



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 3, 2011

Ordinance 17072

Proposed No. 2011-0018.4

**Sponsors Ferguson, von Reichbauer and
Dunn**

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 16, 2011, of a proposition
4 to provide regional health and human services to residents
5 of King County by renewing and replacing authorization of
6 the veterans and human services property tax levy in excess
7 of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, for
8 a consecutive six-year period at a first year rate of not more
9 than \$0.05 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation,
10 with subsequent maximum levy collections being increased
11 by the greater of 1% or the percentage increase in the
12 consumer price index as long as that amount does not
13 exceed 3%, for the purpose of providing funding to enable
14 the provision of health and human services such as
15 affordable and supportive housing, mental health
16 counseling, substance abuse prevention and treatment,
17 employment assistance and other essential regional health
18 and human services for residents of King County and
19 establishing county citizen oversight boards to review and

20 report on expenditures of levy proceeds, contingent on
21 voter approval of the levy.

22 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

23 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

24 A. To enhance the available funding for veterans and other human services in
25 King County, the metropolitan King County council approved Ordinance 15279, placing
26 a six-year veterans and human services levy on the ballot. In November 2005, the
27 veterans and human services levy passed with nearly fifty-eight percent approval,
28 generating much needed funding to help veterans, military personnel and their families
29 and other individuals and families in need across the county through a variety of regional
30 health and human services.

31 B. The veterans and human services levy generates an average of \$14.6 million
32 per year. One-half of these revenues are dedicated exclusively for veterans and their
33 families and the remaining one-half is dedicated to other King County residents in need
34 of human services. This levy remains in effect until December 31, 2011.

35 C. All activities supported by the levy advance one or more of three overarching
36 policy goals:

- 37 1. Reducing homelessness;
- 38 2. Reducing emergency medical and criminal justice involvement; or
- 39 3. Increasing self-sufficiency for veterans, military personnel, their families and
40 other individuals and families in need.

41 D. Since 2006, the veterans and human services levy has met these policy goals
42 by:

43 1. Enrolling over one thousand seven hundred chronically homeless individuals
44 in outreach services as a first milestone in ending homelessness. Of those helped,
45 approximately eighteen percent are veterans and at least one hundred had been involved
46 in the criminal justice system due to mental illness or co-occurring disorders;

47 2. Providing over four hundred homeless veterans with twenty-four thousand
48 bed-nights of emergency shelter and transitional housing, coupled with case management
49 and advocacy;

50 3. Expanding King County's existing veterans programs and adding one new
51 program to serve over nine thousand military personnel, veterans and their families.
52 These programs include: financial aid and emergency assistance for rent, food, utilities,
53 medical needs and burial; employment services such as job placement, career counseling
54 and job training; transportation; mental health counseling, including crisis and
55 posttraumatic stress disorder counseling and intervention services; case management
56 services for those needing housing, treatment or other assistance; long-term and short-
57 term housing; treatment for trauma; homeless prevention; veterans' incarcerated
58 prevention; and other programs;

59 4. Serving three hundred eighty veterans experiencing posttraumatic stress
60 disorder with five thousand nine hundred thirty hours of levy-funded counseling in 2009
61 alone, with a demonstrated success rate of ninety-five percent of clients reducing
62 posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms;

63 5. Assessing over ten thousand four hundred low-income persons for behavioral
64 health issues. Of these persons, more than three thousand were indicated to have
65 depression or anxiety symptoms and entered treatment by the end of 2009;

66 6. Treating one thousand primary care clients, including an estimated one
67 hundred fifty veterans or their family members, successfully reducing their depression or
68 anxiety symptoms and improving their long-term health prospects; and

69 7. Screening over seven thousand one hundred mothers for maternal depression.
70 Of these, six hundred eighty-five received behavioral health treatment services,
71 contributing to the healthy development of their children. Of those measured, sixty-eight
72 percent have reduced depression or anxiety, or both, thereby improving the likelihood of
73 their successful parenting and improved self sufficiency;

74 E. Although the veterans and human services levy is set to expire at the end of
75 2011, the need for veterans and human services remains high. Approximately one
76 hundred thirty-nine thousand veterans live in King County representing over twenty
77 percent of the state's veterans. The population of veterans in the state is growing and
78 Washington ranks eighth nationwide for the total number of veterans in the state.

79 F. King County has a growing homeless population, estimated to be as many as
80 eight thousand five hundred on any given night. Among these, the United States
81 Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are as many as two thousand five
82 hundred homeless veterans in the Puget Sound region.

83 G. The current recession continues to challenge individuals and families
84 throughout the region, as high unemployment and foreclosure rates increase the need for
85 housing and supportive health and human services.

86 H. King County's current expense fund faces continuing challenges in future
87 years, including anticipated shortfalls in 2012 and 2013 in excess of twenty million
88 dollars each year. As a discretionary service under state law, human service funding has

89 been almost entirely eliminated and faces complete elimination in future years. At the
90 state level, cuts to human services funding are anticipated to have devastating impacts on
91 King County families in need.

92 I. Given the positive outcomes of the veterans and human services levy on the
93 lives of veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in
94 need, and the projected need for sustained veterans and human services funding in future,
95 it is appropriate to ask the voters to renew and replace the veterans and human services
96 levy.

97 J. The current economic crisis has eroded property values causing jurisdictions to
98 reach the limits of the authorized property tax rate under state law. As a result, any future
99 increase in the veterans and human services levy rate would negatively affect the ability
100 of other jurisdictions in King County to collect needed revenues for flood prevention,
101 hospital maintenance and fire district operations. As such, it is appropriate to maintain
102 the current rate of \$0.05 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year of
103 the levy.

104 K. Under state law, a levy lid lift is limited to a maximum term of six years if the
105 levy provides for a specified index to be used to determine the limit factor.

106 **SECTION 2. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this
107 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

108 A. "Family" means a veteran's or military personnel's spouse, domestic partner or
109 child or the child of the spouse or domestic partner or other dependent relatives if living
110 in the household of a veteran or military personnel.

111 B. "Human services for veterans" means services and projects of the King
112 County veterans' program specifically developed to meet the needs of veterans, military
113 personnel and their families in King County.

114 C. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purpose and
115 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
116 law.

117 D. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the levy and
118 any interest earnings on the funds.

119 E. "Limit factor" means the greater of 1% or the percentage increase in the
120 consumer price index as long as that amount does not exceed 3%. The consumer price
121 index is defined as the ratio of the most recent June Consumer Price Index to the
122 immediately previous June Consumer Price Index (final published CPI-W Seattle-
123 Tacoma-Bremerton, as calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its
124 successor) expressed as a multiple of one hundred percent to achieve the result of one
125 hundred percent plus inflation.

126 F. "Military personnel" means those persons currently serving in a branch of the
127 military, including the National Guard and reservists for any branch of the military.

128 G. "Regional health and human services" means a range of services and related
129 capital facilities, including housing, that meet basic human needs and promote safe and
130 healthy communities including, but not limited to:

131 1. Prevention and early intervention services that reduce or prevent adverse
132 human behaviors and social conditions that lead to crises, serious dysfunction or
133 disability;

134 2. Criminal justice linked services that assist individuals and their families in
135 avoiding or mitigating their involvement with the criminal justice system;

136 3. Crisis intervention services that address life threatening situations and other
137 crises;

138 4. Rehabilitation and support services that provide treatment for individual and
139 family problems or provide support to maintain or enhance their present level of
140 independence.

141 H. "Veterans" mean those persons who have served in any branch of the military,
142 including the National Guard and reservists for any branch of the military.

143 SECTION 3. Levy submittal to voters. To provide necessary funds for the
144 provision of regional health and human services to King County's veterans, military
145 personnel and their families and other residents in need of health and human services, the
146 county council shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition to renew
147 and replace an expiring levy and authorize a regular property tax levy in excess of the
148 levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive years, commencing
149 in 2011, with collection beginning in 2012, at a rate not to exceed five cents per one
150 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year, with subsequent levies limited by the
151 limit factor as defined in section 2 of this ordinance.

152 SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds. The levy proceeds shall be deposited in
153 two special revenue funds, which funds shall be specified by ordinance. The levy
154 proceeds shall be divided to place fifty percent of the levy proceeds in one fund
155 designated for the provision of regional health and human services for veterans, military
156 personnel and their families. The remaining fifty percent of the levy proceeds shall be

157 placed in another fund designated for the provision of regional health and human services
158 to a wide range of people in need of such services.

159 **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
160 county, all levy proceeds shall be used to pay the costs associated with provision of
161 regional health and human services to a wide range of people in need of such services,
162 including, but not limited to, services that increase self-sufficiency for veterans, military
163 personnel and their families, services that reduce involvement in the criminal justice
164 system, services that reduce emergency medical costs, services for children and youth,
165 the elderly, the unemployed and underemployed and for services specific to veterans'
166 needs such as treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder and specialized employment
167 assistance. The provision of services will include a range of regional health and human
168 services and related capital facilities including, but not limited to, housing assistance,
169 homelessness prevention, mental health counseling substance abuse prevention and
170 treatment and employment assistance.

171 Eligible expenditures shall also include payment of costs to strengthen and
172 improve the health and human services system and infrastructure to provide greater
173 access to services and engender better coordination and integration of regional health and
174 human services addressing the needs of veterans, military personnel and their families.

175 **SECTION 6. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, it
176 is hereby deemed that an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified
177 electors of the county at a special election to be held on August 16, 2011, a proposition
178 authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The
179 director of the elections department shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in

180 accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified
181 electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set
182 forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the director of the
183 elections department, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions
184 or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the prosecuting
185 attorney:

186 PROPOSITION ___: The King County council has passed Ordinance
187 _____ concerning funding for regional veterans, health, and human
188 services. This proposition would renew and replace an expiring levy and
189 fund capital facilities and services that reduce medical costs,
190 homelessness, and criminal justice system involvement with half of
191 proceeds supporting veterans and their families. It would authorize King
192 County to levy an additional property tax of 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed
193 valuation for collection in 2012 and authorize annual increases by the
194 percentage increase in the consumer price index or 1%, whichever is
195 greater, with a maximum increase of 3%, for the five succeeding years.

196 Should this proposition be:

197 Approved? _____

198 Rejected? _____

199 **SECTION 7. County citizen oversight boards established.** If the levy is
200 reapproved by the voters, the oversight boards established by Ordinance 15279 shall be
201 continued and the criteria identified for board membership shall be maintained.

202 **SECTION 8. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
203 county council to the director of the elections department in accordance with law before
204 the election on August 16, 2011, and any other act consistent with the authority and
205 before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

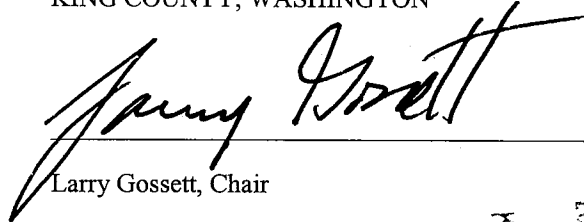
206 **SECTION 9. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

207 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
208 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
209

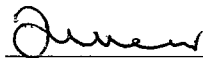
Ordinance 17072 was introduced on 1/3/2011 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/2/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 6 day of MAY, 2011.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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2011 MAY -6 PM 4:23
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL