

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711 www.kingcounty.gov

September 29, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, adopt updated capital facilities plans for school districts serving unincorporated King County as a sub-element of the King County Comprehensive Plan's Capital Facilities Element. The proposed Ordinance would also amend the King County Code (KCC) to update school impact fee amounts assessed by King County on residential development in unincorporated areas, beginning on January 1, 2026.

This proposed Ordinance adopts capital facilities plans for the Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Fife, Highline, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Washington, Northshore, Renton, Riverview, Snoqualmie Valley, and Tahoma school districts. Additionally, the proposed Ordinance updates impact fee amounts for the Auburn, Enumclaw, Fife, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Northshore, Renton, Riverview, Snoqualmie, and Tahoma school districts.

Environmental review of each capital facilities plan was conducted by the respective school district, pursuant to a lead agency agreement. All plans received determinations of non-significance. Key partner review was conducted through meetings of the County's School Technical Review Committee (STRC) and during the public comment period for the draft proposed Ordinance. The STRC found that all the plans meet the school concurrency standards of KCC 21A.28.160. The permanent and interim improvements necessary to serve development are planned to be in place at the time the impacts of development are expected to occur.

School impact fees are calculated every year based on a formula agreed to by the County and the school districts. Individual school district fees may fluctuate from year to year based on

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several factors, including changes in student enrollment, changes in the district's building plan, new residential growth, and State reimbursement levels. When a district does not plan to construct capacity improvements within the next six years, no school impact fees are assessed. Pursuant to Ordinance 19965, enacted on September 5, 2025, the proposed Ordinance reflects the requirement that impact fees for multifamily dwelling units not exceed \$5,000. The capital facilities plans for the Auburn, Enumclaw, and Snoqualmie school districts included multifamily dwelling unit impact fees greater than \$5,000, and these fees have been reduced accordingly.

Included in this transmittal package is the 2025 School District Capital Facilities Plans and Impact Fees Report. This is the STRC's first report pursuant to Ordinance 19881, which added a reporting requirement to KCC 21A.28.154 in 2024. While KCC 21A.28.154 has always required the County to evaluate school district CFPs and associated school impact fees, this is the first year the County has compiled its analysis into a report.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance, which will help participating school districts fund their capital facilities programs.

If your staff have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services, at 206-263-3332.

Sincerely,

Shannon Braddock King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services
Jim Chan, Permitting Division Director, Department of Local Services