



King County

King County 2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Priority Issues as of 12-02-02

Priority	Department	Item	Description
1	Executive/ Council	Preservation of Basic County Government Services	<p>Although King County continues to increase internal efficiency and reorganize its functions in order to reduce its spending significantly, the County can no longer afford to deliver many services to our residents.</p> <p>For King County to continue delivering basic government services, we need preservation -- if not expansion -- of state support. If the State is not able to expand support to adequately fund the mandates upon local government, revenue tools should be provided to local governments to allow for fiscal home rule.</p> <p>Law and justice costs, now approximately 73% of King County's general fund budget, are growing much faster than the revenues to support them. Many of these costs are due to state-imposed or statutory responsibilities. Extraordinary criminal justice cases are also severely impacting county finances.</p> <p>We support a long-term restoration of the revenue shortfall for criminal justice and public health caused by the 2000 legislative repeal of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET).</p> <p>Counties, as general governments, have the most limited set of tax options in the State and are bound by an antiquated tax structure. County government is, by state law, dependent on property and sales taxes (unlike cities that have utility and business and occupation taxing authority). Municipal annexations and incorporations have eroded the County's sales tax base. We support a reform of the state/county fiscal relationship.</p> <p>Finally, we oppose the imposition of un/underfunded state mandates. Legislative changes that increase county costs or responsibilities must be mitigated with increased state funding or reduced state mandates. State budget cuts should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties.</p>



King County

King County
2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Priority Issues as of 12-02-02

Priority	Department	Item	Description
2	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Transportation Solutions and Regional Funding	<p>Congestion in the Puget Sound region threatens the economy of not only King County but of the entire state. King County supports increases in both state and regional funding to improve the movement of people and goods.</p> <p>While roads and infrastructure funding is critical, King County also supports state funding of transportation alternatives to automobile travel. Significant funding for passenger rail, passenger ferry, and commute trip reduction efforts should come from state sources. Some state assistance should also be provided for local bus and paratransit services around the state. The Legislature should provide sufficient funding for transportation solutions statewide, including funding for the regional effort it authorized.</p> <p>King County supports the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) process already underway while recognizing that amendments to the RTID legislation will need to be made.</p>
3	Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Funding	<p>Funding for King County's mental health system was severely cut in the past two legislative sessions, resulting in significant reductions to critical services for at-risk and vulnerable populations. As passed in the 2001 legislative session, the state budget <i>reduced</i> King County Regional Support Network (RSN) funding by \$40 million over six years (minus a local/federal match). Budget reductions made during the 2002 legislative session to RSN reserve funds and inpatient rates will cost King County an additional \$10 million.</p> <p>King County supports legislation revising the distribution of mental health funds to be based solely on prevalence and severity of mental illness. Mental health funding should be consistent with state law requiring services to priority populations and should also support expensive services to special needs populations—children, homeless, mentally ill offenders, and ethnic minorities.</p>



King County

King County 2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Priority Issues as of 12-02-02

Priority	Department	Item	Description
4	Public Health – Seattle & King County	Stable Local Public Health Funding	<p>The health needs of the residents of King County must be addressed by adequate and sustained financial support for a continuum of activities that includes disease prevention and health promotion; ensuring a safe and effective food and water supply; and health care services for vulnerable and medically underserved populations. This cannot happen without adequate funding; local public health needs a dedicated, long-term revenue stream.</p> <p>Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent anthrax attacks, the public is acutely aware of the role of public health in protecting them from the consequences of terrorism involving biological, chemical, or nuclear agents. These events have also dramatically demonstrated the extent to which the nation's public health infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate. While government agencies at the local, state and federal levels have a leading role in preparing for and responding to the terrorist challenge, all aspects of our health care and public health system are critical to the success of this effort.</p>
5	Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)	Ongoing Funding for Maintenance and Operations of County Parks	The availability of funds to acquire and develop parks system assets is not matched by an ability to operate and maintain those assets. As part of an extensive regionally collaborative process and as recommended by its Metropolitan Parks Task Force, King County is implementing a business plan to create a financially stable parks system that meets the needs of the public. King County supports increased funding for operations and maintenance of county parks.

The Honorable Cynthia Sullivan
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

December 4, 2003

Dear Councilmember Sullivan:

Attached for your consideration and approval is a motion establishing the 2004 State Legislative Agenda of King County. The proposed 2004 State Agenda and 2004 Statement of State Policy Positions documents are also attached. As in previous years, it may be necessary to further amend the Agenda at a later date to incorporate major issues and concerns that arise closer to the state legislative session.

With ongoing County fiscal challenges and gridlock on our region's roadways, this will be a crucial state legislative session for King County. If King County is going to be able to continue delivering basic government services to our residents, we need a preservation, if not an expansion, of our fiscal partnership with the State. You will note that the attached legislative priorities reflect these concerns.

I look forward to working collaboratively with the Council during the upcoming legislative session to achieve these important legislative goals for King County.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: David deCourcy, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Chuck Williams, Council Government Relations Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Suzanne Dale Estey, Government Relations Liaison, Office of the Executive



King County

King County 2004 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Draft as of 12/4/03

Prior- ity	Depart- ment	Item	Description
1	Executive/ Council	Preservation of Basic County Government Services	<p>King County continues to increase internal efficiency and reorganize its functions in order to reduce its spending significantly. In the last two years, the County has cut more than \$90 million, totaling approximately 1/3 of its general fund, and eliminated nearly 10% of the staff positions in these service areas. Despite these actions, the County cannot sustain its current service levels given an ongoing gap between the rate of growth of expenditures (5.5-6.5% per year) and general revenue growth (less than 2% per year).</p> <p>This reality has been recognized by experts and stakeholders throughout the state. After an eight month review, the King County General Government Budget Advisory Task Force, co-chaired by former chair of the Greater Seattle Chamber Bob Wallace and former Boeing executive John Warner, concluded in June 2003 that without fundamental restructuring of the manner in which services are delivered and new revenues, the County will be forced to make service cuts every year in the future.</p> <p>For King County to continue delivering basic government services, it needs preservation -- if not expansion -- of state support. If the State is not able to expand support to adequately fund the mandates upon local government, revenue tools should be provided to local governments to allow for fiscal home rule.</p> <p>Law, safety, and justice costs, now consuming over 70% of King County's general fund budget, are growing much faster than the revenues to support them. Many of these costs are due to state-imposed or statutory responsibilities. Extraordinary criminal justice cases are also severely impacting county finances.</p> <p>Counties, as general governments, have the most limited set of tax options in the State and are bound by an antiquated tax structure. County government is, by state law, dependent on property and sales taxes (unlike cities that have utility and business and occupation taxing authority). Municipal annexations and incorporations have eroded the County's sales tax base. King County continues to support its request for increased councilmanic revenue options. The County also seeks more flexibility in setting fees to recover the costs of service delivery.</p>



King County

King County 2004 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Draft as of 12/4/03

Prior- ity	Depart- ment	Item	Description
		Preservation of Basic County Government Services, continued	<p>King County supports an allocation to local governments from the assistance provided in 2003 by the federal government as relief during the recession. These funds are idle in state reserves while local governments are struggling.</p> <p>Finally, King County opposes the imposition of un/underfunded state mandates. Legislative changes that increase county costs or responsibilities must be mitigated with increased state funding or reduced state mandates. State budget cuts should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties.</p>
2	Executive/ Budget, Dept. of Develop- ment and Environ- mental Services, Dept. of Natural Resources & Parks	Annexation Reform and Smart Growth Management	<p>The state Growth Management Act (GMA) defines cities as the appropriate urban service providers, and counties as the appropriate regional and rural service provider. Despite significant success at implementing the GMA, King County is still the "local government" for nearly 350,000 residents living in unincorporated areas – nearly 220,000 of them in <i>urban</i> unincorporated areas that are slated for eventual annexation to cities.</p> <p>If annexations continue in King County at the rate that has been experienced over the last nine years, it will take another 25 to 30 years for annexations to be completed – far longer than the 2012 deadline that cities and the County have identified in Countywide Planning Policies.</p> <p>Lacking urban funding tools, and given its heavy dependence on property tax, the County is unable to maintain its regional and local service levels under current revenue constraints. As part of its Annexation Initiative, King County continues to support its request for councilmanic authority to impose a utility tax in urban unincorporated areas.</p> <p>The County is making efforts to accelerate annexations -- but cities are rightfully concerned about the cost of assuming responsibility for remaining urban unincorporated areas that are largely residential in nature and thus not self-supporting. Completion of annexations would not only be a major milestone in achieving the region's growth management vision, it would also provide tremendous budget relief to King County: the County could then focus on its regional and rural service responsibilities.</p> <p>Consistent with the recommendation of the King County General Government Budget Advisory Task Force, King County has launched a major initiative to annex to cities its Potential Annexation Areas within the Urban Growth</p>



King County

King County 2004 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Draft as of 12/4/03

Prior- ity	Depart- ment	Item	Description
		Annexation Reform and Smart Growth Mgt., continued	<p>Boundary. Over \$20 million in County funding has been identified in King County's 2004 budget for allocation to annexing cities, in recognition of the fiscal challenge posed by major residential annexations.</p> <p>King County seeks the following legislative changes in order to carry out this Annexation Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Study the Means to Accelerate Annexation King County supports a state-funded study, to be completed by December 2004, to assess progress in achieving key growth management goals in urban counties and identify strategies to accelerate the annexation of remaining urban unincorporated areas. These could include strategies such as increased state funding and other financing options including more flexible use of the county road levy as well as potentially establishing a state-mandated deadline for implementation of the GMA or modifying the powers of the Boundary Review Boards.▪ Surface Water and Local Parks Facilities and Properties Automatically Transferred to Cities upon Annexation King County supports an amendment to RCW 36.89 and/or 36.94 so that surface water management facilities and properties and local parks facilities and properties owned and/or maintained by counties become the responsibility of cities upon an annexation or incorporation. RCW currently provides for county roads to become cities' responsibility at the time of annexation/incorporation – this requested action would provide the same for surface water facilities and properties and local parks facilities and properties.▪ Increased Capital Funding for Infrastructure Needs King County supports increased state support to cities to help with the capital transition costs of annexation.▪ Technical Fixes to the new Petition Legislation King County supports technical changes to the new petition annexation law, SSB 5409, to convert the requirement to secure signatures from not less than 50% of the <i>registered voters</i> of the area to securing signatures from not less than 50% of <i>those voting at the last general election</i>.
3	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Transportation Solutions and Regional Funding	Congestion in the Puget Sound region threatens the economy of not only King County but of the entire state. Although the five cents gas tax - statewide transportation package is helping the State make progress on critical projects, there is significant statewide need that has not been met. Additionally, with the passage of Initiative 776, King County and the cities within the County lost more than \$200 million over the next ten years (approximately \$20 million each year) for county road improvements and city street maintenance. King County supports legislative action to mitigate of the impact of Initiative 776.



King County

King County 2004 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Draft as of 12/4/03

Prior- ity	Depart- ment	Item	Description
		Transporta- tion Solutions and Regional Funding, continued	<p>King County supports additional increases in both state and regional funding to improve the movement of people and freight. King County also supports state funding of the critical road and infrastructure network as well as additional alternatives to automobile travel.</p> <p>King County supports the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) process already underway while recognizing that amendments to the RTID legislation need to be made. These include state bonding authority, clarified tolling authority, and the expansion of project eligibility to encompass a blend of roads and transit, including high capacity transit.</p>
4	Depart- ment of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Funding	<p>Funding for King County's mental health system was severely cut in the last three legislative sessions, resulting in significant reductions to critical services for at-risk and vulnerable populations. As passed in the 2001 legislative session, because of a reallocation formula, the state budget reduced King County Regional Support Network (RSN) funding by \$40 million over six years. Budget reductions made during the 2002 legislative session to RSN reserve funds and inpatient rates cost King County an additional \$10 million.. In 2003, the Governor's veto of an administrative cap reduction (\$5.8 million statewide) will result in a ratable reduction cut to King County of approximately \$1.7 million.</p> <p>King County supports use of the temporary increase from the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to eliminate the ratable reduction, thereby allowing the state to earn federal match revenue. Given the budget cuts in recent years, any additional federal dollars generated from mental health services should be earmarked for mental health to help stabilize the system.</p> <p>Finally, King County supports mental health rates that reflect variation in severity of need as well as the costs of providing the necessary level of care. At a minimum, a regional rate structure is necessary to continue funding at a level that meets the needs of the severely and persistently mentally ill in King County.</p>
5	Depart- ment of Executive Services	Elections Write In Voter Intent Correction	King County supports legislation that would address problems related to determining voter intent for write in candidates.

November 17, 2004

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

Attached for your consideration and approval is a motion establishing the 2005 State Legislative Agenda for King County. The proposed 2005 State Agenda and 2005 Statement of State Policy Positions documents are also attached. As in previous years, it may be necessary to further amend these documents at a later date to incorporate major issues and concerns that arise prior to the 2005 state legislative session.

The most recent state revenue forecast projected a \$1.7 billion state budget gap over the next biennium. The County continues to face ongoing fiscal challenges delivering state mandated local government services. Our priorities in the upcoming session include, but are not limited to, addressing the continued gridlock on our region's roadways and the loss of critical road revenue through initiative; the crisis in non-Medicaid funded mental health services due to federal rules changes, and the impact of the mental health funding formula; seeking more tools from the state to facilitate the Growth Management Acts vision for further urban annexations in King County; and the restoration of funding for Public Health due to the loss of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenues. It is clear that we will once again need an aggressive and effective lobbying effort during the 2005 state legislative session. You will note that the attached legislative priorities reflect these concerns.

As Executive, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Council and our other intergovernmental partners including the Washington Association of Counties, the City of Seattle, and the suburban cities, to ensure we provide the support needed for our County lobbying team in Olympia.

The Honorable Larry Phillips

November 17, 2004

Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison for State Legislative Affairs, at (206) 296-4188.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Scott White, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Chuck Williams, Government Relations Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office (KCEO)

Maura Brueger, Deputy Chief of Staff/Federal Government Affairs, KCEO

Ryan Bayne, Council Relations Director, KCEO

Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison for State Legislative Affairs, KCEO

Nori Catabay, Government Relations Liaison for Regional and Local Affairs, KCEO



King County 2005 State Legislative Agenda

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 Executive	Preservation of Basic County Government Services	<p>1. King County supports legislation that provides revenue tools to local governments to allow for fiscal home rule, and mitigation of unfunded State mandates. Specifically, providing increased councilmanic revenue options and more flexibility in setting local fees to recover the costs of service delivery with a showing to the local legislative authority that the local increase is necessary, and/or a local option to increase state set fees up to a cap or an annual escalation, with a showing to the local legislative authority that the local increase is necessary.</p>
2 Executive	Annexation Reform and Smart Growth Management	<p>1. GMA Implementation/Annexation Transition Funding - King County supports the creation of GMA implementation funding for cities to address capital infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>2. Surface Water and Local Parks Facilities and Properties Automatically Transferred to Cities upon Annexation - King County supports amending RCW 36.89 and/or 36.94 so that surface water management facilities, properties and local parks facilities and properties owned and/or maintained by counties become the responsibility of cities upon an annexation or incorporation. RCW currently provides for county roads to become cities' responsibility at the time of annexation/incorporation – this requested action would provide the same for surface water facilities and properties and local parks facilities and properties.</p>
3. Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Funding, Indigent and Dependency Defense	<p>1. King County supports full state funding for non-Medicaid Mental Health Services for loss of Federal Dollars due to recent federal rule changes. King County supports a revised mental health funding formula that is based on the prevalence and severity of mental illness.</p> <p>2. King County seeks public defense funding for criminal cases within any newly created state-wide network of funding. King County supports state funding of public defense dependency actions.</p>



King County 2005 State Legislative Agenda

Department	Item	Description
4 King County Department of Transportation (KCDOT)	Transportation Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King County supports legislation that identifies additional revenues for cities and counties to meet urgent and growing needs of maintaining aging transportation infrastructure, and general transportation improvements to increase the overall carrying capacity of the transportation system while revenues are diminishing. Specifically, King County supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation that identifies funding to replace the VLF revenues lost to King County and the cities within King County with the passage of I-776 (\$18 million per year in VLF revenues lost to local jurisdictions in King County), and that authorizes new or higher user fees at the local and regional level. • Additional revenue distributions to local jurisdictions from any new increases of statewide fuel tax. 2. Reauthorize Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs which are due to sunset in '06. This funding represents over \$900,000 in annual revenue to King County Metro in contracts with jurisdictions in King County.
5 Public Health	Public Health Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King County supports restoration of the funding to public health lost with the repeal of the MVET. 2. King County supports a new revenue source to fund enhanced public health responsibilities to protect the public's health from the consequences of new and emerging terrorism threats and communicable diseases such as SARS, TB and the West Nile Virus.
6 Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP), Salmon Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King County seeks a legislative exemption to purchase an OCIP for the Brightwater Treatment Plant Project. The OCIP is a centralized insurance program purchased by the project owner which covers insurance, loss control/safety and claims management for King County and all of the contractors and subcontractors. The OCIP covers general liability and environmental liability for the project. 2. King County supports the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) budget request of \$3.25 million to stabilize the lead entity funding for salmon recovery and the \$30 million budget request to support adequate funds for the grant programs of SRFB.



King County

King County 2005 State Legislative Agenda

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
7 Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention	Day Reporting	<p>1. King County supports amending RCW 9.94A.030, sections 15 & 31 to change the Day Reporting definition from a form of enhanced supervision to confinement or partial confinement, for use as a sentencing alternative available to the Court.</p>
8 Superior Court	Superior Court Fees	<p>1. King County supports an increase in Superior Court Fees as recommended by the Board of Judicial Administration Court Funding Task Force.</p>
9 The Law Library	Law Library Funding	<p>1. King County supports legislation to amend RCW 27.24.070 to increase the local filing fee to fund the law library.</p>

January 12, 2006

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

Attached for your consideration and approval is a motion establishing the 2006 State Legislative Agenda for King County. The proposed 2006 State Agenda and 2006 Statement of State Policy Positions documents are attached as well. As in previous years, it may be necessary to further amend these documents at a later date to incorporate major issues and concerns that arise during the 2006 state legislative session.

The county continues to face ongoing fiscal challenges delivering unfunded state mandated local government services. Our priorities in the upcoming session include, but are not limited to: addressing the mental health funding crisis in King County; enacting elections reforms that facilitate a change to an all-mail ballot system in King County; seeking more tools from the state to facilitate the Growth Management Acts vision for further urban annexations in King County; funding for critical emergency management and preparedness; and the restoration of funding for Public Health due to the loss of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenues. It is clear that we will once again need an aggressive and effective lobbying effort during the 2006 state legislative session. You will note that the attached legislative priorities reflect these concerns.

As Executive, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Council and our other intergovernmental partners including the Washington Association of Counties, the City of Seattle and the suburban cities, to ensure we provide the support needed for our county lobbying team in

The Honorable Larry Phillips

January 12, 2006

Page 2

Olympia. If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison for State Legislative Affairs, at (206) 296-4188.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosures

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ATTN: Scott White, Chief of Staff

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Maura Brueger, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, KCEO

Ryan Bayne, Council Relations Director, KCEO

Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison - State Legislative Affairs, KCEO

Nori Catabay, Government Relations Liaison - Regional and Local Affairs, KCEO

Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget



King County 2006 State Legislative Agenda

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Funding	<p>A. King County requests \$21.9 million in supplemental budget funds to achieve adequate Medicaid rates.</p> <p>B. King County supports the original allocation methodology for mental health funding stated in the 2005 budget proviso concerning state-only funds. We request \$7.4 million in a supplemental appropriation to fund non-Medicaid services for those in need in King County.</p> <p>C. King County requests funding of “liquidated damages” to King County’s RSN, as occurred in Pierce County.</p>
2 Department of Records, Elections and Licensing Services	Elections	<p>A. Primary Date: King County supports the proposal submitted by the Secretary of State to move the primary to the third Tuesday in August with adjustments to the dates for candidate filing, extending the certification period for special elections and primaries, and amending the cutoff dates for filing resolutions calling for special elections.</p> <p>B. Ballot Processing: King County supports amendments to appropriate State statutes to allow final processing of absentee ballots beginning one week prior to an election, but not producing or releasing any election results prior to the legal closing of the polls on the date of the election.</p> <p>C. Ballot Processing Machines: King County requests funding for new high-speed ballot processing machines in order to process a larger volume of ballots more quickly to meet the demanding deadlines for certification of elections.</p> <p>D. Regional Voting Centers: King County supports legislation that authorizes counties to establish regional voting centers to allow in-person voting options in a vote-by-mail environment from the date on which ballots are issued until the date of the election.</p> <p>E. Automated Signature Verification: King County supports amendments to RCW 29A.40.110 and corresponding administrative rules to authorize the adoption of automated signature verification and OSOS authority to draft rules for standards and criteria for its use.</p> <p>F. Voter Challenges: King County supports legislation that amends the voter registration challenge process to: clarify the ability of those without traditional residential addresses to register to vote, require the challenger to file their challenge in proper form including the factual basis on which the challenge made, and to maintain the requirement that challenges based on residency require the challenger to provide the address at which they believe the</p>

King County 2006 State Legislative Agenda



King County

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
Department of Records, Elections and Licensing Services	Elections	<p>voter actually resides. Additionally, for challenges filed within thirty days of an election where the challenged voter has returned a voted absentee ballot prior to the filing of the challenge, the challenges shall be processed as if received more than thirty days prior to an election and the ballot for the current election will be processed.</p> <p>G. Voting Rights for Former Felons: King County supports legislation that would simplify the process of restoring voting rights for former felons – specifically that voting rights of former felons is automatically reinstated upon release from incarceration. Many States, including neighboring Oregon, Idaho, Utah and many other Western states automatically reinstate the civil rights of former felons.</p>
3 Executive	Annexation Reform and Smart Growth Management	<p>A. GMA Implementation/Annexation Transition Funding: King County supports the creation of GMA implementation funding for cities to address capital infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>B. Surface Water and Local Parks Facilities and Properties Automatically Transferred to Cities upon Annexation: King County supports amending RCW 36.89 and/or 36.94 so that surface water management facilities, properties and local parks facilities and properties owned and/or maintained by counties become the responsibility of cities upon an annexation or incorporation. RCW currently provides for county roads to become cities' responsibility at the time of annexation/incorporation – this requested action would provide the same for surface water facilities and properties, and local parks facilities and properties.</p>
4 Department of Transportation (KC DOT)	Transportation Solutions	<p>King County supports legislation that identifies additional revenues for cities and counties to meet urgent and growing needs of maintaining aging transportation infrastructure, and general transportation improvements to increase the overall carrying capacity of the transportation system while revenues are diminishing. Specifically, King County supports:</p> <p>A. Legislation that identifies funding to replace the VLF revenues lost to King County and the cities within King County with the passage of I-776 (\$18 million per year in VLF revenues lost to local jurisdictions in King County), and that authorizes new or higher user fees at the local and regional level.</p> <p>B. Passenger-Only Ferries (POF): Support continuation of passenger-only ferry service (POF) between Vashon Island and Seattle provided by the Washington State Ferries (WSF) through the end of the 2007 fiscal year.</p>



King County

King County 2006 State Legislative Agenda

Department	Item	Description
5 Department of Public Health	Public Health Funding; Communicable Diseases Funding	<p>A. King County supports a revenue source to adequately fund “basic public health” and the consequences of new and emerging terrorism threats and communicable diseases such as SARS, TB, and West Nile Virus.</p> <p>B. King County supports emergency funding to prepare for possible pandemic influenza outbreak.</p>
6 Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Habitat Project Liability; Puget Sound Recovery; Salmon Recovery; Regional Trail Acquisition; Prevention Grants; Regional Water Supply	<p>A. Habitat Project Liability: King County supports legislation to reduce local government liability for unexpected damages accrued to third parties following completion of a habitat restoration or improvement project</p> <p>B. Puget Sound Recovery Initiative: King County supports a new RCW or amendments to existing RCW's pertinent to enabling a coordinated and comprehensive recovery of Puget Sound including coordination with Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; water supply planning; and appropriate roles of tribal, local and state agencies including PSAT, DOE, WADNR and WDFW.</p> <p>C. Salmon Recovery Funding: Maintain state funding for Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Lead Entity grants. King County also opposes any reductions in biennium allocations for other related state grants programs such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, etc.</p> <p>D. Regional Trail Acquisition - Multimodal Greenway Corridor: King County supports funding to secure the BNSF railroad right of way. This contiguous property is approximately 100 feet wide and stretches from the north end of Renton into the City of Snohomish. The regional trail system now offers over 100 miles of paved and nearly 70 miles of unpaved trails. These funds would help to secure the link that would create a seamless regional trail system in King and Snohomish Counties.</p> <p>E. Coordinated Prevention Grants: Restore \$8 million in funding for the CPG program that was reduced in the 2005 legislative session.</p> <p>F. State Funding for King County Regional Water Supply Plan: King County supports state funding to support the countywide water supply planning process that was endorsed by a multistakeholder “Scoping Committee” forwarded to the Executive and Council in an “Planning Framework” on October 31, 2005. Funding would support state agency participation, technical studies, and administrative support.</p>



King County 2006 State Legislative Agenda

Department	Item	Description
7 Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention	Mental Health Jail; Credit Conversion Language	<p>A. Mental Health Jail: King County opposes legislation that seeks to build a Mental Health Jail in King County as a solution to mental health issues among the jail population in Washington State.</p> <p>B. Credit Conversion: King County supports legislation clarifying credit or conversion language re: time spent in County supervised community options, allowing courts to authorize earned release credit consistent with local correctional facility standards for convicted non-violent, non-sex offenders.</p>
8 Superior Court	Reinvesting in Youth	<p>A. Reinvesting in Youth: King county supports legislation amending RCW 13.40 and creation of a RIY account in the State Treasury to sustain ongoing funding and support to current program capacity created under the pilot program that was created in a 2005 state budget proviso - that invests in research-proven prevention and early intervention programs. Counties are reimbursed for a portion of the savings that accrue to the state as a result of local investments in such programs. King County would like to see ongoing funding for this program.</p>
10 Executive Services - Emergency Management	Emergency Management Funding	<p>A. Emergency Management Funding: King County supports creation of a funding mechanism for state and local emergency management, similar to the State of Florida's, which assesses a small fee (\$2-\$4) on property insurance policies to fund emergency management planning/response. This revenue source could fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. SEMS: King County supports adoption of a Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) like that of California – which creates the framework for multi-agency and intra-agency coordination at the state and local level, incident response systems (ICS), master mutual aid agreements and operational areas concepts.II. Regional Emergency Management Offices: King County supports the establishment of state emergency management regional offices to assist counties and cities in developing individual and regional integrated approaches to emergency and disaster preparedness.III. Seismic Safety Research: King County supports funding for a seismic safety research and preparedness program that works in concert with USGS, that is appropriate for the 2nd most vulnerable state in the nation to seismic issues (earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis).IV. Public Education: King County supports a public education program, as this is a key part of a successful emergency management plan (currently, the entire State funded

King County 2006 State Legislative Agenda



<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
11	Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)	<p>V. Citizen Access to Medications: King County supports legislation that allows citizens to keep life saving medications on hand for a minimum of seven days (many current medical insurance policies do not allow citizens to purchase appropriate levels of medications to keep on hand in case of emergencies).</p> <p>A. Public Benefit Rating System: King County supports legislation that would amend state statutes establishing standards for the public benefit rating system to reduce the penalties for leaving the program. This could make the program more of an incentive to property owners impacted by limitations designed to protect the environment.</p> <p>B. Clean Water Act Qualified Local Programs: King County supports legislation that would amend state law to allow the Department of Ecology to take advantage of their authority, under the federal clean water act, to approve city and county storm water programs that provide equivalent protection. Currently, Ecology has concluded that existing state law does not allow it to take advantage of this authority.</p>

January 3, 2007

The Honorable Larry Gossett
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

Attached for your consideration and approval is a motion establishing the 2007 State Legislative Agenda for King County. The proposed 2007 State Agenda and 2007 Statement of State Policy Positions documents are attached as well. As in previous years, it may be necessary to further amend these documents at a later date to incorporate major issues and concerns that arise during the 2007 state legislative session.

The county continues to face ongoing fiscal challenges delivering unfunded state mandated local government services. Our priorities in the upcoming session include, but are not limited to: addressing the public health funding crisis in King County; enacting elections reforms that facilitate secure, accurate and deliberative ballot counting; and funding for critical emergency management and preparedness, among other important initiatives. It is clear that we will once again need an aggressive and effective lobbying effort during the 2007 state legislative session.

As Executive, I look forward to working collaboratively with the County Council and our other intergovernmental partners including the Washington Association of Counties, the City of Seattle and the suburban cities, to ensure we provide the support needed for our county

The Honorable Larry Gossett

January 3, 2007

Page 2

lobbying team in Olympia. If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison for State Legislative Affairs at 206-296-4188.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Ross Baker, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Chuck Williams, Government Relations

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff, Office of the King County Executive (KCE)

Ryan Bayne, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, KCE

De'Sean Quinn, Council Relations Director, KCE

Nori Catabay, Government Relations Liaison - Regional and Local Affairs, KCE

Karen Ann Freeman, Government Relations Liaison - State Legislative Affairs, KCE

Maura Brueger, Senior Advisor for Federal Government Relations, KCE



King County

DRAFT - King County's 2007 State Legislative Agenda - DRAFT

Item Number	Department	Title	Description
1.	Department of Public Health	Public Health Funding; Child Health Care Coverage;	A. Public Health Funding - King County supports a revenue source to adequately fund public health. B. Child Health Care Coverage - King County supports legislation and funding to achieve health care coverage for all children in King County and Washington State by 2010.
2.	Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)	Mental Health Treatment Funding; Substance Abuse Treatment Funding; Homelessness Funding	A. Mental Health Treatment Funding - King County supports continuation of State -only mental health funding with inflationary increases based on a population basis; and revising the mental health funding allocation formula so that Medicaid rates reflect the actual costs of providing services in King County. B. Substance Abuse Treatment Funding - King County supports funding for substance abuse treatment for non-Medicaid clients. C. Homelessness Funding - King County supports funding to support housing and other programs to benefit the homeless as outlined by the King County Committee to End Homelessness.
3.	Department of Records, Elections and Licensing Services	Verification & Audit Period; Ballot Counting; Personal Information Security; Driver's Licensing Database Access	A. Verification & Audit Period - King County supports a 5 day Verification and Audit Period in which ballots and signature corrections are required to be received in the Elections office 5 days prior to certification of an election. This would free up the final 5 days prior to certification of an election for reconciliation and accountability reporting. B. Ballot Counting - King County supports the Washington State Association of Auditors call for a change in the time frame for counting ballots from everyday to every business day for Counties with a population over 100,000 and more than 10,000 ballots to count.



King County

DRAFT - King County's 2007 State Legislative Agenda - DRAFT

Item Number	Department	Title	Description
			C. Personal Information Security - King County supports requiring redaction of personal identifier information and voter signatures from disclosable and internet accessible election forms and official public records (i.e. mail ballot envelopes, poll book pages, etc.) D. Driver's Licensing Database Access: King County supports amending appropriate RCW's to allow King County access to the State's restricted driver's licensing database – to assist in processing taxicab licensing requests.
4.	Executive	Police Officer Pensions;	A. Police Officer Pension Redistribution in the Event of a Conviction - King County supports redistribution of pensions for Police Officers convicted of certain crimes to pay for costs related to their incarceration, dependent support and victim reparations.
5.	Department of Transportation (KCDOT)	CTR; Passenger-Only Ferries; Bonded Indebtedness	A. Commute Trip Reduction (CTR): King County supports funding for CTR centers program and the pay for performance program. B. Passenger-Only Ferries (POF): Support continuation of passenger-only ferry service (POF) between Vashon Island and Seattle using the triangle route, until transition to a regional transportation provider takes place (likely seeking funding through June 30, 2008).
6.	Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)	Habitat Project Liability; Regional Trail Acquisition; Puget Sound Partnership;	C. Bonded Indebtedness in Annexing Areas: King County supports legislation to allow the County to continue to receive debt payments from property taxes in annexed areas to pay for debt-financed bridge or roadway improvements that serve the annexed area. A. Habitat Project Liability: King County supports legislation to reduce local government liability for unexpected damages accrued to third parties following completion of a habitat restoration or improvement project.



King County

DRAFT - King County's 2007 State Legislative Agenda - DRAFT

Item Number	Department	Title	Description
		REET 1 Project Eligibility	<p>B. Regional Trail Acquisition - Multimodal Greenway Corridor: King County supports funding to secure the BNSF railroad right of way. This contiguous property is approximately 100 feet wide and stretches from the north end of Renton into the City of Snohomish. The regional trail system now offers over 100 miles of paved and nearly 70 miles of unpaved trails. These funds would help to secure the link that would create a seamless regional trail system in King and Snohomish Counties.</p> <p>C. Puget Sound Partnership: King County supports the budget enhancements for Puget Sound recovery included in the Governor's budget and the legislation establishing a new governance structure to prioritize efforts for recovery of the Puget Sound by 2020.</p> <p>D. REET 1 Project Eligibility – King County supports expressly detailing “conservation” as a public work eligible for REET 1 fund expenditures.</p>
7.	Executive Services - Emergency Management ; Finance & Business Operations	Emergency Management Funding	<p>A. Emergency Management Funding: King County supports creation of a funding mechanism for state and local emergency management, similar to the State of Florida's, which assesses a small fee (\$2-\$4) on property insurance policies to fund emergency management planning/response. This revenue source could fund various projects from development of a standardized emergency management system to seismic safety research to public education and the like.</p>
8.	Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)	Buildable Lands; Public Benefit Rating System; Clean Water Act Qualified Local Programs; Hydraulic Permits; Electrical Inspections	<p>A. Buildable Lands: King County supports \$300,000 in dedicated State funds to allow County and City governments to implement the Buildable Lands Program as mandated per RCW 36.70A.215.</p> <p>B. Public Benefit Rating System: King County supports legislation that would amend state statutes establishing standards for the public benefit rating system to add more flexibility to the program.</p> <p>C. Clean Water Act Qualified Local Programs: King County supports legislation that would amend RCW 90.48 to allow the Department of Ecology to take advantage of</p>



King County

DRAFT - King County's 2007 State Legislative Agenda - DRAFT

Item Number	Department	Title	Description
			<p>their authority, under the federal clean water act, to approve city and county storm water programs that provide equivalent protection. Currently, Ecology has concluded that existing state law does not allow it to take advantage of this authority.</p> <p>D. Hydraulic Permits: King County supports amending RCW 75.20 (hydraulics) and RCW 76.09 (forest practices) to permit Counties to Administer Hydraulic Project and Forest Practice Approval.</p> <p>E. Electrical Inspections: King County supports granting electrical inspection authority to the County.</p>
9.	Department of Adult & Juvenile Detention (DAJD)	Earned Release & Credit for Time Served (Pre-sentence); Community Restitution	<p>A. Earned Release & Credit for Time Served (Pre-Sentence): King County supports minor language changes to RCW 9.94A.680 to allow earned release and credit for time served (pre-sentence) for non-custody alternatives to incarceration.</p> <p>B. Community Restitution – King County supports allowing community restitution work as a judicial sentencing option.</p>
10.	Superior Court - Family Court & Juvenile Court	Dependency CASA Programs; Becca funding;	<p>A. Dependency CASA Programs: King County supports the Washington Administrative Offices of the Courts request for funding to build capacity in Dependency CASA programs. Currently, King County is only able to serve 60% of the children in the Dependency System with a CASA assignment. CASA programs provide critical services in the form of trained citizen volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.</p> <p>B. Becca Program Funding - King County supports increased funding for state-mandated services for at-risk youth, child-in-need-of-services, and truancy petitions known as Becca program funding - to defray the costs the County has incurred after a 62% decline in Becca bill State funding since 2005. The Becca processes allow families and the courts to work together to address the needs of children at risk.</p>