



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 5, 2017

Motion 15011

Proposed No. 2017-0483.3

Sponsors McDermott

1 A MOTION establishing the King County 2018 State
2 Legislative Agenda.

3 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive have
4 worked together through their respective government relations staff and desire to bring
5 their positions on issues facing the 2018 Washington state Legislature to the attention of
6 the Washington state Legislature, and

7 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local
8 governments and other organizations such as the Washington State Association of
9 Counties, the Washington Association of County Officials, the Sound Cities Association
10 and the Association of Washington Cities to achieve its 2018 legislative goals, and

11 WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the Legislature as partners with
12 the state in the delivery of such critical services as transportation, criminal justice, public
13 health, community and human services and water quality, and

14 WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the
15 state in many areas, and

16 WHEREAS, King County has a limited number of revenue sources available to
17 mitigate impacts of budget reductions at the state level, and

18 WHEREAS, King County's ability to deliver public health, human services,
19 criminal justice and other basic services is directly impacted by reductions in the state

20 budget, and

21 WHEREAS, the increasing cost of providing essential services to a growing King
22 County population combined with an arbitrary cap on property tax revenue growth has
23 created a structural gap in King County's general fund, and

24 WHEREAS, King County is dedicated to exploring with the state new ideas for
25 sustained funding for critical services such as transportation, criminal justice, health and
26 human services and flood protection, and

27 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will
28 continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 2018
29 state legislative program;

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

31 The King County council adopts the King County 2018 State Legislative Agenda,

32 Attachment A to this motion, as King County's highest priorities for action in the 2018
33 legislative session of the Washington state Legislature.
34

Motion 15011 was introduced on 11/13/2017 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/4/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. 2018 State Legislative Agenda



OUR TOP INITIATIVES

Reform state and local tax system

The state generates almost 43% of its general fund revenues from King County taxpayers, yet invests less than 23% of state revenues back into the county. The legislature's school funding plan will dramatically increase property taxes for a majority of King County residents. Action is needed to make the state's tax system more fair, equitable, and sustainable for King County's taxpayers and local governments.

- Replace the arbitrary 1% cap with a growth limit directly tied to inflation + population growth.
- Eliminate the non-supplant restriction to allow special levies to fund existing services and programs.
- Adjust qualifying income level on senior property tax exemption to a percentage of county median income and allow extension of the exemption to local levies.

Improve juvenile justice system

Reduce youth interaction with the juvenile justice system – especially among youth of color who are disproportionately represented.

- Authorize juvenile courts to use diversion funding pre-adjudication.
- Support efforts that focus on youth rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

Stabilize local public health services

Protect against the proliferation of communicable diseases by investing \$5 million in important King County public health programs.

Roads and Bridges

- Address chronically underfunded county regional and local roads and bridges.
- Invest in long term regional and local road infrastructure where state and local roads connect.

Provide mental health and addiction treatment on demand

Addiction and mental health treatment is most effective when people get the right treatment, at the right time, at the right place.

- Add funding to stabilize core community behavioral health rates and deliver better health outcomes while also increasing discharges and diversion from state hospitals.
- Expand the state Medicaid plan to secure additional federal funding and deliver better health outcomes.
- Increase community capacity for mental health and addiction treatment by investing at least \$65 million in capital projects.

King County seeks to partner with Washington State in the following ways:

Affordable Homes

- Support efforts to provide cities and counties with additional tools to preserve and expand affordable homes, behavioral health facilities, and homelessness services.
- Invest \$107 million in the Housing Trust Fund to increase affordable housing supply.
- Increase local communities' capacity to respond to homelessness and address the immediate crisis and the root causes of homelessness.

King County Government Relations Contacts

April Putney, State Relations Director, Executive
206-519-9766, april.putney@kingcounty.gov

Mac Nicholson, Government Relations Director, Council
206-218-7510, mac.nicholson@kingcounty.gov

Infrastructure

- Dedicate at least \$500,000 to help retrofit the Eastside Rail Corridor's historic 100-year-old Wilburton Trestle to create a seamless 22 mile pedestrian/bicycle trail.
- Fund the Floodplains by Design grant program for critical floodplain management projects.
- Protect public health by funding an alternative wastewater system in Fall City.
- Enhance dam safety emergency planning and preparedness.

Law and Justice

- Strengthen state laws, and provide support to organizations and programs, that deter crime and counteract hate-motivated criminal activity.
- Empower law enforcement agencies to build departments more reflective of their communities by extending employment opportunities to legal permanent residents.
- Clarify authority to use video hearings for commitments under the Involuntary Treatment Act.

Strong Communities

- Continue to ensure access to affordable health care coverage for low-income Washingtonians.
- Improve voting access and electoral processes to make government more representative of the public.
- Ensure homeless programs and services are data driven. Reauthorize unaccompanied minors over the age of 13 to consent to share their information with HMIS, with appropriate protections.
- Facilitate the exchange of useful, timely data on instances of safe transfer of newborns and newborn abandonment to better programs and services.
- Support state policies that reduce carbon emissions and accelerate a transition to clean energy.

King County – Where We Live

