



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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July 15, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would authorize the King County Executive to enter into interlocal agreements with existing contract cities and additional cities seeking to contract for the provision of local District Court services. The current interlocal agreement (ILA) for district court services between King County and the current contract cities expires on December 31, 2021.

The Cities of Auburn, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Burien, Carnation, Covington, Kenmore, Redmond, Sammamish, Shoreline, and Skykomish (“cities”) currently contract with King County for the provision of local district court services. The city of Pacific wishes to contract with King County for local district court services effective January 1, 2022. The County has been providing local district court services to contract cities via an ILA for over 20 years.

The County, including representatives from District Court, the Executive Office, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and representatives from contract cities, engaged in negotiations that began in July 2019 and concluded in December 2020. The proposed ILA is the product of a collaborative and productive negotiation process.

The County and cities, in negotiating this interlocal agreement, created a long-term arrangement that allows the county to recover its costs, supports the directions outlined in the operational master plan, provides structures for all parties to communicate regularly and resolve issues, and recognizes the mutual benefit to both King County and the contract cities of a unified court system.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

July 15, 2021

Page 2

As part of the negotiation process, the methodology for calculating city costs in the previous ILA was reviewed and revised. Financial changes of the new interlocal agreement include:

- A new cap on facility rate increase equal to CPI-W and an updated facility allocation methodology;
- Added system improvement projects to the reserve fund for technology;
- A cap on security rates for cities at CPI-W + 1 percent; and
- Removal of Current Expense overhead.

The updated facilities allocation is expected to reduce County revenue by an estimated \$114,000 per year. Other changes are not expected to affect County costs or revenue and no budget supplemental is needed.

In addition to updated and simplified language, the new interlocal agreement includes the following key changes:

- Updating the agreement's termination provision to align with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 3.50.810 and RCW 35.20.010(3) and (4) to make County subject to same notice requirements as cities (statute allows for shorter notice by County);
- Added new language to address emergency relocations of courts; and
- Added a provision for Community Court.

The enclosed materials provide details on the components of interlocal agreement.

The proposed ILA advances the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Jennifer Huston, Director of Regional and Federal Relations Office of the Executive, at [Jennifer.Huston@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Huston@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 263-9625.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget  
The Honorable Susan Mahoney, Presiding Judge, King County District Court  
Heather Dean, Budget Director, King County District Court