



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**November 20, 2000**

**Ordinance 13988**

**VETOED**

**Proposed No.** 2000-0598.2

**Sponsors** McKenna

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the county regular property  
2 tax levy and the emergency medical services levy for  
3 collection in 2001, and implementing the provisions of  
4 RCW 84.55.120.

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8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

- 10 1. At the November 7, 2000 general election, the voters of Washington State  
11 overwhelmingly approved Initiative 722. This initiative will take effect on December 7,  
12 2000.
- 13 2. The metropolitan King County council will comply with the wishes of the  
14 voters by adhering to the requirements of Initiative 722.
- 15 3. Initiative 722 establishes limits on property tax increases imposed by local  
16 governments, and therefore affects the amount of revenue King County will collect in  
17 2001.

18 The council is under an obligation by charter to enact revenue measures by  
19 December 31, 2000 that support the 2001 budget appropriation ordinance.

20 5. This ordinance sets the amount of property tax to be collected for the county  
21 regular levy and the emergency medical services levy.

22 6. This ordinance establishes property tax levies that are within the limitations  
23 provided for in Initiative 722 and Referendum 47.

24 7. In accordance with RCW 84.55.120, the council has given proper notice of this  
25 ordinance to the public.

26 SECTION 2. County regular property tax levy. For collection in 2001, the  
27 council hereby authorizes an increase of 4,346,298 dollars, which is a percentage increase  
28 of 2.00 percent. This increase is exclusive of any amount resulting from new  
29 construction or any increase in value of state-assessed property. This increase will result  
30 in a total property tax levy of 221,661,209 dollars, exclusive of an amount resulting from  
31 new construction or any increase in value of state-assessed property.

32 SECTION 3. EMS property tax levy. For collection in 2001, the council hereby  
33 authorizes an increase of 864,252 dollars, which is a percentage increase of 2.00 percent.  
34 This increase is exclusive of any amount resulting from new construction or any increase  
35 in value of state-assessed property. The increase will result in a total EMS property tax  
36 levy of 44,076,843 dollars, exclusive of an amount resulting from new construction or  
37 any increase in value of state-assessed property.

38            SECTION 4. These amounts are hereby certified and, upon enactment, the clerk  
39 is directed to forward this ordinance to the assessor in accordance with RCW 84.52.070.

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Ordinance 13988 was introduced on 10/30/00 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/20/00, by the following vote:

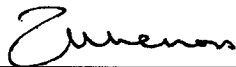
Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen, Ms. Hague, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons  
No: 5 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels and Mr. Gossett  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

~~APPROVED~~ this 30 day of NOVEMBER, 2000.

*vetoed*



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments      None





King County Executive  
RON SIMS

November 30, 2000

The Honorable Pete von Reichbauer, Chair  
Metropolitan King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Chair von Reichbauer:

I am today vetoing in its entirety Ordinance 2000-0598.2 (13988), the County's regular property tax levy and Emergency Medical Services Property Tax Levy, due to mistakes in the levy calculation.

The property tax collection methodology as approved by this ordinance and passed by the Council is incorrect.

The Budget Chair's decision not to use the state Department of Revenue's recommended methodology in the property tax levy for the Current Expense (CX) Fund and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), results in a \$5.7 million CX budget shortfall and a \$1.1 million EMS revenue shortfall. This levy also supports mental health, developmental disabilities, veterans' aid, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and the River Improvement Fund. As a result, revenues are less than expenditures in the budget.

This major policy decision regarding calculation methodology was never before the Council for debate or decision. The impact of Council's decision to calculate a lower property tax means that the County and our regional partners will have to cut critical public services in order to reduce spending levels to match the lower revenue levels approved by the Council.

This error in calculation must be corrected and the lost revenue from excluding tax collection on 2000 new construction must be restored to ensure both our CX and EMS budgets are in balance as required by law.

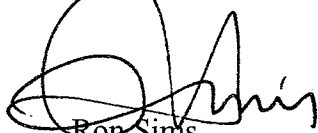
The Honorable Pete von Reichbauer

November 30, 2000

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I respectfully invite and urge all King County Councilmembers to work with me to set property tax levels which meet our basic responsibilities and which correspond to the expenditure levels supported by both the Executive and the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "R" and a cursive "Sims".

Ron Sims

King County Executive

Attachments

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: John Chelminiak, Chief of Staff

Rebecha Cusak, Lead Staff, BFM Committee

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Pat Steel, Director, Office of Budget