



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

Tuesday, April 29, 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.



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- 1) Stream online via this link www.kingcounty.gov/kctv or input the link web address into your web browser.
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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.

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

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

Discussion and Possible Action

3. Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0130 **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 \$0.2329 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; repealing Ordinance 19914, Section 1, Ordinance 19914, Section 2, Ordinance 19914, Section 3, Ordinance 19914, Section 4, Ordinance 19914, Section 5, Ordinance 19914, Section 6, Ordinance 19914, Section 7, Ordinance 19914, Section 8, Ordinance 19914, Section 9, and Ordinance 19914, Section



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10; and declaring an emergency.

Sponsors: RPC member Dembowski and RPC Chair von Reichbauer

Wendy Soo Hoo, Council staff

Adjournment



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King County

Metropolitan King County Council Regional Policy Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	3	Name:	Wendy K. Soo Hoo
Proposed No.:	2025-0130	Date:	April 29, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0130 would repeal and replace Ordinance 19914, as the levy proposition to be placed on the August 5, 2025, ballot authorizing a six-year property tax levy for parks and open space.

SUMMARY

On April 15, 2025, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 19914. Subsequently, an erroneous cross-reference was identified that would preclude the distribution of approximately \$91 million dollars over the life of the levy to towns and cities, contrary to the intent of the Council. In addition, staff identified an incorrect cross-reference in the ZIP code reporting requirement.

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0130 would correct the cross-references, repeal Ordinance 19914, and declare an emergency. Emergency action by the Council is necessary to effectuate the ordinance by the deadline¹ of May 2, 2025 for submitting a proposition to the Elections Department for the August 5, 2025 ballot.

Note: Under King County Charter Section 270.30, the Regional Policy Committee may develop legislation and propose it directly to the Council.

INVITED

- John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
- Warren Jimenez, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0130

¹ RCW 29A.04.321



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Proposed No. 2025-0130.1

Sponsors Dembowski and von
Reichbauer

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; repealing Ordinance 19914, Section 1, Ordinance 19914, Section 2, Ordinance 19914, Section 3, Ordinance 19914, Section 4, Ordinance 19914, Section 5, Ordinance 19914, Section 6, Ordinance 19914, Section 7, Ordinance 19914, Section 8, Ordinance 19914, Section 9, and Ordinance 19914, Section 10; and declaring an emergency.

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

42 Thurnau Memorial park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center,
43 and the Sammamish River trail.

44 2. Parks, natural areas, and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A
45 robust system of parks and trails provides: physical, social, and mental
46 health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation
47 and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and
48 retain skilled workers; increased climate resilience; environmental benefits
49 like clean water and healthy habitat; and cultural resource protection
50 through open space conservation. King County's open space system
51 provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses.

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

60 4. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
61 council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
62 establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
63 that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
64 provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,

65 development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of its complex
66 system of parks, regional trails, and acres of open space. The latest open
67 space plan was updated in 2022 and adopted by Ordinance 19501.

68 5. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
69 of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
70 its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural
71 areas, and local parks in unincorporated King County and has
72 implemented business practices that generate revenue from park system
73 assets by implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate
74 and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage
75 public and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.

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

88 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
89 2014 through 2019; and in 2019, enacted by Ordinance 18890, to provide
90 funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
91 acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects,
92 the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, aquatic facilities, and for
93 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
94 2020 through 2025. Voters approved the funding measures on all four
95 occasions that they were on the ballot. The voter-approved levies have
96 helped keep the open space system clean, safe, and open.

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

108 8. The 2020 through 2025 voter-approved parks, trails, and open space
109 replacement levy provides approximately eighty-five percent of the
110 operating budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately

111 fifteen percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial
112 efforts. King County general fund support to the parks and recreation
113 division was eliminated as of 2011.

114 9. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance
115 14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation
116 organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant
117 program in 2003, more than seventy projects representing more than
118 seventy million dollars' worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public
119 recreation facilities have been completed, with only twenty-two million
120 dollars of King County capital investment.

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

130 11. The Seattle Aquarium received distributions from the past voter-
131 approved levy for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify
132 the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts by bringing visitors
133 face-to-face with tropical species native to the Coral Triangle and by

134 housing approximately three thousand five hundred sustainably sourced
135 tropical fish and invertebrates, including rays, sharks, mangroves, and up
136 to thirty species of coral.

137 12. The Memorial Stadium project will create an innovative multi-
138 purpose student and community events facility at Seattle Center. That
139 transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the city of
140 Seattle, providing an improved venue for local and regional sports and
141 events.

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

150 14. King County towns and cities received funding from the past three
151 voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use
152 levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and
153 development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to
154 the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal
155 or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city
156 for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 and the 2020 through 2025

levies, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and recreation needs of cities.

15. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through 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 county grows. Those valuable lands contribute to King County residents' high quality of life. The cost of land to accommodate this growth and preserve open spaces is also increasing. Today is the opportune time to address future needs of residents by investing in our parks and trails and accelerating conservation of open space.

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

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

19. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails and the need to address disparities, to prepare the 2026 through 2031 levy,

203 the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain feedback on
204 the current park system and future parks and recreation needs for all King
205 County residents. In March and April 2024, parks and recreation division
206 staff conducted twenty-one in-person and virtual community engagement
207 events and hosted two online surveys across eight languages. Participants
208 represented all geographic areas of the county including towns and cities,
209 business, recreation, community, and environmental interests. More than
210 four thousand eight hundred people across all nine King County Council
211 districts participated in the surveys. Parks and recreation division staff
212 also met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive
213 additional feedback about the levy.

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

222 21. From January through July 2024, parks and recreation division staff
223 convened a Community Advisory Committee tasked with recommending
224 how to preserve King County's open space system of parks, trails, and
225 natural areas and resource lands after the 2019 through 2025 levy expires.

226 The Community Advisory Committee also advised staff about how best to
227 meet the growing parks and recreation needs in King County and the
228 region. Representing King County Boards, cities, non-profit
229 organizations, community and environmental interests, businesses, and
230 sports, the Community Advisory Committee met nine times to provide
231 guidance on developing the 2026 through 2031 levy.

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

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

243 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

244 SECTION 1. Findings:

245 A. On April 15, 2025, the county council adopted Ordinance 19914 to submit to
246 the voters at a special election to be held in King County on August 5, 2025, a
247 proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in
248 chapter 84.55 RCW. Commonly referred to as the "Parks Levy," if passed by the voters,

249 among the eligible levy expenditures would be direct distributions to cities, towns, and
250 municipal park districts.

251 B. Ordinance 19914, as enacted, contained an incorrect cross reference in Section
252 4.I.3.c. that would preclude distribution of approximately ninety-one million dollars, over
253 the life of the levy, to towns and cities, which is contrary to the intent of the council, and
254 contained an incorrect cross-reference in Section 7.B. that would result in omitting an
255 intended reporting requirement.

256 C. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, in order to submit a levy proposition to
257 the voters at the special election to be held in King County on August 5, 2025, an
258 effective ordinance must be presented to the county's elections department no later than
259 May 2, 2025.

260 D. In order to meet that deadline, the council must take action on this ordinance
261 on an emergency basis to ensure that the voters have the opportunity to consider the
262 correct and intended levy proposal at the August special election. If the levy proposal is
263 passed by the voters, the proceeds from the levy will continue and expand support of not
264 only the King County's open space system, but also the parks, trails, open space, and
265 recreational programs of all the county's cities and towns, and some municipal park
266 districts, as well as making investments in environmental education, the Woodland Park
267 Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, Seattle's Waterfront park, the Pacific Science Center, and the
268 construction of a revitalized Memorial Stadium.

269 E. This ordinance repeals and replaces Ordinance 19914. Except for the
270 correction of the cross-references in the subsections that are now Section 5.I.3. and

Section 8.B. of this ordinance, and the additions of this Findings section, the repeal section, and the emergency declaration, this ordinance is identical to Ordinance 19914.

SECTION 2. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise. For those definitions herein that contain terms not defined but include a reference to the 2022 Open Space Plan adopted by Ordinance 19501, or the provisions of the Growth Management Act, chapter 36.70A RCW, then the definition or categorization found in the referenced document shall apply.

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

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

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

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

294 E. "Conservation futures tax program" means the program defined in K.C.C.
295 chapter 26.12.

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

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

301 H. "Healthy community and parks grants program" means the program through
302 which King County provides moneys to eligible entities in order to achieve equitable
303 opportunities and access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and
304 communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County
305 and King County towns and cities.

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

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

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

315 L. "Open space system" means the categories of King County's open space
316 system of parks, including recreation and multiuse sites, regional trails, natural areas, and

317 natural resource lands. "Open space system" also includes structures or buildings owned
318 or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department
319 of natural resources.

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

322 N. "Parks district" means the active metropolitan park districts under chapter
323 35.61 RCW and parks and recreation service areas under chapter 36.68 RCW in King
324 County.

325 O. "Town or city parks system" means any building or other structure related to
326 parks or recreation; parks, trails, natural areas, natural resource lands, and other parks or
327 recreation property owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of a town or city within
328 King County.

329 **SECTION 3. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary moneys for the
330 purposes identified in section 5 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to
331 the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy
332 in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive
333 years, with collection commencing in 2026, at a rate not to exceed \$0.2329 per one
334 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount
335 of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two
336 through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a
337 regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

338 **SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited
339 into a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

340 **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
341 county, levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

342 A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the special election called
343 for in section 6 of this ordinance as well as future parks, recreation, trails, and open space
344 levy elections;

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

347 1. Up to forty million dollars for distribution to the Woodland Park Zoological
348 Society which shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on
349 accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with
350 disabilities; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of
351 threatened species; and development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate
352 impacts to animals and habitats from climate change;

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

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

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

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

372 C. Twenty-five million twenty-five thousand dollars for a municipal parks capital
373 and open space pass through distribution to towns and cities in King County for their
374 town or city parks system operations and capital improvement projects. These moneys
375 shall be distributed based on 2025 population and presence of opportunity areas as
376 defined in K.C.C. 26.12.003.J.1., as follows:

- 377 1. Algona and Pacific – two hundred fifty thousand dollars each;
378 2. Enumclaw – five hundred thousand dollars;
379 3. Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien – one million dollars each;
380 4. Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, and Kent – one million nine-hundred fifty
381 thousand dollars each;
382 5. Seattle – two million eight-hundred thousand dollars;

383 6. Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton,
384 Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill, Normandy Park, Black Diamond, North Bend, and Duvall
385 – one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars each;

386 7. Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, and Snoqualmie – two hundred
387 fifty thousand dollars each;

388 8. Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah,
389 Shoreline, and Sammamish – five hundred thousand dollars each; and

390 9. Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue – nine hundred seventy-five thousand
391 dollars each.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 405 1. forty percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
406 County's open space system;
- 407 2. fifty percent of levy proceeds for:
- 408 a. Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space,
409 including urban greenspaces, natural areas, natural resource lands, and rights of way for
410 regional trails;
- 411 b. Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other
412 publicly owned trails; and
- 413 c. Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
414 of open space system infrastructure, town and city parks system infrastructure, and
415 recreation facilities owned or operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;
- 416 3. Ten percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns, cities, and parks
417 districts in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital
418 improvement projects, of which amount:
- 419 a. Seventy-five thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town and
420 city, and to each of the following parks districts that predominantly serve unincorporated
421 King County: Fall City Metropolitan Park District; Si View Metropolitan Park District;
422 and Vashon Park District;
- 423 b. An additional fifty-thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each
424 town and city with a population of over four thousand; and
- 425 c. Of the remainder of levy proceeds, after the distributions made in
426 accordance with subsection I.3.a. and b. of this section, sixty percent shall be distributed

in proportion to each town or city's population and forty percent shall be distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city;

4. Of the levy proceeds distributed to entities other than King County, a portion shall be retained by the county to be used for expenditures related to administration of the distribution of levy proceeds. Eligible administrative expenditures shall include all costs and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or attributable to the purposes listed in this section as well as sections 7 and 8 of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. Call for special election. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the primary election on August 5, 2025, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular 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 7. 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 or purposes identified in section 5 of this ordinance, under which the entity is receiving a distribution of levy proceeds.

SECTION 8. Parks levy oversight board established.

A. If the proposition in section 6 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the executive. The board shall consist of nine members. By March 31, 2026, each councilmember shall nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the councilmember's district. If, by March 31, 2026, the executive does not appoint the person nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the councilmember should, by June 30, 2026, nominate another candidate for appointment. Members shall be confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed

officials of any unit of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2027, the board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2026. Thereafter, the board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the regional policy committee annually. Each report shall include an accounting of levy spending by King County council district and ZIP Code, grouped by purposes described in section 5.B. through I.3. of this ordinance. Any report to the King County council under this section shall be electronically filed with the clerk of the council, who will retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the chief policy officer. The board expires December 31, 2032.

SECTION 9. Exemption. The additional regular property taxes authorized by this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

SECTION 10. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the election on August 5, 2025, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 11. The following are hereby repealed:

A. Ordinance 19914, Section 1;

B. Ordinance 19914, Section 2;

495 C. Ordinance 19914, Section 3;

496 D. Ordinance 19914, Section 4;

497 E. Ordinance 19914, Section 5;

498 F. Ordinance 19914, Section 6;

499 G. Ordinance 19914, Section 7;

500 H. Ordinance 19914, Section 8;

501 I. Ordinance 19914, Section 9; and

502 J. Ordinance 19914, Section 10.

503 SECTION 12. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

504 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the

505 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

506 SECTION 13. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency

507 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,
508 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions.

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