



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2019-0185.1

Sponsors Dunn, Lambert and Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the funding and provision of
2 Medic One emergency medical services; providing for the
3 submission to the qualified electors of King County, at
4 special election on November 5, 2019, of a proposition to
5 fund the countywide Medic One emergency medical
6 services by authorizing the continuation of a regular
7 property tax levy for a consecutive six year period, for
8 collection beginning in 2020, at a rate of \$0.265 or less per
9 \$1,000 of assessed valuation, to provide for Medic One
10 emergency medical services.

11 **PREAMBLE:**

12 The Medic One Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") system of King
13 County, publicly known as Medic One, is an integrated publicly funded
14 partnership between the county, cities, fire districts, regional fire
15 authorities, hospitals and the University of Washington.

16 Medic One/EMS is a tiered response system that is based on the regional
17 medical model and collaborative partnerships. The services that EMS
18 personnel provide are derived from the highest standards of medical

19 training, practices and care, scientific evidence and close supervision by
20 physicians experienced in EMS care. It includes basic life support by city,
21 fire district and regional fire authority emergency medical technicians,
22 advanced life support by University of Washington/Harborview Medical
23 Center trained paramedics, and regional support programs that provide
24 citizen and EMS personnel training, regional medical control and quality
25 improvement.

26 The Medic One/EMS system of King County is recognized as one of the
27 best emergency medical services program in the country. It saves
28 thousands of lives every year, providing life-saving services on average
29 every three minutes. Compared to other cities, cardiac arrest victims are
30 two to three times more likely to survive. In 2017, it achieved a fifty-six-
31 percent survival rate for cardiac arrest, which is among the highest
32 reported rate in the nation.

33 The provision of Medic One emergency medical services on a countywide
34 basis is a public purpose of King County. King County supports Medic
35 One emergency medical services as a regional service that requires a
36 continuing leadership role for the county. The county should continue to
37 exercise its leadership and assume responsibility for assuring the orderly
38 and comprehensive development and provision of Medic One emergency
39 medical services throughout the county.

40 The concern for assuring the continuance of a countywide Medic
41 One/EMS program is shared by King County cities, fire protection

42 districts, and regional fire authorities that participate in the Medic One
43 emergency medical services programs.

44 Sustained funding for the regional Medic One/EMS system is needed to
45 continue this essential service for the residents of King County.

46 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

47 **SECTION 1. Approval of cities over 50,000 in population.** Pursuant to RCW
48 84.52.069, before submission to the electors of King County at a special election on
49 November 5, 2019, approval to place this countywide levy proposal on the ballot will be
50 obtained from the legislative authority of a majority of at least seventy-five percent of all
51 cities in the county over 50,000 in population.

52 **SECTION 2. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this
53 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

54 A. "County" means King County.

55 B. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes, for the specific purpose and
56 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
57 law.

58 C. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of monies raised by the levy, any
59 interest earnings on the funds and the proceeds of any interim financing following
60 authorization of the levy.

61 **SECTION 3. City of Seattle reimbursement.** It is recognized that the city of
62 Seattle operates and funds a Medic One emergency medical services program that is
63 separate from the county program but part of the regional delivery system. All levy
64 proceeds collected pursuant to the levy authorized in this ordinance from taxable property

65 located within the legal boundaries of the city of Seattle shall be reimbursed and
66 transferred to the city of Seattle and used solely for the Seattle Medic One emergency
67 medical services program in accordance with RCW 84.52.069.

68 **SECTION 4. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary funding for the
69 Medic One/EMS system under the authority of RCW 84.52.069, the county council shall
70 submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property
71 tax levy for six consecutive years, with collection commencing in 2020, at a rate not to
72 exceed \$0.265 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. As provided under state law,
73 this levy shall be exempt from the rate limitations under RCW 84.52.043, but subject in
74 years two through six to the limitations imposed under chapter 84.55 RCW.

75 **SECTION 5. Deposit of levy proceeds.** Except for the levy proceeds transferred
76 to the city of Seattle under section 3 of this ordinance, all levy proceeds shall be
77 deposited into the county emergency medical services fund.

78 **SECTION 6. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
79 county, all proceeds of the levy authorized in this ordinance shall be used in accordance
80 with RCW 84.52.069.

81 **SECTION 7. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, a
82 special election is called for November 5, 2019, to consider a proposition authorizing an
83 additional regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The
84 director of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with
85 the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county,
86 at the said special election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council
87 shall certify that proposition to the director of elections, in substantially the following

88 form:

89 **PROPOSITION ONE:** The King County Council passed Ordinance
90 _____ concerning continuation of funding for the county-wide Medic One
91 emergency medical services system. Should King County be authorized
92 to replace an expiring levy by imposing regular property taxes of \$0.265
93 or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of six
94 consecutive years, with collection beginning in 2020, as provided in King
95 County Ordinance ____, to continue paying for Medic One emergency
96 medical services:

97 Yes _____

98 No _____

99 **SECTION 8. Interlocal agreement.** The county executive is hereby authorized
100 and directed to enter into an interlocal agreement with the city of Seattle relating to the
101 Medic One program, to implement the provisions of section 3 of this ordinance.

102 **SECTION 9. Local voters' pamphlet.** The director of elections is hereby
103 authorized and requested to prepare and distribute a local voters' pamphlet, pursuant to
104 K.C.C. 1.10.010, for the special election called for in this ordinance, the cost of the
105 pamphlet to be included as part of the cost of the election.

106 **SECTION 10. Exemption.** The additional regular property taxes authorized by
107 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
108 84.36.381, if that statute is amended by the state legislature during the term of this levy.

109 **SECTION 11. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
110 county council to the King County director of elections in accordance with law before the

111 election on November 5, 2019, and any other act consistent with the authority and before
112 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

113 SECTION 12. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application
114 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
115 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

116

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None