



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Agenda Regional Policy Committee

*Councilmembers: Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;  
Jorge L. Barón, Sarah Perry*

*Sound Cities Association: Nancy Backus, Auburn, Vice Chair; Jay Arnold, Kirkland;  
Armondo Pavone, Renton; Lynne Robinson, Bellevue  
Alternates: Dana Ralph, Kent; Jim Ribail, Carnation*

*City of Seattle: Debora Juarez, Eddie Lin  
Alt: Dionne Foster, Alexis Mercedes Rinck*

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

**3:00 PM**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

**Hybrid 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](mailto: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.

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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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](http://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.

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**
- 3. **Approval of Minutes p. 4**

*Minutes of January 26, 2026 meeting.*

**Consent**

- 4. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0324](#) **p. 8**

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the summary letter and completion of the online annual report requirement for the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, in accordance with Ordinance 19604, Section 6.B., and Attachment A to Ordinance 19719, Section IV.H.

**Sponsors:** Dembowski

*Miranda Leskinen, Council staff*

**Discussion and Possible Action**

- 5. [RPC Resolution No. RPC2026-01](#) **p. 20**

A RESOLUTION concerning the regional policy committee work program for 2026.

*Miranda Leskinen, Council staff*

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**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

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## Meeting Minutes

### Regional Policy Committee

*Councilmembers: Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;  
Jorge L. Barón, Sarah Perry*

*Sound Cities Association: Nancy Backus, Auburn, Vice Chair;  
Jay Arnold, Kirkland;*

*Armondo Pavone, Renton; Lynne Robinson, Bellevue  
Alternates: Dana Ralph, Kent; Jim Ribail, Carnation*

*City of Seattle: Debora Juarez, Eddie Lin  
Alt: Dionne Foster, Alexis Mercedes Rinck*

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

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11:00 AM

Monday, January 26, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

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#### SPECIAL MEETING

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Dial: 1 253 215 8782  
Webinar ID: 827 1647 4590

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### 1. Call to Order

*Chair von Reichbauer called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.*

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Arnold, Backus, Pavone, von Reichbauer, Barón, Perry, Lin, Ralph and Ribail

**Excused:** 2 - Juarez and Robinson

### 3. Approval of Minutes

*Mayor Backus moved approval of the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

## Consent

### 4. **Proposed Motion No. 2025-0217**

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the third annual report on the second Best Starts for Kids initiative, in accordance with Ordinance 19354.

**Sponsors:** Mosqueda and von Reichbauer

*Due to the design of the legislative tracking software used to produce the proceedings, the vote on this item is misreported. The correct vote is:*

**Votes:** Yes: 11 - von Reichbauer, Barón, Perry, Lin, Arnold, Backus, Pavone, and Ralph voting as alternate for Robinson who was excused.

No: 0

Excused: Robinson and Juarez

**A motion was made by Mayor Backus that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 9 - Arnold, Backus, Pavone, von Reichbauer, Barón, Perry, Lin and Ralph

**Excused:** 3 - Juarez, Robinson and Ribail

**5. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0237**

A MOTION approving the 2024 annual mental illness and drug dependency evaluation summary report, in compliance with K.C.C. 4A.500.309.

**Sponsors:** Mosqueda and von Reichbauer

*Due to the design of the legislative tracking software used to produce the proceedings, the vote on this item is misreported. The correct vote is:*

*Votes: Yes: 11 - von Reichbauer, Barón, Perry, Lin, Arnold, Backus, Pavone, and Ralph voting as alternate for Robinson who was excused.*

*No: 0*

*Excused: Robinson and Juarez*

**A motion was made by Mayor Backus that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 9 - Arnold, Backus, Pavone, von Reichbauer, Barón, Perry, Lin and Ralph

**Excused:** 3 - Juarez, Robinson and Ribail

## Briefing

**6. Briefing No. 2026-B0004**

Selection of the RPC Vice Chair

*Mayor Ralph nominated Mayor Backus and Mayor Robail nominated Councilmember Arnold, Councilmember Arnold declined his nomination.*

*The Committee appointed Mayor Backus as the vice chair. The motion passed unanimously.*

**This matter was Presented**

**7. Briefing No. 2026-B0005**

RPC 2026 Work Plan

*Miranda Leskinen, Council staff, briefed the Committee and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was Presented**

**8. Briefing No. 2026-B0017**

Regional collaboration in 2026

*The Honorable Katie Wilson, Mayor of Seattle, commented to the Committee and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was Presented**

## Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.*

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Signature



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Policy Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	4	<b>Name:</b>	Miranda Leskinen
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2025-0324	<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2026

**SUBJECT**

A Motion regarding the 2024 Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) annual report.

**SUMMARY**

The VSHSL 2024 online annual report<sup>1</sup>, which is the first annual report for the 2024-2029 levy period, provides information on levy investments made in 2024, as well as levy performance and geographic distribution. VSHSL annual reporting must be provided on levy implementation throughout the 2024-2029 levy period.

The report indicates that the VSHSL invested approximately \$48.9 million and served over 58,000 King County residents in 2024. At the end of 2024, 84 percent of levy strategies were active, which has continued to increase to upwards of 93 percent into 2025.

Proposed Motion 2025-0324, which would acknowledge receipt of the report summary letter and completion of the online annual reporting requirement, is dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and then to the Regional Policy Committee (nonmandatorily). The RPC received a briefing on the annual report at its November 19, 2025 meeting. The Budget and Fiscal Management Committee passed the proposed motion at its January 14, 2026 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

In August 2023, King County voters approved a six-year renewal of the VSHSL. The 2024-2029 levy is projected to generate approximately \$554.5 million over its six-year collection period based on July 2025 revenue projections.<sup>2</sup>

The renewal levy, per Ordinance 19604, will continue to provide funding for regional health and human services throughout the County for veterans, military

<sup>1</sup> URL: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/annual-report>. Last accessed on November 12, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Values are total levy amounts and have not been adjusted for undercollections and reflect a 1.035 limit factor.

servicemembers, and their families; seniors and their caregivers; and resilient communities. Additionally, the renewal levy will establish funding for regional impact initiatives that provide or support responses to issues that affect all three of these populations and which regional health and human services can help address. Levy proceeds will be expended toward achieving results related to the levy’s five result areas: housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and service system access and improvement.

Table 1 illustrates the required investment allocations for the renewal VSHSL.

**Table 1. Investment Allocations for the 2024-2029 VSHSL per Ordinance 19604**

<b>Levy Proceeds Set Asides</b>	
<b>Attributable Election Costs</b> (One-time out of first-year levy proceeds)	
<b>Distribution of Remaining Levy Proceeds (Investment Allocations)</b>	
<b>(30%)</b> <b>Veterans, Servicemembers, and their Families</b>	<b>Note: At least 25% of total levy proceeds, after accounting for attributable election costs, must be expended on housing stability investments.</b>
<b>(30%)</b> <b>Seniors and their Caregivers</b>	
<b>(30%)</b> <b>Resilient Communities</b>	
<b>(10%)</b> <b>Regional Impact Initiatives and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TA/CB), with at least ten percent devoted to TA/CB.</b>	

Ordinance 19719 adopted the levy’s implementation plan, which is the governing document for the administration and implementation of the VSHSL for 2024-2029.

Annual Report Requirements. Consistent with Ordinances 19604 and 19719, an online annual report covering levy implementation for the prior calendar year must be made publicly available by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year from 2025 through 2030.

Each online report will provide an overview of levy implementation during the previous calendar year and indicate any, if any, changes the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), which manages levy implementation, intends to make or direct to improve performance in the following year, information on the previous year’s fiscal and performance management, the expenditure of levy proceeds by result area by ZIP Code, the number of individuals receiving levy-supported services

by result area by ZIP Code of where the individuals reside at the time of service, and a geographic distribution map or summary.<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, the Executive will transmit to the Council a letter summarizing each report, confirming the availability of the full online report, and identifying how the report comports with content requirements for annual levy reporting. Along with the letter, the Executive will transmit a motion for Council approval to acknowledge receipt of the letter and annual report. Executive staff will also be available to provide briefings on the contents of these reports to the Council or its committees upon request.

## **ANALYSIS**

**VSHSL 2024 Annual Report Highlights.** The annual report indicates that the VSHSL invested approximately \$48.9 million<sup>4</sup> and served over 58,000 King County residents in 2024 (the first year of the 2024-2029 levy period), including:

- 7,692 veterans, military servicemembers, and their families;
- 43,800 seniors and their caregivers; and
- 7,373 members of resilient communities.

Additionally, the report notes that 26 levy-related procurements were released during 2024 and that 84 percent of levy strategies were active by the end of the year, which has continued to increase to upwards of 93 percent into 2025.

Highlights from 2024 VSHSL implementation for each levy priority population are identified below. Additional fiscal, performance measurement, and geographic distribution/ZIP Code-level data are provided in the online annual report and online levy dashboard<sup>5</sup>.

### **Veterans, Military Servicemembers, and their Families 2024 Highlights**

- Launched the Blaine Veterans Center, the County's first all-veteran, 24/7 enhanced shelter.
- Launched the nation's first transitional housing program for LGBTQ+ veterans, which offers gender-affirming care, holistic care management, and direct pathways to permanent housing.
- Secured 84 new permanent housing placements for veteran households experiencing homelessness and expedited 195 enrollments into 1:1 counseling and free mental health services.
- Supported 3,000 veterans, military servicemembers, and their families through the King County Veterans Program.

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<sup>3</sup> Of note, collection of participant ZIP Code data may continue to be limited for some programs, such as those that use an existing data system that the VSHSL cannot revise, and due to established privacy and confidentiality guidelines.

<sup>4</sup> 2024 spending that was lower than originally planned due to delayed execution of several initiatives is detailed in the annual report.

<sup>5</sup> URL: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/dashboard>. Last accessed on November 12, 2025.

### Seniors and their Caregivers 2024 Highlights

- Supported 586 new enrollments for benefits such as unemployment, Social Security, and health insurance coverage.
- Provided mobile medical outreach and services to 394 seniors and supported 1,156 seniors to remain stably housed through culturally and geographically specific Senior Village programming.
- Supported 163 seniors through home visits, including behavioral health assessments and connections to resources.
- Engaged 39,516 seniors in the levy's social engagement programs, congregate dining, health promotion, and resource navigation.

### Resilient Communities 2024 Highlights

- Connected 1,141 people to domestic violence services.
- Provided housing counseling and foreclosure prevention to 104 households and assisted 1,196 individuals with applying for government benefits or appealing denied applications.
- Supported 544 individuals with disabilities through workshops and trainings on employment skills and civic engagement.

Of note, the annual report previews that, moving forward into 2025, the levy will deepen its focus on improving performance, equity, and accessibility (e.g., expanded use of geographic data to enhance equitable geographic distribution and availability of levy services; expanding the Resource Access Team's reach to better connect with underserved areas on funding opportunities; and promoting access to evidence-based practices).

Proposed Motion 2025-0324, which would acknowledge receipt of the report summary letter and completion of the online annual reporting requirement, is dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and then to the Regional Policy Committee (nonmandatorily). The RPC received a briefing on the annual report at its November 19, 2025 meeting. The Budget and Fiscal Management Committee passed the proposed motion at its January 14, 2026 meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0324 (and its attachment)



# KING COUNTY

## Signature Report

**ATTACHMENT 1**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Motion

**Proposed No. 2025-0324.1**

**Sponsors Dembowski**

1           A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the summary letter  
2           and completion of the online annual report requirement for  
3           the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, in  
4           accordance with Ordinance 19604, Section 6.B., and  
5           Attachment A to Ordinance 19719, Section IV.H.

6           WHEREAS, in 2023, King County enacted Ordinance 19604 to provide for the  
7           submission to voters of a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in  
8           chapter 84.55 RCW, for the six-year period of 2024 through 2029, all for the purpose of  
9           supporting veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families; seniors  
10          and their caregivers; and resilient communities in King County by funding regional  
11          health and human services and capital facilities to promote housing stability, healthy  
12          living, financial stability, social engagement and health and human services system  
13          improvements and system access; providing for a resident advisory board; and directing  
14          proposal of an implementation plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy,  
15          and

16          WHEREAS, King County voters considered the levy as Proposition No. 1 as part  
17          of the August 2023 primary election, and seventy-one percent of voters approved it, and

18          WHEREAS, Ordinance 19604, Section 6.B, requires online annual reports on the  
19          levy's progress over the previous year beginning in 2025, and

20 WHEREAS, in October 2023, in accordance with Ordinance 19604, the executive  
21 transmitted to the council for review and adoption an implementation plan that described  
22 the purposes, strategies, financial plan, and reporting requirements for the levy from 2024  
23 through 2029, and

24 WHEREAS, Ordinance 19719, Section 1, adopted the implementation plan in  
25 December 2023, and

26 WHEREAS, consistent with Ordinance 19604, the implementation plan requires  
27 the executive to make the online annual report available to the council, the regional  
28 policy committee, and the public, by August 1 of each year, and

29 WHEREAS, Section IV.H of the implementation plan requires the executive to  
30 transmit to the council a summary of the online annual reporting in the form of a letter,  
31 and a motion to acknowledge receipt of the summary letter and completion of the online  
32 annual report requirement, by August 1 of each year, and

33 WHEREAS, the first online annual report has been made available to the council,  
34 the regional policy committee, and the public, and

35 WHEREAS, the first summary letter summarizing the first online annual report,  
36 which is Attachment A to this motion, is submitted by the executive;

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

38 The receipt of the first summary letter, which is Attachment A to this motion, and  
39 completion of the online annual report requirement on the Veterans, Seniors, and Human

Motion

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- 40 Services Levy, in accordance with Ordinance 19604, Section 6.B., and Attachment A to  
41 Ordinance 19719, Section IV.H., are hereby acknowledged.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Summary Letter



## King County

**Shannon Braddock**  
King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

**206-296-9600** Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

In accordance with Ordinance 19604 and the 2024-2029 Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Implementation Plan adopted by Ordinance 19719, this letter transmits the summary of the 2024 VSHSL online annual report that is available at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/annual-report>. Accompanying this letter is a Motion that, if enacted, would acknowledge receipt of the summary letter and completion of the online annual report requirement.

**Reporting Requirements:** The online 2024 VSHSL annual report and this letter summarize the activities of the VSHSL through the end of 2024 and fulfill annual reporting requirements of Ordinance 19604. Specifically, it includes summaries of accomplishments and performance, as well as financial information and geographic distribution data. DCHS consulted with and provided a preview of the online annual report to the VSHSL Advisory Board on August 21, 2025.

Prior VSHSL Annual Reports have been digitized and can be found on the VSHSL reports and planning documents website at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/plans-reports>. In addition to this summary letter and the online VSHSL annual report, the VSHSL interactive dashboard offers customizable data views at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/dashboard>.

**Background:** The VSHSL is a voter-approved property tax measure funding health and human services investments across King County. VSHSL-funded investments are designed to support

three priority populations: veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families; seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities, defined in the Levy Implementation Plan as persons or communities susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial, or social stability outcomes due to systemic and historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability, or chronic illness.

VSHSL-funded investments support the three priority populations in five key result areas: housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and service system access and improvement. DCHS partners with community organizations to design and deliver programming and services for each VSHSL-funded strategy, focusing on the three priority populations above.

**Overview of Accomplishments, Progress, and Performance:** In the first year of the 2024-2029 VSHSL, Levy programs increased access to stable housing, mental-health supports, financial stability, and social connections, as well as improved access to critical services across the Levy's three priority populations.

VSHSL 2024 highlights include:

- Positively impacted on the lives of more than 63,000 King County residents, including:
  - 7,692 veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families;
  - 43,800 seniors and their caregivers, and
  - 7,373 members of resilient communities.
- Released 26 procurements for 26 VSHSL strategies.
- Partnered with 208 community providers to provide equitable access to VSHSL-funded services.
- Launched the Levy's new Resource Access Team to help increase access to services across King County with a focus on unincorporated areas. The Resource Access Team combines a mobile outreach component, direct emergency supports, a centralized virtual contact center, and an interactive resource database, allowing residents to access referrals and services in real time.
- Launched the Blaine Veterans Center, King County's first all-veteran, 24/7 enhanced shelter.
- Launched the nation's first transitional housing program for LGBTQ+ veterans, Q'community House, which offers gender-affirming care, holistic case management, and direct pathways to permanent housing.

Program Performance Highlights

- Veterans, Military Servicemembers, and Their Families
  - Through the King County Veterans Program (KCVP), 3,000 individuals received dedicated support, including 1,921 who benefited from financial assistance.
  - The Levy helped secure 84 new permanent housing placements for veteran households experiencing homelessness and expedited 195 enrollments into one-to-one counseling and free mental health services.
- Seniors and Their Caregivers

- The VSHSL provided mobile medical outreach and services to 394 seniors and supported 1,156 seniors to remain stably housed through culturally and geographically specific Senior Village programming.
  - The Levy supported 586 new enrollments for benefits such as unemployment, Social Security, and health insurance coverage.
  - Senior centers played a vital role, with 39,516 seniors participating in the VSHSL's social engagement programs, congregate dining, health promotion, and resource navigation.
  - 163 seniors received home visits that included behavioral health assessments and connections to essential pre-crisis resources through the Geriatric Regional Assessment Team.
- Resilient Communities
    - The VSHSL connected 1,141 people to domestic violence services.
    - The Levy provided housing counseling and foreclosure prevention to 104 households, and assisting 1,196 individuals with applying for government benefits or appealing denied applications.
    - The Levy also supported 544 individuals with disabilities through workshops and trainings on employment skills and civic engagement.
    - In addition, 4,363 community members participated in education on violence prevention, helping to strengthen safety and resilience across the region.

**Fiscal Management:** In 2024, the first year of implementation under the renewed 2024-2029 VSHSL, DCHS focused on maintaining continuity of services while launching new and updated programs. Approximately \$48.9 million in Levy resources were deployed in 2024 to direct services and community-based programs promoting housing stability, healthy living, and equitable access to care.

DCHS plans to invest some resources available in 2024 in future years. As described further in the online annual report, this includes:

- \$20 million for veteran housing acquisition, which was postponed until a final site is purchased.
- \$8 million for workforce stabilization, which was rescheduled for 2025 to procure strategies and finalize new contracts, stabilize VSHSL program leadership, and finalize program design.
- Several additional strategies completed contracting in the final quarter of 2024, but invoicing and disbursement of funds did not begin until 2025.

At the end of 2024, 84 percent of VSHSL strategies were active, enabling VSHSL to ramp up investments in 2025. At the time of this letter's drafting, 93 percent of strategies were active.

**VSHSL Geographic Distribution:** Following the passage of the 2024-2029 VSHSL, DCHS expanded its data collection efforts to better understand where services are delivered and how residents access them. Analyzed data show a flexible and adaptive service network with

approximately 81 percent of partners reporting conducting in-office appointments, 67 percent offering services remotely or by phone, and 64 percent engaging with clients in their homes or at other community-based locations. When mapped by ZIP Code, the data show a concentration of offices within the inner suburbs of King County, with significantly fewer brick-and-mortar sites present in rural, southeast, and northeast areas. Maps available in the online annual report show expenditures by where office-based providers are located and expenditures based on participants' residences, including the option to filter by result area.

Maps in the online annual report also show the distribution of participants for each ZIP Code and result area. Levy investments include accessible points of service across the nine Council districts and amplification of investments addressing historic disparities in low-income communities and communities of color. In general, ZIP Codes with the highest concentrations of VSHSL participants typically have larger adult populations, higher opportunity scores, or both. Detailed data on the number of participants for each ZIP Code and result area can be accessed through the VSHSL dashboard.

VSHSL programming includes growing efforts to expand reach through mobile and virtual services, while underscoring geographic service disparities. To begin addressing these gaps, DCHS modified the VSHSL's approach to procurement design and service funding to increase access for residents of all nine council districts, including a new requirement for applicants to identify their geographic location and areas of in-person service and outreach. Because service delivery did not begin for many of those procurements until 2025, the dataset available for 2024 annual reporting does not yet reflect these improvements. Enhanced geographic data is expected to be available starting with 2025 annual reporting.

**Conclusion:** The VSHSL is a cornerstone of the County's commitment to advance equity and improve outcomes for veterans, seniors, and resilient communities. In 2025, as the VSHSL enters its second year of implementation, DCHS intends to focus on improving equitable geographic coverage of VSHSL services, launching countywide procurements that support workforce stabilization and technical assistance, and expanding the reach of the VSHSL-funded Resource Access Team to better serve unincorporated areas of King County. DCHS plans to strengthen the effectiveness of VSHSL strategies through increased application of evidence-based practices, collaboration with other jurisdictions and human services partners, and continued engagement with communities to co-create solutions that reflect community preferences and lived experiences, and to educate nonprofits in underserved areas on VSHSL funding opportunities.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay  
September 30, 2025  
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If your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock  
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council  
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Policy Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	5	<b>Name:</b>	Miranda Leskinen
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	RPC2026-01	<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2026

**SUBJECT**

A Resolution adopting the Regional Policy Committee’s annual work program for 2026.

**BACKGROUND**

The Metropolitan King County Charter includes specific language regarding the responsibilities and operation of the Regional Policy Committee (RPC). The RPC is one of three committees formed when voters approved the merger of Metro (transit and wastewater treatment services) and King County. The charter, as amended in 2008 states the following regarding regional committees (emphasis added on the work program adoption and relation to the referral of legislation):

***270.30 Powers and Duties.***

*Each regional committee shall develop, propose, review, and recommend action on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending transit, water quality or other regional countywide policies and plans within the subject matter area of the committee. **The subject matter area of the regional policies committee shall consist of those countywide plans and policies included in the committee's work program by a majority of the members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes.***

**ANALYSIS**

Resolution RPC2026-01 would adopt the RPC work program for 2026, which is Attachment A to the Resolution. Attachment A was developed after hearing feedback from RPC Committee members at the January 26, 2026, committee meeting. The work program includes language to indicate that, for the purpose of determining a subject matter for mandatory referral, listed in in Section I of the work program, pursuant to the King County Charter Section 270 and K.C.C. 1.24.065, the numbered topics, as well as the subsets of lettered topics, should be liberally construed.

Legislation relative to the topics included in Section II are not subject to mandatory referral but rather indicate potential briefings on matters that would benefit from interjurisdictional discussion.

Additionally, Resolution RPC2026-01 indicates that the work program shall remain in effect until it is superseded by a work program that is adopted by a resolution of the Regional Policy Committee.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution RPC2026-01 and its attachment (RPC 2026 Work Program)
2. Illustrative Purposes Only: Track changes document comparing the 2026 RPC work program to the 2025 RPC work program



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### RPC Resolution

**Proposed No.** RPC2026-01.1

**Sponsors**

1                   A RESOLUTION concerning the regional policy  
2                   committee work program for 2026.

3                   WHEREAS, the King County Charter establishes regional committees to develop,  
4 recommend, and review regional policies and plans for consideration by the metropolitan  
5 King County council, one of which is the regional policy committee, and

6                   WHEREAS, the charter establishes the subject matter areas for the regional policy  
7 committee to be those countywide plans and policies included in the committee's work  
8 program, and

9                   WHEREAS, the charter and K.C.C. 1.24.065 establish timeframes for the  
10 legislative review process for these countywide plans and policies within the subject  
11 matter adopted by the regional policy committee, and

12                   WHEREAS, K.C.C. 1.24.065 and past practices have provided for the regional  
13 policy committee to consider, examine, and comment on pending issues that are not  
14 countywide policies or plans within its subject matter and therefore are not subject to the  
15 mandatory review process, and

16                   WHEREAS, the regional policy committee and King County council are  
17 committed to effective and efficient legislative review processes that respect the charter-  
18 mandated legislative process for the review of countywide plans and policies, and

19           WHEREAS, the regional policy committee has expressed interest in examining  
20 emergent and enduring issues that are of countywide significance and may be a subject of  
21 the committee's future policy development efforts;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the King County regional policy  
23 committee:

24           The regional policy committee work program for 2026, Attachment A to this  
25 resolution, is hereby approved. The work program shall remain in effect until it is

- 26 superseded by a work program that is adopted by a resolution of the regional policy  
27 committee.

**Attachments:** A. Regional Policy Committee 2026 Work Program, dated February 11, 2026

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# Attachment A

February 11, 2026



**King County**

## **Metropolitan King County Council**

### **Regional Policy Committee 2026 Work Program**

#### **I. Subject matters for mandatory referral of legislation<sup>1</sup>:**

- 1. Solid Waste<sup>2</sup>, including the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan**
- 2. Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL)**
- 3. Crisis Care Centers Levy (CCC)**
- 4. Homelessness, including the King County Regional Homeless Authority and Health through Housing**
- 5. Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) and Implementation Plan**
- 6. Regional Transportation (not including transit)**
- 7. Affordable Housing**
- 8. Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Levy**
- 9. Cultural/Sports/Tourism Resources and Access**
- 10. King County Doors Open Program and Implementation Plan**
- 11. Proposed new and renewal levies and bonds to be imposed countywide**
- 12. Implementation Plans for levies and bonds imposed countywide**
- 13. EMS Levy**
- 14. Parks Levy**

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of determining a subject matter for mandatory referral pursuant to the King County Charter Section 270 and KCC 1.24.065, the numbered topics should be liberally construed.

<sup>2</sup> RPC acting in its capacity as the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum

## **II. Briefings on subject matters that would benefit from interjurisdictional discussion<sup>3</sup>**

- **Homelessness**
- **Health through Housing**
  - a. Health through Housing Annual Report
- **Regional Affordable Housing Strategies and Growth Management**
- **Regional Utilities Affordability**
  - a. Solid Waste
  - b. King County's Regional Wastewater Services Plan
- **Federal Funding Cut Impacts on City and County Residents**
- **Public Health**
  - a. Opioid and fentanyl crisis response
  - b. Winding down of federal ARPA funds
- **Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)**
  - a. MIDD Annual Report
- **Best Starts for Kids (BSK)**
  - a. BSK Annual Report
  - b. Levy Renewal Planning
  - c. Audit results and collaboration with DCHS
- **Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL)**
  - a. VSHSL Annual Report
- **Doors Open Program**
  - a. Doors Open Annual Report
- **Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs**
- **Elections**
- **Land Conservation**
- **State of Agriculture in King County**
- **Parks, Recreation, and Sports**
- **Natural Disasters**
  - a. Briefing from Office of Emergency Management on community outreach and preparedness for natural and human-caused disasters
  - b. Evacuation planning and shelter planning
- **Flood Control**
  - a. Briefing from the King County Flood Control District
- **Regional Transportation**
  - a. Briefings on county-wide road needs: conditions, bridges, funding and traffic

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<sup>3</sup> Legislation relative to the lettered topics included in this Section II shall not be subject to mandatory referral.

- b. Traffic safety
- **King County International Airport Expansion and Regional Airport Needs**
  - a. Briefing on the impacts of siting a new airport in King County
  - b. Briefing on the regional importance of the King County International Airport
- **Regional Approach to Public Safety**
  - a. Briefing on Restorative Community Pathways
  - b. Briefing from the King County Sheriff's Office
  - c. Briefing from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
  - d. Briefing from the King County Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention
  - e. Response to federal immigration enforcement activities
  - f. ESHB 2015 sales tax eligibility and implementation
- **Climate Change and Response to Motion 16463**
- **Countywide Progressive Revenue**

# Attachment A

February 11, 2026



**King County**

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