

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:50 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Jefferson County Clerk Comment re: JISCR 13 - opposed

Here is another one...

Kris Triboulet

Receptionist/Secretary

Washington State Supreme Court

Kristine.triboulet@courts.wa.gov

360-357-2077

From: Ruth Gordon [mailto:RGordon@co.jefferson.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:48 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK; Johnson, Justice Charles W.; Fairhurst, Justice Mary
Cc: Hinchcliffe, Shannon; Jennings, Cindy
Subject: Jefferson County Clerk Comment re: JISCR 13 - opposed

To the Hon. Justice Charles Johnson, Chair of the Rules Committee

Dear Justice Johnson and Rules Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the proposed changes to JISCR 13.

After considering the various proposed changes to JISCR 13 for quite some time, I write in my own capacity as the Jefferson County Clerk and a former Trustee of on the governing board of the Washington Association of County Officials to comment on a particular element of the proposed language of this rule change that truly gives me pause. I'm referring to the presumption that the JISC, which is a stakeholder group within a bureaucracy (sorry, AOC...) serving the state judicial branch, has any authority over the various governing boards of local governments – county and city elected officials – to enter into contracts with vendors to meet their locally identified and prioritized business needs.

The current JISCR 13 language does not raise this question in my mind. It says counties and cities shall give 90 days notice of new court record systems for the purpose of JISC review and approval. And certainly local governments are going to know 90 days before implementation what their new system is going to be, and of course they should work together with AOC because shared data is important to us all. So that doesn't sound harsh or unreasonable and no one is likely to get upset and object to that. Also, since we don't have automated data exchange after all these years, 90 days' notice doesn't seem to pose a problem.

The new proposed language changes the 90 days' notice to 12 months. As stated in the WSACC comment, 12 months is more lead time than agencies have from the date of executing a technology contract to the start of working to implement it. Is the JISC stating or implying that it has the authority to prevent local executive and legislative branches,

which are charged with providing the best possible solutions they can devise to meet the needs of their constituents, from executing contracts to meet their locally identified needs? For that matter, since we do not work under a unified state court system, is it stating it has that authority over locally elected judicial officers? I do hope not.

And anyway, nine more months will not get us to automated data exchange, so what is the intended function of the 12 months? It's perplexing. And as I said, it gives me pause.

I don't believe elected officials need to concede our separate authority under the current structure of our state and local governments to work together in a spirit of true collaboration and good will for the best outcome for accurate, timely and accessible court information. We all will benefit by cooperating in a spirit of unity – loosely coupled unity, perhaps, but still, with good intention and common purpose, respecting each other's roles and mandates. A climate of mutual respect is key to making that possible.

I don't think the words in the proposed rule will change the choices local officials may make. But I do think these proposed changes injure the mutual respect that is necessary to foster willing collaboration for a common goal.

So, please let JISCR 13 remain in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. And thanks to the JISC for all the hours you spend in meetings trying to solve these truly difficult problems. I just don't think this rule change is going to help with that.

My sincere respects to the honorable members of the committee. Thank you for your consideration.

/s/Ruth Gordon
Jefferson County Clerk