

# Public Safety in Peril

## Town Hall Meeting



King County  
Superior Court  
Presiding Judge  
Bruce Hilyer



King County  
District Court  
Presiding Judge  
Barbara Linde



King County  
Prosecuting  
Attorney  
Dan Satterberg



King County  
Sheriff  
Sue Rahr

### Criminal Justice Partners in Action

For the past several years, King County's criminal justice agencies have worked hard to create an efficient and effective criminal justice system. Crime is down and criminal cases are investigated, reviewed, filed, and resolved without significant delay. We offer innovative programs such as Drug and Mental Health Court and provide important victim services.

In addition, we have the capacity to house all offenders who pose a risk to public safety, provide an array of jail alternatives for certain low-level offenders, and offer constitutionally-required health services for inmates.

Because of an estimated \$93 million county budget shortfall, the King County Executive directed the criminal justice system to take an "across-the-board" budget cut of 11.4% for 2009.

**These cuts threaten the quality of justice in King County and put public safety at risk.**



Sheriff Sue Rahr, Judge Barbara Linde, Judge Bruce Hilyer and Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg speaking to the Council Operating Budget and Fiscal Management Committee regarding the 2009 budget cuts.

*King County's Mental Health Court handles hundreds of cases, diverting mentally ill and homeless offenders out of jails and into much needed treatment and housing.*

*The Prosecutor's Office receives and reviews over 25,000 criminal investigations and referrals from the county's 38 different law enforcement agencies and prosecutes over 10,000 felony, 10,000 misdemeanor, and 4,000 juvenile cases each year.*

*The Superior Court receives more than 10,000 criminal and more than 50,000 civil cases annually.*

## What will happen in 2009 if the Executive's proposed budget is approved?

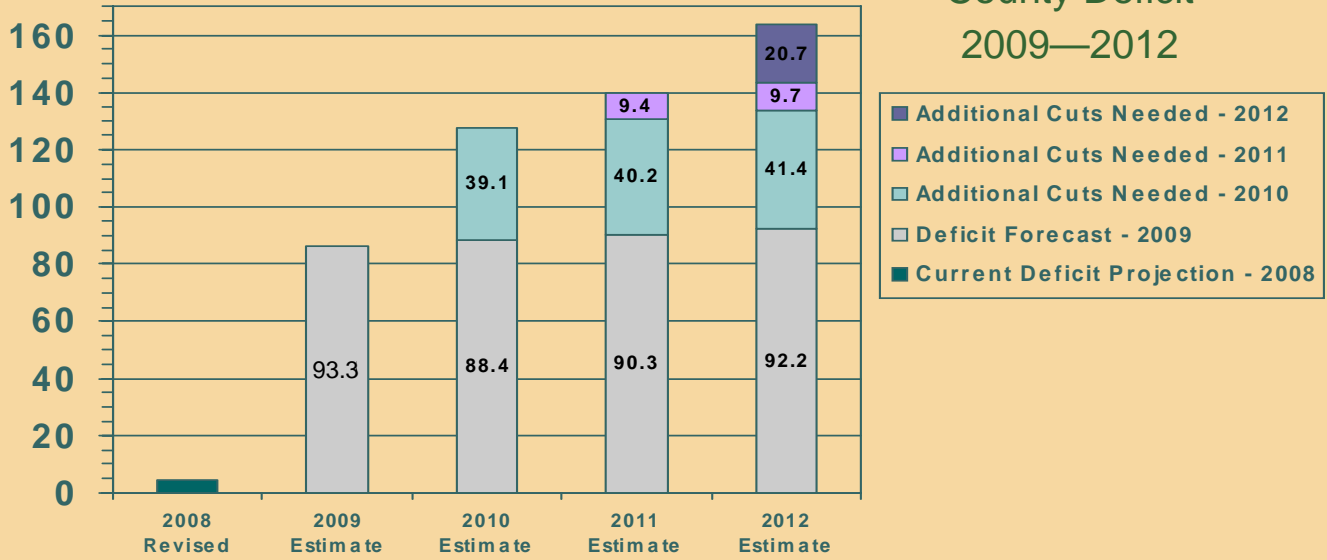
- ◆ **The Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)** has cut 27 positions (20 deputy prosecutors and 7 staff). It has started filing certain low-level felonies as gross misdemeanors in District Court to save costs. The PAO now faces \$1.2 million in additional 2009 budget cuts, beyond those already identified. For every \$1 million cut to the PAO, it is equivalent to the loss of 10 deputy prosecutors.
- ◆ **The Sheriff's Office's** budget cuts include \$8.8 million and the loss of 79 positions. For every \$1 million cut to the Sheriff's Office, it is equivalent to the loss of 10 Sheriff's deputies.
- ◆ **Superior Court's** identified budget cuts (including new revenues) total \$4.5 million, and eliminates 17 positions. Superior Court now faces \$997,000 in additional 2009 budget cuts, beyond those already identified. Superior Court may also be forced to cut Drug Court and Family Court and domestic violence services.
- ◆ **District Court's** identified budget cuts (including new revenues) total \$1.03 million. District Court now faces \$1.56 million in additional cuts, beyond those already identified, which is equivalent to the loss of 24 court staff. District Court may also be forced to cut innovative programs such as Mental Health Court and Relicensing.

## Proposed Budget Cuts

**This is what those cuts look like for each office:**

<b>King County Prosecuting Attorney (27 jobs)</b>	<b>\$5.0 million</b>
<b>King County Sheriff's Office (79 jobs)</b>	<b>\$8.8 million</b>
<b>King County Superior Court/Clerk (41 jobs)</b>	<b>\$7.7 million</b>
<b>King County District Court (24 jobs)</b>	<b>\$2.6 million</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24.1 million</b>

## County Deficit 2009—2012



### Uncertainty still remains:

The Executive's proposed 2009 budget assumes that employee cost of living pay increases will be renegotiated with the labor unions, and some unfunded programs or services will be addressed by the State legislature in July 2009 and beyond.

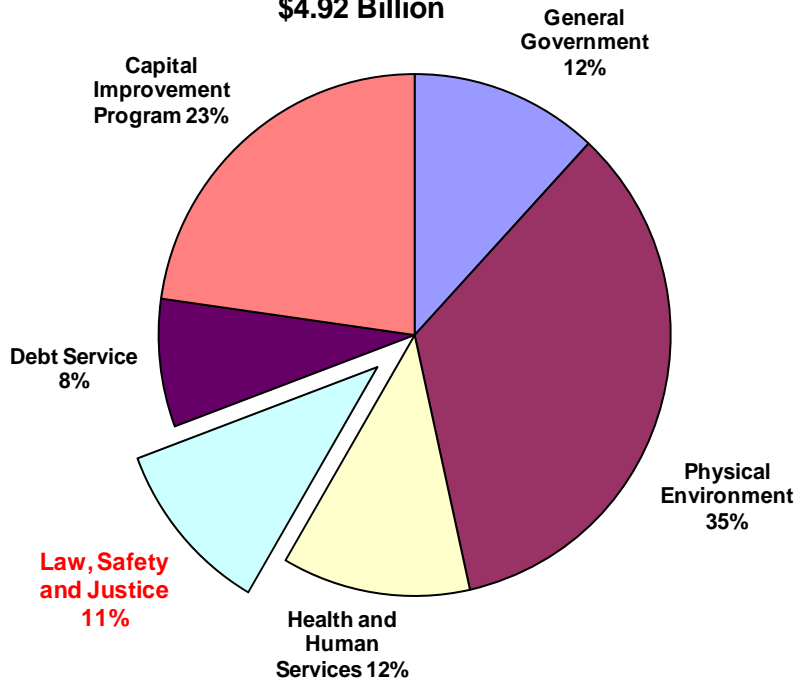
*On any given day, Drug Court is managing approximately 520 active cases.*

*In 2007 the King County Sheriff's Office took 117,310 dispatched calls for service.*

*15,805 cases were property crimes (auto theft, burglary and larceny).*

*For all crimes combined, KCSO arrested and/or filed charges on a total of 14,394 suspects.*

### 2008 Adopted King County Budget \$4.92 Billion



**Roughly 11% of King County's budget is allocated to our criminal justice system.**

## Where your property tax dollar goes

Although your property tax check is paid to “King County,” only about 15 cents or 1/6th of every property tax dollar goes to County government. The County only collects the money as a function of the County Treasury. The greater portion is disbursed to schools, cities, and special taxing districts for fire service, libraries, and hospitals.

Source: King County Council web page



### SCHOOLS

52¢

Local school levies and state school fund



### LOCAL SERVICES

31¢

City and local services, including unincorporated roads, fire, libraries, parks & hospital districts



### KING COUNTY

15¢

King County General Fund & Regional Services



### PORT

2¢

Port of Seattle

## Concerned citizens, contact your King County Councilmember at:

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