

King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson



Balancing the 2010 budget

To balance the 2010 budget in today's tough economic climate, we had to cut \$56 million from the County's \$629 million general fund, which pays for services such as elections, criminal justice, and human services. These cuts were particularly challenging in light of the \$93 million cut from the general fund last year. Despite these cuts, many core services were saved.

Here are some 2010 budget highlights:

- We adopted a balanced budget and did not raise taxes.
- No reserves were used to balance the budget. King County is maintaining its strong bond rating, which saves significant taxpayer dollars when the County sells bonds to fund capital projects.
- The Council restored \$1.4 million of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
- Law, safety, and justice programs avoided significant cuts and remain intact. Our courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff, public defense, and jail will continue providing essential services.
- An innovative partnership between King County Public Health and HealthPoint will keep the Northshore Public Health Center open in Bothell. King County anticipates saving \$623,000 annually with this partnership.

Painful cuts were made throughout the budget, particularly to many human service programs. As the former Director of an Emergency Services office, I understand the importance of these programs and am committed to finding a long-term funding solution for these critical services.

I encourage you to visit my website for more information about the adopted budget.

Maintaining Metro bus service



Due to the drop in sales tax revenues, Metro's primary source of funding, Metro faced a \$213 million budget shortfall in 2010-2011. To address this deficit, the Executive proposed cutting 9% of bus service throughout the County. As a commuter on the #41 from Northgate, I understand the importance of bus service and opposed these drastic service cuts.

Dear Neighbor:

It has been a year of change, both at home and at the Council. With the second birthday of our twins fast approaching, Colleen and I feel like Jack and Kate became toddlers overnight!

For the Council, the 2010 budget marks a change in the way County services will be provided as we continue to face unprecedented general fund shortfalls. However, I am proud that the Council passed a balanced budget that prioritizes core services, such as public safety and transit.

This year also saw a change in County leadership. We appointed an interim executive following Ron Sims' departure to the Obama administration, and this November voters elected a new County Executive.

Consistent with this theme of change, I proposed a number of good government reform measures, approved by the Council:

- Budget transparency legislation – increases detail in budget documents to help citizens and policy makers better understand where tax dollars are spent.
- Public disclosure legislation – reforms the County's public disclosure process, expanding transparency and openness in government and easing the disclosure process for the public.

Wishing you all the best in the new year,

Bob



King County

I worked with my colleagues to adopt a balanced Metro budget that preserves existing service. To make this happen, we took several actions:

- Non-service related cuts were made, such as reducing the frequency of park and ride maintenance and the quantity of printed materials and schedules.
- Existing Ferry District revenues were reprioritized to support bus service.
- A portion of Metro's fleet replacement reserve fund will be allocated for bus service, as recommended by an audit performed earlier this year.

Potential new service on SR 522

With tolling on the 520 Bridge beginning in 2011, many drivers will choose to use SR 522 (Lake City Way/Bothell Way) rather than pay the toll. I worked to include a section in the budget directing a committee to recommend how up to 5,000 hours of additional bus service on SR 522 should be implemented to deal with this increased traffic. I will keep you updated about the committee's findings.



King County Councilmember
Bob Ferguson

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1788

District One

Tel: 206-296-1001
Fax: 206-296-0198
TTY/TDD: 206-296-1024
E-mail: bob.ferguson@kingcounty.gov
Web: www.kingcounty.gov/ferguson

2009 Year in Review

Keeping you updated in 2010



Unfortunately, due to the County's budget cuts, I will be mailing fewer newsletters. It is important to me that we stay in touch, so here are several ways I plan to keep you updated:

- **Receive my monthly eNews.** With over 10,000 subscribers, my eNews is an inexpensive way to keep in touch. You can sign up to receive my email newsletter by emailing district1news@kingcounty.gov

kingcounty.gov with "subscribe" in the subject line.

- **Visit me on YouTube.** Videos on district events and County issues will be periodically posted on my YouTube site, www.youtube.com/user/kingcountydistrict1.
- **Visit me on Facebook,** www.facebook.com, by searching for "Councilmember Bob Ferguson."
- **View my website,** www.kingcounty.gov/ferguson.

It is an honor to represent you on the King County Council, and I hope to hear from you in 2010!

Good government reform

Government accountability is a priority for me, and this year I sponsored two major pieces of legislation that improve transparency in King County government.

Budget transparency legislation approved

Policy makers and citizens need to know where their tax dollars are going. This was challenging in the past as the Executive's proposed budget presented only a single number for each department budget. I introduced legislation requiring more detailed budgets that identify each major program within a department.

For example, rather than presenting the Public Health budget as a lump sum of \$190 million, a budget detail plan now shows the planned expenditures for each major business line in the department, such as public health centers and infectious disease control.

The Council unanimously approved this legislation, ensuring that government spending is more transparent and increasing accountability to our citizens.

Public disclosure reform adopted

In the wake of two high-profile public records lawsuits involving King County, I co-sponsored legislation with Councilmember Reagan Dunn to reform the County's public records disclosure process. The Council approved the proposal, which expanded transparency in government while making the disclosure process less burdensome on the public.

Voters approve Open Space Preservation Act



This fall, I visited Cold Creek Natural Area near Woodinville with my family. Cold Creek is one of 95 properties protected by the Open Space Preservation Act approved in November by King County voters.

I led the effort to place the proposal on the ballot, increasing protection of our most treasured County owned lands and permanently preserving the conservation-oriented uses of these properties.

You can learn more about the protected sites by visiting my website.