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6 RESOLUTION NO. R2008-17
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9 **A Resolution of the Pierce County Council Urging Rejection of Legislation**
10 **Mandating Mail-Only Voting, Identified as HB 2833, Being**
11 **Considered During the 2008 Session of the Washington State**
12 **Legislature.**
13

14 **Whereas**, the convenience of voting by mail has gradually made it the norm
15 statewide as busy people find it more difficult to get to the polls on Election Day; and
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17 **Whereas**, mail-in voting is obviously the only option for those serving in our
18 military or who will be out of state on Election Day; and
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20 **Whereas**, for everyone else, however, the time-honored polling place should be
21 preserved – as a primary and as an alternative way to vote – for several reasons; and
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23 **Whereas**, voting at the polls helps eliminate errors and spoiled ballots by
24 requiring a picture ID to receive a ballot, eliminating potential invalidation for not signing
25 the outside of the envelope, and by providing friendly, knowledgeable polling-place
26 volunteers to answer questions on the spot; and
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28 **Whereas**, polling places are the most secure way to vote; a mailed ballot has two
29 chances to get lost – to and from the voter; and
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31 **Whereas**, polling places bring communities together; and
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33 **Whereas**, in 2005, a 10-member Mail-In Voting Advisory Task Force, composed
34 of citizens, the current county auditor, county council members and other officials, the
35 voted unanimously to keep the polls open; and
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37 **Whereas**, enough of our citizens prefer going to the polls that we don't believe
38 we should take that option away; and
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40 **Whereas**, the decision on mail-in voting should belong to the County; and
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42 **Whereas**, cost savings is not one of the rationales for this legislation; the fiscal
43 note for HB 2833 states that: "Cost savings of eliminating the poll sites in the two
44 remaining counties would be offset by additional postage and personnel needed for
45 processing mail ballots. It is not anticipated there would be substantial savings in state
46 election costs reimbursed to the counties"; and
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1 **Whereas**, Pierce County also fails to see why King County is given a year to
2 comply while the changes are effective here immediately; and
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4 **Whereas**, the Pierce County Council finds that mail-only voting provides no
5 apparent benefit for the voting public, incurs little or no cost savings, and removes a
6 time-honored tradition that serves to highlight the privilege of voting in a democracy;
7 **Now Therefore**,

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9 **BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Pierce County:**

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11 Section 1. The Pierce County Council urges the Washington Legislature and
12 Governor to reject legislation mandating mail-only voting during the 2008 Session.
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14 Section 2. The Clerk of the Council shall provide a copy of this Resolution to the
15 Governor, members of the State House of Representatives and Senate from districts
16 encompassing a portion of Pierce County, members of the House State Government
17 Committee, the Senate Government Operations Committee, and to the County
18 Executive.
19

20 **ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2008.**

21
22 ATTEST:

23 **PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL**
24 Pierce County, Washington

25
26
27 _____
28 **Denise D. Johnson**
29 Clerk of the Council
30

26
27 _____
28 **Terry Lee**
29 Council Chair
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