



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

October 27, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit this proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, authorize me to sign an interlocal cooperation agreement with the City of Seattle regarding allocation of property tax revenues generated from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2031. The agreement would allow EMS tax levy funds to be disbursed directly to the City of Seattle for its EMS program. As a condition of the City of Seattle's approval of the countywide emergency medical services levy, the City of Seattle approved the agreement on June 17, 2025.

The City of Seattle operates and funds an emergency medical services program which is independent from, yet coordinated with, the County's program. The County and the City have in the past executed Interlocal Agreements, whereby the County transfers a portion of EMS tax revenue, based on the assessed value of taxable property within the city limits, to the City for its EMS program. The transfer of these funds does not impact the funding collected in the balance of the County, nor does it affect King County's ability to provide emergency medical services on a countywide basis.

If approved by King County voters, the Medic One/EMS levy for 2026-2031 will provide a stable funding base for the provision of EMS services in Seattle and throughout the County. Under the reimbursement agreement, estimates show that Seattle would receive between \$78 million to \$88 million a year, for the six-year term of the EMS levy. Entering into this agreement with Seattle will make funds available for expenses beginning 2026.

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The services supported by the Medic One/EMS levy focus on safety, health, and ensuring financial stewardship. EMS responses are distributed throughout the region based on service criteria, areas with economic challenges are provided the same level of service as areas with economic prosperity, ensuring access to vital services. In addition, EMS programs directly align with Public Health – Seattle & King County's core values and priorities of protecting and improving the health and well-being of all people in King County.

As noted, King County has placed a six-year 25-cent EMS levy on the November 4, 2025, general election ballot. As a condition of the city of Seattle's approval of the countywide emergency medical services levy, the city of Seattle approved the agreement on June 17, 2025. However, the County Council should delay taking action on this interlocal agreement until after the November 2025 election and the six-year EMS levy has passed.

In light of the fact that the levy is on the November 4, 2025 ballot, the King County Council may wish to act on this proposed Ordinance after the election.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If approved by voters, swift passage of this proposed Ordinance after the election will ensure continuous coverage of the lifesaving services provided by the countywide EMS system to our residents and visitors.

If your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Michele Plorde, Emergency Medical Services Division Director, at 206-263-8603.

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
 Melanie Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)
Michele Plorde, Emergency Medical Services Division Director, PHSKC