

September 3, 1997
clerk

Introduced By:

Jane Hague
Rob McKenna
Chris Vance

Proposed No.:

97-0420

MOTION NO. **10292**

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2 A MOTION establishing a proposed limit on the growth of the
3 county's Current Expense Fund spending, establishing a
4 property tax revenue limit and requesting the County
5 Executive to submit a budget for 1998 to the County Council
6 consistent with those limits.
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8 WHEREAS, after extensive public outreach in April and May of this year, the
9 executive and council held eight public outreach forums throughout King County to solicit
10 public input on revenues and expenditures in King County's 1998 budget, and

11 WHEREAS, the executive's Summary Report for King County Budget Outreach
12 Forums was transmitted to the council in May of this year, and

13 WHEREAS, citizens attending the forums voiced concerns regarding affordable
14 housing, parks and ballfields, cultural resources, environmental protection, transportation,
15 public safety, and the protection of human services in the face of federal and state cutbacks
16 and welfare reform, and

17 WHEREAS, participants requested the executive to deliver services efficiently and
18 limit property tax increases, to the extent possible, to protect seniors and disabled residents
19 on fixed incomes, and

20 WHEREAS, the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning estimates that more than
21 65,000 seniors residing in King County qualify for some type of property tax relief, and

1 WHEREAS, only 550 households are currently enrolled in any property tax deferral
2 program, and

3 WHEREAS, a focused public information and outreach program aimed at senior
4 and disabled citizens on fixed incomes can provide substantial, targeted property tax relief
5 to those in King County who most need it, and

6 WHEREAS, effective universal property tax relief can only occur in a well-
7 coordinated, comprehensive manner among all taxing districts, and

8 WHEREAS, the approval of Referendum 48 by the people of Washington on June
9 17, 1997, provides a unique opportunity to consider a 1998 reduction of property taxes in
10 King County in the face of growing demands for service;

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

12 The Metropolitan King County council requests that the Executive consider the
13 following in his proposed 1998 Budget Submittal:

14 A. The executive is encouraged to propose a property tax levy for existing
15 properties that is less than 106% of the base 1997 adopted property tax revenues;

16 B. The executive and council will cooperatively develop a 1998 Current Expense
17 Fund budget with revenues balanced to proposed expenditures, including debt service,
18 provided that:

19 1. The executive and council will establish a human services reserve account
20 in the 1998 budget, to address the needs of low-income and working-poor families in the
21 face of federal devolution, state funding cutbacks and welfare reform.

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2. The executive and council will develop substantial funding support for affordable housing, including current expense funds and other funds or assets as may be available.

3. The executive and council will establish a revolving fund to provide significant ballfield and recreation opportunities for county residents, and will actively seek funds and other assets to meet this need.

4. The executive and council perform an independent review of and make recommendations for how the council and executive office should staff their respective functions, including appropriate staffing levels, and staff management structures.

C. The executive is requested to develop and implement an educational and public outreach program aimed at enrolling qualified senior and disabled citizens in existing property tax relief programs; and the executive, together with the council, shall develop a legislative package to submit to the 1998 Washington State Legislature that addresses the need for additional property tax relief and reforms for all citizens of King County.

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D. The executive may submit alternative budget and proposed tax and revenue ordinances in accordance with Section 410 of the King County Charter to address other funding opportunities or programmatic needs which may be evident as the 1998 budget is developed.

PASSED by a vote of 10 to 3 this 2nd day of September, 1997.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jane Hague
Chair

ATTEST:

Janet Masno
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: