

1 August 12, 1991
2 MOTION2:TH:ph

INTRODUCED BY BRUCE LAING
PAUL BARDEN

3 PROPOSED NO. 91-601

4 ORDINANCE NO. **10089**

5 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission
6 to the electors of King County at a special
7 election on November 5, 1991, of a
8 proposition imposing the levy of a general
9 tax each year for six years beginning in
10 1992 at a rate of \$.25 per \$1,000 of
11 assessed valuation for the provision of
12 emergency medical services.

13 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

14 SECTION 1. Findings and declaration of purpose. The
15 council finds that:

16 A. Emergency medical services are among the most important
17 services provided County residents. These services include basic
18 and advanced life support, training in cardiopulmonary
19 resuscitation, an effective communications system, emergency
20 medical technician training, defibrillation training, injury
21 prevention, and related services. In combination, these programs
22 have made the emergency medical services network in King County
23 an invaluable life-saving effort and an important part of the
24 quality of life standards afforded citizens of this county.

25 B. Cardio-vascular disease is the leading cause of death
26 in the nation and in King County. The delivery of paramedic
27 services in King County has tripled the survival rate of victims
28 of cardiac arrest; the initiation of cardio-pulmonary
29 resuscitation by bystanders or emergency medical technicians has
30 doubled hospital discharge rates.

31 C. King County should continue to exercise leadership and
32 assume responsibility for assuring the orderly and comprehensive
33 development and provision of emergency medical service throughout
the county.

D. The concern for assuring a county-wide emergency
medical services program is shared by King County cities and fire
protection districts who participate in emergency medical
services programs.

1 E. Emergency medical services provided to county residents
2 should be high quality and should meet uniform service delivery
3 standards.

4 F. The demand for emergency medical services has grown
5 over the years; however, such demand has not been accompanied by
6 a stable source of revenues.

7 G. Emergency medical services are essential and should be
8 afforded a stable and discreet funding base.

9 H. RCW 84.52.069, as amended, recognizes the needs and
10 concerns described above and provides a funding source for the
11 provision of such emergency medical services.

12 I. The provision of emergency medical services on a
13 county-wide basis is a public purpose of King County. In order
14 to assure such a provision of services, it is both necessary and
15 appropriate that an additional regular property tax of \$.25 per
16 \$1,000 of assessed valuation be levied as provided for in this
17 ordinance.

18 J. Reimbursement and transfer to the City of Seattle of
19 all tax revenues collected pursuant to the levy provided for in
20 this ordinance against taxable property located within the legal
21 boundaries of the City of Seattle will not affect the County's
22 ability to provide emergency medical services throughout King
23 County.

24 SECTION 2. Approval of cities over 50,000 population.
25 Pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, as amended, approval to impose this
26 additional regular property tax has been obtained from the
27 legislative bodies of all cities in the county over 50,000
28 population.

29 SECTION 3. City of Seattle reimbursement. It is recognized
30 that the City of Seattle operates and funds an emergency medical
31 services program that is separate from the county program.
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1 During the period of this six-year levy as set forth herein and
2 as authorized by the qualified electors of King County, all tax
3 revenues collected pursuant to such six-year levy from taxable
4 property located within the legal boundaries of the City of
5 Seattle shall be reimbursed and transferred to the city.

6 SECTION 4. King County Fire Protection District 5
7 reimbursement. It is recognized that emergency medical services
8 to the residents of King County Fire Protection District 5 are
9 provided by the City of Seattle. During the period of this six
10 year levy as set forth herein and as authorized by the qualified
11 electors of King County, all tax revenues collected pursuant to
12 such six-year levy from taxable propoerty within the legal
13 boundaries of King County Fire District 5 shall be reimbursed and
14 transferred to the City of Seattle, at the levy rate authorized
15 herein, so long as services are provided to its residents by the
16 city program.

17 SECTION 5. Type of levy. Pursuant to the authorization in
18 RCW 84.52.069, as amended, this levy is a regular property tax
19 levy in addition to the statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043
20 and is not subject to the 106% limitation of RCW 85.55.010 for
21 the first levy imposed, but is subject thereto for the remaining
22 five levies.

23 SECTION 6. Levy rate. The rate at which this levy shall be
24 submitted to the voters shall be the rate of \$.25 per \$1,000 of
25 assessed valuation each year for six consecutive years.

26 SECTION 7. Deposit of funds. The share of this collection
27 designated for the City of Seattle under Section 3 and Section 4
28 of this ordinance shall be deposited into the Seattle Emergency
29 Medical Services Tax Fund and dispersed from this fund. All
30 other funds collected under this levy shall be deposited into the
31 County Emergency Medical Services Fund.

1 SECTION 8. Ratification by voters. This six-year levy must
2 be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the
3 electors of King County voting on the proposition, at which
4 election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition
5 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per
6 centum of the total votes cast in King County at the last
7 preceding general election when the number of electors voting on
8 the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total
9 votes cast in King County in the last preceding general election;
10 or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of King
11 County voting on the proposition to levy when the number of
12 electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of
13 the total votes cast in King County in the last preceding general
14 election.

15 SECTION 9: Call for special election. Pursuant to RCW
16 29.13.010, it is hereby deemed that an emergency exists requiring
17 the submission to the qualified electors of the county at a
18 special election to be held therein on November 5, 1991, in
19 conjunction with the statewide general election to be held on the
20 same date, of a proposition authorizing the previously described
21 six-year levy for emergency medical services. The manager of the
22 division of records and elections shall cause notice to be given
23 of this ordinance in accordance with the State Constitution and
24 general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county
25 at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter
26 set forth.

27 The Clerk of the Council is hereby authorized and directed
28 to certify that proposition to the manager of the King County
29 division of records and elections in substantially the following
30 form:
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King County, Washington

Proposition _____: Regular Property Tax

Levy for Emergency Medical Services

Shall King County levy a regular property tax each year for six consecutive years beginning in 1991, to be collected beginning in 1992, at the rate of \$.25/1,000 of assessed valuation for the provision of emergency medical services, all as provided in King County Ordinance _____.

Proposition, yes

Proposition, no

SECTION 10. Severability. Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 5th day of August, 1991.

PASSED this 9th day of September, 1991.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lois North
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Patena
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 9th day of September, 1991.

Quin Dill
King County Executive