



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 11, 2001

Motion 11346

Proposed No. 2001-0527.3

Sponsors Pelz

1 A MOTION establishing the 2002 State Legislative
2 Agenda for King County.

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5 WHEREAS, the metropolitan King County council and the King County
6 executive have worked through the joint King County Legislative Steering Committee to
7 develop a state legislative agenda and desire to bring their positions on issues facing the
8 2002 Washington state legislature to the attention of the Washington state legislature, and

9 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local
10 governments and other organizations such as the Washington State Association of
11 Counties, the Washington Association of County Officials, the Suburban Cities
12 Association, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington Transit
13 Association to achieve its 2002 legislative goals, and

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

17 WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the
18 state, despite projected state revenue declines. If King County is going to be able to
19 continue delivering basic government services to our residents, we need a preservation --
20 if not an expansion -- of state support, and

21 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will
22 continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 2002
23 state legislative program;

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

25 The King County council adopts the attached 2002 Legislative Agenda for King

Motion 11346

26 County as King County's highest priorities for action in the 2002 legislative session of
27 the Washington state legislature.

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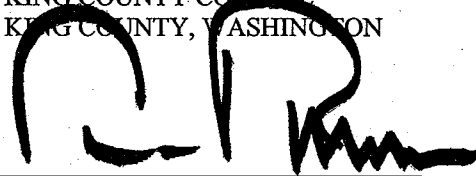
Motion 11346 was introduced on 11/5/01 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/10/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ms. Miller, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Gossett and Ms. Patterson

No: 4 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen and Mr. Irons

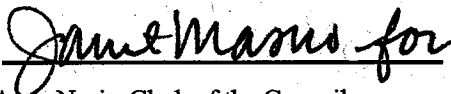
Excused: 2 - Ms. Fimia and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments A. Metropolitan King County 2002 State Legislative Agenda Priority Issues dated 12/3/01, amended by Council 12/10/01, B. Metropolitan King County 2002 State Legislative Agenda Statement of Policy Positions



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
PRIORITY ISSUES** 12/3/01, amended by Council 12/10/01

Priority	Department	Item	Description
1	Executive	Preservation of Basic Government Services	<p>Although King County has increased internal efficiency and reorganized its functions in order to reduce its spending significantly, the County can no longer afford to deliver many services to our residents.</p> <p>For King County to continue delivering basic government services to our residents, we need preservation -- if not expansion -- of state support. If the State is not able to expand support to adequately fund the mandates upon local government, revenue tools should be provided to local governments to allow for fiscal home rule.</p> <p>Law and justice costs, now approximately 68% of King County's general fund budget, are growing much faster than the revenues to support them. Many of these costs are due to state-imposed or statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>We support a long-term restoration of the revenue shortfall for criminal justice and public health caused by the 2000 legislative repeal of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET).</p> <p>Counties, as general governments, have the most limited set of tax options in the State. County government is, by state law, dependent on property and sales taxes (unlike cities that have utility and business and occupation taxing authority). Municipal annexations and incorporations have eroded the County's sales tax base. We support a reform of the state/county fiscal relationship, including the identification of new, long-term revenue sources such as a countywide utility tax. We support directing this utility tax revenue to specific regional services such as criminal justice, public health, and human services throughout the County, in both incorporated and unincorporated areas.</p> <p>Finally, we oppose the imposition of underfunded state mandates. Legislative changes that increase county costs or responsibilities must be mitigated with increased state funding or reduced state mandates. State budget cuts should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties.</p>



METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
PRIORITY ISSUES 12/3/01, amended by Council 12/10/01

Priority	Department	Item	Description
2	Transportation (DOT)	Transportation Solutions and Regional Funding	Congestion in the Puget Sound region threatens the economy of not only King County but of the entire state. King County supports increases in both state and regional funding to improve the movement of people and goods. Funding should be directed primarily -- but not exclusively -- to relieving congestion on major travel corridors. It should also be distributed in an equitable, statewide method, with priority given to the regions with the greatest need. Funding should be provided for the best multimodal alternatives regardless of transportation mode. Finally, long-term funding solutions should be provided quickly through existing governments in partnership with WSDOT.
3	Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Equitable Mental Health Funding	King County supports legislation revising the distribution of mental health funds based solely on prevalence and severity of mental illness. Mental health funding should be consistent with state law requiring services to priority populations and should also support expensive services to special needs populations—children, homeless, mentally ill offenders, and ethnic minorities. As passed in the 2001 legislative session, the state budget <i>reduced</i> King County Regional Support Network funding by \$40 million over six years (minus a local/federal match).



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
PRIORITY ISSUES** 12/3/01, amended by Council 12/10/01

Priority	Department	Item	Description
4	Executive/ Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Support for Tri- County Dislocated Worker Assistance	<p>In the face of massive layoffs by The Boeing Company and other economic declines, King County seeks assistance for our region's dislocated workers. Effectively retraining our workers not only benefits workers, but also the many employers seeking productive employees that are so critical to a strong regional economy. We support additional federal retraining funds (that go to the State and are administered by the local Workforce Development Councils) of at least \$5 million for the tri-county area.</p> <p>King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties have a proven track record of retraining people and getting them back to work. The tri-county program, which has an 86 percent job placement rate and a 106% wage recovery record in King County, offers laid-off workers access to county-wide teams of program specialists, career counselors and job developers who provide assessment, business and employment referrals, job training, career counseling, job search assistance, support, and follow-up services.</p>



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
STATEMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS**

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Finance	Tax-benefit leasing Authority <i>New Item</i>	Support legislation that would clarify the County's authority to enter into leveraged lease transactions. The current inability to enter into such transactions means that the County has not been able to take advantage of opportunities to lease the West Point Treatment Plant and transit buses, which could result in significant present value savings.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Law Library	Regional Justice Center Law Library Funding	Support bill [SB 5426 and HB 1470] introduced in 2001 session to amend RCW 27.24.070, county law library governance statute, to add a provision that would allow the county legislative authority, upon a showing of need by the law library board of trustees, to impose an additional local option surcharge on the civil filing fee in superior and district court to increase the county law library filing fee. Note: Only counties with more than one superior courthouse. Law library filing fee income authorized by this code section was last increased in 1992. Revenues generated no longer meet library financial needs. If this bill becomes law, the need for King County to provide supplemental funding to support the annual operation of the Regional Justice Center Law Library would be reduced.
2	Sheriff's Office	Child Neglect <i>New Item</i>	Support strengthening of current child endangerment laws to allow law enforcement greater investigative powers in severe neglect situations, including and especially meth. lab households.
3	Sheriff's Office	Domestic Preparedness/ Homeland Defense <i>New Item</i>	Support regional funding for efforts to respond to domestic terrorism.
4	Sheriff's Office	Methamphetamine Initiative <i>New Item</i>	Support adequate regional funding for the Washington State methamphetamine initiative.
5	Prosecuting Attorney; DAJD/Adult; Community Services (DCHS)	Drug Offender Sentencing Reform/ Community-Based Treatment <i>New Item</i>	Support a drug-offender sentencing reform package to reduce prison sentences for certain drug offenders, capture the savings to DOC, and invest in community-based chemical dependency treatment programs in the criminal justice system such as drug courts. Reduced sentences would free up costly prison space and save an estimated \$50 million over six years.



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
STATEMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS**

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
6	DAJD/Adult	Liability Hertog v. Seattle	Support legislation adding a new section to RCW 9.95 that improves liability protection to cities and counties that offer pre-trial services to supervise offenders in the community that is consistent with RCW 9.95.204 (6) & (7). This would improve the liability protection to jurisdictions that offer pre-trial services and supervision to offenders who are in the community.
7	DAJD/Juvenile	Crisis Residential Centers	Support legislation expanding DSHS legal authority to secure CRC's to be able to hold both non-offenders in crisis (short term) and non-offenders ordered detained for Contempt of Court.
8	DAJD	Public Disclosure <i>New Item</i>	Support legislation is to provide public disclosure protection to correctional professionals that would extend to personal information.
9	DAJD	State Patrol Inmates <i>New Item</i>	Support legislation to provide local county jails the authority to charge a jail service fee to the Washington State Patrol for their inmates.
10	DCHS	Mental Health Courts	Support legislation to request funding to establish and sustain mental health courts.



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
STATEMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS**

HUMAN SERVICES (DCHS)

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Community Services (DCHS)/ Public Health	Chemical Dependency Treatment	Support the intent of Senate Bill 5418, "An Act relating to providing chemical dependency treatment service upon request" as introduced in the 2001 Legislative Session.
2	DCHS	Public Defense Funding	Support reimbursement of County costs associated with the public defense of dependency cases
3	DCHS	Developmental Disabilities Funding	Support legislation for adequate funding for individuals with developmental disabilities and families; allowing for early intervention services, family support, employment/day programs and other community-based services. This includes supporting DSHS's legislative requests under the settlement agreement between the Arc of WA State and the State.
4	DCHS	Becca Funding for At-Risk Youth	Support the maintenance of Becca funding for state-mandated services for at-risk youth, child-in-need-of-services, and truancy petitions. The Becca processes allow families and the courts to work together to address the needs of children at risk.
5	DCHS	Housing Operating Subsidies	Support the establishment of operating subsidies for non-profit housing that serves low-income, homeless and special needs populations.
6	DCHS	Local Fund Source for Housing	Support legislation authorizing a dedicated local revenue source for housing.
7	DCHS	Housing Trust Fund	Support legislation to increase the Housing Trust Fund.
8	DCHS	Lead-Based Paint Contractors	Support legislation to have the State impose certification of lead-based paint contractors.
9	DCHS	Community Juvenile Accountability Act (CJAA)	Support legislative efforts to increase funding to CJAA programs. CJAA funds support community-based intervention programs for juvenile justice youth.
10	DCHS	Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternative (CDDA)	Support legislative efforts to increase funding for the CDDA program. This program, established as part of juvenile justice reform, allows for a sentencing option to treat youth with substance abuse problems.



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JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION/SUPERIOR COURT

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Judicial Admin.	Local Option Surcharge <i>New Item</i>	Support legislation that would allow for a local option surcharge on civil and domestic Superior Court filing fees that would be used for local electronic file management system development and maintenance in County Clerk's offices across the State.
2	Superior Court/ Court Operations	Amend Civil Procedure Law <i>New Item</i>	Support change in RCW 4.12 to require the county of origin to pay the costs of a case to the county in which it is tried, when a civil case is transferred to another county. King County routinely receives cases from other counties and bears the expenses. RCW 4.12.060 provides for change of venue of civil cases.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT/EXECUTIVE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	DIAS/Office of Emergency Management	911 Tax on Wireless Phones	Support legislation to establish a funding mechanism for wireless E-911 service. During the 2001 legislative session, SB 6034 and HB 2150 were introduced to establish wireless 911 excise taxes at parity with wireline 911 taxes. RCW 82.14B.030 establishes local authority for a 911 excise tax on wireless phones of \$.25, which is half the authorized rate of the wireline tax. This law also establishes state authority for a 911 excise tax on wireline phones, but there is no state tax on wireless phones. Due to the increasing impact of wireless phones on our E-911 System, with wireless phones now making over one-third of the 911 calls, it is important to establish wireless taxes at parity with wireline taxes to create equitable taxing regardless of the telecommunications device used to call 911, and to ensure the stable funding of our E-911 System in the future. This is especially important since the number of wireline telephone lines is now decreasing, which decreases the amount of wireline tax revenue that is available to fund the system.
2	DDES / BSD	State Building and Fire Codes <i>New Item</i>	Support the amendment to RCW 19.27.031 to allow the State Building Code Council (SBCC) either adopt the new international building codes or to look at national and international building and related codes other than the uniform codes. The Uniform Codes currently referenced in state law are no longer being updated.
3	DDES / BSD	Fireworks Permit Costs <i>New Item</i>	Support amendment to RCW 70.77.555 to increase the minimum fee local governments may charge for permits and licenses for fireworks stands and displays. Current law allows local governments to charge a maximum of \$100 for permits and licenses related to fireworks displays and stands. In 2001, the cost to DDES based on our current hourly rates to inspect 42 retail fire works stands and 12 public displays was \$51,060. DDES recovered \$5,400 from permit fees, meaning a loss to the department and the county of \$45,660.



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Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
4	DDES / LUSD	Definition of Short Subdivision	Support amendment to RCW 58.17.020 (6) to allow counties to increase the number of lots regulated as a short subdivision to a maximum of nine within the urban growth area (UGA).
5	DDES / LUSD	Permit Counties to Administer Hydraulic Project and Forest Practice Approval	Support amendment to RCW 75.20 (hydraulics) and RCW 76.09 (forest practices) to allow counties to administer those provisions in concert with local permits. State law already requires a consolidated review and issuance for permits at the local level. King County presently has the technical ability to perform such duties. State authorization for funding (permit fees) also will be necessary.
6	DDES / LUSD	Administrative Plats	Support amendment to RCW 58.17.095 (procedures for administrative plats) to be consistent with the permit procedures in RCW 36.70B (1995 regulatory reform legislation).
7	Executive/ Facilities Management (DCFM)	Alternative Public Works Contracting Procedures <i>New Item</i>	Support amendment to RCW 35.21.730 to allow county Public Development Authorities to procure using general contractor/construction manager (GCCM) contracting procedures.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND PARKS

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Department of Natural Resources and Parks – Wastewater Treatment Division	Centennial Clean Water Fund	Support legislation to maintain funding of \$15 million per biennium (\$7.5 million per year) for the West Point Treatment Facility. The money is for the upgrade of the West Point Treatment Plant. King County received the most recent \$7.5M payment in September, 2001. The County is owed two more payments of \$7.5M each over the next two years.
2	Department of Natural Resources – Water and Land Resources Division	Reinstate full \$10 million or more in funding under the Flood Control Account Assistance Program (FCAAP)	This is a biennial grant program available to cities and counties through the Department of Ecology for river facility repair and flood hazard reduction. King County has regularly pursued FCAAP funding for its river facility repair and flood hazard reduction projects available through the Department of Ecology. In the past, this program provided \$10 million biennially to cities and counties. It was greatly reduced five years ago, to approximately \$2.8 million. King County and other cities and counties in western Washington have experienced five federally declared flood disasters since 1990. State funding, other than the State's disaster match requirement, is limited to the FCAAP program.



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Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
3	Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Surface Water and Parks Facilities and Properties transferred to Cities upon Annexation	Support amendment to RCW 36.89 and/or 36.94 so that surface water management facilities and properties and parks facilities and properties owned and/or maintained by counties become the responsibility of cities upon an annexation or incorporation. RCW currently provides for county roads to become cities' responsibility at the time of annexation/incorporation – this requested action would provide the same for surface water facilities and properties and parks facilities and properties. Title to the properties would likely need to be deeded in a separate action to the annexing or incorporating jurisdiction; a potential disconnect between transfer of responsibility and transfer of title would require legal analysis before RCW change is drafted.
4	Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Coordinated Water System Planning	Support changes to RCW 70.116 that more specifically define the scope of Coordinated Water System Plans (CWSP) to include regional water resource issues, including endangered species restoration, water quality, and water supply, and to require consistency with other watershed or regional water resource planning, including plans under the Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82) and strategies under the Salmon Recovery Act (RCW 77.85). The approval process should require an opportunity for public input. The law should also be changed to specify a clear role for DOE as the lead water resources and environmental agency in reviewing CWSPs. Ecology would be required to coordinate with Health, Department of Fish and Wildlife, CTED, and other state agencies.
5	Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Exempt Wells	Support legislation that would ban exempt wells in urban areas, and ensure the right of counties to review, condition or deny well exemption and/or developments of construction that would rely on exempt wells. Wells that are limited to 5,000 gallons or less are exempt from Ecology's water rights process. Such wells typically have the ability to serve up to six single family dwellings. Even if Ecology has closed a basin to further appropriation of water rights due to environmental constraints, these exempt wells can continue to be developed, conflicting with the original intent of closing the basin. Utilities are also frustrated when, under a moratorium for the issuance of certificates of water availability – often because Ecology has denied additional water rights – exempt wells can continue to be developed within their service area.



**METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY
2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
STATEMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS**

PUBLIC HEALTH

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Public Health	Tobacco Settlement Funds	<p>Maintain and enhance long term funding for local health departments from Tobacco Settlement Dollars.</p> <p>A positive outcome of the 2001 Legislative session was the \$2.5 million dollar increase in tobacco funding; bringing the total investment for the next biennia to \$17.5 million. This amount still falls short of the \$26 million originally proposed by the State Health Department and requires that some activities be curtailed or eliminated across the State.</p>

REGIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	ORPP	Infrastructure Investment	<p>Infrastructure is an important investment in King County's economy, and our quality of life. Our economic growth is threatened by the lack of sufficient infrastructure funding. Sufficient funding of infrastructure is a critical investment in our communities: it provides the backbone for a community's quality of life, the framework for economic development, and lays the essential groundwork for accommodating residential, commercial, and industrial growth. King County particularly needs the funding to pay for transportation investments to support our 20-year countywide land use plan – as mandated by the Countywide Planning Policies.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Coalition is not only trying to address the infrastructure gap, but also to better align state infrastructure priorities and funding with growth management objectives.</p>

TRANSPORTATION

Priority	Department	Item	Description of Legislative Request
1	Transportation	Housing Tax Abatements	Support legislation amending RCW 81.14 to allow cities with a population of less than 50,000 that plan under the Growth Management Act to participate in the multiple family housing tax abatements and allow the addition of transit corridors between urban centers as eligible areas.
2	Transportation	Eliminate Labor & Industries Electrical Inspections	Support legislation exempting County road electrical work from State Labor and Industries (L&I) inspections as cities are now exempted.
3	Transportation	Employer B&O Tax Credit	Support legislation to reauthorize and extend the Employer B&O Tax Credit for Transit/Rideshare subsidies to employees. The present law expired in June 2000. Legislation which passed the Senate Transportation Committee would expand eligibility and fund the General Fund tax loss from new transportation sources.