



City of Seattle

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor

Bruce A. Harrell
Council President

February 20, 2018

Association of Washington Cities
Dave Williams, davew@awcnet.org
Victoria Lincoln, victorial@awcnet.org
Shannon McClelland, shannonm@awcnet.org

Re: The Washington Voting Rights Act

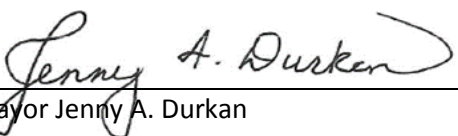
Dear Mr. Williams, Ms. Lincoln, and Ms. McClelland:

As a member of AWC, the City of Seattle would like to reiterate our support for the passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA). It is important that Washington State takes this important step that advances justice through participating in one of our most sacred civic duties: voting.


The WVRA seeks to *improve* the process and impact of voting through fair and equitable representation; this is particularly important for historically marginalized communities – specifically African-American communities and other communities of color - whose vote has been explicitly disenfranchised from access to the democratic process. We believe it is the duty of any city to encourage eligible residents to participate in local elections. Ensuring fair representation of one's vote is what will get more communities and voters to the polls. Additionally, this legislation will help local municipalities avoid costly litigation under the federal Voting Rights Act. The WVRA is legislation that will help cities and their voting residents alike, and the time for change is now.

We are thrilled that the Senate passed SB 6002 on January 19, 2018. We urge the House to take action to advance these critical protections and make sure that Washingtonians are not disenfranchised.


Sincerely,




Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



Councilmember M. Lorena González



Council President Bruce A. Harrell



Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

Tel (206) 684-4000
Fax (206) 684-5360
www.seattle.gov

ROB JOHNSON

Councilmember Rob Johnson

T. Mosqueda

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

MOB

Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Kshama

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

CC: Representative Mia Gregerson
Representative Zach Hudgins