



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 17, 2008

Resolution

Proposed No. 08-11.2

1 A RESOLUTION identifying potential public health
2 financing options.

3
4 WHEREAS, over the past century, public health functions have led to remarkable
5 gains in health that have significantly increased longevity and improved quality of life,
6 including accomplishments such as: safe food and water dramatically reducing illness
7 and deaths; fluoridation of water reducing tooth decay and tooth loss; population-wide
8 vaccination programs eradicating smallpox worldwide and making other once-common
9 diseases rare; and better hygiene, nutrition, antibiotics and access to health care,
10 contributing to a ninety percent decrease in infant mortality and a ninety-nine percent
11 decrease in maternal mortality since 1900, nationwide, and

12 WHEREAS, state law vests in the King County Board of Health oversight of all
13 matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people of King County,
14 including the adoption of countywide public health policy and the enactment and
15 enforcement of local public health regulations, and

Resolution

16 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of King County government to provide
17 regional public health services to the 1.8 million residents of King County, as well as the
18 hundreds of thousands of workers and tourists who enter the county each day, and

19 WHEREAS, public health functions provided by the King County government
20 protect, promote and provide for the health of the public every day, and

21 WHEREAS, over the past decade, federal and state revenues that support public
22 health, such as the motor vehicle excise tax, have been eliminated, limited or reduced,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, elimination by the state of the motor vehicle excise tax has required
25 counties and other local public health jurisdictions to annually request that the State
26 provide backfill for these revenues from the state's general fund in order to maintain
27 services and has created uncertainty for local jurisdictions about the level of funding that
28 will be available from year to year, and

29 WHEREAS, the elimination of a growing source of dedicated revenue and lack of
30 growth in other revenues has required significant increases in the level of King County
31 general fund resources to support public health services, and

32 WHEREAS, increases in King County general fund contributions to public health
33 are not sustainable in the near term or over the long term, and

34 WHEREAS, in a study on county financial health, the Washington state
35 Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development found that all counties
36 across the state are fiscally distressed, and

37 WHEREAS, the Washington state legislature's 4410 Joint Select Committee
38 concluded that the Washington state public health system is under-funded by more than

Resolution

39 \$600 million each biennium and that the lack of a stable source of funding dedicated to
40 public health has eroded the ability to maintain a reliable statewide system that protects
41 the public's health, and

42 WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee found that the types of public
43 health services offered across jurisdictions statewide vary in their availability and quality
44 and that funding is needed statewide to stop communicable disease; promote healthy lives
45 and families; assure safe food, water and air; and help people access medical and dental
46 care, and

47 WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee found differing levels of demand
48 and need for public health services across local jurisdictions, and

49 WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee concluded that funding for public
50 health must be a joint responsibility of the state and local jurisdictions, and

51 WHEREAS, counties have limited local authority to provide for adequate funding
52 for public health, and

53 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health adopted BOH Resolution 08-07,
54 finding that the lack of adequate financing for public health results in unacceptable risks
55 to the health of the public; calling on the state of Washington to provide adequate, stable,
56 dedicated, long-term financing for local public health statewide and to provide financing
57 options for local jurisdictions to protect, promote and provide for the health of the public;
58 and urging the state to examine any and all adequate and stable options for state and local
59 financing for public health; and making a commitment to work with community and
60 local, regional and state partners to educate the public about the value of public health
61 and the need for adequate, stable, dedicated, long-term state and local funding, and

Resolution

62 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health directed staff to prepare a list of
63 any and all possible financing options for public health which the Board of Health
64 reviewed and provided direction on at its August and September meetings;

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
66 County:

67 The King County Board of Health identifies, through Attachment A to this
68 resolution, twelve potential state and local financing options for public health that would
69 require authority from the state to implement. The Board of Health urges the state to

70

Resolution

71 consider these and any other adequate, stable, dedicated, long-term options for financing
72 for public health.

73

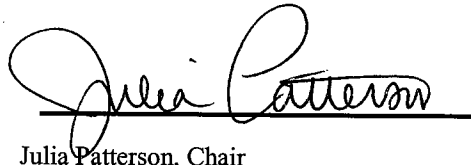
Resolution was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 10/16/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Patterson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Clark, Mr. Hutchinson, Ms. Frisinger, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Counts, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Licata

No: 0

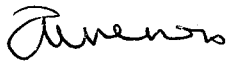
Excused: 5 - Mr. Dunn, Mr. Rasmussen, Dr. Sherman, Ms. Manning and Mr. Conlin

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments A. Potential Public Health Financing Options