



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16491

Proposed No. 2023-0341.2

Sponsors Upthegrove

1 A MOTION establishing the King County 2024 Legislative
2 Priorities.

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 2024 Washington state Legislature to the attention of
6 the Washington state Legislature, and

7 WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the Legislature as partners with
8 the state in the delivery of such critical services as public health, transportation, public
9 safety, behavioral health services, affordable housing, and water quality, and

10 WHEREAS, King County has a limited number of revenue sources available to
11 mitigate impacts of budget decisions at the state level, and

12 WHEREAS, King County's ability to deliver public health, behavioral health
13 services, public safety and other basic services is directly impacted by decisions in the
14 state budget, and

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

18 WHEREAS, King County is dedicated to exploring with the state new ideas for
19 sustained funding for critical services including transportation and transit, affordable
20 housing, behavioral health and crisis response, public safety, and flood protection, and

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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 2024
23 state legislative program;

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

25 The King County council adopts the King County 2024 Legislative Priorities,

Motion 16491

- 26 Attachment A to this motion, as King County's highest priorities for action in the 2024
27 legislative session of the Washington state Legislature.

Motion 16491 was introduced on 9/26/2023 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/28/2023, by the following vote:


Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. King County 2024 Legislative Priorities



King County

King County 2024 Legislative Priorities

Allow Local Governments to Fund Critical Services, Build Housing, and Reduce Homelessness

King County faces a severe revenue deficit because the Legislature capped property taxes and limits revenue options for counties. Housing and homelessness continue to be a critical issue for King County residents. To resolve these issues, the Legislature should:

- lift the arbitrary cap on local government property tax;
- remove the non-supplant language restricting King County's ability to ask voters to increase revenue for existing services;
- provide counties with flexible and progressive revenue opportunities for county government services and for county road and bridge preservation; and,
- provide robust operating and capital investments across the housing continuum, including affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and emergency housing and shelters.

Behavioral Health: Build on Investments Strengthening Access to Care

The state's own rate study reports that Medicaid is falling far short of funding the full cost of behavioral health care. As a result, **the State should establish minimum payments for behavioral health treatment that serves those farthest from, and most in need of, care.**

Additionally, too many individuals have gone without the mental health and addiction/recovery care they need, leading to a cycle of hospitalization, homelessness, and criminal-legal system involvement. Tragically for some, this cycle is fatal. To reverse this inequitable and costly cycle, the State must:

- provide evaluation and treatment services to people in acute behavioral health crises; and,
- secure access to community-based behavioral health facilities, substance use disorder treatment, and engagement services; and,
- provide resources to halt the fentanyl overdose crisis.

Stabilize Harborview Medical Center Revenue

Harborview Medical Center is the state's only Level One trauma center and a safety net hospital, providing specialized and indigent treatment for residents across the state. Yet, Harborview operation is unsustainable with current funding. King County needs the Legislature to **expand the authorized use of the county hospital maintenance tax to include operation, capital, and debt service expenses** to ensure Harborview's viability.

Bolster the Public Safety and Criminal Legal System

The public safety and criminal legal systems are overburdened and under-resourced. The Legislature can help offset these problems by:

- addressing gun violence through prevention;
- funding diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration;
- increasing correction officer academy slots; and,
- providing funding for criminal legal systems, including public defense and prosecution, courts, and the sheriff's office.

Protect Our Climate and Environment

We must mitigate and prepare for the climate crisis and address the ongoing environmental decline. The Legislature can take three immediate steps to counteract these crises:

- enact the WRAP Act, enhancing and growing product stewardship programs to make products safer for people and the planet, from design to disposal;
- increase Climate Commitment Act (CCA) appropriations to the Natural Climate Solutions Account, and provide CCA funding to local governments, including King County, to rapidly reduce climate emissions and develop climate solutions, and take steps to reduce, mitigate, and eliminate PFAS, 6PPD and other forever chemical pollution; and,
- increase funding for the Trust Land Transfer program.

CONTACT

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Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 2
Supplemental Document Pages: 1	Initials: 0
Certificate Pages: 5	Envelope Originator: Cherie Camp
AutoNav: Enabled	401 5TH AVE
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	SEATTLE, WA 98104
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
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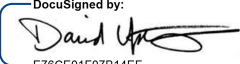
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Signer Events

Dave Upthegrove
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
Chair
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature


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Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image
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Timestamp

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ID: 4eb50c9a-2e8c-483e-8208-7c6a1b69016f

Melani Hay
melani.hay@kingcounty.gov
Clerk of the Council
King County Council
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	11/30/2023 2:40:03 PM
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Completed	Security Checked	11/30/2023 2:40:09 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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