



Signature Report

December 3, 2002

Motion 11617

Proposed No. 2002-0574.3

Sponsors Pelz

1 A MOTION establishing the 2003 state legislative agenda
2 for King County.

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WHEREAS, the metropolitan King County council and the King County executive have worked through the joint King County legislative steering committee to develop a state legislative agenda and desire to bring their positions on issues facing the 2003 Washington State Legislature to the attention of the Washington State legislature, and

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WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local governments and other organizations such as the Washington State Association of Counties, the Washington Association of County Officials, the Suburban Cities Association, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington Transit Association to achieve its 2003 legislative goals, and

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WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the legislature as partners with the state in the delivery of such critical services as transportation, criminal justice, public health, community and human services, and water resources, and

18 WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the
19 state, despite projected state revenue declines. If King County is going to be able to
20 continue delivering basic government services to our residents, we need a preservation, if
21 not an expansion, of state support, and

22 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will
23 continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 2003
24 state legislative program;

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

26 The King County council adopts the attached 2003 state legislative agenda for

Motion 11617

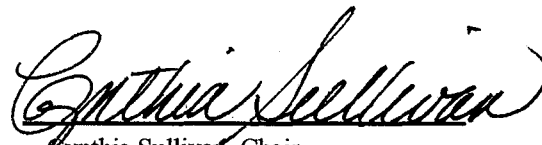
27 King County as King County's highest priorities for action in the 2003 legislative session
28 of the Washington State legislature.

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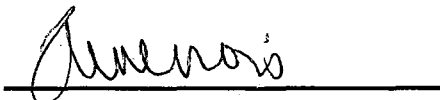
Motion 11617 was introduced on 11/25/2002 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/2/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments A. King County 2003 State Legislative Agenda Priority Issues, Council amended 12-02-02



King County

King County
2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Priority Issues, Council amended 12-02-02

Priority	Department	Item	Description
1	Executive/ Council	Preservation of Basic County Government Services	<p>Although King County continues to increase internal efficiency and reorganize its functions in order to reduce its spending significantly, the County can no longer afford to deliver many services to our residents.</p> <p>For King County to continue delivering basic government services, we need preservation -- if not expansion -- of state support. If the State is not able to expand support to adequately fund the mandates upon local government, revenue tools should be provided to local governments to allow for fiscal home rule.</p> <p>Law and justice costs, now approximately 73% of King County's general fund budget, are growing much faster than the revenues to support them. Many of these costs are due to state-imposed or statutory responsibilities. Extraordinary criminal justice cases are also severely impacting county finances.</p> <p>We support a long-term restoration of the revenue shortfall for criminal justice and public health caused by the 2000 legislative repeal of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET).</p> <p>Counties, as general governments, have the most limited set of tax options in the State and are bound by an antiquated tax structure. County government is, by state law, dependent on property and sales taxes (unlike cities that have utility and business and occupation taxing authority). Municipal annexations and incorporations have eroded the County's sales tax base. We support a reform of the state/county fiscal relationship.</p> <p>Finally, we oppose the imposition of un/underfunded state mandates. Legislative changes that increase county costs or responsibilities must be mitigated with increased state funding or reduced state mandates. State budget cuts should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties.</p>



King County

King County
2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Priority Issues, *Council amended 12-02-02*

Priority	Department	Item	Description
2	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Transportation Solutions and Regional Funding	<p>Congestion in the Puget Sound region threatens the economy of not only King County but of the entire state. King County supports increases in both state and regional funding to improve the movement of people and goods.</p> <p>King County supports state funding of the critical road and infrastructure network as well as additional options to automobile travel. King County supports the RTID process already underway while recognizing that amendments to the RTID legislation may need to be made.</p>
3	Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Funding	<p>Funding for King County's mental health system was severely cut in the past two legislative sessions, resulting in significant reductions to critical services for at-risk and vulnerable populations. As passed in the 2001 legislative session, the state budget <i>reduced</i> King County Regional Support Network (RSN) funding by \$40 million over six years (minus a local/federal match). Budget reductions made during the 2002 legislative session to RSN reserve funds and inpatient rates will cost King County an additional \$10 million.</p> <p>King County supports legislation revising the distribution of mental health funds to be based solely on prevalence and severity of mental illness. Mental health funding should be consistent with state law requiring services to priority populations and should also support expensive services to special needs populations—children, homeless, mentally ill offenders, and ethnic minorities.</p>



King County

King County
2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Priority Issues, Council amended 12-02-02

Priority	Department	Item	Description
4	Public Health – Seattle & King County	Stable Local Public Health Funding	<p>The health needs of the residents of King County must be addressed by adequate and sustained financial support for a continuum of activities that includes disease prevention and health promotion; ensuring a safe and effective food and water supply; and health care services for vulnerable and medically underserved populations. This cannot happen without adequate funding; local public health needs a dedicated, long-term revenue stream.</p> <p>Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent anthrax attacks, the public is acutely aware of the role of public health in protecting them from the consequences of terrorism involving biological, chemical, or nuclear agents. These events have also dramatically demonstrated the extent to which the nation's public health infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate. While government agencies at the local, state and federal levels have a leading role in preparing for and responding to the terrorist challenge, all aspects of our health care and public health system are critical to the success of this effort.</p>
5	Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)	Ongoing Funding for Maintenance and Operations of County Parks	<p>The availability of funds to acquire and develop parks system assets is not matched by an ability to operate and maintain those assets. As part of an extensive regionally collaborative process and as recommended by its Metropolitan Parks Task Force, King County is implementing a business plan to create a financially stable parks system that meets the needs of the public. King County supports increased funding for operations and maintenance of county parks.</p>