

September 14, 1998

Introduced By: LOUISE MILLER  
CHRISTOPHER VANCE

Proposed No.: 98 - 584

MOTION NO. 10557

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A MOTION establishing the 1999 state legislative agenda for King County.

WHEREAS, the metropolitan King County council and the King County executive have worked through the joint King County Legislative Steering Committee to develop a state legislative agenda and desire to bring their positions on issues facing the 1999 Washington state legislature to the attention of the Washington state legislature, and

WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local governments and other organizations such as the Washington Association of County Officials, the Suburban Cities Association, the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington Transit Association, and the Washington State Association of Counties to achieve its 1999 legislative goals, and

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

WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 1999 state legislative program;

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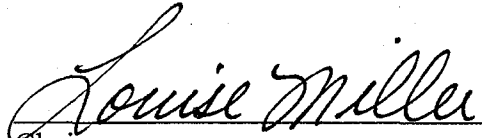
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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

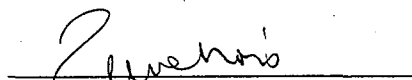
The King County council adopts the attached "King County Legislative Agenda - Major Items for 1999" as King County's highest priority for action in the 1999 session of the Washington State Legislature.

PASSED by a vote of 9 to 1 this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1998

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Council

Attachment: King County Legislative Agenda - Major Items for 1999, dated September 14, 1998.

**KING COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**  
**Major Items for 1999**  
**September 14, 1998**

**Puget Sound Salmon Recovery**

**Issue:**

King County needs sufficient funding to implement the habit portion of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan. Funding must address both habitat projects and staffing for development, oversight and monitoring of a habitat response plan. King County also needs authority for flexible local determination of the lead entity for project development for state funding. In addition, King County needs authority for local approval and allocation of funds to recovery projects. King County supports legislation to create a local option funding mechanism to match state funds for salmon recovery.

**Action:** King County supports the following:

- ⇒ Additional state funding for salmon recovery plan development, implementation and monitoring.
- ⇒ Increased project money for Puget Sound projects
- ⇒ Increased flexibility in designating the lead entity for salmon recovery and project identification.
- ⇒ Increased local approval authority for salmon recovery projects
- ⇒ Development of a local option funding mechanism to match state funding for salmon recovery

**R-49 Transportation Project Distribution**

**Issue:**

If R-49 is approved by the people in November 1998, King County needs to obtain a share of the R-49 Transportation Distribution commensurate with the county's needs. We must ensure the projects selected are top priority King County projects that can be built. Also, work to gain a local distribution of R-49 moneys similar to a normal gas tax distribution. If R-49 does not pass in November 1998, King County must work for a comprehensive statewide transportation funding package to include King County's priorities and local distribution needs.

**Action:**

King County supports the staff work to identify the highest priority King County projects that can be built with available federal, state and local funds. King County will work aggressively to obtain these funds. King County also supports flexibility in the application of the current local gas tax authority.

<b>Criminal Justice Funding</b>
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**Issue:**

King County needs to gain additional funding and flexibility for criminal justice programs in the county. In 1998, the Washington state legislature passed legislation to better regulate and treat mentally ill offenders. King County supports continued program and financial support for mentally ill offenders. Closely related are the problems associated with chronic public inebriates. King county supports policies to deal with these populations. King County also proposes that prisoners should be transferred to the state system earlier than presently allowed. It would not possible to ask for more direct money on the heels of R-49, if passed, but there are areas such as those mentioned that may receive a reallocation of funds or a change in policies.

**Action:**

Support increased financial support for the Criminal Justice System including:

- ⇒ Additional resources to deal with mentally ill offenders
- ⇒ Additional resources and legislation to deal with chronic public inebriates
- ⇒ Transfer of prisoners to state facilities for sentences under one year

<b>Washington State DSHS Budget</b>
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**Issue:**

The Governor's 1999-01 Preliminary Budget Outlook projects a need for substantial cuts in programs. The Governor's budget does have some projected policy decisions that put his budget in a short position. The Governor's preliminary budget estimates program cuts of \$530 million. The Governor's preliminary budget directs a 7 % cut of \$345 million from the DSHS Budget. The DSHS Secretary has projected a 10% cut of \$494 million in DSHS program to allow him to have the flexibility to shift the impact. A sampling of these potential cuts follow:

Mental Health	\$ 49.5 million
Developmental Disabilities	\$ 45.5 million
DASA (Drug & Alcohol)	\$ 3.1 million
Children Services	\$ 41.0 million
Aging	\$ 83.0 million
Economic Services (GAU)	\$102.0 million
Juvenile Rehab	\$ 16.0 million
Medicaid	\$134.0 million

The total impact, with both state budget cuts and lost federal matching funds, could be as high as \$700-\$800 million. These are state wide figures but a significant portion of the impacts would fall on King County because of our large impacted population.

**Action:**

At a minimum, King County supports maintaining current funding levels and, if possible, increasing the funding for vital king county programs funded by Washington's Department of Health and Human Services. King County will work aggressively to obtain this funding.

### Welfare To Work

**Issue:**

It is imperative to the success of the WorkFirst initiative that a universal commitment be made to improve the state's subsidized child care program, promoting wage progression and upward mobility, and improving services to "hard to serve" participants. State level leadership is crucial in efforts to create enhanced economic opportunities for all. The savings resulting from the rapid decline in the WorkFirst caseload should be reinvested in the program.

The lack of additional funding for WorkFirst program improvements would impact King County by shifting 18,000 adults and 33,000 kids from welfare families to working poor families living in poverty. In addition, the County would experience an increase demand for social support services, like health care, drug and alcohol treatment, nutritional programs, subsidized child care, etc.

**Action:**

King County strongly supports legislative action mandating at least \$33 million of the \$77 million in savings resulting from the rapid decline in the WorkFirst caseload, be reinvested in the WorkFirst program. Additionally, King County supports a specific allocation of \$3.5 million in additional funds to allow 1000 WorkFirst clients in King County to attend part-time training programs while working part-time.

**Affordable Housing****Issue:**

A new dedicated funding source is desperately needed to replace the portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) which is no longer available for low-income housing. It is important to note that for every \$1 of REET from 1990 - 95, King County was able to leverage over \$5 from other sources. In that period, roughly \$103 million was leveraged providing for the creation of approximately 2,000 affordable housing units in King County. Today, with the expiration of Section 8 certificates and the diminishing support of HUD, jurisdictions are finding it more difficult to provide affordable housing assistance, especially to low-income residents. A dedicated fund source for the provision of affordable housing would enable jurisdictions to meet the growing housing needs of residents.

**Action:**

King County supports legislation authorizing a dedicated local revenue source preferably without a new tax for the funding of low-income housing development.