

**RESOLUTION NO. 866**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSAL NUMBER 2011-53, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE OF THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE PIERCE COUNTY CHARTER REDUCING IN SIZE THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL FROM SEVEN TO FIVE MEMBERS; PHASING IN THE REDUCTION OF COUNCILMEMBERS WITH ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE; AMENDING SECTIONS 2.15 AND 10.55 OF THE PIERCE COUNTY CHARTER; ADDING A NEW SECTION 10.80 TO THE PIERCE COUNTY CHARTER; ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE DATES; REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO SUBMIT THESE AMENDMENTS TO THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 2011 GENERAL ELECTION; AND REQUESTING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AN APPROPRIATE BALLOT TITLE."**

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WHEREAS, Proposal Number 2011-53, after hearing on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 before the Pierce County Council Rules Committee and full Council on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, will be presented to the voters of Pierce County at the general election on November 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 2011-53 would submit a question to the voters to amend the County Charter to reduce the number of County Council seats from seven to five; and

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 2011-53 would add approximately 45,000 new residents to each Council District, further diluting representation from the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the peninsulas and more specifically, the City of Gig Harbor already struggle to have their voice heard by the County Council; and

WHEREAS, only the smallest of cities in Washington have five member councils; and

WHEREAS, 2011-53 would require the recently completed redistricting process to be performed again; and

WHEREAS, 2011-53 precludes new elections for the district representing the peninsulas until 2014; and

WHEREAS, 2011-53 did not come from the freeholder process of amending the County Charter which requires extensive public outreach and comment; and

WHEREAS, the cost savings achieved by reducing Council salaries would likely be reduced by the additional staff necessary to represent such large constituencies; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2011, the Gig Harbor City Council considered this Resolution during its regular City Council meeting, in the spirit of RCW 42.17.130(1), which permits a City Council to adopt a resolution in support, or in opposition to a ballot proposition as long as there is notice of the meeting and the public is afforded the opportunity to express opposing views; Now, Therefore,

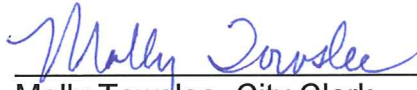
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council of the City of Gig Harbor opposes adoption of Pierce County Council Proposal Number 2011-53 due to the detrimental impacts outlined above.

PASSED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011.

  
MAYOR CHARLES HUNTER

ATTEST:

  
Molly Towslee, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Angela Belbeck, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: 07/21/11  
Adopted: 07/25/11  
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