

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2024

6:00-8:00 P.M.

ZOOM VIDEO CALL

CALL IN:

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,82246420633#,,,,\*692710#

Land line: +1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 822 4642 0633

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82246420633?pwd=a93zz4kxaqxtkMOQJqFb996NdKf5Q.1>

### MEETING AGENDA

6:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For the public record, please sign in via the chat feature or announce yourself by name and whether you are a commissioner, staff or member of the public</li><li>Approval of Agenda</li></ul>	Kevin Scott, Chair
6:05	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
6:10	<b>Updates</b> (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commission Details, Policy, Ag Education &amp; Events</li><li>King County Ag Program</li><li>King Conservation District</li><li>Local Food Initiative FSAC</li><li>Washington State University CSANR</li><li>Food Business Resource Center/BINW</li><li>King-Pierce Farm Bureau</li><li>Farm Fish Flood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patrice Barrentine</li><li>Richard Martin</li><li>Matt Mega</li><li>Mike Lufkin</li><li>Jordan Jobe/Alyssa Bowers</li><li>Henry Wong</li><li>Leann Krainick</li><li>Richard Martin</li></ul>
6:45	<b>New Business</b> Organizing the Commission for 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2023 in Review</li><li>Meeting schedule for 2024 - April Field Trip</li><li>Committees</li><li>Officer position descriptions</li></ul>	Patrice Barrentine, Kevin Scott, Commissioners
7:00	<b>Old Business</b> <b>Comp Plan BAS Critical Area Potential Impacts to Ag Lands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scenarios</li><li>Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Rick Reinlasoder and Richard Martin
7:20	<b>Update on Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussion</li><li>Motion/Vote</li></ul>	Patrice Barrentine
7:50	<b>General Public Comment</b> <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
7:55	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Kevin Scott
8:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Kevin Scott

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2023**



# Commission Admin, Policy & Legislation, Events & Funding Opportunities

---

REGARDING KING COUNTY  
*AGRICULTURE*

FEBRUARY 2024

# This Month's Staff Liaison Update

---



OFFICIAL AGCOMM  
EMAILS



POLICY UPDATES



EVENTS AND FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES

# AgComm Email & Public Disclosure

---

- Your new AgComm emails and directions will be emailed to you in the next week
- Need to always copy (cc:) your AgComm email when you email for any official Ag Commission business in order to generate a public record
- Emails to and from staff liaison are already captured this way
- Regarding the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), any email or any other communication you make regarding the business of the commission, is subject to public disclosure
- Use of your official AgComm email precludes the need to sequester your personal communications and/or devices

# 2024 Comprehensive Plan will be based in the Local Services and Land Use Committee, Chaired by CM Perry

---

## **About the plan**

The plan will guide the County's policy for the next 20 years on local services, land use, and development regulations in unincorporated King County and for regional services such as transit, sewers, parks, trails, and open space.

## **How can I stay involved?**

The King County Council will now review the plan throughout 2024, with the final adoption planned for December. There will be opportunities for public input throughout the review process.

More information can be found at [kingcounty.gov/CompPlan](https://kingcounty.gov/CompPlan)

The Flood Management Plan guides how King County manages flood risks along our rivers, creeks, and shorelines. The new plan is in the final stages of development and [open for comments until March 15.](#)

---

During the public comment period, King County is hosting two online public meetings to share information about the draft Flood Plan and to hear from you. Follow the link for your preferred date below and register today.  
[Thursday, February 15](#), from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.  
[Thursday, March 7](#), from 1:30 to 3:15 p.m.





WA State Legislative Session runs through March 7

- Major topics
  - Spending Washington's carbon tax
  - Tweaking the cap-and-invest program
  - Taking a stab at utility rebates

# WA State Legislation Right to Repair Bill [HB 2059](#)

AN ACT Relating to supporting the servicing and right to repair of certain products with digital electronics in a secure and reliable manner to increase access and affordability for Washingtonians

---

Effective January 1, 2025, an original manufacturer of digital electronic products and parts for such products that are manufactured for the first time and first sold or leased in this state on or after January 1, 2021, shall make available to any independent repair provider and owner, on fair and reasonable terms, any parts, tools, and documentation required for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of such products and parts for such products.

Feb 7 House

Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.

Third reading, passed; yeas, 97; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 1.



# WA State Legislation Promoting Organic Agriculture [SB 6278](#)

AN ACT Relating to promoting organic agriculture; amending RCW 2 15.86.070; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

---

The legislature also finds that organic and regenerative agricultural practices help preserve the environment, support economic growth, and protect human health. Practices such as no-till farming, cover cropping, and rotational grazing improve soil health and reduce carbon emissions. Decreasing the use of pesticides and petroleum-based fertilizers mitigates groundwater pollution, supports biodiversity, and reduces the risks of human, animal, and environmental exposure to toxic materials. There is growing consumer demand for healthy foods and the impacts of climate change, including wildfire smoke, drought, excessive heat, flooding, and new invasive species and pests, amplify the need to increase the use of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices.

Feb 6 Senate

1st substitute bill substituted (AWNPN 24). [\(View 1st Substitute\)](#)

Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.

Third reading, **passed**; yeas, 49; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 0.

# SOILCON24

Diverse Solutions for Diverse Soils

<https://washingtonsoilhealthinitiative.com/soilcon/>

## SoilCon: Irrigated Perennials

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm – 4 pm PST  
WSU Prosser or anywhere online



Soil Health  
Mythbusting

### Featured Topics

Incentive Opportunities  
Producer Panel  
Emerging Soil Health Ideas



Cover Crop Research:  
Where are We At?

Find more information and register at  
[wasoilhealth.org](http://wasoilhealth.org)



CCA CEUs Available \*

Proudly organized  
and sponsored by:



## SoilCon: NW WA Annual Crops

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 12 pm PST  
WSU Mount Vernon or anywhere online



Long-Term Soil Health  
Research Site Update

### Featured Topics

Cover Crop Round Table  
Incentives Panel  
Soil Health Discussion



The State of the Soils  
Assessment

Find more information and register at  
[wasoilhealth.org](http://wasoilhealth.org)



CCA CEUs Available \*

Proudly organized  
and sponsored by:



## SoilCon: Dryland Systems

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 12 pm PST  
Lincoln Co. Fairgrounds or anywhere online



Long-Term Soil  
Health Research

### Featured Topics

Multi-function Crops  
(Cover Crops)  
Producer Panel  
Carbon Credits



Integrated Dryland  
Systems

Find more information and register at  
[wasoilhealth.org](http://wasoilhealth.org)



CCA CEUs Available \*

Proudly organized  
and sponsored by:



Anyone attending this program who requires auxiliary aids or services, please contact Molly McIlquham at 360-610-7353 or [molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu](mailto:molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu). Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.  
\*CEUs only available for in person attendance.

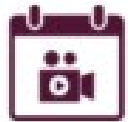
Anyone attending this program who requires auxiliary aids or services, please contact Molly McIlquham at 360-610-7353 or [molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu](mailto:molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu). Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.  
\*CEUs only available for in person attendance.

Anyone attending this program who requires auxiliary aids or services, please contact Molly McIlquham at 360-610-7353 or [molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu](mailto:molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu). Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.  
\*CEUs only available for in person attendance.



# AGENDA

February 20th-22nd, 2024



- ✓ Farm Businesses
- ✓ Packaged Food/Value Add Businesses
- ✓ Food Service/Other Businesses

## In-Person Networking Happy Hour

### OREGON



Tuesday, 20 February, 2024

**5-7 P.M.**



**Steeplejack Brewing Co**  
2400 NE Broadway  
Portland, OR 97232

### WASHINGTON



Thursday, 22 February, 2024

**5-7 P.M.**



**Brimmer & Heeltap**  
425 NW Market St  
Seattle, WA 98107

<https://businessimpactnw.org/food-biz-week-tickets/>



WASHINGTON STATE  
FARMERS MARKET  
ASSOCIATION

# *Annual Conference*

February 23 - 24, 2024



SLEEPING LADY  
MOUNTAIN RESORT  
Leavenworth, WA

## In-Person Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

### Who should attend?

Fruit and vegetable growers interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. At least one supervisor or responsible party for every **covered farm** must attend the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. Check out our Produce Safety Rule Status Tool to determine your regulatory status.

[Produce Safety Rule Status Tool](#)

### 2024 Dates and Locations

January 26: Tri-Cities - [Register Here](#)  
March 12: Bellingham - [Register Here](#)  
March 14: Olympia - [Register Here](#)  
March 26: Yakima (English) - [Register Here](#)  
March 27: Yakima (Spanish) - [Register Here](#)  
March 28: Wenatchee (Spanish) - [Register Here](#)  
March 29: Wenatchee (English) - [Register Here](#)

Exemptions are based on farm sales, products and markets (where farms are selling their produce). Generally, farms that sell less than \$500,000 annually and sell primarily through direct-to-consumer market (i.e. CSA, farmers markets, online sales, etc.) are likely eligible for an exemption and should consult the resources below for clarification.

# PLANNING FOR 2024

---

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION



# 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

---

<https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/agriculture/commission/events.aspx>

Date	Time	Location	Agenda/Materials
January 12	6 - 8 pm	Video Conference Call via Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
February 9	6 - 8 pm	Video Conference Call via Zoom	

All Mtgs 6-8pm via Zoom

January 11

February 8

March 14

**April 11\* Field Trip**

May 9

July 11

September 12

October 10

November 14

No meeting in June, August, nor December

---

# 2024 COMMITTEES

- Field Trip
- Farmland
- Selection
- Policy



# FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

---

Andrew Ely, Henry Wong

*Plan for 1-2 field trips*

Establish purpose, key goals, and itinerary

*Commission field trip and*

*Policy field trip for Council members and staff*

- *Work with Policy Committee to create purpose and key goals*

# FARMLAND COMMITTEE

---

- Jessi Bloom, Shelley Pasco, Janet Keller, Leann Krainick

*Farmland Preservation Program, Leasing Program*

- Guidance on new acquisitions (Fee and easement)
- Recommendation on future program priorities (i.e., rural area farms)

*Also some items from*

- *Farm, Fish, Flood*
- *Code Changes*
- *Comprehensive Plan*
- *Land Conservation Initiative*

# SELECTION COMMITTEE

---

- Janet Keller, Kevin Scott

*Recruiting and Selecting new Members to the Commission*

- Conduct recruitment by end of May, including Social Media*
- Select Commission Priorities*
- Review applications/interviews*
- Make recommendations to DNRP for 2023 seats*

# POLICY COMMITTEE

---

- Darron Marzolf, Kevin Scott, Andrew Ely
- King County Comprehensive Plan
- King County WLRD Budget Priorities (FFF continued Support + Local Food Initiative Support)
- King County Flood Management Plan
- Farm, Fish, Flood
- Code Changes
- Make recommendations for presentations to full Commission on these topics*
- Review policy recommendations*
- Make recommendations to commission for action in the form of letters and/or testimony*
- Make recommendations for policy-related purpose and key goals to Field Trip Committee*



# Preparing for Officer Elections

Policies and Procedures

## Elections and Terms of Officers

- ◇ 5.3.1.1. Officers shall be elected from the entire Commission at its first regular meeting in **October**, or as necessary to fill unscheduled vacancies.
- ◇ 5.3.1.2. Officers of the Commission shall include a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Recording Secretary shall be the Staff liaison.
- ◇ 5.3.1.3. Officers shall **assume office in January** and serve through the **calendar year**.

## Nominations of Officers:

◇5.3.2.1. Current Chair shall seek nominations from all Commissioners at least one month prior to officer elections. Chair shall call for additional nominees from the floor prior to a motion for officer elections.

- A commissioner may nominate another commissioner or self-nominate oneself.
- Commissioners may also reach out to the staff liaison and/or executive committee with a nomination.
- The staff liaison will confirm all known nominations before Nov's vote.

# Duties of Officers:

## 1. Chair:

- ⌚ Shall preside at all meetings of the Commission, and at other special meetings, as appropriate. The chair is an ex-officio member of all committees.
- ⌚ Shall vote to break a tie.
- ⌚ Shall create and dismiss standing committees, with approval of the Commission.
- ⌚ Shall take nominations from Commissioners for seats on various committees.
- ⌚ Shall be responsible for official Commission communications.

## Vice Chair:

- ⌚ Shall act on behalf of the Chair when Chair is unable to perform official duties
- ⌚ Participate in agenda planning with Chair and staff liaison when necessary.

From  
Commission's  
Policy and  
Procedures



From  
Commission's  
Policy and  
Procedures

# Executive Committee

- ◆ Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of officers of the Commission.
- ◆ Officers of the commission shall include a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Past Chair.
- ◆ Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet as required to perform its duties.
- ◆ Reports. The Executive Committee shall report as needed to the Commission and give full information on its proceedings, if any.
- ◆ Responsibilities. The Executive Committee shall monitor work of the Commission with assistance of the Staff liaison. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the Commission and reports to it.

# Additional Duties of Executive Committee

- ◇ Maintain Commission focus on mission statements.
- ◇ Maintain Commission focus on goals and objectives.
- ◇ Communicate Commission priorities to the Staff liaison.
- ◇ Consider community input in setting priorities.
- ◇ Make recommendations consistent with existing policies, programs, laws and regulations.
- ◇ Review proposals falling outside regular committee guidelines.
- ◇ Prepare correspondence on advocacy issues with assistance from staff liaison.
- ◇ Run the commission meetings. If no executive committee member is present to run a meeting, the chair will appoint a commissioner to run the meeting.

From  
Commission's  
Policy and  
Procedures



**King County**

**Agriculture Commission**

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206.477.4800

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

516 Third Avenue, Room 120

Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am writing on behalf of the King County Agriculture Commission (Commission) regarding King County's Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310, establishing an hourly minimum wage for employees of employers in unincorporated King County. The Agricultural Commission provides the agriculture sector with the opportunity to take an active role in the development and evaluation of policies, regulations, and programs that affect commercial agriculture in King County. The Commission is made up of representatives within the agricultural sector, including commercial producers, agricultural real estate, food and feed processing, wholesale and retail marketing, produce buying, direct marketing, supply and finance.

While many farms pay more than the current minimum wage to be competitive, raising the minimum wage may adversely impact the agriculture sector. Nearly all of the approximately 2,000 commercial farms in King County are located in the unincorporated (UKC) area. Because farm owners recruit employees from the same applicant pool as other businesses, they will need to increase their rates of pay to offer a premium over other positions that are often viewed as less demanding.

Farming in King County is already extremely challenging from an economic perspective. Raising the minimum wage in King County would mean that farms in other counties in the Puget Sound region would have an economic advantage over King County farm businesses, and that disparity would be even greater when compared with farms in other regions of Washington and elsewhere in the US., which have lower minimum wage standards. This creates an uneven playing field for the agriculture sector and will drastically impact farm competitiveness and viability in King County. Additionally, larger farms that do not sell direct to consumer have no control over their prices which are either set federally or by corporations with global market competition.

Because of the complex nature of agriculture sector labor allowances under federal and state law, the Commission urges Council to slow down this legislation and properly study the impacts to the agriculture sector. For example, the farm sector is underrepresented in available state DOR, local and USDA business data. The recent Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Land Resource

Strategic Plan shows more detail than any other source about the economic impact and wages of the King County agriculture sector, with an estimated \$23.7M annually in economic activity from wages in the Snoqualmie Valley APD, alone. We recommend that this information is used to better understand the implications of a change in minimum wage and that similar data are developed for the other APDs to inform this proposed ordinance.

Agriculture has many specific labor laws and allowances unique to the sector in state law. These include piece rate wages that must reflect at least the minimum wage, the federal H-2A program to employ foreign workers (at the “adverse effect wage rate” of \$19.25 as of January 1, 2024), and hand-harvest laborers as described in RCW 49.46.010(3)(a) and farm interns under RCW 49.12.470 being exempt from minimum wage laws.

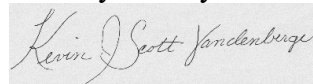
In addition, many farms are operated as family businesses. There are different laws and rules for youth working in agriculture, when compared to non-agricultural work, including a family farm exemption for any child under 18 years old who is employed by their parent or legal guardian to do agricultural work on the family farm. Those differences include exemptions from child labor laws, industrial insurance requirements, age restrictions, etc. While current state minimum wage rates for 2024 are \$16.28/hour for ages 16 and older and \$13.84 for minors under age 16, many King County farms pay more than these rates and opt for the state minimum wage rate in order to attract and retain youth workers.

Because of the seasonal and specific nature of the work, agricultural employees have historically been exempt from receiving overtime pay under the State Minimum Wage Act. However, in 2021 ESSB 5172 was passed by the state legislature, eliminating overtime exemptions, and requiring overtime pay to be at least 1.5 times the employee’s regular hourly rate. After a three-year phase in, beginning January 1, 2024, farm owners are required to pay overtime for all hours beyond 40 hours per week.

In the last three years, an unfortunate alignment of many business pressures has challenged many King County farms to remain competitive. Elimination of the overtime pay exemption for agriculture, a highly competitive labor market, Covid recovery, high inflation for inputs, and regional/national/global pressures on supply chain demand and pricing have been devastating for many dairies and farms in King County.

Short of further study, and a clear understanding of the impacts to farm businesses in King County, the Commission advises creating an exemption from this ordinance for employers of agricultural employees as defined in King County code.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kevin Scott-Vandenberge, Chair  
King County Agriculture Commission

cc: King County Councilmembers  
King County Agriculture Commission Members  
Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
(DNRP)  
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD),  
DNRP  
Ashley Evans, Policy Director, WLRD, DNRP  
Joan Lee, Manager, Rural and Regional Services (RRS), WLRD, DNRP  
Richard Martin, Manager, AFI, RRS, WLRD, DNRP  
Patrice Barrentine, Staff Liaison, Agriculture Commission, AFI, RRS, WLRD, DNRP

**From:** [Barrentine, Patrice](#)  
**To:** [Dembowski, Rod](#)  
**Cc:** [Zahilay, Girmay](#); [Logsdon, Kristina](#); [Evans, Ashley](#); [Taylor, Katherine \(DNRP\)](#); [Lipsou, Penny](#)  
**Bcc:** [Martin, Richard \(DNRP\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: King County Agriculture Commission Response to Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:25:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Dear CM Dembowski,

Thank you for your response to the Agriculture Commission letter. In response to your question, the Ag Commission legislation ([KCC 2.40.030](#)) does not specify business owner versus employee members to represent the agriculture sector. It does state that “[m]embership should be representative of producers of agricultural commodities and persons with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest in agricultural real estate, food and feed processing, wholesale and retail marketing, produce buying, direct marketing, supply, and finance.”

The Ag Commission typically has both business owners and employees represented, with usually more business owners due to the nature of policy work and requirement to volunteer time in serving on the Commission. At this time, serving on the Commission, there are three employees who do not own the business they work for, two farm business owners who are also employed by another entity, and five agriculture sector business owners.

Per your interest in additional data or reports regarding agriculture sector and minimum wage impacts please find the following:

#### Studies and Reports

Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Production District Agriculture Task Force “Introduction and Profile of the Commercial Agriculture Sector in the SVAPD” [\[LINK\]](#). Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Strategic Plan, November 2023. Accessed 1/23/2023.

-  
Grout, T. and J. Ifft. "Higher Wages Don't Always Mean a Higher Standard of Living: Rural Cost-of-Living and Farmworker Wages." [\[LINK\]](#). farmdoc daily (7):136, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, July 27, 2017.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistics Board, “Farm Labor (November 2023)”. [\[LINK\]](#). ISSN: 1949-0909. Accessed 1/23/2023.

USDA Economic Research Service, “Farm Labor: Wages of hired farmworkers” [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 1/23/2023.

Calvin, Linda, Philip Martin, and Skyler Simnitt, “Supplement to Adjusting to Higher Labor Costs in Selected U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Industries: Case Studies, AP-103”. [\[LINK\]](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. July 2022. Accessed 1/23/2023.

UC Davis, Gifford Center for Population Studies, "Farm Labor in the 2020s: Demand, Supply, and Markets". [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 1/23/2023.

Weil, R. J., Silva, E. M., Hendrickson, J., & Mitchell, P. D. (2017). Time and technique assessments of labor productivity on diversified organic vegetable farms using a comparative case study approach. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 1/23/2023.

ATTRA, "Positive Practices in Farm Labor Management". [\[LINK\]](#). 2008. Accessed 1/23/2023.

-  
Newspaper Articles

Philip Martin, "The Costs and Benefits of a Raise for Field Workers". [\[LINK\]](#). The New York Times, September 30, 2011. Accessed 1/23/2023.

Natalie Kitroeff and Geoffrey Mohan, "Wages rise on California farms. Americans still don't want the job: Trump's immigration crackdown is supposed to help U.S. citizens. For California farmers, it's worsening a desperate labor shortage". [\[LINK\]](#). Los Angeles Times, March 17, 2017. Accessed 1/23/2023.

Best Regards,

 <b>King County</b>	<p><b>Patrice Barrentine</b> Agriculture Policy &amp; Economic Development Staff Liaison to the <a href="#">Agriculture Commission</a> Water and Land Resources Division King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks <b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:patrice.barrentine@kingcounty.gov">patrice.barrentine@kingcounty.gov</a> <b>T:</b> 206-477-1556    </p>
---	--

---

**From:** Dembowski, Rod <Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:41 AM  
**To:** Barrentine, Patrice <Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Zahilay, Girmay <Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov>; Logsdon, Kristina <Kristina.Logsdon@kingcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: King County Agriculture Commission Response to Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310

Hello Patrice -

Thank you for forwarding this letter. I will ensure that our legal counsel looks at the legal issues raised as they relate to federal and state laws, to ensure consistency / compatibility with any action

we take.

I do have a question on the structure of our Ag Commission. Does the legislation establishing the Commission call for any agricultural non-owner employees to be members? Are there any such members on the Commission?

I appreciate this important input and as committee chair, have extended the time for the council to consider and work on this legislation, so that we could hear further input from stakeholders like our Ag Commission. If you have any additional data or studies (local or from other jurisdictions) on the impacts of increasing farm worker wages that might be helpful, I would welcome that information.

Thank you,

Rod Dembowski  
King County Councilmember, D1

---

**From:** Barrentine, Patrice <[Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:07:54 AM  
**To:** Zahilay, Girmay <[Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov)>  
**Cc:** Dembowski, Rod <[Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov)>; Perry, Sarah <[Sarah.Perry@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Sarah.Perry@kingcounty.gov)>; Barón, Jorge L. <[jorge.baron@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jorge.baron@kingcounty.gov)>; Upthegrove, Dave <[Dave.Upthegrove@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Dave.Upthegrove@kingcounty.gov)>; Balducci, Claudia <[Claudia.Balducci@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Claudia.Balducci@kingcounty.gov)>; Von Reichbauer, Pete <[Pete.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Pete.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov)>; Mosqueda, Teresa <[Teresa.Mosqueda@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Teresa.Mosqueda@kingcounty.gov)>; Dunn, Reagan <[Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov)>; True, Christie <[Christie.True@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Christie.True@kingcounty.gov)>; Baldi, Josh <[Josh.Baldi@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Josh.Baldi@kingcounty.gov)>; Evans, Ashley <[Ashley.Evans@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Ashley.Evans@kingcounty.gov)>; Lee, Joan <[Joan.Lee@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Joan.Lee@kingcounty.gov)>; Martin, Richard (DNRP) <[Richard.Martin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Richard.Martin@kingcounty.gov)>; Barrentine, Patrice <[Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov)>; Andrew Ely <[andrewc.ely@gmail.com](mailto:andrewc.ely@gmail.com)>; Bowers, Alyssa <[alyssa.bowers1@wsu.edu](mailto:alyssa.bowers1@wsu.edu)>; Darron Marzolf <[marzolf33@gmail.com](mailto:marzolf33@gmail.com)>; HARVOLD BERRY FARM <[harvoldberryfarm@gmail.com](mailto:harvoldberryfarm@gmail.com)>; Henna Khan <[hkhan101@hotmail.com](mailto:hkhan101@hotmail.com)>; Henry Wong <[henryw@BUSINESSIMPACTNW.ORG](mailto:henryw@BUSINESSIMPACTNW.ORG)>; Janet Keller <[kellers7297@gmail.com](mailto:kellers7297@gmail.com)>; Jessi Bloom <[nwbloom@gmail.com](mailto:nwbloom@gmail.com)>; Jobe, Jordan Elisabeth <[jordan.jobe@wsu.edu](mailto:jordan.jobe@wsu.edu)>; Scott-Vandenberge, Kevin <[AgComm8@kingcounty.gov](mailto:AgComm8@kingcounty.gov)>; Kevin Scott-Vandenberge ([Kevin@portagebaygrange.com](mailto:Kevin@portagebaygrange.com)) <[Kevin@portagebaygrange.com](mailto:Kevin@portagebaygrange.com)>; Matt Mega <[Matt.mega@Kingcd.org](mailto:Matt.mega@Kingcd.org)>; Mike and Leann Krainick <[MOOBIZ@msn.com](mailto:MOOBIZ@msn.com)>; Shelley Pasco <[shelley@whistlingtrainfarm.com](mailto:shelley@whistlingtrainfarm.com)>  
**Subject:** King County Agriculture Commission Response to Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310

Dear Councilmember Zahilay,

Please find attached an advisory letter from the King County Agriculture Commission regarding King County's Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310, establishing an hourly minimum wage for employees of employers in unincorporated King County.

Thank you for your consideration,

---

**Patrice Barrentine**





Agriculture Policy & Economic Development  
Staff Liaison to the [Agriculture Commission](#)  
Water and Land Resources Division  
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**E:** [patrice.barrentine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:patrice.barrentine@kingcounty.gov)  
**T:** 206-477-1556



# Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310: Increasing Minimum Wage

The screenshot displays the King County Council Clerk of the Council website. The header includes the King County logo and the text "King County Council CLERK OF THE COUNCIL". Navigation tabs include "Welcome", "Legislation", "Meeting Calendar", "Council Committees", and "King County Council".

The main content area shows details for Ordinance 2023-0310, Version 1. The status is "In Committee" and it is currently in the "Transportation, Economic and Environment Committee".

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE establishing a hourly minimum wage for employees of employees in unincorporated King County, employees of certain county contractors, and county employees, amending Ordinance 17909, Section 4, as amended, and R.C.C. 3.18.035, Ordinance 17909, Section 5, as amended, and R.C.C. 3.18.036, and Ordinance 17909, Section 6, as amended, and R.C.C. 3.18.038, adding a new chapter to R.C.C. Title 12, and repealing Ordinance 17909, Section 8, and R.C.C. 3.18.030, Ordinance 17909, Section 9, and R.C.C. 3.18.032, and Ordinance 17909, Section 11, as amended, and R.C.C. 3.18.039, and establishing an effective date.

**Sponsors:** [Gerrit Zetlow](#), [Rod Dembowitz](#), [Joanna Kell Zetlow](#), [Joe McDermott](#)

**Staff:** [Wen, Andrew](#)

**Attachments:** [1 - 2023-0310.L\\_0001\\_MinWage\\_Adoptment\\_Details](#) [2 - 2023-0310.L\\_0001\\_Title\\_Adoptment\\_Details](#) [3 - 2023-0310.L\\_0001\\_MinWage\\_Adoptment\\_Details\\_TRACKCHANGES](#) [4 - 2023-0310\\_00\\_MinWage\\_Web03-12-23\\_5\\_2023-0310\\_00\\_MinWage\\_Web\\_03-12-23](#)

**History Table:**

Date	By	Action	Result	Action Details	Meeting Details	Video
11/09/2023	Metropolitan King County Council	Hearing Held		<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available
11/15/2023	Transportation, Economic and Environment Committee	Deferred		<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available
02/17/2024	Transportation, Economic and Environment Committee	Deferred		<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available
03/12/2023	Metropolitan King County Council	Introduced and Referred		<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available

# Commission Advisory Letter Sent 1/23, see packet



EXCELLENT SUPPORT



2 SENTENCES ADDED TO INTRO FOR  
CONTEXT ABOUT THE COMMISSION



LETTER SENT TO CM ZAHILAY

# Response from CM Dembowski 1/23, see packet



ENSURE LEGAL COUNSEL  
LOOKS AT LEGAL ISSUES  
RAISED



MAKEUP OF THE  
COMMISSION:  
OWNERS/EMPLOYEES



HAVE EXTENDED TIME FOR  
COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AND  
WORK ON THIS LEGISLATION



ANY ADDITIONAL DATA OR  
STUDIES?

# Mtg Request from CM Perry 2/15, 1:30pm



MORE DETAILS ON THE COMMISSION'S LETTER



RESPONDED WITH INTEREST

KEVIN

LEANN

JANET

STACEY (MAYBE)

ANYONE ELSE?