



Councilmembers (from left) Kathy Lambert, Dave Upthegrove, Larry Gossett, Council Vice Chair Rod Dembowski, Council Chair Joe McDermott, Claudia Balducci, Pete von Reichbauer, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, and Council Vice Chair Reagan Dunn.

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 2,130 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 253,000 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 228,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has several standing committees that oversee specific 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.

Get agendas, minutes, and meeting videos online at:
www.kingcounty.gov/council

Message from the Council Chair



Joe McDermott, Chair

We are so fortunate to call King County home. We enjoy unparalleled natural beauty, a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and vibrant multicultural communities where all residents should have the opportunity to live, work, and prosper.

This is an exciting year for King County. We are updating our Comprehensive Plan in order to better conserve our environment and grow our communities responsibly, and we are adopting the biennial budget for 2017-18. We are advancing initiatives to address health, homelessness, and mental and

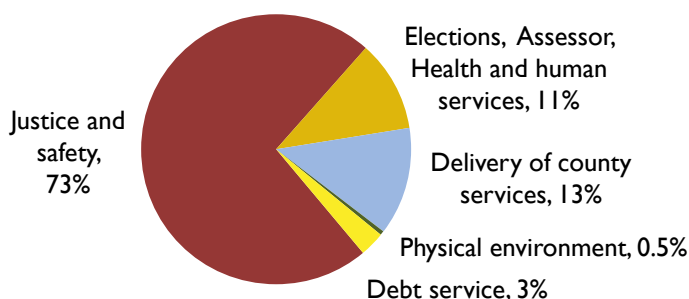
behavioral health by better incorporating the preventive and tailored intervention efforts that we know work.

We have challenges to overcome. Income inequality is growing and resulting in disastrous impacts, including on housing affordability and homelessness. Disparities in our health and justice systems keep young people from achieving their full potential. We are working to address these issues through policies and funding. If we work collaboratively—as community leaders, businesses, residents, and local government—we can overcome these challenges and foster inclusion and fairness.

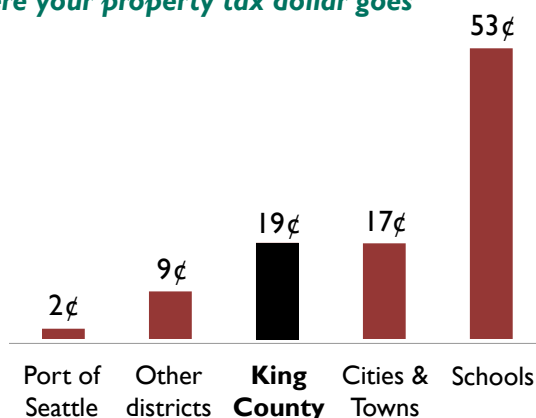
Our county is named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his words, “The time is always right to do what is right.” As this year’s Council Chair, I embrace his values and legacy while leading us through these times of great growth, change, and opportunity.

Understanding the county budget

General Fund expenditures



Where your property tax dollar goes



In the fall of 2016, the King County Council will review and adopt the biennial county budget for 2017 & 2018. Public hearings will be held in October. To learn more about the county budget and the public hearings, please visit: www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget

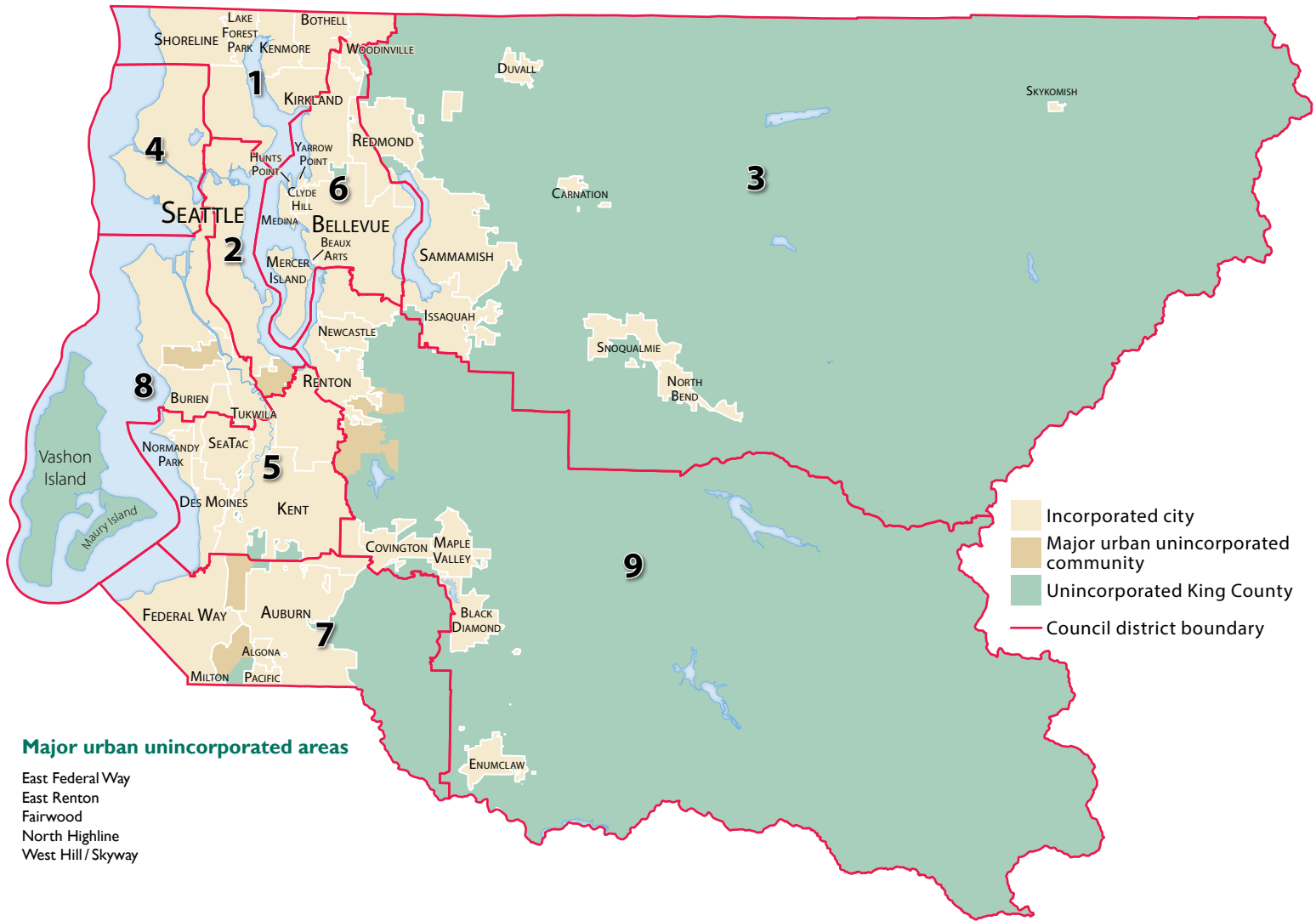
The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 84% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like the regional Emergency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

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).

The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, King County collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, King County receives only 19 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, 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 in the decade from 2002 to 2012, with consequent reduction in services to residents. The projected deficit for the 2017-18 biennium is approximately \$50 million.

Council districts map



Major urban unincorporated areas

East Federal Way
East Renton
Fairwood
North Highline
West Hill / Skyway

Contact information

The King County Council meets on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in Chambers on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. All public meetings held in Chambers are cablecast live on King County TV (channel 22 Comcast and Wave in SD, channel 322 Comcast and 722 Wave in HD). Agendas, minutes, and videos of past meetings are available online on our website.

Mailing address

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Seattle, WA 98104-3272

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Online

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

Clerk of the Council

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

Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at
www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers/find_district

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Rod Dembowski	477-1001	rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
2	Larry Gossett	477-1002	larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov
4	Jeanne Kohl-Welles	477-1004	jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov
5	Dave Upthegrove	477-1005	dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
6	Claudia Balducci	477-1006	claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
7	Peter von Reichbauer	477-1007	pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov
8	Joe McDermott	477-1008	joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov
9	Reagan Dunn	477-1009	reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov

Council's standing and regional committees

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through six standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. Councilmembers also serve as the Board of Supervisors for a special-purpose government created with authority provided by the State Legislature. Additionally, individual councilmembers serve on a variety of external committees, boards, and commissions, such as the Board of Health and the Sound Transit Board.

For more information on the committees below, including meeting times, agendas, and alternate members, as well as the external panels on which individual councilmembers serve, please visit www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees.

Council committees

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the entire Council.

Chair: Kathy Lambert

Vice Chair: Rod Dembowski

Members: All Councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

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

Chair: Dave Upthegrove

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott

Government Accountability and Oversight

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

Chair: Pete von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Member: Rod Dembowski

Health, Housing, and Human Services

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

Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Larry Gossett, Dave Upthegrove

Law and Justice

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

Chair: Larry Gossett

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

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.

Chair: Rod Dembowski

Vice Chair: Claudia Balducci

Members: Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Pete von Reichbauer

Regional committees

Regional Policy

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

Chair: Pete von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Auburn City Councilmember Bill Pelosa

Members: Claudia Balducci, Larry Gossett

Sound Cities Association Members: Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke, Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas, and Kirkland Mayor Amy Valen

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Debora Juarez, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Regional Transit

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

Chair: Claudia Balducci

Vice Chair: Algona Mayor Dave Hill

Members: Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove

Sound Cities Association Members: Kirkland City Councilmember Dave Asher, Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Tukwila City Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Sammamish City Councilmember Kathy Huckabay, Renton City Councilmember Ed Prince, and Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Regional Water Quality

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

Chair: Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Vice Chair: Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

Members: Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn

Sound Cities Association Members: Renton City Councilmember Ed Prince, Kirkland City Councilmember Penny Sweet, Mercer Island City Councilmember Benson Wong, and Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

Sewer District Members: Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Special-purpose government

King County Flood Control District

www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org