



King County Councilmembers (from left): **Chair Dave Upthegrove** (District 5), **Teresa Mosqueda** (District 8), **Rod Dembowski** (District 1), **Claudia Balducci** (District 6), **Jorge L. Barón** (District 4), **Vice Chair Girmay Zahilay** (District 2), **Sarah Perry** (District 3), **Peter von Reichbauer** (District 7), and **Vice Chair Reagan Dunn** (District 9).

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over 2.3 million residents, King County is the 12th largest county in the United States in terms of population. There are more people living in King County than in 15 states! At 2,130 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware.

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

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

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

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

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district averaging about 261,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

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

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

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

Council Chair's message and overview of the county budget



Dave Upthegrove, Chair

As King County Council Chair for 2024, my goal is to show that democracy can work, and that effective and respectful service to the people is possible. The King County Council sets the example as a model for upholding democracy and democratic institutions, such as free and fair elections, freedom of the press, independent courts, and the rule of law.

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

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

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

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

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

Understanding the county budget

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

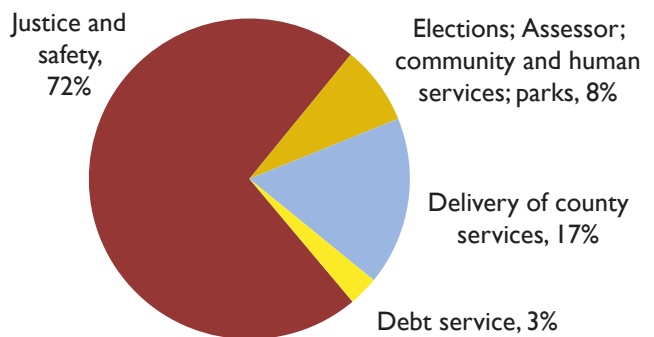
The discretionary portion of the county's operating budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 17% of the total operating budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (72%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public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

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

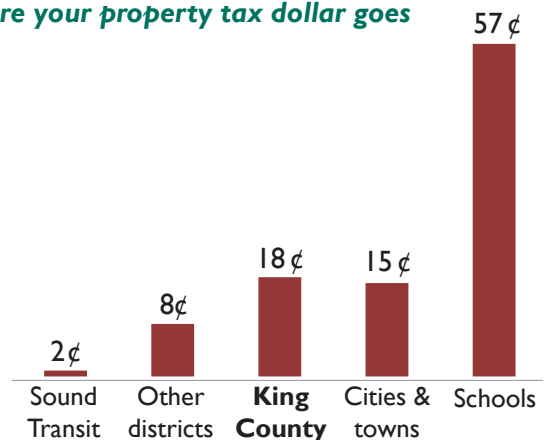
Since Washington State enacted the 1% cap on property tax increases, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. In the past, this structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by several hundred million

dollars, with consequent reduction in services to county residents. The current funding gap has been exacerbated by historic inflation and other factors. A deficit of \$50 million is forecast for the General Fund in the 2025 annual budget, with additional cuts anticipated in the 2026-2027 biennial budget. The Council will review and adopt a balanced county budget, as required by law, in the fall of 2024.

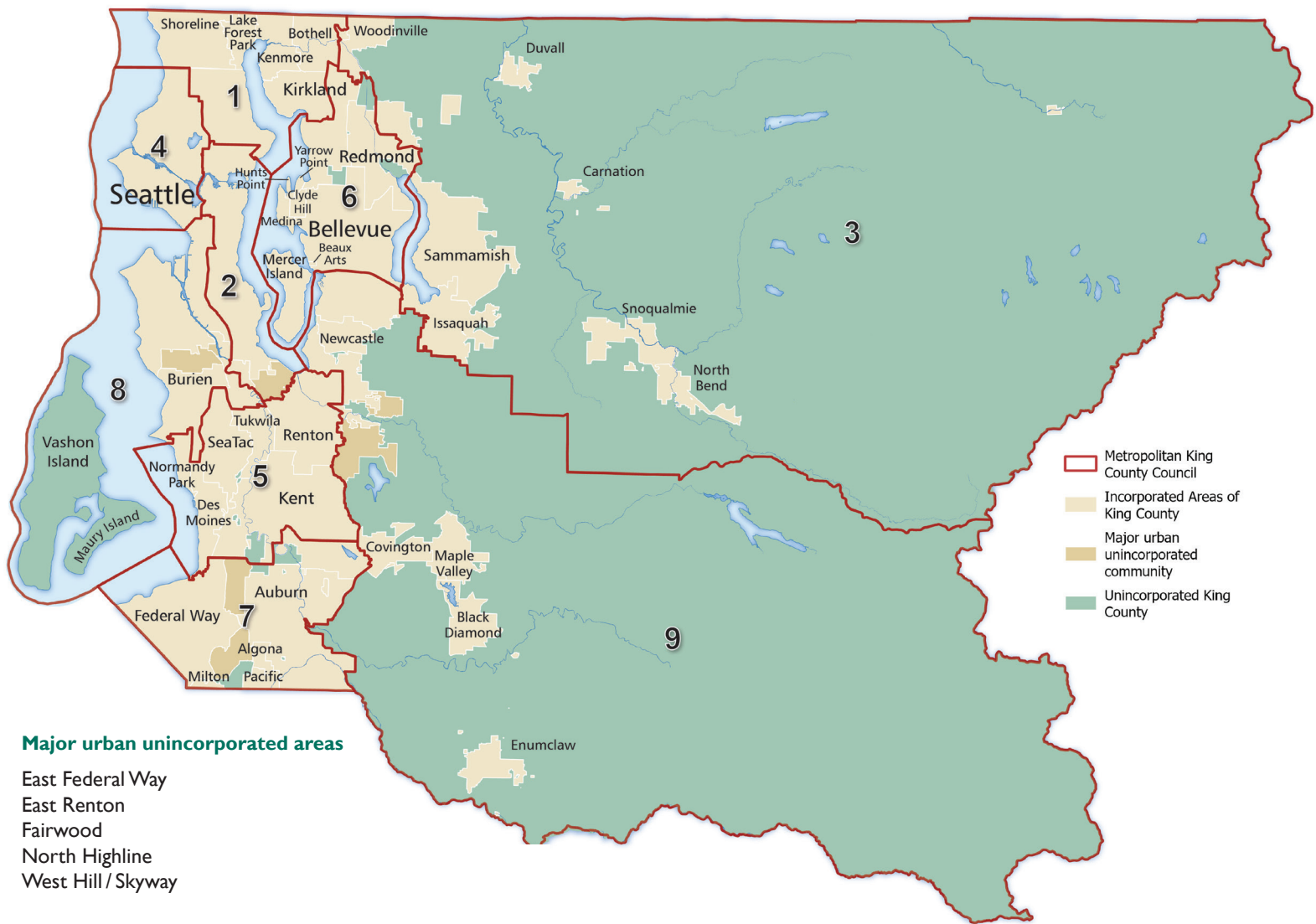
General Fund expenditures



Where your property tax dollar goes



Council districts map and contact information



Major urban unincorporated areas

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

Contact information

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

Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council
 King County Courthouse
 516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
 Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Telephone

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

Online

Web: www.kingcounty.gov/council
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/kingcountycouncil
 X: www.twitter.com/kccouncil
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/kccouncil

Clerk of the Council

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

Which council district do I live in?

Enter your address at <https://bit.ly/find-district>

| Dist. | Councilmember | Phone | Email |
|-------|----------------------|----------|--|
| 1 | Rod Dembowski | 477-1001 | rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov |
| 2 | Girmay Zahilay | 477-1002 | girmay.zahilay@kingcounty.gov |
| 3 | Sarah Perry | 477-1003 | sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov |
| 4 | Jorge L. Barón | 477-1004 | jorge.baron@kingcounty.gov |
| 5 | Dave Upthegrove | 477-1005 | dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov |
| 6 | Claudia Balducci | 477-1006 | claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov |
| 7 | Peter von Reichbauer | 477-1007 | pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov |
| 8 | Teresa Mosqueda | 477-1008 | teresa.mosqueda@kingcounty.gov |
| 9 | Reagan Dunn | 477-1009 | reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov |

Council and regional committees and meetings

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

For more information on the committees, including descriptions, alternate members, and meeting agendas, please visit <https://bit.ly/kcc-committees>.

King County Council

Meets first to fourth Tuesdays at 1:30 pm

Chair: Dave Upthegrove

Vice Chair: Reagan Dunn, Girmay Zahilay

Members: All councilmembers

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy of interest to the full Council

Meets fourth Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Claudia Balducci

Vice Chair: Jorge Barón

Members: All councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

Policy direction for the King County budget

Meets second and fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Girmay Zahilay

Vice Chair: Rod Dembowski

Members: Claudia Balducci, Jorge Barón, Teresa Mosqueda, Sarah Perry

Government Accountability and Oversight

Oversight of county government for efficiency, accountability, and transparency

Meets second Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Dave Upthegrove

Members: Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn

Health and Human Services

Policy relating to health and human services

Meets first Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Teresa Mosqueda

Vice Chair: Sarah Perry

Members: Jorge Barón, Girmay Zahilay

Law and Justice

Policy relating to law, safety, and criminal justice

Meets fourth Wednesday at 1:00 pm

Chair: Jorge Barón

Vice Chair: Claudia Balducci,

Members: Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn

Local Services and Land Use

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

Meets first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Chair: Sarah Perry

Vice Chair: Girmay Zahilay

Members: Reagan Dunn, Teresa Mosqueda

Transportation, Economy, and Environment

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

Meets third Tuesday at 9:30 am

Chair: Rod Dembowski

Vice Chair: Teresa Mosqueda

Members: Claudia Balducci, Jorge Barón, Peter von Reichbauer

Regional Policy

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

Meets second Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

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

Regional Transit

Countywide policies and plans pertaining to King County Metro Transit services

Meets third Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Teresa Mosqueda

Vice Chair: Covington City Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.

Members: Jorge Barón, Dave Upthegrove, eight **Sound Cities Association** members, and two **City of Seattle** members

Regional Water Quality

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

Meets first Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Chair: Claudia Balducci

Vice Chair: Bellevue City Councilmember Conrad Lee

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