



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15687

Proposed No. 2020-0336.1

Sponsors Dembowski, Lambert, von Reichbauer, Zahilay and Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION concerning applicants for property tax
2 exemptions for property taxes payable in 2020.

3 WHEREAS, all real and personal property in Washington state is subject to
4 property tax each year based on its value, unless a specific exemption is provided, and

5 WHEREAS, in 1966, Washington state voters approved an amendment to the
6 state constitution giving the legislature the power to grant to retired property owners
7 relief from the property tax on real property occupied as a residence by those owners, and

8 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment allowed the Washington state
9 Legislature to place restrictions and conditions on such relief, and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature granted property tax relief on principal residences of
11 senior citizens and persons retired by reason of disability if they met certain income
12 requirements, and

13 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Legislature passed engrossed substitute senate bill 5160,
14 which changed income eligibility limits for property tax exemptions for service-
15 connected disabled veterans and senior citizens from fixed thresholds to thresholds
16 indexed to each county's median income, and

17 WHEREAS, the new income eligibility limit for King County based on 2019
18 earnings has expanded eligibility for service-connected disabled veterans and senior
19 citizens, and

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20 WHEREAS, the King County assessor has received more than nine thousand
21 applications for property tax exemptions in 2020, which is more than three times the
22 number of applications in recent prior years, and

23 WHEREAS, approximately four thousand four hundred applications have not yet
24 been processed, and

25 WHEREAS, under RCW 84.56.020, the deadline for paying second-half property
26 taxes is October 31, and delinquent taxes are subject to interest at the rate of twelve
27 percent per annum, and

28 WHEREAS, under RCW 84.56.020, during a state of emergency declared under
29 RCW 43.06.010, the county treasurer, on his or her own motion or at the request of any
30 taxpayer affected by the emergency, may grant extensions of the due date of any taxes
31 payable under this section as the treasurer deems proper, and

32 WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington state Governor proclaimed
33 that a state of emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of the
34 COVID-19 pandemic;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

36 A. The council requests that the county treasurer and assessor collaborate to
37 provide property tax relief to eligible property taxpayers, including:

- 38 1. Expediting processing of applications for property tax exemptions; and
- 39 2. To the extent permissible under state law, granting extensions of the property
40 tax due date to taxpayers who are affected by the state of emergency and have applied for
41 exemptions for property taxes on or prior to October 19, 2020, but not yet received a
42 determination from the assessor.

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43 B.1. The council requests that the assessor transmit a monthly report to the
44 council by the last business day of each calendar month that includes:

45 a. the number of applications received during the preceding calendar month
46 and the total number of applications received year-to-date as of the last day of the
47 preceding calendar month;

48 b. the numbers of applications approved and rejected during the preceding
49 calendar month; and

50 c. the number of applications awaiting a determination as of the last day of the
51 preceding calendar month, including the number of applications pending due to a request
52 for more information and the number of applications pending that have not yet been
53 reviewed.

54 2. The assessor should file each monthly report in the form of a paper original
55 and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and
56 provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead
57 staff for the government accountability and oversight committee.

58 C.1. The council requests that the treasurer transmit a monthly report to the
59 council by the last business day of each calendar month that includes:

60 a. the number of taxpayers requesting an extension under RCW 84.56.020(10)
61 during the preceding calendar month; and

62 b. the number of taxpayers granted an extension during the preceding calendar
63 month.

64 2. The treasurer should file each monthly report in the form of a paper original
65 and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and

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66 provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead
67 staff for the government accountability and oversight committee.

68 D. The reports requested in section B. and section C. of this motion should be
69 filed each month in 2020, with the first reports filed by the last business day of November

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70 2020, and each month in 2021, with the final reports filed by the last business day of
71 December 2021, unless the council requests by motion that additional reports be filed.
72

Motion 15687 was introduced on 9/29/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/29/2020, 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
F8830816F1C4427...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Pedroza
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Claudia Balducci
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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	10/6/2020 10:39:52 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:51:16 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:51:23 AM
Completed	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:51:23 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Operating Systems:	Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, Windows Vista®; Mac OS® X
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
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