



Photographed in January 2020

King County Councilmembers (from left): Vice Chair **Joe McDermott** (District 8), **Kathy Lambert** (District 3), **Girmay Zahilay** (District 2), Chair **Claudia Balducci** (District 6), **Dave Upthegrove** (District 5), **Jeanne Kohl-Welles** (District 4), Vice Chair **Reagan Dunn** (District 9), **Peter von Reichbauer** (District 7), and **Rod Dembowski** (District 1).

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over 2.25 million residents, King County is the 13th largest county in the United States in terms of population. There are more people living in King County than in 15 states! At 2,130 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for approximately 249,000 people who live in unincorporated urban and rural areas, and we provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services, including:

- The criminal legal system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention, and adult jails;
- The King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police protection;

- Public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service, Water Taxi, King County International Airport (Boeing Field), and county roads;
- Wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- Regional parks, open space, and trails; and
- Elections, records, and licensing.

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district averaging about 244,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The council has several standing committees that oversee specific functions of county government and a Committee of the Whole that includes all councilmembers. They also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

The council's review of ordinances, motions, and budgets help ensure that county government operates in an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective manner, with equal access for all county residents.

Get agendas, minutes, and meeting videos online at:
www.kingcounty.gov/council

Message from the Council Chair and overview of the county budget



Claudia Balducci, Chair

In 2020, we confronted a global pandemic, its resulting economic crisis, and our nation's deep racial injustices and inequities. In 2021, the King County Council continues to face these tremendous challenges, and opportunities, as we build toward a better, more equitable future with economic opportunity and improved public and mental health for all. I hope you

will join us in coming together and seizing the moment as we continue this important work.

At the King County Council, we work together across geographic and political lines to get things done for you, our constituents. Although we represent very different parts of the county, we all share a common commitment to our constituents: to provide excellent regional services, to advance equity and social justice, and to make the opportunities to live in and thrive in King County available to all.

Although the King County Council will continue to operate virtually in keeping with public health best practices, the council will begin shifting its business back to more normal operations. In 2021, the Council will ramp up with a full slate of council committees as we continue pandemic response, our work to advance equity, and recovery from COVID-19—all while serving you, the residents of King County.

Understanding the county budget

King County's operating budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion, accounting for 83% of the total operating budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like regional Emergency Medical Services.

The discretionary portion of the county's operating budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 17% of the total operating budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (72%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated by the state. The remainder must fund other services, such as elections and human services (see pie chart).

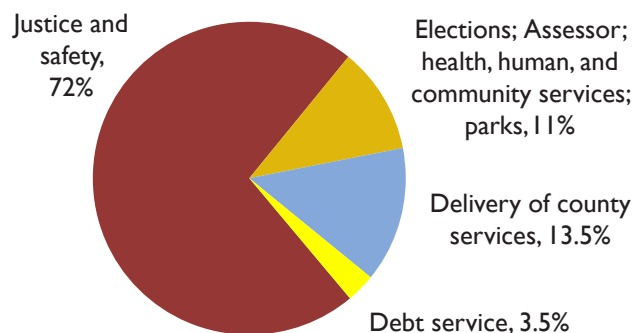
The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, King County collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, the county receives only 17 cents of every property tax dollar, with the rest going to other agencies (see bar graph). Similarly, the county receives less than one cent of the sales tax of 10 cents per dollar collected in most of the county.

Since Washington State enacted the 1% cap on property tax increases, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by several hundred million dollars, with consequent reduction in services to county residents.

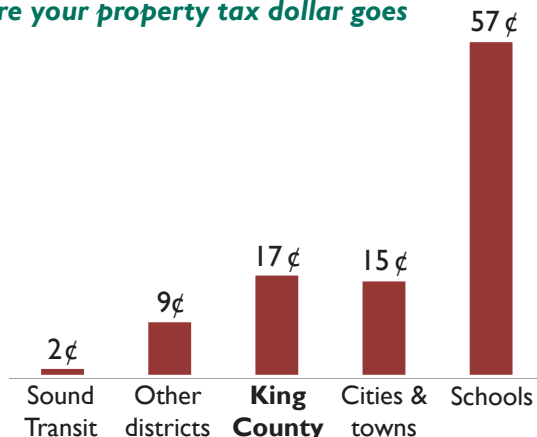
The funding gap has been exacerbated by declining sales tax revenues, lower than expected growth in property taxes, and declining fee revenues due to the economic slowdown from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The projected deficit in the General Fund to meet the targeted fund balance for the next biennium is \$15.4 million. In the fall of 2022, the council will review the biennial budget for 2023 and 2024.

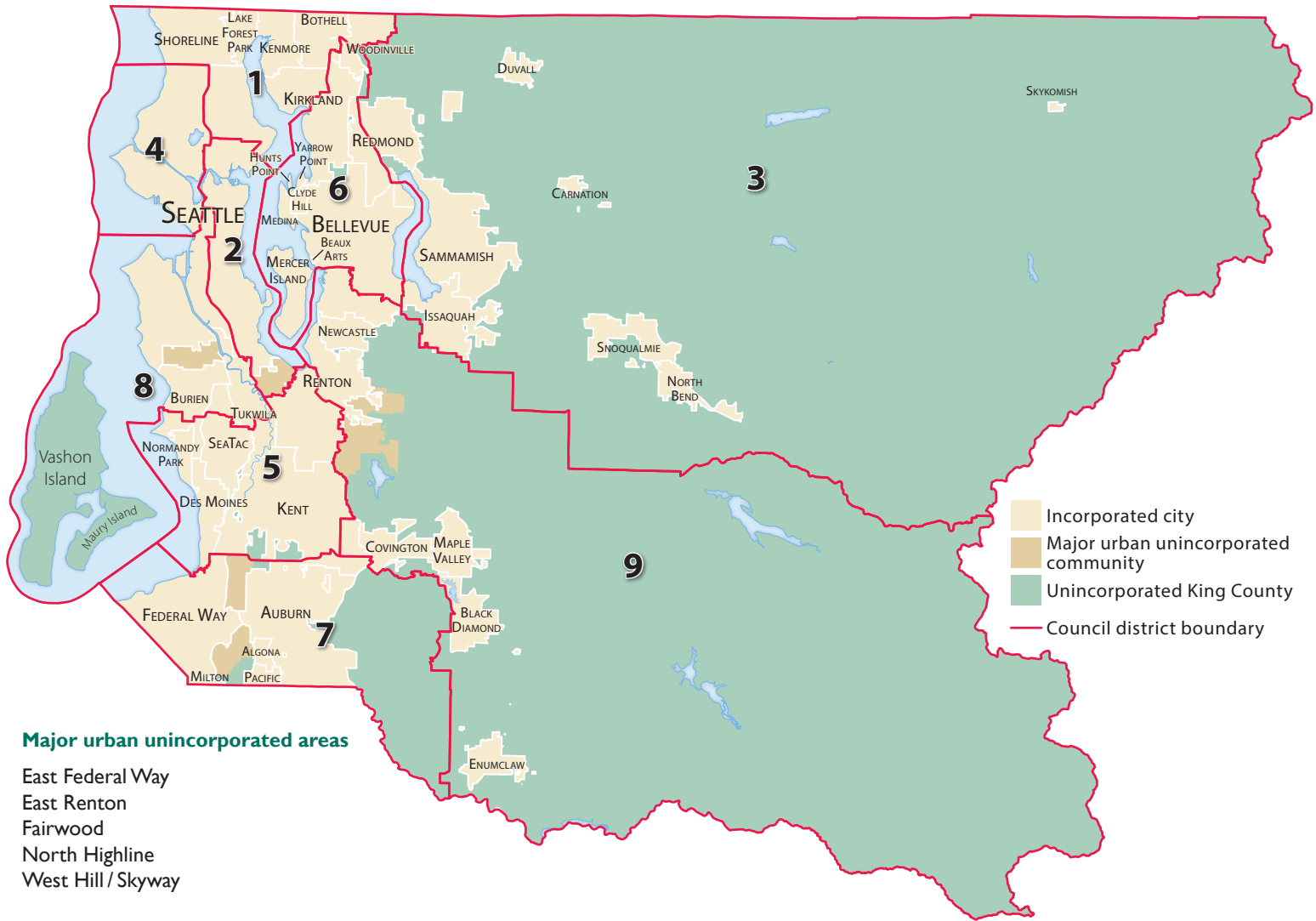
General Fund expenditures



Where your property tax dollar goes



Council districts map



Contact information

Council and committee meetings are available live on King County TV (Comcast Cable Channels 22 and 322 (HD) and Wave Broadband Channel 722 (HD)). You can also stream meetings at www.kingcounty.gov/kctv. Agendas, minutes, and videos of past meetings are available on the council's website.

Mailing address

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King County Courthouse
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Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165
Fax: (206) 296-0198
TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

Online

Web: www.kingcounty.gov/council

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kingcountycouncil

Twitter: www.twitter.com/kccouncil

Instagram: www.instagram.com/kccouncil

Clerk of the Council

Email: clerk.council@kingcounty.gov
Telephone: (206) 477-1020

Which council district do I live in?

Enter your address at www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers/find_district

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	Email
1	Rod Dembowski	477-1001	rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
2	Girmay Zahilay	477-1002	girmay.zahilay@kingcounty.gov
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov
4	Jeanne Kohl-Welles	477-1004	jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov
5	Dave Upthegrove	477-1005	dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
6	Claudia Balducci	477-1006	claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
7	Peter von Reichbauer	477-1007	pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov
8	Joe McDermott	477-1008	joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov
9	Reagan Dunn	477-1009	reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov

Council committees and meetings

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. They also serve as the Board of Supervisors for the King County Flood Control District, a special-purpose government. Additionally, individual councilmembers serve on a variety of external committees, boards, and commissions, such as the Board of Health and the Sound Transit Board.

For more information on the committees, including descriptions, alternate members, and meeting agendas, please visit www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees.

King County Council

Meets first to fourth Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

Chair: Claudia Balducci

Vice Chair: Reagan Dunn, Joe McDermott

Members: All councilmembers

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the full Council

Meets first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Joe McDermott

Vice Chair: Reagan Dunn

Members: All councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

Policy direction for the King County budget

Meets third Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Vice Chair: Rod Dembowski

Members: Claudia Balducci, Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Girmay Zahilay

Government Accountability and Oversight

Oversight of county government for efficiency, accountability, and transparency

Meets second Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Claudia Balducci

Members: Rod Dembowski

Community, Health and Housing Services

Policy relating to public health, human services, and housing programs

Meets second Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Kathy Lambert

Vice Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Members: Reagan Dunn, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Girmay Zahilay

Law and Justice

Policy relating to public safety and criminal justice

Meets first Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Girmay Zahilay

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Local Services

Policy issues such as water management, unincorporated and rural areas, and emergency management

Meets fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Reagan Dunn

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Joe McDermott, Girmay Zahilay

Mobility and Environment

Oversight of public transit, passenger ferries, county roads, environment, water quality, and economic policy

Meets fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Rod Dembowski

Vice Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Members: Claudia Balducci, Kathy Lambert, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Girmay Zahilay

Regional Policy

Countywide policies and plans on issues such as human services, criminal justice, and solid waste management

Meets second Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus,

Members: Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, three **Sound Cities Association** members and two **City of Seattle** members

Regional Transit

Countywide policies and plans pertaining to King County Metro Transit services

Meets third Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Dave Upthegrove

Vice Chair: Bellevue Councilmember Jennifer Robertson

Members: Joe McDermott, Girmay Zahilay, seven **Sound Cities Association** members and two **City of Seattle** members

Regional Water Quality

Countywide policies and plans for water quality and sewer services, capital facilities, rate policies, and facilities siting

Meets first Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Kathy Lambert

Vice Chair: Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet

Members: Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn, three **Sound Cities Association** members, two **Sewer District** members, and two **City of Seattle** members