



## King County King County Board of Health

### Background and Current Board of Health Membership

In accordance with state law, Ordinance 11178 designated the King County Council as the original King County Board of Health in 1993. In 1995, Ordinance 12098 added councilmembers from the City of Seattle, suburban cities, and three health professionals. Subsequent changes to state law,<sup>1</sup> King County Code,<sup>2</sup> and Board of Health Code<sup>3</sup> have resulted in the current 20-member Board, as shown in Table 1. The Board consists of King County Councilmembers, City of Seattle Councilmembers, elected members selected by the Sound Cities Association (SCA), representatives from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB), and nonelected members. The nonelected members represent the following three categories, as defined by state law: public health, health care facilities, and providers; consumers of public health; and other community stakeholders.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1. Membership of the Board of Health**

		Elected Members	Nonelected Members
Primary Members		(1) King County	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
		(2) King County	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
		(3) King County	Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB)
		(4) King County	(1) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(1) City of Seattle	(2) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(2) City of Seattle	(3) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(3) City of Seattle	(4) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(1) Sound Cities Association (SCA)	(5) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(2) SCA	(6) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
		(3) SCA	(7) Nonelected category in RCW 70.05.035(1)(a)
Alternate Members		King County alternate	Nonelected alternate - public health, health care facilities, and providers
		City of Seattle alternate	Nonelected alternate - public health consumers
		SCA alternate	Nonelected alternate - community stakeholders
		SCA alternate	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe alternate
		SCA alternate	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe alternate
			SIHB alternate

<sup>1</sup> Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1946

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/?BillNumber=1946&Year=2025&Initiative=false>

<sup>2</sup> Ordinance 20019 <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7663049&GUID=1AA6C7F3-23F4-4F71-99A1-06BC1A6D6266&Options=Advanced&Search=>

<sup>3</sup> BOH25-03 <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7716310&GUID=5A39A89A-2A35-490B-BE0F-0A7F0C1E4BFC&Options=Advanced&Search=>

<sup>4</sup> RCW 70.05.035(1)(a) <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.05.035>



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### Board Functions and Authority

The Board sets county-wide public health policy, enacts local public health regulations, and carries out duties specified in RCW 70.05.060.<sup>5</sup> This includes enforcing state public health statutes, preventing and controlling the spread of infectious disease, abating nuisances, and setting fees<sup>6</sup> for licenses, permits, and other services.

The Board's legislative vehicles include:

- Rules and Regulations (R&R) – have the effect of law and are generally codified
- Guidelines and Recommendations (G&R) – information or guidance for the community and related industries on best practices pertaining to health<sup>7</sup>
- Resolutions – express policy intent and do not have the force of law.

The Code of the Board of Health is a codification of the rules and regulations that the Board of Health adopts including, but not limited to, regulations pertaining to food service, pesticides, the handling of solid waste and hazardous materials, on-site sewage, tobacco products, and swimming pools.<sup>8</sup>

The 2011 interlocal agreement (ILA)<sup>9</sup> between King County and City of Seattle regarding Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC) reinforces that the Board provides policy influence over PHSKC pursuant to RCW 70.05.060<sup>10</sup> and supervises matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people within its jurisdiction.

Under the ILA, the County is responsible for the PHSKC budget, and the City of Seattle has discretion in determining their contribution to PHSKC through the City's budget process. Pursuant to K.C.C. 2.35.051<sup>11</sup> the King County Council holds budgetary authority over operations of PHSKC. The Board does not have budgetary authority.

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<sup>5</sup> RCW 70.05.060 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.05.060>

<sup>6</sup> Per RCW 70.05.035.1(l) only elected members on the Board may vote on setting or modifying fees.

<sup>7</sup> Guidelines and Recommendations <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/about-king-county/about-public-health/board-of-health/boh-policies/recommendations-guidelines>

<sup>8</sup> King County Board of Health code <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/about-king-county/about-public-health/board-of-health/boh-policies/codes>

<sup>9</sup> Ordinance 17151 <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=905169&GUID=E2C39999-C5CD-43E0-A687-F9C62E928897&Options=&Search=>

<sup>10</sup> RCW 70.05.060 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.05.060>

<sup>11</sup> K.C.C. 2.35.051 [https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk/code/05\\_Title\\_2.htm#Toc51932415](https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk/code/05_Title_2.htm#Toc51932415)