



County Services

Objective:

Provide the public with choices about which services King County delivers within existing resources and for which services they would like to provide additional funding

How is our performance?

These measures address how the County generates revenue to support services and how the public is engaged in new revenue decisions. In addition, this section includes an assessment of how well the County is working with other jurisdictions, measured by the number of contracts with other cities or entities.

New revenues can take many forms, including increases to existing fees or fines, the creation of new fees or fines through the legislative process, the institution of a new sales or property tax through the legislative process, or the increase or creation of a new sales or property tax through a public vote. Under state law, the County must provide the public opportunities to comment on all legislation, including revenue increases considered by the County Council, usually through the budget process.

One of the more interesting measures to track over time is voter turnout and the outcome of revenue items put to a public vote. From 2008 to 2012, there have been five revenue votes. Four of the five propositions passed: the Automated Fingerprint Identification Services (AFIS) Levy in 2012, the Children and Family Services Center Capital Levy in 2012, the Veterans and Human Service Levy in 2011, and the Mass Transit Sales tax in 2008. The Sales and Use tax for Criminal Justice, Fire Protection, and Other Government Purposes did not pass in 2010. King County will continue track these trends in the near future as there will be multiple revenue votes in coming years.

One of the best ways to enhance service and contain costs for the public is by partnering with other jurisdictions to deliver services. Working together can reduce the aggregate cost to the region. Rather than each city building the infrastructure to delivery every service to its residents, contracting allows cities and the County to take advantage of economies of scale to reduce the overall amount spent providing services and to ensure that services are delivered consistently throughout the county. This is also a measure of how the County's quality and cost of services are perceived by other jurisdictions, which can be generally measure by whether they contract for services or not. In 2012, the City of Auburn decided to contract with the County for municipal court services, increasing the number of cities contracting with District Court from 12 to 13. The County did lose customers for jail and animal services in 2012, which is an area of concern since this reduces County revenue and fragments the delivery of service. The reduction in the investment pool was due to the anticipated consolidated of two districts and does not necessarily reflect the loss of a customer. Tracking this information over time will help identify areas for increased partnership and areas where there have been year-over-year changes.

Moving forward

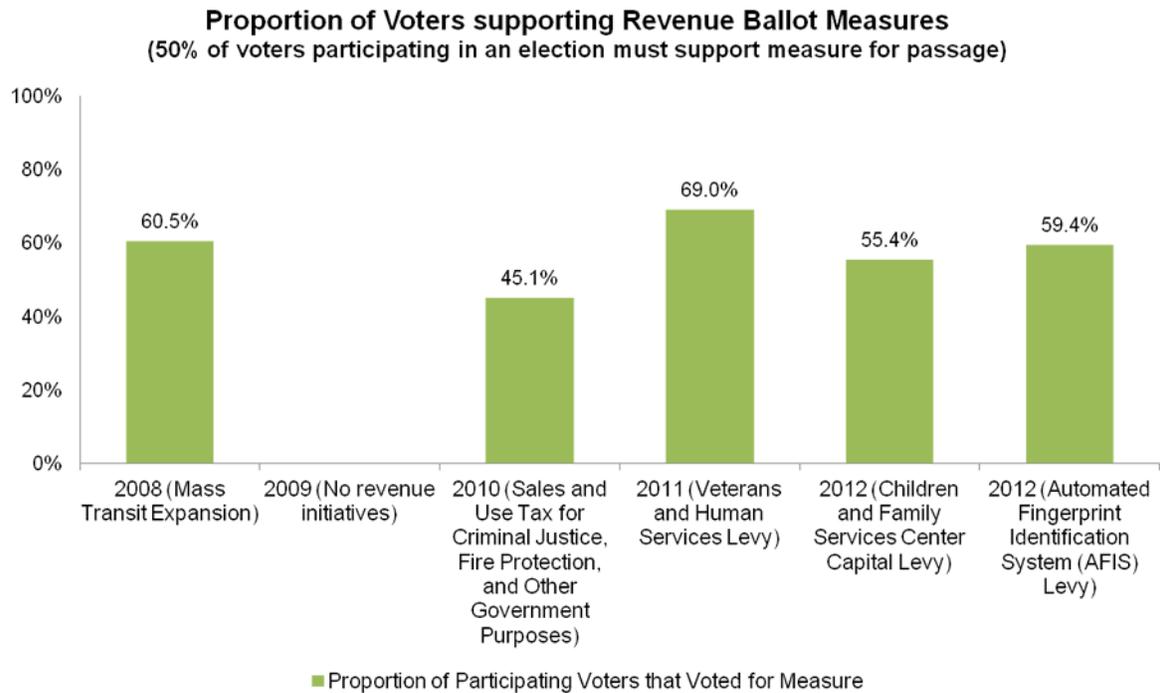
All of these areas will continue to be monitored. Moving forward, the County may consider establishing targets for the areas of contract services and voter engagement.

Related Links

[King County Elections](#)

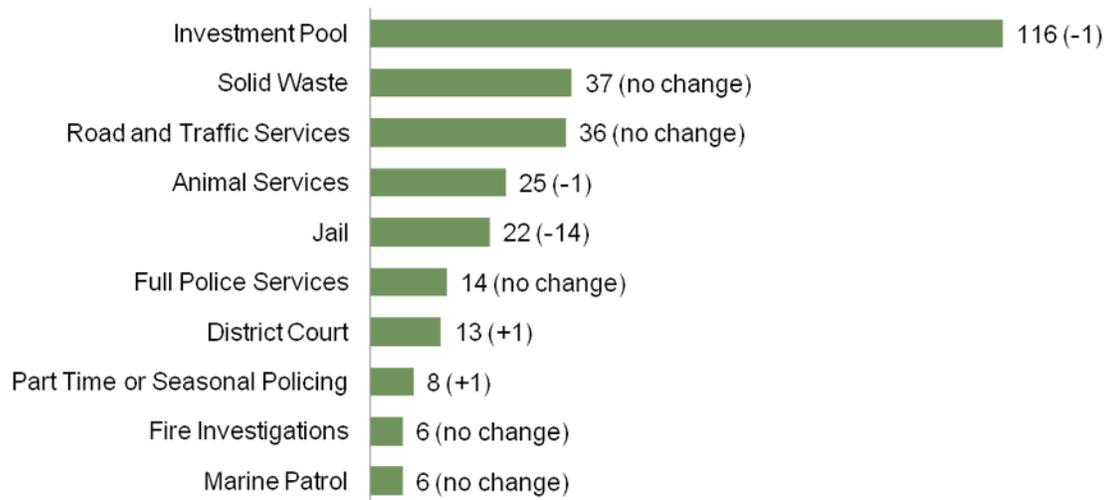
[King County Customer Service](#)

Charts and Maps



Data Source: King County Elections

Number of cities or other jurisdictions contracting for major King County services in 2013 (Change from prior year)



Data Source: PSB Analysts