

January 14, 1994  
LEGPROG.SUB (RM:clt)

Greg Nickels  
Bruce Laing  
Introduced By: Louise Miller

Proposed No.: 94-39

MOTION NO. 9213

A MOTION establishing the 1994 State  
Legislation Program for King County.

WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive want to bring their positions on issues facing the 1993 Washington State Legislature to the attention of Washington State Legislators, and

WHEREAS, King County wants to work cooperatively with other local governments and other organizations such as the Washington State Association of Counties, the Washington Association of County Officials, the Suburban Cities Association, and the Association of Washington Cities, and

WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the legislature as partners with the state in the delivery of such critical services as criminal justice, health and human services, and

WHEREAS, in November, 1992 the voters of King County approved a substantial reorganization of King County government involving the consolidation with Metro and other measures intended to strengthen King County's role as a regional government, which takes effect January, 1994, and

WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 1994 State Legislative Program;

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:  
2 The specific objectives set forth in Attachment A to this  
3 motion are King County's highest priorities for passage during  
4 the 1994 session of the Washington State Legislature.

5 PASSED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1994.

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Kent Pullen  
Chair

10 ATTEST:

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Gerald G. Peterson  
Clerk of the Council

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Attachments:

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Passed by a vote of 13 to 0.

## ATTACHMENT A

**1. BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

Initiative 601 establishes an expenditure limit on the state's general fund budget effective 7/1/95. The governor and the legislature intend to reduce the current general fund budget for the current biennium in anticipation of the expenditure limit.

**Position:** Seek to maintain current state budget levels for county programs such as criminal justice assistance to counties, growth management assistance, mental health reform, developmental disabilities and alcoholism treatment.

**2. YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The Governor and the Legislature intend to address issues concerning youth violence. The Governor is proposing to decentralize state services to youth by empowering community-based councils to plan, coordinate, and administer the delivery of prevention and early intervention services. In 1992, King County initiated the Children and Family Commission to coordinate and target the delivery of services to children and families by county agencies. In addition, the commission has \$1.5 million available to grant to community-based teams made up of existing community service providers, schools, and consumers to fund community-based intervention projects.

**Position:** Support legislation which decentralizes state services to youth while recognizing local programs such as King County's as an integral part of any new service delivery system.

**Position:** Support legislation which (a) prohibits persons under 18 years of age from possessing handguns except for legitimate hunting, practice or target shooting under the direct supervision of a parent, legal guardian, or authorized adult over age 21 who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under Washington State law, and (b) which provides for criminal penalties for violations by any such juvenile.

**3. REGULATORY REFORM**

The Regulatory Reform Commission will submit recommendations to the governor and the legislature for action during the 1994 legislative session. The scope of the commission's work is broad, encompassing all forms of regulation on business activity, including growth management.

**Position:** King County will monitor and review regulatory reform proposals and communicate its position on such proposals to the governor and the legislature.

**4. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

**Position:** Seek to restore funding for SR520/SR202 interchange under Category C funding; seek to maintain funding for Special C projects, including SR18 and the First Avenue South Bridge (SR99).

**5. SITING TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

The Department of Transportation and the Legislative Transportation Committee are examining potential legislation to unify permit requirements for transportation improvements, particularly for those that cross multiple jurisdictions.

**Position:** King County will monitor and review such proposals for impacts on county policy and will communicate its position on specific proposals.

**6. UNINCORPORATED AREA GOVERNANCE**

Legislation authorizing the creation of community councils with powers to adopt community land use plans consistent with the county comprehensive plan was passed by the Senate last session and will be considered again.

**Position:** King County is currently studying alternative forms of unincorporated governance with the assistance of citizen committees from unincorporated areas. Until preferred alternatives have been approved by the Metropolitan King County Council, King County will be neutral on proposed community council legislation.

**7. WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION**

Under the "Sinking Creek" decision, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that only the courts, not the Department of Ecology, has the authority to determine priority of water rights. Consequently, the department plans to proceed very cautiously in processing a permit backlog of nearly 4,000 of which 200-300 are located in King County. Metro's wastewater recycling pilot projects require a water rights permit.

**Position:** Support legislation which clarifies the Department of Ecology's role for determining priority of water rights; ensure that Metro's ability to obtain a water rights permit for waste water recycling is not adversely affected.

**8. COUNTY COORDINATION OF WATERSHED PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

Last session the Washington State Association of Counties sought legislation (HB 1773, SB 5773) that enabled counties to coordinate and lead the activities of local governments in managing water resources within the county on a watershed basis. The bills require coordination with local, state, federal and tribal agencies to integrate water resources and planning with growth management plans.

**Position:** Support legislation which recognizes existing county regional responsibility for water planning and protection of water resources.

**9. PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR MAJOR PUBLIC PROJECTS**

Attorneys representing the state, Seattle, King County and the Port of Seattle have prepared legislation which principally authorizes prequalification of contractors for major projects whose cost exceeds \$15 million, not including highway, street and road construction. The legislation is being introduced as part of the governor's request package.

**Position:** Support legislation which authorizes prequalification of contractors for major public projects.

**10. COUNTY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Established earlier this year, this program rotates apprentices through work training opportunities primarily in county-run building and construction trades. Under state law these apprentices are required to pay into PERS for their time in service with the county in addition to paying into their union trust.

**Position:** Seek legislation which eliminates the requirement for apprentices to pay into PERS.

**11. FINAL PLAT TIME EXTENSIONS**

Currently, final subdivisions of land must be filed within three years. Counties have the authority to grant extensions. Because of market and other conditions, fewer final plats are filed within three years and extensions are more commonplace.

**Position:** Seek legislation which expands the deadline for filing final plats from three years to five years.

**12. SALES OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES**

Legislation was introduced during the 1993 session which would have mandated animal control agencies to offer the sale of animals for research purposes before they are euthanized. This is contrary to county policy prohibiting the sales of animals for research purposes.

**Position:** Oppose legislation which requires the sales of animals for research purposes.

**13. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE**

If legal proof of the status of a local elected official is required, the oath of office documentation is the accepted document since it proves that the final step of qualification has been taken. These documents are not currently required to be filed with the county elections officer.

**Position:** Seek legislation which requires filing of the oath of office document with the county elections officer.

**14. COUNTY EXECUTIVES AS MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Under current law, county executives make appointments to the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) but may not appoint themselves. Legislation will be introduced by Representative Ruth Fisher to permit county executives to appoint themselves as vacancies occur so that the total number of members will not be increased.

**Position:** Support legislation which authorizes county executives to appoint themselves as members of the RTA.

**15. DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY RECYCLING SURVEY**

Current law requires recycling businesses to respond to an annual survey administered by the Department of Ecology in order to track the amount and type of material being recycled. Many companies do not respond to the survey, and as a result, legislation will be introduced which provides for a monetary penalty for failure to respond.

**Position:** Support legislation which provides for monetary penalties for failure to respond to the Department of Ecology's annual survey.

**16. ALTERNATIVE PUNISHMENT OPTIONS**

Current law does not permit the use of home detention for pre-trial felons who constitute a significant portion of the county jail population. Jail overcrowding could be eased if non-violent, pre-trial felons are eligible for home detention.

**Position:** Support legislation which authorizes home detention for non-violent, pre-trial felons.

**17. MEDICATION FOR MENTALLY ILL JAIL INMATES**

Under current law, prisons may administer involuntary medication to mentally ill offenders following an administrative review. This option is not available to jail administrators. Many offenders who have undergone involuntary treatment and are in jail refuse to take their prescribed medication.

**Position:** Seek legislation which authorizes jail administrators the same rights as prison administrators to administer medication for mentally ill offenders.

**18. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The state public disclosure laws require that no fee be charged for the inspection of public records, except for costs related to copying records. The definition of public records seems to include computer diskettes and certain types of data compilations. However, it is currently unclear whether local governments can charge for public access to computer information and databases, such as Geographic Information Systems, that require significant expenditure of local government resources to compile.

**Position:** Support legislation clarifying the definition of public records and the circumstances under which local governments may charge for electronic public records.

**19. HARBORVIEW HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Harborview hospital Board of Directors under current law four members of the Harborview Board of Directors are selected by the King County Executive and to assure board geographic representation on the board, one member is selected by each of the members of the former nine member King County council for a total of 13 Board members. All appointments must be confirmed by the county council. By voter approval the new metropolitan King County council includes 13 members.

**Position:** Seek legislation which expands the membership of the Harborview Board of Directors from 13 to 17 members by providing that one member is selected by each of the 13 members of the metropolitan King County council.

**20. USE OF LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX PROCEEDS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS**

For several years King County has used a portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) proceeds to fund low income housing projects. These funds have been used to leverage additional State and Federal funds for low income housing. Under current law authority to use proceeds of REET for low income housing expires at the end of 1995.

**Position:** Support SHB 2007 which allows cities and counties to continue to use a portion of REET funds for low income housing projects.

**21. Support legislation which allows the boundary review board to consider incorporations at the same time as annexations. Presently annexations are considered before incorporations.**