



KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

2022 Annual Report

PROMOTING IMPROVEMENT IN KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Ten Years as County Auditor

In this tenth year as the King County Auditor, I am reflecting on all the advances we have made together.

In my first annual report, I described improvement in county programs, millions in savings, furthering county strategic goals, and recognition by peers. These components are audit bread and butter.

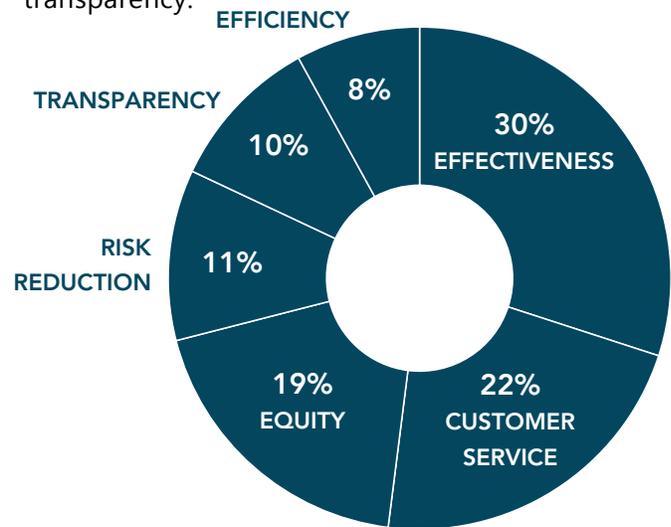
The last ten years have brought changes as well. The technical depth and complexity of our audit work have significantly increased. We consistently include equity in our analysis and our ability to understand how it integrates into county systems and programs has matured. And graphics! We tell complex stories with simple graphics in ways we couldn't have conceived of ten years ago.

I can't wait to see what the next ten years of audit brings to King County.

KyMBER WALTMUNSON

Effective Government Highlighted in 2022

We made a wide variety of recommendations in 2022, with the largest percentage focused on the effectiveness of county programs. County customers continued to be a focus and we increased audit attention on efficiency and transparency.



Significant impacts from implemented recommendations in 2022



New Sheriff vehicles use 25–30 percent less fuel and emit fewer greenhouse gases



Residents' and county employees' personal data is more secure



People experiencing homelessness face fewer racial disparities accessing housing



Sexual assault victims receive resources and support more quickly after an incident



First responders in King County are more diverse in gender and ethnicity

88%

TOOK ACTION

Action Toward Implementation

Following up on our recommendations creates momentum for positive change by focusing on transparency and accountability. Last year, we followed up on 232 audit recommendations. Agencies had taken action on 88 percent of them. We track recommendations until they are complete.

 111
DONE

 93
IN PROGRESS

 19
OPEN

 9
CLOSED

93%

CONCURRENCE

Concurrence Increases Impact

Concurrence with our recommendations is the first step in positive change for King County and is one signal that our recommendations are effectively crafted. In 2022, auditees concurred with nearly all of our 56 recommendations, only partially concurring with four.

>\$15

MILLION

Financial Impact for King County

Estimating the financial impact of audit work can be tricky. Very conservatively, over the past three years, our recommendations have identified more than \$15 million in one-time, recurring, and other potential fiscal impacts.

Consistently Producing Award-Winning Audits

The King County Auditor's Office is the only large local government auditors office in North America that has won the Knighton Award in each of the past five years. The Knighton Award recognizes the best performance audit reports of the year and judges have regularly commended our methodologies.

Contracting Inequities Persist in Race-Neutral Environment

We ran statistical analyses to determine whether there were racial differences in county contracting. We found statistically significant disparities across White-, Latinx/Hispanic-, and Black-owned firms.

Sex Offense Cases: Some Victims and Their Cases May Be Harmed by Gaps

We reviewed a random sample of 256 Sheriff's Office 2017 case reports and coded for dozens of variables. We were able to provide information about the data, including suspect and victim demographics, case progression, and investigative steps.

ICE Access to County Data Shows Privacy Program Gaps

To check for unauthorized access to nonpublic data systems by federal immigration authorities, we reviewed access logs and data fields for select criminal justice applications. We found that federal immigration agents had access to nonpublic information.

RapidRide Fare Enforcement: Efforts Needed to Ensure Efficiency and Address Equity Issues

We analyzed nearly three years of citation data, comparing citation addresses to a list of addresses for homeless and housing service providers and found that 25 percent of citations and 30 percent of misdemeanors were given to people with unstable or no housing.

King County Sheriff's Office Overtime: Better Strategy Could Reduce Hidden Costs, Safety Risks

We compared officers' hours to safe working hour standards and used data from payroll, HR, and risk management to perform statistical regressions. We found that as overtime increased, the chances of workers' compensation claims, vehicle accidents, uses of force, and complaints increased exponentially.

Publications

In 2022, we produced 40 products. All publications are available on the [King County Auditor website](#).

Performance audits

- [Emergency Preparedness Limited by Planning Gaps](#)
- [Incarceration Alternative and Diversion Programs: Improved Strategy, Data, and Coordination Could Help County Meet Goals](#)
- [Metro Transit: Proactive Analysis and Training Could Further Improve Safety](#)
- [Property Tax Exemptions: Stronger Systems Needed to Meet Demand](#)
- [Protection Orders: User-Focused Approach Could Help Address Barriers](#)
- [Sheriff's Office Data Shows Racial Disparities, Potential to Expand Alternative Policing](#)
- [Temporary Employees: Gaps in Monitoring Left Some Benefits Unpaid](#)
- [Traffic Enforcement: Strategies Needed to Achieve Safety Goals](#)

Capital projects oversight

- [Solid Waste Division Permanent Support Facilities: Unaddressed Risks Could Delay Project Delivery and Increase Costs](#)

Follow-up reports

- DAJD – Jail Safety
- FMD – Building Emergency Preparation
- FMD – County Parking
- FMD – Courthouse Security Screening
- FMD – King County Courthouse Revitalization
- KCIT – ICE Access Shows Privacy Gaps
- KCEO – Family and Medical Leave Administration
- KCEO – Homelessness
- KCEO – KCIT Rates
- KCEO – Light Duty Fleet
- KCEO – MWBE Contracting
- KCEO – Voluntary Separation Program
- Metro Transit – Access Paratransit
- Metro Transit – Information Technology
- Metro Transit – RapidRide Fare Enforcement
- Metro Transit – Transit Reliability
- DPD – Office of Public Defense
- PHSKC – CD-Epi: Strategy and Efficiencies Needed
- PHSKC – Emergency Medical Services
- KCIT – Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
- FMD – Real Estate Services
- Sheriff's Office – High-Risk Equipment
- Sheriff's Office – Law Enforcement Oversight
- Sheriff's Office – Overtime
- Sheriff's Office – Peoplesoft Overtime
- Sheriff's Office – Sex Offense Investigations and Outcomes
- WTD – Utility Rates Forecasting
- WTD – Wastewater Capacity Charge

Annual reports

- [Capital Projects Oversight](#)
- [Law Enforcement Audit Program](#)
- [Transit Audit Program](#)

Auditor's Office Team

KyMBER Waltmunson · King County Auditor

Ben Thompson · Audit Director; Transit Audit Manager; Capital Projects Oversight Manager

Brooke Leary · Audit Director; Law Enforcement Audit Manager

Rachel Rawlings · Administrative Manager

Cindy Drake · Supervising Auditor

Peter Heineccius · Senior Principal Auditor

Justin Anderson · Principal Auditor

Elise Garvey · Principal Auditor

Mia Neidhardt · Principal Auditor

Luc Poon · Principal Auditor

Zainab Nejati · Capital Projects Principal Auditor

Grant Dailey · Senior Auditor

Megan Ko · Senior Auditor

Anu Sidhu · Senior Auditor

Kayvon Zadeh · Senior Auditor

Basil Hariri · Auditor

Brian Crist · Auditor

Meg Sykes · Data Visualization Specialist