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RESOLUTION 31318

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A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to monitor compliance with state and local election laws and financial disclosure requirements related to campaign committee activities associated with elections concerning the Seattle Transportation Benefit District.

WHEREAS, in ordinance 123397, the City Council established the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD); and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.73 delineates the authority of the STBD to impose taxes, fees, charges and tolls through action by the Governing Board or approval from the District's voters to fund transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board adopted STBD Resolution 5 on August 16, 2011, forwarding a Vehicle License Fee (VLF) ballot measure for consideration by the District's voters for the November 8, 2011 General Election; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the STBD mirror the corporate municipal boundaries of the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the STBD is an independent, quasi-municipal corporation, and therefore not subject to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission's (SEEC) oversight of local campaigns financial disclosure and elections activities; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) is empowered to enforce the state's disclosure and campaign finance laws; and

WHEREAS, the SEEC and the PDC have worked collaboratively to provide the public with accurate and timely information related to the financing of campaigns and the financial activities of public officials, candidates and political committees; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to maximize to the extent possible the transparency, compliance, and disclosure of financial activities of political committees associated with elections concerning the STBD; NOW THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE  
MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**



1 Section 1. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) is requested to monitor  
2 the financial disclosure activities of political committees promoting or opposing ballot measures  
3 submitted to voters by the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD). Such political  
4 committees are requested to voluntarily register and file reports with the SEEC. The SEEC is  
5 also requested to alert the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) of any  
6 suspected violations of state elections laws.

7 Section 2. The SEEC, upon obtaining public financial disclosure information from  
8 political committees concerning elections associated with the STBD either directly or from the  
9 PDC, will make this information available to the public through the SEEC website and other  
10 means as appropriate and consistent with current practice related to local campaigns and  
11 elections.

12  
13 Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and  
14 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_ day  
15 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

18 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Michael McGinn, Mayor

21  
22 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

25  
26 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Mike Fong/5-1675	N/A

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to monitor compliance with state and local election laws and financial disclosure requirements related to campaign committee activities associated with elections concerning the Seattle Transportation Benefit District.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation requests the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) to monitor election activities related to the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD). SEEC staff would monitor pro and con political committees compliance with local and state election laws and in particular, timely and accurate public disclosure of financial documents. The SEEC Director has indicated that this body of work would be absorbed within existing staff resources.

**Background:**

The STBD is an independent quasi-municipal corporation and therefore not subject to the SEEC's oversight of local elections. As a result, the City Council, in an effort to enhance the transparency and compliance with election laws by pro and con political committees associated with STBD elections, has a desire for the SEEC to monitor campaign activities. The Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has the responsibility of enforcing the state's disclosure and campaign finance laws for STBD related campaigns. The SEEC would act in a supportive role in ensuring compliance, but also seek voluntary submittal of financial disclosure information from pro and con political committees to make this information available to the public. The SEEC would also report any suspected violations of state elections laws to the PDC.

Please check one of the following:

**This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

(Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)



