



King County

Charter Review Commission

2007-2008

Meeting 2 - Education and Public Outreach Session

Seattle Municipal Tower, 40th Floor

5:30pm-7:30pm

March 27, 2007

Co-Chairs: Gov. Mike Lowry and Lois North

Recognizing Forty Years of Good Governance

Agenda

■ Commission Communications

- Legal aspects of commission communications (Mike Sinsky)
- How to use King County email and CRC bulletin board (Corrie Watterson Bryant)
- Discussion

■ Background Education

- Presentation on Roles and Responsibilities of King County Government (Mark Yango)
- Budget Advisory Task Force presentation (Bob Cowan and Karen Reed)

■ Outreach Plan

- How do we do outreach to Council?
- Stakeholder Involvement? – Meetings? Presentations? Written Submissions?
- Public Hearings – Four/five suggested (north, southeast, southwest, east, unincorporated areas)
- Media/Op Ed

■ Logistics

- Bios/pics
- Vouchers

Commission Communications

- Legal aspects of CRC communications
 - Background
 - Open Public Meetings Act
 - Open Public Records Act
 - Records Retention

- Communication Options
 - Email
 - Bulletin board

Using King County Email

- **King County email accounts:**
 - Your exclusive email account for commission business
 - Almost all King County email addresses are written as firstname.lastname@metrokc.gov, ie, corrie.watterson@metrokc.gov

- **Our email program, Outlook Web Access (OWA):**
 - Use OWA to login into your email account from almost any web browser on any computer
 - Advantages to using OWA
 - No installation of the client software on the user machine
 - Can be accessed from anywhere
 - Secure

Using King County Email

Browser requirements:

- Internet Explorer: recommended upgrade to version 6 or higher
- MSN browser: only works if you use Windows XP
- Netscape Navigator: upgrade to version 4.8 or higher. Disable all pop-up blockers for <https://owa.metrokc.gov/>
- Mac users: use Safari
- Most other browsers will also work

Using King County Email

■ Logging onto OWA:

- See your handout for your email address, login, and password
- URL– <https://owa.metrokc.gov/>
- Login– yourlogin (different than your email address, ie, watterc)
- Password– yourpassword (case sensitive, changes every 3 months)

■ Demonstration of OWA

- Sending a message
- Finding a King County address
- Managing contacts
- Reading and replying to mail
- Opening an attachment
- Mail retention and personal folders
- Options
- Logging off

Using King County Email

Technical support:

Corrie Watterson
(206) 296-4950
corrie.watterson@metrokc.gov

ITS helpdesk
(206) 684-1875
helpdesk.its@metrokc.gov

Animated **tutorials** at <http://www.email.ku.edu/owa/>

King County Facts

- King County is roughly 2,134 square miles, with almost 1.8 million people living in 39 cities and large unincorporated areas.
- King County's budget is \$3.9 billion
 - These funds provide regional services such as:
 - Portions of Criminal justice (Superior Court, Prosecutor, Pre-trial Felony Detention, Public Defense, Juvenile Justice)
 - County roads
 - Metro transit bus services
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Solid waste management
 - Public Health and human services
 - Regional Parks and
 - Records, elections & licensing
 - Property tax assessment and collection
- King County provides local government services to urban and rural unincorporated areas (Combined pop. 353,000) and also provides contracted services to many of its 39 cities

County Organization Chart

- Our County has a complicated organization structure
 - Our government consists of 7 bodies with 85 elected officials including:
 - County Assessor
 - County Council – 9 members
 - County Executive
 - Superior Court – 51 judges
 - District Court – 21 judges
 - Sheriff
 - Prosecuting Attorney
 - Under the King County Executive’s authority, King County maintains 7 departments:
 - Department of Executive Services (DES)
 - Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
 - Department of Public Health (DPH)
 - Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
 - Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)
 - Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD)

King County as a Home Rule Charter

- King County was the first Home–Rule Charter in Washington State
 - In a Home Rule Charter, county voters can provide for appointed county officers to perform county functions previously performed by independently elected officials and can change the names and duties of the county officers prescribed by the constitution and state law.
 - Home rule charters may not, however, change the elected status and duties of the county prosecuting attorney or superior and district court judges, or the jurisdiction of the courts
 - Along with King County (1969), five other counties have adopted home rule charters:
 - Clallam (1979)
 - Pierce (1981)
 - Snohomish (1980)
 - Whatcom (1979)
 - San Juan (2005)

Hallmark of the King County Charter

- The charter provides structure and the core principles of our county government
- It provides a roadmap on how we do business as a county
- It is characterized by a series of checks and balances in the charter
 - For example, the personnel board provides a check for protecting county employees
 - Ombudsman – provides a citizen and employee check
 - Executive and Legislative branches – balance of powers
 - In terms of budget – the executive proposes the budget, the Council adopts the budget
- The charter is timeless – it avoids any time specific language
 - i.e. day labor provision, regional committees, etc.
- The charter can be amended through voter approval by:
 - Charter Review Commission amendment (approved by Council)
 - Council initiated amendments
 - Citizen initiative – Results from a court decision

King County General Government Budget Advisory Task Force

- The “BAT Force” was created in 2002 as the County was in the midst of the most severe General Fund revenue problems in memory.
 - Economic slowdown combined with initiative 747 and rising expenditures (CJ, benefits, etc.) resulting in significant general fund deficit
- A blue ribbon group was formed including representatives from business, the nonprofit sector, labor, a retired judge and Governors Spellman and Gardner. Chaired by Bob Wallace and John Warner.
- Began meeting November 2002; issued first report in March 2003 to help guide 2004 budget development.

King County General Government Budget Advisory Task Force - Mission

Examine the County's Current Expense (CX) Fund, programs, policies, processes and budgets, and make recommendations regarding policy and operational changes that may provide appropriate additional cost savings, as well as the need, if any, for additional revenues in support of CX programs.

The work of the Task Force will include examination of general government functions and budgets, including but not limited to the courts, sheriff, jail, public health, human services, parks and central government functions. The Task Force will also review the 2003 budget process, and make recommendations about 2004 budget cuts.

Four Starting Points/Themes (2002)

- Law, safety and justice programs consuming ever-increasing percentage of CX dollars: 72% and rising
- I-747 and underlying cost structures creates ongoing gap between revenues and expenditures: < 2% growth of revenue versus 5.5%–6.5% growth of expenditures, annually
- Unincorporated areas pose major fiscal challenge: local services require over \$40M subsidy a year from “regional revenues”
- Labor environment uniquely challenging

Mandated County Services -- unless noted (**) all services budgeted in General CX Fund

Regional Services required by state law

Superior court

Pre-trial felony detention (jail)

Public Health

Prosecutor

Public defender

Public records

Property assessment

Elections

Licensing

Juvenile detention, court

Treasury for local jurisdictions

Small claims court (district court)

Local Services required by state law

*Local roads outside cities***

Sheriff

Misdemeanant Court (district court) and related prosecution, public defense

Jail for misdemeanor offenders

*Building permits and inspections***

Fire inspections

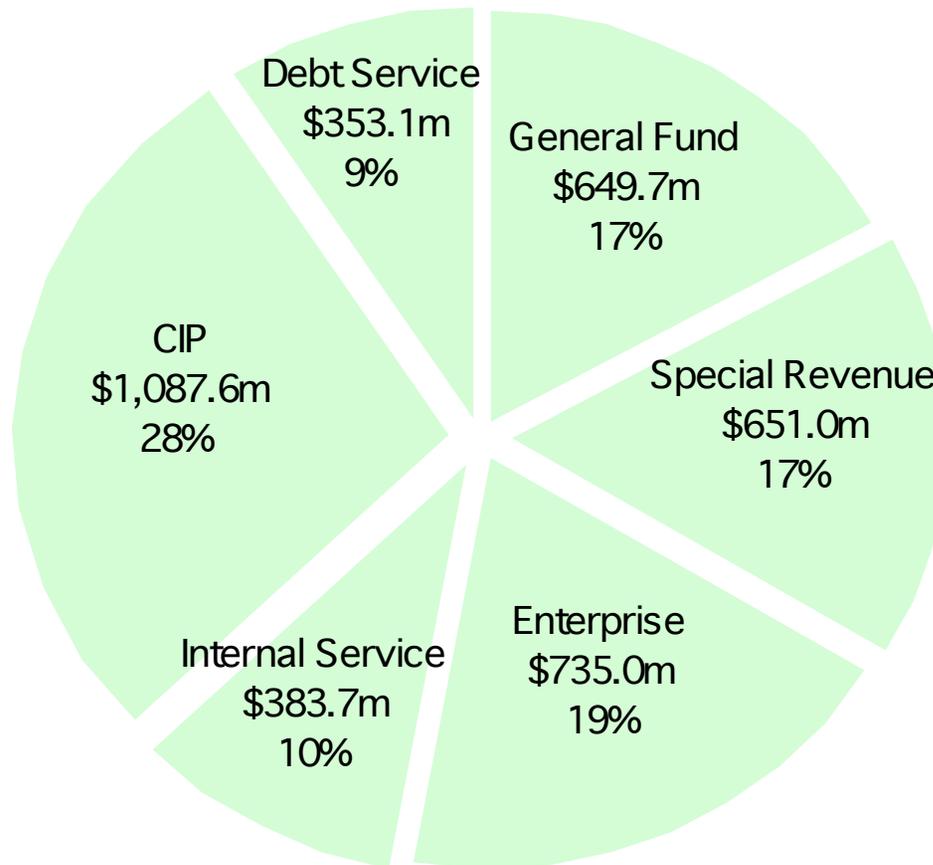
*Surface water management***

Other Regional Services Provided by King County per Regional Voter Approval:

- Transit
- Wastewater treatment
- Emergency Medical Services administration (and service South County)
- Automatic Fingerprint ID System (“AFIS”)
- Regional Parks, Open Space and Trails

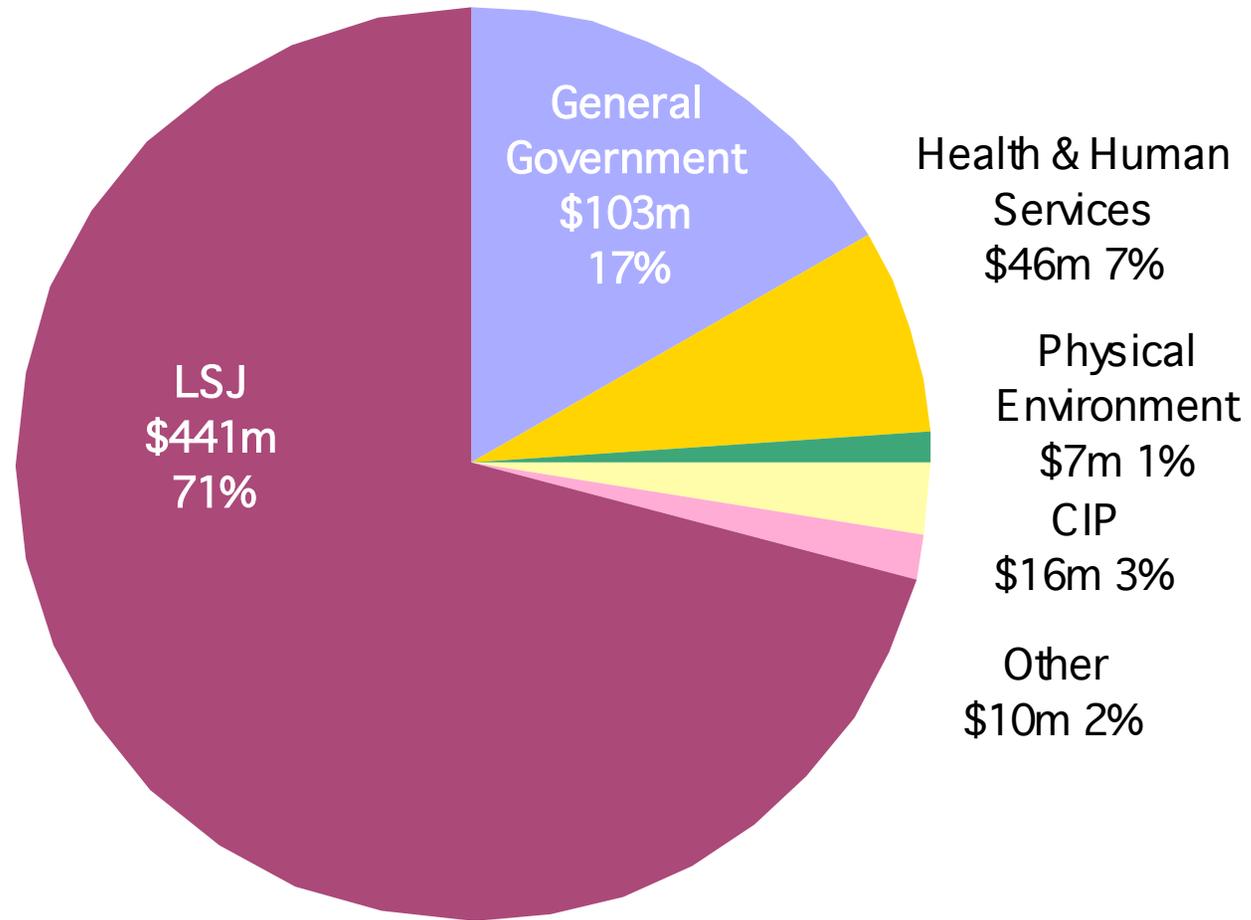
King County Expenditures by Fund Type

\$3.9 Billion in 2007



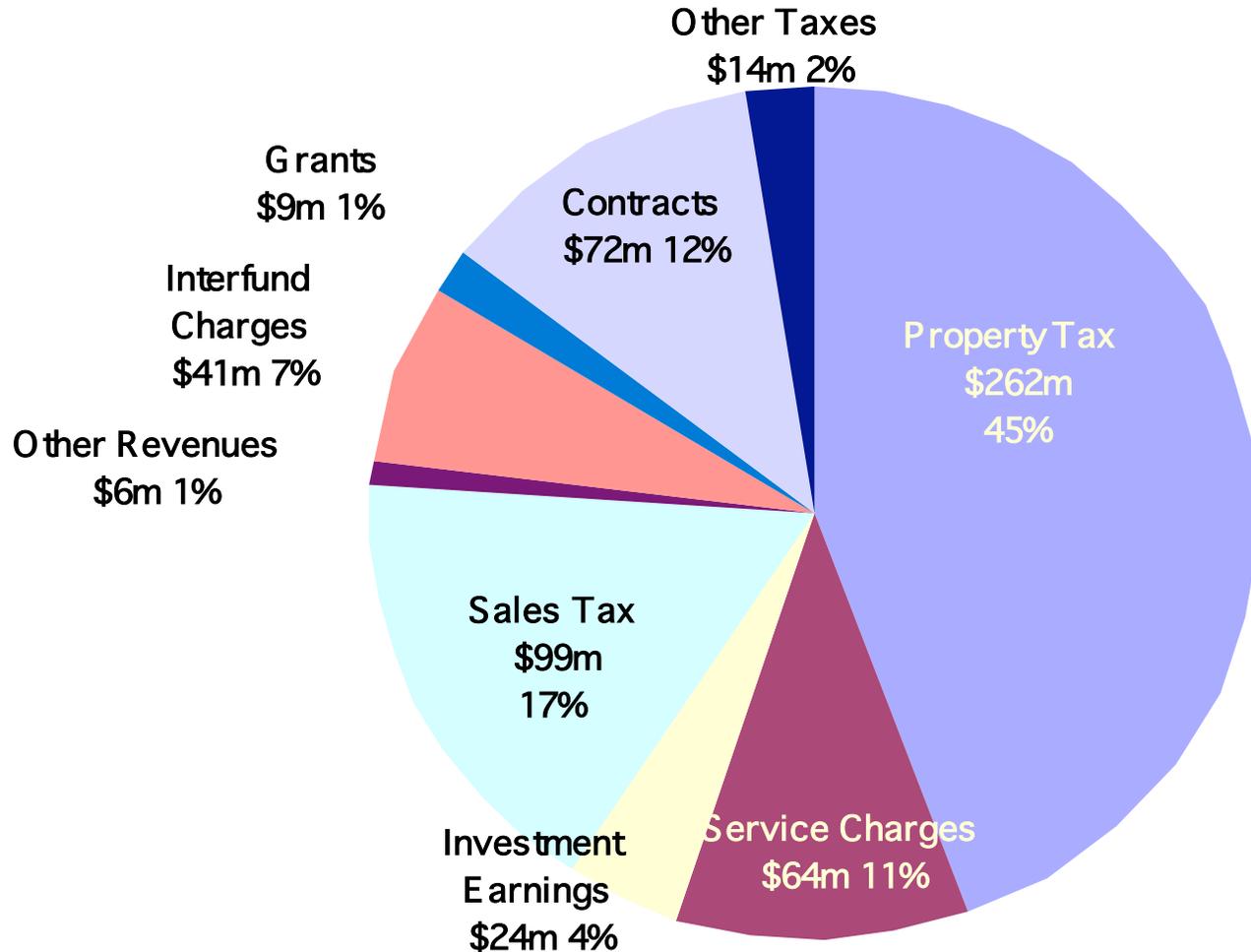
Current Expense Fund Expenditures

\$622 Million in 2007



Current Expense Fund Revenues

\$590 Million in 2007



6 Root Causes of the Problem

- Doing two jobs: Regional government and local government service provider.
- Decisions to provide discretionary services.
- Growing cost of services –salaries and benefits.
- Limited revenue base heavily dependent on property taxes.
- Subsidy of unincorporated area services.
- Complex, politicized, fragmented organization lacking good central systems, difficult culture.

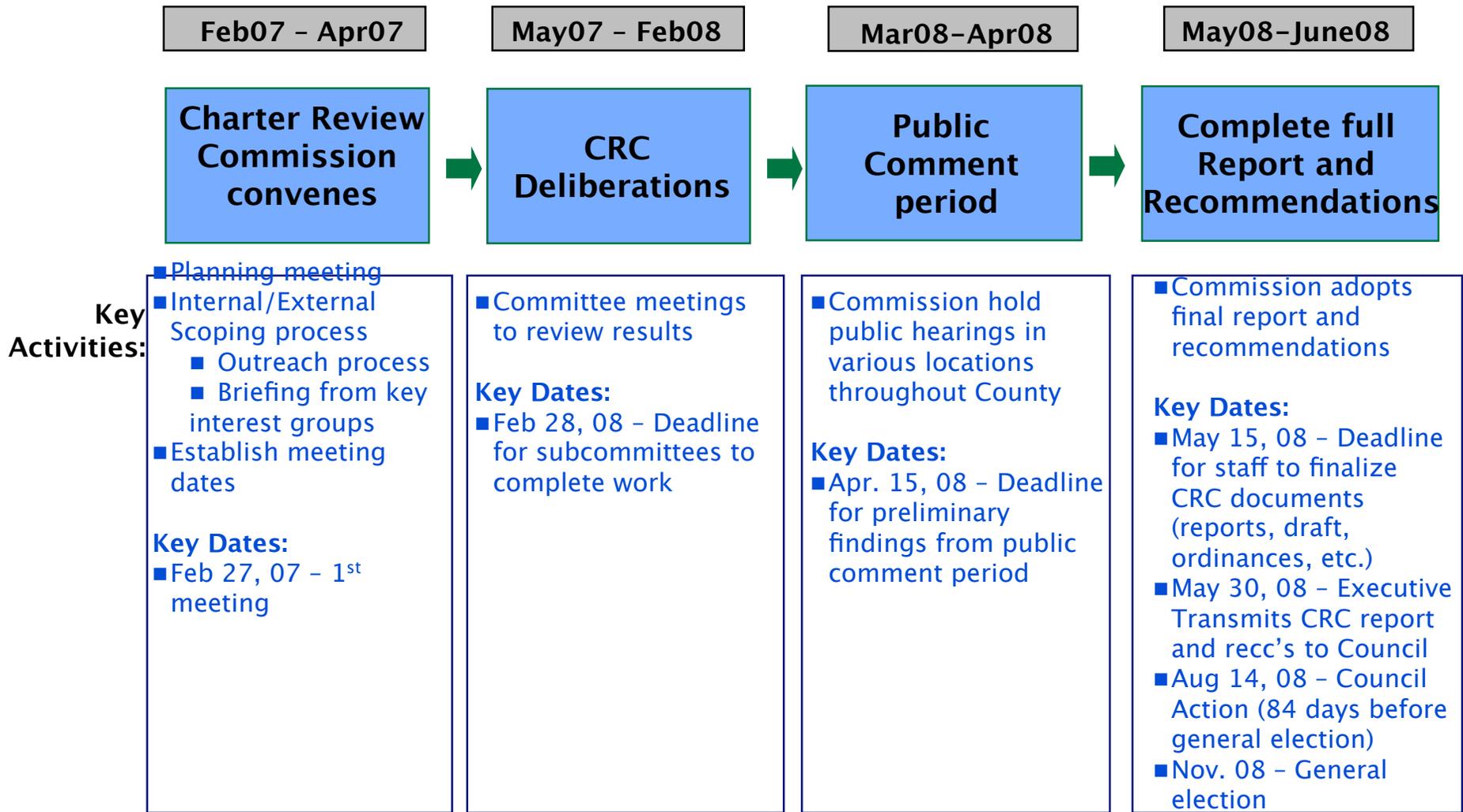
Major Conclusions of BATF (2002)

- There is a fiscal crisis in the County's general fund (CX-Current Expense Fund) services: structural mismatch between revenues available and responsibilities for service provision
 - Revenue Growth: <2% per year
 - Costs are growing at 5.5 – 6.5% per year
 - Cuts of \$15 – \$25 M to CX services will be necessary every year, absent new revenue.
- Efficiencies should be put in place to slow the rate of service cuts.
- New ways of doing business must be examined.
- Must align services and revenues: regional services are suffering at expense of local service burden to unincorporated areas.
- Many ways in which state could assist on revenue, fee setting authorities.

What does this mean for the Charter Commission?

- We've succeeded with 40 years of good governance striving to be an efficient regional and local services provider
- What, if any changes need to be made from this 40 year legacy?
- In terms of the budget, there are 3 areas for potential charter review:
 - **Organizational change**
 - Example: elected vs. appointed positions
 - **Business/Finance requirements**
 - Example: biennial budgeting
 - **Underlying policies that drive budget challenges**
 - Example: prohibition on contracting out work

Proposed Work-program/Timeline



Public Outreach Discussion

- Draft Outreach Plan
 - How do we outreach to Council – April
 - Stakeholder Involvement – April–May
 - Meetings with interested groups
 - Request feedback from other groups
 - Public Hearings – 4–5 suggested (north, southeast, southwest, east, unincorporated areas) – May/June
 - Media/Op–Ed – Sept.

Public Outreach Discussion

- Interested Stakeholder Groups:
 - Municipal League of King County
 - League of Women Voters – Seattle and South King County
 - Suburban Cities Association
 - Unincorporated Area Councils
 - These are the groups that have expressed strong interest thus far
- What other groups can we suggest?
 - Local/Regional

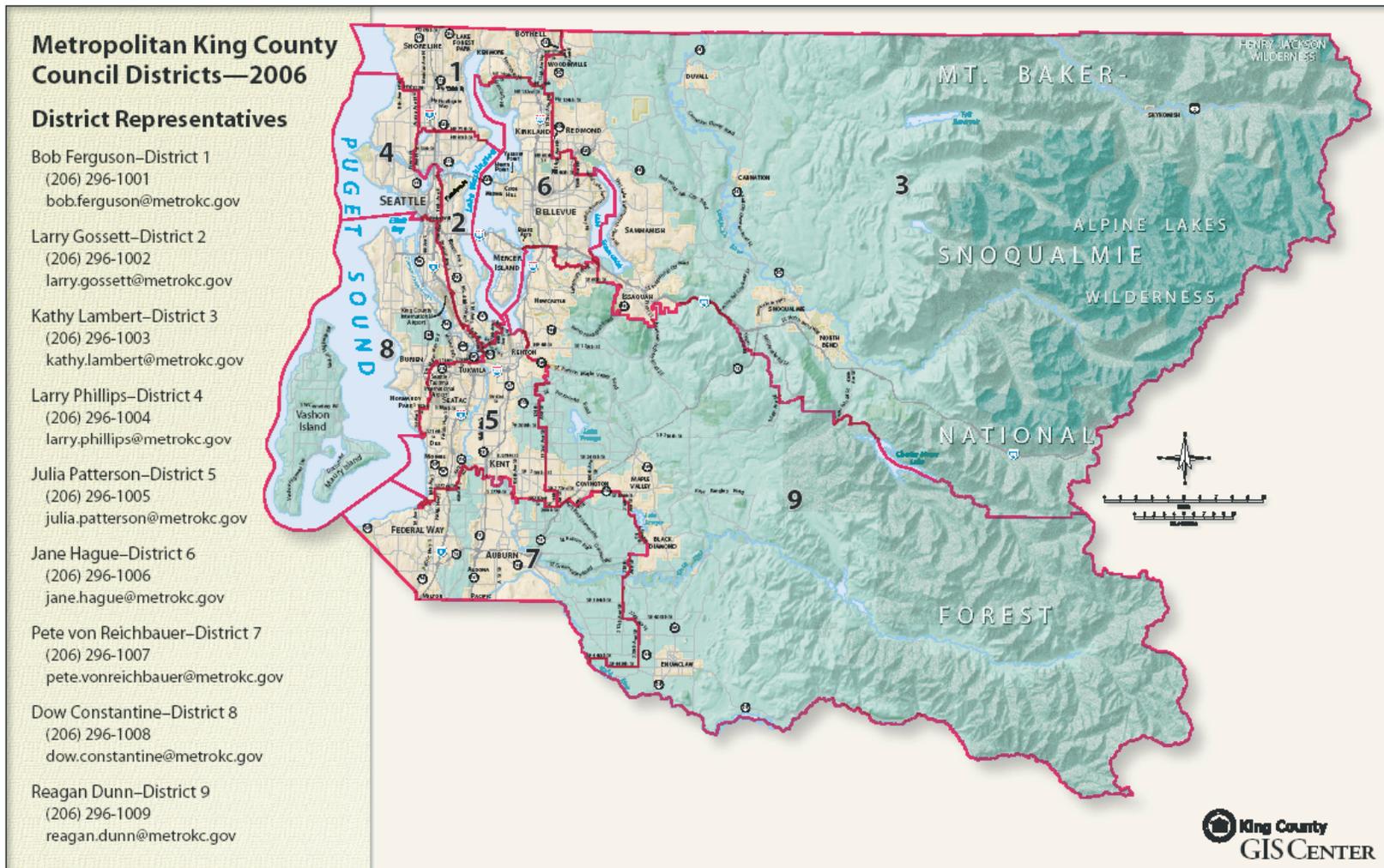
Public Outreach Discussion

- Information and feedback request (via press, blast email, and flyers):
 - Independently Elected Officials
 - King County Departments (Already completed)
 - Citizens – broad media effort
 - Faith based Groups
 - Minority Groups
 - Economic Groups
 - Recently annexed areas and areas considering annexation
 - Growth Management Groups
 - City Community Councils
 - Political Parties
- Education materials made available to the public
- Any other groups???

Public Outreach Discussion

- Four or five public meetings in North, Southwest, Southeast, East, and unincorporated areas of the county:
 - North – Seattle downtown or N. Seattle (1, 2, 4)
 - Southwest – Burien, Federal Way (5, 7, 8)
 - Southeast – Kent (5, 7, 9)
 - East – Bellevue or Redmond (3, 6)
 - Unincorporated Areas – Issaquah (3, 9)
 - *1997: Seattle, Auburn, Bothell, Renton*

Map of King County



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Proposed Calendar of Public Outreach Meetings (April-July)

- Meetings can occur between early-May and Mid-June
- We have suggested one meeting each week in May, except Friday
- Meet in the evening, starting at 6:30pm or 7:00pm
 - *1997: all meetings from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Days of week: one Monday, one Tuesday, and two Wednesday meetings*

Proposed Public Outreach Meeting Details

- Commissioners attend at least one meeting
 - 5+ commissioners at each meeting
 - Different Commissioner to Chair each meeting
- Format
 - Opening remarks and introductions
 - Brief presentation on the charter process and issues
 - Feedback from audience; distribute comment cards (2–5 minute time–limit per citizen)
- Media/Op–Ed
 - Local papers, including regional papers (i.e., The Auburn Reporter)
 - Website, blast email to all relevant groups and citizens

Schedule – April

Charter Review Commission Schedule April-July 2007

April 2007					April 2007					May 2007																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
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April 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

Schedule – May

Charter Review Commission Schedule April-July 2007

May 2007							June 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Public outreach meeting 1 - 7-8:30pm					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Public outreach meeting 2 - 7-8:30pm					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Public outreach meeting 3 - 7-8:30pm					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Public outreach meeting 4 - 7-8:30pm					
28	29	30	31			
	Public outreach meeting?					
	5:30-7:30pm					
	Commission meeting					

Review, Charter

2

3/20/2007 3:09 PM

Week of May 1:
Public outreach meeting 1

Week of May 7:
Public outreach meeting 2

Week of May 14:
Public outreach meeting 3

Week of May 21:
Public outreach meeting 4

May 29:
Commission meeting

Schedule – July

Charter Review Commission Schedule April-July 2007

July 2007																																																																																																				
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July 31:
Commission
meeting

Logistics

- To do for next time:
 - Pics and bios
 - Outreach plan
 - Bring your thoughts on what issues need to be addressed
 - Subcommittees??
 - more...

- Parking vouchers
- Collect money for dinner

Next meeting Tuesday, April 24, 5:30–7:30pm, Seattle Municipal Tower