



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

November 19, 2018

Resolution 18-09

Proposed No. 18-09.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington
2 state Legislature to support funding for foundational
3 public health services.

4 WHEREAS, the public health system in Washington provides the foundation for
5 the larger health framework, working to prevent illness and disease while supporting the
6 work of community partners, and

7 WHEREAS, tracking, responding to and preventing costly food and water
8 contamination and disease outbreaks is essential to protecting the public's health, and

9 WHEREAS, state and local public health officials, together with local leaders,
10 have identified an agreed-upon set of foundational public health services that should be
11 available for every Washingtonian, and

12 WHEREAS, no state or local public health department should be without
13 foundational public health components and programs which include communicable
14 disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental public health,
15 maternal, child and family health, and access to and linkage with clinical care, and

16 WHEREAS, after a century of increasing life expectancies, these gains are
17 threatened by new and more complex diseases and emerging threats, putting today's
18 children at risk of becoming the first generation to have shorter life expectancies than
19 their parents, and

20 WHEREAS, public health's ability to address social and community conditions
21 could improve health, life expectancy and quality of life, while also reducing related
22 health care costs and productivity losses, and

23 WHEREAS, the public's well-being is also threatened by public health's inability
24 to meet its basic responsibility to provide those foundational services due to changes in
25 its funding structure, complex and new diseases and growing populations, and

26 WHEREAS, the motor vehicle excise tax was repealed in 2000, leaving the public
27 health system without an adequate and sustainable funding source, and

28 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature made an initial investment of \$15
29 million for foundational public health services in the 2017-2019 biennium, representing a
30 one-time, partial restoration of cuts to public health services that were made during the
31 Great Recession, and

32 WHEREAS, due to that funding, Public Health - Seattle & King County: notified
33 partners infected with sexually transmitted diseases; increased partnerships with health
34 care systems to implement best practices that keep patients safe; and expanded
35 communicable disease response, and

36 WHEREAS, without securing ongoing, stable, and dedicated funding for
37 foundational public health services, our communities are vulnerable to the spread of
38 communicable diseases like measles, mumps and sexually transmitted diseases ; at risk
39 for food, water and environmental health threats; and without resources to adequately
40 track data critical to identifying and responding to emerging threats, and

41 WHEREAS, investing in communities to improve the health and well-being of
42 people could also revitalize and improve economic opportunity, enhancing prosperity in

43 the community and for its residents and businesses;

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King

45 County:

46 The Board of Health calls on the Washington state Legislature to allocate

47 sustainable and

48 significant funding necessary to support foundational public health services in all
49 communities, and allow public health to continue rebuilding its statewide system with
50 added efficiency.

51

Resolution 18-09 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 11/15/2018,
by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Ms. Lambert, Dr. Danielson, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott,
Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Birney and Ms. Mosqueda

No: 0

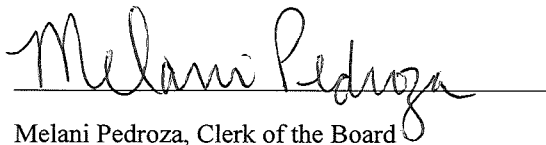
Excused: 2 - Ms. Honda and Ms. Juarez

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None