



Councilmembers Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove, Rod Dembowski, Kathy Lambert, **Council Chair Larry Phillips**, Pete von Reichbauer, Larry Gossett, **Council Vice Chair Jane Hague**, and **Council Vice Chair Joe McDermott**.

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over two million residents, King County is the 13th largest county in the United States in terms of population. There are more people living in King County than in 14 states! At 2,134 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for approximately 252,000 people who live in our unincorporated urban and rural areas, and we provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the Council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services for this region, including:

- The criminal justice system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention and adult jails;
- The King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police protection;

- Public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service and county roads;
- Wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- Regional parks, open space, and trails; and
- Elections, records, and licensing.

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district of about 224,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has four standing committees that oversee specific government functions of county government and a Committee of the Whole that includes all Councilmembers. Councilmembers also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

The Council's review of ordinances, motions, and budgets help ensure that county government operates in an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective manner, with equal access for all county residents.

## Message from the Council Chair



**Larry Phillips, Chair**

Named after our nation's greatest civil rights leader, King County remains one of the best places in the United States to live, work, and play. The mountains, waters, forests, and businesses that make this region great also place upon us a responsibility to take care of our environment and plan effectively for coming generations.

Our growing population means that we need to invest not only in our infrastructure, but also take bold steps to protect the quality of our air, water, and land in the face of climate change and increasing demands on our natural resources.

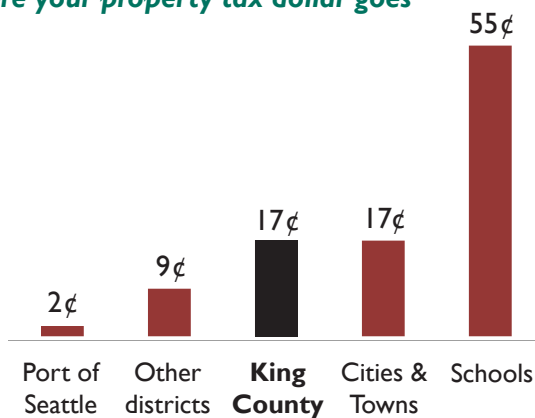
Our current county population of two million people speak over 120 languages and represent many heritages and backgrounds. As our population becomes increasingly diverse, it is also important to provide equal opportunity for all residents.

These are among the significant responsibilities and challenges facing our county government, overseen by your directly elected King County Council. I am honored to have been chosen to chair the Council again this year by my colleagues.

As a Council, we continue to address growing demand for county services, such as public safety, transportation, and health and human services, while revenues decline. Our success is dependent on the participation of our constituents to advocate for the services our public needs and the means to support them.

## Understanding the county budget

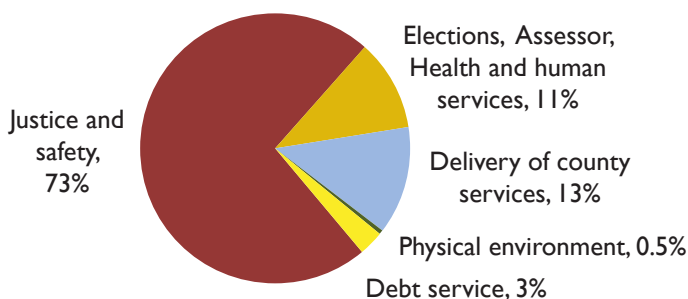
### Where your property tax dollar goes



The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 84% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like the regional Medic One system.

The discretionary portion of the county budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 16% of the total budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (73%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated by the State. The remainder must fund other services, such as Elections and human services (see pie chart).

### General fund expenditures



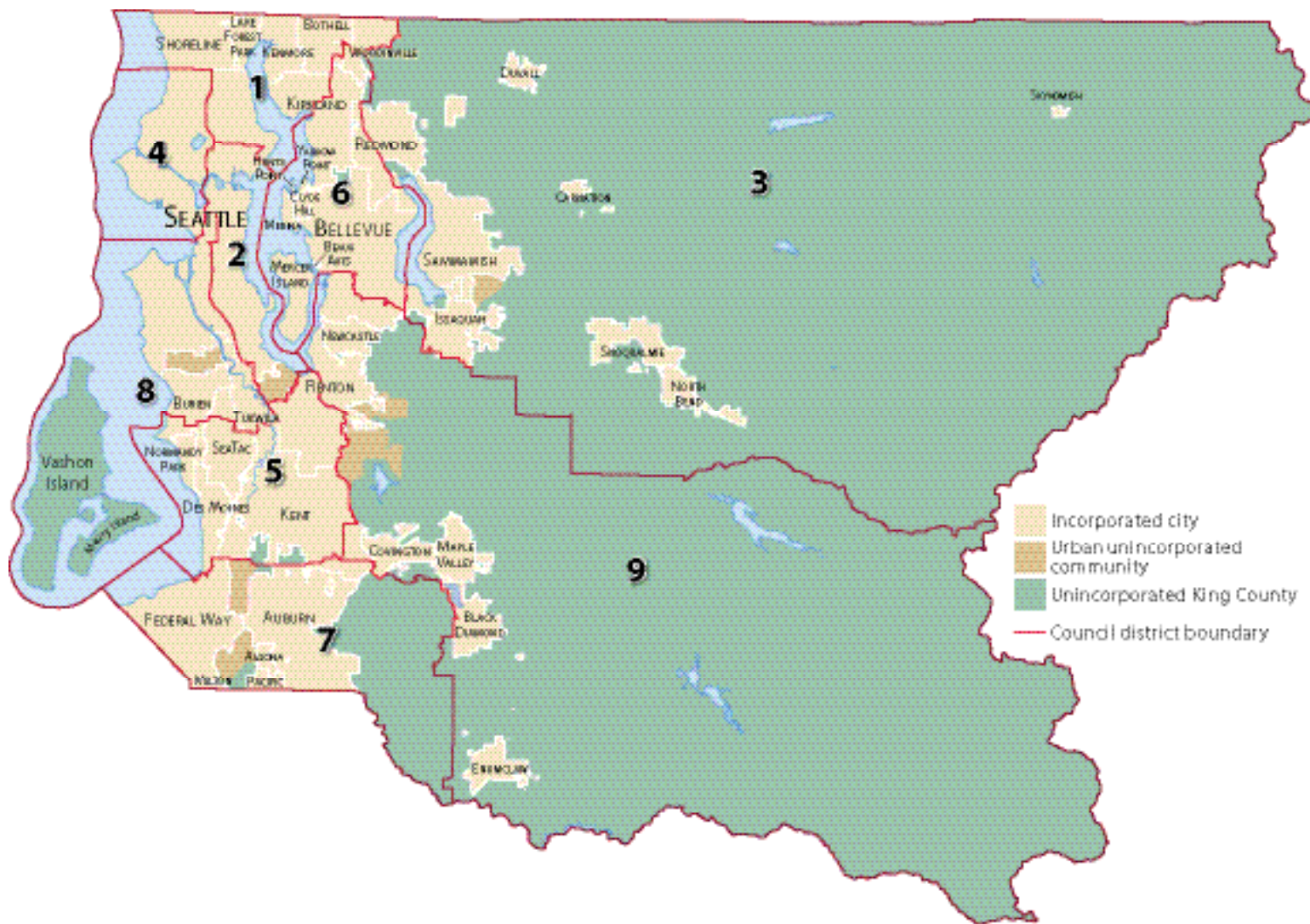
The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, the County collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, the County receives only 17 cents of every property tax dollar, with the rest going to other agencies (see bar graph). Similarly, King County receives less than one cent of the 9.5 cents sales tax per dollar collected in most of the county.

Since Washington State enacted the one percent cap on property tax increases in 2002, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by \$384 million during the past decade. The projected deficit for the 2017-18 biennium is \$45 million.

For more information on the county budget, please visit [www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget)



# King County Council districts map



## Contact information

The King County Council meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. You can watch all meetings held in the chambers live on King County TV, cable channel 22, and online at our website. Agendas, minutes, and archived video of past meetings are also available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council).

### Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council  
King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

### Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165  
Fax: (206) 296-0198  
TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

### Online

Web: [www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil)  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/KCCouncil>

### Clerk of the Council

E-mail: [clerk.council@kingcounty.gov](mailto:clerk.council@kingcounty.gov)  
Telephone: (206) 477-1020

### Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at  
[www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers)

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Rod Dembowski	477-1001	<a href="mailto:rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov">rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov</a>
2	Larry Gossett	477-1002	<a href="mailto:larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov">larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov</a>
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	<a href="mailto:kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov">kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov</a>
4	Larry Phillips	477-1004	<a href="mailto:larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov">larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov</a>
5	Dave Upthegrove	477-1005	<a href="mailto:dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov">dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov</a>
6	Jane Hague	477-1006	<a href="mailto:jane.hague@kingcounty.gov">jane.hague@kingcounty.gov</a>
7	Peter von Reichbauer	477-1007	<a href="mailto:pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov">pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov</a>
8	Joe McDermott	477-1008	<a href="mailto:joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov">joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov</a>
9	Reagan Dunn	477-1009	<a href="mailto:reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov">reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov</a>

# Council and regional committees and special government

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through a number of standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. In addition, Councilmembers serve as the Board of Supervisors for a special-purpose government, created under authority provided by the State Legislature.

## Council committees

### Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the entire Council.  
*First and third Wednesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Jane Hague

**Vice Chair:** Joe McDermott

**Members:** All Councilmembers

### Budget and Fiscal Management

Policy direction for the County budget, recommendations on structural funding gap and capital and operating budget appropriations.

*Second and fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Joe McDermott

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Jane Hague, Rod Dembowski, Dave Upthegrove

### Government Accountability and Oversight

Efficiency, cost effectiveness, and performance of county government; enhancing oversight, accountability, and transparency.

*Second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Members:** Reagan Dunn

### Health, Housing, and Human Services

Policy relating to public health, human services, and housing programs.

*First and third Tuesdays at 1:30 am*

**Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott

### Law, Justice, and Emergency Management

Policy relating to public safety, criminal justice, and emergency management.

*Second, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays at 1:30 pm*

**Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Vice Chair:** Larry Gossett

**Members:** Rod Dembowski, Joe McDermott

### Transportation, Economy, and Environment

Oversight of public transit, passenger ferries, county roads, environment, resource lands, and water quality; policy relating to growth management and the economy.

*First, third, and fifth Tuesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Vice Chair:** Jane Hague

**Members:** Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Larry Phillips, Pete von Reichbauer, Dave Upthegrove

## Regional committees

### Regional Policy

Countywide policies and plans on issues such as human services, criminal justice, and solid waste management.

*Second Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Kathy Lambert

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Redmond City Councilmember Hank Margeson, Auburn City Councilmember Bill Peloza, Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Sally Clark, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

### Regional Transit

Countywide plans and policies pertaining to King County Metro Transit services.

*Third Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Reagan Dunn

**Vice Chair:** Redmond City Councilmember Kimberly Allen

**Members:** Jane Hague, Joe McDermott

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Kirkland City Councilmember Dave Asher, Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Algona Mayor Dave Hill, Tukwila City Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Auburn City Councilmember Wayne Osborne, Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

### Regional Water Quality

Countywide policies and plans for water quality and sewer services, capital facilities, rate policies, and facilities siting.

*First Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Vice Chair:** Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**Members:** Jane Hague, Larry Phillips

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Shoreline City Councilmember Doris McConnell, Auburn City Councilmember Wayne Osborne, Renton City Councilmember Ed Prince

**Sewer District Members:** Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Jean Godden, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

## Special-purpose government

### King County Flood Control District

*Second Monday of April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.*

[www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org](http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org)