent housing that effectively engage, shelter and house those who live in public spaces; and, work to retain individuals in housing; both with particular focus on the chronically homeless and those with the greatest barriers and greatest community impact. It is City policy that the effectiveness of strategies and services designed to transition homeless individuals to housing be measured and reported, with specific attention to those who are chronically homeless and facing greatest barriers to engagement, shelter and housing. It is City policy to and the City shall measure and report which City services, activities, and practices may contribute to people entering or experiencing homelessness. Those reports to the public shall occur at least every three months and include clear and specific outcomes to be established by the City.

Second. The City in conjunction with King County and through any agreement with a governmental or non-governmental organization, shall help fund low-barrier, rapid-access, mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services ("behavioral health services") with particular focus on individuals who are chronically homeless and face the greatest barriers to engagement; and also shall help fund and deploy a behavioral health rapid-response field capability that is coordinated where appropriate with City and county non-law enforcement crisis response systems and programs. The City shall fund culturally distinct approaches to behavioral health services to individuals for whom those are effective. The City-funded behavioral health programs and services shall be in combination with access to emergency housing in enhanced shelters, tiny houses, hotel-motel rooms, other forms of non-congregate temporary housing ("emergency housing") or permanent housing for those living in shelters and outdoors in public spaces. For purposes of this Article IX, "permanent housing" is defined as housing that complies with applicable life, safety and health standards for indoor accommodations and includes occupants' rights as tenants.

Third: It is the City's policy to make available emergency and permanent housing to those living unsheltered so that the City may take actions to ensure that parks, playgrounds, sports fields, public spaces and sidewalks and streets ("public spaces") remain open and clear of unauthorized encampments. The City shall develop policies and procedures to address those individuals who remain in public spaces, balancing the City's strong interest in keeping public spaces clear of encampments and the possible harm to individuals caused by closing encampments. The housing and services provided shall acknowledge and be tailored to individual needs and cultural differences and be appropriately person-centered. The City shall prioritize matching willing individuals to housing based on their specific needs and situation and, as appropriate, to accommodate disabling conditions and family type in housing. The City, or its designee, shall appropriately utilize pathways to permanent housing and prioritize individuals or family needs in order to limit emergency housing stays to no longer than necessary. While there is no right to camp in any particular public space, it is City policy to avoid, as much

as possible, dispersing people, except to safe and secure housing, unless remaining in place poses particular problems related to public health or safety or interferes with the use of the public spaces by others. In those circumstances where the City does not close an encampment, the City may still require individuals to shift their belongings and any structures to ensure safety, accessibility and to accommodate use of public spaces.

Fourth. Within six months of the effective date of this Charter Amendment the City shall provide for 1,000 units (in addition to those already funded) of emergency or permanent housing with services including access to behavioral health services and necessary staffing to serve people with the highest barriers. Within one year of the adoption of this Charter Amendment the city shall provide another 1,000 units (in addition to those already funded) of emergency or permanent housing with services including access to behavioral health services and necessary staffing to serve people with the highest barriers.

Fifth. During a declared civil emergency related to homelessness, and to accelerate the production of emergency and permanent housing serving homeless individuals ("projects") as required by this Article IX, it is City policy to and the City shall, to the full extent permitted by state law, (a) waive land use code and regulation requirements as necessary to urgently site projects, (b) waive all City project-related permitting fees for projects and, (c) process the application for project-related permits as first-in-line in order to expedite the permitting process. It also is City policy and the City shall refund to the projects all City imposed costs, fees, and the City's portion of the sales tax on all project expenditures, paid on or after the enactment of this Article IX and during a declared civil emergency related to homelessness.

Sixth. Services to individuals experiencing homelessness shall include identifying and addressing factors known to drive the overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color among people experiencing chronic homelessness. Provision shall also be made to include culturally competent services and workforce standards to address safety, appropriate compensation, and working conditions that allow contractors to recruit, retain and stabilize a diverse, skilled and culturally competent workforce. The housing and services provided will acknowledge and be tailored to individual needs and cultural differences and be appropriately person centered. Additionally, consistent with the City's public safety obligations, programs shall be implemented to divert individuals from the criminal justice system whose law violations are connected to a lack of housing, income instability, or behavioral health issues.

Seventh. The actions herein required shall be executed consistent with any plan or actions established or implemented by a regional government authority, provided that a regional plan and activities may be employed by the City to satisfy this Article IX so long as the requirements of this Article IX are satisfied.

Section 3.

There is hereby established in the City Treasury a Human Services Fund to support the human services and homeless programs and services of the City. There shall be placed in the Human Services Fund such moneys as may be budgeted annually for such programs including not less than 12 percent of the City's annual general fund revenues; grants, gifts and bequests for human service purposes received from the general public, businesses and philanthropy; and such other moneys as may be provided by ordinance, without delaying or disrupting full restoration of general fund support for the Department of Parks and Recreation to facilitate repair and restoration of parks and as required by the Interlocal Agreement authorized by City Ordinance 124468.

Section 4.

This Article IX shall sunset and become null and void on December 31, 2027.

Section 5.

The provisions of this Article IX are to be liberally construed to achieve its purposes. Nothing in this Article IX shall be construed to interfere with contracts existing at the time of this Article's enactment, including contracts with regional governmental authorities. The terms and provisions of this Article IX are severable; if any are found invalid this shall not affect the validity of the remainder. This Article IX shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its enactment and shall supersede all preexisting ordinances and rules in conflict herewith.

BOTH SIDES OF THIS PETITION MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A SINGLE SHEET OF PAPER FOR SIGNATURES TO BE COUNTED.