

Seattle Municipal Code  
as adopted in 1980  
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SEATTLE  
MUNICIPAL CODE  
1980  
For current SMC contact  
the Office of the City Clerk

Volume I

A Codification of the General Ordinances  
of The City of Seattle, Washington

CITY OF SEATTLE  
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AND CITY CLERK

Codified, Indexed and Published by  
BOOK PUBLISHING COMPANY  
2518 Western Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121

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the Office of the City Clerk

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## PREFACE

The Seattle Municipal Code is a codification of the general and permanent ordinances of The City of Seattle, Washington. The ordinances were compiled, edited, and indexed by the editorial staff of Book Publishing Company under the direction of Douglas N. Jewett, City Attorney, pursuant to the authority found at RCW Chapter 35.21. The Code is printed in two volumes, which cover ordinances through Ordinance 108635, passed November 19, 1979.

The Code is organized by subject matter using the following divisions: "Title," a broad subject-matter classification; "Chapter," generally containing a specific ordinance and its amendments; and "Section," usually corresponding to individual sections of ordinances. Each Section has been assigned a three-factor decimal number which designates its Title and Chapter placement; thus, Section 18.12.050 is section .050, located in Chapter .12 of Title 18. In most instances sections are numbered by tens (.010, .020, .030, etc.), leaving nine vacant positions between original sections to accommodate future provisions without disturbing the numbering of existing provisions. Similarly, Chapters and Titles are numbered to allow for internal expansion. Occasional use is made of divisions entitled "Subtitle" and "Subchapter" where further classifications are necessary within a Title or Chapter. These divisions are noted in the text of the Code with Roman numerals, but the numerals are not incorporated into the individual section numbers.

In parentheses following each Section is a legislative history identifying the specific sources for the provisions of that Section. This legislative history is complemented by an Ordinance Disposition Table, following the text of the Code, listing by number the ordinances included in the Code, their subjects, and the Chapter(s) where they appear in the codification.

Footnotes and headnotes appear throughout the Code in several forms:

Statutory references direct the user to applicable provisions of the Revised Code of Washington and the Charter of The City of Seattle.

Cross-references give the location of related provisions within this Code.

Editor's Notes provide explanatory information such as passage dates of ordinances and notations on editorial changes.

Cases (annotations) include citations to federal and state court decisions construing or interpreting the Charter and ordinances, together with a brief statement of their holdings.

Severability clauses, when part of a codified ordinance, appear in footnote form rather than as a Code section.

A subject-matter index of the Code and Charter, with complete cross-referencing, is located at the end of the Code and is referenced to specific Code provisions by their individual Section numbers.

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### "WHAT TO FIND IN THIS CODE"

This Code contains a compilation of those general city ordinances that have some continuing effect. For example, the animal license law and the traffic laws of the city are contained in these pages.

Certain city ordinances are not reprinted in this book. They include special measures, laws adopted by reference, and laws passed since this book was printed.

A. Special Measures. Special ordinances are effective for only a limited period of time, and do not have a general, ongoing effect. Ordinances appropriating money to improve streets, condemning property, or creating local improvement districts are examples of special ordinances. They are of little use or interest to most citizens, and there are tens of thousands of them. They are not codified here in order to minimize the bulk of this book and to save printing costs. Copies of special ordinances may be examined in the City Clerk's office.

B. Laws Adopted by Reference. Sometimes the city needs to enact whole books or documents as a part of its law. Rather than reprint the whole book in ordinance form, the city adopts the work by reference. The city passes an ordinance stating, for example, "The Uniform Building Code is hereby adopted." When the city adopts printed matter by reference, it places three copies of the adopted matter on file with the City Clerk for citizens' examination and reference. Works that the city has adopted by reference are named in this Code, but are not reprinted here. They may be viewed in the Clerk's office.

C. Recent Ordinances. New ordinances are passed by the City Council every week. Some have been passed too recently to be included in this Code. An index of new ordinances, according to their subjects, is located in the City Clerk's office. Some new ordinances amend ordinances contained in this book. To determine whether an ordinance printed in this book has been amended it is necessary to check the ordinance amendment index in the City Clerk's office.



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