



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman
ECAF: 2022-1358
Proposal: Ordinance 22-076 **Date:** January 3, 2023

Consideration

Proposed Ordinance 22-076 would amend Section 2.08.080 of Snohomish County Code (SCC) to increase the number of consecutive terms a planning commissioner may serve from two to three. It also makes a correction to a citation and other changes for stylistic consistency in the affected section.

Background and Analysis

Councilmember Nate Nehring is the sponsor of Ordinance 22-076. It originates from a discussion of the County Council on December 6, 2022, regarding [Motion 22-522](#). That motion was to reappoint a former planning commissioner back to the Planning Commission. General discussion about the Planning Commission and maximum number of terms followed the briefing on Motion 22-522. The consensus among County Councilmembers was that maximum number of terms for planning commissioners would be a good future agenda topic for discussion in Planning and Community Development Committee. Committee Chair Nehring asked staff to prepare Ordinance 22-076 for this discussion.

The Snohomish County Planning Commission (Planning Commission) operates under the authority of RCW 36.70.060 and Sections 2.20 and 11.30 of the Snohomish County Charter. SCC 2.08.080(5) provides that no “member of the commission may serve more than two complete consecutive terms.”

The limitation to two complete consecutive terms comes from a Snohomish County ordinance adopted in 1982 and is not based on any charter requirement or enactment by the state legislature. SCC 2.08.080 was silent on the maximum number of terms between creation of the Planning Commission in 1962 and passage of Ordinance 82-008 which added language creating a two-term limit. Ordinance 82-008 also made several housekeeping changes in SCC 2.08.080 but did not include any findings to explain the reasoning behind the changes.

Although Ordinance 22-076 would authorize a change in maximum number of consecutive terms for planning commissioners, authorization is just a first step. The Planning Commission would also need to pass a motion amending its own bylaws to effectuate the change.

Current Proposal

Ordinance 22-076 would increase the maximum number of complete consecutive terms SCC 2.08.080 authorizes for planning commissioners from two to three.

Handling: NORMAL

Approved as to form: YES

Executive Recommendation: TBD

Request: Move to General Legislative Session on January 11 to set time and date for a hearing. Suggesting hearing date and time: February 8, 2023 at 10:30 am.