



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### AGENDA

June 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair 2 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair 10 minutes
3. [Approval of minutes – May 10, 2017 meeting](#) 2 minutes  
Page 5
4. **Chair’s Report** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director 10 minutes
6. [Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy](#) 30 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page 23  
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst  
(5 minute staff report, 25 minute discussion)
7. [Regional Centers](#) 15 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page 45  
Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst  
(5 minute staff report, 10 minute discussion)
8. [Regional Transportation System Initiative](#) 15 minutes  
DISCUSSION  
Page 55  
Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst  
(5 minute staff report, 10 minute discussion)
9. [2017 State Legislative Session](#) 10 minutes  
UPDATE  
Page 59  
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst  
(5 minute staff report, 5 minute Q and A)

**10. [Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County](#)**

UPDATE

5 minutes

Page 63

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst

(2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

**11. [Potential Upcoming SCA Issues](#)**

UPDATE

5 minutes

Page 65

Deanna Dawson, Executive Director

(2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

**12. Informational Items**

a. [Count Us In](#)

Page 67

b. [Washington Attorney General's Office Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement](#)

Page 83

**13. Upcoming Events**

a. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM (6:00 Pre-PIC Workshop) – Renton City Hall

b. Joint SCA and NLC First Tier Suburbs Council Networking Event – Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – 5:30 PM – Renton Pavilion Events Center

**14. For the Good of the Order**

**15. Adjourn**

**Did You Know?**

In November 1996, citizens voted in favor of Covington becoming its own city. On August 31, 1997, Covington officially incorporated. This year, 2017, marks Covington's 20th year of cityhood.

There is no arguing that Covington has come a long way and has grown considerably in the past 20 years. The efforts of city council members, city staff, community volunteers, residents, and businesses have contributed to the city's successes. The city's spent 20 years growing to meet the needs of the community and successfully providing municipal services for residents.

A celebration to commemorate Covington's first 20 years as a city is planned to take place in August.

# Sound Cities Association

## **Mission**

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

## **Vision**

To be the most influential advocate for cities, effectively collaborating to create regional solutions.

## **Values**

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



## **SCA Public Issues Committee**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**May 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM**

**Renton City Hall**

**1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057**

#### **1. Welcome and Roll Call**

PIC Chair Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. 24 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Lyman Howard, City of Sammamish staff; Diane Carlson, King County Executive's Office staff; Leo Flor, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Veterans and Human Services Renewal Manager; Councilmember John Holman, Auburn; Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall; Councilmember Carol Simpson, Newcastle; Michael Huddleston, King County Council staff.

#### **2. Public Comment**

Chair Marts asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Marts closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### **3. Approval of the March 8, 2017 Minutes**

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, to approve the March 8, 2017 PIC minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Chair's Report**

Chair Marts reported on the rapid rate of growth in the region, the impacts on housing affordability and infrastructure needs, and ways elected officials are working to respond to these changes and the concerns of constituents. Marts referenced [census data](#) showing that the Seattle metropolitan area is [among the fastest growing metro areas](#). Marts noted that the challenges the region is facing will not be short term, but rather will continue longer term, and that policies are needed to help communities respond to growth.

#### **5. Executive Director's Report**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, announced that SCA staff members Kristy Cole and Doreen Booth would be leaving SCA for new professional opportunities. She thanked them both for their service to the organization.

Dawson reported on ongoing SCA projects, including the Regional Transportation System Initiative (RTSI). The Regional Transportation System Initiative technical advisory team held its third meeting on May 5. The group came to consensus on a regional road network that will be

used to begin calculating long-term maintenance, operation, and capacity estimates in King County. This will be combined with data collected by the Puget Sound Regional Council on available funding to begin piecing together the scale of need for local arterials and roads that connect our cities. An elected officials meeting is being scheduled for June 13 during which city officials will have the opportunity to weigh in on their concerns with the regional network and what options the technical team should bring back for further discussion later in 2017.

Dawson also gave an update on recent events including SCA's May 3 networking event featuring King County Councilmembers, an Economic Development Summit co-sponsored by SCA, and an Eastside Transportation Forum convened by Councilmember Claudia Balducci.

Regarding the Economic Development Summit, SCA partnered with King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, the Snohomish County and Pierce County Cities and Towns Associations, and the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma to host a Regional Economic Development Summit for elected officials May 8 at the Microsoft Visitors Center. Key takeaways included:

- Our region tends to layer our approach to solving problems with many people working toward the same goals without enough coordination;
- The County Executives of King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties all agreed that there should be a consistent, regional approach to marketing the region and benchmarking economic development goals;
- There needs to be more purposeful economic development planning that targets the kinds of jobs we want to see here; and
- Information was shared about local economic development success stories and gaps between access to workforce training and education when compared to projected job growth.

Regarding the Eastside Transportation Forum, King County Councilmember Balducci hosted the forum May 5 for elected officials to discuss the mobility challenges expected over the next five to seven years from a series of major transportation projects. The Washington State Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, and King County Metro presented on these upcoming projects and mobility issues. Feedback from elected officials included requests for:

- More information about the effects these projects will have on city streets, including increased cut-through traffic;
- Increased coordination between the agencies and with cities to schedule projects in the least disruptive way possible for residents;
- Robust communications from transportation agencies to help residents understand what is happening, how they can avoid the worst impacts, and what the long-term benefits will be; and
- Continued collaboration and coordination between jurisdictions and agencies.

Dawson gave an update on the rate increase adopted by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA). SCA staff sent out an email in early April informing members that PSCAA was considering increasing the per capita assessment to cities by one cent (\$0.01). The PSCAA Board voted on April 27 to adopt the one cent increase.

Dawson gave an update on Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April. Under the leadership of SCA Board Member Renton Mayor Denis Law, SCA helped organize cities to declare April as SAAM—[30 cities participated](#). The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KSARC) was very enthusiastic about the participation and support from SCA and member cities to bring awareness to this important issue.

## **6. Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Appointments**

Nominating Committee Chair Leanne Guier gave a report from the May 9, 2017 meeting of the PIC Nominating Committee.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, moved, seconded by Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, to recommend the following appointments to the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force to the SCA Board of Directors:

- Renton Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, as a member from a city in the South
- Bellevue Mayor John Stokes, as a member from a city in the East
- Kenmore Mayor David Baker, as a member from a city in the North
- North Bend Mayor Ken Hearing, as a member from a city in a rural area

There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Guier noted the strong qualifications of the applicant pool and expressed hope that all would stay involved as the Task Force develops a recommended Regional Affordable Housing Strategy with broader input from cities.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the PIC's recommendation will be forwarded to the SCA Board of Directors for consideration at its May 17, 2017 meeting. If the Board lacks a quorum and is unable to take action this month, the recommendations of the PIC Nominating Committee and the PIC will be brought forward to the King County Executive without action by the Board in order to meet a May 30 deadline for the Executive to transmit the Task Force membership to the King County Council.

## **7. Regional Affordable Housing Strategy**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on a proposal pending before the King County Council to form a Regional Affordable Housing Task Force to develop a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy. In November 2016, the King County Council passed a motion announcing that the Council would be coordinating with the King County Executive to convene a regional planning effort with cities, nonprofits, and private partners to develop a plan for affordable housing. In response to that motion, the Executive has transmitted the current proposal before the Council to form the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, which would include four SCA representatives. The Task Force objectives are generally to review the affordable housing landscape, identify additional tools at hand or that could be created through state legislation, and develop a dashboard to gauge regional progress toward affordable housing goals. This work is to culminate in the development of a proposed Regional Affordable Housing Strategy by December 2018. An additional Standing Advisory Body would also assist in these efforts.

Councilmember Claudia Balducci, who sponsored the original 2016 motion, has emphasized that the focus of this effort will be to develop affordable housing solutions that have a land use focus and that this process is not intended to duplicate other regional efforts related to the homelessness crisis response. Contemplating whether to pursue the 0.1 percent sales tax authority available under state law for housing will be part of the Task Force's work, but is not intended to be the focus.

The Task Force is expected to meet for the first time in June or July, and SCA staff have encouraged Executive and Council staff to ensure there is early and broad engagement of additional city elected leaders in this process. Wilson-Jones noted the importance of bringing forward a variety of perspectives from throughout the county given the varied needs of each community. For instance, while [the median home price in King County was \\$625,000 in April](#), housing is much more affordable in some communities and much less affordable in others, such as the eastside where the median home price reached \$880,000 in April. In addition to recognizing the distinct housing issues of each community, Wilson-Jones also noted that it will be important to build on existing efforts by cities, such as the recent work done by cities including Kenmore, Bellevue, Bothell, and Kirkland, among others, to develop affordable housing strategies.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, stated that the median home price in Algona is a fraction of the countywide figure and that the city's market rate housing is considered affordable. He advised that the Task Force and resultant strategy should not be just focused on those areas where housing prices have reached the highest levels and should also emphasize the need to maintain and improve the existing housing stock.

Chair Marts reported that SCA Board leadership discussed the issue of affordable housing with Executive Dow Constantine that morning. Marts suggested that four elements should be considered through this process: first, the regional landscape and regional options; second, where jobs are and the need for nearby workforce housing; third, incentives; and fourth, the regulatory and statutory environment. Marts expressed hope that this work would indeed consider regulatory and statutory efforts by cities

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, noted that she was involved in the City of Seattle's process to develop the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA), a strategy for addressing housing affordability in that city. Drawing on that work and her broader experience in the field, Stanford concurred with earlier comments that considering how to maintain existing affordable housing will be important and added that access to transit is also a key consideration.

## **8. Veterans and Human Services Levy**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the forthcoming proposal to replace the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy. The levy was first passed in 2005 and renewed in 2011 with an expiration date at the end of 2017. The current levy was passed at a rate of \$0.05 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation and is projected to generate \$18.6 million in 2017.

The Executive has not yet transmitted a proposed ballot measure ordinance to replace the expiring levy, but the forthcoming proposal is expected to be for a larger "Veterans, Seniors,



and Human Services Levy” to be placed on the November 7, 2017 general election ballot. It is expected that under this levy proposal there would be an added focus on seniors and housing as well as increased funding for veterans and other human services. The current Veterans and Human Services Levy is structured so that half of the funding goes to services for veterans, military services members, and their families; and half to other, more general, human services. If the levy is substantially increased and a new focus on seniors is added, it has been suggested that this split may be adjusted.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the SCA Board leadership met with the Executive that morning and expressed concern about voter tax fatigue and the impact of a levy expansion on those it is proposed to help the most, including low income people and seniors. The Executive is working to balance these concerns and is considering available options to provide relief to low income individuals and seniors. Dawson noted that there has been pressure from human services providers to expand the levy as much as possible, but there is also significant voter concern about the impacts of recent tax measures. The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) was briefed on and discussed the Executive’s forthcoming Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy proposal today and members shared strong concerns about the contemplated expansion.

Wilson-Jones summarized additional feedback provided by SCA RPC members. Members questioned what would happen if the levy got too big and did not pass and what services would be lost and how quickly. Additionally, echoing the discussion SCA members had with the Executive, RPC members expressed concern that a property tax increase could most impact some of those the levy is intended to assist. Dawson added that RPC members expressed concern about the impact on renters, who would not qualify for homeowner tax exemptions or deferrals. Renters would likely see property tax increases passed on as rising rents.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, noted the importance of the Veterans and Human Services Levy and criticality of ensuring a renewal or replacement levy passes. Given voter tax fatigue, Stanford suggested seeking either an even renewal or just a slight increase.

Mayor Rich Crispo, Newcastle, spoke to the complexity of county funding for human services and the potential for inefficiencies. He questioned whether voters would understand and accept another levy proposal and how successful investments in addressing homelessness would be in solving the region’s challenges.

Wilson-Jones provided additional detail about homelessness-related investments under the current levy and the Executive’s anticipated proposal. About 40 percent of the current levy’s annual revenues are dedicated to preventing and reducing homelessness. Executive staff have suggested the forthcoming proposal would increase funding dedicated to housing stability and that the focus of these investments would be to address the housing needs of people served through other levy services to enhance their impact.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, spoke to the limitations of Washington’s tax system, but added that King County residents cannot wait for fixes to be made before renewing or replacing the Veterans and Human Services Levy. The need is great and, with baby boomers becoming

seniors and many seniors struggling to stay in their homes, this levy could provide a way to ensure they are valued by this community that they sacrificed to build. Backus cautioned that the timing, however, may not be right for too large of a levy increase.

Deputy Mayor Bob Keller, Sammamish, highlighted the importance of being transparent with voters about the impact of the levy proposal. The cost to homeowners varies significantly and is impacted by property values. With the median home price reaching \$880,000 on the Eastside, the impact of the property tax is much greater for some than is expressed by a countywide average.

Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, noted that as a veteran, he is supportive of the levy's intent, but agreed with prior comments that voters' fatigue over levies must be weighed. He said this is particularly important in the context of the August Cultural Access ballot measure.

Chair Marts, Issaquah, spoke to available revenue sources under state law. This property tax levy is one of the more progressive options available, and because it goes to voters, residents have a voice. As a relatively progressive tax, people who live in higher cost housing would indeed pay more. Consideration must be given, however, to ensuring money is spent effectively and Marts noted he does not support tripling the levy.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, asked what kind of services are funded under the current Veterans and Human Services Levy. Wilson-Jones reported that the levy funds a broad array of services with investment in 42 different activities. (Note: [The \*Veterans and Human Services Levy 2015 Annual Report\* describes levy funded activities and Levy Investments are summarized in the \*May 10 RPC meeting materials\*, page 15\).](#))

Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, serves on the RPC and reported that members support the renewal of the levy but that there is not consensus that it should be increased. He noted, however, that the overall size of the existing levy, or even a potentially doubled or tripled levy, is not enormous in the context of other regional levies. Talmas highlighted the importance of ensuring SCA members views are heard now as the Executive finalizes his proposal.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, serves on the RPC and noted that tax fatigue is also one of the largest concerns he has heard. Nonetheless, he feels this levy would have a good chance of passage.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said she hears interest among PIC members in seeing the levy move forward but also shared concerns about voter fatigue, the cumulative impact of Sound Transit 3 taxes and other local levies, and worry about the potential failure of an important levy proposal, such as a fire levy coming up in her community. Guier noted that she supports renewing the Veterans and Human Services Levy at the current rate.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, recounted prior PIC discussions about the Veterans and Human Services Levy. Former Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis was a strong proponent as were other member city leaders. Margeson requested more information about the demographics of those served by the levy currently, many of whom he suggested are likely seniors. Referencing earlier sentiments about voter tax fatigue, Margeson stated that

Washington's local taxing structure is such that voters have a chance to weigh in on taxes, and, if voters reject a levy proposal, it means it is not their priority. Margeson advised against adding seniors to the Veterans and Human Services Levy and against doubling or tripling the levy to prevent jeopardizing its passage. He suggested indexing the current levy to inflation instead and seeking voter approval separately, at a later date, for a levy to fund seniors to confirm voter interest. Margeson also noted that the forthcoming Veterans and Human Services Levy would not have support from Redmond unless an implementation plan is developed prior to placing the levy on the ballot.

Crispo spoke to the diffuseness of current Veterans and Human Services Levy spending across 42 different activities and noted the large numbers of service providers throughout the county. With the complexity of county funding and high number of agencies doing similar work, he expressed concern about potential duplication and overhead costs taking away from delivering services where needed. He noted the importance of increasing efficiency.

Marts said the issue at hand is sticker shock—residents are feeling the Sound Transit 3 taxes and, in some cases, are finding the impacts are greater than anticipated.

## **9. Cultural Access Sales Tax**

Alena Marshak, SCA Policy Analyst, reported on the upcoming Cultural Access Sales Tax ballot measure. Just following the March PIC meeting, the King County Executive transmitted for King County Council consideration a proposed ballot measure ordinance to put a 0.1 percent sales tax on the August ballot to support arts, science, heritage, and cultural organizations by creating a program called Access for All. Initially, Council support for the measure appeared uncertain, however, on May 1, after extensive deliberation, the Council voted 7-2 to place a revised version on the August 1, 2017 ballot. Marshak distributed a King County Council staff summary of the ballot measure ([Attachment B](#)).

Marshak explained that, if passed, the ballot measure is projected to raise \$67.4 million in 2018 and would provide funding for three main programs. The first, the public school cultural access program, would provide students with both in-classroom cultural learning opportunities and opportunities to travel to cultural organizations. According to King County, 21 percent of revenues, or about \$14 million, would go to the public school cultural access program in 2018. The second program would provide funding for regional cultural organizations—the large cultural institutions that are most broadly attended by the public. The 34 organizations known to qualify as regional cultural organizations, 29 of which are based in Seattle, are listed on page 52 of the PIC Packet. According to King County, 37 percent of revenues, or about \$24.9 million, would go to regional cultural organizations. The third program would provide funding for community-based cultural organizations, which are smaller organizations that do not meet the attendance and revenue criteria for regional cultural organizations. According to King County, 38 percent of revenues, or about \$25.6 million, would go to community-based cultural organizations.

Marshak reported that the ballot measure got more complex as it went through the King County Council process and there is now significant crossover between the three programs. For example, regional cultural organizations would be required to use a portion of their award on

the public school access program and would also be required to partner with community-based organizations to deliver programming in communities outside of Seattle and to provide cultural programs to people with economic and geographic barriers to access. In total, about 50 percent of the funds received by regional cultural organizations would be restricted.

Several Councilmembers were initially concerned that the ballot measure, as proposed by the Executive, would not adequately distribute benefits outside Seattle. As passed by the King County Council, the ballot measure would provide more dollars around the County and in all Council districts, particularly districts without existing regional cultural organizations. As noted, regional cultural organizations would be required to provide cultural programs for people with economic and geographic barriers to access. There is also a new requirement for planning work to increase and expand opportunity, access, and equity around the county. This planning work would include four county subarea plans: north, suburban east, rural east, and south. In addition, the ballot measure includes funding to provide seed money for the creation of new cultural organizations. The ballot measure also increased King County Council oversight of the program and 4Culture, the entity responsible for administering the program, and requires Council approval for an implementation plan.

Marshak reported that some County Councilmembers expressed continued concerns about the ballot measure at SCA's May 3 networking event. Councilmember Dave Upthegrove stated that the ballot measure would not provide enough direct investment outside Seattle, and Councilmember Rod Dembowski, who voted to place the measure on the ballot, said he does not think it will pass in August and that he had significant concerns about prioritizing this over other countywide needs, such as housing. However, many cultural organizations throughout the county will be advocating for this ballot measure and are excited about the possibility of approximately \$470 million over the next seven years coming to arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, noted that most of the regional cultural organizations are in Seattle and that cultural organizations generate about \$2 billion in economic activity. Wen noted that funding for arts organizations is not guaranteed from other sources and that federal funding is vulnerable. Losing cultural organizations would lead to a loss in tourists and the economic gains brought by tourism to the region. If this industry grows and is sustained, it will spread to other cities and throughout the region.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, expressed concern that most regional cultural organizations are located in Seattle, and added that he would like to see funding distributed to cities to value and to support each community's unique culture, heritage, and variety of arts services.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, noted her appreciation that changes to the initial ballot measure proposal tried to address concerns but that Duvall and the Snoqualmie Valley are still not adequately included in the funding allocation. Duvall has so much interest in cultural programming that their performing arts spaces are already at capacity, and the city would like to support their local programs. Ockerlander expressed concern about the direction of funds to already sustainable and adequately funded regional cultural organizations in Seattle

while not enough is provided to support the local community-based organizations that need funding to grow and become sustainable.

Chair Marts noted that it was uncertain what benefits would flow to communities across the county under this complex ballot measure, and that it is difficult to determine what funding would be allocated for each program. Marts added that schools lack funding for arts programming and rely on volunteers because they cannot afford arts teachers. Marts also highlighted that the ballot measure, if passed, would create winners and losers—with Issaquah receiving nearly \$1 million for its regional cultural organization, Village Theatre, one of just five such organizations based outside of Seattle. The vast majority of communities outside Seattle, however, are not home to such an organization. Concurring with earlier statements, Marts echoed a desire to highlight and appreciate each community's local arts, heritage, and cultural characteristics.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, noted that art for school-age kids is very important to her community. She would like to understand more fully how the implementation of the ballot measure would distribute funding. Stanford asked whether SCA would be taking a position on the ballot measure. Dawson responded that SCA would not be taking a position because the Council has already acted to place the measure on the ballot. While PIC members did not express earlier interest in adopting a position on the Cultural Access Sales Tax and the time has now passed, Dawson asked PIC members if they would like to take a position on the Veterans and Human Services Levy, and noted that the timeline to do so would be challenging because the King County Executive has not yet transmitted a levy replacement proposal. Members did not express interest in taking a position on the Veterans and Human Services Levy.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated his appreciation that Regional Policy Committee (RPC) members were present to hear PIC members' feedback on this ballot measure. He noted Redmond could not support this ballot measure because there is not an implementation plan in place. Margeson stated that there is a lot of value in investing in each city's unique culture and arts programs but that the ballot measure would fund the wrong organizations. Instead of funding large, already well established regional cultural organizations, such as the Woodland Park Zoo, which already receives public funding, investments should be made in small and struggling organizations. Scaling back investments in larger organizations could allow for a smaller levy rather than the full 0.1 percent allowable under state law. Echoing earlier comments, Margeson highlighted the need for more arts education in schools and stated support for levy components to provide that.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, concurred with Council President Margeson's comments about the importance of early exposure to arts and culture in order to build a lifelong appreciation. Hill noted he grew up with access to such programs, but that funding has since been cut with significant losses for music and arts education in the 1990s. He expressed concern that significant funding from the ballot measure would flow through Seattle, with much smaller amounts being distributed to other communities.

McNeal noted that in Bothell they utilize public-private partnerships to help provide arts education in schools. Public-private partnerships are an important tool to consider because they can provide access to arts in the schools at a lower cost.

## **10. Regional Centers**

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, provided an overview of regional growth centers policies and changes under consideration by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). Members of the SCA GMPB caucus have requested feedback on the options being reviewed and assistance identifying questions important to SCA member cities that should be resolved before any final policy recommendations are made.

Parry noted that the region's long-range strategy for managing growth prioritizes transportation investments in areas of compact population and employment, or "centers." The criteria PSRC uses to define different classifications of centers is important because it influences eligibility to compete for federal funding managed through PSRC. There are three types of centers recognized in the region's growth strategy: regional growth centers, regional manufacturing/industrial centers, and subregional centers.

The GMPB will be reviewing recommendations produced by a stakeholder working group to update the criteria that define centers over the next several months. At its most recent meeting, the GMPB discussed the working group's recommendations to change the criteria that define regional growth centers and options to incorporate major military installations into the centers policy framework. In June, the GMPB is scheduled to review the criteria for designating regional manufacturing/industrial centers, and subregional centers.

Parry encouraged members to contact SCA staff if they have any questions, feedback for the SCA GMPB caucus, or concerns about how the proposals being considered could affect planning and funding eligibility for their city.

Deputy Mayor Bob Keller, Sammamish, expressed concerns that the proposal to separate regional growth centers into different tiers might have negative consequences for Issaquah's center.

Chair Marts said that PSRC staff recently provided a presentation on the proposed policy changes at an Issaquah City Council meeting. He said the changes appear to be the wrong solution at the wrong time and that PSRC should be working to help cities that are accommodating growth, not make the challenge more difficult.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that he is a member of the GMPB and that he welcomed feedback from PIC members. He noted that the proposals the GMPB is currently reviewing did not originate with the Board, but rather were provided by the working group consisting of planners from across the four-county region. He said the GMPB just began discussing the proposals the previous week and that they will be carrying out a slow, deliberate process before making any decisions. He said the primary concern for everyone is how any changes will affect funding for transportation improvements and that he has asked PSRC staff for additional historical analysis of funding distributions to centers.

## **11. 2017 State Legislative Session**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that the Legislature adjourned the 105-day regular session April 23 having passed a transportation budget and two public records bills championed by cities. However, on April 24, the Governor called a 30-day special session—now in its 17<sup>th</sup> day—for lawmakers to work toward a K-12 education funding deal and continue negotiations on operating and capital budgets for the biennium that begins July 1.

SCA's legislative priorities also remain unresolved. Whether the Legislature will adjust the property tax cap, invest significantly in local public health services, and address housing affordability and homelessness are open questions, with key bills in each of these areas tied up in budget negotiations and yet to move forward.

Only key negotiators have been in Olympia, and AWC is encouraging city leaders to take time now to connect with your legislators while they back home (*Note: It was reported at the May 10 PIC meeting that legislators were expected to be back in Olympia the week of May 15 but, as of the drafting of these minutes, lawmakers were no longer scheduled to return to town that week and no new date had been set for them to do so.*) Wilson-Jones distributed a handout, [Attachment C](#), that AWC is mailing to cities. The handout includes key messages about shared revenues and policy priorities related to homelessness and local government revenues, among other issues.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, asked whether the Legislature is still considering cutting state funding for LEOFF 2 pension obligations. Wilson-Jones noted that until a budget is passed this funding remains vulnerable. The AWC handout provides additional information about the potential impacts of a loss of state LEOFF 2 funding.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, sought clarification about the status of budget priorities and bills described in the handout. Wilson-Jones reported that the handout summarizes unresolved budget issues and pending legislation.

## **12. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the list of potential levies and ballot measures in the PIC Packet. If members have updates to the list, they can be provided to SCA at [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org).

Chair Marts took an item out of order to highlight this month's "Did You Know?" on the PIC agenda, which features the Southcenter Mall in the Tukwila. Next year, Southcenter Mall will celebrate its 50th anniversary. When Southcenter Mall opened its doors on July 30, 1968, it was the second largest indoor mall in the country (Honolulu had the largest at the time). Southcenter Mall was the third regional mall to open in Western Washington in the 1960s, with Northgate and Tacoma Malls preceding the opening of Southcenter. Southcenter Mall cost \$30 million to construct in 1968, which in today's dollars would cost \$215 million. Southcenter Mall was designed by John Graham, who also designed Northgate Mall and Tacoma Mall. Four original tenants, Nordstrom, Macy's (Bon Marche), JC Penney, and Zales Jeweler are still in their original tenant spaces.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, distributed handouts capturing memorabilia from the time: a pass for the 1968 “Champagne Preview Showing” at the then new “Southcenter Shopping City” and an advertisement from the era, [Attachment D](#).

Members wishing to volunteer to provide a “Did You Know?” feature for a future month’s PIC, are asked to contact [ellie@soundcities.org](mailto:ellie@soundcities.org).

### **13. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that this is a recurring monthly agenda item providing a list of potential issues that SCA will track and may bring back at a later time. Members are asked to provide her with any updates to the list via email at [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org).

### **14. Informational Items**

Chair Marts reported that an informational item on the Metro Fares Work Program is contained in the PIC Packet, page 77.

### **15. Upcoming Events**

Chair Marts reported that the next PIC meeting will be held June 14, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Renton City Hall with a pre-PIC workshop on the Veterans and Human Services Levy at 6:00 PM.

### **16. For the Good of the Order**

Chair Marts asked if any member wished to offer further comments. There was no further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.



**Public Issues Committee Meeting  
May 10, 2017**

| <b>City</b>  | <b>Representative</b> | <b>Alternate</b>     |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Algona</b>  | Dave Hill             | Bill Thomas          |
| <b>Auburn</b>  | Nancy Backus          | John Holman          |
| Beaux Arts Village   | Tom Stowe             | Richard Leider       |
| Bellevue   | John Stokes           | Kevin Wallace        |
| Black Diamond  | Janie Edelman         | Tamie Deady          |
| <b>Bothell</b>   | James McNeal          | Tris Samberg         |
| <b>Burien</b>  | Austin Bell           | Nancy Tosta          |
| Carnation  | Dustin Green          | Jim Berger           |
| <b>Clyde Hill</b>  | Barre Seibert         | George Martin        |
| <b>Covington</b>   | Fran Hollums          | Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.  |
| Des Moines   | Robert Back           | Melissa Musser       |
| <b>Duvall</b>  | Amy Ockerlander       | Will Ibershof        |
| <b>Enumclaw</b>  | Jan Molinaro          | Mike Sando           |
| Federal Way  | Lydia Assefa-Dawson   | Dini Duclos          |
| Hunts Point  | Joseph Sabey          |                      |
| <b>Issaquah</b>  | Tola Marts            | Mariah Bettise       |
| Kenmore  | David Baker           | Nigel Herbig         |
| <b>Kent</b>  | Bill Boyce            | Dana Ralph           |
| <b>Kirkland</b>  | Toby Nixon            |                      |
| <b>Lake Forest Park</b>  | Catherine Stanford    | Tom French           |
| <b>Maple Valley</b>  | Erin Weaver           | Bill Allison         |
| <b>Medina</b>  | Sheree Wen            |                      |
| <b>Mercer Island</b>   | Benson Wong           | Wendy Weiker         |
| Milton   | Susan Johnson         | Debra Perry          |
| <b>Newcastle</b>   | Rich Crispo           | Carol Simpson        |
| <b>Normandy Park</b>   | Michelle Sipes-Marvin | Jonathan Chicquette  |
| <b>North Bend</b>  | Ross Loudenback       | Ken Hearing          |
| <b>Pacific</b>   | Leanne Guier          | David Storaasli      |
| <b>Redmond</b>   | Hank Margeson         | John Stilin          |
| Renton   | Ed Prince             | Armondo Pavone       |
| <b>Sammamish</b>   | Christie Malchow      | Bob Keller           |
| SeaTac   | Erin Sitterley        | Pam Fernald          |
| Shoreline  | Chris Roberts         | Keith Scully         |
| Skykomish  | Henry Sladek          |                      |
| <b>Snoqualmie</b>  | Brad Toft             | Matt Larson          |
| <b>Tukwila</b>   | Kate Kruller          | Thomas McLeod        |
| <b>Woodinville</b>   | Bernie Talmas         | Susan Boundy-Sanders |
| SCA<br>Deanna Dawson<br>Brian Parry<br>Ellie Wilson-Jones<br>Doreen Booth<br>Alena Marshak |                       |                      |

Voting members are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.

## Metropolitan King County Council Access For All

The King County Council adopted Ordinance 18513 on May 1, 2017. The ordinance created a King County “Access For All” cultural access program<sup>1</sup> and sent a proposition to King County voters for a 0.1 percent sales tax to finance the program for seven years.

The Access for All program is projected to raise \$67.4 million in 2018. The program would be administered by 4Culture. Funds are proposed to be allocated:

- 21 percent to a Public School Cultural Access Program to provide public school students in-classroom and field cultural learning opportunities,
- 37 percent to a Regional Cultural Organization Program to fund large cultural organizations ,
- 38 percent<sup>2</sup> to communities and a Community-based Cultural Organization Program for programs offered by smaller cultural organizations, and
- 4 percent for administration costs.

The adopted legislation built on a proposal from the Executive, making several changes:

- **Regional cultural organizations requirements:** Includes requirements for regional cultural organizations to provide public benefits aimed at providing cultural programs for people with economic and geographic barriers to access. Regional cultural organizations would be required to expend at least 15% of their award annually on equity inclusion public benefits and at least 15% of those programs occurring in cities without regional cultural organizations. Regional cultural organizations would also have the option of meeting the geographic inclusion requirement by contributing funds to 4Culture for distribution to community-based cultural organizations.
- **\$1 million to community-based cultural organizations in each county council district:** Requires 4Culture to distribute a total of at least \$1 million each year to community-based cultural organizations in each county council district.
- **\$4.5 million in funding for community heritage organizations:** Defines “community heritage organization” to mean heritage organizations located in a council district in which no regional cultural organization has its principal location or whose primary purpose is the preservation of barns, outbuildings, and agriculture-related community spaces and has its principal location in King County. If any of the \$4.5 million in community heritage organization funds remain after distribution to eligible organizations, the remaining funds would be distributed to community-based cultural

---

<sup>1</sup> Authorized by Revised Code of Washington chapter 36.160

<sup>2</sup> Including funding that would be used to administer to program.

organizations in communities in council districts in which no regional cultural organization has its principal location.

- **Council approval of the implementation plan:** Requires approval by ordinance of the implementation plan, and allows for amendments to the implementation plan, which could be initiated by the Executive or Council, with approval by ordinance. Restricts proceeds of the tax, except start-up funding, from being spent until the implementation plan is approved by ordinance.
- **Subarea, equity, and start-up plans:** Requires 4Culture to develop five plans with input from the community and in consultation with County Councilmembers:
  - Cultural opportunity and access expansion plans for the north, south, suburban east, and rural east subareas of the county
  - A countywide cultural access equity plan for achieving equity and inclusion outcomes

# Tell your legislators what cities need and ask for a commitment of support!

## State-shared revenues

Uphold the state's partnership with *all 281 cities* and continue to fully fund \$225 million in critical shared revenues. This includes the following city-specific distributions:

- \$123.9 M** in liquor profits and taxes
- \$36.9 M** in municipal criminal justice support
- \$30 M** in marijuana mitigation funding (shared with counties)
- \$26.2 M** in streamlined sales tax mitigation
- \$13.6 M** in small city and county assistance
- \$9.4 M** in fire insurance premium tax that supports fire fighter pension costs

## Public safety

Maintain commitment to public safety by fully funding the state's share for **LEOFF 2 pension obligations** at 50% employee, 30% city, and 20% state. Failure to maintain this commitment will shift \$70 M in costs to local governments.

Fund the necessary **Basic Law Enforcement Academy** classes in both the supplemental and biennial budgets so that officer trainings can continue. Without full class funding, public safety will be impacted and cities could pay more in overtime.

## Infrastructure

Revitalize the **Public Works Trust Fund** in the House-passed version of **SB 5033**. Retain the loan repayments and remaining tax revenues to help rebuild infrastructure in partnership with the state.

Fund the **Centennial Clean Water Account** at \$35 M to help small cities upgrade wastewater systems.

## Homelessness and human services

Provide additional funding to reduce homelessness: \$11 M for youth homelessness, temporary rental assistance, chronically homeless, and consolidated homeless grants.

Support **HB 1570** and **HB 1797** that would increase and permanently extend the document recording fee, which funds state and local homeless programs and create a suite of new local revenue options to address local-level affordable housing and homelessness.

## Local government revenues

Support the following proposals that generate revenues for local government and the state, or provide new revenue options for cities.

Support provisions in **HB 2186** and **SB 5929** that require sales tax collections, or that internet retailers report customers for use taxes (a long-standing priority of AWC), and remove the bottled water sales tax exemption. The bills also establish a graduated rate for the state Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), resulting in a lower rate on certain residential units and a higher rate on others. Cities collect a local REET to help fund critical infrastructure and if this proposal advances, AWC seeks similar authorization as a local option.

Support **HB 1764**, which adjusts the 1% property tax cap to keep up with increased inflation and population growth, and allows this as a local option for elected city and county officials.

Support **HB 1113**, which gradually restores liquor revenues shared with cities and counties to help support public safety.

Curious about the state-shared revenues your city is estimated to receive in the FY 2017-19 budget? Visit the AWC Open Data Portal at [awcnet.org/opendata](http://awcnet.org/opendata) to see what revenues are at stake in your city. View revenue sources specific to your city including city-county assistance, fire insurance premium tax, liquor profits, liquor taxes, municipal criminal justice, and SST mitigation.



open data PORTAL

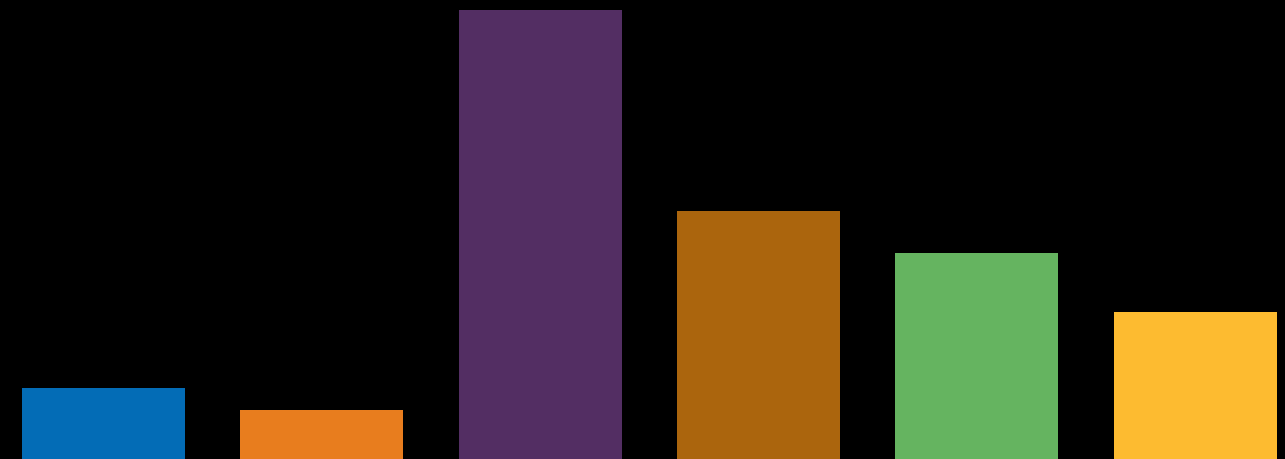
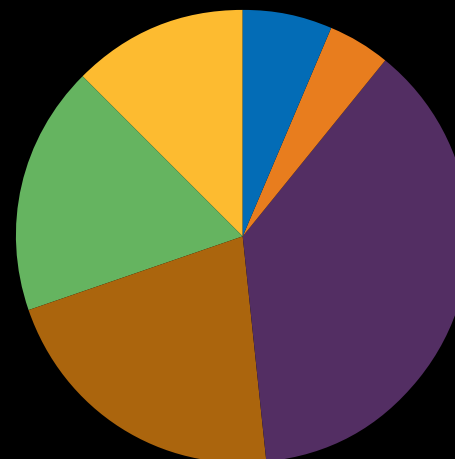
Visit [awcnet.org/opendata](http://awcnet.org/opendata) to see your city's state-shared revenue estimates.

## Shared revenue estimates (FY 2017-2019)

State revenues distributed to cities and towns are the result of decades of past decisions to deliver vital services to our citizens. Without those agreements, other options and authorities would have been explored.

### Shared revenue source

-  City-county assistance
-  Fire insurance premium tax
-  Liquor profits
-  Liquor taxes
-  Municipal criminal justice
-  SST mitigation





29357  
No. 29357

WEST VALLEY ROAD  
KENT ALBURN  
SOUTH CENTER  
INTERSTATE 5  
INTERSTATE 5  
PARKWAY  
SOUTH CENTER PARKWAY  
SOUTH CENTER PARKWAY  
SOUTH CENTER PARKWAY

AIR-CONDITIONED  
**SOUTHCENTER**  
SHOPPING CITY

*Champagne Preview*

*Champagne Preview Showing*

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1968 / 7 PM-10 PM

Sponsored by  
CHILDREN'S ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

Donation \$3.50

*Informal*



# The Uncommon Market



**Southcenter** Climate-Controlled Shopping City

Page Intentionally Left Blank

## Item 6:

### Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy

#### ***DISCUSSION***

---

#### **SCA Staff Contact**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, [ellie@soundcities.org](mailto:ellie@soundcities.org), (206) 495-5238

#### **SCA Regional Policy Committee (RPC) Members**

Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Dan Grausz, Mercer Island; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn; Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville; Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (alternate); Mayor John Stokes, Bellevue (alternate)

#### **Discussion**

On May 22, 2017, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced a proposal to place a Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy on the ballot this November to replace the Veterans and Human Services Levy, which expires at the end of 2017. As proposed, this property tax would be levied at a rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation generating about \$60.7 million in levy revenues in 2018. One third of levy proceeds would go to each of three service categories: veterans, military service members, and their families; seniors; and vulnerable populations. At least half of all first-year levy proceeds would be dedicated to housing stability, including capital investments, and one-quarter would be devoted to housing stability in future years.

A pre-PIC workshop on the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy proposal will be held at 6 p.m. June 14 to inform the later PIC discussion on the same topic. During the pre-PIC workshop, Levy Renewal Manager Leo Flor will answer questions about the levy ordinance now under consideration by the Regional Policy Committee and King County Council. **PIC members are strongly encouraged to attend this month's pre-PIC workshop to ensure a strong foundation for discussion at the evening's PIC meeting.**

During the regular PIC meeting, PIC members will be encouraged to provide feedback—to be carried forward to the SCA Board of Directors and SCA Regional Policy Committee members—about the Executive's proposal. Action by the Regional Policy Committee on the levy ordinance is likely to take place prior to the July 12 PIC meeting, so the June 14 PIC meeting may provide the last opportunity, during a PIC meeting, for members to provide input.

#### **Background**

The Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL) was first approved by King County voters in November 2005 and was renewed in 2011 with an expiration date of December 31, 2017. The original and current VHSL levies were passed at a rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation,

and the current levy is expected to generate about \$18.6 million in property tax revenue in 2017. The effective rate of the levy, now at \$0.04 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, has declined over time because the total assessed value of property in King County has grown at greater annual rate than the levy, which increases annually by the greater of the consumer price index or 1 percent, with a cap of 3 percent. A breakdown of the levy rate over time is available [here](#).

Under the current levy, proceeds are split evenly between services for veterans, military service members, and their families; and other, more general, human services. The services delivered under the current levy are described in the [most recent VHSL annual report](#).

At the [November 9, 2016](#), [February 8, 2017](#), and [May 10, 2017](#) PIC meetings, members were briefed on community engagement activities and planning work conducted in anticipation of the expiration of the current levy and in preparation for a potential renewal or replacement levy. SCA also hosted a [roundtable meeting](#) October 26, 2016 dedicated to discussion of the expiring levy and potential renewal or replacement. The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) has also received extensive briefings about renewal planning and has carried forward PIC member feedback received to date.

As of the May 10, 2017 PIC meeting, and an RPC meeting held earlier that day, the Executive had not yet transmitted a proposal for replacing the expiring Veterans and Services Levy. The broad outlines of what was known about the then forthcoming proposal for a replacement Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy were, however, explained at that time (see page 4 of the [draft minutes for the May PIC meeting](#)). PIC members offered feedback centered around the themes of ensuring the preservation of this funding source for veterans and more general human services, concern about the cumulative impact of recent tax measures on voters, and the need to communicate with taxpayers transparently and to ensure that levy resources are invested as efficiently and effectively as possible. That feedback was then carried forward to Executive's Office staff as well as SCA representatives to the RPC.

### **Proposed Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy**

On May 22, 2017, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted Proposed Ordinance 2017-0232 to place a Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy on the ballot this November to replace the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy. The basic levy outline is as follows:

- The Executive's proposal would create a new six-year Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (2018-2023) to replace the expiring VHSL.
- The new levy would generate about \$60.7 million in 2018 compared to \$18.6 million in 2017 under the current levy.
- As proposed, the rate of the new levy would be \$0.12 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (initial 2018 rate). The current VHSL was passed at a rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Under the \$0.12 rate, the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$450,000 (the countywide median) would pay \$54 in the first year of this property tax. Because assessed home values vary significantly across the county, members may wish to consult the King County Department of Assessments' report on median assessed



values for each city, available [here](#), and calculate the local impact. For instance, the owner of a home assessed at \$277,000 (Auburn’s median) would pay about \$33 and the owner of a home assessed at \$650,000 (Sammamish’s median) would pay about \$78.

- Under the Executive’s proposal, the new levy would provide additional funding to add services for veterans, military service members and their families; seniors; and vulnerable populations—with a third of levy revenues going to each of those categories. Vulnerable populations would be broadly defined as “persons or communities who are susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial, or social stability outcomes because of current experience of or historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability or chronic illness.” A long list of examples is provided in the proposed ordinance demonstrating the breadth of this service category.
- In the first year, no less than 50 percent of all proceeds would be dedicated to promote housing stability, including capital facilities. In subsequent years, the housing-related distribution would fall to 25 percent.

Proposed Ordinance 2017-0232 is included as [Attachment A](#), and additional analysis of this proposed levy ordinance is provided in the [King County Council Budget and Fiscal Management Committee staff report from May 24, 2017](#). The proposed ordinance is anticipated to be amended in the legislative review process. For instance, King County Councilmember and Budget and Fiscal Management Committee Chair Dave Upthegrove has already offered for consideration an [amendment](#) setting the proposed levy’s rate at \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

As with the prior Veterans and Human Services Levies and other county human services levies, the Executive has proposed undertaking more detailed implementation planning following the passage of the levy ordinance. Under the proposed levy ordinance, the Executive would transmit by August 23, 2017 for King County Council consideration a proposed transition plan addressing service continuity from the expiring levy, covering first year housing stability investments, and proposing any new near-term staffing or planning activities. A plan for levy oversight would also be due that day. Under the proposed ordinance, a fuller implementation plan would follow by March 16, 2018 if the levy is approved by voters this November. These plans would require King County Council approval, and it is anticipated that the transition plan, oversight plan, and implementation plan would be referred to the Regional Policy Committee for action.

In the transmittal of the levy ordinance to the King County Council and public announcement about the proposal, Executive Dow Constantine also provided two other significant pieces of context about his plans for the implementation of the levy. First, he transmitted a “[Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy: Blueprint Report](#).” The report speaks to accomplishments under the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy, the scope of unmet human services needs in King County, and outlines—at a very high level—the Executive’s vision for delivering services to promote housing stability and four other outcome areas: healthy living, social

engagement, financial stability, and system access and improvements. The report also speaks to creating a “Quick Reaction Fund” of unprogrammed levy dollars that could be used to provide a rapid response to emerging needs.

Recognizing that an increase in property taxes could burden most some of those people levy services are intended to assist, Executive Constantine is also proposing a pair of possible actions to alleviate the impact to some homeowners. In his announcement of the levy proposal, the Executive stated that he will lobby the Legislature to allow local governments to exempt lower-income households of seniors, people who are retired due to disability, or veterans who have a total disability rating from levy lid lifts. Rep. Pat Sullivan has agreed to sponsor such legislation. Without such a state law currently in place, the Executive is proposing that for now homeowners who would qualify for such an exemption instead be granted a rebate to be paid out of levy proceeds. For the first year of the levy, the value of such rebates is estimated by Executive branch staff and the King County Assessor to total less than \$1 million. The costs of administering such a rebate program have not yet been determined. This rebate proposal is not included as part of the levy ordinance, but could be included in a later implementation plan.

**Regional Policy Committee and King County Council Consideration**

The levy ordinance has been referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) for action. As of the drafting of this report, it was not yet determined when the RPC would first act on the levy ordinance. The RPC could act as early as June 14 (likely for the first of two times, as explained below) or potentially as late as July 12 to advance the proposed levy ordinance to the next step in the Council review process.

Regardless of the date on which RPC first acts, the legislation is expected to next be reviewed by the King County Council’s Budget and Fiscal Management Committee. The legislation would then advance to the full King County Council. As a mandatory referral to RPC under the King County Charter, if the King County Council amends the legislation following RPC’s initial action, the legislation would be returned to RPC for a second touch and then to the King County Council for their second touch.

The Council’s deadlines for finalizing the legislation are included in the table that follows:

| <b>Election Deadlines for November 2017</b>                         |         |
|---|---------|
| Last regular council meeting with maximum processing time (25 days) | 7/3/17  |
|   |         |
| Last regular council meeting with minimum processing time (10 days) | 7/17/17 |
|   |         |
| Last regular council meeting to pass as emergency                   | 7/24/17 |
|   |         |
| Last special council meeting to pass as emergency                   | 8/1/17  |
|   |         |
| Election Division deadline for receiving effective ordinance        | 8/1/17  |

## Next Steps

The June 14 pre-PIC workshop, to be held at 6 p.m. in the Renton City Hall Conferencing Center, will also be on the subject of the proposed Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy. Levy Renewal Manager Leo Flor will answer questions about the levy ordinance now under consideration by the Regional Policy Committee and King County Council. **PIC members are strongly encouraged to attend this month's pre-PIC workshop to ensure a strong foundation for discussion at the evening's PIC meeting.**

During the June 14 PIC meeting, PIC members will be encouraged to provide feedback on the levy proposal. Additional feedback can also be provided to the SCA Board, who will meet on June 28, 2017. While the timing of RPC and County Council action likely preclude adoption of a formal position by SCA on the levy, feedback from the PIC and the Board will inform the work of SCA representatives on the RPC and be taken into consideration by RPC and the County Council in adopting the ordinance.

## Attachment

- A. [Proposed Ordinance 2017-0232—The King County Executive's Proposal for Placing a Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy on the November Ballot](#)

## Online Materials

- [Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy: Blueprint Report](#)
- [May 24, 2018 Budget and Fiscal Management Committee Staff Report](#)



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 2017-0232      **Version:** 1

**Type:** Ordinance      **Status:** To Be Introduced

**File created:** 5/22/2017      **In control:** Metropolitan King County Council

**On agenda:**      **Final action:**

**Enactment date:**      **Enactment #:**

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on November 7, 2017, a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitations contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a consecutive six-year period at a rate of not more than 12 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year, and limiting annual levy increases to three percent in the five succeeding years, all for the purpose of supporting veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families; seniors and their caregivers; and vulnerable populations in King County by funding capital facilities and regional health and human services to promote housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement and health and human services system improvements and system access; providing for limited mitigation of prorationing of metropolitan park districts and fire districts levies to the extent the prorationing was caused solely by this levy; directing proposal of a transition plan and an implementation plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy; and directing proposal of an ordinance to create an oversight board or boards, contingent upon voter approval of the levy.

**Sponsors:** Joe McDermott

**Indexes:** Elections, Health, Human Services, levy, Property Tax, Senior Citizens, Veterans

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. 2017-0232 Transmittal letter.docx, 2. 2017-0232 Copy of revised VSHSL fiscal note (002).xlsx, 3. A. Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Blueprint Report.

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|------|------|-----------|--------|--------|
|------|------|-----------|--------|--------|

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on November 7, 2017, a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitations contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a consecutive six-year period at a rate of not more than 12 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year, and limiting annual levy increases to three percent in the five succeeding years, all for the purpose of supporting veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families; seniors and their caregivers; and vulnerable populations in King County by funding capital facilities and regional health and human

services to promote housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement and health and human services system improvements and system access; providing for limited mitigation of prorationing of metropolitan park districts and fire districts levies to the extent the prorationing was caused solely by this levy; directing proposal of a transition plan and an implementation plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy; and directing proposal of an ordinance to create an oversight board or boards, contingent upon voter approval of the levy.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. In 2005, the metropolitan King County council passed Ordinance 15279, placing a six-year veterans and human services levy on the ballot for a special election. King County residents voted for the veterans and human services levy with a nearly fifty-eight percent approval to fund services for veterans and their families, military personnel and their families and other individuals and families in need across King County. In 2011, the metropolitan King County council passed Ordinance 17072, placing a renewal of the veterans and human services levy on the ballot for a special election. King County residents voted for the renewal with a nearly sixty-nine percent approval rate.

2. Since the veterans and human services levy's 2011 renewal, the current veterans and human services levy has served more than one hundred and eighty-three thousand clients, more than thirty thousand of whom have been veterans, military servicemembers or their families.

3. The current veterans and human service levy's accomplishments in pursuit of its goal to reduce homelessness include: awarding proceeds to build seven hundred forty-six units of affordable housing; gaining or maintaining housing for more than three thousand two hundred persons; reaching more than seven thousand one hundred clients through outreach and mobile

services and then connecting them to housing, medical or behavioral health services; and convening a network of partners to house more than eight hundred-fifty homeless veterans during a focused housing initiative in 2015.

4. The current veterans and human services levy's accomplishments in pursuit of its goal to reduce emergency medical and criminal justice system involvement include engaging more than three thousand eight hundred incarcerated or formerly incarcerated veterans, parents, or persons at high risk of recidivism with reentry case planning, supportive services, or connections to housing or healthcare. A levy funded database and housing placement program for high utilizers of public service calculated that since 2012, supportive housing placements achieved estimated cost offsets of seven million dollars that otherwise would have been incurred to incarcerate or hospitalize the high utilizers who received housing.

5. The current veterans and human services levy's accomplishments in its goal to increase self-sufficiency for veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in need include the King County veterans program serving more than twelve thousand veterans and family members; screening more than twelve thousand seven hundred mothers for behavioral health conditions at integrated community health centers; providing civil legal case assessments for more than one thousand one hundred veterans, more than three hundred of which resulted in successful resolution and more than five hundred of which resulted to referrals to outside counsel and provision of more than fifteen thousand four hundred hours of posttraumatic stress disorder counseling to more than one thousand two hundred veterans or their spouses and children.

6. The current veterans and human services levy will expire at the end of 2017. In light of this levy's accomplishments for King County's residents and acknowledging the veterans and human services levy's importance to maintaining basic health and human services for veterans and

vulnerable populations, the current levy's regional health and human services for King County's veterans and vulnerable populations merit continuation.

7. The veterans and human services levy has provided an increasingly large share of King County's funding for essential basic human services as the general fund's structural deficit reduces the portion of the general fund available to support human services.

8. Recognizing the changing landscape of regional veterans and human services needs and funding since the 2011 renewal of the veterans and human services levy, the metropolitan King County council directed the executive to produce two reports to inform deliberations about renewal of the current veterans and human services levy. Executive staff combined the findings of staff research and community input from thirty-four in-person engagement meetings and two online surveys, totaling seven hundred and forty-two responses in seven languages, to compose and present the reports. The metropolitan King County council approved the first report in Motion 14822 and accepted and approved the second report in Motion 14823. The reports provided information, analysis, and recommendations to inform deliberations about a potentially renewed or replaced veterans and human services levy.

9. In addition to confirming the ongoing need to support the veterans and vulnerable populations eligible to receive support within the current veterans and human services levy, the report approved by the council Motion 14822 provides evidence that some populations and issues not supported within the current veterans and human services levy now merit consideration for support from the replacement levy proposed in this ordinance. Those populations and issues include supporting seniors and healthy aging; supporting survivors of traumatic experiences that include sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation as well as services to prevent those types of trauma; support for refugees; support for low-income residents of rural communities and improved health and human services

delivery in rural communities; support for civil legal services for persons with low-income; and support for persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

10. From 2010 to 2015, the number of King County veterans living below the federal poverty level increased by forty-three percent to a total of eight thousand two hundred ninety-nine, even as the overall population of veterans in King County has fallen to an estimated 2015 level of one hundred twelve thousand eight hundred veterans.

11. Nationally, an average of twenty veterans commit suicide every day. On average, only six of the twenty veterans committing suicide every day are enrolled in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services. The remaining majority are not receiving federal veterans services.

12. As of January 2017, an estimated two thousand one hundred two veterans were homeless in King County. Despite a strong partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and a network of local housing and service providers who together house an average of forty homeless veterans in King County per month, the number of homeless veterans increases by a net average monthly inflow of sixty-six newly homeless veterans. If sustained for a year, this monthly rate of growth would generate seven hundred and twenty newly homeless veterans per year.

13. Eight percent of King County residents live in rural communities. King County's rural residents consistently report difficulty in accessing the network of federal, state, county and philanthropically funded health and human services. Travelling to urban centers to seek services is difficult or impractical for many persons from rural communities who require health and human services.

14. At least fourteen thousand persons experience domestic violence each year in King County. Survivors of domestic violence experience disproportionately high rates of homelessness and experience an average of more than nineteen civil legal problems, more than twice the average



experienced by the general low-income population.

15. Approximately three to five hundred youth are sexually exploited within King County each year. Commercial sexual exploitation of children remains a poorly understood yet urgent challenge for King County residents to confront.

16. More than one hundred thousand persons with intellectual or development disabilities live in Washington. More than seventy percent of persons with a disability live with a family caregiver, and twenty-three percent of those family caregivers are aged sixty or older with an additional thirty-five percent aged forty-one or older.

17. Eighteen percent of King County residents are aged sixty or older, a number that will increase to twenty-five percent of the county population by 2040. As seniors make up an increasing percentage of King County's population, funding for senior services is not keeping pace. Funding through the federal Older Americans Act, as well as state and county funding for seniors, is falling. Philanthropic funding for seniors is also waning. The result is a trend toward reduced senior funding just as King County's population of seniors is increasing.

18. Seventy-eight percent of persons sixty or older has one or more chronic health conditions. Thirty-five percent are women living alone. Nine percent are living in poverty. Race and place-based disproportionalities unevenly distribute these conditions and risk factors across King County.

19. Elder abuse is a growing challenge. The King County prosecuting attorney's office reported more than seven thousand allegations of abuse and neglect of seniors in King County in 2015.

20. The responsibility to care for vulnerable seniors impacts all generations. One-third of today's King County residents who are sixty-five or older will need some form of long-term care service or support in the future. That work will in many cases require assistance from unpaid caregivers, including spouses, adult children and acquaintances.

21. Seniors, many of whose incomes are fixed, find it increasingly difficult to afford to live in the King County communities they helped nurture and build as housing costs increase dramatically.
22. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer seniors in King County are at extreme risk of the health-harming effects of social isolation and poverty, with nearly one quarter of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer seniors in King County living below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level, forty-five percent living alone and sixty-eight percent reporting having experienced three or more incidents of victimization or discrimination.
23. Adults aged sixty-five and older comprised eighty percent of the more than two thousand people who were hospitalized for falls in King County between 2008 and 2012. The rate of death of seniors hospitalized for falls is more than seven times the county average. In 2015, more than fifteen percent of King County emergency medical services' call responses were for seniors who had fallen.
24. Actual and perceived social isolation are both associated with increased risk for premature death. The influence of social isolation on the risk of death is comparable with risk factors for mortality such as smoking. Social isolation's influence on risk of premature death exceeds that of physical inactivity and obesity. Adults seventy-five and older who are lonely, socially isolated and inactive have a mortality rate of fifty-three percent compared to a mortality rate of thirty percent among their age peers who are not lonely, inactive, or socially isolated.
25. Since its inception in 2006 and through its renewal in 2011, the veterans and human services levy has served hundreds of thousands of veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in need. In addition to the veterans and human services levy's achievements, changed conditions and newly emerging needs present additional opportunities to set the conditions for persons in King County to fulfill their potential. Given the levy's track

record of success and the additional need within the community, it is appropriate to ask the voters to replace the current veterans and human services levy with the veterans, seniors and human services levy provided for in this ordinance.

26. In 2010, the county enacted Ordinance 16857, establishing the King County Strategic Plan. In 2015, the county council passed Motion 14317 updating and revising King County's vision, mission, guiding principles and goals. Included within the county's goals are improving the health and well-being of all people in King County, increasing access to quality housing that is affordable to all, implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal justice system, and ensuring that county government operates efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public. The county's guiding principles command that pursuit of the county goals should address the root causes of inequities to provide equal access for all; engage with partners, stakeholders and public and private organizations to achieve goals; align funding, policy and operational goals of King County government; and provide effective, efficient local governance and services to unincorporated areas.

27. In 2016, the council adopted implementation plans for the best starts for kids levy and the mental illness and drug dependency sales tax renewal. Both plans expressed the council's and the executive's intent to design, implement and evaluate strategies that are outcomes-oriented. It is the county's intent that the veterans, seniors and human services levy provided for in this ordinance, if approved by voters, shall have an outcomes-orientation that appropriately aligns with the plans for the best starts for kids levy and the mental illness and drug dependency sales tax.

28. King County actively engages in equity and social justice efforts to eliminate racially disparate health and human services outcomes in King County, and this priority shall guide the council and the executive in the process of designing, administering, and evaluating the policies

and programs related to the veterans, seniors and human services levy, if approved by voters.

29. It is the intent of the county that over the course of the six year levy the majority of levy proceeds expended to build capital facilities under authority of this ordinance shall be for very low-income households, which are households whose total income is no higher than thirty percent of the median income level for the county as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or its successor agency. Specific very low-income levels vary according to household size.

30. It is the intent of the county that the transition plan required in section 7.A. of this ordinance provide a mechanism to continue, without interruption, currently funded regional health and human services to veterans, military servicemembers and their families, and other persons in King County; to provide substantial investments in housing stability early in the levy term; and to engage in planning activities until the new implementation plan required by section 7.B. of this ordinance is fully developed and enacted and related procurement processes are complete.

31. It is the intent of the county that the implementation plan required by section 7.B. of this ordinance limit administrative expenses to five percent of levy proceeds, the same limitation present in the existing veterans and human services levy.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

A. "Caregiver" means a person who, without pay, cares for or supervises another person who requires such care or supervision due to disability, chronic illness or, in the case of a senior, age-related decline. Government-provided benefits or financial assistance provided directly to a person for being a caregiver are not considered pay within this definition.

B. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and term provided in this

ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state law.

C. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy and any interest earnings on the moneys.

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

E. "Military servicemember" means a person who is a current member of the United States Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard in the national guard, active duty or reserve component of that military branch.

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

1. Services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote housing stability or that contribute to making homelessness rare, brief and one-time by creating housing, preserving or modifying existing housing or supporting persons in gaining or maintaining housing;

2. Health care and health promotion services, operations and programs that encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness, promote healthy aging, support recovery, and improve physical and behavioral health for individuals and families;

3. Services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote social engagement and community building for individuals and groups in culturally, geographically, economically or linguistically isolated communities and for others experiencing or at risk of social isolation and its health-harming effects;

4. Services and programs that promote financial stability or financial mobility, including access to, preparation for and assistance in gaining or maintaining employment, income, education and financial literacy;

5. Services and programs that promote and support diversion away from the criminal justice system

and services and programs that promote and support criminal justice system-linked services that assist individuals and their families in preventing, mitigating or recovering from the effects of their involvement with the criminal justice system, including services that promote restorative justice or reentry to society after incarceration; and

6. Services, programs, operations and capital facilities that improve or expand the delivery of health and human services, improve health and human services system access and navigability, reduce or prevent the disparate or traumatic effects of systems upon vulnerable populations, build the capacity and support the operations of health and human services providers to serve their clients and communities, or build the capacity of communities to partner with King County.

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

H. "Veteran" means a person who has served in the United States Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard in the national guard, active duty or reserve component of that branch of the military.

I. "Vulnerable population" means persons or communities who are susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial, or social stability outcomes because of current experience of or historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability or chronic illness. Examples of vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to, survivors of domestic violence; survivors of sexual assault; survivors of human trafficking; survivors of sexual exploitation; persons with a disability; family caregivers for persons with a disability; refugees; low-income residents of rural communities; persons living in poverty; persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness; persons reentering society from criminal justice system involvement and persons at risk of criminal justice system involvement due to disproportionate practices of enforcement, mental illness or substance use disorders.

**SECTION 2. Levy submittal.** To provide necessary moneys for the provision of regional health and human services to King County's veterans and their families, military servicemembers and their families, seniors and their caregivers and vulnerable populations, and for limiting the impact of this levy on metropolitan

park districts and fire districts due to pro-rationing mandated under RCW 84.52.010, the county council shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition to replace an expiring levy and authorize a regular property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive years, at a rate not to exceed twelve cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year and collections commencing in 2018, with the 2018 levy amount serving as the base for annual increases limited by the limit factor.

**SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited in a special revenue fund, which fund shall be created by ordinance.

**SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures.**

A. If approved by the qualified electors of the county, except for two hundred thousand dollars of each year's levy proceeds reserved for the purposes set forth in subsection B. of this section, all levy proceeds shall be divided into three equal parts and used for the following purposes:

1. One third of those proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and evaluate a wide range of regional health and human services and capital facilities for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families. In this levy's first year, at least fifty percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families. In subsequent years, at least twenty-five percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families;

2. One third of those proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and evaluate a wide range of regional health and human services and capital facilities for seniors and their caregivers and to promote healthy aging in King County. In this levy's first year, at least fifty percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for

seniors. In subsequent years, at least twenty-five percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for seniors; and

3. One third of those proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and evaluate a wide range of regional health and human services and capital facilities for vulnerable populations. In this levy's first year, at least fifty percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for vulnerable populations. In subsequent years, at least twenty-five percent of the proceeds described in this subsection shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for vulnerable populations.

B. Of the levy proceeds annually reserved in subsection A. of this section, the county council may by ordinance authorize the expenditure of those levy proceeds to reduce the levy's impact on metropolitan park districts and fire districts to the extent their levies may be pro-rationed as mandated by RCW 84.52.010 and to the extent the prorationing was caused solely by this levy. Metropolitan park districts and fire districts shall use any moneys received under authority of this subsection B. to fund within their districts regional health and human services for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers, and vulnerable populations.

C. In the last year of the levy, any reserved levy proceeds not disbursed as authorized in subsection B. of this section shall be divided in thirds and one third expended for each of the purposes set forth in subsection A.1. through 3. of this section.

**SECTION 5. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the general election on November 7, 2017, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said



**File #:** 2017-0232, **Version:** 1

special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the director of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

PROPOSITION\_\_\_; The King County Council has passed Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ concerning funding for veterans, seniors, and vulnerable populations. If approved, this proposition would replace an expiring levy and fund capital facilities and regional health and human services for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers, and vulnerable populations, including domestic violence survivors and persons with disabilities. It would authorize King County to levy an additional property tax for six years beginning in 2018 at a rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, the 2018 levy amount being the base for subsequent annual increases of up to 3%.

Should this proposition be:

Approved? \_\_\_\_\_

Rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 6. Governance.**

A. No later than August 23, 2017, the executive shall develop and transmit a plan for council review and approval by ordinance to create and prescribe the composition and duties of a board or boards to provide oversight of the expenditure of the proceeds described in section 4.A. of this ordinance. The creation of the board or boards shall be contingent upon voter approval of the ballot proposition described in section 5 of this ordinance.

B. The board or boards shall be charged to oversee the distribution of levy proceeds consistent with section 4 of this ordinance and to report annually to the executive and council on the fiscal and performance management of the levy. The plan may describe additional matters on which the board or boards are empowered to provide advice to the executive and county council.

C. The proposed ordinance required by this section may be combined with the proposed ordinance required by section 7.A. of this ordinance.

**SECTION 7. Implementation planning.**

A. No later than August 23, 2017, the executive shall transmit for council review and approval by ordinance a proposed transition plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy. The proposed transition plan shall describe how, contingent upon voter approval of the ballot proposition described in section 5 of this ordinance, proceeds from first year of the veterans, seniors and human services levy would fund accomplishment of the following tasks:

1. The transition plan shall propose a recommended course of action that would minimize service discontinuity for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families and other individuals and families in need during the transition between the veterans and human services levy and the veterans, seniors and human services levy;

2. The transition plan shall propose any new staffing and planning activities required to plan for and administer the veterans, seniors and human services levy until the implementation plan required in subsection 7.B. of this ordinance is enacted and procured; and

3. The transition plan shall propose a plan for of the portion of veterans, seniors and human services first-year proceeds required in subsections 4.A.1. through 3. of this ordinance to fund capital facilities and regional and human services that promote housing stability for veterans, seniors and vulnerable populations.

B. Contingent upon voter approval of the ballot proposition described in section 5 of this ordinance and no later than March 16, 2018, the executive shall transmit an implementation plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy for council review and adoption by ordinance. The implementation plan shall describe the expenditure of levy proceeds to achieve outcomes related to healthy living, housing stability, financial stability, social engagement, service system improvement and service system access for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers and vulnerable populations,

consistent with the eligible expenditures described in section 4 of this ordinance.

**SECTION 8. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the county council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the general election on November 7, 2017, and any other act consistent with the authority and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

**SECTION 9. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Page Intentionally Left Blank

**Item 7:**  
Regional Centers  
***DISCUSSION***

---

**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**SCA Appointees to PSRC Growth Management Policy Board**

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond (Caucus Chair); Councilmember John Holman, Auburn (Caucus Vice Chair); Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland; Mayor Allan Ekberg, Tukwila; Mayor Ken Hearing, North Bend; Councilmember Paul Winterstein, Issaquah

**Additional SCA Member City Appointments to PSRC Growth Management Policy Board**

Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue

**Discussion**

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) is considering options produced by a stakeholder working group to update the region's criteria for designating Regional Growth Centers and Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs). These potential policy changes are important to SCA members as they define criteria for designating population and job growth centers at the regional and countywide level, which guides land use planning as well as how PSRC-managed transportation investments are prioritized.

In June, the GMPB's work focused on reviewing several alternative approaches to designation of MICs. Members of the SCA GMPB caucus would like feedback on the options under consideration and assistance identifying questions important to SCA member cities that should be resolved before any final recommendations are made.

The GMPB is anticipated to develop recommendations for public comment in September/October of 2017. Final recommendations are currently anticipated to be sent to the PSRC Executive Board for final approval in November of 2017.

**Background**

PSRC is considering changes to the designation criteria for Regional Growth Centers and Regional MICs that will help define planning expectations for future urban growth, and guide how regional transportation investments are prioritized.

As a part of this effort, a stakeholder working group consisting of planning and technical staff from around the region was formed to develop a series of policy options that were released in a [final report](#) in February. An overview of the full scope of options under consideration at GMPB

for Regional Growth Centers and MICs can be found in the Regional Centers staff report in the [May 10, 2017 PIC Packet](#).

At its June meeting, the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) meeting was devoted primarily to potential changes to the designation criteria for MICs.

#### What are MIC's?

Under Vision 2040, MIC's are defined as locations of intensive employment where manufacturing and industrial land uses that cannot easily be mixed with other activities, such as housing, are concentrated. MIC's are served by major regional transportation infrastructure, including rail, major highways, and port facilities.

There are currently nine MIC's designated by PSRC: Duwamish, Ballard-Interbay, Kent, and North Tukwila in King County; Sumner-Pacific, Port of Tacoma, and Frederickson in Pierce County; Puget Sound Industrial Center-Bremerton in Kitsap County; and, Paine Field/Boeing Everett in Snohomish County. There are currently two applicant proposals for designation: South Tacoma Industrial Area and Arlington-Marysville.

PSRC first designated MIC's in 2002, prior to establishing formal, consistent criteria. Minimum criteria were first established in 2003 and updated in 2011. Only one designated MIC, Sumner-Pacific, was designated after 2002 and therefore required to meet all the current criteria.

#### Current Minimum Eligibility

To be considered for designation as a MIC by PSRC, the proposed land area must meet a variety of minimum eligibility criteria that include:

- Minimum existing employment level of at least 10,000 jobs;
- Minimum target employment level of at least 20,000 jobs based on the jurisdiction's adopted growth target and center subarea plan;
- At least 80% of property within the proposed MIC boundaries must have planned future land use and current zoning designations for industrial and manufacturing uses;
- Evidence of commitment to a center plan or "vision" (e.g. market analysis; environmental protections; zoning and subarea planning; support for manufacturing industries; capacity for capital facilities; transportation planning that addresses employee and freight mobility, transit access, and demand management); and,
- Other procedural criteria (council resolution; inclusion in comp plan and countywide planning policies).

#### Working Group Proposals

The stakeholder working group identified three alternatives to modify the criteria for designation of new MICs. These alternatives are referred to as Alternative A, Alternative B1, and Alternative B2.

The working group alternatives generally recognize the existing planning criteria for designation of MICs in place since 2011 with key changes related to the thresholds for existing and planned levels of employment and the establishment of different "tiers" or classifications of MICs.

Alternative A would:

- Create higher tier designation for the largest MICs by classifying MICs that have existing employment of at least 20,000 jobs and are planning for at least 50,000 jobs as Regional Tier 1;
- Classify MIC's meeting the current minimum employment criteria of at least 10,000 existing jobs and 20,000 planned jobs as Regional Tier 2;
- Establish a third, standardized county-level tier for centers that do not meet the 10,000-job minimum threshold; and,
- Require that half of the total jobs in a MIC be industrial in nature.

This Alternative would emphasize at the regional level the importance of areas with the very highest levels of currently existing industrial jobs.

Alternative B1 would:

- Classify MICS that meet the current criteria of more than 10,000 existing jobs and 20,000 planned jobs as Regional Tier 1;
- Allow classification of areas that have a minimum of 2,000 acres of land zoned and planned for industrial uses (regardless of number of current jobs) that have met the minimum planning requirements as Regional Tier 2; and,
- Require demonstration of clear *county* role for the MIC (serves as important industrial employment center for the county).

This alternative would emphasize the importance of existing concentrations of while also encouraging preservation of industrial lands by providing a secondary regional recognition for locations with capacity for significant future growth.

Alternative B2 would:

- Remove the hierarchy of "tiers" as defined in Alternative B1, and recognize equally MICs with 10,000 existing industrial jobs as well as centers that have at least 2,000 acres of industrial land and capacity for future growth that have met the minimum planning requirements (centers may meet either the acreage or jobs threshold for regional designation);
- Require demonstration of *regional* role for the MIC (e.g. major industrial user, part of global freight infrastructure, significant component of region's industrial land supply).

This alternative would recognize equally the regional importance of both existing concentrations of jobs and locations with capacity for significant future growth.

PSRC staff have compiled analysis of the MIC alternatives and how each currently designated MIC would be categorized that is included with this staff report as [Attachment A](#).

Minimum criteria and classification of different types of MICs is important for future planning as well as qualifying for funding through PSRC's regional competition (funding set aside for MICs and growth centers designated at the regional level).

Alternative A would place an emphasis on supporting MICs with the largest current employment by classifying them as Tier 1. At present, the Duwamish and Paine Field/Boeing Everett MICs are the only two that meet the threshold to qualify as Tier 1. The Kent, North Tukwila, Sumner-Pacific, and Port of Tacoma MICs would be classified as Tier 2; and, the Ballard-Interbay, Fredrickson, and Puget Sound Industrial Center-Bremerton MICs, as well as the two candidate MICs of Arlington-Marysville and South Tacoma Industrial Area, would be eligible to be designated at the countywide level. The countywide MICs would not be eligible for the regional funding competition, but would be eligible to compete in the countywide process for other funds managed through PSRC.

Under Alternatives B1 and B2, all MICs in King County would remain eligible for designation at the regional level. In addition, the two current applicant MICs would likely qualify for designation as well as additional industrial lands in King County that do not currently meet the 10,000 jobs threshold. B1 and B2 both incentivize counties and cities to preserve industrial lands from other types of redevelopment, but place a different emphasis based on existing jobs.

With B1, areas that meet the 10,000 job threshold would be classified as Tier 1 and prioritized for regional funding. Those areas where industrial lands are preserved for future growth but do not meet the 10,000 job threshold would be classified as Tier 2. Tier 1 MICs would include Duwamish, Paine Field/Boeing Everett, Ballard-Interbay, Kent, North Tukwila, Sumner-Pacific, and Port of Tacoma; and, Tier 2 MICs would include Frederickson and Puget Sound Industrial Center-Bremerton as well as the two candidate MICs of Arlington-Marysville and South Tacoma Industrial Area. With B2, tiers are removed and MICs that qualify based on existing job concentrations or land preserved for future growth would be considered equal at the regional level.

### **Next Steps**

The GMPB will be holding in-depth work sessions over the next several months to review centers criteria. Members of the SCA GMPB caucus would like feedback from the PIC on the options under consideration as recommendations are being developed. In addition, SCA may want to take a formal position on the potential policy changes as they are refined by GMPB. Under its current schedule, the GMPB is expected to release a revised set of options for additional stakeholder input as early as September. Formal guidance or a position on these options could be initially considered at PIC in September, with approval in October. The GMPB is scheduled to make final recommendations to the PSRC Executive Board in November.

### **Attachment**

- A. [PSRC MIC Analysis](#)



**Table 4. Manufacturing/Industrial Center - Current Framework**

| Description   | CENTER                                   | Total Jobs | Total Industrial Jobs | % Industrial Jobs | Acres Zoned Core Industrial | Total MIC Acres | % Zoned Core Industrial | Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers |
|---|--|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Unlike regional growth centers, manufacturing industrial centers are primarily locations of more intense employment and are typically not appropriate for housing. VISION 2040 calls for the recognition and preservation of existing centers of intensive manufacturing and industrial activity and the provision of infrastructure and services necessary to support these areas. These centers are important employment locations that serve both current and long-term regional economic objectives. VISION 2040 discourages non-supportive land uses in manufacturing/industrial centers, such as retail or non-related offices. (VISION 2040) | Ballard-Interbay                         | 18,140     | 8,821                 | 49%               | 746                         | 971             | 77%                     |   |
|   | Duwamish                                 | 65,775     | 41,864                | 64%               | 4,568                       | 4,961           | 92%                     |   |
|   | Frederickson                             | 4,669      | 4,081                 | 87%               | 2,553                       | 2,650           | 96%                     |   |
|   | Kent MIC                                 | 17,883     | 16,057                | 90%               | 1,962                       | 1,970           | 100%                    |   |
|   | North Tukwila                            | 13,934     | 9,334                 | 67%               | 893                         | 961             | 93%                     |   |
|   | Paine Field/Boeing Everett               | 51,300     | 47,301                | 92%               | 3,465                       | 4,241           | 82%                     |   |
|   | Port of Tacoma                           | 10,175     | 8,261                 | 81%               | 4,901                       | 4,963           | 99%                     |   |
|   | Puget Sound Industrial Center- Bremerton | 1,144      | 947                   | 83%               | 2,688                       | 3,246           | 83%                     |   |
|   | Sumner-Pacific                           | 11,447     | 9,108                 | 80%               | 1,908                       | 2,160           | 88%                     |   |
|   | Arlington-Marysville*                    | 7,366      | 5,908                 | 80%               | 3,300                       | 4,033           | 82%                     | *   |
| South Tacoma Industrial Area*   | 7,792                                    | 4,029      | 52%                   | 877               | 913                         | 96%             | *                       |   |

\* candidate regional manufacturing/industrial center

### Manufacturing/Industrial Center – Current Framework

#### Observations:

- All nine MICs would remain in single regional tier
- New candidate MICs would be required to have 10,000 existing employees for regional designation
- No formal standards for countywide manufacturing/industrial centers
- See other findings about MICs in [Regional Centers Framework Background Paper](#)

**Table 5. Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative A**

| Description   | CENTER                                   | Total Jobs | Total Industrial Jobs | % Industrial Jobs | Acres Zoned Core Industrial | Total MIC Acres | % Zoned Core Industrial |            |
|---|--|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| These centers have the highest concentration of manufacturing and industrial employment in the region.  | Duwamish                                 | 65,775     | 41,864                | 64%               | 4,568                       | 4,961           | 92%                     | Tier 1     |
|   | Paine Field/Boeing Everett               | 51,300     | 47,301                | 92%               | 3,465                       | 4,241           | 82%                     |            |
| These centers have active industrial areas with significant existing jobs, core industrial activity, evidence of long-term demand, and regional role.   | Kent MIC                                 | 17,883     | 16,057                | 90%               | 1,962                       | 1,970           | 100%                    | Tier 2     |
|   | North Tukwila                            | 13,934     | 9,334                 | 67%               | 893                         | 961             | 93%                     |            |
|   | Sumner-Pacific                           | 11,447     | 9,108                 | 80%               | 1,908                       | 2,160           | 88%                     |            |
|   | Port of Tacoma                           | 10,175     | 8,261                 | 81%               | 4,901                       | 4,963           | 99%                     |            |
| These centers have an important county role, represent a concentration of industrial land or jobs, and demonstrate evidence of long-term demand. Designation of these centers would be delegated to a county-level process using consistent regional standards. | Ballard-Interbay                         | 18,140     | 8,821                 | 49%               | 746                         | 971             | 77%                     | Countywide |
|   | South Tacoma Industrial Area*            | 7,792      | 4,029                 | 52%               | 877                         | 913             | 96%                     |            |
|   | Arlington-Marysville*                    | 7,366      | 5,908                 | 80%               | 3,300                       | 4033            | 82%                     |            |
|   | Frederickson                             | 4,669      | 4,081                 | 87%               | 2,553                       | 2,650           | 96%                     |            |
|   | Puget Sound Industrial Center- Bremerton | 1,144      | 947                   | 83%               | 2,688                       | 3,246           | 83%                     |            |

\* candidate regional manufacturing/industrial center

## Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative A

### The Details:

- Creates new tier for MICs with employment above 20,000 jobs
- Uses adopted minimum employment threshold for regional designation (10,000 jobs)
- Establishes new thresholds regarding the percent of industrial jobs (50%) and percent of land zoned for core industrial uses (75%)
- Creates new definition of "irreplaceable industrial infrastructure" and requires transportation demand management strategies and industrial retention strategies
- Creates new common standards for countywide manufacturing/industrial centers

### Potential Implications:

- Provisionally, based on existing employment and land use data:
  - Two MICs may be eligible for Tier 1
  - Four MIC may be eligible for Tier 2
  - Five centers may be eligible for countywide designation
  - Additional new MICs may be eligible for countywide designation (see Map 6)
- Like current standards, new candidate regional MICs would require 10,000 existing employees for designation

**Table 6. Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative B1**

| Description  | CENTER                                   | Total Jobs           | Total Industrial Jobs | % Industrial Jobs | Acres Zoned Core Industrial | Total MIC Acres | % Zoned Core Industrial |        |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|
| These centers are highly active industrial areas with significant existing jobs, core industrial activity, evidence of long-term demand, and regional role.  | Duwamish                                 | 65,775               | 41,864                | 64%               | 4,568                       | 4,961           | 92%                     | Tier 1 |
|  | Paine Field/Boeing Everett               | 51,300               | 47,301                | 92%               | 3,465                       | 4,241           | 82%                     |        |
|  | Ballard-Interbay                         | 18,140               | 8,821                 | 49%               | 746                         | 971             | 77%                     |        |
|  | Kent MIC                                 | 17,883               | 16,057                | 90%               | 1,962                       | 1,970           | 100%                    |        |
|  | North Tukwila                            | 13,934               | 9,334                 | 67%               | 893                         | 961             | 93%                     |        |
|  | Sumner-Pacific                           | 11,447               | 9,108                 | 80%               | 1,908                       | 2,160           | 88%                     |        |
|  | Port of Tacoma                           | 10,175               | 8,261                 | 81%               | 4,901                       | 4,963           | 99%                     |        |
| These centers have significant potential for future growth. These manufacturing/industrial centers have large concentrations of industrial land and jobs, evidence of long-term potential, and serve an important county role. | South Tacoma Industrial Area*            | 10,000 jobs<br>7,792 | 4,029                 | 52%               | 877                         | 913             | 96%                     | Tier 2 |
|  | Arlington-Marysville*                    | 7,366                | 5,908                 | 80%               | 3,300                       | 4,033           | 82%                     |        |
|  | Frederickson                             | 4,669                | 4,081                 | 87%               | 2,553                       | 2,650           | 96%                     |        |
|  | Puget Sound Industrial Center- Bremerton | 1,144                | 947                   | 83%               | 2,688                       | 3,246           | 83%                     |        |

\* candidate regional manufacturing/industrial center

## Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative B1

### The Details:

- Creates new regional tier for MICs with large concentrations of industrial land (2,000 acres)
- Uses adopted minimum employment threshold for Tier 1 designation (10,000 jobs)
- Establishes new thresholds regarding the percent of land zoned for core industrial uses (75%)
- Creates new definition of "irreplaceable industrial infrastructure" and requires transportation demand management strategies and industrial retention strategies

### Potential Implications:

- Provisionally, based on existing employment and land use data:
  - Seven MICs may be eligible for Tier 1
  - Four MICs and candidate MICs may be eligible for Tier 2
  - Additional new MICs may be eligible for regional designation (see Map 6)
- New candidate regional MICs would be required to have 10,000 existing employees for designation OR a minimum of 2,000 acres of industrial land

**Table 7. Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative B2**

| Regional Employment Center   | Regional Industrial Lands  |
|--|--|
| <p>These centers are highly active industrial areas with significant existing jobs, core industrial activity, evidence of long-term demand, and regional role.</p>   | <p>These regional clusters of industrial lands have significant value to the region and potential for future job growth. These large areas of industrial land serve the region with international employers, have industrial infrastructure, concentrations of industrial jobs, and evidence of long-term potential.</p> |
| <p>Ballard-Interbay<br/>                     Duwamish<br/>                     Kent MIC<br/>                     North Tukwila<br/>                     Paine Field/Boeing Everett<br/>                     Port of Tacoma<br/>                     Sumner-Pacific</p> | <p>Arlington-Marysville*<br/>                     Frederickson<br/>                     Puget Sound Industrial Center- Bremerton<br/>                     South Tacoma Industrial Area*</p>  |

\* candidate regional manufacturing/industrial center

**Manufacturing/Industrial Center Alternative B2**

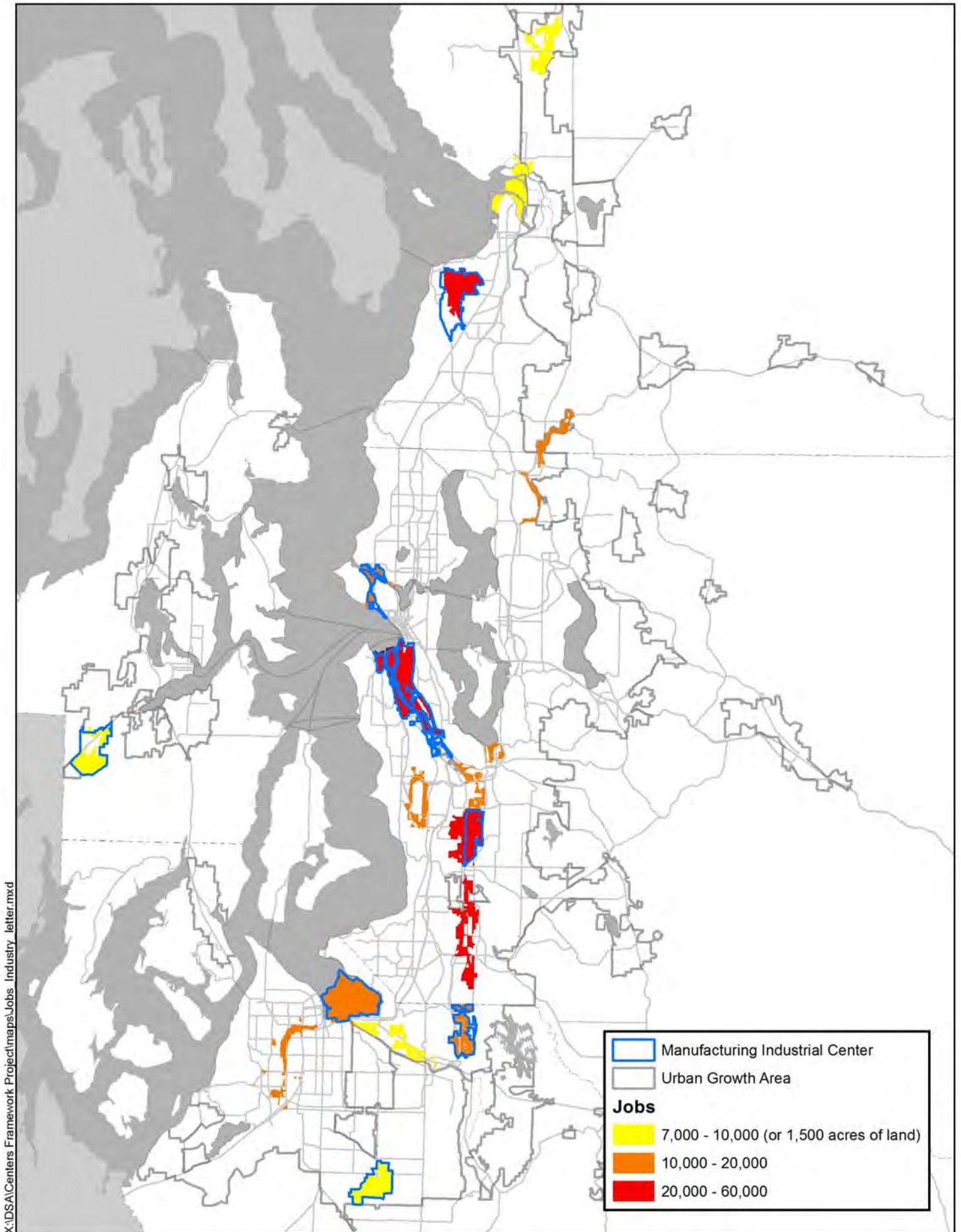
**The Details:**

- Creates new regional MICs types featuring large concentrations of industrial land (2,000 acres) or minimum employment (10,000 jobs)
- Establishes new thresholds regarding the percent of land zoned for core industrial uses (75%)
- Creates new definition of "irreplaceable industrial infrastructure" and requires transportation demand management strategies and industrial retention strategies

**Potential Implications:**

- Provisionally, based on existing employment and land use data:
  - Seven MICs may be eligible to be a Regional Employment Center
  - Four MICs and candidate MICs may be eligible as a Regional Industrial Lands Center
  - Additional new MICs may be eligible for regional designation (see Map 6)
- New candidate regional MICs would be required to have 10,000 existing employees for designation OR a minimum of 2,000 acres of industrial land

# 2015 Jobs in Core Industrial Areas



X:\D\SA\Centers Framework Project\maps\Jobs\_Industry\_letter.mxd

Page Intentionally Left Blank

**Item 8:**  
Regional Transportation System Initiative

***DISCUSSION***

---

**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**Discussion**

The network of regional roads in King County faces significant long-term challenges as an expanding economy and growth are exacerbating traffic congestion on county and city roads, while declining revenues severely restrict each jurisdictions' ability to operate and maintain aging infrastructure.

To address these challenges, in early 2017 the Regional Transportation System Initiative (RTSI) was launched by King County and Sound Cities Association, with support from the Puget Sound Regional Council. Monthly meetings are being held in 2017 with technical experts invited from each city in King County to define the regional roads network and its long-term needs. A meeting of elected officials is scheduled for June 13, 2017.

The purpose of the meeting of elected officials is review the work done to date by the technical committee, develop a better understanding of regional transportation needs and priorities in each community, and gauge the level of support for a coordinated approach to potential solutions to these challenges.

At the June PIC meeting, SCA staff will provide a report on the June 13 meeting of elected officials, and PIC members will have opportunity to provide input on future direction of the RTSI.

**Background**

Local arterial roads and streets in King County carry millions of trips every day and are the backbone that connects communities to each other and to the interstate system. This network of regional roads is at a critical juncture: aging infrastructure, declining revenues, and an expanding economy are stressing each individual jurisdiction's ability to support the transportation network.

Recent data collected from local jurisdictions by the Puget Sound Regional Council shows local road funding to be the biggest unfunded "gap" in the region's long-term transportation plan (Transportation 2040). Preliminary estimates place the unfunded need through 2040 for city and county maintenance, operation, and system improvements at more than \$25 billion across the four-county region. The RTSI effort builds-off the data collected by PSRC to define the needs and potential solutions specific to roads in King County. Shrinking this gap will require tough

choices affecting funding, levels of service, and maintenance commitments, as well as balancing those needs with other critical regional priorities also in need of additional funding.

SCA members have repeatedly expressed support for working together to address common needs, identify gaps in our regional transportation network, address cut-through traffic and congestion, and find creative ways to leverage each jurisdiction's plans and projects to produce better outcomes. Sound Cities Association hosted a regional transportation forum in late 2014; and more recently, in late 2016, Mayor Butler of the City of Issaquah hosted a regional transportation forum where representatives from nearby cities, the county, the state, and transit agencies gathered to discuss regional mobility issues.

In 2015, the county convened the Bridges and Roads Task Force to explore solutions for maintaining and preserving the aging bridge and road system in unincorporated King County. One of the most significant recommendations of that effort was that the county partner with all cities in King County to find a sustainable approach that addresses shared transportation system needs affecting both rural roads and city streets.

To respond to calls to seek partnerships to address these challenges, in early 2017 the RTSI was launched by King County and Sound Cities Association, with support from the Puget Sound Regional Council. Monthly meetings are being held in 2017 with technical experts invited from each city in King County to define the regional roads network and its long-term needs, and opportunities to collaborate on regional mobility solutions. The technical committee has worked to identify the regional network of connecting roadways in King County and the criteria that define them. Their work identified a system of more than 1,350 miles of roadways with many different needs and priorities.

On June 13, 2017, a meeting of local elected officials will review the work done to date by the technical committee; develop a better understanding of transportation priorities in each community; determine the level of interest in building a coalition to engage the State Legislature in a conversation about long-term local roads funding; and provide direction for any future work of the RTSI technical committee.

An invitation to participate in the June 13 meeting was sent to each jurisdiction in King County in May. To allow everyone an equal opportunity to participate, each jurisdiction was asked to identify one representative to participate in the discussion.

Additional information and resources are available on the [RTSI website](#).

### **Next Steps**

Future actions of the RTSI effort will be determined based on input from the June 13 meeting of elected officials. If there is interest from elected officials in pursuing regional solutions to these transportation challenges, it is anticipated the RTSI technical committee will continue to meet throughout 2017 to further refine needs and funding options. A follow-up meeting of elected officials would likely be held later in 2017 to review the work of the technical committee and provide further direction.



Preliminary next steps for the RTSI technical committee include:

- Establishing the maintenance, preservation, operation, and capacity needs of the network;
- Reviewing revenue options;
- Exploring “early wins” that benefit the system (such as Intelligent Transportation System upgrades and integration); and
- Presenting options to elected officials later in 2017.

Outcomes of the June 13 meeting will be discussed by the PIC in June.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



June 14, 2017  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 9:**  
2017 State Legislative Session  
**UPDATE**

---

**SCA Staff Contact**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, [ellie@soundcities.org](mailto:ellie@soundcities.org), (206) 495-5238

**SCA Legislative Committee Members**

SCA President and Kenmore Mayor David Baker (Chair); Councilmember Bill Allison, Maple Valley; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific; Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park

**Update**

The Legislature is now in its second special session and, with negotiations on two-year operating and capital budgets and a deal to fund K-12 education moving slowly, the Governor is urging lawmakers to compromise. Meanwhile, state agencies are undertaking required contingency planning for the potential of a partial government shutdown on July 1. SCA's 2017 legislative priorities—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis—remain unresolved, with key asks tied up in broader budget negotiations.

**Background**

At the recommendation of the SCA Legislative Committee and the PIC, the SCA Board of Directors adopted an SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda in October 2016 ([Attachment A](#)). The Legislature convened its 105-day budget-writing session January 9, 2017. PIC members were briefed at the January, February, and March PIC meetings on the Legislature's progress toward completing budgets for the next biennium and related to SCA's three legislative priorities—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. Members also discussed other individual member city priorities, such as updating the public records act (see [January PIC Packet](#), page 39, and [January Meeting Minutes](#), page 4; [February PIC Packet](#), page 45, and [February Meeting Minutes](#), page 10; and [March PIC Packet](#), page 59, and [March Meeting Minutes](#), page 12). Most recently, at the May PIC meeting, members received a recap of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session, which adjourned April 23, and were briefed on the outlook for the then ongoing first special session (see [May PIC Packet](#), page 59, and [draft May Meeting Minutes](#), page 11).

**Special Legislative Sessions and the Budget Outlook**

Since the PIC last met, the Legislature reached the conclusion of the first 30-day special session without having reached a compromise to overhaul state school funding and without passing operating or capital budgets for the biennium that begins July 1, 2017. On May 23, Governor Jay Inslee [called a second 30-day special session](#) and that work continues. In his [press conference announcing the second special session](#), Governor Inslee noted that neither a

democratic proposal for a capital gains tax nor a republican proposal for restructuring property taxes could win favor from the opposite party, a necessity under Washington's divided governance. The Governor spoke to the necessity of compromise and areas of potential middle ground between House Democrats and Senate Republicans, including [expanding sales tax collection on purchases made over the internet, a smaller property tax adjustment than earlier proposed by Senate Republicans, and a graduated real estate excise tax rate](#).

While the Governor has said "there is no excuse for not getting this done in the next 30 days," state government agencies are undergoing [preparations](#) for the potentiality that the state government could partially shut down on July 1 if the Legislature fails to pass an operating budget. The Governor has dismissed the idea of a continuing resolution as a stop gap until a biennial budget deal can be reached later in the year.

At the halfway point of the second special session, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is [urging city leaders to continue to remind legislators about city budget and policy priorities](#) and has put out a [statement](#) cautioning against filling state budget gaps with shared revenues or by revoking historic commitments to fund the state's share of LEOFF 2 pension obligations. Senate Republicans have proposed eliminating the state's LEOFF 2 pension contribution, costing cities an estimated \$70 million in the biennium that begins this July 1. AWC [encourages](#) cities to calculate the impact to their budgets and to share that information with legislators.

### **Update on SCA Legislative Priorities**

With the exception of key negotiators for school funding and the state capital and operating budgets, legislators have been primarily at home in their districts during the first and second special sessions. There has, however, been some movement on one of SCA's legislative priorities since the PIC last met. On May 25, the House returned to Olympia for floor activity and voted on a 50-44 party line vote to move [SHB 1570](#)—which would expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee—out of the chamber. The bill has been referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, but a deal on the Document Recording Fee is anticipated to be part of broader budget negotiations. The Document Recording Fee provides the most significant source of state funding for homelessness programs and is due to begin sunseting in 2019.

### **Next Steps**

The next [state revenue forecast will be released June 20](#). This forecast is expected to show a slight increase from earlier projections, but not as steep as in [March](#), and not great enough to significantly address the budget questions before legislators. Following the revenue forecast, a heightened level of budget activity is anticipated. A new operating budget must be in place by July 1 to avert a partial government shutdown, though with shutdown contingency planning already underway, some layoff and other required notifications are already taking place. SCA staff will continue to provide updates to the PIC and alert members about advocacy opportunities in support of the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda.

### **Attachment**

- A. [SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda](#)



To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

## **SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda**

### **Adjust the Property Tax Cap**

Property tax is the largest revenue source for Washington's cities, supporting critical services such as justice, health, and safety. Property taxes are capped at a level that creates an ever-widening gap between the cost of providing public services to a growing population and the revenue available to pay for them. A new property tax limit should correspond to what it actually costs local governments to continue providing services, and keep up with increased public demand.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to give local governments the option to replace the arbitrary annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth.*

### **Invest in Public Health Services**

Protect our communities by investing in core public health services. The 40% per capita decrease in public health funding since 1999 is reaching crisis levels across the state. The funding shortfall has left Public Health–Seattle & King County unable to fully investigate disease outbreaks. The Washington State Department of Health is requesting \$54 million for local public health jurisdictions to fill critical gaps in disease prevention and response, and to pilot shared services to improve the efficiency of the overall system.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to fund basic public health by investing \$54 million in core public health services.*

### **Address the Housing and Homelessness Crisis**

Our communities face an affordable housing and homelessness crisis. Over 4,500 people are surviving unsheltered on any given night in King County, and others, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find affordable, quality housing in our region. Partnerships between state and local governments are critical to create new units of affordable housing. Renewed state commitments to help Washingtonians transition out of homelessness are necessary, as are expanded investments to address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to partner with us to address homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing in the following ways:*
  - *Expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee*
  - *Invest \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund*
  - *Allow local governments to create and preserve affordable housing through a Preservation Tax Exemption and other optional local tools*
- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to address other underlying causes of homelessness by making investments in our state's behavioral health system and enacting legislation to prohibit Source of Income Discrimination.*

Page Intentionally Left Blank



June 14, 2017  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 10:**  
Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County  
**UPDATE**

**SCA Staff Contact**

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, [brian@soundcities.org](mailto:brian@soundcities.org), (206) 499-4159

**Update**

This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County.

**Upcoming Levies and Ballot Measures (officially filed)**

| Year | Month | Jurisdiction | Measure        |
|------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| 2017 | Aug   | King County  | Access for All |

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities**

None formally proposed at this time

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Cities**

| Year | Month | Jurisdiction | Measure                               |
|------|-------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2018 |       | Seattle      | Families and Education Levy (renewal) |
| 2019 |       | Seattle      | Library Levy (renewal)                |
| 2019 |       | Seattle      | Transportation Levy (renewal)         |

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – Countywide**

| Year    | Month | Jurisdiction | Measure   |
|---------|-------|--------------|---|
| 2017    | Nov   | King County  | Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (renewal/expansion) |
| 2018    |       | King County  | Affordable Housing and Related Services Sales Tax             |
| 2018    |       | King County  | AFIS Levy (renewal)   |
| 2019    |       | King County  | Medic One (renewal)   |
| 2019    |       | King County  | Regional Parks Levy (renewal)                                 |
| 2018-19 |       | King County  | Land Conservation   |
| 2021    |       | King County  | Best Starts for Kids (renewal)                                |

**Potential Future Ballot Measures – School & Special Purpose Districts**

| Year | Month | Measure                                   |
|------|-------|---|
| 2018 |       | Shoreline School District Operations Levy |
| 2018 |       | Shoreline School District Capital Levy    |

**Next Steps:**

The deadline to file a resolution placing a measure on the November 7, 2017 ballot is August 1.

Please share this information with your city, and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry.





June 14, 2017  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 11:**  
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues  
**UPDATE**

---

**SCA Staff Contact**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org), (206) 495-3265

**Update**

This is an ongoing, monthly PIC item noting issues that SCA members have asked to be brought to the PIC.

**Potential Issues**

- City Human Services Funding
  - SCA staff is working with the King County Alliance for Human Services and city staff to collect data and will return to the PIC for discussion
  - An upcoming pre-PIC workshop is also anticipated on this topic
  
- Regional response to property crime
  - Identified at SCA Caucus meetings in December
  - Members also discussed correlation with heroin epidemic
  - SCA staff are planning a pre-PIC workshop on this topic
  
- Addressing the impact of growth on the region
  - This topic was raised at the SCA caucus meetings in December

If you or your city has additional items to be added to this list, please contact Deanna Dawson, [deanna@soundcities.org](mailto:deanna@soundcities.org).

Page Intentionally Left Blank



June 14, 2017  
SCA PIC Meeting

## Item 12a:

Count Us In

### ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM***

---

#### **SCA Staff Contact**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, [ellie@soundcities.org](mailto:ellie@soundcities.org), 206-495-5238

#### **SCA All Home Coordinating Board Members**

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue

#### **Informational Item**

There were 11,643 people experiencing homelessness countywide according to the annual point-in-time count, called “Count Us In” and previously known as the “One Night Count.” The count, conducted January 27, 2017, found an estimated 6,158 people sheltered in transitional housing or emergency shelters and 5,485 people on the streets, sleeping in vehicles, or encampments (sanctioned or unsanctioned). For the 2017 count, a new methodology shifted from a “known areas” approach to a canvassing of census tracts countywide and incorporated information garnered from a person-to-person survey of 1,158 people experiencing homelessness. Because of significant changes in the way the way count data was tabulated, the results are not considered comparable to prior years’ totals.

#### **Background**

Each year, All Home—the lead agency responsible for coordinating countywide efforts to address homelessness—coordinates a point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in King County. Previously, the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness organized this effort in conjunction with All Home, and the count was known as the “One Night Count”. However, the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness decided to cease participation in 2017, and All Home has partnered instead with Applied Survey Research (ASR) a national non-profit research firm. The count is now called “Count Us In.”

#### **2017 Count Us In**

The 2017 Count Us In point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness included a street count January 27, 2017 of nearly every census tract in King County, a shelter count the same night, and a person-to-person survey completed by 1,158 people reflecting a representative sample of sheltered and unsheltered people across the county.

#### **Methodology**

Unlike in past years, when the number of people identified as unsheltered was released the same morning as the street count, this year’s Count Us In results were instead released later on May 31, 2017 together with a report analyzing the characteristics of those experiencing

homelessness in King County. This time between the street count in January and May report release allowed for development of a more thorough understanding of who is experiencing homelessness in our region than was available in past years. The [full report](#) is available online and the Executive Summary is included as [Attachment A](#). As summarized in the report, there were several key changes to the methodology for this year's count:

- *Countywide participation of paid guides and surveyors, who were individuals with current or recent lived experience with homelessness engaged in the data collection process;*
- *A shift from a "known areas" approach for the general street count to a canvassing of census tracts in King County;*
- *A sample-based qualitative survey including shelter and service locations, as well as street locations; and*
- *The incorporation of a youth and young adult count component focused on unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, previously conducted separately from the Point-in-Time Count.*

Significantly, ASR used the information garnered from the 1,158-person King County survey sample and other recent surveys conducted by the research firm to determine the average number of people residing in each vehicle, tent, and abandoned building. These individual multipliers were then used to extrapolate from the street count tallies how many people were surviving unsheltered in King County. As described on page 71 of the [full report](#), multipliers ranged from 1.31 for tents to 1.8 for campers and RVs. In prior years, a general multiplier of two persons per location type was applied to the street count tallies.

Due to these significant methodological changes, All Home and ASR caution against comparisons to prior year results. The report states that the 2017 count is intended to instead provide a new baseline for our county's annual point-in-time count.

## Results

The 2017 count found 11,643 people experiencing homelessness countywide, including 5,485 people on the streets, sleeping in vehicles, or encampments (sanctioned or unsanctioned) and 6,158 people sheltered in transitional housing or emergency shelters. An infographic summarizing key count data and findings from the accompanying survey is included as [Attachment B](#).

Recognizing the regional nature of the homelessness crisis and mobility of people across jurisdictional boundaries, survey results are being reported for six subregions rather than by city or census tract. The subregions are as follows:

- **East County:** Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Kirkland, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Redmond, Yarrow Point
- **North County:** Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline, Woodinville
- **Northeast County:** Carnation, Duvall, Issaquah, North Bend, Sammamish, Skykomish, Snoqualmie
- **Seattle**

- **Southeast County:** Black Diamond, Covington, Enumclaw, Maple Valley
- **Southwest County:** Algona, Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Milton, Normandy Park, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, Vashon Island

Sheltered and unsheltered counts for each region are included on page 8 of the [full report](#) and excerpted in the following table:

| 2017             |             |              |             |              |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| REGION           | UNSHELTERED |              | SHELTERED   |              |
|                  | %           | n            | %           | n            |
| East County      | 5%          | 284          | 6%          | 347          |
| North County     | 1%          | 53           | 2%          | 148          |
| Northeast County | 2%          | 119          | 1%          | 47           |
| Seattle          | 70%         | 3,857        | 76%         | 4,665        |
| Southwest County | 20%         | 1,102        | 15%         | 915          |
| Southeast County | 1%          | 70           | 1%          | 36           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>5,485</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>6,158</b> |

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, and Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Additional detail about the location of people surviving without shelter is included on page 110 of the [full report](#) and excerpted in the following table:

| REGION           | 2017                        |                        |                  |                                |                           |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
|                  | PERSONS ON STREETS/ OUTSIDE | PERSONS IN CAR/RV/ VAN | PERSONS IN TENTS | PERSONS IN ABANDONED BUILDINGS | TOTAL UNSHELTERED PERSONS | % OF TOTAL  |
| East County      | 33                          | 201                    | 46               | 4                              | <b>284</b>                | <b>5%</b>   |
| North County     | 16                          | 35                     | 0                | 2                              | <b>53</b>                 | <b>1%</b>   |
| Northeast County | 22                          | 29                     | 66               | 2                              | <b>119</b>                | <b>2%</b>   |
| Seattle          | 1,076                       | 1,550                  | 1,153            | 78                             | <b>3,857</b>              | <b>70%</b>  |
| Southeast County | 22                          | 39                     | 9                | 0                              | <b>70</b>                 | <b>1%</b>   |
| Southwest County | 313                         | 460                    | 277              | 52                             | <b>1,102</b>              | <b>20%</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1,482</b>                | <b>2,314</b>           | <b>1,551</b>     | <b>138</b>                     | <b>5,485</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In. Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

As noted above, there were significant methodological changes between 2017 and prior years' counts—including canvassing census tracts countywide and changes to the multipliers used to extrapolate the unsheltered count from volunteers' street count tallies. The [inability in 2016 to count the sprawling encampment known as "The Jungle" in Seattle](#), due to safety concerns following then-recent shootings there, also speaks to the challenges between arriving at a comprehensive and comparable count from year-to-year. While the 2017 count is intended to provide a new countywide baseline, prior years' data is available for review on the All Home website [here](#). In [2016](#), there were 10,688 people identified as experiencing homelessness on January 29, 2016, including 4,505 people who were unsheltered and 6,183 people sheltered in transitional housing or emergency shelters.

## Key Findings

The survey conducted in conjunction with this year's street count provided additional context beyond the broad totals noted above. Survey results, described in detail in the [full report](#) and summarized in the attached Executive Summary ([Attachment A](#)) and Infographic ([Attachment B](#)), showed the following:

- Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color. About 55 percent of people experiencing homelessness were people of color.
- People experiencing chronic homelessness accounted for 24 percent of the count total (2,773 individuals).
- People identifying as veterans accounted for 11 percent of the count total (1,329 individuals).
- Individuals in families with children accounted for 24 percent of the count total (2,833 individuals in 905 families), and 97 percent of persons in families were sheltered on the night of the count.
- Unaccompanied youth (under 18) and young adults (18-25) accounted for 13 percent of the count total (1,498 individuals including 221 unaccompanied youth under age 18).

Survey data also provided a better picture about where people were living before they experienced homelessness in King County. The overwhelming majority were living in King County (77 percent) or elsewhere in Washington (14 percent). Just 9 percent were living outside the state when they most recently lost housing.

Survey respondents reported a high rate of history of domestic violence or partner abuse (40 percent) and also were disproportionately likely to have a history of foster care (19 percent). Half of respondents reported at least one disabling condition.

Asked what would help them to obtain permanent housing, 73 percent of survey respondents answered more affordable housing and rental assistance. If offered, 92 percent said they would move into safe and affordable housing.

## **Next Steps**

PIC members are encouraged to review the materials provided as attachments to this staff report and linked throughout for fuller analysis about the results of the 2017 count. Additionally, All Home staff have offered to present the results of the count to cities. To schedule a presentation, contact All Home Director Mark Putnam at [mark.putnam@allhomekc.org](mailto:mark.putnam@allhomekc.org) or 206-263-9001.

## **Attachments**

- A. [Seattle/King County 2017 Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Comprehensive Report \(Executive Summary\)](#)
- B. [2017 Count Us In Results Infographic](#)

## Online Materials

- [Seattle/King County 2017 Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Comprehensive Report \(Full Report\)](#)
- [2017 Count Us In Report Overview](#)

# Executive Summary

## BACKGROUND

As the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care (CoC), All Home is responsible for conducting and reporting the findings of the local Point-in-Time Count in the annual funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These findings ultimately help communities and the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide, and inform local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience in King County.

## METHODOLOGY CHANGES

Formerly known as the One Night Count, Count Us In is the annual Point-in-Time Count of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. This year, All Home worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research to conduct 2017 Count Us In, implementing new and improved data collection methods for obtaining comprehensive, accurate, and actionable data on the local population experiencing homelessness.

Key changes to the methodology of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County included:

- Countywide participation of paid guides and surveyors, who were individuals with current or recent lived experience with homelessness engaged in the data collection process;
- A shift from a “known areas” approach for the general street count to a canvassing of census tracts in King County;
- A sample-based qualitative survey including shelter and service locations, as well as street locations; and
- The incorporation of a youth and young adult count component focused on unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, previously conducted separately from the Point-in-Time Count.

Increased coverage during the general street count featured heightened outreach to individuals living in vehicles and in encampments, as well as in areas of the county beyond the urban cores. This was achieved through increased partnerships with individuals with lived experience, outreach workers, experts in vehicle residency, and community stakeholders familiar with specific areas and encampments.



## Executive Summary

In addition to helping understand the experiences and needs of individuals experiencing homelessness across Seattle/King County, survey data collected in the weeks following the street count were used to estimate the number of individuals living in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings. Individual multipliers for individuals residing in these locations were developed based on survey data, and applied to the number of vehicles and structures observed on the night of the street count where the number of individuals residing in these settings was unknown. Further, survey data were used to estimate the size of certain subpopulations by applying percentages of survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness and identifying as veterans to the number of individuals, youth, and families identified during the general street count.

**Due to the significant changes in the count methodology in 2017, caution is advised in noting trends from previous years' count data, which will not be presented in this report. This is especially true of subpopulation data, where the survey effort was able to provide significantly more reliable data about the unsheltered population. This year's report establishes a new baseline for Seattle/King County.**

## IMPLEMENTATION

With over 160 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, nearly 600 community volunteers, staff from various city and county departments, and other community partners dedicated to ending homelessness, Count Us In was a comprehensive community effort. This resulted in completing the following core components of Count Us In:

- 1) General Street Count – a peer-informed visual count of unsheltered individuals, conducted between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM in most areas on January 27, 2017, with more rural or remote locations covered at daybreak on the same day;
- 2) Youth and Young Adult Count – a focused, survey-based count of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, conducted at both site-based and street-based locations throughout the day on January 27, 2017;
- 3) Sheltered Count – a count of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs the night prior to the general street count; and
- 4) Survey – an in-person representative survey of unsheltered and sheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors in the weeks following the general street count.

## COUNT US IN REPORT

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County on a single night in January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including those experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

In this report, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count is used. This definition includes individuals and families who:

- Are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens) designated to provide temporary living arrangements; or
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground (including any sanctioned or unsanctioned encampment location).

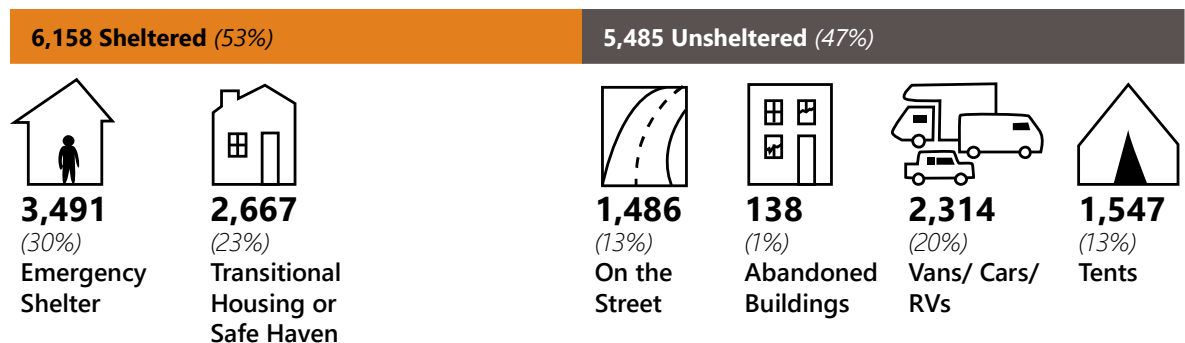
Data presented in this report are sourced from the four components of the count, and frequently from a combination of components. The sources of data are cited below each finding, and detailed information on the methodology can be found in *Appendix 1*.

## COUNT US IN RESULTS

On the night of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County, there were 11,643 people experiencing homelessness

A total of 11,643 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted on January 27, 2017. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, in parks, encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Seattle/King County Count Us In*. Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see *Appendix 1*.

## Executive Summary

## People experiencing homelessness are our neighbors

During the Count Us In Survey, seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents reported living in King County at the time they most recently lost their housing. Twenty percent (20%) of survey respondents reported being born or growing up in King County, and 24% reported having lived in King County for a decade or longer.

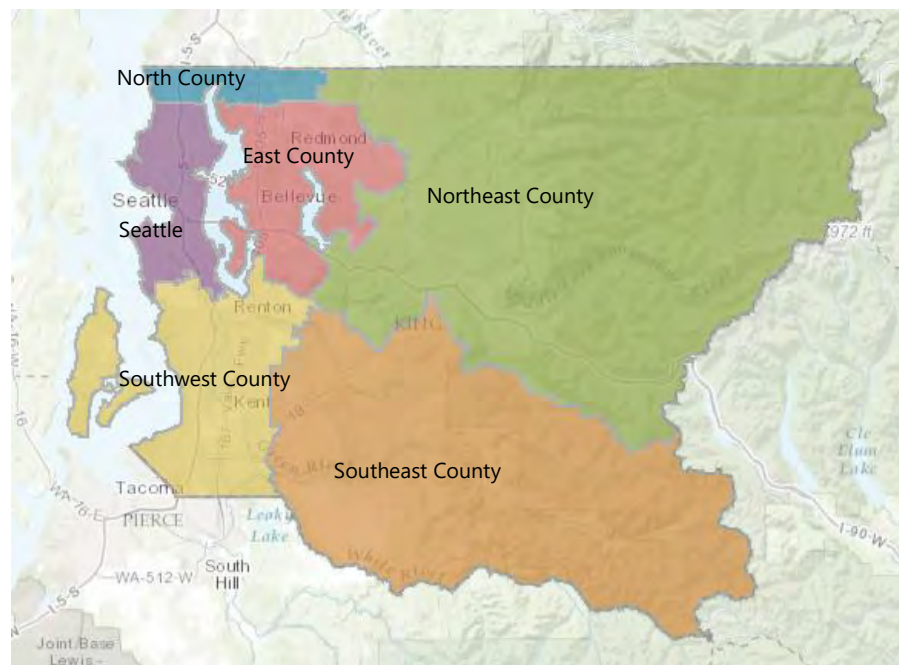
Seventy percent (70%) of the county's unsheltered population identified during the street count were residing in Seattle. Seattle was also the location of the majority (76%) of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe havens on the night of the count. Twenty percent (20%) of unsheltered individuals were residing in the Southwest region; this area includes the cities of Renton, Burien, Auburn and Kent. Lower percentages of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness were residing in East County (5%), Northeast County (2%), North County (1%), and Southeast County (1%). For regional definitions, please see *Appendix 5*.

| 2017             |             |              |             |              |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| REGION           | UNSHelterED |              | SHelterED   |              |
|                  | %           | <i>n</i>     | %           | <i>n</i>     |
| East County      | 5%          | 284          | 6%          | 347          |
| North County     | 1%          | 53           | 2%          | 148          |
| Northeast County | 2%          | 119          | 1%          | 47           |
| Seattle          | 70%         | 3,857        | 76%         | 4,665        |
| Southwest County | 20%         | 1,102        | 15%         | 915          |
| Southeast County | 1%          | 70           | 1%          | 36           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>5,485</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>6,158</b> |

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Seattle/King County Count Us In*.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, and Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1. For regional definitions, please see Appendix 5.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Executive Summary

FIGURE 2. WHERE WERE YOU LIVING AT THE TIME YOU MOST RECENTLY LOST YOUR HOUSING?



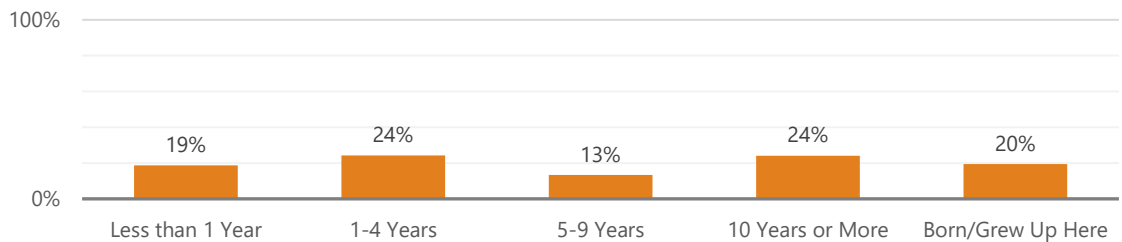
2017 n=866

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN KING COUNTY?



2017 n=845

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

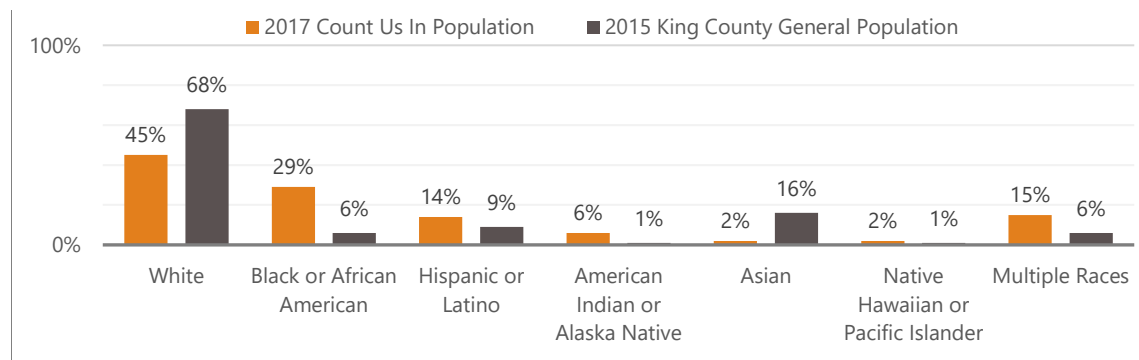
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

## About our neighbors experiencing homelessness

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color

In 2017, approximately 55% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. When compared to the demographic racial profiles of the county's general population, the largest disparities were observed among those who identified as Black or African American (29% compared to 6%), Hispanic or Latino (14% compared to 9%), American Indian or Alaska Native (6% compared to 1%), and with multiple races (15% compared to 6%).

FIGURE 4. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 n=11,643

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Count Us In Population includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

### Young people identified themselves as LGBTQ at higher rates than other survey respondents

The majority of Count Us In survey respondents identified as straight (82%), while 7% identified as bisexual, 5% identified as gay or lesbian, and 2% identified as queer. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old identified as LGBTQ, compared to 14% of other survey respondents.

## Executive Summary

---

An estimated 2,773 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is defined as sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or staying in emergency shelters for a year or longer, or experiencing at least four such episodes of homelessness in the last three years, *and* also living with a disabling condition such as a chronic health problem, psychiatric or emotional condition, or physical disability. On the night of Count Us In, 64% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered and 36% were residing in sheltered locations.

An estimated 1,329 individuals identified as veterans. Over half (52%) of veterans were unsheltered, while 48% were sheltered on the night of Count Us In. Approximately 32% of veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness, while 28 veterans were part of family households.

An estimated 2,833 individuals were in families with children. These individuals represented 905 family households, 135 of which were households headed by a young parent under 25 years of age. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families were sheltered on the night of the count, while 3% were unsheltered.

An estimated 1,498 individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults. These young people represent 13% of the total count population, and comprise unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, including 221 unaccompanied minors under 18 years old. Over three-quarters (76%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered, while 24% were sheltered on the night of the count.

## Experience with domestic violence and foster care

Forty percent (40%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of domestic violence or partner abuse, with 7% reporting that they were currently experiencing domestic violence. Among all survey respondents, 58% of individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ); 54% of families with children; and 43% of unaccompanied youth and young adults reported histories of domestic violence. These groups of individuals also reported domestic or family violence as the primary cause of their homelessness at higher rates when compared to other survey respondents.

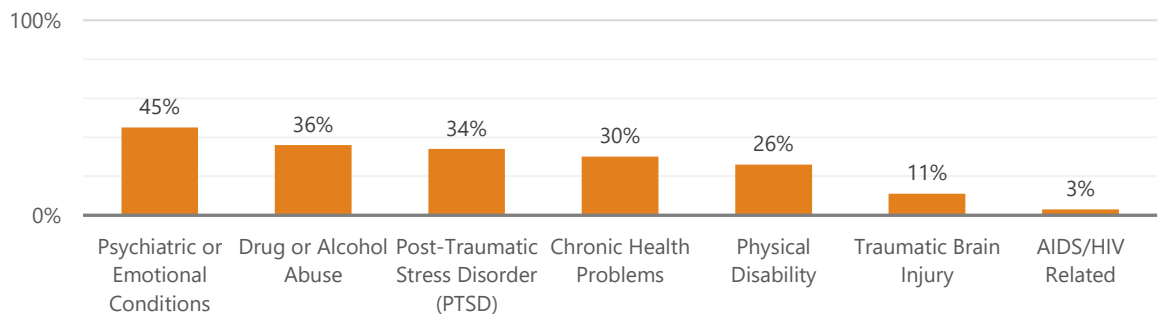
Nineteen percent (19%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care, with rates of foster care involvement highest among respondents identifying as LGBTQ (33%) and unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age (29%).

## Behavioral health

Half (50%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported at least one disabling condition, and among those individuals 66% reported living with two or more disabling conditions.

Behavioral health conditions were the most frequently reported disabling conditions among Count Us In survey respondents, with 45% experiencing psychiatric or emotional conditions, 36% reporting drug or alcohol abuse, and 34% living with post-traumatic stress disorder.

FIGURE 5. DISABLING CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n=1,158

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In. Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

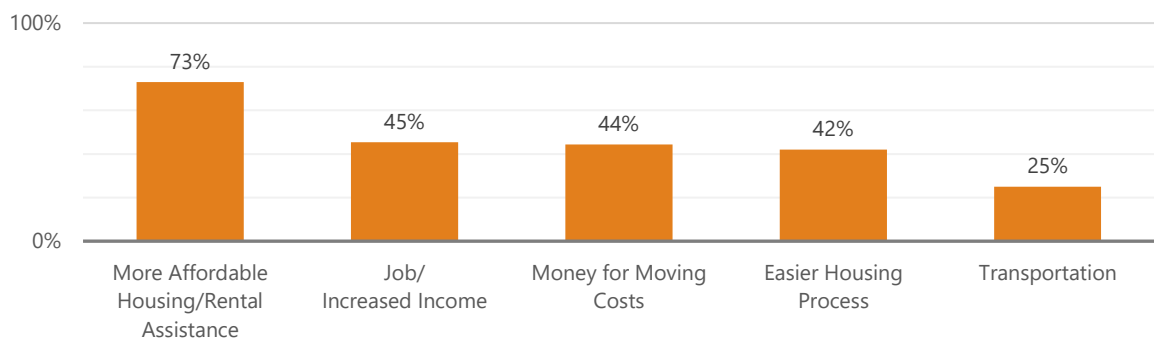
## Housing ends homelessness

Ninety-two percent (92%) of Count Us In survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered. Although not necessarily residing in shelter on the night of the count, 42% of respondents reported accessing emergency shelter and 33% reported accessing transitional housing programs.

Prior to losing their housing, nearly three-quarters of Count Us In survey respondents reported living either in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner (43%), or with friends or relatives (31%). Approximately 23% of survey respondents indicated that issues related to housing affordability were the primary conditions leading to their homelessness, including eviction (11%), inability to afford a rent increase (6%), family or friend could no longer afford to let them stay (4%), and foreclosure (2%).

When asked what would help individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing, Count Us In survey respondents reported more affordable housing and rental assistance (73%) as key to ending their homelessness.

FIGURE 6. WHAT WOULD HELP YOU OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING?



2017 n= 867

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



## Overall, these findings compare with similar local research and other cities up and down the West Coast

Findings of the 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count are consistent with other research efforts of Applied Survey Research, including its *2016 City of Seattle Homeless Needs Assessment* and Point-in-Time Count efforts in other West Coast communities.<sup>1</sup>

Noted similarities include:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness are generally from the community
- Overrepresentation of people of color and people who identify as LGBTQ compared to the general population
- High rates of domestic violence and abuse, particularly among families and young people
- Large numbers of individuals residing in encampments or in vehicles
- Significant need for behavioral health services and treatment
- Strong desire for affordable housing and need for financial resources to achieve housing stability, including increased income, rental assistance, and money for moving costs
- Challenges in navigating current services, from basic logistics of transportation and personal documentation to organizational and systemic issues related to outreach, staff follow-up, and program eligibility

---

<sup>1</sup> Applied Survey Research. (2017, April). *City of Seattle 2016 Homeless Needs Assessment*. Retrieved from <http://coshumaninterests.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/City-of-Seattle-Report-FINAL-with-4.11.17-additions.pdf>

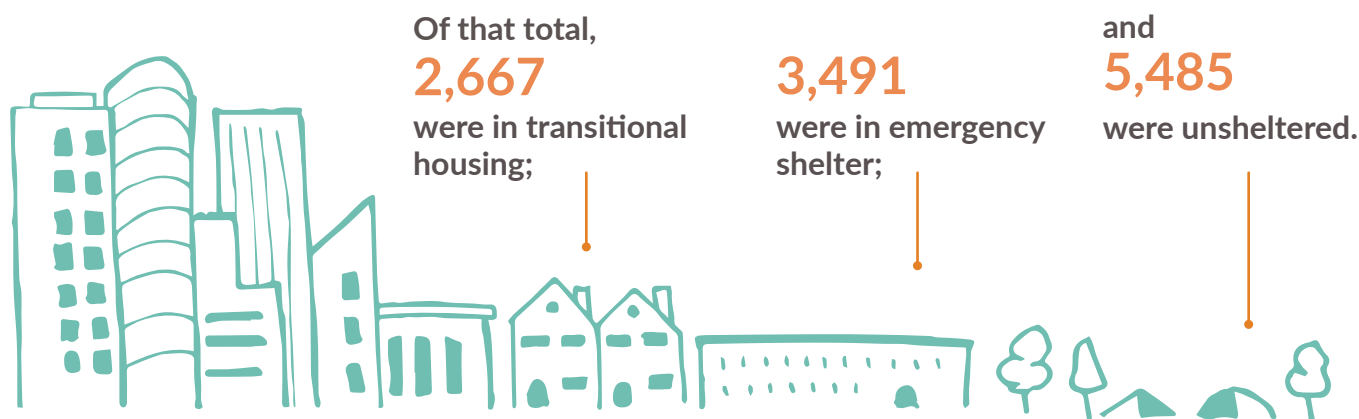


# HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

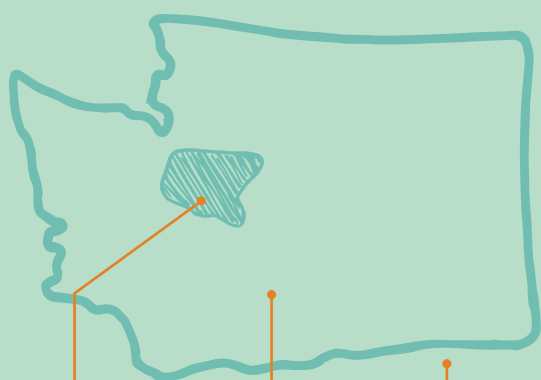
On Jan 27, 2017

## 11,643

people were experiencing homelessness in King County.

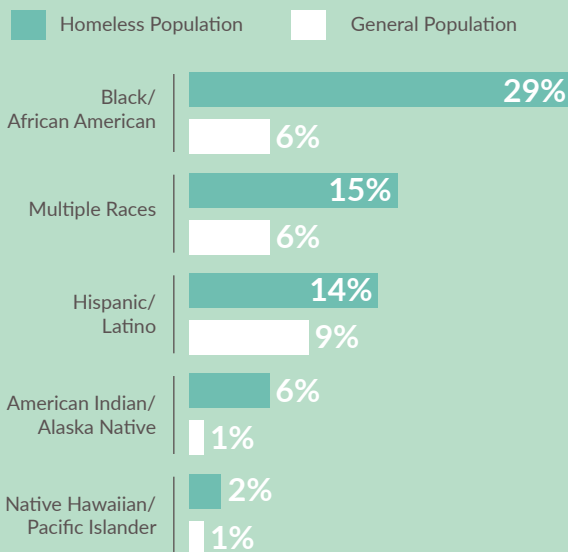


### People experiencing homelessness are our neighbors.

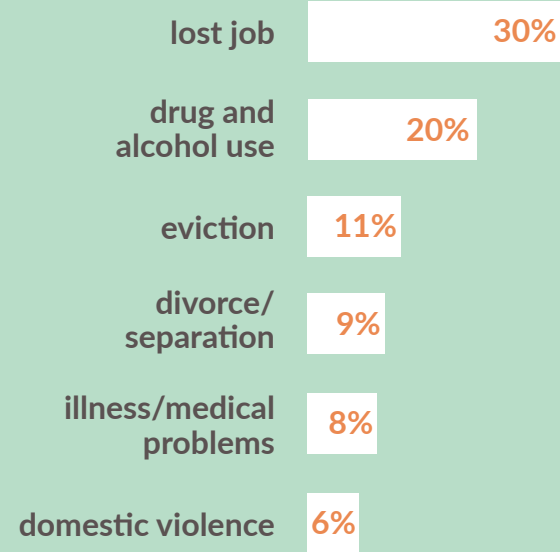


**77%** are from King County  
**14%** are from elsewhere in WA State  
**9%** are from out of state

### Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color.



### People experience homelessness for a variety of reasons.



### People experiencing homelessness need housing.

Over **90%** of people experiencing homelessness would take safe/affordable housing if it were offered.



Rental assistance and more affordable housing were cited as the top two supports needed to end their experience of homelessness.

### We are moving more people from homelessness to housing – and doing it faster than ever.

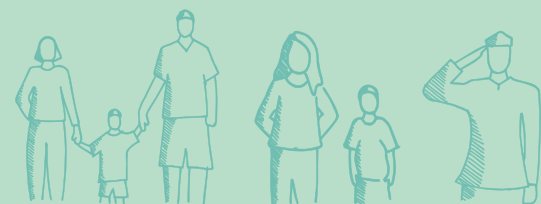


Over **7,500** households moved from homelessness to permanent housing in 2016,



a **50%** increase compared to 2013.

### We are improving our system to house even more people.



We added **291 shelter beds** across King County and expanded access to 24-hour, housing-focused services

and we added **316 units** of permanent housing in 2016 by converting transitional housing.

## Join Us



Say Hello



Share Your Time



Speak Up



Rent Or Hire

For more information on Count Us In, visit [AllHomeKC.org](http://AllHomeKC.org)

Produced in partnership with Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness.

All data from Count Us In 2017 or the Seattle/King County Homeless Management Information System.





June 14, 2017  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 12b:**

Washington State Attorney General’s Office Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement

***INFORMATIONAL ITEM***

---

**SCA Staff Contact**

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, [ellie@soundcities.org](mailto:ellie@soundcities.org), 206-495-5238

**Informational Item**

The Washington State Attorney General’s Office released [Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement](#), a document describing key elements of the legal landscape governing immigration enforcement for local governments, in April 2017. This document was developed in response to recent changes in federal immigration policies and practices and questions raised by local governments about protecting immigrants’ rights while also responding to directives from federal authorities.

**Background**

Together with King County, SCA co-convened a King County Cities Information Session on immigrant and refugee issues on March 31, 2017 in Renton. The event featured a panel of legal experts and community leaders and provided information on how local officials in King County can respond legally, and through policy-making, to events affecting immigrants and refugees. During the event, panelists spoke to the ways local governments can respond to federal immigration policies in a way that supports inclusive community values. At that event, information was presented on the soon to be released guidelines from the Attorney General’s Office.

**Washington State Attorney General’s Office Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement**

In April, the Washington State Attorney General’s Office released [Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement](#) (Guidance) in response to recent changes in federal immigration policies and practices and questions raised by local governments about protecting immigrants’ rights while also responding to federal authorities. This 101-page document follows up on many of the questions and themes addressed in the King County and SCA-convened information session in March, and describes key elements of the legal landscape that govern immigration enforcement for local governments, though the document is not intended to provide legal advice.

The Guidance highlights several existing local policies for possible adaptation by jurisdictions statewide, including [King County’s code language related to citizen and immigration status](#), [a City of Kirkland memo on “Sustaining a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming City”](#) and [accompanying](#)

[ordinance](#), and a [City of Burien ordinance related to ascertaining immigration status or religion](#), among others.

Following the release of the Guidance, the King County Council unanimously approved [Motion 14866](#) on May 22 directing legislative staff to prepare a report by July 1, 2017 that analyzes county code, policies, and practices in light of the Guidance from the Attorney General's Office and that presents options for convening a county government summit for discussion and prioritization of actions related to the Guidance.

#### **Online Materials**

- [Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement, Washington State Office of the Attorney General Bob Ferguson, April 2017](#)