

The City Council adopted number of operating budget provisos, including Proviso 011-1-B-3. The full text of this proviso is provided below.

Budget Proviso--Limiting the Use of Appropriated Funds for Polls and Surveys by City Departments and Offices to \$2,500

None of the funds appropriated for 2004 to each of the City departments and offices listed below shall be spent for opinion-gathering activities regardless of cost, or on consultant contracts to conduct such work, unless the department or office has first (1) presented the questions and supporting materials to the Chairperson of the relevant committee for review before undertaking such activity, and (2) committed to present the results to the Chairperson of the relevant committee at the conclusion of the activity. In addition, no more than \$2,500 of the funds appropriated for 2004 to each of the City departments and offices listed below shall be spent to pay for opinion-gathering activities, or on consultant contracts to conduct such work, until authorized by a future ordinance.

City departments and offices covered by this proviso include: Department of Executive Administration, Department of Finance, Department of Information Technology, Department of Neighborhoods, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Development, Fleets and Facilities Department, Human Services Department, Law Department, Legislative Department, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Office of Economic Development, Office of Housing, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Office of Policy and Management, Office of Sustainability and Environment, Office of Mayor, Personnel Department, Seattle Center, Seattle City Light, Seattle Fire Department, Office for Civil Rights, Seattle Police Department, Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Transportation.

For the purpose of this proviso, 'opinion-gathering activity' includes, but is not limited to, polls, surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, telephone calling, automated telephone calling, or other mechanisms the primary purpose of which is used to gather opinions or data; but excludes (1) public hearings that have been advertised in accordance with law, (2) public forums at which the general public is welcome, (3) public workshops, (4) department newsletters for which the general public is able to sign up, and (5) citizen input, whether received through letters, e-mails, faxes, or phone calls, that (a) has not been solicited by the posing of questions by the City or any agent of the City, or (b) is offered in response to a question posed by the City or any agent of the City that is incidental to a communication, an activity, a discussion, or informational material the primary purpose of which is not opinion-gathering, data-gathering, or the providing of opinions or data.

