



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19914

Proposed No. 2025-0070.4

Sponsors Dembowski and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 5, 2025, of a proposition
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy
5 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of
6 six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than
7 \$0.2329 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in
8 the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King
9 County inflation plus population index published by the
10 King County office of economic and financial analysis, or
11 the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in
12 years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and
13 operating King County's open space system; improving
14 parks, recreation, access, and mobility in King County by
15 acquiring lands and continuing to develop and support
16 parks, recreation facilities, and regional trails; improving
17 parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan
18 parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding
19 environmental education, maintenance and conservation
20 programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding

Ordinance 19914

21 environmental education, maintenance and conservation
22 programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development,
23 maintenance, and programming for Seattle's Waterfront
24 park; funding environmental and climate stewardship and
25 education at Pacific Science Center; funding a capital
26 project at Memorial Stadium; and funding capital
27 improvements at public pools, for all King County
28 residents.

29 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

30 1. King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
31 and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more
32 than one hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails. The county provides
33 regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural areas,
34 regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas. Examples of
35 regional and local county parks and trails include Marymoor park, Cougar
36 Mountain Regional Wildland park, Steve Cox Memorial park, Dick
37 Thurnau Memorial park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center,
38 and the Sammamish River trail.

39 2. Parks, natural areas, and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A
40 robust system of parks and trails provides: physical, social, and mental
41 health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation
42 and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and
43 retain skilled workers; increased climate resilience; environmental benefits

Ordinance 19914

44 like clean water and healthy habitat; and cultural resource protection
45 through open space conservation. King County's open space system
46 provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses.

47 3. Provision of urban green space, through parks or other investments
48 such as street trees, is particularly important to achieve the benefits listed
49 above. The addition of trees and plants to concrete-dominated urban areas
50 can help reduce the higher ambient temperatures in those areas, which are
51 anticipated to worsen as anthropogenic climate change progresses. That
52 contributes to health and quality of life for nearby residents, in addition to
53 providing additional capacity to sequester planet-warming greenhouse
54 gases.

55 4. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
56 council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
57 establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
58 that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
59 provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,
60 development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of its complex
61 system of parks, regional trails, and acres of open space. The latest open
62 space plan was updated in 2022 and adopted by Ordinance 19501.

63 5. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
64 of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
65 its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural
66 areas, and local parks in unincorporated King County and has

Ordinance 19914

67 implemented business practices that generate revenue from park system
68 assets by implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate
69 and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage
70 public and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.

71 6. Consistent with the recommendations of past parks-related task forces
72 and community advisory committees, the county has sought voter-
73 approved levies on four prior occasions: in 2003, enacted by Ordinance
74 14586, to provide maintenance and operating funding for the parks and
75 recreation division for 2004 through 2007; in 2007, enacted by Ordinance
76 15759, to provide funding for maintenance and operations as well as
77 funding for open space acquisition, regional trail development, the
78 Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and cities for use in their
79 open space acquisition and trail projects for 2008 through 2013; in 2013,
80 enacted by Ordinance 17568, to provide funding for maintenance and
81 operations as well as for open space acquisition, asset maintenance and
82 improvement, parks and trails projects, the Woodland Park Zoo and for
83 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
84 2014 through 2019; and in 2019, enacted by Ordinance 18890, to provide
85 funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
86 acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects,
87 the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, aquatic facilities, and for
88 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
89 2020 through 2025. Voters approved the funding measures on all four

Ordinance 19914

90 occasions that they were on the ballot. The voter-approved levies have
91 helped keep the open space system clean, safe, and open.

92 7. Tribal nations are comanagers with the county in managing our shared
93 public lands, waters, and resources. The county recognizes that this
94 relationship is informed and guided by the treaty rights, which many tribes
95 exercise within King County. The department of natural resources and
96 parks has undertaken many actions with tribes as comanagers in an effort
97 to foster mutual respect, and establish regular and meaningful
98 communication, cooperation, and consultation with tribal officials in
99 developing and executing state and King County policies that have tribal
100 implications. The county has an ongoing goal to strengthen the
101 government-to-government relationship with tribes that share territory
102 with and have interests in King County

103 8. The 2020 through 2025 voter-approved parks, trails, and open space
104 replacement levy provides approximately eighty-five percent of the
105 operating budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately
106 fifteen percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial
107 efforts. King County general fund support to the parks and recreation
108 division was eliminated as of 2011.

109 9. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance
110 14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation
111 organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant
112 program in 2003, more than seventy projects representing more than

Ordinance 19914

113 seventy million dollars' worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public
114 recreation facilities have been completed, with only twenty-two million
115 dollars of King County capital investment.

116 10. The Woodland Park Zoo received distributions from the past three
117 voter-approved levies to supplement zoo operating revenue for education
118 and conservation programs, horticulture and maintenance, and capital
119 improvements. Levy proceeds distributed to the zoo provided
120 environmental education, programming and transportation focusing on
121 accessibility for underserved areas, supported thousands of students-
122 annually, and benefitted residents throughout King County. Levy
123 proceeds also provided conservation and animal care for threatened
124 Pacific Northwest species.

125 11. The Seattle Aquarium received distributions from the past voter-
126 approved levy for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify
127 the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts by bringing visitors
128 face-to-face with tropical species native to the Coral Triangle and by
129 housing approximately three thousand five hundred sustainably sourced
130 tropical fish and invertebrates, including rays, sharks, mangroves, and up
131 to thirty species of coral.

132 12. The Memorial Stadium project will create an innovative multi-
133 purpose student and community events facility at Seattle Center. That
134 transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the city of

Ordinance 19914

135 Seattle, providing an improved venue for local and regional sports and
136 events.

137 13. The removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct provided an unprecedented
138 opportunity to create new green space in the heart of Seattle. The
139 resulting waterfront park is a twenty-acre public space stretching from
140 Belltown to Pioneer Square, providing the entire region lasting economic,
141 social, and environmental benefits. Seattle's Waterfront park will link
142 iconic attractions including Olympic Sculpture park, Pike Place Market,
143 the Seattle Aquarium, the Colman Dock ferry terminal, Pioneer Square,
144 stadiums, and surrounding neighborhoods.

145 14. King County towns and cities received funding from the past three
146 voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use
147 levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and
148 development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to
149 the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal
150 or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city
151 for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 and the 2020 through 2025
152 levies, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities
153 were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and
154 recreation needs of cities.

155 15. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the
156 expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through
157 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through 2025 levies. Annual

Ordinance 19914

158 committee review has concluded that the county has complied with all
159 levy requirements.

160 16. During the 2008 through 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through
161 2025 levy periods, the process for developing, reviewing, and
162 recommending potential conservation futures tax and parks levy
163 acquisition projects has maximized acquisitions for open space, natural
164 lands, and regional trail rights of way due to the similar objectives for the
165 conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition programs. Parks levy
166 open space funding distributed to King County is a critical component of
167 match for county applications for conservation futures tax funding. The
168 process for conservation futures tax outlined in K.C.C. 26.12.010
169 maintains transparency, accessibility, and consistency of the distribution
170 of conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition funds for the public,
171 stakeholder groups, government agencies, and officials.

172 17. King County is growing rapidly as a region. In 2024, King County's
173 population increased by more than thirty thousand people; over the next
174 ten years, the county is expected to grow by another two hundred fifty
175 thousand people. Recent trend reports indicate that participation in
176 outdoor recreation continues to grow, increasing by more than four
177 percent nation-wide in 2023. More and more people are using King
178 County parks and trails, which puts greater pressure on the system. As
179 development increases to accommodate population growth, the risk of
180 losing open space lands, including urban greenspaces throughout the

Ordinance 19914

181 county grows. Those valuable lands contribute to King County residents'
182 high quality of life. The cost of land to accommodate this growth and
183 preserve open spaces is also increasing. Today is the opportune time to
184 address future needs of residents by investing in our parks and trails and
185 accelerating conservation of open space.

186 18. In King County, many communities have experienced a history of
187 inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, recreation, and open
188 space, limiting the ability of residents to lead healthy lives.

189 Approximately five hundred thousand King County residents live without
190 ready access to parks, recreation, and open spaces. There is a need to
191 address disparities in access to parks, recreation, and open space for
192 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with
193 disabilities. This ordinance provides an opportunity to address parks and
194 recreation needs of these traditionally underserved areas and communities,
195 including people with disabilities.

196 19. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails
197 and the need to address disparities, to prepare the 2026 through 2031 levy,
198 the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain feedback on
199 the current park system and future parks and recreation needs for all King
200 County residents. In March and April 2024, parks and recreation division
201 staff conducted twenty-one in-person and virtual community engagement
202 events and hosted two online surveys across eight languages. Participants
203 represented all geographic areas of the county including towns and cities,

Ordinance 19914

204 business, recreation, community, and environmental interests. More than
205 four thousand eight hundred people across all nine King County Council
206 districts participated in the surveys. Parks and recreation division staff
207 also met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive
208 additional feedback about the levy.

209 20. Feedback from engagement events, online surveys, and meetings
210 showed support for the King County open space system and defined
211 measures of success. Four themes emerged as top priorities: safety and
212 belonging; new parks, trails, recreation, and infrastructure; equity,
213 representation, inclusion, and access; and maintenance, repairs, and
214 staffing. Feedback supported funding for King County towns' and cities'
215 parks and recreation programs; expansion of the regional trails system;
216 and natural lands conservation.

217 21. From January through July 2024, parks and recreation division staff
218 convened a Community Advisory Committee tasked with recommending
219 how to preserve King County's open space system of parks, trails, and
220 natural areas and resource lands after the 2019 through 2025 levy expires.
221 The Community Advisory Committee also advised staff about how best to
222 meet the growing parks and recreation needs in King County and the
223 region. Representing King County Boards, cities, non-profit
224 organizations, community and environmental interests, businesses, and
225 sports, the Community Advisory Committee met nine times to provide
226 guidance on developing the 2026 through 2031 levy.

Ordinance 19914

227 22. The King County executive took into consideration information
228 obtained from this engagement, the region's growing population, increased
229 use of parks and trails across King County, and the lack of parks,
230 recreation, and open space in some communities, and has put forth this
231 ordinance that acknowledges the changing landscape and the need to grow
232 the open space system to keep up with regional demand. This ordinance is
233 also consistent with the goals and priorities of past levy task forces.

234 23. This proposal would exempt low-income seniors, disabled veterans,
235 and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax increase on
236 their residences resulting from a levy authorized by this ordinance if they
237 have been approved for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381.

238 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

239 SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
240 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise. For those definitions herein that
241 contain terms not defined but include a reference to the 2022 Open Space Plan adopted
242 by Ordinance 19501, or the provisions of the Growth Management Act, chapter 36.70A
243 RCW , then the definition or categorization found in the referenced document shall apply.

244 A. "Aquatic facilities grants program" means the program through which King
245 County provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects,
246 including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and
247 major maintenance repair or replacement projects.

Ordinance 19914

248 B. "Ballfield access and preservation grant program" means the program through
249 which King County provides moneys to eligible entities to increase public access to
250 ballfields.

251 C. "Community partnerships and grants program" means the program through
252 which King County provides moneys to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations,
253 and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing,
254 operating, or maintaining a recreation facility or public park in unincorporated King
255 County and King County towns and cities for public benefit.

256 D. "Conservation" means protection of natural areas, as defined in the county's
257 open space plan, natural resource lands, categorized in RCW 36.70A.170, from
258 development through fee or easement acquisition, restoration of natural functions, and
259 administration of incentives for landowners that voluntarily preserve open space.

260 E. "Conservation futures tax program" means the program defined in K.C.C.
261 chapter 26.12.

262 F. "Educational and civic venues" means the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
263 Aquarium, Memorial Stadium, Seattle's Waterfront park, and Pacific Science Center.

264 G. "Get active/stay active grant program" means the program through which the
265 King County council provides councilmanic grant awards for youth or amateur sport
266 activities or facilities.

267 H. "Healthy community and parks grants program" means the program through
268 which King County provides moneys to eligible entities in order to achieve equitable
269 opportunities and access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and

Ordinance 19914

270 communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County
271 and King County towns and cities.

272 I. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and
273 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
274 law.

275 J. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy, any
276 interest earnings on the moneys, and the proceeds of any interim financing following
277 authorization of the levy.

278 K. "Limit factor" means the most recent published King County office of
279 economic and financial analysis King County inflation plus population index, or the
280 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater.

281 L. "Open space system" means the categories of King County's open space
282 system of parks, including recreation and multiuse sites, regional trails, natural areas, and
283 natural resource lands. "Open space system" also includes structures or buildings owned
284 or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department
285 of natural resources.

286 M. "Open space" means any land defined as part of the open space system or a
287 parks district, town, or city parks system.

288 N. "Parks district" means the active metropolitan park districts under chapter
289 35.61 RCW and parks and recreation service areas under chapter 36.68 RCW in King
290 County.

291 O. "Town or city parks system" means any building or other structure related to
292 parks or recreation; parks, trails, natural areas, natural resource lands, and other parks or

Ordinance 19914

293 recreation property owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of a town or city within
294 King County.

295 **SECTION 2. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary moneys for the
296 purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to
297 the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy
298 in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive
299 years, with collection commencing in 2026, at a rate not to exceed \$0.2329 per one
300 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount
301 of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two
302 through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a
303 regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

304 **SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited
305 into a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

306 **SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
307 county, levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

308 A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the special election called
309 for in section 5 of this ordinance as well as future parks, recreation, trails, and open space
310 levy elections;

311 B. Distributions to educational and civic venues, limited to the following
312 facilities:

313 1. Up to forty million dollars for distribution to the Woodland Park Zoological
314 Society which shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on
315 accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with

Ordinance 19914

316 disabilities; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of
317 threatened species; and development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate
318 impacts to animals and habitats from climate change;

319 2. Up to twelve million dollars for distribution to the Seattle Aquarium which
320 shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to
321 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;
322 maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and
323 development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and
324 habitats from climate change;

325 3. Up to two million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to the city of
326 Seattle, which shall be used solely for capital costs for the Memorial Stadium project;

327 4. Up to six million dollars for distribution to the Pacific Science Center, which
328 shall be used solely for capital or operations and maintenance purposes relating to
329 environmental and climate stewardship and education; and

330 5. Up to six million dollars for distribution to the 501(c)(3) organization,
331 registered with the Washington secretary of state under number 1133863 and known as
332 Friends of Waterfront Park or its successor 501(c)(3) organization registered with the
333 Washington secretary of state, which shall be used solely at Seattle's Waterfront park, and
334 which shall be used solely for: accessibility to the park for traditionally underserved
335 areas and communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe
336 environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and
337 development of inclusive community partnerships;

Ordinance 19914

338 C. Twenty-five million twenty-five thousand dollars for a municipal parks capital
339 and open space pass through distribution to towns and cities in King County for their
340 town or city parks system operations and capital improvement projects. These moneys
341 shall be distributed based on 2025 population and presence of opportunity areas as
342 defined in K.C.C. 26.12.003.J.1., as follows:

- 343 1. Algona and Pacific – two hundred fifty thousand dollars each;
- 344 2. Enumclaw – five hundred thousand dollars;
- 345 3. Tukwila, SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien – one million dollars each;
- 346 4. Auburn, Federal Way, Renton, and Kent – one million nine-hundred fifty
347 thousand dollars each;
- 348 5. Seattle – two million eight-hundred thousand dollars;
- 349 6. Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Milton,
350 Carnation, Medina, Clyde Hill, Normandy Park, Black Diamond, North Bend, and Duvall
351 – one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars each;
- 352 7. Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Woodinville, and Snoqualmie – two hundred
353 fifty thousand dollars each;
- 354 8. Covington, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Issaquah,
355 Shoreline, and Sammamish – five hundred thousand dollars each; and
- 356 9. Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue – nine hundred seventy-five thousand
357 dollars each.

358 D. Up to sixty-eight million dollars for aquatic facilities, limited to the following:

- 359 1. Up to forty-six million dollars for the aquatic facilities grant program; and

Ordinance 19914

360 2. Up to twenty-two million dollars for the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic
361 Center for major maintenance capital projects;

362 E. Up to ten million dollars for the Get Active/Stay Active grant program, to be
363 divided evenly among the nine council districts;

364 F. At least thirty million dollars for distribution to eligible entities for the healthy
365 communities and parks grant program;

366 G. Up to twelve million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to eligible
367 entities for the community partnerships and grants program;

368 H. Up to thirteen million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to eligible
369 entities for the ballfield access and preservation grant program;

370 I. The remainder of levy proceeds for the following purposes:

371 1. forty percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
372 County's open space system;

373 2. fifty percent of levy proceeds for:

374 a. Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space,
375 including urban greenspaces, natural areas, natural resource lands, and rights of way for
376 regional trails;

377 b. Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other
378 publicly owned trails; and

379 c. Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
380 of open space system infrastructure, town and city parks system infrastructure, and
381 recreation facilities owned or operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;

Ordinance 19914

382 3. Ten percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns, cities, and parks
383 districts in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital
384 improvement projects, of which amount:

385 a. Seventy-five thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town and
386 city, and to each of the following parks districts that predominantly serve unincorporated
387 King County: Fall City Metropolitan Park District; Si View Metropolitan Park District;
388 and Vashon Park District;

389 b. An additional fifty-thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each
390 town and city with a population of over four thousand; and

391 c. Of the remainder of levy proceeds, after the distributions made in
392 accordance with subsection E.3.a. of this section, sixty percent shall be distributed in
393 proportion to each town or city's population and forty percent shall be distributed in
394 proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city;

395 4. Of the levy proceeds distributed to entities other than King County, a portion
396 shall be retained by the county to be used for expenditures related to administration of the
397 distribution of levy proceeds. Eligible administrative expenditures shall include all costs
398 and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or
399 attributable to the purposes listed in this section as well as sections 6 and 7 of this
400 ordinance.

401 SECTION 5. Call for special election. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,
402 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with
403 the primary election on August 5, 2025, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular
404 property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director

Ordinance 19914

405 of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state
406 constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the
407 said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council
408 shall certify that proposition to the King County director of elections in substantially the
409 following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for
410 the proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

411 King County

412 Proposition No. 1

413 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy

414 The King County council adopted Ordinance _____ replacing the expiring parks levy.

415 If approved, this proposition supports county, city, park district, and town parks, open
416 space, and trails; recreation; public pools; and educational and civic venues. It authorizes
417 an additional six-year property tax beginning in 2026 at \$0.2329 per \$1,000 of assessed
418 valuation, uses the 2026 levy amount to compute annual increases in 2027-2031 by the
419 King County inflation plus population index or chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever
420 is greater, and exempts qualifying seniors, veterans, and disabled persons under RCW
421 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:

422 Approved? _

423 Rejected? _

424 **SECTION 6. Distributions.** Before distribution of levy proceeds to an entity
425 other than King County, the receiving entity and the county shall have fully executed a
426 contract setting forth the terms and conditions, including the applicable eligible purpose

Ordinance 19914

427 or purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, under which the entity is receiving a
428 distribution of levy proceeds.

429 **SECTION 7. Parks levy oversight board established.**

430 A. If the proposition in section 5 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified
431 electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the
432 executive. The board shall consist of nine members. By March 31, 2026, each
433 councilmember shall nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the
434 councilmember's district. If, by March 31, 2026, the executive does not appoint the
435 person nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the
436 councilmember should, by June 30, 2026, nominate another candidate for appointment.
437 Members shall be confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed
438 officials of any unit of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on
439 a local board or commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

440 B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on
441 achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2027, the board
442 shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the
443 regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2026. Thereafter, the
444 board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and
445 the regional policy committee annually. Each report shall include an accounting of levy
446 spending by King County council district and ZIP Code, grouped by purposes described in
447 section 4.B. through I.2. of this ordinance. Any report to the King County council under
448 this section shall be electronically filed with the clerk of the council, who will retain an

Ordinance 19914

449 electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief
450 of staff, and the chief policy officer. The board expires December 31, 2032.

451 SECTION 8. Exemption. The additional regular property taxes authorized by
452 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
453 84.36.381.

454 SECTION 9. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
455 King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the
456 election on August 5, 2025, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before
457 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

458 SECTION 10. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

Ordinance 19914

459 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
460 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Ordinance 19914 was introduced on 2/18/2025 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/15/2025, by the following vote:

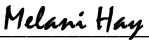
Yes: 7 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Quinn, von Reichbauer and Zahilay
No: 2 - Dunn and Perry

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Signed by:

1AEA3C5077F8485...
Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of 4/22/2025, _____.

Signed by:

By my signature, I do hereby understand that signature is the signature of the County Executive.
AAA4841FD7644BE...
Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: A. General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines, B. Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs

Any project funded by parks levy proceeds must allow for regular public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

1. Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the parks capital and open space grant program to:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Acquire park land.

Eligible Entities

1. King County cities and towns;
2. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County; and/or
3. Public entities that serve unincorporated King County.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received for capital projects to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Feasibility study;
2. Planning and design; and/or
3. Construction.

Lands acquired using parks levy funding are for the following purposes:

1. Active recreational uses (e.g., athletic fields, sports courts, ballfield turf projects, etc.);
 2. Passive recreational uses (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching, etc.);
 3. Local trails; and/or
 4. Open space lands, except if the land is primarily in agricultural use. Agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g., community garden, patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.
-

2. Aquatic Facilities Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the aquatic facilities grant program, which provides funding opportunities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatic facilities in King County.

Eligible Entities

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Metropolitan park districts;
3. Public Schools districts;
4. Nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities; and/or

5. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatics facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
 2. Feasibility study;
 3. Planning and design; and/or
 4. Construction.
-

3. Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the Healthy Communities and Parks Fund grant program, which provides funding opportunities to increase access to and use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in traditionally underserved areas and communities, as well as to build internal capacities of community-based partners who provide recreation to these areas and communities.

Funding is for the following purposes:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Provide programs focusing on recreation, sports, play, and physical activity.

Eligible Entities

1. Non-profit organizations;
2. Small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status, through a partnership with a fiscal agent;
3. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
4. King County towns and cities; and/or
5. Metropolitan park districts.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
2. Feasibility study;
3. Planning and design; and/or
4. Construction.

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to provide programs are to be focused on recreational programming (e.g., swim programs, youth sports leagues, etc.).

Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

The overall approach for funding allocation and coordination with the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) program for the acquisition of open space and natural lands through the countywide parks levy is as follows:

1. Early each calendar year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) will set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year.
2. Staff will generate proposals for the use of these funds, taking into account opportunities to leverage resources with funding from Conservation Futures, as well as from other local, state, and federal funding sources.
3. An overall proposal allocating the open space funds to specific projects will be developed and discussed with the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC) that is responsible for developing CFT funding recommendations. These discussions are expected to occur in the spring, the same timeframe during which the CFAC annually reviews CFT project proposals. This will create an opportunity for the CFAC to provide an advisory recommendation regarding allocation of these parks levy funds.
4. Taking the CFAC's recommendations into account, DNRP will develop a proposed budget for these parks levy funds.
5. The DNRP proposed budget for parks levy funding will be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.

ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE

From time to time, King County-Department of 02 (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

Getting paper copies

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

Withdrawing your consent

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact King County-Department of 02:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov

To advise King County-Department of 02 of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

To request paper copies from King County-Department of 02

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with King County-Department of 02

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’, you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify King County-Department of 02 as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by King County-Department of 02 during the course of your relationship with King County-Department of 02.

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 1F5E2218-7694-4C1B-BBD5-B4EE39857268

Status: Completed

Subject: Complete with Docusign: Ordinance 19914.docx

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 22

Signatures: 3

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

Cherie Camp

AutoNav: Enabled

401 5TH AVE

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

SEATTLE, WA 98104

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov

IP Address: 198.49.222.20

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: Cherie Camp

Location: DocuSign

4/18/2025 8:50:42 AM

Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov

Security Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: FedRamp

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: King County-Council

Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Girmay Zahilay

girmay.zahilay@kingcounty.gov

Council Chair

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

Signed by:

1AEA3C5077F8485...

Timestamp

Sent: 4/18/2025 8:51:54 AM

Viewed: 4/18/2025 11:02:38 AM

Signed: 4/18/2025 11:02:55 AM

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 71.227.166.164

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 4/18/2025 11:02:38 AM

ID: d62b7b08-2b33-4fd7-95a0-1c2420481ecc

Melani Hay

melani.hay@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council

King County Council

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Sent: 4/18/2025 11:02:56 AM

Viewed: 4/18/2025 11:05:43 AM

Signed: 4/18/2025 11:06:18 AM

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 198.49.222.20

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 9/30/2022 11:27:12 AM

ID: 639a6b47-a4ff-458a-8ae8-c9251b7d1a1f

Shannon Braddock

Shannon.Braddock@kingcounty.gov

Deputy Executive

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signed by:

AAA4841FD7644BE...

Sent: 4/18/2025 11:06:20 AM

Viewed: 4/22/2025 4:08:15 PM

Signed: 4/22/2025 4:37:21 PM

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

Using IP Address: 146.129.84.133

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 4/22/2025 4:08:15 PM

ID: 1a478e84-84c5-4f34-99ca-a44ae12b1f4c

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
---------------------------	--------	-----------

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
--------------------	--------	-----------

Ames Kessler akessler@kingcounty.gov Executive Legislative Coordinator & Public Records Officer King County Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via DocuSign	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">COPIED</div>	Sent: 4/18/2025 11:06:20 AM Viewed: 4/18/2025 12:13:34 PM
--	---	--

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
----------------	-----------	-----------

Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
---------------	-----------	-----------

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
-------------------------	--------	------------

Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	4/18/2025 8:51:54 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	4/22/2025 4:08:15 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	4/22/2025 4:37:21 PM
Completed	Security Checked	4/22/2025 4:37:21 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
----------------	--------	------------

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure
--