Equity and Economic Opportunity

Seventh Round of Countywide Community Forums

April 16 – May 29, 2011

Final Report

By

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A King County public engagement program in the King County Auditor's Office

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Through objective and independent audits and services, we promote and improve performance, accountability, and transparency in King County government.

Auditor's Office Vision

Our work is of the highest quality and integrity resulting in significant improvements in accountability, performance, and efficiency in county government, and it promotes public trust.

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The King County Auditor's Office performs its work in accordance with applicable Government Auditing Standards.

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Summary

Based on the King County Strategic Plan's "fair and just" guiding principle, the seventh round of Countywide Community Forums on the topic of *Equity and Economic Opportunity* was held between April 16 and May 29, 2011 and brought 489 participants to forums throughout the county and online.

Respondents overwhelmingly agree with the county-codified definition of equity meaning *all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential* and that some current funding should be shifted into prevention programs. A majority of respondents believe the county does not focus enough on addressing issues of economic opportunity or the issues of equity. More people disagree than agree that King County is providing equitable access to government services and resources.

After reviewing the fourteen determinants of equity codified by King County, respondents feel that conditions related to Community and Public Safety, Law and Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services are best handled by the county, while Neighborhoods, Healthy Built and Natural Environments, Parks and Natural Resources and Food Systems are best handled by the community, defined broadly as individuals, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, etc.

Finally, picking from a varied list of issues or services necessary for a safe, healthy and successful community, they choose More Prevention Programs for At-Risk Youth, More Preventive Medical Care and Access to Affordable Health Insurance as being the most necessary. Raising taxes in particular, but also lowering taxes, are viewed as least necessary.

Respondents identified 347 barriers in their community that prevent them from experiencing equity through conditions expressed under the 14 determinants of equity. Most of those barriers are to education (39), housing (37), jobs training and jobs (36), community economic development (36), transportation (32), and law and justice (31) with a third of the barriers dealing with access issues and/or a quarter related to cost.

Finally, benefits continue for participants after the forums are completed, with a majority of respondents saying that they are better informed about the issue as a result of their participation and that it will have a positive influence on their involvement in other local decision-making actions.

Survey Results

The topic for the seventh round of Countywide Community Forums, *Equity and Economic Opportunity*, was recommended by the Countywide Community Forums Advisory Steering Committee at its January 2011 meeting and approved by the King County Auditor based on established criteria that include timeliness and relevance. The topic relates to the King County Strategic Plan's *fair and just* guiding principle, defined as having King County serve all its residents by promoting fairness and opportunity and eliminating inequities.

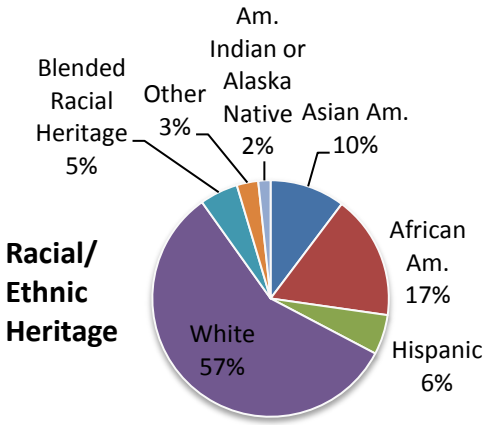
This round of forums offered King County residents a chance to discuss, explore and challenge this notion by focusing more closely on two strategic plan goals, *health and human potential* and *economic growth*, to learn more about what King County is already doing or planning on doing and to provide feedback on what is missing or needs improvement.

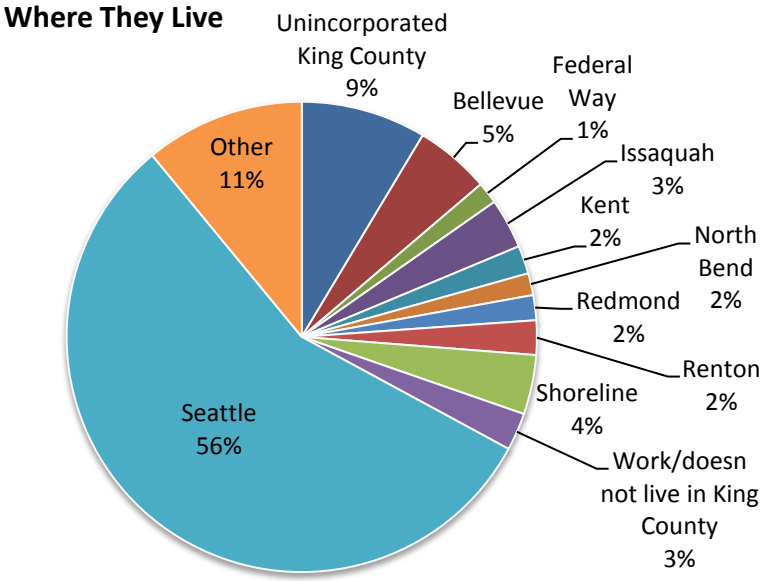
Between April 16 to May 29, 2011, King County citizens gathered throughout the region to watch a 20-minute introductory video on equity and economic opportunity, featuring County Executive Dow Constantine, Councilmembers Larry Gossett and Kathy Lambert, and a host of community leaders. In addition to the traditional format of smaller meetings in homes and libraries, larger meetings were sponsored by regional chambers, colleges, human service providers and retirement homes.

In total, 489 people filled out the survey, of this 118 (24%) did so online and many more watched the video and even participated in discussions without taking the survey.

Demographic Questions:

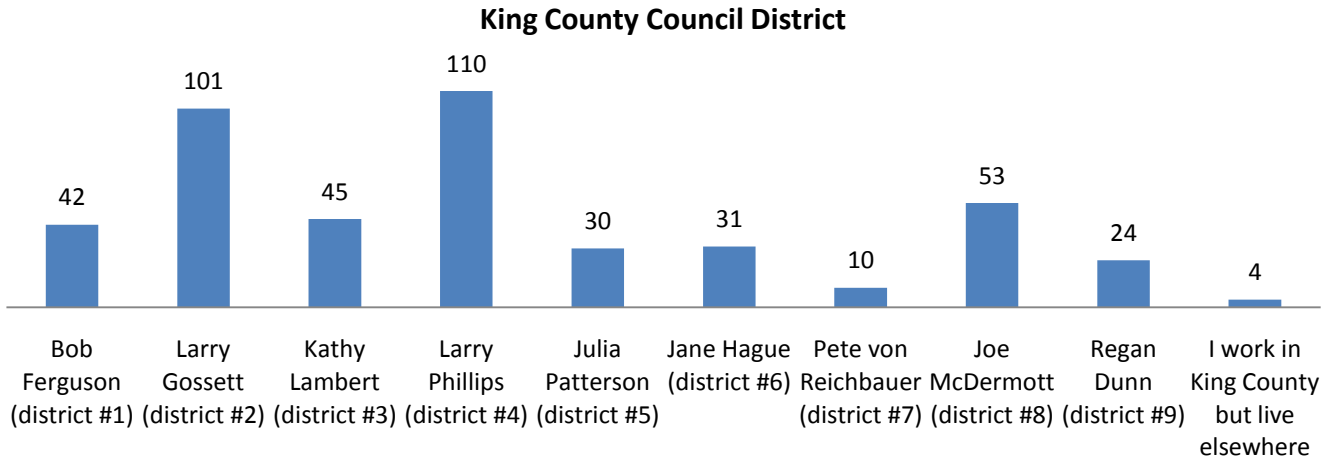
Countywide Community Forums continues to make progress in engaging a younger, more diverse audience. Of those who answered the questions, over half (55%) of the Round 7 participants are under 50. While 57% are White, 17% are African American and 10% are Asian American. This represents the highest percentage of minority participation in the seven rounds of forums.





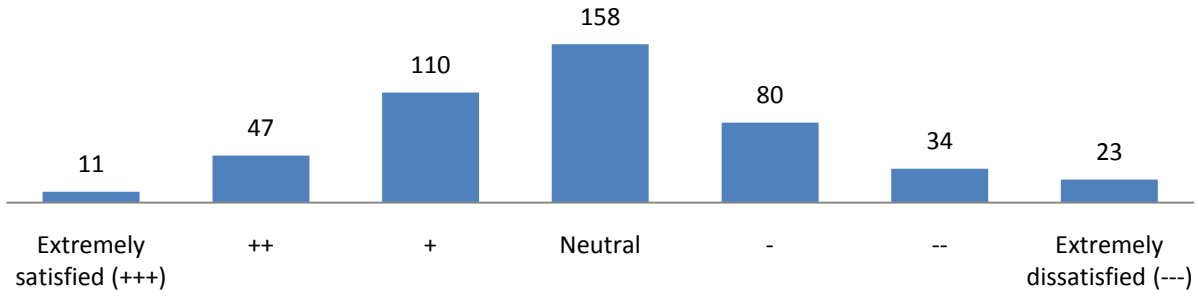
Fifty-three percent hold a 4-year college degree or higher. The majority is female (60%). While 56% live in Seattle, 9% live in Unincorporated King County and the rest (35%) are spread across the suburban cities, with the largest numbers living in Bellevue, Shoreline, and Issaquah. A plurality has lived in King County for over 20 years (49%) and over three-quarter of the respondents have never testified at a public hearing.

Council District 4 is best represented with 24% of the respondents, followed by District 2 (22%), District 8 (12%), District 3 (10%), and District 1 (9%).



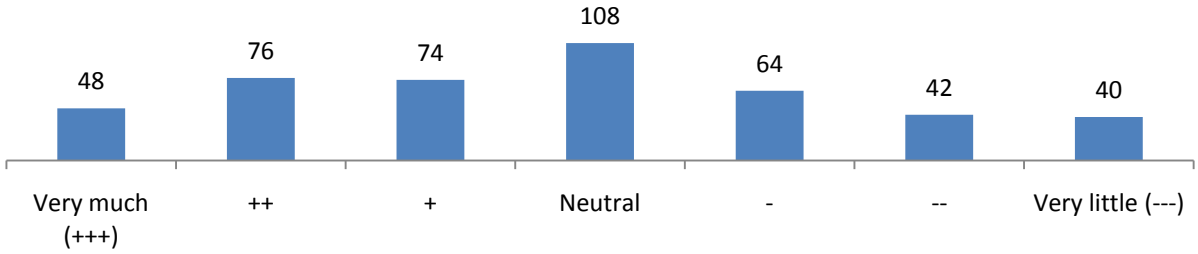
Thirty-six percent of respondents are slightly to extremely satisfied with King County institutions as a whole (30% are dissatisfied).

(D-11) Overall, what level of satisfaction do you have with King County institutions as a whole?



Forty-four percent stated that King County's decisions have a slight to high positive impact on them while 32% say it has a slight to high negative impact on them.

(D-12) How much do you believe King County decisions impact you?



Topic questions:

Over two-thirds (68%) of the respondents agree (14% disagree[1]) with the codified definition of equity: *Equity means all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential*. Fewer respondents (46%) agree (21% disagree) with a proposed definition that: *equity means no one is disadvantaged by my benefit and no one is benefited by my disadvantage.*

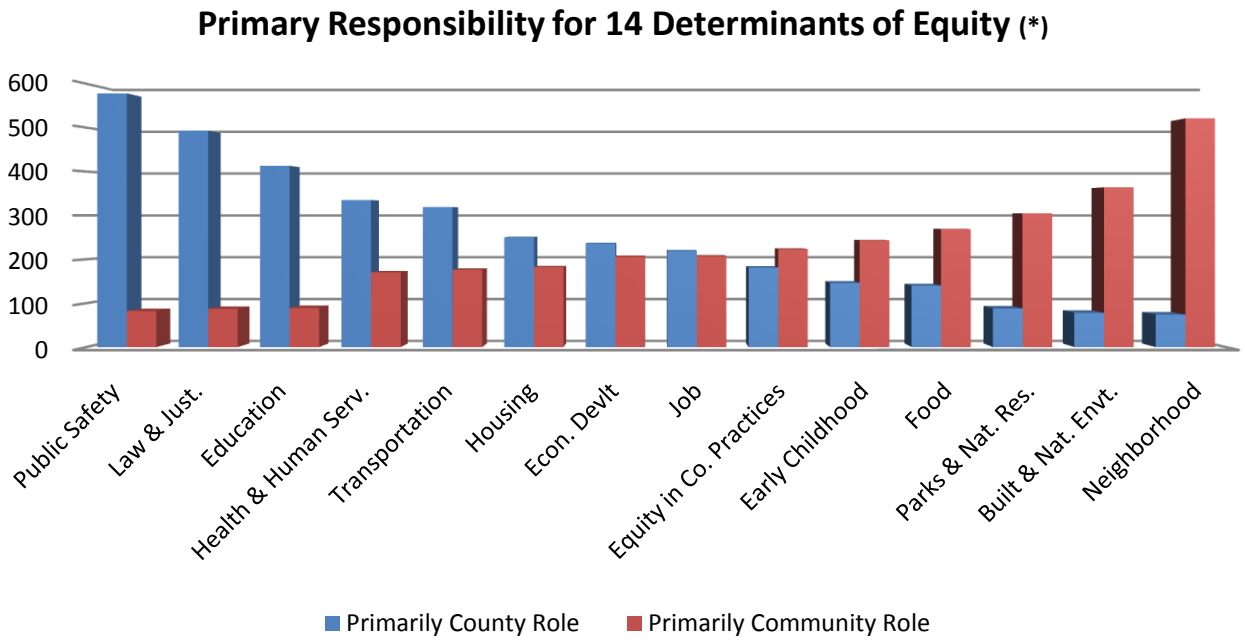
Determinants of equity are *the social, economic, geographic, political and physical environment conditions in which people in King County are born, grow, live, work and age that lead to the creation of a fair and just society*. King County lists and has codified fourteen determinants of equity and the list was provided for review to the forum participants. When asked whose job it is to primarily address each of the fourteen determinants of equity, in a list provided for their review, respondents picked as the primary responsibility of the county:

- Community and public safety that includes services that are responsive to all residents
- Law and justice system that provides equitable and fair treatment for all
- Education that is high quality, culturally appropriate, and allows each student to reach their full potential
- Health and human services that support the optimal well-being of all people
- Transportation that provides safe and reliable mobility options

Conversely, they viewed the following determinants as primarily the responsibility of the community (individuals, nonprofits, and businesses):

- Neighborhoods with strong networks, trust and a vision for common goals
- Healthy built and natural environments with a mix of land use that supports jobs, housing, and clean environment
- Parks and natural resources that provide access to all people
- Food systems that support local food production and access to affordable, healthy foods
- Early childhood development that supports healthy relationships, affordable day care and learning opportunities

[1] Not included here and in all following percentages are “neutral,” “abstain,” and “object” responses. Percentages are based on numbers of actual responses to the question.



(*) Total reflect cumulative totals for 1st to 5th choice. For each response, first choice was given a score of "5," second choice a score of "4," etc.

Sixty-four percent agree and 10% disagree that some current funding should be shifted into prevention programs.

When asked about the county's focus on the issues of equity and economic opportunity, 15% agree in both cases that the focus is just right, while a majority of respondents thinks that the county does not focus enough on either issue. Those numbers were higher for the under-30 population and even higher for the African-American community.

County Focus on Equity and Economic Opportunity (All, African American, Under 30):

	Too much focus			Just right			Not enough focus		
	All	Afr.Am	<30	All	Afr.Am	<30	All	Afr.Am	<30
Equity	17%	8%	4%	15%	12%	22%	52%	64%	57%
Economic opportunity	9%	3%	3%	15%	14%	15%	60%	73%	65%

Fifty-seven percent see Equity and Economic Opportunity as linked (14% disagree).

Finally, 33% of respondents think King County is not providing equitable access to government services and resources (43% of African-American respondents), while 25% agree that it is.

	Agree			Disagree		
	All	Afr.Am	<30	All	Afr.Am	<30
KC provides equitable access to services/resources	25%	11%	19%	33%	43%	33%

When offered a series of services or conditions and asked whether they are necessary for their community to be healthy, the following three issues were picked by respondents as the most necessary based on their net scores (positive choices minus negative choices):

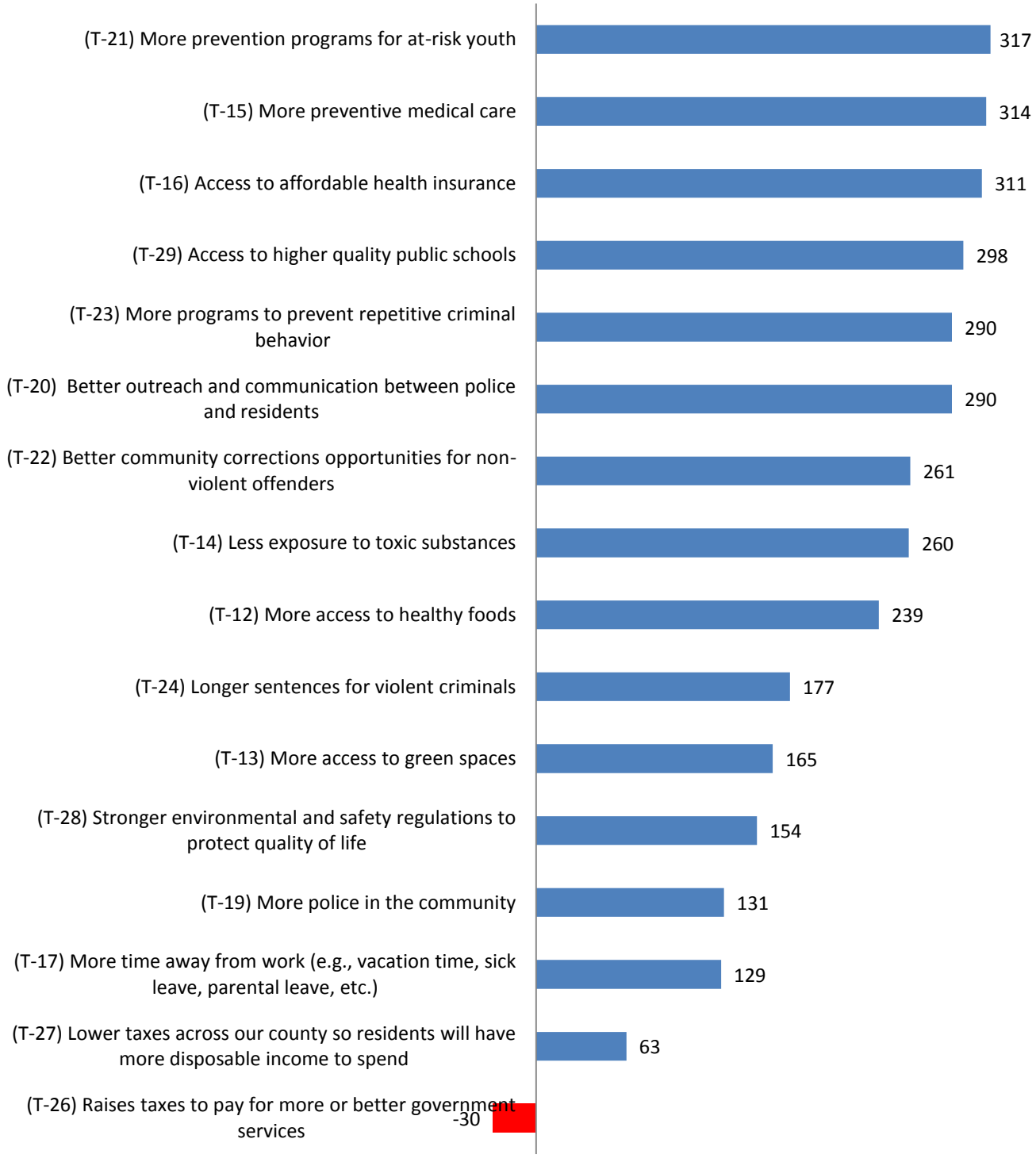
- More prevention programs for at-risk youth (317)
- More preventive medical care (314)
- Access to affordable health insurance (311)

The lowest net scores go to the two following issues:

- Raise taxes to pay for more or better government services (-30)
- Lower taxes across county so our residents will have more disposable income to spend (63)

While there were slight difference in the ranking of those conditions among different populations, conditions related to health, prevention and education ranked among the top 5 conditions for all groups that were analyzed, while lowering or raising taxes ranked low. More police in the community and longer sentences for criminals were also viewed as low priorities for the African-American community and the under 30s.

Most necessary services/conditions for healthy, safe or succesful community:
Net (positive minus negative) score



Survey Results

After reviewing the list of 14 determinants of equity, respondents identified 347 barriers in their community that prevent them from experiencing equity through conditions expressed under the 14 determinants of equity. Most of those barriers that are listed are to education (39), housing (37), jobs training and jobs (36), community economic development (36), transportation (32), and law and justice (31). Most of the barriers (34%) address a component of access. A quarter of the barriers address separately or additionally a cost/money-related concern, and 12% relate to discrimination, mostly on the basis of race. The complete list of barriers appears as an appendix.

Process questions:

For 41%, participating in the forum positively/very positively changed their perception that King County listens (8% negatively). Fifty-three percent feel better informed about the issue as a result of participating in the forums (13% disagree), and, for 55%, participation in the forums will have a positive influence on their involvement in other local decision-making actions (6% disagree).

Finally, in a series of questions about the forum process, the information presented in the video is deemed good to excellent by 57% (6% say average to very poor). Sixty-four percent of the respondents agree that, overall, the Countywide Community Forums program is on the right track (6% disagree); the average for the last 7 rounds (2007 to present) is 69%.

Barriers to the 14 determinants of equity:

Community economic development (36)

- ✓ Knowledge (people do not know about resources available)
- ✓ Knowledge of the procedures and access to resources and aids is limited to a small company of people with connections
- ✓ Barriers to small business!
- ✓ Kids doing dumb things like stealing bikes
- ✓ The U-District is dominated by outside funds. There is very little in the way of living careers.
- ✓ Regulation, restriction, limitation imposed by County govt.
- ✓ Anti-growth policy. High cost - taxes over regulations
- ✓ Banks willing to provide loans
- ✓ Extortionate taxes are closing jobs and robbing family resources and time to secure resources and comply with regulations
- ✓ Lack of public budget spent with local businesses
- ✓ Too many regulations interfering with improving existing infrastructure.
- ✓ Physical separation from many offered resources, facilities
- ✓ No large employers and no development money to grow smaller businesses
- ✓ Lack of job opportunities
- ✓ Ridiculous requirements for in-home daycare. Women have been taking in their neighbors' kids for thousands of years, and if we allowed that to happen now, more people would be employed, kids would be happier, incomes would be higher. It's ridiculous to have to send kids to corporate daycare, with minimum, high-turnover professional staff who feed the kids industrial junk food, and charge you for every minute you're late. The neighbor down the street would be better for the kid, cheaper and more convenient for me. It's my business to assess where I want my kid, not the government's!
- ✓ County tends to see it as supporting multinational corporations at the expense of supporting small local business
- ✓ No bridge to our main street in South Park.
- ✓ Unsure, but I'd love to see more support for startups and the self-employed.
- ✓ Rezone of the K2 property without adequately consulting with the community. Property still sits vacant after 4 years.
- ✓ Difficulties in getting loans to start up new businesses.
- ✓ Unfair county practices, i.e., grant and funding opportunities go to those who can afford to hire a grant writer. Those who are not savvy enough to know this miss the opportunity to apply and receive funding to start businesses in our community.
- ✓ Employment security - Work Source on Rainier: staff are hostile and less helpful. Need newer & more helpful directors and managers
- ✓ Not available to all community members
- ✓ It's difficult for small businesses; many in my area have shut down
- ✓ I don't see much activity by KC
- ✓ Community economic development
- ✓ Most all resources go the race and ethnicity challenged people. Very little available for lifetime residents and workers in King County
- ✓ South Park has no bank, grocery, or drug store.
- ✓ Taxes penalize business that could create more employment

- ✓ Small businesses are greatly impacted by changes now more than ever
- ✓ Educational opportunities for inmates and parolees.
- ✓ Earthquake and disaster preparedness education and retrofitting,
- ✓ Excessive racial preferences to all except Whites and excessive government interference.
- ✓ These with the money get the voice and influence
- ✓ Democrats, liberals
- ✓ Too much government regulation

Community and public safety (25)

- ✓ Racially charged violence by Seattle Police over the past years is a huge barrier to equity in King County
- ✓ Low number of police in relation to # of crimes in work neighborhood
- ✓ Police that are bad
- ✓ Lack of deputies
- ✓ People have been shot near by
- ✓ Des Moines built a prison and took out the park and frequented family area at the marina
- ✓ Lack of deputies. Too many cuts in law enforcement.
- ✓ Gang violence
- ✓ Our tax dollars are misconstrued
- ✓ Fairwood KCSO Storefront not in operation
- ✓ Providing adequate services productively
- ✓ The neighborhood faces a lot of, um, selective enforcement with poor people (but not the "crack heads") typically being made examples (if cops bother to show) while richer, whiter people get off for the same crimes.
- ✓ I'm still suffering from the police abuse of that woodcarver in Seattle. I want to respect law enforcement officers, but some of them are very arrogant and "power hungry." The solution is difficult, because the people attracted to law enforcement tend to have those innate characteristics.
- ✓ No bridge, so less police/ambulance access.
- ✓ Due to the declining economy and the federal way area, we have fewer police, and the police have to determine which crimes they will be cracking down on.
- ✓ Our first responders are busy fighting stupid and unnecessary wars.
- ✓ With more educational opportunities and community centers, less need for police - that would make it safer
- ✓ Respect for diversity
- ✓ Anti-gang programs
- ✓ More citizenship / police involvement
- ✓ We must make our communities safe
- ✓ After school programs and evening programs (also summer programs) for teens give them a focus other than committing crimes.
- ✓ As a volunteer through the Youth Tutoring Program, I work with at-risk youth on a weekly basis. I see many programs for young kids, but I am not aware of programs for older kids, or youth who may have been involved in the court system.
- ✓ More programs like "block watch" where citizens help themselves be safer.
- ✓ More undercover?? Neighborhood Watch programs?

Law and Justice (31)

- ✓ The Seattle Police discriminates regularly
- ✓ Police brutality, racial
- ✓ I have a felony as do a lot of people in my community.
- ✓ A man beating a woman was never addressed. The police never showed
- ✓ The SPD being racist
- ✓ The community was silent when things went wrong
- ✓ Social workers victimizing people with various challenges
- ✓ Police brutality and racism
- ✓ too many excuses are made for people who do bad things.
- ✓ Legal codes are too complicated and poorly written.
- ✓ Budget cuts make justice harder to get for poor folks.
- ✓ Excessive focus on equity and social justice
- ✓ No participation in government by citizens.
- ✓ Federal way does not have a District Court, King County offices, statewide administrative hearings offices, and far too few Superior Court judges at the Kent regional Justice Center
- ✓ Wages too low.
- ✓ Negative opinions about people who ask for help from gvt
- ✓ Incomprehensible regulation & land mgmt
- ✓ Not enough strategic intervention and prevention in the early years of minority youth to prevent them from going down the road to criminal activity .
- ✓ Strong sentences for criminals
- ✓ more effort to prevent drug traffic
- ✓ The devil is in the details on the options above. There can be a zillion programs, but if they are poorly thought out, and poorly executed, as most are, they don't do any good. The main thing that would help our neighborhood is if the Dept of Corrections would quit using it as a dumping ground for all the criminals, felons, and sex offenders. But most of the people here are white, so that makes it OK!
- ✓ Genuine community in our municipalities and neighborhoods, that would prevent most crime and want, along with a willingness to act together to end the present tyranny and install direct democracy at the local and bioregional levels!
- ✓ There are a lot of women without their mamas doing time because of addiction, and the pain and stress of the loss of children is just keeping the prosecutors in a circle of destruction for our community
- ✓ Toss criminals in jail
- ✓ A willingness to prosecute white collar criminals. Caucasians are equally responsible for drug crimes by African-Americans bear the cost of justice
- ✓ Death penalty for criminals
- ✓ More attention to the root causes of crime: economic insecurity, etc.
- ✓ More diversity in law enforcement
- ✓ First, we should have stiffer laws. Second, locking up hard core criminals and making them work instead of giving those free meals and medical and dental and gyms and TVs, etc. Second, non-violent offenders should be made to work as well. We cannot expect these people to understand what it is to work if we don't teach them how. They should be working for their food and board.
- ✓ Protection from the police with empowered citizen review boards.
- ✓ rehab for drug users

Early childhood development (8)

- ✓ Childcare for poor single mothers is costly &/or unavailable
- ✓ Lack of funds
- ✓ Not enough early, early childhood programs in W Sea.
- ✓ Lack of programs
- ✓ Not enough of a priority. Perhaps the best investment we could make with public moneys.
- ✓ With money cuts, parents don't have support needed to enroll children, nor are they given all the information
- ✓ Community forums/bulletins
- ✓ Youth Employment

Education (39)

- ✓ Cuts to education budget
- ✓ Poor education in some schools
- ✓ Inadequate funding for programs / inadequate support for teachers
- ✓ $ Money
- ✓ Inequity of funds / help towards unique demographics
- ✓ Not enough good teachers
- ✓ Many students don't get the proper education or even a basic education
- ✓ Not enough money being spent on our children's education and summer programs
- ✓ Not enough money
- ✓ Budget cuts affect kids' access to whole education
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Budget, cultural priorities
- ✓ Unable, or do not know how to speak English
- ✓ State funding cut
- ✓ Inability to agree on problems, solutions or who should pay, plus the 60% requirement for levy passage
- ✓ State funding
- ✓ Grant to college denied because took school newspaper instead of English, which was allowed by high school.
- ✓ Youth progressing to the next grade level without actually meeting appropriate standards, youth graduating from high school ill-prepared for college/work, and the 30% drop out rate that jumps to nearly 50% dropout rate for youth of color
- ✓ Cost of tuition
- ✓ School has less budget
- ✓ Racist obsessed - union corruption - poor teachers - rampant political abuses
- ✓ Bullying, cultural incompetence, economic inequality, guidance, school resources
- ✓ schools are of lesser quality in minority areas; parents appear to be less engaged their student's lives in poor quality schools
- ✓ Teachers are expected to do too much with too little pay.
- ✓ Little extended education opportunity, little extra-curricular options for kids
- ✓ not having ability to choose public charter school options
- ✓ Renton has many immigrants and children with critical needs

- ✓ We live in a state that graduates 66% of white males and less than 45% of black males. Neither, is a great statistic. This sounds like a good starting place.
- ✓ Uneducated parents continue to have children which continue the cycle. Uneducated people are likely to stay poor and experience poor health. Our citizens need better access to higher education. Parents and children alike need better access to health education, once you leave the 6th grade, where can you go to learn about eating healthy foods and exercising?.
- ✓ Get out of making housing offenders a business. The legal system is now a for profit business
- ✓ Do not let sex offenders live in neighborhoods with children
- ✓ Better road markings and street signs. There are an amazing number of even major intersections without street signs or signs that are difficult to read. Even downtown Seattle (around the Amtrak stations.) This causes accidents.
- ✓ As long as there is a lack of economic activity available, there will be more crime.
- ✓ More community service.
- ✓ Lack of education for the disadvantaged
- ✓ Better schools and programs for youth
- ✓ It's not the lack of access to quality public schools that is the problem. The problem is the lack of quality in our public schools
- ✓ Better schools
- ✓ An educated involved population, i.e. can do math and know some basic science

Equity in county practices (12)

- ✓ Access to jobs training, rehabilitation vs. incarceration
- ✓ Inability to provide / function at local level with a council that can interest with the county
- ✓ Sexism, homophobia & economic access
- ✓ Racial profiling by police - need training and counseling for PTSD
- ✓ Over reaching govt., such as planners, inspections, and county area ordinances "SS" types
- ✓ County leaders not available - Don't return emails, calls and letters
- ✓ Reverse discrimination in hiring practices because of high ethnic representation.
- ✓ Equality - teach us how we can help
- ✓ Make opportunities known and available to all
- ✓ Reduced regulations, bureaucracy, fees for individuals and community land use improvements (permitting process extremely cumbersome)
- ✓ Fairness is everyone's job.
- ✓ I frequently hear stories from people of color about being targeted by the police, frightened by persons representing themselves as ICE, receiving rude treatment on the phone because of their accents, etc.

Food systems (28)

- ✓ Need healthier foods not sugar
- ✓ Reasonable food price
- ✓ No grocery store that sells primarily healthy and organic food
- ✓ Local and organic food is often too expensive
- ✓ Mostly convenience stores, no cheap places to buy healthy food
- ✓ Healthy food very expensive compared to unhealthy food
- ✓ Food systems: I use foodcard and some healthfood places don't take it
- ✓ Need more healthy foods

- ✓ Small businesses support local jobs which employ the community
- ✓ Numerous regulations
- ✓ Insufficient land to produce food in my neighborhood
- ✓ South Park has no "real" grocery store.
- ✓ No grocery store on Newport Hills anymore.
- ✓ Small scale local farmers can sell produce to cover costs and modest living
- ✓ Renton lacks mealtimes for homeless aged and poor.
- ✓ Too many families rely on food banks when wages should be high enough to provide a decent livelihood
- ✓ Inadequate healthy food available to those with low income - not enough fruits, vegetables and other unprocessed foods available through food banks and other sources.
- ✓ Lack of affordable healthy food for low and middle income families. No grocers selling healthy food w/i walking distance or short bus ride in community.
- ✓ Lack of adequate Community Garden spaces
- ✓ No major grocery store in my community
- ✓ In general, healthy food is not affordable for all people
- ✓ Food banks depend on donations, why isn't the county/city/state helping out?
- ✓ Open up more space for communal food growing -lack of P-patches and long wait
- ✓ I'd love to see more co-ops
- ✓ Many children at my daughter's school are on free or reduced lunch service or get free breakfast; obviously families aren't getting enough to eat.
- ✓ Laws restricting buying and selling of produce among neighbors.
- ✓ Public grant or assistance programs for more community watch/patrol options
- ✓ I believe more second chances for non violent offenders if they have proven themselves. More programs to help rehabilitate

Health and human services (30)

- ✓ Healthcare costs are high and insurance inconsistent
- ✓ Not all have access to healthcare
- ✓ Not enough information about resources
- ✓ Over taxation and govt interference in allocation of healthcare expenses
- ✓ Cost and access to reasonable cost places.
- ✓ Access to care and where to refer those with no money for services?
- ✓ Cuts to health services adversely affecting unemployed and working poor.
- ✓ The cost of seeing any kind of doctor or dentist is outrageous
- ✓ Health and human services are not available to me as a single woman
- ✓ Food regulations that are unreasonable unfunded mandates to businesses
- ✓ Structure pro
- ✓ All levels of govt are cutting health and human services
- ✓ Doctors did not work with me to get my back to work in time
- ✓ Got to be healthy
- ✓ Insurance costs that are not affordable for people without jobs or with low paying jobs
- ✓ Health insurance is very expensive and many uninsured small business owners
- ✓ Employment and citizenship programs for immigrant clients BOTH cut from El Centro de la Raza by the city budget
- ✓ Not single-payer based

- ✓ Lack of resources at all levels, municipal, county & state.
- ✓ Not enough services on the Island for all of the need.
- ✓ State funding
- ✓ Community
- ✓ I do not have access to affordable health insurance or care.
- ✓ Budgets are tight--many services are cut back while need is greatest.
- ✓ Better training for the police and prosecution so they can take more responsibility for their actions less hostility & brutality from them.
- ✓ I believe community outreach is huge
- ✓ Families and parents should be primarily responsible (and held accountable) for most of these items.
- ✓ payphones that can be accessed!, or "safety phones" as they have on college campuses - with immediate 911 dispatch dialing (can by directly local)
- ✓ Universal child care.... Not just for kids at risk. Normalize community care for everyone and don't further marginalize certain groups of kids.
- ✓ Certain services not available: dental, vision, preventive care.

Healthy built and natural environments (10)

- ✓ Snoqualmie (City) and King County are involved in annexation discussions that may result in a dirt track being built near residential areas and in an environmentally hazardous site, owing to prior pollution of a Weyerhaeuser sawmill. The County wants to get rid of this unincorporated property and the City dreams of taxes. It's a perfect storm to abuse the clear views of the residents.
- ✓ So much commercial development without giving thought to the needs of citizens living in the area (ex - parking)
- ✓ Over reaching rules and permit restrictions
- ✓ Lack of resources to conserve, protect and investigate human activities' consequences
- ✓ Green industry innovation and awareness - building could be improved even more - it's a perceived strength of this area but it could be expanded and improved even more. Gas taxes, tolls and license tabs could all be taxes more but only if that helps shift toward less cars.
- ✓ The environment always comes last. If someone can build a building that will create new jobs, they will win. Also, the placement of industrial or dangerous businesses in poor communities.
- ✓ County policies favor development and forcing population into crowded development centers.
- ✓ Eliminate mass transit stations that spread urban crime to suburbs
- ✓ Better programming to prevent domestic violence
- ✓ Street lights / safe sidewalks and streets

Housing (37)

- ✓ Unwed parents are not allowed to raise children in the home together
- ✓ Housing too expensive for many families
- ✓ Economic conditions and banks restricting progress for all development
- ✓ Not enough affordable housing
- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ Rent keep going up
- ✓ Safe, affordable housing
- ✓ Funding decreasing
- ✓ I am SS, not disabled, no addictions, a veteran, and I have no hope of getting housing when I leave Hope Place
- ✓ As a single woman it is hard to obtain low income housing

- ✓ Too many hoops to jump through to build
- ✓ Housing cost too much for most low income people
- ✓ Not enough housing stability
- ✓ Expensive
- ✓ Cost of housing is too high
- ✓ Housing is hard to find and what housing exists tends to be for those at or above "area median income"
- ✓ Economic inhibitors that forestall some access to affordable housing.
- ✓ Housing prices in Seattle are very expensive for working-class families and individuals.
- ✓ Waiting list for low income housing over a year
- ✓ I volunteer at a homelessness interested agency. Affordable housing in the county is positively mythological right now. Something has got to change.
- ✓ Not enough affordable housing -both rental and ownership opportunities Housing should be a right not a privilege homelessness should be eradicated as much as possible
- ✓ I have a house we bought a long time ago, but many of my friends are struggling to afford decent homes for their families.
- ✓ Rent is not affordable in prospering communities.
- ✓ Not affordable for everyone
- ✓ Expensive housing
- ✓ Housing too expensive where the jobs are. Jobs are few where affordable housing is
- ✓ Less homeless
- ✓ Lack of funds
- ✓ Growth management law artificially increases housing costs for all, including the poor.
- ✓ Concentration of poverty
- ✓ Too many foreclosures
- ✓ The rental price for apartments doesn’t go down as the economy go down. Low income housing is not sufficient.
- ✓ Housing is expensive! I don't know how anyone could afford rent making less than $20/hr.
- ✓ Allow low-income housing. I don't know where it was decided that everyone needed their own private toilet, sink, stove, refrigerator, etc. For hundreds of years, people have lived just fine by having a room, and sharing the bathroom down the hall. Set up hostel-style housing. Lots of people can't afford $800 a month for an apartment, but they could afford $150 for a room, and another $150 a month for pay-as-you-go showers and kitchens. If we made low-income housing that was low-cost housing, those millions of dollars that we spend on housing could house thousands of people, not dozens, like they do now.
- ✓ Increasing lack of affordable housing
- ✓ Lack of adequate housing
- ✓ Less police, informal accountability justice programs

Jobs training and jobs (36)

- ✓ No jobs
- ✓ Not enough job opportunity
- ✓ If the parents had better paying jobs, they could spend more time with children / education / volunteer
- ✓ Language
- ✓ Lack of jobs that provide enough income to support a family, especially in a high-cost (in terms of living expenses) county.

- ✓ Not being able to work sue to mental health.
- ✓ Affordable safe housing
- ✓ Safe, affordable housing
- ✓ Past criminal record and fines. How to find resources?
- ✓ I believe we need more job opportunities
- ✓ Permitting that is cumbersome, slow and detrimental to economic growth
- ✓ Jobs and job training usually are conducted /provided for English speaking people. Income is not distributed evenly
- ✓ Language barriers, work discrimination, experience not recognized
- ✓ Hearing about job training opportunities and having these opportunities nearby. Access to free childcare while training.
- ✓ No job for Youth of Color
- ✓ Global strategy neglected our need to maintain domestic manufacturing and agriculture and we continue to support companies that send jobs overseas.
- ✓ Not enough job training & jobs being created across King County, to help new college graduates, unemployed workers, or displaced blue-collar workers.
- ✓ Not enough jobs
- ✓ as a woman, my pay was pathetic compared to a man with equal education
- ✓ We have many who don't have jobs
- ✓ Lack of employment opportunity
- ✓ Lack of jobs that can support single parent with multiple children
- ✓ Lack of employment opportunities
- ✓ Job training
- ✓ I need to be retrained and have no idea how to afford school and live without my career
- ✓ No mentorship
- ✓ Same-work same-pay discrepancy
- ✓ Economic conditions don't provide opportunity and no real interest or vision for people to learn a skill
- ✓ We, as a community, need to stop sending jobs overseas. We need to recognize how this devastates the local economy and prevents people from both receiving from the economy and contributing back to it. Too much short-sightedness on the part of the business community.
- ✓ #of living wage jobs on Vashon reduced by industries moving off island; commerce moving off island
- ✓ Lack of training facilities
- ✓ Again, I don't see what the problem is. You start at the bottom and work your way up.
- ✓ Stop cutting funds for mental health treatment/services
- ✓ Job training ops for youth
- ✓ More help for businesses struggling to balance customer needs with disruptive non-customer behavior. Retail clerks and baristas shouldn't have to fear going to work. We strive to help those down on their luck, but a handful of abusive individuals force us to impose measures that impact everyone. We must find a way to help people who want and need a lift without creating a sense of entitlement among recalcitrant individuals. In our community, a small number of disruptors are creating a hostile environment for those others who are disadvantaged by conditions beyond their control. Many small businesses are plagued by openly drunk or high individuals who camp out in rest rooms, threaten or abuse staff and drive away paying customers.
- ✓ Need a driver's license

Neighborhoods (14)

- ✓ Neighborhoods are not close knitted
- ✓ People don't know their neighbors and/or live in transient neighborhoods
- ✓ Cultural support systems lacking
- ✓ Community covenants that still forbid home ownership by "Malays, Negros and Jews"
- ✓ People do not know their neighbors. Neighborhoods are not walkable. There are no sidewalks and many older neighborhoods don't have small, central parks where neighbors might congregate. People are too stressed trying to make ends meet.
- ✓ If officers lived with blacks they would value them as neighbors, not as criminals on sight
- ✓ $
- ✓ Community centers are needed and the will to gather
- ✓ Thieves. They steal bikes, cars, things like that
- ✓ $
- ✓ My neighborhood is seen as a problem neighborhood.
- ✓ Lack of employment opportunity
- ✓ Need more space and neighborhood opportunities to come together.. Most people are overworked
- ✓ Communities too separate; need more interactions

Parks and natural resources (9)

- ✓ No public park or space
- ✓ Parks are becoming too dangerous for families. Too much gang activity.
- ✓ No funding
- ✓ Few parks in the Factoria area and no dog parks near by
- ✓ Less parks for kids in my part of my neighborhood - not enough funds.
- ✓ Allocation of county funds to equity and social justice
- ✓ Prevention programs should not be limited to just at-risk youth. All youth can be at risk if there aren't sufficient outlets for activities that help them grow and keep out of trouble. People who will harm others are the ones who should be a focus of incarceration. I don't believe people who smoke marijuana should be in any prison solely on that basis. Instead, it leads to productive people being put in prison, costing the tax payers money and ruining someone's life for nothing.
- ✓ More streetlights Ways to slow down traffic (high speed getaways)
- ✓ All the options above use tax payer dollars to 'DO FOR" citizens. None of the options above create the means for government to 'DO WITH" citizens and empower them to take responsibility for what they care about. (i.e. 1) citizens working with juvenile delinquents to help them get their life back on track; 2) neighbors getting tools and equipment from gov agency to fix their own pot holes; 3) neighbors taking care of local park instead of locking gate so no one can access park due to staff reductions).

Transportation (32)

- ✓ More buses
- ✓ It takes too long to catch the bus to school
- ✓ Hard to go somewhere on weekends with transit
- ✓ Would like increased bus service
- ✓ Few alternatives to driving. Buses are expensives and road unsafe for bikes and peds
- ✓ Limited bus service

- ✓ Inadequate funding and reluctance of some members of county council to enact $20 surcharge on car registration without sending the measure to the general election ballot
- ✓ Impossibly slow ratification of mass transit projects and not enough dis-incentives to get fewer cars on the road every day
- ✓ Transportation: lack of public transportation in outlying areas. Many such areas unsafe for biking, walking.
- ✓ No bus schedule
- ✓ King County government exhibits an inherent prejudice and discrimination against single-occupant vehicles and an unhealthy fixation on inefficient, expensive and impractical public transport options like light rail.
- ✓ Buses are infrequent in some neighborhoods
- ✓ Public transit inadequate
- ✓ Most of us who live in the Snoqualmie Valley must commute to work, yet public transportation is extremely limited. It would take me 90 minutes each way, as opposed to a 30-45 minute drive. If an express bus or train were available I would use it regularly.
- ✓ There is very poor public transportation. We need light rail everywhere. There is no public transportation with a quarter mile of my home.
- ✓ Limited access to public transportation
- ✓ The price of train and bus are crazy high for low income
- ✓ Centralized, unchecked power (no power of people to remove appointees). Ineffective use of funds -> wasting scarce transportation resources
- ✓ Bus is the only way here. Zipcar doesn't have any cars here because the demographics mean there are fewer users of the service- but why is that? No light rail, Water Taxi is only for wealthy in junction or Admiral District. Buses down Delridge are overcrowded and loud.
- ✓ We do not need more buses in Maple Valley we need state road 169 widened to 4 lanes to get vehicles moving.
- ✓ Public transit does not access enough of the community
- ✓ The busses can get fairly gnarly. I ride them quite often and there are some routes that, due to crowdedness, infrequency or inability of the drivers to make the schedules, I don't consider viable.
- ✓ Too many different desires to reach decisions.
- ✓ Lack of maintaining road infrastructure
- ✓ The ride free zone needs to be expanded to include the hospitals so that individuals living in the down town core and with little money can get to the hospital for needed treatment, such as wound care.
- ✓ Funding is being cut, while most of the public monies -- found in the county CAFR -- are being used in corporate investments benefiting the bank-based international corporate crime cartel now controlling the most of the governments of the world. County officials -- as well as municipal and state officials have shown themselves unwilling to address this, and therefore complicit. All of this indicates something far more radical is needed than taking more surveys about it!
- ✓ Unwilling to provide the necessary advocacy at the state level.
- ✓ High fuel costs, high public transportation costs
- ✓ Community policing opportunities
- ✓ Wider, safer bike lanes, more public transit options (enhanced bus services)
- ✓ When economic conditions improve so will safety. Extend hours for public transport

The following individuals or organizations are recognized for their contribution to this round of Countywide Community Forums:

Participating Citizen Councilors

Video Participants:

- Executive Dow Constantine
- Councilmember Larry Gossett
- Councilmember Kathy Lambert
- George Allen, Senior VP, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Pastor Cary Anderson, First AME Church
- Dr. Norward Brooks, Retired, Director, MLK Community Project
- Suzie Burke, President, Fremont Dock Company
- PSRC Executive Director Bob Drewel
- Rodolfo Hernandez-Romero, Owner, SeaReal Investments
- Jeannie Lee, Executive Director, Korean American Grocers Association
- Sharekia McKecknie, Resident, Hope Place
- Muriel Reiner, Case Manager, Hope Place
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