



**King County**

**Girmay Zahilay**

King County Executive

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January 8, 2026

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

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, confirm my appointment of Stephen Heard as Chief Information Officer (CIO) and director of the King County Department of Information Technology (KCIT) consistent with King County Code 2.16.110(E)(1)(b). A full set of confirmation documents will be submitted under separate cover.

On Friday, December 12, 2025, I appointed Mr. Heard as the CIO and KCIT Director, effective January 3, 2026. Mr. Heard has been successfully serving as the acting director of KCIT since January 6, 2025. In that time, he has supported King County employees, residents, and other government agencies with a wide array of innovative technology services. Prior to serving as acting KCIT Director, Mr. Heard served as Chief Technology Officer for the County. In this role, Mr. Heard partnered with county business leaders to target cost-effective and innovative technology solutions. His teams have consistently executed key technology improvements that strengthened the resiliency of platforms that are foundational to King County's digital public services.

Prior to his county service, Mr. Heard worked in the private technology sector, including technical and leadership roles within the financial services and consumer products industries. His background and recognized leadership skills make him uniquely qualified to serve as King County's Chief Information Officer and lead the Department of Information Technology.

It is my pleasure to request your confirmation of Stephen Heard as KCIT Director. If your staff have questions regarding this matter, please contact Megan Pedersen, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive, at 206-263-2898.

The Honorable Sarah Perry  
January 8, 2026  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girmay Zahilay', written in a cursive style.

for

Girmay Zahilay  
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council  
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive  
Jasmine Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Megan Pedersen, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive  
Stephen Heard, Director Designee, Department of Information Technology