



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19604

Proposed No. 2023-0095.2

Sponsors Zahilay and Kohl-Welles

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 1, 2023, a proposition
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy
5 limitations contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a
6 consecutive six-year period at a rate of not more than ten
7 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the
8 first year, and limiting annual levy increases to three and
9 one-half percent in the five succeeding years, all for the
10 purpose of supporting veterans and military
11 servicemembers and their respective families; seniors and
12 their caregivers; and resilient communities in King County
13 by funding regional health and human services and capital
14 facilities to promote housing stability, healthy living,
15 financial stability, social engagement and health and human
16 services system improvements and system access;
17 providing for a resident advisory board; and directing
18 proposal of an implementation plan for the veterans,
19 seniors and human services levy, contingent upon voter
20 approval of the levy.

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21 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

22 1. After approving the first six-year veterans and human services levy in
23 2005, King County voters have since voted twice to maintain levy-
24 supported services for veterans and human services in King County,
25 including adding seniors and their caregivers as a population explicitly
26 served by the levy in 2017. Ordinance 15279, which created the initial
27 levy for 2006 through 2011 and placed the levy on the ballot for King
28 County voter consideration, was approved by fifty-eight percent of voters.
29 Ordinance 17072, which placed the second levy on the ballot for King
30 County voters, was approved by sixty-nine percent of voters, renewed the
31 levy for 2012 through 2017. Ordinance 18555, which placed the third
32 levy on the ballot for King County voters, was approved by sixty-eight
33 percent of voters, renewed and expanded the levy for 2018 through 2023.
34 This ordinance is the fourth time King County will ask voters to consider
35 the veterans, seniors and human services levy.

36 2. Since its inception as the veterans and human services levy in 2006 and
37 through its renewals in 2011 and 2017, the veterans, seniors and human
38 services levy has served hundreds of thousands of veterans, military
39 servicemembers and their families, as well as seniors, individuals, and
40 families in need. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services
41 levy has served more than one hundred and eighty-five thousand people,
42 including more than twenty-seven thousand veterans, servicemembers or
43 their families, and more than one hundred thousand seniors.

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44 3. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy has
45 supported more than three hundred programs led by more than one
46 hundred fifty community-based organizations, of which more than a third
47 are small organizations. More than seventy-five percent of levy-supported
48 programs offer services countywide, with physical service sites available
49 throughout the county and some programs specifically provide mobile
50 services.

51 4. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports
52 programs that contribute to outcomes in the following five result areas:
53 housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and
54 service system access and improvement.

55 5. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human service levy contributed to
56 the creation of more than one thousand two hundred units of affordable
57 housing and one hundred ninety-eight new shelter beds for individuals and
58 families experiencing homelessness in King County through its housing
59 stability strategies to help prevent and reduce homelessness and to address
60 the shortage of affordable housing.

61 6. In 2021, King County partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans
62 Affairs and King County Housing Authority to increase the use of federal
63 housing vouchers to help house low-income veterans in King County
64 experiencing homelessness. The partnership is a first in the nation pilot
65 program using King County veterans program social services staff to
66 support veterans finding and maintaining housing using federal housing

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67 vouchers. From its launch in April 2021 through September 30, 2022, the
68 levy-supported collaborative case management program helped one
69 hundred sixty-four veteran households obtain vouchers, with one hundred
70 households moving into permanent housing.

71 7. King County tracks the number of veteran households experiencing
72 homelessness through the Homeless Management Information System. On
73 March 31, 2017, one thousand two hundred fifty-two veteran households
74 were active in the homeless system. As of November 30, 2022, the system
75 showed an estimated seven hundred forty-four veteran households actively
76 experiencing homelessness in King County, a reduction of more than forty
77 percent since the peak in March 2017.

78 8. King County is home to one in five veterans living in Washington state
79 according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. More than two-
80 thirds of the veterans residing in King County are fifty-five or older.

81 9. King County veterans program uses levy proceeds to create veteran
82 service hubs that connect more than two thousand veterans and their
83 families each year to the services supported through the levy's financial
84 stability strategies that support King County residents in gaining and
85 maintaining self-sufficiency. These service hubs coordinate with other
86 veteran service providers to provide access and connection to an array of
87 services at the King County veterans program sites.

88 10. In 2019, veterans accounted for six thousand two hundred sixty-one
89 suicides in the United States, or more than thirteen percent of the total

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90 number of people dying by suicide nationwide, according to a 2021 report
91 on veteran suicide by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
92 Veteran suicide-related deaths are increasing at a greater rate than that of
93 the general United States population. According to the Centers for
94 Disease Control and Prevention, suicide risk factors include mental health
95 conditions and substance use disorders, as well as economic insecurity,
96 housing insecurity, isolation and stress.

97 11. More than two hundred thirty veterans and thirty military family
98 members receive counseling each year supported through the levy's
99 healthy living strategies to help them manage the effects of trauma in
100 healthy ways. Those counseling services add relief to an already stressed
101 mental health care system by providing an additional thirty-two licensed
102 mental health counselors who focus on the impact of military service.

103 12. Overall, more adults report feeling anxious or depressed since the start
104 of the COVID-19 pandemic according to public health - Seattle & King
105 County data. According to a 2020 Washington state Department of Health
106 community recovery-oriented needs assessment survey for King County,
107 twenty-five percent of respondents reported that they had experienced
108 poor mental health on at least fourteen days in the previous month. A
109 Kaiser Family Foundation study on older adults in August 2020 showed
110 rates of depression and anxiety are higher among adults ages sixty-five
111 and older relative to rates in 2018. A Kaiser Family Foundation report on
112 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lesbian, gay, bisexual and

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113 transgender people reveals a disproportionate impact on their mental
114 health.

115 13. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen percent of
116 Americans report having started or increased substance use as a way of
117 coping with stress or emotions related to COVID-19, according to the
118 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In King County, overdose
119 deaths across all substance types reached an all-time high during and after
120 the pandemic, with data from the King County medical examiner's office
121 showing a 137 percent increase in overdose fatalities between 2019 and
122 2022 and a 551 percent increase in overdose fatalities caused by fentanyl.

123 14. The Washington state Office of Financial Management estimates
124 twenty-five percent of King County residents were aged fifty-five or older
125 in 2020 and estimates that proportion to increase to thirty percent by 2040.
126 As the population of older adults increases statewide, so does the
127 population of older adults from racially and ethnically diverse
128 communities or backgrounds.

129 15. The responsibility to care for vulnerable seniors impacts all
130 generations according to a research report conducted in 2020 by the
131 American Association of Retired Persons. According to the United States
132 Department of Health and Human Services, adults ages sixty-five and
133 older have a seventy percent chance of needing some type of long-term
134 care service. That work will in many cases require assistance from unpaid
135 caregivers, including spouses, adult children and acquaintances.

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136 16. Eighty-five percent of persons sixty-five or older nationwide have one
137 or more chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular
138 disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, cancer or arthritis,
139 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention behavioral
140 risk factor surveillance system. Racial, ethnic and place-based
141 disproportionalities unevenly distribute these conditions and risk factors
142 across King County.

143 17. Actual and perceived social isolation are both associated with
144 increased risk for premature death, according to the National Academies
145 of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine study on social isolation and
146 loneliness in older adults. The influence of social isolation on the risk of
147 death is comparable with risk factors for mortality such as smoking. Older
148 adults who are immigrants or a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
149 transgender, questioning, queer, intersex and asexual plus community may
150 be at higher risk for social isolation and loneliness due to factors like
151 discrimination and barriers to care. Social isolation is also associated with
152 a fifty percent increased risk of dementia. Poor social relationships are
153 associated with a twenty-nine percent increased risk of heart disease, and a
154 thirty-two percent increased risk of stroke.

155 18. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports
156 thirty-nine senior centers to form twenty-two senior hubs as part of the
157 levy's social engagement strategies to improve King County's senior
158 residents' feelings of engagement in community. More than twenty-eight

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159 thousand seniors each year receive nutritious meals and connections to
160 critical services to combat social isolation since the senior hubs program
161 launched in 2020.

162 19. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy also
163 supports the geriatric regional assessment team to deliver home-visiting
164 behavioral health and human services intervention to more than three
165 hundred fifty seniors total since the levy supported the assessment team's
166 relaunch in 2020.

167 20. Ordinance 18555 and the veterans, seniors and human services levy
168 implementation plan adopted by Ordinance 18768 dedicate support for
169 vulnerable populations through the 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and
170 human services levy. The department of community and human services
171 reframed the population served by that levy's proceeds as resilient
172 communities to emphasize community strength in the midst of
173 vulnerability.

174 21. Of the twenty-one million people trafficked worldwide,
175 approximately eighty percent are labor trafficking survivors and victims of
176 forced labor, bonded labor and domestic servitude.

177 22. More than eighteen percent of King County adults have one or more
178 physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities. According to the
179 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations
180 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons living with
181 one or more disabilities may have reduced social participation, experience

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182 difficulties in mobility, lack of assistive technology and face barriers in
183 access to care to include communication, policy and programmatic
184 barriers, all of which contribute to poor health and decreased quality of
185 life.

186 23. According to data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline, there
187 was a thirteen percent increase in domestic violence calls between January
188 2020 and July 2021 in King County. Homicides resulting from domestic
189 violence in King County increased by nearly four times during 2021
190 compared to 2019, according to the King County prosecuting attorney's
191 office. A statewide survey commissioned by the Washington state
192 Supreme Court in 2015 found that low-income survivors of domestic
193 violence experience the highest number of civil legal needs per capita
194 relative to any other group surveyed.

195 24. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supported
196 mobile advocacy services through the levy's service system access and
197 improvement strategy for more than one thousand two hundred survivors
198 of gender-based violence from January 2020 to September 2022. Eighty-
199 four percent of these survivors were connected to an advocate within one
200 day of reaching out for assistance.

201 25. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supported a
202 service system access and improvement strategy to streamline how
203 domestic violence survivors access services, designed to meet their
204 individual needs. The resulting creation of a twenty-four-hour,

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205 multilingual and multimodal domestic violence hotline is now a single-
206 line access to domestic violence services available in King County. Since
207 the hotline's launch in July 2021 through the end of September 2022, it
208 received more than sixteen thousand calls or texts to assist those in crisis
209 and referred nearly seven thousand of those contacts to additional support.

210 26. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy introduced
211 new investments for gender-based violence, legal aid and senior center
212 services, nearly tripling the County's annual investment in these areas.

213 27. In 2021, the veterans, seniors and human services levy supported a
214 contract with 501 Commons to survey more than two hundred thirty
215 nonprofits based in and serving King County, employing more than
216 twenty thousand people, to better understand the array of influences that
217 contribute to employee recruitment, retention, and satisfaction in the
218 nonprofit sector. Survey findings show that many nonprofit employees
219 delivering critical human services earn wages at levels that make it
220 difficult to live in the communities they serve, doing community-based
221 work in King County.

222 28. According to the 2021 King County nonprofit employee engagement
223 survey conducted by 501 Commons, sixty percent of surveyed staff would
224 consider leaving the nonprofit sector to get better pay and fifty-four
225 percent would consider leaving the nonprofit sector because of burnout or
226 other fatigue. Nationally, turnover in nonprofits is nineteen percent,
227 compared to twelve percent for all industries.

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228 29. In Motion 16129, the King County council requested the executive to
229 produce an assessment report providing information, analysis, and
230 recommendations to inform deliberations about a possible renewal of the
231 voter-approved veterans, seniors, and human services levy. The
232 assessment report drew upon program performance measurement data,
233 feedback from levy providers and community input from fifty-two
234 community engagement meetings. The executive transmitted the report to
235 the King County council on September 6, 2022.

236 30. In addition to describing the impact to veterans, seniors and resilient
237 communities served by the levy, the assessment report recommended
238 continuing the 2018-2023 levy's five result areas and commitment to the
239 three service populations, increasing levy resources to better address the
240 scale of community needs and creating a regional impact initiatives fund
241 within the levy to address regional human services priorities whose effects
242 span the levy's priority populations.

243 31. In 2010, Ordinance 16897 established the King County Strategic Plan.
244 In 2015, the King County council passed Motion 14317 updating and
245 revising King County's vision, mission, guiding principles and goals.
246 Included within the county's goals are improving the health and well-being
247 of all people in King County, increasing access to quality housing that is
248 affordable to all, implementing alternatives to divert people from the
249 criminal justice system and ensuring that county government operates
250 efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public. The guiding

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251 principles set out by the county's strategic plan provide a framework to
252 guide the county's actions: "address the root causes of inequities to
253 provide equal access for all; engage with partners, community and public
254 and private organizations to achieve goals; align support, policy and
255 operational goals of King County government; and provide effective,
256 efficient local governance and services to unincorporated areas."

257 32. In 2010, the county adopted Ordinance 16948 establishing definitions
258 and implementation steps for the county's work related to equity and social
259 justice to achieve the "fair and just" principle. King County applies the
260 principles of equity and social justice to eliminate racially and ethnically
261 disparate health and human services outcomes in King County. The 2018-
262 2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports community-led
263 and community-informed organizations that are reflective of and
264 embedded in the communities they serve, advances equitable access to
265 levy resources for community providers and communities, and ensures
266 that investments are focused on communities that have been impacted by
267 historic and ongoing inequity, discrimination, isolation and lack of
268 resources. Equity and social justice shall continue to guide the council
269 and the executive in the process of designing, administering, and
270 evaluating the policies and programs related to the renewed veterans,
271 seniors and human services levy, if it is approved by voters.

272 33. It is the intent of the county that over the course of the six-year levy
273 the majority of levy proceeds expended to build capital facilities under

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274 authority of this ordinance shall be for low-income households. Specific
275 low-income threshold levels are defined by the U.S. Department of
276 Housing and Urban Development or its successor agency and vary
277 according to household size.

278 34. It is the intent of the county to continue to strengthen the human
279 services network to ensure that services supported by a renewed veterans,
280 seniors and human services levy are integrated and working together as a
281 complete system that is responsive to communities seeking access or
282 support in navigating resources.

283 35. It is the intent of the county to continue, without interruption, critical
284 regional health and human services to veterans, military servicemembers
285 and their families, seniors and other persons in King County from the
286 2018-2023 levy; to provide substantial investments in housing stability;
287 and to engage in planning activities until the new implementation plan is
288 adopted in accordance with section 7 of this ordinance.

289 36. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy will expire
290 at the end of 2023.

291 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

292 SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
293 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

294 A. "Caregiver" means a person who cares for or supervises another person who
295 requires care or supervision due to disability, chronic illness or a need for support in
296 activities of daily living. "Caregiver" includes individuals providing care for a family

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297 member or someone with whom they have an ongoing personal relationship independent
298 of their caregiver roles.

299 B. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and
300 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
301 law.

302 C. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy and
303 any interest earnings on the moneys and the proceeds of any interim or other financing
304 following authorization of the levy.

305 D. "Limit factor" for purposes of calculating the levy limitations in RCW
306 84.55.010, means one hundred three and one-half percent.

307 E. "Military servicemember" means a person who is serving as either an active
308 duty, national guard member or a reservist member of the United States armed forces.

309 F. "Priority populations" means veterans and military servicemembers and their
310 respective families, seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities.

311 G. "Regional health and human services" means a wide range of those services,
312 programs, operations and capital facilities that promote outcomes relating to healthy
313 living, housing stability, financial stability, social engagement, service system
314 improvement and service system access to meet basic human needs and promote healthy
315 living and healthy communities including, but not limited to:

316 1. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote
317 housing stability or that contribute to making homelessness rare, brief and one-time by
318 creating housing, preserving or modifying existing housing, or supporting persons in

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319 gaining or maintaining housing, including an assistance program to support persons who
320 qualify to apply for a property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381;

321 2. Those health care and health promotion services, programs and operations
322 that encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness, support food security, promote healthy
323 aging, support recovery, reduce unintentional injury, support survivors of gender-based
324 violence, promote suicide prevention efforts, and improve physical and behavioral health
325 for individuals and families including, but not limited to, substance use disorder initiatives
326 such as public awareness campaigns, substance use disorder professional workforce
327 resilience, or peer navigators and upstream mental health care such as counseling and other
328 therapeutic services;

329 3. Those services, programs and operations that address and support efforts to
330 address firearm violence intervention and injury prevention to promote safe and thriving
331 communities;

332 4. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote social
333 engagement and community building, such as senior centers for individuals and groups in
334 culturally, geographically, economically or linguistically isolated communities, and for
335 others, such as seniors experiencing or at risk of social isolation and its health-harming
336 effects;

337 5. Those services and programs that promote financial stability or financial
338 mobility, including access to, preparation for, and assistance in, gaining or maintaining
339 employment, income, education and financial literacy, including an assistance program to
340 support persons who qualify to apply for a property tax exemption under RCW
341 84.36.381;

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342 6. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote and
343 support diversion away from the criminal legal system and its impacts, and services and
344 programs that assist individuals recovering from the effects of their involvement with the
345 criminal legal system, including services that promote restorative justice or returning to
346 community after incarceration or detention, such as services aimed at supporting criminal
347 legal system-involved individuals to attain or retain housing;

348 7. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that improve or
349 expand the delivery of health and human services, improve health and human services
350 system access and navigability, reduce or prevent the disparate or traumatic effects of
351 systems upon resilient communities, build the capacity of communities to partner with
352 King County and build the capacity and support the operations of health and human
353 services providers to serve their clients and communities, including strategies to promote
354 retention, recruitment and pay of high quality service providers;

355 8. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that improve or
356 expand the delivery of civil legal aid to veterans, seniors and resilient communities;

357 9. Those services and programs that promote, encourage and support
358 employment opportunities for veterans and military servicemembers, including
359 employment opportunities in King County government such as the veterans internship
360 program, a version of which has also been known as the Vets 4 HIRE program
361 established by Ordinance 17450;

362 10. Those services and programs for veterans and military servicemembers
363 involved with the criminal legal system, including assessment and referral to behavioral
364 health services, housing resources, and other social service supports;

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365 11. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that further a goal
366 of allowing seniors to age in place and enjoy a high quality of life in their own homes or
367 where they reside;

368 12. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that provide
369 education and workforce development and training for resilient communities; and

370 13. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that mitigate and
371 offset the impacts of gentrification, including geographic displacement, on resilient
372 communities.

373 H. "Regional impact initiatives" means those regional health and human services
374 that provide or support responses to issues that affect all three of this levy's priority
375 populations and which regional health and human services can help address such as, but
376 not limited to, nonprofit health and human services workforce stability, language access,
377 responding to the regional homelessness crisis or addressing community safety.

378 I. "Resilient communities" means persons or communities susceptible to reduced
379 health, housing, financial or social stability outcomes due to systemic and historical
380 exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination,
381 disability or chronic illness. Examples of resilient communities include, but are not
382 limited to: communities of color; immigrant and refugee communities; persons with
383 disabilities; survivors of domestic violence and other gender-based violence; persons who
384 identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex or asexual;
385 and survivors of human trafficking.

386 J. "Senior" means a person who is at least fifty-five years old.

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387 K. "Substance use disorder initiative" means those regional health and human
388 services that provide or support responses to issues relating to substance use disorders
389 and recovery from substance use disorders.

390 L. "Technical assistance and capacity building" means assistance for providers of
391 regional health and human services responding to requests for proposals or assistance to
392 implement, improve, or expand their delivery of regional health and human services in
393 King County.

394 M. "Veteran" means a person who has served as either an active duty, national
395 guard member or a reservist member of the United States armed forces.

396 **SECTION 2. Levy submittal.** To provide necessary moneys to fund, finance or
397 refinance the purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council
398 shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular
399 property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six
400 consecutive years, with collection commencing in 2024, at a rate not to exceed \$0.10 per
401 one thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar
402 amount of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the maximum allowable
403 levy amounts in years two through six (2025 – 2029) shall be calculated. In accordance
404 with RCW 84.55.050, the levy shall be a regular property tax levy subject to the limit
405 factor as defined in section 1 of this ordinance.

406 **SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited
407 into a dedicated subfund of the veterans, seniors and human services levy fund, or its
408 successor.

409 **SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures.**

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410 A. If approved by the qualified electors of the county, the sums from the first
411 year's levy proceeds as are necessary may be used to provide for the costs and charges
412 incurred by the county that are attributable to the election.

413 B. After the amount authorized in subsection A. of this section, the remaining
414 levy proceeds shall be divided in the following proportions and used for the following
415 purposes:

416 1. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and
417 evaluate regional health and human services for veterans and military servicemembers
418 and their respective families;

419 2. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and
420 evaluate regional health and human services for seniors and their caregivers and to
421 promote healthy aging in King County;

422 3. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and
423 evaluate regional health and human services for resilient communities;

424 4. Ten percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and
425 evaluate regional impact initiatives and technical assistance and capacity building, of
426 which at least ten percent of the levy proceeds identified in this subsection B.4. shall be used
427 to support technical assistance and capacity building;

428 5. At least twenty-five percent of the levy proceeds described in this subsection
429 B., including a portion from the thirty percent of levy proceeds to support each of the
430 three priority populations identified in subsection B.1. through 3. of this section and a
431 portion from the ten percent of levy proceeds to support regional impact initiatives

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432 identified in subsection B.4. of this section, shall be used to support those regional health
433 and human services that promote housing stability; and

434 6. Levy proceeds may be used to mitigate the levy's impact on metropolitan
435 park districts, fire districts or public hospital districts in King County to the extent their
436 levies may be prorationed, as mandated by RCW 84.52.010 and to the extent the levy was
437 a demonstrable cause of the prorationing and only if the county council has authorized
438 the expenditure by ordinance. Metropolitan park districts, fire districts or public hospital
439 districts receiving levy proceeds shall use the proceeds for the purposes stated in
440 subsection B.1. through 4. of this section.

441 **SECTION 5. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,
442 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with
443 the primary election on August 1, 2023, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular
444 property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director
445 of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state
446 constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the
447 said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council
448 shall certify that proposition to the director of elections in substantially the following
449 form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the
450 prosecuting attorney:

451 PROPOSITION___: The King County Council passed Ordinance _____
452 concerning replacement of an expiring veterans, seniors and human
453 services levy. If approved, this proposition would fund capital facilities
454 and services for veterans, servicemembers, and their families; seniors and

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455 caregivers; and resilient communities susceptible to reduced health,
456 housing, financial, or social stability outcomes. It would authorize an
457 additional six-year property tax levy for collection beginning in 2024 at
458 \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, with the 2024 levy amount being
459 the base for calculating annual increases by 3.5% in 2025-2029; and
460 exempt eligible seniors, veterans and disabled persons under RCW
461 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:

462 Approved? _____

463 Rejected? _____

464 **SECTION 6. Governance.**

465 A. If the levy is approved by the qualified electors of the county, the King
466 County veterans, seniors and human services levy advisory board shall continue to serve
467 in its capacity in accordance with K.C.C. 2A.300.540 now existing or hereafter amended.

468 B. Beginning in 2025, the executive shall provide an online annual report to the
469 council and community which shall include, but not be limited to:

470 1. The levy's fiscal and performance management and accomplishments during
471 the previous calendar year;

472 2. The expenditure of levy proceeds by result area by ZIP Code in King County;
473 and

474 3. The number of individuals receiving levy-supported services by result area by
475 ZIP Code in King County of where the individuals reside at the time of service.

476 **SECTION 7. Implementation planning.**

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477 A. Contingent upon voter approval of the ballot proposition described in section
478 5 of this ordinance, and by no later than October 31, 2023, the executive shall transmit
479 for council review and adoption by ordinance an implementation plan for the veterans,
480 seniors and human services levy. The implementation plan shall:

481 1. Describe the forecasted expenditure of levy proceeds to achieve results
482 related to the levy's five result areas of housing stability, healthy living, financial
483 stability, social engagement, service system improvement and service system access for
484 veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their
485 caregivers, resilient communities, and regional impact initiatives, consistent with the
486 eligible expenditures described in section 4 of this ordinance;

487 2. Describe the planned portion of levy proceeds for veterans and military
488 servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers, resilient
489 communities and regional impact initiatives to fund those regional health and human
490 services that promote housing stability as required in section 4.B.5. of this ordinance;

491 3. Identify and describe the levy strategies to stabilize the nonprofit regional
492 health and human services workforce;

493 4. Identify and describe the levy strategies to expand access to counseling or
494 other behavioral health services, including for veterans and military servicemembers and
495 their respective families and seniors and their caregivers who are not otherwise
496 sufficiently served through community behavioral health providers;

497 5. Identify and describe measurable results expected across each of the levy's
498 five result areas for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families,

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499 seniors and their caregivers, resilient communities and regional impact initiatives due to
500 the expenditure of levy proceeds;

501 6. Identify and describe a regular performance monitoring framework that will
502 be used to assess and report on how well the veterans, seniors and human services levy is
503 achieving those results identified and described in section 7.A.5. of this ordinance,
504 including how the results will be evaluated for geographic distribution;

505 7. Describe how the veterans, seniors and human services levy program-specific
506 performance monitoring and reporting will be coordinated with performance monitoring
507 and reporting on other dedicated human services funds such as the best starts for kids
508 fund and the mental illness and drug dependency fund;

509 8. Make recommendations for any refinements to the levy's governance
510 described in section 6.A. of this ordinance and transmit separately for council review and
511 adoption any applicable ordinances that would accomplish the recommended changes
512 upon the effective date of those ordinances; and

513 9. Describe how the executive shall make each online annual report described in
514 section 6.B. of this ordinance digitally available to all councilmembers, to all members
515 and alternate members of the regional policy committee, or its successor, and to the
516 public.

517 B. Until the council adopts by ordinance the implementation plan referenced in
518 subsection A. of this section, subject to appropriation, levy proceeds may only be
519 expended to continue existing levy-supported services into 2024 and consistent with the
520 veterans, seniors and human services levy implementation plan adopted by Ordinance
521 18768.

Ordinance 19604

522 **SECTION 8. Exemption.** The additional regular property taxes authorized by
523 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
524 84.36.381.

525 **SECTION 9. Ratification and confirmation.** Certification of the proposition by
526 the clerk of the county council to the director of elections in accordance with law before
527 the primary election on August 1, 2023, and any other act consistent with the authority
528 and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

529 **SECTION 10. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its
530 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the

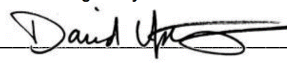
Ordinance 19604

531 ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is
532 not affected.

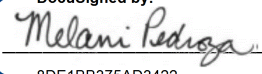
Ordinance 19604 was introduced on 2/21/2023 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/2/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

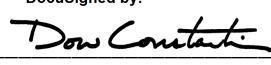
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 5/2/2023, _____.

DocuSigned by:

4FBCAB8196AE4C6...
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None