

November 3, 2020 General and Special Election

# King County **Official Local Voters' Pamphlet**

vote!

 Your ballot will arrive by October 19

206-296-VOTE (8683) | [kingcounty.gov/elections](https://kingcounty.gov/elections)



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**From the Director**

Dear Friends,

This Presidential election feels like it’s a long time coming. For years, my team and I have been planning for this election, poised to be our biggest ever. I’ve heard from many of you over the last couple of months with concerns and anxieties around voting this year and I want to assure you – we’ve got this.

**Your vote is secure.** We have layer upon layer of both physical and cyber security measures in place to keep your ballot safe and your votes secure. All ballots are handled by trained staff at our secure facility, where you can watch us work live online.

**Vote early.** We always appreciate it when you vote early but that is especially important this year. There’s a template on page 11 where you can make a vote plan. Use it to help make sure you get your ballot back early and be confident by Election Day that your vote counted.

**Track your ballot.** Tracking your ballot is the best way to make sure that it was counted. Our ballot tracker will show you if any signature issues come up that would prevent us from counting your ballot. If there’s an issue, it will show right there on the ballot tracker and point you in the direction of how to get it fixed so your vote can count.

We are aiming to hit 90% turnout in this election. And, of course, we need our voters like you to help us get there. Join me in casting your ballot early. Make sure your friends and family get theirs in too. Don’t forget to sign the envelope. Get it in a drop box by 8 p.m. sharp or postmarked by Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – but truly, there’s no reason to wait. Vote early. Vote safe.

Happy voting,

Julie Wise, Director

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**You will receive two voters’ pamphlets**

In addition to this voters’ pamphlet, you will receive one from the Secretary of State that includes state measures, as well as candidates for President/Vice President, congressional districts, statewide offices, legislative districts, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Superior Court.



**You will not be voting on every item in this voters’ pamphlet. Use your ballot to identify the races and measures to review.**

Your ballot will arrive by October 19.

# Voting tips



## Filling out your ballot

You can use any color of pen to complete your ballot.

## Signing your envelope

Don't forget to sign the back of your return envelope so your ballot can be counted!

## Return your ballot early

Whether returning your ballot by mail or by drop box, don't wait until Election Day! Get your ballot back early.

If returning by drop box, there are more than 70 locations available across the county. You'll find the full list on pages 8-9 of this pamphlet. Drop boxes close promptly at 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3.

If returning by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, November 3. No stamp is needed and the provided postage will send your ballot first-class.

<b>Phone</b>	206-296-VOTE (8683) 1-800-325-6165 TTY Relay: 711
<b>Email</b>	elections@kingcounty.gov
<b>Online</b>	kingcounty.gov/elections
<b>Mail</b>	King County Elections 919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057
<b>King County Elections</b>	919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057



## Did you know?

Did you know you can receive your ballot and voting materials in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, or Vietnamese?

Fill out the request form online and you'll receive all correspondence from our office, as well as your ballot and voting materials in your preferred language. Visit [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections) to submit your request today!

**If you need assistance, please call us at 206-296-VOTE (8683).**



## Share your #votingselfie with us!

@kcelections

## Get social with us



[twitter.com/kcelections](https://twitter.com/kcelections)



[facebook.com/kcelections](https://facebook.com/kcelections)



[instagram.com/kcelections](https://instagram.com/kcelections)

## Vote centers

Vote centers are available for voters that need assistance. Each center has voting machines that offer audio or large print ballots, and other assistive devices. Elections staff are available to assist as needed. Voters can also register to vote and get their ballots through Election Day.

Free parking for voters is available at all locations and those with specified voter parking areas are noted below.

Locations	Hours of operation
<b>Renton</b> King County Elections 919 SW Grady Way, 98057	Weekdays, Oct. 14 - 23, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  Weekdays, Oct. 26 – Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  Election Day, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
<b>Bellevue</b> <b>Bellevue College Gym</b> 3000 Landerholm Circle SE G, 98007  Voter parking in lot 17	Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  Monday, Nov 2, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
<b>Federal Way</b> <b>Federal Way Performing Arts &amp; Event Center</b> 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S, 98003	Election Day, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
<b>Kenmore</b> <b>Kenmore City Hall</b> 18120 68th Ave NE, 98028	
<b>Kent</b> <b>Accesso ShoWare Center</b> 625 W James St, 98032	
<b>Seattle</b> <b>CenturyLink Field Event Center</b> 800 Occidental Ave S, 98134  Drive-up service available at 2100 S Royal Brougham Way, 98134  Walk-in entrance on the corner of Occidental Ave S and S Royal Brougham Way	
<b>University of Washington Seattle Campus</b> <b>Dempsey Indoor Center</b> Walla Walla Road, 98105  Visit our website for parking information	



## Did you know that you can access your ballot online?

Lost and damaged ballots happen. There's an easy way to access and print your ballot right from home!

- Visit [kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp](http://kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp) and enter the required information to access your ballot.
- You may make your selections on the computer or print out a blank ballot and fill it in by hand. If you choose to make your selections online, please double check those selections before and after printing your ballot.
- Return via mail or secure drop box, just like you normally would. No postage is required if using the included envelope cover sheet.

Any registered voter can use the online ballot marking program to access and print their ballot.

Voters with disabilities can mark their choices on the ballot online. The online ballot marking program has been designed specifically to enable voters who are blind or have low vision to cast a private ballot.



## Other voting options

If one of the above options doesn't work for you, please contact our office for further assistance.



## Track your ballot online!

All voters are able to track their ballot online to make sure it was received by King County Elections and track it through the process to being counted.

If there is an issue with your signature, the ballot tracker will point you in the right direction to get that fixed so your vote can be counted. If there are no issues with your ballot, you'll be able to rest easy on Election Day knowing that your voice was heard.

Visit the My Voter Information tool on our website to track your ballot today!

## Student Engagement Hubs

### University of Washington Bothell Campus

- Visit our website for the location and hours.
- Services available: Any student registered to vote can use the online ballot marking program to access and print their ballot. Students can also drop their ballot off during hours of operation.

**University of Washington Seattle Campus** *(see vote center details on previous page)*

## Who can register

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington State felony conviction.

## Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name. Simply update your information online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) or submit a new paper registration form by October 26 for the General election or visit us in person at one of our Vote Centers. If your signature has changed, please submit a new paper registration by October 26 or come see us in person – updates to signatures may not be done online.

## How to register to vote

### Online

You can register to vote online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) – all you need is two minutes and a Washington State Driver's License or ID. You can register online by October 26 for the General election.

### By mail

Download and print a registration form from [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections) and mail it to our office (address on page 3). It must be received by October 26 for the General election.

### In person

You can register in person through November 3, Election Day, at one of our Vote Centers. More information about Vote Center hours and locations can be found on page 4 and on our website at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).

### 16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register today!

16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register to vote online or by mail at any time. Their registration will be assigned a 'pending' status until they turn 18. If the registrant turns 18 before the next scheduled Election Day, they will automatically be mailed a ballot at their registered address.



## Public Health Notice

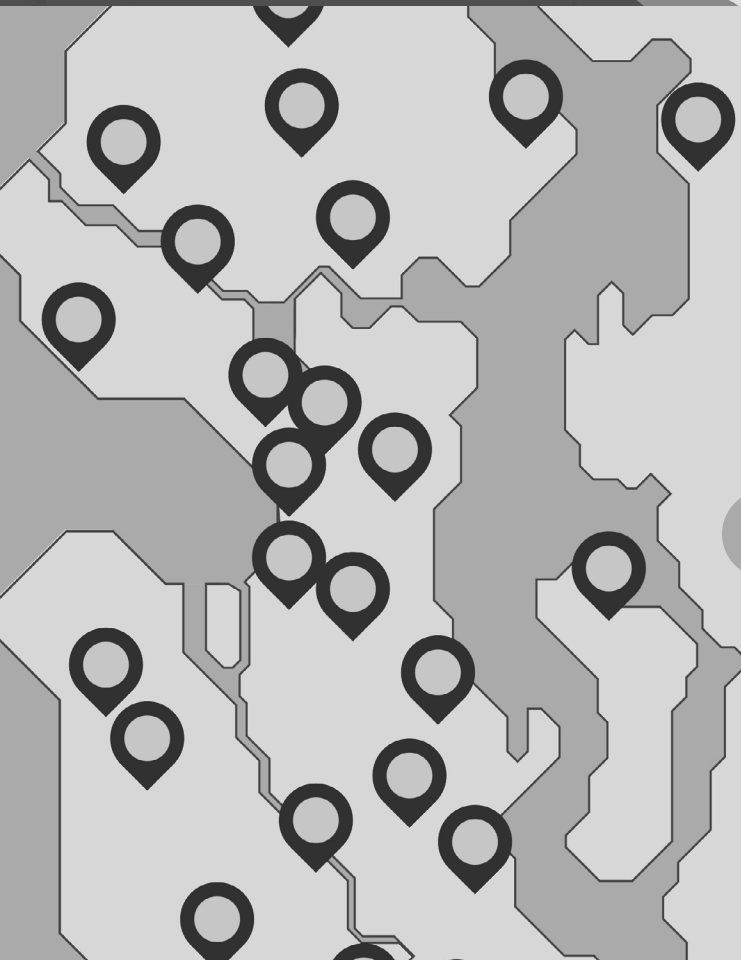
As part of the continued effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community, King County Elections strongly recommends registering to vote, updating your registration, and accessing your ballot online when needed for the rest of the year.

We will have Vote Centers open for those who need assistance or have missed the deadlines but ask that those who are able to utilize the online tools do so.

# Return your ballot by mail. **No Stamp Needed!**

We recommend dropping your ballot in the mail by the Friday before Election Day to make sure it gets postmarked in time to be counted.

**Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 3.**



## Return your ballot at a drop box. **Over 70 locations!**

Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. sharp on November 3.

List of drop box locations on next page



Ballot drop boxes are open 24 hours a day beginning October 15 and close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day, November 3.

### Auburn

Auburn Library, 1102 Auburn Way S, 98002  
Auburn Park & Ride, 101 15th Street NE, 98001  
Muckleshoot Tribe - Philip Starr Building,  
39015 172nd Ave SE, 98092

### Bellevue

Bellevue Library, 1111 110th Ave NE, 98004  
Crossroads Shopping Center (south entrance),  
15600 NE 8th St, 98008  
Newport Way Library, 14250 SE Newport Way, 98006

### Black Diamond

 Black Diamond Library, 24707 Roberts Dr, 98010


### Bothell

Bothell City Hall, 18415 101st Ave NE, 98011

### Burien

Boulevard Park Library, 12015 Roseberg Ave S, 98168  
Burien Town Square Park (corner of 5th Ave SW and  
SW 152nd St), 480 SW 152nd St, 98166

### Carnation

 Carnation Library, 4804 Tolt Ave, 98014

### Covington

Covington Library, 27100 164th Ave SE, 98042

### Des Moines

\* Highline College (entrance across from 27th Ave S),  
2400 S 240th St, 98198

### Duvall

\* Duvall Police Department/Depot Park,  
26225 NE Burhen Way, 98019

### Enumclaw

Enumclaw Library, 1700 1st St, 98022

### Fall City

Fall City Library, 33415 SE 42nd Pl, 98024

### Federal Way

Federal Way 320th Library, 848 S 320th St, 98003  
Federal Way City Hall, 33325 8th Ave S, 98003

### Issaquah

Issaquah City Hall, 130 E Sunset Way, 98027

### Kenmore

Kenmore City Hall, 18120 68th Ave NE, 98028

### Kent

Kent YMCA, 10828 SE 248th St, 98030  
Kentridge High School, 12430 SE 208th St, 98031  
Regional Justice Center (near parking garage entrance),  
401 4th Ave N, 98032

### Kirkland

Kirkland City Hall, 123 5th Ave, 98033  
Kingsgate Library, 12315 NE 143rd St, 98034

### Lake Forest Park

Lake Forest Park City Hall, 17425 Ballinger Way NE, 98155

### Maple Valley

Hobart Food Market, 20250 276th Ave SE, 98038  
\* Tahoma School District Building, 25720 Maple Valley-Black  
Diamond Rd SE, 98038

### Mercer Island

Mercer Island Community & Event Center,  
8236 SE 24th St, 98040

### Newcastle

Newcastle City Hall, 12835 Newcastle Way, 98056

### Normandy Park

Normandy Park Towne Center, 19901 1st Ave S, 98148

### North Bend

North Bend Library, 115 E 4th St, 98045

### Pacific

Algona-Pacific Library, 255 Ellingson Rd, 98047

### Redmond

\* Redmond City Hall, 15670 NE 85th St, 98052  
\* Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village,  
6505 176th Ave NE, 98052

### Renton

Fairwood Library, 17009 140th Ave SE, 98058  
\* King County Elections, 919 SW Grady Way, 98057  
(There will be an additional drop box across the street. Signs  
and staff will be on hand to direct traffic)  
\* Renton Public Health Center, 3201 NE 7th St, 98056

### Sammamish

Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE, 98075

### SeaTac

Angle Lake Transit Station, 19955 28th Ave S, 98188  
Valley View Library, 17850 Military Rd S, 98188

### Shoreline


Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th St, 98155  
Shoreline Park & Ride, 18821 Aurora Ave N, 98133



<b>Snoqualmie</b>
Snoqualmie Library, 7824 Center Blvd SE, 98065
<b>Tukwila</b>
* Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave S, 98168
<b>Vashon</b>
Vashon Library, 17210 Vashon Hwy SW, 98070
<b>Woodinville</b>
Woodinville Library, 17105 Avondale Rd NE, 98072

## Seattle drop boxes

<b>Ballard</b>
Ballard Branch Library, Corner of NW 57th St and 22nd Ave NW, 98107
<b>Beacon Hill</b>
Beacon Hill Library, 2821 Beacon Ave S, 98144 NewHolly Neighborhood Campus, 7054 32nd Ave S, 98118
<b>Broadview/Greenwood</b>
Broadview Library, 12755 Greenwood Ave N, 98133
<b>Bryn Mawr-Skyway</b>
Skyway Library, 12601 76th Ave S, 98178
<b>Capitol Hill</b>
Seattle Central College, Broadway-Edison Building (northeast corner), 1701 Broadway, 98122
<b>Central District</b>
Garfield Community Center, 2323 E Cherry St, 98122
<b>Chinatown/International District</b>
Uwajimaya, 619 6th Ave S, 98104
<b>Columbia City</b>
Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave S, 98118
<b>Downtown</b>
King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave, 98104
<b>Fremont/Wallingford</b>
Waterway 19 Park (next to Gas Works Park), 2119 N Northlake Way, 98103

<b>Green Lake/Phinney</b>
Green Lake Community Center, 7201 E Green Lake Dr N, 98115
<b>Lake City</b>
Lake City Library, 12501 28th Ave NE, 98125
<b>Magnolia</b>
* Magnolia Park, 1461 Magnolia Blvd W, 98199
<b>Northgate</b>
North Seattle College (south visitor lot access from N 95th St), 9600 College Way N, 98103
<b>Queen Anne</b>
* Seattle Pacific University Bookstore, 310 W Bertona St, 98119
<b>Rainier Valley</b>
Rainier Beach Community Center, 8825 Rainier Ave S, 98118
<b>Sand Point/Laurelhurst</b>
* Magnuson Park (near The Brig), 6344 NE 74th St, 98115
<b>South Lake Union</b>
South Lake Union, 310 Terry Ave N, 98109
<b>South Park</b>
South Park Library, 8604 8th Ave S, 98108
<b>University District</b>
University of Washington Campus, Schmitz Hall (by North entrance on NE 41st St), 1410 NE Campus Pkwy, 98195
<b>West Seattle/Delridge</b>
Alaska Junction, Corner of SW Alaska St and 44th Ave SW, 98116
High Point Library, 3411 SW Raymond St, 98126
 South Seattle College (at the entrance of the Robert Smith Building), 6000 16th Ave SW, 98106
<b>White Center</b>
White Center Library, 1409 SW 107th St, 98146
* Drive-up ballot drop boxes

Close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day, November 3.

Title	Duties	Term (years)	Salary (2020)
District Court Judge (elected by voters in the electoral district)	Hears and decides misdemeanor criminal cases, civil cases where damages amount to less than \$100,000, small claims, traffic cases and requests for domestic violence protection orders.	4	\$181,846

Information about other offices in this election can be found in the State Voters' Pamphlet.

## About the 2020 General Election

If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advanced to the General Election.

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

The election for President and Vice President is different. Candidates for President and Vice President are the official nominees of their political party.



### Who donates to campaigns?

View contributors for candidates and measures

**Public Disclosure Commission**

[www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828

# MAKE A VOTE PLAN TODAY!



Life is busy. You've got a lot on your plate. We get it. Making a plan to vote can help make sure that you get your ballot in on time so your vote can be counted and your voice can be heard.

Ballots will be mailed on October 14 and should arrive by October 19. If you don't receive your ballot, call King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683) or go online to print your ballot at [kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp](http://kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp).

## When will I fill out my ballot?

- Immediately after receiving my ballot
- The first weekend after I receive my ballot
- On Election Day (not recommended)

## Who will I vote with?

- By myself
- With my spouse or family
- With my friends

## How will I vote?

- I've read the voters' pamphlet and know who/what I plan to vote for
- I have more research to do to make up my mind

## How will I return my ballot?

- By drop box
- By mail

## My local drop box is:

## When will I return my ballot?

- Immediately after I fill it out
- On my way to work/school/errands within a few days
- On Election Day (not recommended)

## Will I track my ballot?

- Yes - I will make sure my ballot is counted.
- No - I will assume it's counted without checking.

## Judge Position No. 2

### Michelle Gehlsen

retainjudgegehlsen@gmail.com



**Education:** JD, Southern Methodist University; Washington State Judicial College; BA, Texas State University, cum laude

**Occupation:** King County District Court Judge, Redmond

**Statement:** Judge Michelle Gehlsen joined the King County District Court in 2019 after she was unanimously appointed by the King County Council. Prior to her appointment, she served as Presiding Judge of Bothell Municipal Court for nine years.

In addition to presiding over regular court proceedings, Judge Gehlsen was chosen to preside over Redmond's Community Court, an alternative problem-solving court aimed at helping low-level offenders from repeatedly cycling through the criminal justice system. With her deep commitment to judicial involvement in the community, she founded the Bothell Youth Court in 2013, which then inspired the creation of Redmond Youth Court in 2019.

In 2020, Judge Gehlsen was honored to be selected by over 200 judges of the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association as their President. She obtained the highest judicial rating, "Exceptionally Well Qualified," from the King County Bar Association, Washington Women Lawyers, LGBT-QLaw, and Joint Asian Bar Associations of Washington. Judge Gehlsen has received endorsements from judges at every court level and honored to receive the Washington Women Lawyers Vanguard Award, the Flame of Democracy Award, the Washington Judges' Foundation Nevins Award and Snohomish County Judge of the Year.

Judge Gehlsen respectfully asks for your vote.

King County  
Elections does not  
correct punctuation,  
grammar, or fact  
check candidate and  
measure statements.

## Judge Position No. 4

### Kevin Peck

retainjudgepeck@gmail.com  
www.retainjudgepeck.com



**Education:** J.D., University of Oregon; B.A., Northern Illinois University

**Occupation:** King County District Court Judge

**Statement:** Judge Kevin Peck was unanimously appointed to the bench by the King County Council in December 2019. Prior to his appointment, he served as a pro tem judge on the King County District Court for more than 25 years.

Transparency, integrity, and fairness are central to Judge Peck's work on the District Court. He strives to deliver just and equitable decisions, while ensuring that defendants understand the legal process and the choices available to them.

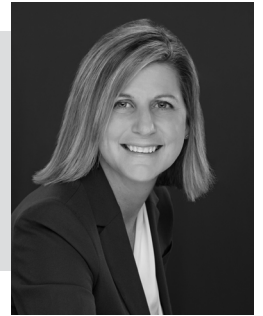
Judge Peck practiced as a trial lawyer in King County for more than three decades, representing clients in employment discrimination, civil rights, and federal criminal cases. His legal accomplishments include: successfully pursuing a case through the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold free speech rights; serving as chair on the Washington State Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee; and serving as a board member of the Washington Community Action Network for over 30 years.

An extensive list of community groups and civic leaders endorsed Judge Peck, including more than 60 Superior Court and District Court judges; King County Executive Dow Constantine; King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci; and the King County Democrats, as well as the 1st, 5th, 41st, 45th, and 48th Legislative District Democrats.

## Judge Position No. 5

### Jill Klinge

(971) 217-7922  
retainjudgeklinge@gmail.com



**Education:** JD, University of California, Davis, 1991; BS, University of California, Davis, 1988

**Occupation:** Judge, King County District Court

**Statement:** The King County Council unanimously appointed Judge Klinge to the King County District Court in July, 2019. Having previously served as a Judge Pro Tem for five years, Judge Klinge is known for her balanced sense of justice, knowledge of the law, common sense, and compassion.

Judge Klinge has worked to transform Redmond Youth Court into Eastside Youth Traffic Court, collaborating with various schools and cities to extend this opportunity to youth throughout the Eastside. She is a member of the District Court Probation Committee, Bellevue Probation Advisory Committee, and the District and Municipal Court Judges Association Diversity Committee.

Covid-19 has brought unprecedented challenges. KCDC employees have worked tirelessly to provide essential services in a safe, responsible manner. This has included implementing new technologies and creative workplace solutions that keep employees and court users safe. Judge Klinge has been honored and inspired to work with such a dedicated team.

Judge Klinge has been rated as Exceptionally Well Qualified or Well Qualified by the King County Bar Association and four local bar associations. She is endorsed by every KCDC judge. She has lived on the Eastside since 1996, and is President of the Board of Directors of Village Theatre in Issaquah.

## Charter Amendment No. 1 Inquests

Shall King County Charter Section 895 concerning mandatory inquests be amended to: (1) clarify that an inquest is required when a member of a law enforcement agency's action, decision, or possible failure to offer appropriate care might have contributed to an individual's death; and (2) to provide an attorney at the county's expense to represent the decedent's family in the inquest proceeding?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 30.*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Sam Pailca, Katrina Johnson, Andre Taylor,  
sampailca@outlook.com

This charter amendment should be approved because bereaved families deserve to know the facts about how their loved ones died during encounters with law enforcement.

Your yes vote will ensure that the County Charter protects the right of *all families*, regardless of financial means, to have legal representation in their loved one's inquest hearing. Currently, law enforcement officers receive legal representation, either at taxpayer expense or through their unions, in inquest hearings. Your vote will ensure that families have the same opportunity. Providing families legal counsel will create a more fair and balanced inquest process.

This amendment also clears up confusion about when an inquest will occur. The amendment clarifies that all deaths involving law enforcement will be thoroughly investigated through the public inquest process. This will build public trust and ensure that families, law enforcement and the public are served by an inquest process they can understand and count on.

King County families deserve to know what happened to their loved ones—and why. Amend the charter and help them find justice. This charter amendment should be approved because bereaved families deserve to know why their loved ones died during encounters with law enforcement.

### Explanatory statement

King County Charter Section 895 concerns mandatory inquests which are proceedings to investigate the causes and circumstances of a death.

Currently the charter requires an inquest for any death involving a member of a law enforcement agency of the county occurring in the performance of the member's law enforcement duties. The charter does not currently require the county to provide an attorney for the decedent's family.

If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 1 would amend Section 895 to clarify that an inquest is required when an action, decision, or possible failure to offer appropriate care by a member of a law enforcement agency might have contributed to a person's death. The amendment would define "member of law enforcement agency" to include a commissioned officer, noncommissioned staff and agent of any local or state police force, jail, detention facility, or corrections agency.

Charter Amendment No. 1 would also require the county to assign an attorney to represent the decedent's family in the inquest proceeding. The family would have the option to accept or decline representation by the attorney.

For questions about this measure, contact:

Tom Koney, Deputy Director,  
Department of Executive Services,  
(206) 263-9755,  
tom.koney@kingcounty.gov

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Charter Amendment No. 2 Disposition of Real Property for Affordable Housing

Shall Section 230.10.10 of the King County charter be amended to remove a charter restriction on the county's authority to transfer, lease or sell real property for less than fair market value when the property will be used for affordable housing?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 30.*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Michael Herschensohn,  
Patience Malaba, Rod Dembowski

The King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force determined that we need to build or preserve an additional 244,000 housing units by 2040 to meet our region's affordable housing needs. Making government-owned surplus properties available at an affordable price is one important strategy to help achieve the goal.

King County owns a significant amount of surplus property. The state legislature recently changed state law to enable these properties to be made available at a lower price for affordable housing. Old language in the County Charter is, however, inconsistent with the amended state law and requires sale at higher prices.

The change proposed by this amendment will allow the sale of certain surplus properties at a lower price when the property is to be used for affordable housing. This simple modification in the charter conforms the charter to revised state law and will help facilitate the construction of affordable housing across the county.

### Explanatory statement

King County Charter Section 230.10.10 concerns the countywide metropolitan functions of wastewater treatment and transit that King County

assumed when, in the mid-1990s, it merged with the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, then commonly referred to as "Metro." Charter Section 230.10.10 requires that each metropolitan function be operated as a distinct functional unit and it requires that all revenues or properties held in funds for each metropolitan function be used only to benefit that metropolitan function.

If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 2 would remove the charter restriction on the county's authority to transfer, lease, or sell real property held by metropolitan function funds at less than fair market value if conveyed for affordable housing purposes. State law and county code already allow the county to convey other county property for less than fair market value for this purpose.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

### Charter Amendment No. 3 References to Citizens

Shall the Preamble and Sections 260 and 800 of the King County charter be amended to replace the word “citizen” with “public,” “member of the public” or “resident,” as applicable?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 31.*

#### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Toby Nixon, Kathy Sakahara, Rich Stolz

We celebrate the diversity of King County and work to ensure all programs and services are welcoming and inclusive for all. The county serves everyone, including residents who do not have citizenship. Our county charter currently refers to people mostly as “public” or “residents”; in just a few places does it use “citizen” where it isn’t necessary to make that distinction.

Every resident deserves the ability to be actively involved in helping shape the functioning of county practices and services. County employees do not inquire about citizenship status unless required by state or federal law. Our charter should not imply citizenship requirements where none exist. This amendment would selectively replace the word “citizen” with “resident” or “public” except in one place where it refers to qualifications to hold public office.

The Office of the Ombuds (as the Office of Citizen Complaints is now known) is required by county code to accept complaints from *any source*. This amendment aligns the charter with this long-standing practice to ensure all residents can file complaints. It also aligns with the long-standing practice of not inquiring about citizenship of members of the Charter Review Commission.

We urge you to vote *Yes* to approve this amendment.

#### Explanatory statement

If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 3 would replace references in the Preamble, Section 260 and Section 800 of the charter from “citizen” to “public,” “member of the public” or “resident.”

The Preamble lists the purposes for the charter. If Charter Amendment No. 3 is adopted, the reference to “effective citizen participation” in the Preamble would be changed to “effective public participation.”

Section 260 concerns the office of citizen complaints. If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 3 would change this to the office of public complaints and the reference to complaints by a “citizen of the county” would be changed to a “member of the public.”

Section 800 concerns charter review and amendment. If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 3 would change the reference for appointments to the charter review commission from “citizens” to “residents” and refer to it as a “resident commission” rather than a “citizen commission.”

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

#### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.



## Charter Amendment No. 4 Office of Law Enforcement Oversight – Subpoena Authority

Shall Section 265 of the King County charter be amended to authorize the office of law enforcement oversight to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence related to its investigations and reviews of county law enforcement officers?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 31.*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Liz Ford, Nikkita Oliver, Rob Saka, EGFord@gmail.com

After careful investigation and discussion with community leaders, the King County Charter Review Commission recommended that the King County Charter be amended to provide subpoena power for the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO). The Commission found that adding subpoena power would help strengthen police accountability and transparency. The King County Council agreed, forwarding this issue to voters.

*We urge a “yes” vote on this commonsense change to the County Charter.*

Without subpoena power, OLEO can request information from the Sheriff, but it has no ability to legally require it. Among civilian oversight agencies nationwide, the ability to issue subpoenas is commonplace, including those in both liberal and conservative-leaning areas. King County is an outlier because both the Sheriff and the union representing officers have consistently opposed this commonly accepted practice.

Given the recent officer-involved killings and the movement for Black Lives locally and nationally, the time is now to grant OLEO the sensible power it needs to effectively conduct its oversight mission.

### Explanatory statement

King County Charter Section 265 was adopted by county voters in 2015 and established the civilian office of law enforcement oversight (OLEO) as a charter-mandated county office within the legislative branch. Under the charter and established by ordinance, OLEO has the authority to investigate, review and analyze the conduct of county law enforcement officers who have been the subject of a complaint and to investigate the use of force by county law enforcement officers. OLEO also has the authority to review and analyze internal investigations conducted and disciplinary action taken by the county department of public safety in response to complaints and use of force. Chapter 2.75 of the King County Code as adopted by the county council further describes the organization, powers and duties of OLEO.

If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 4 would amend Charter Section 265 to give OLEO the authority to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence relating to its investigations and reviews. It would also authorize OLEO to administer oaths to the subpoenaed witnesses and would provide that any subpoenaed witnesses would have the right to be represented by an attorney. While OLEO currently has subpoena power through the county code, the code can be amended by the county council. If the power is added to the charter, it can only be amended or removed by a majority vote of county voters.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Charter Amendment No. 5 Making the King County Sheriff an Appointed Position

Shall the King County charter be amended to return the position of King County sheriff to an appointed position with a requirement for consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process and to make the county executive responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 32.*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Kinnon Williams, Anja Helmon, Nigel Herbig

George Floyd's death made obvious the need for police reform. However, reform is nearly impossible when our Sheriff is controlled by politics and electoral maneuvering dominated by special interest groups. Is it any wonder the current Sheriff opposes formal investigations of deaths of citizens held in custody, or subpoena power granted to civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Office? This is why the Charter Review Commission - a volunteer panel of civic leaders from a broad spectrum of viewpoints - overwhelmingly recommends returning to an appointed Sheriff.

An appointed Sheriff would meet professional qualifications, hired and approved by the County Council. Bellevue, Renton and Kent hire from a nationwide pool of candidates based on professional qualifications, not merely on residency or the willingness to run. An elected sheriff limits the candidate pool to current deputies willing to mount a political campaign supported by the Sheriff's Guild.

History shows that an appointment process leads to better sheriffs. Our first two "elected" Sheriffs were originally appointed by the County Council. They later ran unopposed as incumbents. Since then, the Department has been roiled in controversy and politics. This is our chance for reform. *We deserve a professional, transparent, accountable Sheriff's Department - Vote Yes.*

### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

We agree. A Sheriff shouldn't be a politician. *Electing the Sheriff makes the Sheriff a politician.* Politics means big money. Special interests and political insiders decide who runs. Most Sheriff elections have had only one candidate.

Want your vote to count? 7 of the 9 County Council districts represent unincorporated areas. Appointment by the Council assures selection of a qualified professional responsive to the needs of our community and accountable to its citizens. *Vote yes.*

### Explanatory statement

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

When the King County charter was adopted in 1969, the office of sheriff was an appointed position. In 1996, county voters approved a charter amendment making it an elected position. If Charter Amendment No. 5 is adopted, it would return the office to an appointed position after the expiration of the current elected sheriff's term. The next sheriff would be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the county council. Both the executive and the council would be required to consider stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation process. (Except as to collective bargaining described below, Charter Amendment No. 5 does not affect the duties of the sheriff or the duties and structure of the department of public safety; that question is presented in Charter Amendment No. 6.)

Currently under the charter, the elected sheriff is responsible for bargaining with represented employees in the department of public safety on all matters except for compensation and benefits, which are negotiated by the county executive. If Charter Amendment No. 5 is adopted making the sheriff an appointed position, all bargaining responsibilities would be placed with the county executive.

### Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Mitzi Johanknecht, Reagan Dunn, Dave Reichert, saveoursheriff.org

Protect your right to vote for our non-partisan, independent, Sheriff. Vote *No* on Charter Amendment 5.

This is a dangerous companion to Amendment 6. Together they would effectively allow a "partisan" Council to assume complete control over the Sheriff's Office to defund or dismantle it.

In 1996, King County residents wisely voted to make the Sheriff an *elected and independent* office. Charter Amendment 5 would take away that right and give politicians the power to choose the Sheriff. An elected, nonpartisan, Sheriff protects our system of checks and balances by acting as a counterweight to the County Executive and Council. Currently the Executive and Council have important and powerful budget oversight. If the Executive and Council are given the authority to appoint the Sheriff as well, they would be controlled by politicians with no background or expertise in law enforcement. Currently, if an elected nonpartisan Sheriff fails to serve the community's interests, voters can remove that Sheriff from office through the democratic process of voting. There is no greater accountability than for the Sheriff to be elected by the people they serve.

An appointed Sheriff would answer to politicians, not the people. Vote *No* on Charter Amendment 5.

### Rebuttal of statement in favor

The Sheriff will always be accountable to someone. The question before voters is: "accountable to the people or to a few politicians?"

Amendment 5 is an extreme measure that would make us the *Only* county in the state without an independent, elected Sheriff. It creates uncertainty by allowing a handful of politicians to choose the Sheriff instead of King County voters. At a time like this, we need stability, not political chaos.

## Charter Amendment No. 6 Structure and Duties of the Department of Public Safety

Shall the King County charter be amended so that the duties of the county sheriff and the structure and duties of the department of public safety are established by county ordinance and the county executive is responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees?

Yes

No

The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 34.

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Sean Goode

Charter Amendment 6 would result in improved safety, quality of service and emergency response times by prioritizing the needs of King County residences. When the King County Sheriff's office isn't inundated with requests to respond to things that could be managed by a mental health professional, limited-commissioned personnel or a civilian they will have an increased capacity to respond to emergencies that require a trained law enforcement officer.

Someone who is in a mental health crisis needs a mental health response; neighborhood disputes such as noise complaints shouldn't keep law enforcement from being present at real emergencies.

Currently, the ability to resource these alternatives and in doing so allow for improved police response lives within the Sheriff's discretion and not the citizens of King County. Charter Amendment 6 would put the power in the hands of the people by way of the non-partisan, elected county council members that we have chosen to represent our needs.

Ask yourself, do we need police to do the work of social service agencies and mental health practitioners? Or do we need police to be present when there is an emergency in our community? For real public safety vote Yes on Charter Amendment 6.

### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Charter amendment 6 would allow for the non-partisan officials elected by the residents of King County to prioritize resourcing the types of public safety that are best fit to meet the unique needs of our region. We currently trust these non-partisan elected officials to set the budget for our health and human services, parks, transit and many other local services.

No part of this amendment, if approved, requires defunding the King County Sheriff's office.

### Explanatory statement

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

Before 1996, the sheriff was an appointed position and the county council had charter-based authority to abolish the department of public safety, combine it with other departments or offices, and decrease its duties. The voter-approved charter amendment passed in 1996, which made the sheriff an elected position, removed these charter-based authorities and set the duties of the county sheriff as specified by general law.

If Charter Amendment No. 6 is adopted, Charter Section 350.20.40 would be amended to provide that the county sheriff's duties be specified by ordinance, adopted by the county council. The section would also be amended to return to the council the authority to combine the department of public safety with other county departments or offices and the authority to decrease the department's duties. However, the department of public safety could not be abolished. (Charter Amendment No. 6 does not affect whether the sheriff is elected or appointed; that question is presented in Charter Amendment No. 5.)

Additionally, under the current charter the elected sheriff is responsible for bargaining with represented employees in the department of public safety on all matters except for compensation and benefits, which are negotiated by the county executive. If Charter Amendment No. 6 is adopted, all bargaining responsibilities would be placed with the county executive.

### Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Dave Reichert, Kathy Lambert, Rob McKenna, saveoursheriff.org

Charter Amendment 6 would permit a drastic reduction of safety for much of King County and could hinder the level of service and reduce emergency response times.

Amendment 6 gives a few politicians power to *fundamentally change* the mission of our non-partisan Sheriff and allows a "partisan" County Council to defund or dismantle the office. This change was sponsored with Amendment 5 that takes away your right to vote for Sheriff.

The King County Sheriff's Office serves cities, rural and unincorporated areas, and protects public transit. They lead the region's response on human trafficking, help homeless citizens get much-needed assistance, find and rescue missing persons, respond to 911, and serve protection orders in domestic violence cases. Our Sheriff and deputies often help people on the worst day of their lives. They need increased support and funding, not less.

This effort to defund or dismantle the King County Sheriff's Office is an overreaction to real concerns people have about the role of law enforcement in our community. Ask yourself: would my family and neighborhood be safer if we give this power to politicians with an unknown agenda that could make us less safe? Please vote No on Charter Amendment 6.

### Rebuttal of statement in favor

You cannot improve public safety by defunding it. Our Sheriff's Office is the most progressive in the country, leading by example with new reforms. To fight systemic inequities, they prioritize *de-escalation training*, and every officer takes mandatory *implicit bias training*. For transparency and accountability, all internal investigation reports on "use of force" incidents are published online.

Amendment 6 puts these first-in-the-nation reforms at risk by giving politicians the power to defund them.

### Charter Amendment No. 7 Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Family Caregiver, Military or Veteran Status

Shall Section 840 of the King County charter be amended to prohibit discrimination in county employment and in county contracting with nongovernmental entities on the basis of status as a family caregiver, military status or status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or who was discharged solely as a result of the person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 35.*

#### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Marcos Martinez, Rob Saka, Ed Solseng

This proposal is about protecting working families and military veterans from discrimination in the workplace. The King County Charter Review Commission recommended that the King County Charter be amended to prohibit the County from discriminating against certain vulnerable groups in County hiring or contracting. These include workers with family caregiving responsibilities, honorably discharged veterans, and others discharged solely because of their LGBTQ status. The King County Council *unanimously agreed*, forwarding this issue to voters.

*We urge a "yes" vote on this needed change to the County Charter.*

Many workers are struggling with the very real implications of having an elderly parent, infant child, or child with special needs who requires care. They are constantly balancing the need to work but also provide adequate care for their families, a problem only worsened by the COVID crisis. If we fail to protect working families, history tells us that women, Black, Indigenous and people of color will bear the disproportionate brunt of any loss of wages or jobs. In addition, veterans who've answered our nation's call to duty must also be protected and honored, not discriminated against.

*Vote "yes" to outlaw discrimination against working families and veterans in King County.*

#### Explanatory statement

Currently, Section 840 of the King County charter prohibits discrimination in county employment and county contracting with nongovernmental entities based on the following statuses: sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and age except by minimum age and retirement provisions.

If adopted, Charter Amendment No. 7 would add the following to the list of statuses for which discrimination in county employment and contracting with nongovernmental entities is prohibited: (1) status as a family caregiver; (2) military status; and (3) status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or who was discharged solely as a result of the person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Patrick Hamacher, Director of Council Initiatives, (206) 477-0880,  
patrick.hamacher@kingcounty.gov

#### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Proposition No. 1 Harborview Medical Center Health and Safety Improvement Bonds

The King County Council passed Ordinance 19117 concerning this proposition to issue Harborview Medical Center improvement bonds. This proposition would authorize King County to make public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities, including construction of new buildings, renovation and upgrading of existing facilities and demolition of existing buildings, and to issue \$1,740,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years to pay for such improvements and to levy property taxes annually in excess of regular property tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Ordinance 19117. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 36.*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Ana Mari Cauce, Dow Constantine, Katy Brehe, HarborviewProp1.com

It's rare to meet someone who has not had a family member, friend or their own life touched by the caregivers at Harborview Medical Center. Owned by the people of King County and operated by UW Medicine, Harborview is our hospital. Whether serving its mission to care for the most vulnerable, or as the teaching hospital for future doctors, or as the state's only Level 1 trauma and burn center – Harborview serves us all.

This bond improves patient and caregiver safety, expands behavioral health programs, funds critical seismic upgrades, and reflects Harborview's commitment to provide care for vulnerable populations.

*Responding to Public Health Emergencies:* Harborview is at the center of medical crises, whether a global pandemic, mass casualty event, or natural disaster. As we learn and prepare for the future, it's essential we increase flexible bed capacity, modernize infection control, expand emergency services, and stabilize existing buildings.

*Expanding Behavioral Health Services:* The bond expands behavioral health services in a new facility, building on existing expertise and addressing ongoing homelessness and mental health crises. The bond funds respite beds providing a lower cost, effective alternative recovery to hospital stays. These investments will not only serve already vulnerable populations, but help all individuals receive treatment to prevent a crisis.

*Creating Jobs When We Need Them Most:* This bond creates over 7,700 family wage jobs during construction and supports thousands of frontline caregiver positions in a safe, modern environment tailored to patient care.

*Broad Community Support:* This bond is endorsed by nurses and care providers, MLK Labor Council, County Building and Construction Trades, Executive Constantine and unanimous bi-partisan King County Council support, civic and business organizations, and more!

### Explanatory statement

If approved by voters, Proposition 1 would authorize King County to issue up to \$1,740,000,000 of general obligation bonds to provide funds for public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Kelli Carroll, Director of Special Projects, (206) 477-0876, [kelli.carroll@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kelli.carroll@kingcounty.gov)

The improvements would include new construction and renovation of existing buildings to provide increased critical health care capacity, updated and expanded infection control capability, and increased capacity for behavioral health services including facilities for substance use disorder and mental health treatment. The improvements would also include seismic upgrades, upgrades to physical and plant systems, and any required mitigation such as street improvements and landscaping.

Each series of bonds, which would be required to mature within 20 years of their issuance, would be paid for, unless paid from other sources, through annual property tax levies to be made upon all taxable property within the county. The tax levies would be in excess of the regular non-voted property tax levy and would be set at the rate required to meet bond payments. The annual property taxes per household necessary to repay the bonds will depend upon interest rates, the timing of the issues and amount of the bonds issued, and changes in property values.

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

### Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift for Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Facilities

The City Council of the City of Kirkland adopted Ordinance No. O-4731 concerning funding for fire and emergency medical services and facilities. This proposition would fund public safety, including stockpiling pandemic personal protective equipment, constructing a new fire station, seismically renovating existing stations, and hiring additional firefighters/EMTs to improve response times by increasing the City's regular property tax by approximately \$0.23513/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$1.22951/\$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2021. The 2021 levy amount will be the basis to calculate subsequent levies, per RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, disabled veterans, and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

Should this proposition be approved:

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

#### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Bill Hoover, Stephanie Miller, Todd Pemble, SaferKirkland.org

We support the levy as the most economical way to address current and future needs of Kirkland's Fire Department/emergency medical services. (less than \$15.00/month for a median-priced home)

Last October, Kirkland recruited 35 residents to help decide the best way to improve our Fire/Emergency Medical Services. The Community Safety Advisory Group spent 6 months learning about government funding, firefighting, and emergency medical services. Their conclusion: the improvements financed by Prop1 are the minimum required to ensure the future safety of Kirkland's residents.

Only one of the existing fire stations meet critical seismic standards. Additional changes are needed to address health and safety problems to reduce firefighter's exposure to carcinogens and pathogens. These problems, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, challenge the Fire Department's current service delivery model: seventy-five percent of calls are for EMTs and ambulance service, twenty-five percent respond to fires. Kirkland also needs an additional station East of I-405.

When your house is burning, when you have a heart attack, Fire/EMT service need to get there fast. Approval of this levy will result in improved response times. Evidence shows a response within four minutes leads to better medical outcomes and decreased fire damage.

We need to protect our first responders. We need to prepare for the next pandemic. We need to prevent first responder's exposure to toxic chemicals. We need to prevent our fire trucks being stuck in a station after an earthquake because the doors are jammed shut or the building has partially collapsed. We need to follow the Community Safety Advisory Group's advice. We need to pass this small levy increase. We need to vote Yes on Prop1 to protect our community!

#### Explanatory statement

The City of Kirkland has proposed a ballot measure to improve fire protection, Emergency Medical Services and fire stations. If approved, this proposition would authorize an increase in the City's regular property tax levy by approximately \$0.23513/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, to a maximum rate of \$1.22951/\$1,000, as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW. The measure was developed by the Community Safety Advisory Group, made up of Kirkland residents and businesses. The measure would stockpile pandemic personal protective equipment, and hire approximately 20 additional full-time equivalent firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians. It also upgrades public safety technology, facilities and equipment, funds additional operating, maintenance, vehicle and capital expenses to improve response times, and other public safety purposes.

Increased revenues would fund fire protection, Emergency Medical Services and build a new fire station east of I-405 to improve response times in Kingsgate and Totem Lake. The measure also funds seismic renovation and modernization of existing fire stations 21 in Forbes Creek, 22 in Houghton and 26 in North Rose Hill. These investments will improve response times, keep fire stations seismically sound and support firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician health and safety. Priorities and other details about the levy lid lift are described in City Ordinance O-4731.

Approval of Proposition 1 would cost the owner of a median-valued \$730,000 Kirkland home about \$171 per year, or approximately \$14.25 per month. The levy amount collected in 2021 would be used to calculate subsequent levy limits. Qualifying seniors, disabled veterans and others would be exempt, per Chapter 84.36 RCW.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Kevin Raymond, City Attorney,  
(425) 587-3031,  
[KRaymond@KirklandWA.gov](mailto:KRaymond@KirklandWA.gov)

#### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. The committee in opposition withdrew from the process to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Referendum No. 2 Levy of Utility Taxes

The Newcastle City Council passed Ordinance 2020-609, which levies 3% utility taxes on the total gross income of utility businesses providing telephone, cellular phone, gas distribution, light and power, cable television, sewer, solid waste, and water in the City to fund public safety services (police, fire). Under the ordinance, the utility taxes would take effect January 1, 2021.

Should this ordinance be:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Charlie Gadzik, Diane Elaine Lewis, Nathan Stix, [friendsfornewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:friendsfornewcastle@gmail.com)

*Why raise taxes now of all times?*

Because it's the only way we can maintain the police, fire, park and street services that make living in Newcastle so special.

For 26 years, the city has budgeted carefully and avoided collecting taxes, such as utility and B&O, that are levied by nearly every other city in King County. It was able to do this because it relied on fees from new development. But vacant land is nearly gone, and with it has gone the city's income from new development. Meanwhile, expenses have risen at the rate of inflation, while property taxes can increase only 1% each year. City staff headcount, excluding police, is the same as it was in 2009, even though population has grown 25%.

Residents say that public safety and traffic control are high priorities. Without new tax revenue, city services you desire cannot be maintained. The proposed utility tax is 3%, with no provision for increases. It will cost an average residence \$10 per month. Isn't that a reasonable price for our continued safety, a quick response to a 911 call, decent streets, and good parks?

*Get the facts and estimate your utility tax at [FriendsforNewcastle.org](http://FriendsforNewcastle.org).*

### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Good management and cost controls are what produced Newcastle's reserve. Salary increases over the past 10 years have simply matched the local economy. Newcastle has already reduced staff and is drawing on the reserve to pay regular operating expenses.

State auditors warn that a long-term solution is required. Our choice is to either raise taxes or face certain cuts. You can preserve services for about \$10 a month. If you love Newcastle, vote "yes."

### Explanatory statement

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Paul White, City Clerk,  
(425) 649-4143 ext. 102,  
[cityclerk@newcastlewa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@newcastlewa.gov)

The Newcastle City Council passed Ordinance 2020-609, which levies a 3% utility tax on the total gross income of utility businesses providing telephone, cellular phone, gas distribution, light and power, cable television, sewer, solid waste, and water in the City to fund public safety services (police, fire). Under the ordinance, the utility taxes would take effect January 1, 2021.

Referendum No. 2 is presented to the voters pursuant to state law, which provides a process for the voters to approve or reject the City's utility tax ordinance. If the measure is approved it will uphold the 3% utility tax. If the measure is rejected it will overturn the 3% utility tax.

If approved, it is estimated that the 3% utility tax will generate approximately \$880,000 in revenue per year based on both residential and commercial utility customers. Based on a total of approximately 5,500 residential dwelling units in the City, the average residential household would pay just over \$10 a month on utility taxes. A smaller home or apartment may pay less and a larger home may pay more. The City anticipates using the projected utility tax revenue to pay for public safety (fire and police) services, as the City's 2020 budget identified increased costs relating to police and fire contracts in the future.

### Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Tamra J. Kammin, Kandy K. Schendel, Robert Clark, [citizens4newcastle@gmail.com](mailto:citizens4newcastle@gmail.com)

Newcastle does *not* need 9 new utility taxes (cable, telephone, cellular, gas, electricity, water, surface water, sewer, solid waste) impacting every resident and business. Timing could not be worse given the COVID-19 economic challenge. With over \$5.2 million in cash reserves—the most in history—our city refuses to focus on reducing expenses and controlling costs *before* adding new taxes. Newcastle has consistently overestimated an imminent need for additional revenue. In 2019, Newcastle staff's deficit estimation was incorrect by over \$700,000. Council shows *repeated lack of restraint* in spending your money wisely. Historically, Council has *excessively* increased salaries, benefits, and headcount – the *worst* possible area to escalate.

This Utility Tax begins at 3% and can easily increase to 6%+. Your Newcastle fee on garbage is already at 8.49%, just implemented in 2019, and jumps to 11.49%. This tax will negatively impact Newcastle businesses who will understandably pass much of it on to customers.

Newcastle government was intended to be small and efficient, keeping expansion and taxation minimal. Proponents *falsely* claim that police and fire services will be reduced without this tax. Voting no will *not* reduce existing services. Force your city to practice fiscal discipline. *Reject this new tax.*

### Rebuttal of statement in favor

Making voters think emergency services would be cut is *terribly misleading*. Property tax alone covers Police and Fire (Newcastle's top priorities). Our *highest-ever reserves*, \$5,215,340, exceed policy requirement by \$2,500,000. Development and re-development fees also provide continuing revenue.

In 2012, through fiscal discipline, City headcount was 21, but has now ballooned to 27. *Businesses and residents will be hurt* by these 9 taxes, *easily increased* by Council vote. Vote no, stating loudly, "practice fiscal discipline."

## Proposition No. 1 Funding for Transit and Related Transportation Needs

The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 concerns funding for transit and related transportation needs in Seattle.

If approved, this proposition authorizes up to 0.15% sales and use tax expiring April 1, 2027, and as proposed in Ordinance 126115, to replace the current voter-approved 0.1% sales tax, expiring December 31, 2020.

Revenues are dedicated to: transit services benefitting Seattle residents, including frequent transit network maintenance and associated capital improvements; low-income fare programs for Seattle seniors, students, workers, and residents; and transportation needs related to COVID-19 recovery and the West Seattle Bridge closure.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available beginning on page 38.*

### Statement in favor

#### Seattle Transit: Vote Yes!

Seattleites count on transit. Proposition 1 continues our transit investments that work for our neighbors and environment. Prop. 1 preserves the essential bus service we need, creates affordability for riders, addresses the West Seattle transportation crisis head on, and ensures transit is efficient and reliable. This measure will fund our most frequently utilized bus routes and enable us to maintain our transportation system as we work toward recovery.

#### Supporting Essential Workers and Trips

One out of three of Seattle's essential workers rely on transit. Every day tens of thousands of people count on transit to get to their jobs, appointments, and to access services. Prop. 1 keeps buses showing up for them, so they can show up for Seattle.

#### Helping Our Neighbors

Bus service remains a vital lifeline for seniors, people with disabilities, students, and working families. Prop. 1 supports access programs for our low-income neighbors, including free passes for public high school students and programs for essential workers, seniors and public housing residents. Our neighbors are counting on these affordability programs now more than ever.

#### Staying the Course

A healthy, sustainable economic recovery relies on reliable, frequent buses. Prop. 1 could generate more than 150,000 prioritized transit service hours a year for the next six years. While the current crisis has many of us at home, Seattleites are among the most reliable transit users in the nation. Providing essential access to jobs, services, and opportunities is critical to getting back on track.

Submitted by: Alex Hudson, Nicole Grant, Paulina Lopez,  
[www.yesfortransit.com](http://www.yesfortransit.com)

### Explanatory statement

In 2014, Seattle voters approved a \$60 Vehicle License Fee and a 0.1 percent sales and use tax for a six-year term expiring on December 31, 2020. To replace the funding expiring at the end of this year, Proposition 1 proposes a 0.15 percent sales and use tax for six years starting April 1, 2021, and ending April 1, 2027.

Tax revenue is only for purposes described in Ordinance 126115, including: King County Metro services with over 65 percent of stops within Seattle; service hours on current and future RapidRide lines serving Seattle; programs supporting transit access for low-income residents, workers (including "Essential Workers"), seniors, and youth, including the ORCA Opportunity program for K-12 students and income-eligible college students; limited transit infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements; and emerging mobility needs related to COVID-19 response and recovery, and closure of the West Seattle High Bridge, including first-last mile transit connections, the Reconnect West Seattle plan's strategies, and regional partnerships.

Beginning in 2022, more than half of the tax revenue spent annually will go to King County Metro services with over 65 percent of stops within Seattle, and to current and future RapidRide lines serving Seattle. The City will issue an annual report describing King County Metro's services in Seattle and countywide, how Proposition 1 revenues were used, and impacts of King County's service reductions, increases, or changes in Seattle. The Seattle Transit Advisory Board will serve as the public oversight committee charged with advising on spending of Proposition 1 revenues.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk,  
(206) 684-8361,  
[monica.simmons@seattle.gov](mailto:monica.simmons@seattle.gov)

### Supporting West Seattle, Georgetown, & South Park

We know that there is no easy fix to the West Seattle Bridge. Providing mobility options for West Seattle as we work toward a solution helps us all stay moving. Decreased congestion also equals cleaner air for South Park, Georgetown and all the communities in Southwest Seattle.

#### Using Dollars Wisely

Prop. 1 supports infrastructure improvements such as bus lanes and signal priority across transit corridors. Maximizing trip efficiency and reliability helps keep buses rolling so riders aren't stuck in traffic. Independent citizen oversight of Prop. 1 ensures our transit dollars are spent wisely.

#### Supporting Healthy, Sustainable Recovery

Transportation Prop. 1 renews Seattle's investments in transit service. Seattle has led the nation in transit growth, and we must ensure the availability of transit service during the current crisis and in economic recovery. Now isn't the time to roll back our progress.

Vote Yes on Seattle Proposition 1!

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.



## Proposition No. 1 Capital Levy for Educational Technology Improvements

The Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 07-20, concerning a proposition to fund technology for students and educators. To ensure all students have equal access to technology to prepare for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers, this proposition authorizes the District to replace aging computers, provide training and support, upgrade classrooms, ensure all students have internet access and update cybersecurity by levying the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2021	\$0.67	\$15,932,000
2022	\$0.67	\$16,567,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 07-20. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Danny House, Tina Orwall, Lina Thompson, [yesforhighline.org](http://yesforhighline.org)

Technology opens doors for students—to today's learning and tomorrow's careers. All Highline students deserve access to technology for education. When the pandemic hit, the gap in access to equitable education widened. This levy helps close that gap.

Your "Yes" vote will: ensure that all students have digital devices and internet access for learning at school and at home; replace aging computers for students and teachers; update cybersecurity to protect confidential student and district data; help students achieve digital and media literacy; provide training to help teachers personalize student learning using digital tools; and fund classroom technology that helps teachers to deliver instruction at school or during distance learning.

This levy will not increase your tax rate, thanks to expiring school bonds and levies. If approved, tax rates will decrease by 12 cents per \$1000 assessed property value in 2021.

As a community, we cannot allow our children to be left behind because of family income or access to resources. Ensure students and staff have the technology and support they need during the pandemic and beyond. Our whole community benefits when schools are strong. Vote Yes on Proposition 1.

### Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would help Highline Public Schools pay costs of making District-wide educational technology improvements to ensure all

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Kate Davis, Chief Financial Officer,  
(206) 631-3079,  
[Kate.Davis@HighlineSchools.org](mailto:Kate.Davis@HighlineSchools.org)

students have equal access to technology to prepare for today's careers. These improvements include, but are not limited to: (1) acquiring, installing and modernizing educational technology equipment, infrastructure and systems throughout existing school facilities; (2) replacing and upgrading aging computers, hardware, software and telecommunication systems; (3) providing related student, teacher and staff training and support to implement such technology improvements; (4) upgrading classrooms with interactive technology; (5) providing technology to ensure all students have internet access; (6) updating cybersecurity systems; and (7) making other improvements and upgrades to the District's technology systems, infrastructure and facilities. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.highlineschools.org>.

The School Board determined that these technology improvements are necessary due to the existing condition of the District's technology equipment, infrastructure and systems, the need to support classroom instruction and learning at home during the pandemic and beyond, and the need to ensure all students have equal access to technology to prepare for today's careers.

The proposed two-year capital levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$15,932,000 in 2021 and \$16,567,000 in 2022. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments 206.296.3920.

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

**Proposition No. 1  
Levy of General Tax for Maintenance and Operations**

The Board of King County Fire Protection District No. 27 adopted Resolution No. 2020-01, concerning a proposition to adequately finance maintenance and operation costs. This proposed levy would replace the District’s expiring voter approved excess levy and provide for the continued support of fire protection and emergency medical services, facilities, maintenance, staffing and operations by authorizing the District to levy excess taxes in the following amounts over the next four years.

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2021	\$0.47	\$650,000
2022	\$0.47	\$676,000
2023	\$0.47	\$703,000
2024	\$0.47	\$731,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

**Statement in favor**

Submitted by: Robert Angrisano, Terri Divers, Dave Hart, 425-417-8798

We love our Fall City Fire Department! They come to our aid when needed. Now we can support them by voting Yes! We’ve approved every funding measure since the department was created in 1946.

This Maintenance & Operations Levy will provide approximately 26% of the department’s operating budget. It’s critical funding for firefighter/ EMT’s, vehicles and equipment, and training – all needed to provide medical aid and firefighting services to us.

Our department made great progress in 2020 to address needs identified during the merger discussions. An 11<sup>th</sup> firefighter was hired and 3-person career firefighter crews are now scheduled 24x7. New bunker gear was bought for all firefighters and a power load for the aid car. A temporary training captain was appointed, and new training program implemented. This levy funds a 12<sup>th</sup> career firefighter, and improves safety with additional training and equipment. All district vehicles/apparatus are paid for and in good condition, and the levy funds their future replacement.

This 2021-2024 M&O Levy replaces the 2017-2020 levy and adjusts for inflation. Our tax increase is minimal, only \$5.29/month for a home valued at \$500,000. This is a very small price to pay to continue our strong and independent fire department. Vote Yes!

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

Our fire commissioners prioritized *Safety, Staffing, Training and Equipment* to reduce \$950,000 “wishlist” to a modest M&O levy of \$650,000. Voted M&O levies are standard funding models for districts – fire, school, hospital. Our department will be *debt-free in 2021* (station remodel and engine paid off) and you’ll stop paying those taxes. We’re fully staffed, increasing training and buying equipment – *much better than “surviving”!* Supporting our local independent fire department is our best option. Vote Yes!

**Explanatory statement**

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Chris Connor, Fire Chief,  
(425) 222-5841,  
[cconnor@king27fire.com](mailto:cconnor@king27fire.com)

If approved by the voters, the Fire District will be authorized to replace its expiring four year maintenance and operations excess levy with a new four year excess levy of \$650,000.00 in 2020, \$676,000.00 in 2021, \$703,000.00 in 2022 and \$731,000.00 in 2023, to be collected in each succeeding year. Such levy will be in addition to the District’s regular and EMS tax levies for a four-year period.

The District continues to experience increases in the cost of providing fire protection and emergency medical services and cannot maintain current staffing and service levels within the limitations of the District’s regular tax levy. The levy will provide funds required by the district to maintain and improve the level of service in the district.

The District estimates that the tax levy rate necessary to generate these funds each year will be approximately \$0.47 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. In subsequent years the levy rate will decrease if assessed property values increase.

If the levy is approved, a taxpayer with property valued at \$500,000 would experience an increase over the current excess tax levy of approximately \$0.12710/\$1,000 Assessed Value which equates to \$63.55 per year or \$5.29 per month.

**Statement in opposition**

Submitted by: Jay Blucher, Danielle Bothwell, Rick Reynolds, [FallCityTaxpayers@gmail.com](mailto:FallCityTaxpayers@gmail.com)

Vote No: End Unnecessary Taxation, Retain Fire Fighters, and Increase Your Family’s Safety.

Fall City cannot cover the costs for fire services using the traditional property tax structure. Currently, you pay an additional tax (an M&O levy) of \$475,000 to make up for the shortfall, simply to survive. Our community is now being asked to raise that “extra” M&O levy to an escalating \$650,000 with no tangible benefit to you or your firefighters. The Commissioners’ projections show we actually need \$950,000 to meet adequate service levels.

The constant uncertainty of our fire department’s future has led to the departure of almost half of our firefighters this year alone, and more slated to leave by the end of the year. This is a century’s worth of Valley experience lost.

Your commissioners have researched and are aware of other options that save our tax dollars while fulfilling their obligation to keep our community and firefighters safe. Voting *No* forces your elected officials to pursue these better options that provide for the safety and security of our Firefighters and spend your tax dollars more responsibly.

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

Last year, we were promised if we stayed independent, we could save money, support 12 firefighters, better training, and replace our aging equipment. Now they’re asking for an escalating \$650k excess levy without fulfilling those promises. Our commissioners are not being transparent with their commitment to the community and the firefighters. There are other measures to be taken before taxing families that are already struggling to put food on the table. *Vote No!*

## Proposition No. 1 Authorization for Continuation of Benefit Charge

Shall North Highline Fire District be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each year for ten consecutive years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Barbara Dobkin,  
Wendell Davis, [bmdobkin@gmail.com](mailto:bmdobkin@gmail.com)

Vote Yes for Proposition One to renew North Highline Fire District's (NHFD) Benefit Charge. Proposition One will ensure our current level of service and keep our community and firefighters safe while bringing fiscal equity to North Highline property owners.

We all benefit from the NHFD Benefit Charge. Over the last six years, the Benefit Charge has enabled the NHFD to significantly reduce response times and secure desperately needed equipment for our firefighters. Because of the Benefit Charge, NHFD has become a fiscally stable provider of high-quality fire protection and emergency care.

The Benefit Charge is a fee, not a tax, and is based on factors such as size, use of buildings and fire risk. It creates a more equitable distribution of charges because it spreads NHFD's costs between more property owners in the North Highline Unincorporated Area. The Benefit Charge will ensure the continued reduction of our NHFD property taxes from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Tax exemptions for senior citizens and disabled persons also apply to the Benefit Charge.

Vote Yes to support our North Highline Fire District and maintain our high quality service!

### Explanatory statement

North Highline Fire District provides emergency medical, and fire protection service to the areas within North Highline Fire District. The Board of Commissioners is

requesting that voters approve the continuation of the existing benefit charge to replace the expiring benefit charge approved by the voters in 2014.

A benefit charge is not a property tax but is a user fee designed to allocate the cost of the services provided by the District in reasonable proportion to the measurable benefit a property receives. The benefit charge is based on a standard industry accepted formula that takes into consideration fire flows, structure square footage and the type of structure. If the benefit charge is approved the District's statutory tax authority is reduced by \$.50 per thousand of assessed valuation.

The Board of Commissioners has determined that a benefit charge, established in conjunction with a lower level of property taxes, provides the fairest, most stable, reliable and cost effective method for financing the operations of the District and maintaining satisfactory levels of service.

The proposition requests voters to authorize the continuation of the benefit charge to be collected for an additional ten years from 2021 through 2030. The benefit charge will be established by November 30th of each year for collection the following year. Prior to establishing the benefit charge each year, the Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing and each year property owners will have the right to petition for adjustments in the amount of the benefit charge.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Mike Marrs, Fire Chief,  
(206) 243-0330,  
[office@northhighlinefd.org](mailto:office@northhighlinefd.org)

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

### Proposition No. 1 Improvement Bonds for a New Aquatic Center

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Si View Metropolitan Park District adopted Resolution No. 2020-03 concerning construction of a new aquatic center. If approved, this proposition authorizes the acquisition, design, development, construction and equipping of an aquatic center, including the acquisition of real property, to serve residents of the District and surrounding areas; the issuance of up to \$23,700,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a 30 year term; and the levy of excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds.

Should this proposition be approved:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

#### Statement in favor

Submitted by: Linda Grez,  
[lindagrez@comcast.net](mailto:lindagrez@comcast.net)

Si View Park District runs the only public pool in the Snoqualmie Valley, surrounded by rivers. Our community's needs for swim lessons and aquatics long ago outgrew our tiny but beloved pool built in 1938. Community surveys consistently show that families want a new Aquatic Center. All ages will benefit, from preschool swim lessons, teen lifeguard classes, to seniors' fitness programs. An Aquatic Center provides healthy fun: Interactive water play features (slide, lazy river), lap lanes, and outdoor splash pads, serving the whole family.

Si View is fiscally responsible: Bond rating agencies recognize Si View's excellent fiscal management with an AA rating. The Aquatic Center Feasibility study includes a financial plan. Our community knows that our locally-managed Si View Park District excels at managing parks, facilities and rec programs. Si View Prop 2 is a one-time levy lift to support Aquatic Center operational costs.

Expansion opportunity: Future build-out could include a competition pool, and more rec space.

Timing: Building costs increase over time. A new Aquatic Center now would be less expensive than in future. Ultimately, our voters should make the decision of when is the right time to build this community asset. Vote Yes for Si View!

#### Explanatory statement

Proposition 1 authorizes the Si View Metropolitan Park District to construct a new aquatics center to serve residents of the District and surrounding areas. The new aquatics center would provide additional facilities and programs to meet the aquatic needs of a rapidly growing population in the Snoqualmie Valley.

The proposed aquatics center is expected to be approximately 46,000 sf and built in 2 phases, depending on available project funding. Phase 1 proposal includes a 4,600 sf beach entry recreation pool with interactive water features, river current, flexible programming space with a three lane 25 yard lap area, a separate water slide and splash pad with spray features. Proposed dry spaces include classrooms, family locker rooms and restrooms, office area, maintenance and storage spaces. The proposed facility design is such that spaces can operate independently or simultaneously with a later addition that could include a cold water competition pool and a 2,500 sf multipurpose room.

The District conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and aquatics feasibility study in 2019. As a result of community input and recommendation of the study, the District found that in order to accommodate the needs of residents, a larger facility with expanded aquatic services is necessary. Proposition 1 authorizes funding for phase 1 of the project with the issuance of up to \$23,700,000 in general obligation bonds maturing within 30 years and set excess property taxes to repay those bonds with an estimated impact of \$9.10 per month on a \$500,000 home.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Travis Stombaugh, Executive Director,  
(425) 831-1900,  
[tstombaugh@siviewpark.org](mailto:tstombaugh@siviewpark.org)

#### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Proposition No. 2 Levy Lid Lift for Parks and Recreation Services and Operations

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Si View Metropolitan Park District adopted Resolution No. 2020-04 concerning funding for parks and recreation. This proposition would provide funding for District parks and recreation operations and services, including the increased costs associated with maintaining and operating a new aquatic center, by increasing the District's regular property tax levy by \$0.06913/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$0.53628/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2021. The 2021 levy amount will be the basis to calculate subsequent levies, per RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, veterans, and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

Should this proposition be approved:

Approved

Rejected

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

### Statement in favor

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in favor. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

### Explanatory statement

Proposition 2 provides funding for operations at the Si View Metropolitan Park District, including the costs associated with operating a new aquatic facility also for consideration by the voters at the November 2020 election. Proposition 2 is a levy lid lift to increase the regular property tax of the District by up to \$0.06913/\$1,000 of assessed valuation to a maximum regular property tax rate of \$0.53628/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, as allowed by RCW 84.55, to fund parks and recreation operations and services, including:

Constructing, improving and equipping the new aquatic center facility; Paying for costs of maintenance and operations of the new aquatic facility; and Costs of operating, maintaining, equipping and improving District park and recreation facilities and programs.

The District's Board of Park Commissioners will allocate funding among these priorities and other District operations and services. These priorities and other details about the levy are described in Resolution No. 2020-04.

Approval of Proposition 2 would cost the owner of the average District home \$500,000 about \$2.69 per month. The amount of the levy collected in 2021 would be used to calculate subsequent levy limits. Qualifying seniors, veterans, and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
Travis Stombaugh, Executive Director,  
(425) 831-1900,  
[tstombaugh@siviewpark.org](mailto:tstombaugh@siviewpark.org)

### Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19116

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King County Charter to clarify when an inquest will be held and to require the county to assign an attorney to represent the family of the decedent in the inquest proceeding; amending Section 895 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the qualified voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1. Findings:**

- A. The inquest process serves the public function of fact finding related to a death and involves formal legal proceedings, discovery and examination of persons, including law enforcement personnel and expert witnesses.
- B. There is a public benefit in providing publicly financed legal counsel to families of the decedents wishing to fully participate in the inquest process. The inquest process is a proceeding involving introduction of evidence and examining of witnesses, including law enforcement personnel and experts. Publicly financed legal counsel will allow all families to fully and equitably participate in the inquest process regardless of financial means. Inquests serve a public function of determining the cause and circumstances of any death involving a member of a law enforcement agency in the performance of the member's duties. The findings of an inquest help the public, family members of decedents and policy makers understand the causes and circumstances of the decedent's death. Public financing of legal counsel for all families of decedents will better ensure each party to an inquest will have equal opportunity to participate. Increasing such participation will bolster the transparency of the inquest process, thus furthering the recognized public function of an inquest.

**SECTION 2.** There shall be submitted to the voters of King County for their ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Section 895 of the King County Charter to read as follows:

**895. Mandatory Inquests.**

An inquest shall be held to investigate the causes and circumstances of any death ~~((involving a member of the law enforcement agency of the county in the performance of the member's duties))~~ where an action, decision or possible failure to offer the appropriate care by a member of any law enforcement agency might have contributed to an individual's death. For the purposes of this section, "member of any law enforcement agency" includes a commissioned officer, noncommissioned staff and agent of any local or state police force, jail, detention facility or corrections agency. The county shall assign an attorney to represent the family of the decedent in the inquest proceeding, but the family has the option of accepting the attorney or not.

**SECTION 3.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the county elections director, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall Section 895 of the King County Charter be amended to clarify that inquests are required where an action, decision or possible failure to offer the appropriate care by a member of any law enforcement agency might have contributed to an individual's death and to provide an attorney at the county's expense to represent the decedent's family in the inquest?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19124

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King County Charter removing restrictions related to the disposition of real property for less than full value when the property would be used for affordable housing; amending Section 230.10.10 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Section 230.10.10 of the King County Charter to read as follows:

**230.10.10 Metropolitan Municipal Functions.** Each metropolitan municipal function authorized to be performed by the county pursuant to ~~((RCW ch-))~~ chapter 35.58 RCW shall be operated as a distinct functional unit. Revenues or property received for such functions shall never be used for any purposes other than the operating expenses thereof, interest on and redemption of the outstanding debt thereof, capital improvements, and the reduction of rates and charges for such functions. To the extent not otherwise prohibited by law, this section shall not preclude the county from leasing, selling or conveying the properties at less than fair market value for affordable housing purposes.

**SECTION 2.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall Section 230.10.10 of the King County Charter be amended to allow the county to dispose of real property for less than full value, in some cases, if the property will be used for affordable housing?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19123

AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County Charter to replace the word "citizen" to either "public," "member of the public" or "resident," as applicable in the King County Charter; amending the Preamble and Sections 260 and 800 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to the Preamble and to Sections 260 and 800 of the King County Charter to read as follows:

**Preamble**

We, the people of King County, Washington, in order to form a more just and orderly government, establish separate legislative and executive branches, ensure responsibility and accountability for local and regional county governance and services, enable effective ~~((citizen))~~ public participation, preserve a healthy rural and urban environment and economy and secure the benefits of home rule and self-government, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Washington, do adopt this charter.

**Section 260 Office of ~~((Citizen))~~ Public Complaints.**

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to permit it quickly and efficiently to investigate and to make and publicize recommendations concerning its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the office of ~~((citizen))~~ public complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a ~~((citizen of the county))~~ member of the public, and any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in the individual's own behalf.

**Section 800 Charter Review and Amendments.**

At least every ten years after the adoption of this charter, the county executive shall appoint a ~~((citizen))~~ resident commission of not less than fifteen members whose mandate shall be to review the charter and present, or cause to be presented, to the county council a written report recommending those amendments, if any, which should be made to the charter. Appointees shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council. This ~~((citizen))~~ resident commission shall be composed of at least one representative from each of the county council districts. The county council shall consider the commission's report and recommendations and decide at an open public meeting how to proceed on each of the commission's recommended charter amendments, as provided by ordinance.

The county council may propose amendments to this charter by enacting an ordinance to submit a proposed amendment to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of the ordinance. An ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive. Publication of a proposed amendment and notice of its submission to the voters of the county shall be made in accordance with the state constitution and general law. If the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue, it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are certified unless a later date is specified in the amendment.

**SECTION 2.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall the Preamble and Sections 260 and 800 of the King County Charter be amended to replace the word "citizen" with "public," "member of the public" or "resident," as applicable?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19125

AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County Charter to grant the office of law enforcement oversight subpoena powers; amending Section 265 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Article 2, Section 265 of the King County Charter, as set forth herein:

**Section 265. Office of Law Enforcement Oversight.**

The county council shall establish by ordinance an office of law enforcement oversight, which shall be a part of the legislative branch. The office shall have a director who is appointed by a majority of the county council to serve a term of four years and until a successor is appointed. The director may be removed from office at any time for cause by a majority of the county council.

The authority of the office of law enforcement oversight shall be prescribed by ordinance and should include: investigation, review and analysis of conduct of county law enforcement officers that has been the subject of a complaint and the use of force by county law enforcement officers regardless of whether it has been the subject of a complaint; and review and analysis of internal investigations conducted and disciplinary action taken by the department of public safety regarding that conduct or use of force.

The authority of the office should also include: the preparation and publication of findings, conclusions and recommendations related to the office's oversight of the department of public safety; and community outreach concerning the department of public safety and the office of law enforcement oversight.

To enable the office of law enforcement oversight to exercise its authority effectively, the office shall be authorized by ordinance to obtain all relevant information, including authority to review and copy relevant department of public safety files, subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence relating to its investigations or review and administer oaths, inspect crime scenes, conduct interviews and participate in internal investigations and review hearings. Any subpoenaed witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel.

The county council shall establish by ordinance an advisory committee for law enforcement oversight to review, advise and report on the office of law enforcement oversight in a manner that may be prescribed by ordinance. The committee shall also advise the sheriff and the council on matters of equity and social justice related to law enforcement. The committee may also advise the sheriff and the council on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement in the law enforcement practices of the department of public safety. The county council shall prescribe by ordinance the committee's membership, qualifications, and rules and procedures, and the process for appointment of committee members, and may prescribe by ordinance additional duties of the committee.

**SECTION 2.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager of the elections division, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall Section 265 of the King County Charter be amended to enable the office law enforcement oversight to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence related to its investigations and reviews of county law enforcement officers?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19139

AN ORDINANCE proposing the position of King County sheriff be returned to an appointed position with a requirement for consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process, and with the county executive being responsible for bargaining with the department of public safety's represented employees; amending Sections 350.20.40, 680.10 and 890 of the King County Charter and repealing Sections 645 and 898 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

A. In 1969, the position of sheriff in King County became an appointed one when the King County Charter went into effect. With the passage of the Charter at the general election in November 1968, King County voters approved changing the county's statutorily based board-of-commissioners form of government, which also included several elected officers including a sheriff, to a home rule, charter-based form of government, which originally limited the positions of elected officers to councilmembers, executive and assessor.

B. As an appointed position, the sheriff became subject to the same selection process set out in Section 340 of the King County Charter as the other county department chief officers. Then as now, under Section 340 of the King County Charter, the county executive appoints department chief officers, subject to confirmation by the county council.

C. The 1969 original charter also set out transitory provisions establishing the initial departments and offices of the newly created executive branch. The department of public safety was established by Section 920.20 of the King County Charter, with the duties of enforcing law and order, administering the county jail and responsibility for civil defense.

D. In accordance with Section 920.30 of the King County Charter, for a period of two years, or until at least 1971, the county council could not exercise the powers granted to it under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter with respect to abolishing, combining or dividing the office or departments created by the charter or transferring the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another.

E. In 1972, by Ordinance 1438, the county council did exercise charter-based authority to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities. In that ordinance, the council abolished all the executive branch departments and offices created by the charter's transitory provisions and then reconstituted them, some with new duties and powers, including the department of public safety. The county council reconstituted the department of public safety, keeping the duties of enforcing law and order and administering the county jail called out in the transitory Section 920.20 of the King County Charter. Gone was the responsibility for civil defense. The county council added to duties to the department of public safety responsibility for disaster preparedness related to public safety and welfare and search and rescue.

F. In 1973, by Ordinance 1872, the county council again exercised its authority to structure the executive branch departments when it removed the duty of administering the King County jail from the department of public safety and transferred that duty to a new department also created by that ordinance.

G. In 1982, the county council undertook a major executive branch reorganization. Under Ordinance 6066, the county council again asserted its authority to establish the structure and duties of the executive branch departments and offices. The duties of the department of public safety were changed to mirror the duties of an office of sheriff under state law, excluding administration of county jails, as well as the additional functions of overseeing a crime prevention program, process service, major disaster planning for public safety and welfare and administrative services unique to the department.

H. In 1991, under Ordinance 10808, the county council again modified the duties of the department of public safety, wherein the department was no longer solely responsible for planning for public safety and welfare in the case of a major disaster but now had to coordinate that work with the recently created office of emergency management.

I. With the passage of a charter amendment in 1996, a new Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter was created. Under that new charter section, four things happened: (1) the sheriff became an elected position; (2) the duties of the elected sheriff in overseeing the department of public safety are set by general law rather than by the county council in accordance with its powers under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter; (3) recognition that while the department of public safety employees remain employees under the executive

branch, the department is administered by the elected sheriff; and (4) powers of the county council under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter were curtailed so that unlike departments with chief officers selected under the auspices of Section 340 of the King County Charter, the county council may neither abolish or combine the department of public safety with another county department or office, nor can the county council decrease any of the duties of the department of public safety, again unlike departments with chief officers selected under the auspices of Section 340 of the King County Charter.

"BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1. Intent.** A. It is the intent of the county council that the voters of King County determine the interrelated but distinct issues of:

1. Whether the King County sheriff should remain an elected position or return to an appointed position; and

2. The extent of scope and control of the department of public safety. For the purposes of this section, "scope and control" mean the authority, exercised by ordinance, to structure the department of public safety as well as set the duties of the sheriff and the department of public safety in accordance with the authority granted the county council under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter.

B. This ordinance is only intended to determine the will of the voters as to whether the sheriff should remain an elected position or return to an appointed position, whereby in consultation with a stakeholder group, the executive would appoint and the council would confirm the successful candidate; and if the position is reverted to an appointed one, return to the county's bargaining agent all responsibilities to bargain with represented employees in the department of public safety. This ordinance is not intended as the charter amendment to otherwise determine scope and control related to the department of public safety.

C. Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231) is the charter amendment that is intended to determine the will of the voters as to the return of scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council. If placed on the November 2020 ballot and passed by the voters, the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231) would return to the council, as exercised by ordinance, the authority to structure the department of public safety and set the duties of the sheriff and the department of public safety, as well as return to the county's bargaining agent all responsibilities to bargain with represented employees in the department of public safety. The charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231) is not intended to place before the voters the issue of whether the position of the sheriff is to be an elected or appointed position.

D. If a voter wishes for the sheriff to again be an appointed position and return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council, then a voter would vote for both the charter amendment in this ordinance and the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and both are passed by the voters, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

"Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.

The chief officer of a department of public safety, who may also be referred to as the county sheriff, shall be an appointed position, subject to section 340 of this charter, and shall perform the duties specified by ordinance. Both the executive and the county council shall consider community stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation processes for appointment of chief officer of a department of public safety, as specified by ordinance. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments."

E. If a voter wishes for the sheriff to again be an appointed position but does not wish to change scope and control related to the department of public safety, then the voter would vote for the charter amendment in this ordinance but would vote against the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and the charter amendment in this ordinance to again make the sheriff an appointed position passes and the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231) to return scope and control related the department of public safety to the council fails, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

"Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.

The chief officer of a department of public safety, who may also be referred to



## Full text of Ordinance No. 19139

as the county sheriff, shall be an appointed position, subject to section 340 of this charter, and shall perform the duties specified by general law. Both the executive and the county council shall consider community stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation processes for appointment of chief officer of a department of public safety, as specified by ordinance. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council."

F. If a voter does not wish for the sheriff to be an appointed position, but wishes return of scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council, then the voter would vote against the charter amendment in this ordinance but would vote for the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and the charter amendment in this ordinance to again make the sheriff an appointed position fails but the charter amendment in Ordinance 19140 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0231) to return scope and control of the department of public safety to the council passes, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

**"Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

The department of public safety shall be administered by the county sheriff who shall perform the duties specified by ordinance. The county sheriff shall be elected by the voters of the county, and the sheriff's term of office shall be four years. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments."

**SECTION 2.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Sections 350.20.40, 680.10 and 890 of the King County Charter and a repeal of Sections 645 and 898 of the King County Charter, as set forth herein:

**Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

Following expiration of the current elected term of office, thereafter ((F))the chief officer of a department of public safety((shall be administered by the county sheriff)), who may also be referred to as the county sheriff, shall be an appointed position, subject to Section 340 of this charter and shall perform the duties specified by general law. ((The county sheriff shall be elected by the voters of the county, and the sheriff's term of office shall be four years.)) Both the executive and the county council shall consider community stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation processes for appointment of chief officer of a department of public safety, as specified by ordinance. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council.

**Section 645 repealed.** Section 645 of the King County Charter, "Sheriff; Election, Term of Office and Compensation," is hereby repealed.

**680.10 Designation, Appointment and Election to Fill Vacancy.**

Immediately upon commencing their terms of office, the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) and county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)) shall each designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) or county prosecuting attorney((-or county sheriff)), respectively.

Except for a designation made by the metropolitan county council, a designation of an interim official shall only be effective if the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) and county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)), each for that officer's elective office, complies with the following procedure; commits the designation to writing; identifies the order of precedence if more than one county officer or employee is designated; signs the written designation; has the written designation notarized; files the written designation with the county office responsible for records; and provides a copy of the written designation to the chair of the metropolitan county council. The county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) and county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)) may, at any time, amend

such designation by complying with the same procedure established for making the designation.

In the event the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) and county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)) neglects or fails to make such a designation within seven calendar days of commencing his or her term of office, the metropolitan county council may by ordinance designate one or more employees who serve as a deputy or assistant in such office to serve as an interim official in the event of a vacancy in the elective office of the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) or county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)), respectively. A designation made by the metropolitan county council shall be effective upon adoption of the ordinance therefor and may be amended by ordinance; provided that a designation by the county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) or county prosecuting attorney((and county sheriff)) which occurs subsequent to the adoption of an ordinance shall take precedence over the designation by ordinance.

The designated county officer or employee shall immediately upon the occurrence of a vacancy serve as the interim official and shall exercise all the powers and duties of the office granted by this charter and general law until an acting official is appointed as provided in this section.

The metropolitan county council shall, after being appraised of a vacancy in the elective office of county executive, county assessor, county director of elections(;) or county prosecuting attorney ((and county sheriff)), fill the vacancy by the appointment of an employee who served as a deputy or assistant in such office at the time the vacancy occurred as an acting official to perform all necessary duties to continue normal office operations. The acting official shall serve until the vacancy is filled by appointment pursuant to general law for nonpartisan county elective offices.

A vacancy in an elective county office shall be filled at the next primary and general elections which occur in the county; provided that an election to fill the vacancy shall not be held if the successor to the vacated office will be elected at the next general election as provided in Section((s)) 640 ((and 645)) of this charter. The term of office of an officer who has been elected to fill a vacancy shall only be for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whose office has become vacant and shall commence as soon as he or she is elected and qualified.

A majority of the county council may temporarily fill a vacancy by appointment until the vacancy has been filled by election or the successor to the office has been elected and qualified.

**Section 890 Employee Representation.**

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and(~~, except with respect to bargaining by the county with employees of the department of public safety pursuant to Section 898 of this charter;~~) it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

**Section 898 repealed.** Section 898 of the King County Charter, "Department of Public Safety Employee Collective Bargaining," is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall the position of King County sheriff be returned to an appointed position with a requirement for consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process, and with the county executive being responsible for bargaining with the department of public safety's represented employees?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19140

AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County Charter relating to the county sheriff and the department of public safety; amending Sections 350.20.40 and 890 of the King County Charter and repealing Section 898 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

A. In 1969, the position of sheriff in King County became an appointed one when the King County Charter went into effect. With the passage of the Charter at the general election in November 1968, King County voters approved changing the county's statutorily based board-of-commissioners form of government, which also included several elected officers including a sheriff, to a home rule, charter-based form of government, which originally limited the positions of elected officers to councilmembers, executive and assessor.

B. As an appointed position, the sheriff became subject to the same selection process set out in Section 340 of the King County Charter as the other county department chief officers. Then as now, under Section 340 of the King County Charter, the county executive appoints department chief officers, subject to confirmation by the county council.

C. The 1969 original charter also set out transitory provisions establishing the initial departments and offices of the newly created executive branch. The department of public safety was established by Section 920.20 of the King County Charter, with the duties of enforcing law and order, administering the county jail and responsibility for civil defense.

D. In accordance with Section 920.30 of the King County Charter, for a period of two years, or until at least 1971, the county council could not exercise the powers granted to it under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter with respect to abolishing, combining or dividing the office or departments created by the charter or transferring the specified powers and duties from one office or department to another.

E. In 1972, by Ordinance 1438, the county council did exercise charter-based authority to establish, abolish, combine and divide administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities. In that ordinance, the council abolished all the executive branch departments and offices created by the charter's transitory provisions and then reconstituted them, some with new duties and powers, including the department of public safety. The county council reconstituted the department of public safety, keeping the duties of enforcing law and order and administering the county jail called out in the transitory Section 920.20 of the King County Charter. Gone was the responsibility for civil defense. The county council added to duties to the department of public safety responsibility for disaster preparedness related to public safety and welfare and search and rescue.

F. In 1973, by Ordinance 1872, the county council again exercised its authority to structure the executive branch departments when it removed the duty of administering the King County jail from the department of public safety and transferred that duty to a new department also created by that ordinance.

G. In 1982, the county council undertook a major executive branch reorganization. Under Ordinance 6066, the county council again asserted its authority to establish the structure and duties of the executive branch departments and offices. The duties of the department of public safety were changed to mirror the duties of an office of sheriff under state law, excluding administration of county jails, as well as the additional functions of overseeing a crime prevention program, process service, major disaster planning for public safety and welfare and administrative services unique to the department.

H. In 1991, under Ordinance 10808, the county council again modified the duties of the department of public safety, wherein the department was no longer solely responsible for planning for public safety and welfare in the case of a major disaster but now had to coordinate that work with the recently created office of emergency management.

I. With the passage of a charter amendment in 1996, a new Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter was created. Under that new charter section, four things happened: (1) the sheriff became an elected position; (2) the duties of the elected sheriff in overseeing the department of public safety are set by general law rather than by the county council in accordance with its powers under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter; (3) recognition that while the department of public safety employees remain employees under the executive branch, the department is administered by the elected sheriff; and (4) powers of the county council under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter were curtailed so that unlike departments with chief officers selected under the

auspices of Section 340 of the King County Charter, the county council may neither abolish or combine the department of public safety with another county department or office, nor can the county council decrease any of the duties of the department of public safety, again unlike departments with chief officers selected under the auspices of Section 340 of the King County Charter.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1. Intent.** A. It is the intent of the county council that the voters of King County determine the interrelated but distinct issues of:

1. The extent of scope and control of the department of public safety. For the purposes of this section, "scope and control" mean the authority, exercised by ordinance, to structure the department of public safety as well as set the duties of the sheriff and department of public safety in accordance with the authority granted the county council under Section 220.20 of the King County Charter and

2. Whether the King County sheriff should remain an elected position or return to an appointed position.

B. This ordinance is only intended to determine the will of the voters as to returning to the council, as exercised by ordinance, the authority to structure the department of public safety and as set the duties of the sheriff and the department of public safety, as well as return to the county's bargaining agent all responsibilities to bargain with represented employees in the department of public safety. This ordinance is not intended as the charter amendment to place before the voters the issue of whether the position of the sheriff is to be an elected or appointed position.

C. Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205) is the charter amendment that is intended to determine the will of the voters as to whether the sheriff should remain an elected position or return to an appointed position. If placed on the November 2020 ballot and passed by the voters, the charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205) would return the sheriff position to an appointed one; whereby, in consultation with a stakeholder group, the executive would appoint and the council would confirm the successful candidate; and if the position is reverted to an appointed one, return to the county's bargaining agent all responsibilities to bargain with represented employees in the department of public safety. The charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205) is not intended as the charter amendment to otherwise determine scope and control related to the department of public safety.

D. If a voter wishes to return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council and for the sheriff to again be an appointed position, then a voter would vote for both the charter amendment in this ordinance and the charter amendment in Ordinance 10139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and both are passed by the voters, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

### **"Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

The chief officer of a department of public safety, who may also be referred to as the county sheriff, shall be an appointed position, subject to section 340 of this charter, and shall perform the duties specified by ordinance. Both the executive and the county council shall consider community stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation processes for appointment of chief officer of a department of public safety, as specified by ordinance. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments."

E. If a voter wishes to return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council but does not wish for the sheriff to again be an appointed position, then the voter would vote for the charter amendment in this ordinance but would vote against the charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and the charter amendment in this ordinance to return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council passes but the charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205) for the sheriff to again be an appointed position fails, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

### **"Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

The department of public safety shall be administered by the county sheriff who shall perform the duties specified by ordinance. The county sheriff shall be elected by the voters of the county, and the sheriff's term of office shall be

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19140

four years. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments.”

F. If a voter does not wish to return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council but does wish for the sheriff to again be an appointed position, then the voter would vote against the charter amendment in this ordinance but would vote for the charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205). If both charter amendments are placed on the November 2020 ballot and the charter amendment in this ordinance to return scope and control related to the department of public safety to the council fails but the charter amendment in Ordinance 19139 (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0205) for the sheriff to again be an appointed position passes, then Section 350.20.40 of the King County Charter would be amended to read:

**“Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

The chief officer of a department of public safety, who may also be referred to as the county sheriff, shall be an appointed position, subject to section 340 of this charter, and shall perform the duties specified by general law. Both the executive and the county council shall consider community stakeholder input during the selection, appointment and confirmation processes for appointment of chief officer of a department of public safety, as specified by ordinance. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased by the county council.”

**SECTION 2.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Sections 350.20.40 and 890 of the King County Charter and a repeal of Section 898 of the King County Charter, as set forth herein:

**Section 350.20.40 Department of Public Safety.**

The department of public safety shall be administered by the county sheriff who shall perform the duties specified by ~~((general law))~~ ordinance. The county sheriff shall be elected by the voters of the county, and the sheriff’s term of office shall be four years. The department of public safety shall be an executive department subject to the civil service personnel system and shall utilize the services of the administrative offices and the executive departments, but it shall not be abolished ~~((or combined with any other executive department or administrative office and shall not have its duties decreased))~~ by the county council.

**Section 890 Employee Representation.**

The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive; and ~~((, except with respect to bargaining by the county with employees of the department of public safety pursuant to Section 898 of this charter;))~~ it shall designate the county executive as the bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

**Section 898 repealed.** Section 898 of the King County Charter, “Department of Public Safety Employee Collective Bargaining,” is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall the King County charter be amended so that the duties of the county sheriff and the structure and duties of the department of public safety shall be established by county ordinance?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19135

AN ORDINANCE proposing an amendment to the King County Charter, to more broadly prohibit discrimination on the basis of family caregiver, military or veteran status in county employment and in county contracting with nongovernmental entities; amending Section 840 of the King County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**SECTION 1.** There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for their ratification or rejection at the next general election to be held in this county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment to Section 840 of the King County Charter to read as follows:

**Section 840 Antidiscrimination.**

There shall be no discrimination in employment or compensation of county officers or employees on account of sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression ((or)), age except by minimum age and retirement provisions, status as a family caregiver, military status or status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or who was discharged solely as a result of the person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, and the county shall not enter into any contract with any person, firm, organization, corporation or other nongovernmental entity that discriminates on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression ((or)), age except by minimum age and retirement provisions, status as a family caregiver, military status or status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or who was discharged solely as a result of the person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

**SECTION 2.** The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

Shall Section 840 of the King County Charter be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of family caregiver, military or veteran status in county employment and in county contracting with nongovernmental entities?

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19117

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County, at a general election to be held on November 3, 2020, of a proposition authorizing the county to issue its general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,740,000,000 or so much thereof as may be issued under the laws governing the indebtedness of counties, for the purpose of providing funds to pay for public health, safety and seismic improvements for Harborview Medical Center.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. Harborview Medical Center facilities include a state licensed 413-bed hospital owned by King County and operated by University of Washington. The hospital is overseen by a 13-member Board of Trustees. Harborview Medical Center is a comprehensive regional health care facility providing specialized care for a broad spectrum of patients, the control of illness and the promotion and restoration of health. Harborview Medical Center is one of the nation's leading academic medical centers and is the only Level 1 Trauma Center for adults and children serving a four-state region that includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Washington. The hospital is maintained as a "public health and safety facility" as defined in RCW 36.89.010. As such, the essential public health and safety services provided by Harborview Medical Center are of benefit to all of the residents of King County.

2. Harborview Medical Center is maintained as a public hospital by King County to improve the health and well-being of the entire community and to provide quality healthcare to the most vulnerable. The mission population, as defined in Ordinance 18232, includes: the non-English speaking poor; the uninsured or underinsured, victims of domestic violence or sexual assault; people incarcerated in King County's jails; people with mental illness or substance abuse problems, particularly those treated involuntarily; people with sexually transmitted diseases; and those who require specialized emergency, trauma or burn care.

3. Nearly 20 years ago, King County voters authorized the county to issue \$193,130,000 in general obligation bonds to fund seismic and public health and safety improvements for Harborview Medical Center. The bond proceeds provided for: construction of an inpatient facility; a 14-story medical office tower; demolition of seismically unsound buildings; and limited renovations of some hospital spaces. The 2000 Harborview Medical Center bonds will be largely paid off by 2024.

4. Over the past 20 years, the growth in population, and changes in medical practice, equipment and technology, have resulted in the need for upgrades to the facilities of Harborview Medical Center. Between December 2018 and January 2020, the Harborview leadership group, as called for by Motion 15183, conducted analyses on the state of Harborview Medical Center facilities, including the Pioneer Square Clinic, which is part of the Harborview Medical Center owned by King County. The Harborview leadership group was charged with making recommendations on Harborview Medical Center's capital program to the Capital Planning Oversight Committee, the Harborview Medical Center Board of Trustees, the King County executive and the King County council. The Harborview leadership group found that the aging Harborview Medical Center physical plant limits the ability of Harborview and King County to provide care and services to the residents of King County and recommended improvements to the physical plant of Harborview Medical Center.

5. A majority of Harborview Medical Center's facilities are aging and out of date in terms of modern medical best practice standards for infection control and privacy. Due to facility configuration, Harborview Medical Center often operates at 100 percent capacity, and critical surge capacity and emergency department capacity are limited. The majority of the medical center's patient beds are in double patient rooms or multi patient wards. On average, 50 patient beds per day cannot be used due to modern infection control requirements for shared rooms. A new inpatient facility would increase single bed capacity and enable Harborview Medical Center to meet modern infection control and privacy standards. It would provide surge capacity for the hospital to effectively respond to a disaster or mass casualty event.

6. Harborview Medical Center is the designated disaster control hospital for the region. The Harborview Medical Center facilities include older masonry buildings that would suffer significant damage during an earthquake. Building collapse or inaccessibility of buildings after an earthquake would negatively impact facility operations during a disaster by limiting availability of services and posing life-safety risks to patients, employees and visitors. Seismically stabilizing buildings allows the facilities to continue to operate during an earthquake and protects patients, employees and visitors to the campus.

7. King County has a growing number of people experiencing unmet and

complex behavioral health needs, including substance use disorders. The King County suicide rate has increased by an estimated 18 percent in the last decade. Clinical space is at capacity in Harborview Medical Center facilities. Untreated behavioral health conditions can result in increased involvement in the justice system through repeated jail bookings, and use of involuntary commitment, as well as homelessness. Increasing and improving behavioral health spaces in the Harborview Medical Center facilities would result in improved behavioral health care through expanding space capacity and providing space for research and training on behavioral health matters. The proposed bond measure would allow for the expansion of addiction services by twenty percent and the integration of substance use disorder treatment with academic medicine through fellowships aimed to increase positive outcomes through treatment.

8. Individuals who are homeless or marginally housed stay in the hospital longer than clinically indicated because they have nowhere else to go to receive lower-acuity medical and recuperative care. There is a very small number of respite beds in King County, resulting in a need that exceeds supply. The lack of medical respite beds increases morbidity and mortality among homeless and marginally housed patients, as well as acting as a bottleneck for discharge from emergency departments and hospital beds.

9. To protect and advance the public health and safety services provided at Harborview Medical Center facilities, including its role as the designated disaster control hospital for the region, King County requires public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities, as further described in Attachment A to this ordinance (collectively, "the Improvements").

10. The recommendations of the Harborview leadership group are the basis of the Improvements. Harborview's Capital Planning Oversight Committee approved of the Harborview leadership group recommendations on February 14, 2020. The Harborview Board of Trustees approved the Harborview leadership group recommendations on February 27, 2020. The King County executive transmitted the Harborview leadership group recommendations to the King County council on April 7, 2020.

11. Harborview Medical Center provides substantial economic benefit to King County, employing over 4,450 individuals.

12. As illustrated by the 2020 pandemic COVID-19, there is a critical need in King County for expanded medical facilities with greater capacity for infectious disease control. The Improvements include facility improvements that prioritize infection control through construction of single patient rooms, modernized and expanded emergency department and upgraded infrastructure.

13. Construction of the Improvements will create an estimated 7,700 jobs. The construction is subject to King County's Master Community Workforce Agreement approved by Ordinance 18672, which would create an estimated 2,300 opportunities for apprenticeship and local hire.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

### SECTION 1.

#### Findings - Authorization of Capital Improvements.

A. The county council hereby finds that all of the Harborview Medical Center facilities in the county are a "public health and safety facility" as defined in RCW 36.89.010, and finds further that the essential public health and safety services provided by this facility are of general benefit to all the residents of King County. To minimize disruptions in the public health and safety service provided by Harborview Medical Center, the county council therefore further finds that the best interests of all of the residents of the county require the county undertake and finance public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities, as further described on Attachment A to this ordinance and incorporated herein by this reference (collectively, "the Improvements").

B. In accordance with RCW 36.89.040, the county council hereby finds and declares that the proposition authorized to be submitted to the voters by this ordinance and the Improvements authorized thereby and described in this ordinance have for their object the furtherance and accomplishment of a system of public health and safety facilities for the benefit of all the residents of King County and constitute a single purpose.

C. The cost of all necessary design, engineering and other consulting services, inspection and testing, administrative expenses including project administration and election expenses, permitting and mitigation costs and the other costs incurred in connection with the Improvements shall be deemed a part of the costs of the Improvements.

## Full text of Ordinance No. 19117

D. The total estimated cost of the Improvements, including the cost of issuing and selling the Bonds provided in this ordinance, is declared to be, as nearly as may be determined, the amount of \$1,740,000,000.

E. The exact timing and specifications for projects included in the Improvements shall be determined by the county.

F. If the county council determines that it has become impractical to acquire, construct or equip any portion of the Improvements by reason of changed conditions, or costs substantially in excess of the amount of the Bond proceeds or other funds estimated to be available, the county shall not be required to acquire, construct or equip such portions and may apply the Bond proceeds to other portions of the Improvements.

G. If proceeds of the Bonds, plus other funds of the county legally available for the Improvements, are insufficient to accomplish all of the Improvements, the county will use the Bond proceeds and other available funds for those of the Improvements deemed by the county council as most necessary and in the best interest of the county.

H. If all of the Improvements shall have been accomplished or duly provided for, or those that are not accomplished or duly provided for are found to be impractical, the county may apply the Bond proceeds or any portion thereof to the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds or to other capital improvements in furtherance of the public health and safety system, as the council, by ordinance and in its discretion, shall determine.

#### SECTION 2. Authorization of Bonds.

A. For the purpose of providing part of the moneys necessary to pay costs of the Improvements, together with incidental costs and costs related to the issuance and sale of the Bonds, including capitalized interest, the county shall issue and sell its unlimited tax general obligation Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,740,000,000. The Bonds shall be issued in an amount not exceeding the amount approved by the qualified electors of the county or exceeding the amount permitted by the constitution and laws of the state of Washington. The balance, if any, of the cost of the Improvements shall be paid out of any money that the county now has or may later have on hand that is legally available for such purpose.

B. The Bonds to be issued shall be issued in such amounts and at such time or times as found necessary and advisable by the county council. The Bonds may be issued in one or more series and shall bear interest payable at a rate or rates not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law at the time the Bonds are sold. Any series of Bonds shall mature in such amounts at such times within a maximum term of 20 years from the date of issue of the series, but may mature at an earlier date or dates as authorized by the county council and as provided by law. The exact date, form, terms, options of redemption, maturities and conditions of sale of the Bonds shall be as hereafter fixed by ordinance of the county council passed for such purpose. The Bonds shall be general obligations of the county and, unless paid from other sources, both principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable out of annual tax levies to be made upon all the taxable property within the county without limitation as to rate or amount and in excess of any constitutional or statutory tax

limitations. After voter approval of the Bond proposition and in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds, the county may issue short term obligations as authorized by chapter 39.50 RCW. Proceeds of the Bonds may be used to redeem and retire short term obligations or to reimburse the county for expenditures previously made for the Improvements.

#### SECTION 3. Bonds Election.

The clerk of the council shall certify the following proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

KING COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. \_\_\_\_

HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT BONDS - \$1,740,000,000

The Metropolitan King County Council has passed Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ concerning this proposition to issue Harborview Medical Center improvement bonds. This proposition would authorize King County to make public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities, including construction of new buildings, renovation and upgrading of existing facilities and demolition of existing buildings, and to issue \$1,740,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years to pay for such improvements and to levy property taxes annually in excess of regular property tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_. Should the proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

SECTION 4. Severability. In the event one or more of the provisions of this ordinance shall for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or invalidate any other provision of this ordinance or the Bonds, and this ordinance and the Bonds shall be construed and enforced as if the invalid provision is separable from and was not contained in this ordinance. Any provision that shall for any reason be invalid shall be deemed to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

## ATTACHMENT A

#### Health and Safety Improvements for Harborview Medical Center

- New construction and renovation of existing buildings to provide for: increasing critical health care capacity; updating and expanding infection control capability; and expanding capacity for behavioral health services, including facilities for substance use disorder and mental health treatment.
- Renovation, retrofitting, and improvements to existing buildings to increase seismic stability.
- Upgrade of mechanical, electrical, way finding, and other building and physical plant systems.
- Street improvements, landscaping, and mitigation required in connection with the above improvements.
- Demolition of buildings.

## Full text of Ordinance No. 126115

COUNCIL BILL 119833

AN ORDINANCE relating to a sales and use tax; providing for the submission to qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, a proposition to collect a sales and use tax to fund transit and related transportation programs in Seattle.

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 36.73, provides for the establishment of transportation benefit districts by cities and counties and authorizes those districts to levy and impose various taxes and fees to generate revenues to support transportation improvements that benefit the district and that are consistent with state, regional, or local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels; and

WHEREAS, City of Seattle Ordinance 123397 created the Seattle Transportation Benefit District for preserving and maintaining transportation infrastructure, improving public safety, implementing elements of the Seattle Transportation Strategic Plan and other planning documents, investing in bicycle, pedestrian, freight mobility and transit enhancements, and providing people with choices to meet their mobility needs; and

WHEREAS, in STBD Resolution 12, the Governing Board of the STBD submitted a ballot measure ("STBD Proposition 1") to the qualified electors of the STBD to authorize up to a 0.1 percent sales and use tax and an annual vehicle license fee of up to an additional \$60 per registered vehicle with a \$20 rebate for low-income individuals, for the purposes of funding additional transit service in Seattle for a six-year term expiring on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, STBD Proposition 1 was approved by a majority of qualified electors of the STBD; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2014, in STBD Resolution 14, the Governing Board of the STBD imposed the revenue measures authorized by the voters through the approval of STBD Proposition 1; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2016, by Ordinance 125070, The City of Seattle assumed the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the STBD as authorized under RCW 36.74.030; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle, having assumed the powers of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District, has the authority to seek voter approval for the Council to enact up to a 0.2 percent sales and use tax for transportation improvements under RCW 82.14.0455; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2018, by Ordinance 125606, The City of Seattle authorized material scope changes to STBD Proposition 1, including provisions to provide transit passes to Seattle Public School students, expanding the ORCA Opportunity Program and authorizing capital improvements to improve transit speed and reliability; and

WHEREAS, since passage of STBD Proposition 1 in 2014, The City of Seattle has been able to expand bus service by over 8,000 new weekly trips, make bus service more reliable and increase access to very frequent (ten minutes or better) bus service within a ten-minute walk from 25 percent of households in 2015 to 70 percent in 2019; and

WHEREAS, STBD funded transit equity and access initiatives provided ORCA Opportunity cards to 15,000 Seattle public high school students and Promise Scholars, 500 income-qualified middle school students, and 1,500 Seattle Housing Authority residents; and

WHEREAS, voters statewide approved Initiative 976 in spite of 76 percent of voters in Seattle rejecting this Tim Eyman measure intended to undermine Seattle's transit needs; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle joined other parties in challenging the constitutionality of I-976, including its repeal of Vehicle License Fee authority under RCW 82.80.140; and

WHEREAS, the City's legal authority to fix, impose, and extend up to a one hundred dollar vehicle license fee under RCW 82.80.140 with approval of a majority of City voters has been thrown into question by statewide passage of I-976 which, in part, attempts to repeal this authority, potentially in an unconstitutional manner; and

WHEREAS, access to transit provides mobility to essential workers as they perform essential functions to combat the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to maintain sufficient transit service and access to opportunity made possible by Proposition 1, while also facilitating COVID-19 response and the recovery of the economy with mobility for essential workers, job seekers, students, and others who will continue to rely on transit, and while also mitigating impacts from the closure of the West Seattle Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Reconnect West Seattle strategy has a goal of shifting transit

mode share in West Seattle from 17 percent to 30 percent to manage congestion during the closure of the West Seattle High Bridge; and

WHEREAS, because of the importance of the regional public transit network in promoting equitable transit access in communities throughout King County, the City of Seattle supports future efforts to enact a countywide transit funding measure that incorporates transit service and access opportunities for Seattle residents in accordance with the equity and sustainability principles detailed in the King County Mobility Framework, and the City intends to work with King County in partnership on a future transit measure that could be approved by countywide voters, thereby allowing the City to consolidate or phase-out this funding measure; and

WHEREAS, in the meantime, King County Metro has agreed to continue partnering with The City of Seattle in providing expanded transit service to Seattle residents through renewal of service purchase agreements it entered with the City following passage of STBD Proposition 1 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, if Initiative 976 is overturned, the Seattle City Council and Mayor have the authority to increase the existing annual \$20 vehicle license fee to \$40 and then, after 24 months, by another \$10 to \$50; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, SDOT invested approximately \$3.4 million for first-last mile pilot projects including \$1 million for Ride2 in West Seattle and \$2.4 million for VIA in South Seattle; and

WHEREAS, Sales Taxes and Vehicle License Fees are regressive taxes that disproportionately burden poor and working-class people, especially communities of color; and

WHEREAS, public transit like Metro is an essential component of the Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, Developer Impact Fees could be established as early as 2021 to increase funding to buy bus service hours from Metro; and

WHEREAS, Developer Impact Fees are a progressive funding source paid for by large, corporate developers; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council intends to complete in 2020 any required SEPA analysis to enable Developer Impact Fees to be enacted in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council is committed to enacting Developer Impact Fees in 2021 to raise not less than \$44 million which would allow Seattle to increase funding for Metro bus hours; and

WHEREAS, in response to public requests that the City pursue progressive sources of revenue to supplement the STBD, the City Council intends to consider imposing a transportation development impact fee under RCW 36.73 or RCW 82.02, which could fund necessary capital and other transportation investments that support transit capacity; and

WHEREAS, SDOT intends to conduct a Race and Social Justice analysis to inform the City Council in consideration of future STBD spending decisions in the City's annual budget process to focus on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and benefit these and other historically underserved communities, including low-income households, people with disabilities and other priority populations identified in SDOT's Transportation Equity program; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle a proposition to authorize up to a 0.15 percent sales and use tax for a term ending April 1, 2027, which is six years from the date upon which the state Department of Revenue would commence collections on the tax authorized by approval of this measure. This sales and use tax replaces the \$60 Vehicle License Fee and 0.1 percent sales and use tax first authorized by Seattle voters in 2014 for a six-year term expiring at the end of 2020. If approved by voters, the revenues will be used solely for the purpose of maintaining transit service and access to frequent transit service for Seattle neighborhoods, students and low income individuals, including associated maintenance and capital improvements that serve efficient operation of transit service; emerging mobility needs to support COVID-19 recovery and the Reconnect West Seattle strategy to mitigate the ongoing closure of the West Seattle High Bridge; community-led oversight; and continuation of programs to increase transit access for low income residents, seniors and students.

Section 2. Use of revenues. The funds raised by this proposition ("Proposition 1 revenues") will be used solely for the transit and transportation purposes as described in this ordinance and associated administrative costs. Proposition 1 revenues will first be used to pay any required administrative costs to the state Department of Revenue and elections costs.

## Full text of Ordinance No. 126115

Remaining Proposition 1 revenues will be used to fund:

A. Service hours on King County Metro operated services with more than 65 percent of stops within Seattle, consistent with the Seattle Transit Master Plan and King County Metro Transit's Service Guidelines, or any King County Metro operated route serving historically low-income communities in Seattle; and

B. King County Metro transit service hours on current and future RapidRide lines serving Seattle, identified in the Seattle Transit Master Plan and King County Metro's long-range plan (Metro CONNECTS); and

C. Up to 10 million dollars of the Proposition 1 revenues may be used annually to support the implementation, management, and administration of programs to support transit access by low income residents, workers, seniors and youth, including the ORCA Opportunity program, which provides transit passes for Seattle Public Schools students in grades K-12, as well as students participating in the Seattle Promise scholarship or other similar programs at Seattle colleges and universities, along with programs targeted to seniors and public housing residents. These funds may be used to provide transit passes, for low income medical workers, healthcare workers, first responders, pharmacy workers, grocery store workers, and other workers deemed essential by any state order ("Essential Workers") such as the COVID-19 civil emergency; and

D. Up to 9 million dollars of the Proposition 1 revenues may be used in 2021, and up to 3 million dollars annually in the following years, to support infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements to maximize the efficiency of transit operations, including enhancements to transit speed, passenger amenities, transit street pavement maintenance, and reliability of transit service operated by King County Metro within the City of Seattle; and

E. Up to 9 million dollars of the Proposition 1 revenues may be used annually to support emerging mobility needs related to COVID-19 response and recovery, and closure of the West Seattle High Bridge. Such investments could include transit service, speed and reliability improvements, first-last mile transit connections, and Transportation Demand Management strategies described in the community-driven Reconnect West Seattle plan. These funds may also be used throughout the six-year term to support or pilot innovative partnerships with King County Metro.

Section 3. In addition to the restrictions on the use of revenues in Section 2, the combined yearly expenditures for Section 2(A) and 2(B) shall be a majority of the yearly expenditures of Proposition 1 revenues beginning in 2022 and thereafter.

Section 4. No supplanting of existing funding for transit service. Before funding any transit service, the City anticipates that there will be an interlocal agreement with King County Metro to provide that the Proposition 1 revenues will not supplant other funding for any routes partially or completely operating within Seattle that King County Metro would otherwise provide in accordance with the Seattle Transit Master Plan, and King County Metro's Transit Service Guidelines and long-range plan (Metro CONNECTS).

Section 5. Oversight. The City shall issue an annual report to the public that describes King County Metro's provision of transit service in Seattle and countywide, including service funded by Proposition 1 revenues and whether supplantation has occurred. The report will also analyze the impacts of service reductions, increases or changes approved by the Metropolitan King County Council or King County Metro in Seattle.

The community-led Seattle Transit Advisory Board will continue to serve as the public oversight committee charged with advising on spending of Proposition 1 revenues. Appointments to the Transit Advisory Board, the scope of its duties, and reporting requirements shall continue to be consistent with [Resolution 31572](#), as adopted by Council in 2015, following passage of the 2014 Transportation Benefit District measure.

Section 6. Election - Ballot title. The City Council directs the City Clerk to file this ordinance with the Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of elections, requesting the Director of Elections to call and conduct a special election in conjunction with the state general election to be held on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this ordinance.

The City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved by the City Attorney in accordance with the City Attorney's responsibilities under RCW 29A.36.071 and RCW 29A.72.050. The following ballot title containing a statement of subject and concise description are submitted to the City Attorney for consideration:

CITY OF SEATTLE

PROPOSITION NO. 1

The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 concerns funding for transit and related transportation needs in Seattle.

If approved, this proposition authorizes up to a 0.15% sales and use tax expiring April 1, 2027, and as proposed in Ordinance \_\_\_\_, to replace the current voter-approved 0.1% sales tax, expiring December 31, 2020.

Revenues are dedicated to: transit services benefitting Seattle residents, including frequent transit network maintenance and associated capital improvements; low-income fare programs for Seattle seniors, students, workers, and residents; and transportation needs related to COVID-19 recovery and the West Seattle Bridge closure.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

Those in favor shall vote "Yes"; those opposed shall mark their ballots "No".

Section 7. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of its application to any person or circumstance, does not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 8. Effectiveness. Those portions of this ordinance providing for the submission of a ballot proposition to the voters shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its approval by the Mayor.



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