

C-31	Executive Pro Tem	Rogge	Article 3, Section 3.40
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Requires the designation of Executive Pro Tem by the Council in place of current optional designation

Sponsor of Proposal

Commissioner Hollie Rogge

Brief Summary of Proposal:

This modification improves the process of filling a vacancy of the Executive office by requiring the Council to designate one of its members as Executive pro tempore rather than just having the option of designation. To protect the integrity of the voter’s voice, council members are voted in, not appointed, and better represent the voice of their districts.

Proposed Charter Amendment:

Section 3.40

- (1) The Council, at its annual election, by majority vote, ~~may~~ shall designate one of its members as the Executive pro tempore
- (2) The Executive pro tempore shall hold office at the pleasure of the Council, and in case of the absence or temporary disability of the Executive, perform the duties of Executive except for the power to appoint or remove any officer, or to veto any acts of the Council.

Rationale for Proposal:

This proposal clarifies a potential gap in the vacancy process of the Executive elected office by requiring the Council to elect an Executive pro tempore to fill the vacancy as the process outlined in Section 4.70 is worked through.

The Executive office already has the authority to “assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this Charter or by ordinance” (Section 3.25 – Powers and Duties). This process can be used for absences due to sickness or vacations as well as to create efficiencies by delegating certain signing authority to a director of a department as allowed by law.

We should keep, in its current form, the process for vacancy as clearly outlined in Section 4.70 of the charter; which defines when an elected office becomes vacant and then provides a high level overview of the process to fill the vacancy. This process deals with both partisan and non partisan office, appointments and filling the vacancy by general election. The current process maintains integrity and a commitment to the citizens of Pierce County that a fair and consistent process will be used to fill vacancies and that the position will go to the voters at the earliest general election in November.

DPA Review of Proposal

Date: April 15, 2026

Proposal No.: C-31

Topic: Executive Pro Tempore

DPA: Kristal Cowger

Legal Review: The proposal makes a change regarding the Executive Pro Tempore, making it mandatory for the counsel to designate one of its members as Executive Pro Tempore. This is likely within the authority of a Charter County.

Other Feedback/Comments/Recommendations:

Summary Points

- Response to C-9 which would make the position appointed by the Executive.
- Shifts power away from the Council who presently appoints one of the Councilmembers to serve in this position.
- Retains power with the Council.
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Submit written testimony

By Email: katey.hobbs@piercecountywa.gov

By Web Form: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/FormCenter/Charter-Review-41/Provide-Written-Public-Comment-893>

Submitted public testimony

Names in **RED** = CON

Names in **GREEN** = PRO

As of 4-10-26 = **1 CON** ~ **0 PRO**

Packet
