



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes Metropolitan King County Council

*Councilmembers: Sarah Perry, Chair;
Jorge Barón, Vice Chair of Policy Development and Review;
Reagan Dunn, Vice Chair of Regional Coordination;
Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Steffanie Fain,
Rhonda Lewis, Teresa Mosqueda, Pete von Reichbauer*

1:30 PM

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

REVISED AGENDA - ADDED ITEM 29

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The Council values community input and looks forward to hearing from you. Testimony must be limited to items listed on the agenda for council action, unless it's the fourth Tuesday of the month, when the Council will hear general comment on matters relating to county government. You are not required to sign up in advance.

There are three ways to provide public testimony:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting in person in Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may testify by submitting a COMMENT email. If your testimony is submitted before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Council meeting, your email testimony will be distributed to the Councilmembers and appropriate staff prior to the meeting. Please submit your testimony by emailing clerk@kingcounty.gov.
3. Remote attendance on the Zoom Webinar: You may provide oral public testimony at the meeting by connecting to the meeting via phone or computer using the ZOOM application at <https://zoom.us/>, and entering the Webinar ID below.

CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR

Webinar ID: 873 0459 1515

If you do not have access to the ZOOM application, you can connect to the meeting by calling 1 253 215 8782 and using the Webinar ID. Connecting in this manner, however, may impact your ability to be unmuted to speak.

You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact our Equity and Social Justice Coordinator, Tera Chea at (206) 477 9259 or Tera.Chea2@kingcounty.gov, three (3) days prior to the meeting.

If you do not wish to be called upon for public comment during the meeting, please help us manage the callers and use one of the options below (Live Streaming or King County TV Channel 22).

HOW TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING: There are several ways to listen to the meeting if you don't wish to provide public testimony:

- 1. Stream online via this link: <https://kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.**
- 2. Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD), and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711 (HD).**
- 3. Listen to the meeting by telephone – See “Connecting to the Webinar” above.**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry and von Reichbauer

3. Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Dunn led the flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2026

Councilmember Barón moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting as presented. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

5. Additions to the Council Agenda

Item 29 was added to the agenda.

6. Special Items**Proclamation of January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in King County**

Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember Lewis, and Councilmember Dunn made remarks and presented the proclamation to Emi Koyoma. Emi Koyoma made remarks and thanked the Council.

Recognition of Undersheriff Jesse Anderson upon his retirement

Chair Perry made remarks and presented the Recognition of Undersheriff Jesse Anderson upon his retirement. Undersheriff Jesse Anderson made remarks and thanked the Council.

7. Public Comment

Public Comments were heard during the Public Hearing.

Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinances from Standing Committees and Regional Committees, and of Ordinances related to Collective Bargaining

There will be one public hearing on Items 6-20 & 28

The following people spoke:

Mark Rosenberger

Robin Buxton

Alex Tsimmerman

Yvette Dinish

Anthony Hemstad

Marybelle Garcia

Consent Items 8-9

8. **[Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2025-0238.2](#)**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the execution of a license agreement to support the operation of the department of public health.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 20031.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

9. **[Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0285](#)**

AN ORDINANCE approving and adopting the updated 2025-2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sponsors: Zahilay

The enacted number is 20032.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

Passed On The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Barón that the Consent Agenda be passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry, and von Reichbauer

Motions, from Standing Committees and Regional Committees and Motions related to Collective Bargaining, for Council Action

Consent Items 10-19

10. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0281](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Kazia Mermel, who resides in council district two, to the King County waterworks grant ranking committee, as the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee, city of Seattle representative.

Sponsors: Zahilay

The enacted number is 16937.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

11. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0282](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Kyle Wong, who resides in council district one, to the King County waterworks grant ranking committee, as the metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee, participant sewer district representative.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 16938.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

12. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0317](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Clare Semambo, who resides in council district nine, to the King County solid waste advisory committee, as a citizen representative.

Sponsors: Dunn

The enacted number is 16939.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

13. [Proposed Substitute Motion No. 2025-0318.2](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Cynthia Dampier, who resides in council district five, to the King County solid waste advisory committee, as a citizen representative.

Sponsors: von Reichbauer

The enacted number is 16940.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

14. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0319](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Tyler Morgan, who resides in council district one, to the King County solid waste advisory committee, as an agriculture representative.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 16941.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

15. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0341](#)

A MOTION confirming the King County board of health's appointment of Karen Hartfield to serve as an alternate member representing public health, health care facilities, and providers for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2028.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

The enacted number is 16942.

Vice Chair Barón made a motion to suspend the rules on Items 15, 18, and 19, in order to take action. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

16. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0346](#)

A MOTION relating to the King County Metro Transit Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2021-2031 and King County Metro Transit Service Guidelines and accepting the King County Metro Transit 2025 System Evaluation.

Sponsors: Barón

The enacted number is 16943.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

17. [Proposed Substitute Motion No. 2025-0370.2](#)

A MOTION related to council adoption of the King County Auditor's Office Work Program 2026-27.

Sponsors: von Reichbauer

The enacted number is 16946.

Chair Perry announced that Item 17 was removed from the Consent Agenda for purposes of an amendment.

Ben Thompson, Deputy County Auditor, King County Auditor's Office, briefed the Council and answered questions.

Councilmember Balducci moved Amendment 1. The motion carried.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. A motion was made by Councilmember von Reichbauer that this Motion be Passed as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry, and von Reichbauer

18. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0012](#)

A MOTION making an appointment to fill a judicial vacancy in the West division, West electoral district, judge position number one of the King County district court.

Sponsors: Barón

The enacted number is 16944.

Vice Chair Barón made a motion to suspend the rules on Items 15, 18, and 19, in order to take action. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

19. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0013](#)

A MOTION making an appointment to fill a judicial vacancy in the West division, West electoral district, judge position number four of the King County district court.

Sponsors: Barón

The enacted number is 16945.

Vice Chair Barón made a motion to suspend the rules on Items 15, 18, and 19, in order to take action. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

Passed On The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Barón that the Consent Agenda be passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry, and von Reichbauer

First Reading of and Action on Motions Without Referral to Committee

20. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0018](#)

A MOTION related to current federal immigration enforcement practices and directing the clerk of the council to send a copy of this motion to the members of Washington's congressional delegation representing King County.

Sponsors: Mosqueda, Dembowski and Balducci

The enacted number is 16947.

Vice Chair Barón made a motion to suspend the rules to take action without referral to committee pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.085. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

Melissa Bailey, Council Staff, briefed the Council and answered questions.

Councilmember Balducci requested a 5 minute recess. Seeing no objection, the Chair recessed the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Councilmember Mosqueda moved Striking Amendment S1. The motion carried.

Councilmember Mosqueda moved Title Amendment T1. The motion carried.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Mosqueda that this Motion be Passed as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda, Perry, and von Reichbauer

First Reading and Referral of Ordinances

21. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0015](#)

AN ORDINANCE revising the corporate boundary of the city of Enumclaw to include the unincorporated portion of McHugh Avenue right-of-way as provided for in RCW 35A.21.210.

Sponsors: Dunn

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Local Services and Land Use Committee.

First Reading and Referral of Motions

22. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0017](#)

A MOTION stating the council's support for continued entheogen-related research for alternative treatment modalities, structured medical models, and full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement priorities.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

23. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0011](#)

A MOTION confirming the appointment of Stephen Heard as director of the King County department of information technology.

Sponsors: Barón

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reintroductions of Ordinances

24. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0277](#)

AN ORDINANCE related to the contracting opportunities program and small contractor and supplier certification and criteria for participation; allowing for automatically qualifying firms certified by the Washington state Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises; allowing for removing minimum business-related training requirements to maintain certification; and amending Ordinance 13983, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.97.050.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This matter was Reintroduced

Reintroductions of Motions

25. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0252](#)

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the summary letter and completion of the online annual report requirement for the Crisis Care Centers Levy, in accordance with Ordinance 19572, Section 7.C.9, and Attachment A to Ordinance 19783, Section VIII.A.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This matter was Reintroduced

26. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0340](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Laura Zaichkin, who resides in council district eight, to the Harborview Medical Center board of trustees, as the district eight representative.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This matter was Reintroduced

27. [Reports on Special and Outside Committees](#)

Other Business

Proclamation Presented in the Community

28. Proclamation of February 17, 2026, as Lunar New Year in King County

Chair Perry announced that the Proclamation of February 17, 2026, as Lunar New Year in King County has been officially acknowledged and presented in the community.

29. Recognition of LaTonya Horace, Ze'lla Adams, and Nature Carter-Gooding for their leadership in fighting commercial sexual exploitation.

Chair Perry announced that the Recognition of LaTonya Horace, Ze'lla Adams, and Nature Carter-Gooding for their leadership in fighting commercial sexual exploitation has been officially acknowledged and presented in the community.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____.

Clerk's Signature