



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

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over 2.1 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 247,000 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, 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, Water Taxi, King County International Airport (Boeing Field), 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 239,000 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. They 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](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)

# Message from the Council Chair and the King County budget



**Joe McDermott, Chair**

King County is a county of contrasts: a booming economy that is seeing an increase in homelessness; a welcoming region that is dealing with influences of intolerance for some in our communities; a high-tech hub challenged by a transportation infrastructure bulging at the seams; and an economic engine that needs to balance development with protecting the verdant landscape that makes our region so special.

The King County Council has a role in all of these challenges: working hard to develop a budget that funds state-mandated services while supporting vital human services; ensuring we are a

region that meets federal regulations while continuing to appreciate everyone moving here; encouraging efforts that make us a nationally recognized incubator for business while providing the infrastructure that allows people to get to work, home, and activities; and understanding that even as we prepare for our growing population, we must balance that growth with wise environmental stewardship.

This will be an active year, as we must adopt the County's biennial budget, along with meeting the other challenges facing us. I encourage you to stay involved, and don't hesitate to reach out to your Councilmember during the year. We can't do it without you!

## Understanding the county budget

The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 87% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like regional Emergency Medical Services.

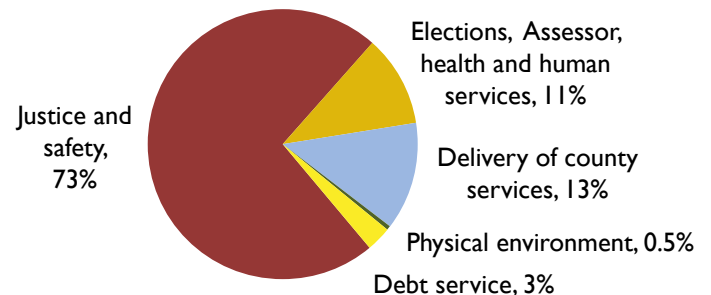
The discretionary portion of the county budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 13% of the total budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (73%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated 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 taxes on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, King 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 sales tax of 10 cents per dollar collected in most of the county.

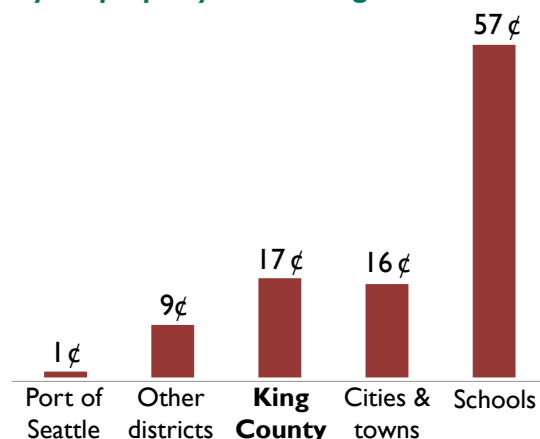
Since Washington State enacted the 1% cap on property tax increases, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by several hundred million dollars, with consequent reduction in services to county residents.

In the fall of 2018, the King County Council will review and adopt the biennial budget for 2019 and 2020. Public hearings will be held in October. To learn more about the King County budget, please visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget)

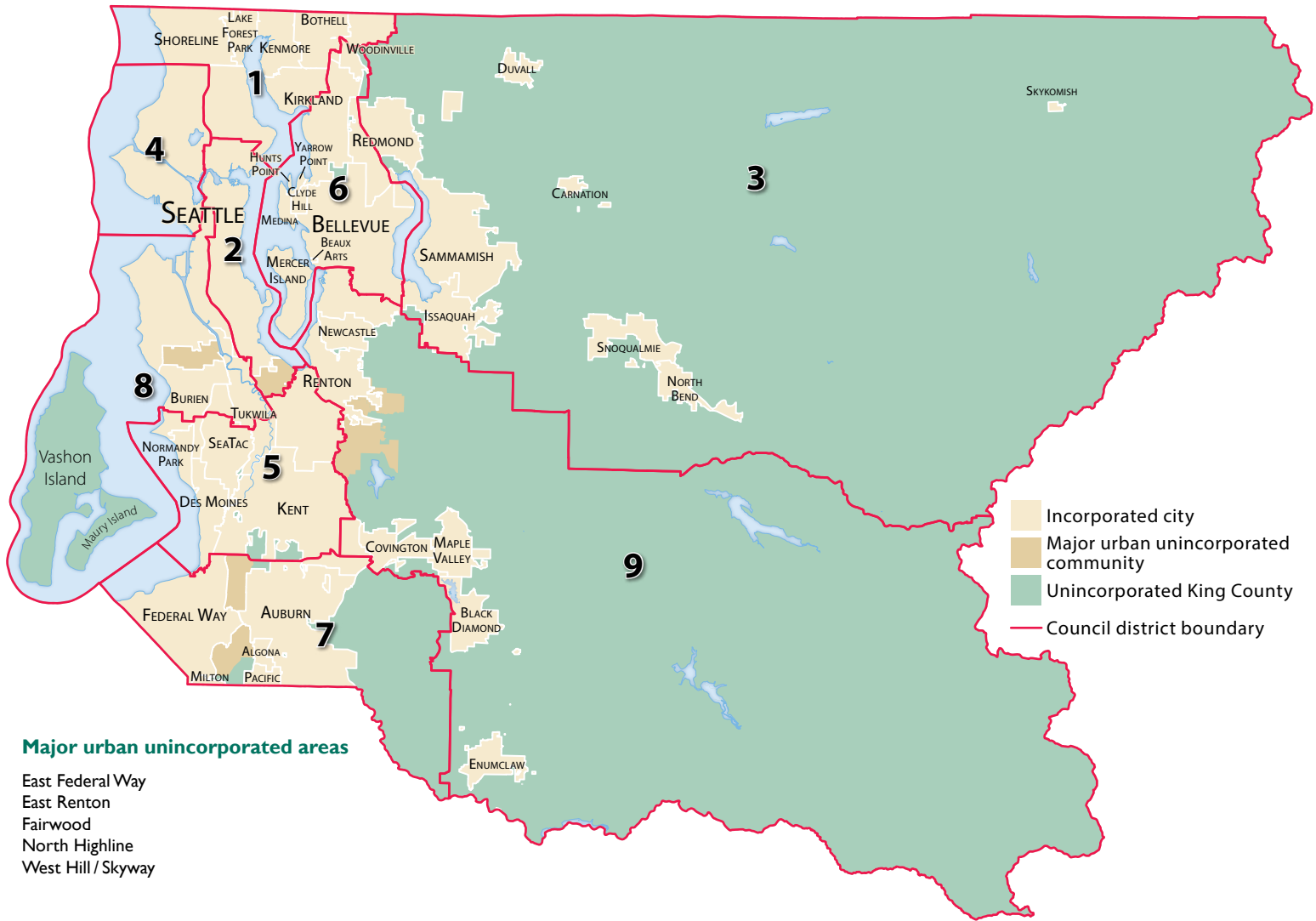
### General Fund expenditures



### Where your property tax dollar goes



# Council districts map



## Contact information

The King County Council meets on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. 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

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/find\\_district](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers/find_district)

| 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     | Jeanne Kohl-Welles   | 477-1004 | <a href="mailto:jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov">jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov</a> |
| 5     | Dave Upthegrove      | 477-1005 | <a href="mailto:dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov">dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov</a>       |
| 6     | Claudia Balducci     | 477-1006 | <a href="mailto:claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov">claudia.balducci@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's standing and regional committees

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through 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. They also serve as the Board of Supervisors for the King County Flood Control District, a special-purpose government. 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 descriptions, alternate members, and meeting agendas, please visit [www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees).

## Council committees

### Committee of the Whole

*Meets first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Vice Chair:** Jeanne Kohl-Welles

**Members:** All councilmembers

### Budget and Fiscal Management

*Meets second and fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

### Government Accountability and Oversight

*Meets second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Kathy Lambert

### Health, Housing, and Human Services

*Meets first and third Tuesdays at 1:30 pm*

**Chair:** Jeanne Kohl-Welles

**Vice Chair:** Larry Gossett

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Dave Upthegrove

### Law and Justice

*Meets second and fourth Tuesdays at 1:30 pm*

**Chair:** Larry Gossett

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

### Mobility

*Meets first and third Wednesdays at 1:30 pm*

**Chair:** Claudia Balducci

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

### Planning, Rural Service, and Environment

*Meets first and third Tuesdays at 9:30 am*

**Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Vice Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott, Pete von Reichbauer

## Regional committees

### Regional Policy

*Meets second Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Bellevue City Councilmember John Stokes

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Larry Gossett

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Algona City Councilmember Dave Hill, Auburn City Councilmember Bill Peloza, Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas

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

### Regional Transit

*Meets third Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Vice Chair:** Auburn City Councilmember Claude DaCorsi

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Kirkland City Councilmember Dave Asher, Mercer Island City Councilmember Bruce Bassett, Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Tukwila City Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Redmond City Councilmember Hank Margeson, Duvall Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

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

### Regional Water Quality

*Meets first Wednesday at 3:00 pm*

**Chair:** Kathy Lambert

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

**Members:** Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Dave Upthegrove

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Kirkland City Councilmember Penny Sweet, Mercer Island City Councilmember Benson Wong

**Sewer District Members:** Sammamish Plateau Water District Boardmember Tom Harman, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

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