



King County

Bob Ferguson
Councilmember, District 1
Metropolitan King County Council

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As you may know, in late 2008, King County authorized the one tenth of one percent sales and use tax for the delivery of mental health, chemical dependency, and therapeutic court services as allowed by state law.

Over the past year, King County has been working to lay out a spending plan, establish performance measures, and create an oversight process to ensure the efficient and effective use of these new public tax dollars. We are in the final phases of this work. In October, the tax dollars will start funding a set of new and expanded mental health and chemical dependency services.

The last year has been a learning opportunity for King County and one that I am sure will continue over the life of the sales tax. In that spirit, I am exploring the idea of bringing together counties throughout the state to share their various experiences with the mental health and chemical dependency sales tax. While each county faces its own individual challenges, I believe counties would benefit from sharing best practices, lessons learned, and promising ideas for innovation and improvement. I hope this conversation would be a useful dialogue for all counties that may consider authorizing the tax at some point in the future. Specifically, I would like to put together a conference in early 2009 on this topic.

Are you interested in this idea of bringing Washington counties together to discuss the mental health and chemical dependency sales tax? If so, please let me know. Additionally, if there is anyone from your county that I should specifically reach out to, I would greatly appreciate your help in connecting with those individuals. Finally, if you have specific ideas for possible discussion topics, I welcome your input.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you. You can contact me by email at bob.ferguson@kingcounty.gov or by phone at (206)296-1001.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
King County Councilmember, District 1