



King County Councilmembers (from left): **Peter von Reichbauer** (District 7), **Rod Dembowski** (District 1), **Girmay Zahilay** (District 2), **Vice Chair Jeanne Kohl-Welles** (District 4), **Chair Dave Upthegrove** (District 5), **Joe McDermott** (District 8), **Claudia Balducci** (District 6), **Sarah Perry** (District 3), and (not pictured) **Vice Chair Reagan Dunn** (District 9).

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over 2.3 million residents, King County is the 12th 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 248,200 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 257,500 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



Dave Upthegrove, Chair

As King County Council Chair for 2023, my goal is to show that democracy can work—and that effective and respectful service to the people is possible. The King County Council sets the example as a model for upholding democracy and democratic institutions such as free and fair elections, freedom of the press, independent courts, and the rule of law.

To support our work, we are guided by the core value of **respect**. First and foremost, this means respect for

the people of King County who we have the honor of serving. We also strive to approach our work with professionalism, humor and kindness.

King County government serves a diverse geographic region and an equally diverse population. We represent people from all walks of life—people who have lived here all their lives and people from around the world who have chosen to make this place their home. This diversity is our strength.

At the King County Council, we believe that all people, regardless of our differences, share common values, have something to contribute, and deserve equal rights and fair treatment.

We welcome your input and participation to help us shape the future of our beautiful region.

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.

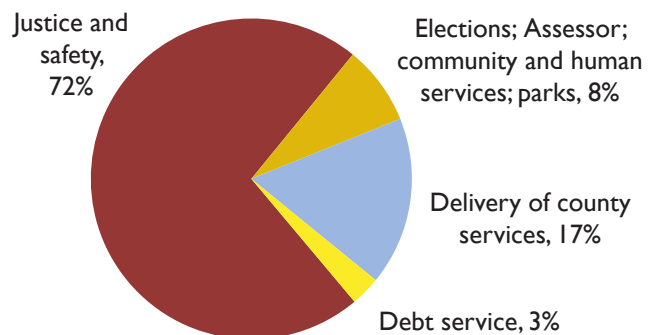
The discretionary portion of the county's operating budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 17% of the total operating budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (72%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public 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.

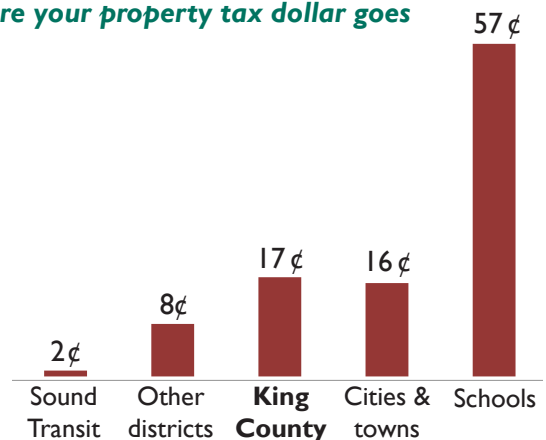
Since Washington State enacted the 1% cap on property tax increases, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by several hundred million dollars, with

consequent reduction in services to county residents. The funding gap has been exacerbated by the economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, historic inflation, and other factors. A deficit of \$80 to \$100 million is forecast for the General Fund in the next biennium, 2025-26. The Council will review and adopt a balanced county budget, as required by law, in the fall of 2024.

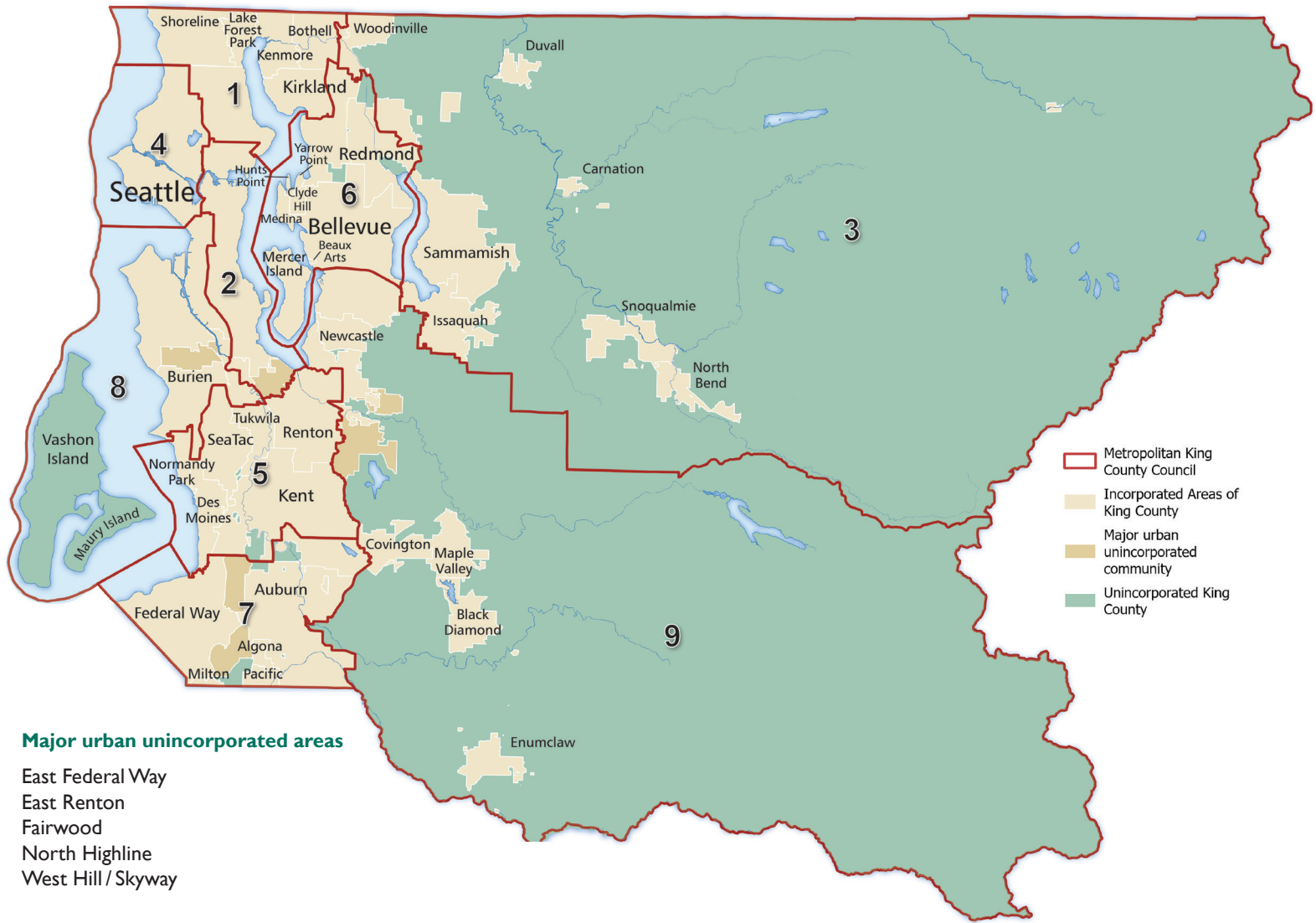
General Fund expenditures



Where your property tax dollar goes



Council districts map



Major urban unincorporated areas

East Federal Way
 East Renton
 Fairwood
 North Highline
 West Hill / Skyway

Contact information

Council and committee meetings are available live on King County TV (Comcast Cable Channels 22 and 322 (HD) and Astound Broadband 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
 516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
 Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165
 Fax: (206) 296-0198
 TTY/TDD: Relay 711

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	Sarah Perry	477-1003	sarah.perry@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 1:30 pm

Chair: Dave Upthegrove

Vice Chair: Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Members: All councilmembers

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the full Council

Meets third Wednesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Vice Chair: Claudia Balducci,

Members: All councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

Policy direction for the King County budget

Meets second and fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Joe McDermott

Vice Chair: Rod Dembowski

Members: Claudia Balducci, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Sarah Perry, Girmay Zahilay

Government Accountability and Oversight

Oversight of county government for efficiency, accountability, and transparency

Meets second Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Joe McDermott

Members: Dave Upthegrove, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Law, Justice, Health and Human Services

Policy relating to law, safety, and criminal justice, as well as health and human services

Meets first Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Girmay Zahilay

Vice Chair: Sarah Perry

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

Local Services and Land Use

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

Meets fourth Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Sarah Perry

Vice Chair: Girmay Zahilay

Members: Reagan Dunn, Joe McDermott

Transportation, Economy and Environment

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

Meets third Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Rod Dembowski

Vice Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Members: Claudia Balducci, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

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: Sarah Perry

Vice Chair: Kirkland City Councilmember Jon Pascal

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

Regional Water Quality

Countywide policies and plans for wastewater treatment and sewer services, capital facilities plans, rate policies, and facilities siting

Meets first Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Claudia Balducci

Vice Chair: Sammamish Plateau Water District Commissioner Lloyd Warren

Members: Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove, four **Sound Cities Association** members, two **Sewer District** members, and two **City of Seattle** members