



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 12, 2000

Ordinance 13931

**RECORDS & ELECTIONS
DIVISION**

RECEIVED BY: L. Sanchez

Proposed No. 2000-0422.3

Sponsors Pelz and Nickels

00 SEP 20 AM 8:45

1 AN ORDINANCE directing the submission to the qualified
 2 voters of King County of a proposition authorizing an
 3 additional sales and use tax of two tenths of one percent for
 4 the operation, maintenance and capital needs of King
 5 County Metro public transportation, which includes the
 6 accessible services and vanpool programs; and adding a
 7 new chapter to K.C.C. Title 4.

10 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

11 **SECTION 1.** Findings. The council makes the following findings:

12 A. King County is a home rule charter county with broad powers to provide
 13 public transportation within the county's geographic boundaries. Under this authority,
 14 chapter 36.56 RCW, chapter 35.58 RCW and other provisions of law, the county owns
 15 and operates an extensive system of buses, vanpools, accessible services vehicles, park
 16 and ride lots, transit centers, transit hubs and other transportation facilities within the
 17 county.

18 B. The county's public transportation services and facilities provide mobility to
19 residents, workers and visitors, carrying over three hundred thousand weekday riders and
20 almost one hundred million annual riders. These services and facilities, although not
21 adequate to meet even the current demand, are essential to the functioning of key
22 transportation corridors in the region. Without these services, traffic conditions, already
23 estimated to be the third most congested in the nation, would worsen.

24 C. Repeal of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax eliminated approximately one
25 hundred ten million dollars of funding for the county's public transportation system.

26 D. Bridge funding from the state legislature and a series of administrative and
27 service cuts and efficiencies has enabled the county to continue operating its public
28 transportation system in 2000 with only minor reductions in service levels.

29 E. Without additional revenues, funding shortfalls in 2001 will require significant
30 cuts in transit services. Even with proposed additional administrative savings in the 2001
31 budget and a fare increase for some Metro Transit riders, roughly seven hundred
32 thousand service hours or approximately twenty percent of the current county public
33 transportation system would need to be eliminated to accommodate loss of Motor Vehicle
34 Excise Tax revenue. Loss of these service hours would add approximately thirty-two
35 thousand vehicles to the region's roadways.

36 F. In accordance with chapter 82.14 RCW and by approval of the qualified
37 electorate, the county is currently imposing a retail sales and use tax of six-tenths of one
38 percent for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of its public transportation
39 system. The state legislature has recently authorized the county to fix and impose up to
40 an additional three-tenths of one percent sales and use tax for public transportation

41 system purposes, subject to voter approval under RCW 82.14.045.

42 G. Imposing an additional sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent in the
43 county will enable the county to continue to operate transit at or above existing service
44 levels, obviate the need for service cuts, and allow the county to improve existing
45 facilities and modestly improve existing services. Funds from the measure will also
46 enable the county to attract additional riders to the public transportation system.

47 H. To fund the county's public transportation system needs, a proposition should
48 be submitted to the voters requesting authorization to fix and impose an additional sales
49 and use tax of two-tenths of one percent for the preservation of the King County Metro
50 Transit system.

51 I. Lodging establishments of sixty or more units that are located within King
52 County are subject to a special state excise tax for convention and trade center purposes
53 under RCW 67.40.090. This tax is in addition to other general and special state and local
54 sales and use taxes, including a special county tax that is imposed under RCW 67.28.180
55 for various purposes including stadium, youth sports, tourism, arts and cultural museums.
56 Increasing the county-imposed sales taxes for such establishments would effectively
57 increase their lodging rates and thereby negatively affect this region's ability to attract
58 tourists and conventions. It is therefore in the best interests of the County that such
59 establishments that are already paying other county excise taxes be granted a credit
60 against any additional public transportation taxes that may result from voter authorization
61 obtained under this ordinance.

62 SECTION 2. Sections 3 through 5 of this ordinance should constitute a new
63 chapter in K.C.C. Title 4.

64 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply
65 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

66 A. "County" means King County, Washington.

67 B. "Council" means the metropolitan King County council.

68 C. "Tax proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the additional
69 sales and use tax authorized by this chapter and any interest earnings on the funds.

70 NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. Authorization of additional sales and use tax.

71 For the purpose of providing funding for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of
72 public transportation, the council hereby directs the submission of a proposition to the
73 voters of the county substantially as set forth in section 6 of this ordinance to authorize
74 the county to fix and impose pursuant to RCW 82.14.045 an additional sales and use tax
75 of two-tenths of one percent. This additional sales and use tax shall be in addition to
76 other existing sales and use taxes, including the six-tenths of one percent public
77 transportation sales and use tax currently imposed by the county. The additional sales
78 and use tax shall be levied at such rate and collected as of such a date as may be
79 determined by the council. Any subsequent county ordinance imposing additional taxes
80 as a result of voter approval obtained under this Ordinance shall contain a provision
81 allowing a credit against such additional taxes in the amount of taxes paid to the county
82 under RCW 67.28.180 by any person or entity which is also subject to the state tax
83 provided under RCW 67.40.090.

84 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. Use of tax proceeds. The tax proceeds from the
85 tax imposed under section 4 of this ordinance shall be used for the operation,
86 maintenance and capital needs of King County Metro public transportation as allowed by

87 law.

88 **SECTION 6. Call for election.** Pursuant to RCW 29.13.010, it is hereby found
89 and declared that an emergency exists requiring that the proposition, substantially as
90 hereinafter set forth, be submitted to the qualified electors of the county at a county
91 special election to be held in conjunction with the general election on November 7, 2000.

92 The manager of records and elections of King County is hereby requested to also
93 find the existence of such emergency and to assume jurisdiction of and to call and
94 conduct such election to be held within the county on said date and to submit to the
95 qualified voters of the county at such election said proposition.

96 The clerk of the council is hereby authorized and directed to certify said
97 proposition to the manager of records and elections in substantially the following form:

98 The Metropolitan King County Council has passed Ordinance No. 13931
99 concerning this public transportation system sales and use tax proposition. This
100 proposition would authorize King County to fix and impose an additional sales and use
101 tax of not more than two-tenths of one percent in order to fund operation, maintenance,
102 and capital needs of King County Metro public transportation, including, but not limited
103 to, bus service, accessible services, vanpool programs, passenger facilities, park and ride
104 facilities, and other congestion relief projects to preserve and enhance Metro Transit
105 services as provided in Ordinance No.13931. Should this proposition be enacted into
106 law:

107 Approved.....

108 Rejected.....

109 **SECTION 7. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the

110 council to the manager of records and elections of King County in accordance with law
111 before the election on November 7, 2000, and any other act consistent with the authority
112 and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

113 SECTION 8. Authority supplemental. The authority granted in this ordinance
114 is supplemental to all other powers of the county and nothing in this ordinance shall be
115 construed as limiting or restricting any powers or authority conferred upon the county by
116 law.

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SECTION 9. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

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

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

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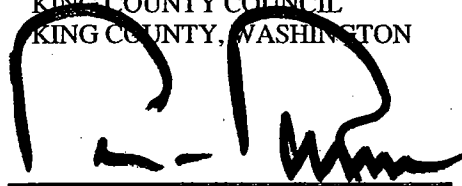
Ordinance 13931 was introduced on 7/17/00 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/11/00, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels and Mr. Gossett

No: 6 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen, Ms. Hague, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons

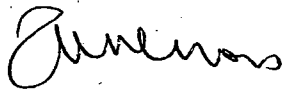
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KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



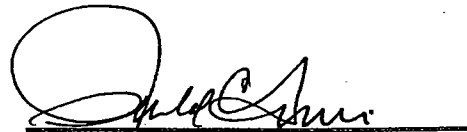
Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 18 day of September, 2000.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None