



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman
ECAF: 2023-0374
Proposal: Motion 23-166 **Date:** May 2, 2023

Consideration:

Proposed Motion 23-166 would confirm the reappointment of Howard Knoepfle to the Snohomish County Civil Service Commission (CSC) to serve the balance of a second term ending December 31, 2028.

Background

The CSC is a three-person board that reviews the merit system for county sheriff's deputies (more details about the CSC are on page 2).

Howard Knoepfle is a retired teacher currently serving on the CSC and was originally appointed by [Motion 16-214](#). Pursuant to [SCC 2.03.030](#), the County Executive is recommending that the County Council authorize the reappointment of Mr. Knoepfle to a second six year term commencing on appointment and ending on December 31, 2028.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 23-166 would reappoint Howard Knoepfle to the CSC.

Effective Date: The appointment would begin upon passage of this motion.

Fiscal Implications: No impact.

Handling: Normal

Finance: Approve

Risk Management: Approve

Executive: Approve

Request: Move to General Legislation Session on May 10, for consideration.

Exhibit A – About the Civil Service Commission

State law requires counties to have a Civil Service Commission (CSC) to review a “merit system of employment for county deputy sheriffs and other employees of the office of county sheriff, thereby raising the standards and efficiency of such offices and law enforcement in general” ([Chapter 41.14 RCW](#)). Local implementation of the Snohomish County CSC follows state law. Chapter 41.14 RCW was originally enacted by Initiative No. 23, passed by Washington State voters on November 4, 1958 and modified by the legislature several times since. Powers and duties of the CSC are in RCW 41.14.060. Appointments to the three-person CSC follow [Chapter 2.03](#) Snohomish County Code (SCC).

The term of office for commissioners is six years and appointments to fill an unexpired term are for the remainder of that unexpired term (RCW 41.14.030). Existing commissioners continue to serve until appointment of a successor (SCC 2.03.030(2)).

RCW 41.14.030 establishes the following requirements for commissioner eligibility:

- Commissioners must be residents of Snohomish County
- No person shall be appointed to the commission who is not a citizen of the United States
- At the time of appointment not more than two commissioners shall be adherents of the same political party
- No member after appointment shall hold any salaried public office or engage in county employment, other than his or her commission duties
- The members of the commission shall serve without compensation

Additional information about the CSC is available at:

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/139/Civil-Service-Commission>