



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 19217

**Proposed No.** 2020-0395.1

**Sponsors** Dembowski, Lambert and Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE renewing for six months an existing  
 2 moratorium prohibiting the acceptance of applications for  
 3 or establishment of new or expansion of existing wineries,  
 4 breweries, distilleries and remote tasting rooms, as primary  
 5 uses or as home occupations or home industries; and  
 6 prohibiting temporary use permits for wineries, breweries,  
 7 distilleries and remote tasting room uses under the King  
 8 County Code.

9 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

10 **SECTION 1. Findings.**

11 A. King County has authority, pursuant to constitutional police powers, home  
 12 rule authority and the Washington state Growth Management Act, including chapter  
 13 36.70A RCW ("the GMA"), to establish a moratorium to preclude the acceptance of  
 14 certain new development applications and preclude the establishment of otherwise  
 15 allowed uses while the county studies related land use issues.

16 B. Ordinance 19030 established updated regulations for winery, brewery,  
 17 distillery facilities and remote tasting rooms in unincorporated King County.

18 C. Ordinance 19030 was challenged on State Environmental Policy Act  
 19 ("SEPA") and GMA grounds by Futurewise and a neighborhood group to the Central

Ordinance 19217

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20 Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board ("the board"). The petitioners filed a  
21 summary judgment motion with the board, claiming the SEPA process undertaken by the  
22 county before adoption of the ordinance had been insufficient. On May 26, 2020, the  
23 board issued its Order on Dispositive Motions for Case No. 20-3-0004c ("the order"),  
24 which granted the petitioners' summary judgment and invalidated most of the substantive  
25 sections of the ordinance. Ordinance 19030, Sections 12 through 31, and map  
26 amendments 1 and 2, which were Attachments A and B to Ordinance 19030, were  
27 invalidated by the board. Ordinance 19030, Sections 12 through 31, include definitions,  
28 zoning conditions, parking restrictions, temporary use permit clarifications, home  
29 occupation and home industry limitations and a demonstration project.

30 D. The board's order also remanded the ordinance to the county to take actions to  
31 bring the ordinance into compliance.

32 E. The board's order was primarily focused on SEPA. The board concluded that  
33 the analysis contained in the SEPA checklist was insufficient to support the SEPA  
34 determination of nonsignificance. The board set a compliance schedule requiring  
35 additional action by the county with a November 2020 deadline.

36 F. With the board's invalidation of parts of Ordinance 19030, the uses that were  
37 defined and regulated as part of that ordinance, including winery, brewery, distillery  
38 facilities and remote tasting rooms, do not have clear regulations for residents and  
39 business owners to comply with, and the county does not have clear regulations to  
40 enforce. That lack of clarity exists for: wineries, breweries, distilleries and remote tasting  
41 rooms that seek to locate or be established on a property as a primary use; wineries,  
42 breweries, distilleries and remote tasting rooms that seek to locate or be established as a

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Ordinance 19217

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43 home occupation or home industry; and wineries, breweries, distilleries and remote  
44 tasting rooms that seek to apply for temporary use permits allowed by the King County  
45 Code.

46 G. In order to provide clarity to residents, business owners and county permit  
47 review and code enforcement staff, the county is extending a moratorium that prevents  
48 new wineries, breweries, distilleries and remote tasting rooms as primary uses, as home  
49 occupations and as home industries from locating or being established in unincorporated  
50 King County, while the council and executive determine and carry out the next steps in  
51 responding to the board's order.

52 H. On June 23, 2020, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.390, the council adopted  
53 Ordinance 19122 as an emergency, declaring a six-month moratorium prohibiting the  
54 acceptance of applications for or establishment of new or expansion of existing wineries,  
55 breweries, distilleries and remote tasting rooms, as primary uses or as home occupations  
56 or home industries; and prohibiting temporary use permits for wineries, breweries,  
57 distilleries and remote tasting room uses under the King County Code.

58 I. Ordinance 19122 also required the executive to evaluate the necessary steps to  
59 comply with the Central Puget Sound Washington State Growth Management Hearings  
60 Board's Order regarding Ordinance 19030 and report to the council on the evaluation of  
61 compliance and status of compliance. The executive transmitted a report that included  
62 that evaluation as 2020-RPT0150 in October 2020.

63 J. The report states that because the current moratorium expires on December 23,  
64 2020, and based on the timelines for compliance in the report, "the County will not be  
65 able to determine whether regulatory amendments are needed until the first quarter of

Ordinance 19217

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66 2021, which will be after the expiration of the moratorium." The report further states that  
67 "it is in the public interest to prevent unregulated winery, brewery, and distillery  
68 development until this determination has been made" and recommends that the  
69 moratorium be extended for an additional six months.

70 K. RCW 36.70A.390 authorizes a moratorium to be renewed for one or more six-  
71 month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings are made before each  
72 renewal.

73 L. It is in the public interest, and is the intent of the county, to renew the  
74 moratorium declared under Ordinance 19122 on acceptance of applications for or  
75 establishment of new or expansion of existing wineries , breweries, distilleries and  
76 remote tasting rooms for an additional six-month period in order to pause unregulated  
77 development.

78 SECTION 2. A. Commencing on December 23, 2020, the moratorium declared  
79 under Ordinance 19122 is hereby renewed and extended for an additional six months, on  
80 the acceptance of applications for or establishment of those that are new or expansion of  
81 those that are existing, including applications increasing their size or scope, for the  
82 following in unincorporated King County:

- 83 1. Wineries, breweries, and distilleries;
- 84 2. Remote tasting rooms;
- 85 3. Winery, brewery, distillery and remote tasting room home occupations and  
86 home industries; and
- 87 4. Temporary use permits for wineries, breweries, distilleries and remote tasting  
88 room uses.

Ordinance 19217

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89           B. An application shall not be accepted and a building permit, occupancy permit,  
90 department of public health approval, other development permits or approval of any kind  
91 shall not be issued for any of the purposes or activities prohibited by the moratorium.  
92 Any applications for land use approvals or other permits that are accepted as a result of  
93 error or by use of vague or deceptive descriptions during the moratorium are null and  
94 void and without legal force or effect. All vested and otherwise lawfully established  
95 uses, structures or other developments may continue to be maintained, repaired and  
96 redeveloped consistent with K.C.C. 21A.32.020 through 21A.32.055, so long as the use is  
97 not expanded, under the terms of the land use regulations in place at the time the use was  
98 established.

99           SECTION 3. The definitions in this section apply throughout this ordinance  
100 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

101           A. "Remote tasting room" means a facility that is required to be licensed by the  
102 Washington state Liquor and Cannabis Board including, but not limited to, the following  
103 non-retail liquor licenses: a craft distillery; a tasting room - additional location for a  
104 winery licensed as a domestic winery; or a microbrewery, including, but not limited to, a  
105 microbrewery operating in accordance with an off-site tavern license subject to the retail  
106 sale limitations for a microbrewery in WAC 314-20-015(1).

107           B. "Temporary use permit" is as defined in K.C.C. 21A.06.1275.

108           C. "Winery, brewery, distillery" means:

109           1. "winery" means an establishment primarily engaged in one or more of the  
110 following:

111           a. growing grapes or fruit and manufacturing wine, cider, or brandies;

Ordinance 19217

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112           b. manufacturing wine, cider or brandies from grapes and other fruits grown  
113 elsewhere; and

114           c. blending wines, cider or brandies;

115           2. "brewery" is as defined by SIC Industry No. 2082; and

116           3. "distillery" is as defined by SIC Industry No. 2085.

117           D. "Winery, brewery, distillery and remote tasting room home occupation and  
118 home industry" means a winery, brewery, distillery or remote tasting room, or  
119 combination thereof, that is located in a dwelling unit or residential accessory building,  
120 and meets the definition of home occupation in K.C.C. 21A.06.610 or the definition of  
121 home industry in K.C.C. 21A.06.605.

122           SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

Ordinance 19217

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123 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the  
124 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.  
125

Ordinance 19217 was introduced on 10/27/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/8/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:  
*Claudia Balducci*  
7E1C273CE9994B6...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
*Melani Pedroza*  
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 12/11/2020, \_\_\_\_\_.

DocuSigned by:  
*Dow Constantine*  
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...

Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

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|--------------------|---|
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| Browsers:          | Final release versions of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or above (Windows only); Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or above (Windows and Mac); Safari™ 3.0 or above (Mac only) |
| PDF Reader:        | Acrobat® or similar software may be required to view and print PDF files  |
| Screen Resolution: | 800 x 600 minimum   |

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