

## **Board of Health Member Role and Responsibilities**

### **Origin:**

The King County Board of Health has authority to protect and promote the health of King County residents as outlined in RCW 70.05.060. The role of the Board is to advocate for the preservation, promotion, and protection of public health, prevent the spread of disease, set local public health regulations and some fees and licenses, and enforce state and local public health laws.

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1152<sup>1</sup> (HB 1152) which required four primary changes to the local boards of health:

1. There must be an equal number of elected to nonelected members;
2. One nonelected member must be selected by the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC).
3. The remaining nonelected members must be recruited and selected by the KC Board from the following three categories: Public health, health care facilities, and providers; consumers of public health; and other community stakeholders; and
4. The nonelected members would have voting power on all matters except those pertaining to setting or modifying permit, licensing, and application fees.

In April 2022, King County Council passed King County Ordinance codifying these changes.

### **Board Responsibilities:**

- Supervises the health of King County residents by voicing and advocating priorities for protection of public health.
- Collaborates with the Public Health Director and Health Officer to set an annual work plan which creates opportunities for action within the limits of the Board's workload and legal authority; and
- May enact local rules and regulations as necessary in order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and authorize for the enforcement thereof.
- Ensures a racial equity approach to policy making.

### **Member responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**

- Attending and participating in monthly meetings held on the third Thursdays of each month at 1pm.
- Nonelected members shall have the ability to vote except on legislation pertaining to fees.
- Participation in subcommittees as needed.

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<sup>1</sup> HB 1152, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1152&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

**Composition: 16 voting members and 8 alternates:**

8 elected officials:

- 3 King County Councilmember and one alternate
- 3 Seattle City Councilmembers and one alternate
- 2 Sound Cities Association members and two alternates

8 non-elected officials:

- 1 member and one alternate selected by the American Indian Health Commission
- 7 members and 3 alternates representing public health professionals, consumers of public health, and community stakeholders (see chart below)
  - One public health professional must have expertise in environmental health

Public health, health care facilities, and providers	Consumers of Public Health	Other Community Stakeholders
People practicing or employed in the county who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medical ethicists,</li> <li>▪ Epidemiologists,</li> <li>▪ Experienced in environmental health,</li> <li>▪ Community health workers,</li> <li>▪ Individuals with master's degrees or higher in public health or the equivalent,</li> <li>▪ Employees of a hospital located in the county,</li> <li>▪ Any of the following providers holding an active or retired license in good standing:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physicians or osteopathic physicians,</li> <li>▪ Advanced registered nurse,</li> <li>▪ Registered nurses,</li> <li>▪ Physician assistants or osteopathic physician assistants,</li> <li>▪ Dentists,</li> <li>▪ Naturopaths, or</li> <li>▪ Pharmacists.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	County residents who self-identify as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Having faced significant health inequities,</li> <li>▪ Having lived experiences with public health-related programs such as:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC),</li> <li>▪ Supplemental nutrition program (SNAP),</li> <li>▪ Home visiting, or</li> <li>▪ Treatment services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	People representing the following types of organizations located in the county: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community-based organizations or nonprofits working with populations experiencing health inequities in the county,</li> <li>▪ Active, reserve, or retired armed services members,</li> <li>▪ The business community, or</li> <li>▪ The environmental public health regulated community.</li> </ul>

**Term:** Terms will be three years, but initial terms beginning in 2023 vary from one-year to three-years. Appointments of non-elected members may be renewed up to three time.

- Eligibility:** The King County Board of Health seeks members who have a demonstrated commitment to public health, who represent a diversity of expertise and lived experience, and who identify with historically underrepresented communities. The Board will also consider if an applicant's background meets the above categories, geographic diversity, service on other boards and commissions, and potential conflicts of interest.
- Meetings:** Meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 1pm and are open to the public. Members may also attend sub-committee meetings during their term of service.
- Compensation:** Compensation will be provided for nonelected regular and alternate members of the Board who are not being compensated for their participation through their employer. The rate of compensation will \$225 per full board meeting attended, not to exceed that amount each month. Members are also reimbursed for parking.

**For More Information:** Visit the Board of Health webpage: [kingcounty.gov/depts/health/board-of-health.aspx](http://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/board-of-health.aspx)

For interest in applying to join the King County Board of Health, please reach out to:  
King County Board of Health Administrator  
Public Health- Seattle and King County  
[KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov)