



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 20036

Proposed No. 2025-0277.1

Sponsors Mosqueda

1 AN ORDINANCE related to the contracting opportunities
 2 program and small contractor and supplier certification and
 3 criteria for participation; allowing for automatically
 4 qualifying firms certified by the Washington state Office of
 5 Minority and Women's Business Enterprises; allowing for
 6 removing minimum business-related training requirements
 7 to maintain certification; and amending Ordinance 13983,
 8 Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.97.050.

9 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 10 1. The contracting opportunities program is an essential part of the
 11 county's work to implement Executive Order, CON-7-28-EO, supporting
 12 pro equity contracting.
- 13 2. The county's finance and business operations division administers fast-
 14 track certification, which allows businesses certified with Washington
 15 state Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises to
 16 automatically participate in the county's small supplier and contractor
 17 certification program.
- 18 3. In 2024, the county's fast-track certification program added 1126
 19 minority- and women-owned businesses to its online directory of certified
 20 small contractors and suppliers, resulting in a total of 3,644 fast-track

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21 firms at the year, and accounting for 88.8 percent of all King County firms
22 certified as small contractors and suppliers. The addition of those certified
23 firms has contributed to the increase in contract dollars awarded to
24 minority- and women-owned businesses. In 2024, \$107.1 million was
25 awarded to firms certified as small contractors and suppliers, with 55
26 percent going to minority- and women-owned businesses.

27 4. The 2024 King County Disparity Study by Colette Holt & Associations
28 on construction and construction-related services, and architecture,
29 engineering and other professional services ("A&E/P") contracting for the
30 contracting opportunities program found that the disparity results, both for
31 all industries and the broad industry groupings of construction and
32 A&E/P, demonstrate that minority- and woman-owned businesses are at or
33 very close to parity with businesses that are not minority- and woman-
34 owned businesses in the award of county contracted dollars. The ratios
35 are over 80 percent and are mostly statistically significant.

36 5. The 2024 King County Disparity Study by Colette Holt & Associations
37 recommended dropping the requirements for additional training as criteria
38 for continued certification as a small contractor and supplier for the
39 county. The study found that most of the certified small contractors and
40 suppliers interviewed were relatively experienced businesspeople who
41 asked for specific information about doing business with the county, not
42 overall business training.

43 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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44 SECTION 1. Ordinance 13983, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.97.050 are
45 hereby amended to read as follows:

46 To be certified for the program, a business must:

47 A.1. ~~((b))~~ Be either a small contractor or supplier(,); or

48 2. Be certified by the Washington state Office of Minority and Women's

49 Business Enterprises;

50 B. ~~((h))~~ Have a valid business license; and ((must))

51 C. ~~((s))~~ Serve a commercially useful function. ((To maintain its certification,
52 ~~within one year of its certification a small contractor or supplier must have the person or~~
53 ~~persons who own and control the business complete at least fifteen hours of business-~~
54 ~~related training in a program approved by the manager. Based on the manager's~~
55 ~~assessment of the small contractor or supplier's need for additional training, the manager~~
56 ~~may require a small contractor or supplier to complete up to fifteen additional hours~~
57 ~~annually of business related training. The manager shall evaluate and approve training~~
58 ~~programs based on one or more of the following indicators of the training program's~~
59 ~~value: the industry's historical use of the training program; the training program's~~

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60 ~~affiliation with established schools, if any; and accreditation by an established~~
61 ~~association.)~~

Ordinance 20036 was introduced on 11/4/2025 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/24/2026, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry and von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:
Sarah Perry
062AC77E76FB49B...
Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Hay
8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 3/9/2026, _____.

Signed by:
Girmay Zabilay
B7B9CFF6992F49A...
Girmay Zabilay, County Executive

Attachments: None

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Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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