



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Regional Policy Committee

*Councilmembers: Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Girmay Zahilay
Alternate: Sarah Perry*

*Sound Cities Association: Nancy Backus, Auburn, Vice Chair; Jay Arnold, Kirkland;
Angela Birney, Redmond; Armondo Pavone, Renton
Alternates: Dana Ralph, Kent; Debra Srebnik, Kenmore*

*City of Seattle: Cathy Moore, Alexis Mercedes Rinck
Alternates: Sara Nelson, Mark Solomon*

*Lead Staff: Miranda Leskinen (206-263-5783)
Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)*

8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING

Hybrid Meetings: Attend the King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or to provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Regional Policy Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

The Committee will accept public comment on items on today's agenda in writing. You may do so by submitting your written comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your comments are submitted before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
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HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are three ways to watch or listen to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link www.kingcounty.gov/kctv or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone.

Dial: 1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 827 1647 4590

To help us manage the meeting, please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. Call to Order

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

2. Roll Call

Discussion and Possible Action

3. [Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2025-0070.3](#) **p. 4**

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 5, 2025, of a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than \$0.2351 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King County inflation plus population index published by the King County office of economic and financial analysis, or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system; improving parks, recreation, access, and mobility in King County by acquiring lands and continuing to develop and support parks, recreation facilities, and regional trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle's Waterfront park; funding environmental and climate stewardship and education at Pacific Science Center; funding a capital project at Memorial Stadium; and funding capital improvements at public pools, for all King County residents.

Sponsors: Dembowski and Zahilay



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To consider a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance 2025 0070.3 previously recommended by the committee to the full council with a do pass recommendation. The proposed amendment would, if passed, strike the text at lines 343 through 357 on page 16 of the proposed ordinance and replace that stricken text with:

1. Algona and Pacific – two hundred fifty thousand dollars each;
2. Enumclaw – five hundred thousand dollars;
3. Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien – one million dollars each;
4. Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, and Kent – one million nine hundred fifty thousand dollars each;
5. Seattle – two million eight hundred thousand dollars;
6. Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton, Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill, Normandy Park, Black Diamond, North Bend, and Duvall – one hundred twenty five thousand dollars each;
7. Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, and Snoqualmie – two hundred fifty thousand dollars each;
8. Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah, Shoreline, and Sammamish – five hundred thousand dollars each; and
9. Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue – nine hundred seventy five thousand dollars each.

If the motion passes, it would result in a new version of the legislation, which would then be the “do pass” recommended version from the committee to the full council.

Sherrie Hsu, Brandi Paribello, and Jake Tracy, Council staff

Adjournment



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King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Policy Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	3	Name:	Sherrie Hsu Jake Tracy Brandi Paribello
Proposed No.:	2025-0070.3	Date:	April 9, 2025

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070.3 (RPC Version)
2. Amendment 0.5
3. Amendment 1



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Proposed No. 2025-0070.3

Sponsors Dembowski and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 5, 2025, of a proposition
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy
5 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of
6 six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than
7 \$0.2329 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in
8 the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King
9 County inflation plus population index published by the
10 King County office of economic and financial analysis, or
11 the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in
12 years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and
13 operating King County's open space system; improving
14 parks, recreation, access, and mobility in King County by
15 acquiring lands and continuing to develop and support
16 parks, recreation facilities, and regional trails; improving
17 parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan
18 parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding
19 environmental education, maintenance and conservation

programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle's Waterfront park; funding environmental and climate stewardship and education at Pacific Science Center; funding a capital project at Memorial Stadium; and funding capital improvements at public pools, for all King County residents.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more than one hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails. The county provides regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural areas, regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas. Examples of regional and local county parks and trails include Marymoor park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland park, Steve Cox Memorial park, Dick Thurnau Memorial park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, and the Sammamish River trail.

2. Parks, natural areas, and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A robust system of parks and trails provides: physical, social, and mental health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and

43 retain skilled workers; increased climate resilience; environmental benefits
44 like clean water and healthy habitat; and cultural resource protection
45 through open space conservation. King County's open space system
46 provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses.

47 3. Provision of urban green space, through parks or other investments
48 such as street trees, is particularly important to achieve the benefits listed
49 above. The addition of trees and plants to concrete-dominated urban areas
50 can help reduce the higher ambient temperatures in those areas, which are
51 anticipated to worsen as anthropogenic climate change progresses. That
52 contributes to health and quality of life for nearby residents, in addition to
53 providing additional capacity to sequester planet-warming greenhouse
54 gases.

55 4. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
56 council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
57 establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
58 that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
59 provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,
60 development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of its complex
61 system of parks, regional trails, and acres of open space. The latest open
62 space plan was updated in 2022 and adopted by Ordinance 19501.

63 5. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
64 of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
65 its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural

66 areas, and local parks in unincorporated King County and has
67 implemented business practices that generate revenue from park system
68 assets by implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate
69 and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage
70 public and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.

71 6. Consistent with the recommendations of past parks-related task forces
72 and community advisory committees, the county has sought voter-
73 approved levies on four prior occasions: in 2003, enacted by Ordinance
74 14586, to provide maintenance and operating funding for the parks and
75 recreation division for 2004 through 2007; in 2007, enacted by Ordinance
76 15759, to provide funding for maintenance and operations as well as
77 funding for open space acquisition, regional trail development, the
78 Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and cities for use in their
79 open space acquisition and trail projects for 2008 through 2013; in 2013,
80 enacted by Ordinance 17568, to provide funding for maintenance and
81 operations as well as for open space acquisition, asset maintenance and
82 improvement, parks and trails projects, the Woodland Park Zoo and for
83 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
84 2014 through 2019; and in 2019, enacted by Ordinance 18890, to provide
85 funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
86 acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects,
87 the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, aquatic facilities, and for
88 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for

89 2020 through 2025. Voters approved the funding measures on all four
90 occasions that they were on the ballot. The voter-approved levies have
91 helped keep the open space system clean, safe, and open.

92 7. Tribal nations are comanagers with the county in managing our shared
93 public lands, waters, and resources. The county recognizes that this
94 relationship is informed and guided by the treaty rights, which many tribes
95 exercise within King County. The department of natural resources and
96 parks has undertaken many actions with tribes as comanagers in an effort
97 to foster mutual respect, and establish regular and meaningful
98 communication, cooperation, and consultation with tribal officials in
99 developing and executing state and King County policies that have tribal
100 implications. The county has an ongoing goal to strengthen the
101 government-to-government relationship with tribes that share territory
102 with and have interests in King County

103 8. The 2020 through 2025 voter-approved parks, trails, and open space
104 replacement levy provides approximately eighty-five percent of the
105 operating budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately
106 fifteen percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial
107 efforts. King County general fund support to the parks and recreation
108 division was eliminated as of 2011.

109 9. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance
110 14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation
111 organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant

program in 2003, more than seventy projects representing more than seventy million dollars' worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public recreation facilities have been completed, with only twenty-two million dollars of King County capital investment.

10. The Woodland Park Zoo received distributions from the past three voter-approved levies to supplement zoo operating revenue for education and conservation programs, horticulture and maintenance, and capital improvements. Levy proceeds distributed to the zoo provided environmental education, programming and transportation focusing on accessibility for underserved areas, supported thousands of students-annually, and benefitted residents throughout King County. Levy proceeds also provided conservation and animal care for threatened Pacific Northwest species.

11. The Seattle Aquarium received distributions from the past voter-approved levy for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts by bringing visitors face-to-face with tropical species native to the Coral Triangle and by housing approximately three thousand five hundred sustainably sourced tropical fish and invertebrates, including rays, sharks, mangroves, and up to thirty species of coral.

12. The Memorial Stadium project will create an innovative multi-purpose student and community events facility at Seattle Center. That transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the city of

135 Seattle, providing an improved venue for local and regional sports and
136 events.

137 13. The removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct provided an unprecedented
138 opportunity to create new green space in the heart of Seattle. The
139 resulting waterfront park is a twenty-acre public space stretching from
140 Belltown to Pioneer Square, providing the entire region lasting economic,
141 social, and environmental benefits. Seattle's Waterfront park will link
142 iconic attractions including Olympic Sculpture park, Pike Place Market,
143 the Seattle Aquarium, the Colman Dock ferry terminal, Pioneer Square,
144 stadiums, and surrounding neighborhoods.

145 14. King County towns and cities received funding from the past three
146 voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use
147 levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and
148 development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to
149 the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal
150 or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city
151 for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 and the 2020 through 2025
152 levies, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities
153 were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and
154 recreation needs of cities.

155 15. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the
156 expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through
157 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through 2025 levies. Annual

committee review has concluded that the county has complied with all levy requirements.

16. During the 2008 through 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through 2025 levy periods, the process for developing, reviewing, and recommending potential conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition projects has maximized acquisitions for open space, natural lands, and regional trail rights of way due to the similar objectives for the conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition programs. Parks levy open space funding distributed to King County is a critical component of match for county applications for conservation futures tax funding. The process for conservation futures tax outlined in K.C.C. 26.12.010 maintains transparency, accessibility, and consistency of the distribution of conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition funds for the public, stakeholder groups, government agencies, and officials.

17. King County is growing rapidly as a region. In 2024, King County's population increased by more than thirty thousand people; over the next ten years, the county is expected to grow by another two hundred fifty thousand people. Recent trend reports indicate that participation in outdoor recreation continues to grow, increasing by more than four percent nation-wide in 2023. More and more people are using King County parks and trails, which puts greater pressure on the system. As development increases to accommodate population growth, the risk of losing open space lands, including urban greenspaces throughout the

181 county grows. Those valuable lands contribute to King County residents'
182 high quality of life. The cost of land to accommodate this growth and
183 preserve open spaces is also increasing. Today is the opportune time to
184 address future needs of residents by investing in our parks and trails and
185 accelerating conservation of open space.

186 18. In King County, many communities have experienced a history of
187 inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, recreation, and open
188 space, limiting the ability of residents to lead healthy lives.

189 Approximately five hundred thousand King County residents live without
190 ready access to parks, recreation, and open spaces. There is a need to
191 address disparities in access to parks, recreation, and open space for
192 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with
193 disabilities. This ordinance provides an opportunity to address parks and
194 recreation needs of these traditionally underserved areas and communities,
195 including people with disabilities.

196 19. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails
197 and the need to address disparities, to prepare the 2026 through 2031 levy,
198 the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain feedback on
199 the current park system and future parks and recreation needs for all King
200 County residents. In March and April 2024, parks and recreation division
201 staff conducted twenty-one in-person and virtual community engagement
202 events and hosted two online surveys across eight languages. Participants
203 represented all geographic areas of the county including towns and cities,

204 business, recreation, community, and environmental interests. More than
205 four thousand eight hundred people across all nine King County Council
206 districts participated in the surveys. Parks and recreation division staff
207 also met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive
208 additional feedback about the levy.

209 20. Feedback from engagement events, online surveys, and meetings
210 showed support for the King County open space system and defined
211 measures of success. Four themes emerged as top priorities: safety and
212 belonging; new parks, trails, recreation, and infrastructure; equity,
213 representation, inclusion, and access; and maintenance, repairs, and
214 staffing. Feedback supported funding for King County towns' and cities'
215 parks and recreation programs; expansion of the regional trails system;
216 and natural lands conservation.

217 21. From January through July 2024, parks and recreation division staff
218 convened a Community Advisory Committee tasked with recommending
219 how to preserve King County's open space system of parks, trails, and
220 natural areas and resource lands after the 2019 through 2025 levy expires.
221 The Community Advisory Committee also advised staff about how best to
222 meet the growing parks and recreation needs in King County and the
223 region. Representing King County Boards, cities, non-profit
224 organizations, community and environmental interests, businesses, and
225 sports, the Community Advisory Committee met nine times to provide
226 guidance on developing the 2026 through 2031 levy.

227 22. The King County executive took into consideration information
228 obtained from this engagement, the region's growing population, increased
229 use of parks and trails across King County, and the lack of parks,
230 recreation, and open space in some communities, and has put forth this
231 ordinance that acknowledges the changing landscape and the need to grow
232 the open space system to keep up with regional demand. This ordinance is
233 also consistent with the goals and priorities of past levy task forces.

234 23. This proposal would exempt low-income seniors, disabled veterans,
235 and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax increase on
236 their residences resulting from a levy authorized by this ordinance if they
237 have been approved for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381.

238 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

239 SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
240 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise. For those definitions herein that
241 contain terms not defined but include a reference to the 2022 Open Space Plan adopted
242 by Ordinance 19501, or the provisions of the Growth Management Act, chapter 36.70A
243 RCW , then the definition or categorization found in the referenced document shall apply.

244 A. "Aquatic facilities grants program" means the program through which King
245 County provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects,
246 including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and
247 major maintenance repair or replacement projects.

248 B. "Ballfield access and preservation grant program" means the program through
249 which King County provides moneys to eligible entities to increase public access to
250 ballfields.

251 C. "Community partnerships and grants program" means the program through
252 which King County provides moneys to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations,
253 and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing,
254 operating, or maintaining a recreation facility or public park in unincorporated King
255 County and King County towns and cities for public benefit.

256 D. "Conservation" means protection of natural areas, as defined in the county's
257 open space plan, natural resource lands, categorized in RCW 36.70A.170, from
258 development through fee or easement acquisition, restoration of natural functions, and
259 administration of incentives for landowners that voluntarily preserve open space.

260 E. "Conservation futures tax program" means the program defined in K.C.C.
261 chapter 26.12.

262 F. "Educational and civic venues" means the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
263 Aquarium, Memorial Stadium, Seattle's Waterfront park, and Pacific Science Center.

264 G. "Get active/stay active grant program" means the program through which the
265 King County council provides councilmanic grant awards for youth or amateur sport
266 activities or facilities.

267 H. "Healthy community and parks grants program" means the program through
268 which King County provides moneys to eligible entities in order to achieve equitable
269 opportunities and access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and

communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King County towns and cities.

I. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state law.

J. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy, any interest earnings on the moneys, and the proceeds of any interim financing following authorization of the levy.

K. "Limit factor" means the most recent published King County office of economic and financial analysis King County inflation plus population index, or the limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater.

L. "Open space system" means the categories of King County's open space system of parks, including recreation and multiuse sites, regional trails, natural areas, and natural resource lands. "Open space system" also includes structures or buildings owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources.

M. "Open space" means any land defined as part of the open space system or a parks district, town, or city parks system.

N. "Parks district" means the active metropolitan park districts under chapter 35.61 RCW and parks and recreation service areas under chapter 36.68 RCW in King County.

O. "Town or city parks system" means any building or other structure related to parks or recreation; parks, trails, natural areas, natural resource lands, and other parks or

recreation property owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of a town or city within King County.

SECTION 2. Levy submittal to voters. To provide necessary moneys for the purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive years, with collection commencing in 2026, at a rate not to exceed \$0.2329 per one thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds. The levy proceeds shall be deposited into a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures. If approved by the qualified electors of the county, levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the special election called for in section 5 of this ordinance as well as future parks, recreation, trails, and open space levy elections;

B. Distributions to educational and civic venues, limited to the following facilities:

1. Up to forty million dollars for distribution to the Woodland Park Zoological Society which shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with

316 disabilities; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of
317 threatened species; and development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate
318 impacts to animals and habitats from climate change;

319 2. Up to twelve million dollars for distribution to the Seattle Aquarium which
320 shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to
321 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;
322 maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and
323 development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and
324 habitats from climate change;

325 3. Up to two million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to the city of
326 Seattle, which shall be used solely for capital costs for the Memorial Stadium project;

327 4. Up to six million dollars for distribution to the Pacific Science Center, which
328 shall be used solely for capital or operations and maintenance purposes relating to
329 environmental and climate stewardship and education; and

330 5. Up to six million dollars for distribution to the 501(c)(3) organization,
331 registered with the Washington secretary of state under number 1133863 and known as
332 Friends of Waterfront Park or its successor 501(c)(3) organization registered with the
333 Washington secretary of state, which shall be used solely at Seattle's Waterfront park, and
334 which shall be used solely for: accessibility to the park for traditionally underserved
335 areas and communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe
336 environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and
337 development of inclusive community partnerships;

338 C. Twenty-five million dollars for a municipal parks capital and open space pass
339 through distribution to towns and cities in King County for their town or city parks
340 system operations and capital improvement projects. These moneys shall be distributed
341 based on 2025 population and presence of opportunity areas as defined in K.C.C.

342 26.12.003.J.1., as follows:

- 343 1. Algona and Pacific – two hundred thousand dollars each;
- 344 2. Enumclaw – four hundred thousand dollars;
- 345 3. Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien – eight hundred thousand dollars
346 each;
- 347 4. Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, and Kent – one million six-hundred thousand
348 dollars each;
- 349 5. Seattle – two million dollars;
- 350 6. Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton,
351 Carnation, Medina, and Clyde Hill – one hundred sixty thousand dollars each;
- 352 7. Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, and Snoqualmie – three hundred
353 twenty thousand dollars each;
- 354 8. Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah,
355 Shoreline, and Sammamish – six hundred forty thousand dollars each; and
- 356 9. Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue – one million two hundred eighty thousand
357 dollars each.

358 D. Up to sixty-eight million dollars for aquatic facilities, limited to the following:

- 359 1. Up to forty-six million dollars for the aquatic facilities grant program; and

360 2. Up to twenty-two million dollars for the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic
361 Center for major maintenance capital projects;

362 E. Up to ten million dollars for the Get Active/Stay Active grant program, to be
363 divided evenly among the nine council districts;

364 F. At least thirty million dollars for distribution to eligible entities for the healthy
365 communities and parks grant program;

366 G. Up to twelve million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to eligible
367 entities for the community partnerships and grants program;

368 H. Up to thirteen million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to eligible
369 entities for the ballfield access and preservation grant program;

370 I. The remainder of levy proceeds for the following purposes:

371 1. forty percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
372 County's open space system;

373 2. fifty percent of levy proceeds for:

374 a. Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space,
375 including urban greenspaces, natural areas, natural resource lands, and rights of way for
376 regional trails;

377 b. Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other
378 publicly owned trails; and

379 c. Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
380 of open space system infrastructure, town and city parks system infrastructure, and
381 recreation facilities owned or operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;

382 3. Ten percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns, cities, and parks
383 districts in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital
384 improvement projects, of which amount:

385 a. Seventy-five thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town and
386 city, and to each of the following parks districts that predominantly serve unincorporated
387 King County: Fall City Metropolitan Park District; Si View Metropolitan Park District;
388 and Vashon Park District;

389 b. An additional fifty-thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each
390 town and city with a population of over four thousand; and

391 c. Of the remainder of levy proceeds, after the distributions made in
392 accordance with subsection E.3.a. of this section, sixty percent shall be distributed in
393 proportion to each town or city's population and forty percent shall be distributed in
394 proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city;

395 4. Of the levy proceeds distributed to entities other than King County, a portion
396 shall be retained by the county to be used for expenditures related to administration of the
397 distribution of levy proceeds. Eligible administrative expenditures shall include all costs
398 and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or
399 attributable to the purposes listed in this section as well as sections 6 and 7 of this
400 ordinance.

401 **SECTION 5. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,
402 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with
403 the primary election on August 5, 2025, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular
404 property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director

of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the King County director of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

King County

Proposition No. 1

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy

The King County council adopted Ordinance _____ replacing the expiring parks levy.

If approved, this proposition supports county, city, park district, and town parks, open space, and trails; recreation; public pools; and educational and civic venues. It authorizes an additional six-year property tax beginning in 2026 at \$0.2329 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, uses the 2026 levy amount to compute annual increases in 2027-2031 by the King County inflation plus population index or chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater, and exempts qualifying seniors, veterans, and disabled persons under RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:

Approved? _

Rejected? _

SECTION 6. Distributions. Before distribution of levy proceeds to an entity other than King County, the receiving entity and the county shall have fully executed a contract setting forth the terms and conditions, including the applicable eligible purpose

427 or purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, under which the entity is receiving a
428 distribution of levy proceeds.

429 **SECTION 7. Parks levy oversight board established.**

430 A. If the proposition in section 5 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified
431 electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the
432 executive. The board shall consist of nine members. By March 31, 2026, each
433 councilmember shall nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the
434 councilmember's district. If, by March 31, 2026, the executive does not appoint the
435 person nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the
436 councilmember should, by June 30, 2026, nominate another candidate for appointment.
437 Members shall be confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed
438 officials of any unit of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on
439 a local board or commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

440 B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on
441 achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2027, the board
442 shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the
443 regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2026. Thereafter, the
444 board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and
445 the regional policy committee annually. Each report shall include an accounting of levy
446 spending by King County council district and ZIP Code, grouped by purposes described in
447 section 4.B. through I.2. of this ordinance. Any report to the King County council under
448 this section shall be electronically filed with the clerk of the council, who will retain an

449 electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief
450 of staff, and the chief policy officer. The board expires December 31, 2032.

451 SECTION 8. Exemption. The additional regular property taxes authorized by
452 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
453 84.36.381.

454 SECTION 9. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
455 King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the
456 election on August 5, 2025, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before
457 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

458 SECTION 10. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

459 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
460 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: None

Parks Levy Ordinance

PCOS Total

[J. Tracy]

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-0070, VERSION 3

- 1 On page 16, line 338, after "million" insert "twenty-five thousand"
- 2
- 3 **EFFECT prepared by J. Tracy:**
- 4 *Would update the municipal parks capital and open space pass through distribution*
- 5 *total from \$25,000,000 to \$25,025,000 to align with Amendment 1.*

Parks Levy Ordinance MPCOS Allocations

[J. Tracy]

Sponsor:	<u>Backus</u>
Proposed No.:	<u>2025-0070.3</u>

1 On page 16, beginning on line 343, strike lines 343 through 357 and insert:

2 "1. Algona and Pacific – two hundred fifty thousand dollars each;

3 2. Enumclaw – five hundred thousand dollars;

4 3. Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien – one million dollars each;

5 4. Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, and Kent – one million nine-hundred fifty

6 thousand dollars each;

7 5. Seattle – two million eight-hundred thousand dollars;

8 6. Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton,

9 Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill, Normandy Park, Black Diamond, North Bend, and Duvall

10 – one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars each;

11 7. Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, and Snoqualmie – two hundred

12 fifty thousand dollars each;

13 8. Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah,

14 Shoreline, and Sammamish – five hundred thousand dollars each; and

15 9. Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue – nine hundred seventy-five thousand

16 dollars each."

18 **EFFECT prepared by J. Tracy: The amendment would change the amounts that**
19 **each city would receive through the municipal parks capital and open space**
20 **passthrough.**

21 **Amounts in Version 3:**

City/Town	Municipal Parks Capital and Open Space Passthrough Amount
Algona, Pacific	\$ 200,000
Enumclaw	\$ 400,000
Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, Burien	\$ 800,000
Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, Kent	\$ 1,600,000
Seattle	\$ 2,000,000
Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton, Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill	\$ 160,000
Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, Snoqualmie	\$ 320,000
Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah, Shoreline, Sammamish	\$ 640,000
Redmond, Kirkland, Bellevue	\$ 1,280,000

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26 *Amounts in this amendment:*

<i>City/Town</i>	<i>Municipal Parks Capital and Open Space Passthrough Amount</i>
<i>Algona, Pacific</i>	<i>\$ 250,000</i>
<i>Enumclaw</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>
<i>Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, Burien</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000</i>
<i>Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, Kent</i>	<i>\$ 1,950,000</i>
<i>Seattle</i>	<i>\$ 2,800,000</i>
<i>Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton, Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill, Normandy Park, Black Diamond, North Bend, Duvall</i>	<i>\$ 125,000</i>
<i>Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, Snoqualmie</i>	<i>\$ 250,000</i>
<i>Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah, Shoreline, Sammamish</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>
<i>Redmond, Kirkland, Bellevue</i>	<i>\$ 975,000</i>

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