

These comments are my own opinions.

We need to fund the BASICS FIRST: roads, public health, sanitation and public safety.

Yes, there are structural issues impacting county revenue. But removing the 1% property tax cap will INCREASE TAXES on unincorporated residents. The right solution is to DIVERT tax revenue from the state and cities to the county. The county needs to stop lobbying the state on the property tax cap and focus on the basics of managing our budget.

As a Democrat I support many of the social programs in this budget, but I also believe the county has a responsibility to FUND THE BASICS FIRST.

The Executive wants to “continue deployment of LEAN” but he is adding MORE costs to bloated departments. The Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget has a proposed INCREASE of \$1.3M up to \$22.3M, a total of 60 FTEs. A similar department of this size in private industry would be UNTHINKABLE.

The CUT of the \$1.4M sheriff’s helicopter unit is FUNDING those 5 additional heads to the Budget Office. Can you tell us **how many lives the new Budget employees will save?**

Restricting the helicopters to search and rescue missions inside King county makes no sense. The pilots need to keep flying to maintain their proficiency.

The Snohomish rescue helicopter provides MUTUAL AID to us, in fact just this MONDAY. But if there is another landslide like Oso or a flood in another county, you're asking our crews to sit on their hands while people DIE because the council won't pay for the helicopter fuel?

The federal grants and surplus to buy and equip the helicopters were given to this county on the UNDERSTANDING that our helicopters would be a REGIONAL resource, for the GREATER GOOD. We have an OBLIGATION to fund their operation and continue MUTUAL AID.

Cutting the helicopter unit will have a profound impact on law enforcement across Puget Sound. As the only full time police helicopter unit between Napa Valley and Chicago, they make EIGHT HUNDRED law enforcement flights every year.... the only regional resource trained to fast rope SWAT teams onto moving ferries, or to a rural school, if there's an active shooter. They keep pursuit speeds down in our cities, and they help catch criminal fugitives.

My specific proposal is to cut the funding of the Office of Budget by \$5M INSTEAD OF THE \$5M cuts to the sheriff's and prosecutor's offices.

**#kingcountybasicsfirst**

Glenn Wallace  
District 3 Resident