



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

May 29, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

On May 29, 2020, I issued a Proclamation of Emergency Budget Crisis in response to the severe fiscal challenges facing King County in 2020. This declaration is in accordance with King County Code (KCC) 3.12F.020.

With reduced revenues forecasted for the remainder of 2020 and beyond due to the unprecedented economic conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the County is working hard to find innovative ways to gain efficiencies in all county government functions in order to minimize service reductions to the public. However, projected County revenues are insufficient to fully fund County agency operations, and significant cost savings must be achieved through reductions in service and pay.

I am hereby forwarding the attached proclamation of Emergency Budget Crisis to be filed with the Clerk of the Council, as well as a proposed ordinance for the King County Council to consider for ratification. Once this Emergency Budget Crisis proclamation is ratified by the King County Council, I may exercise my emergency powers and authority to:

- Order a budgetary furlough, including the furlough of employees of the executive branch and closure of county offices; or
- Order the reduction in hours or the closure of county offices on specific days associated with the budgetary furlough.

The County will fulfill its bargaining obligations with labor partners before implementing any labor changes. I look forward to working collaboratively with labor to find solutions. Through the labor negotiation process, necessary changes to policy and technical changes to KCC may be identified. If such changes are required, proposed code revisions will be transmitted to the King County Council as needed.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

May 29, 2019

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This proclamation and the proposed ratifying ordinance add additional tools for the County to utilize in addressing the short term fiscal issues. The enclosed proclamation and proposed ordinance further the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. This proclamation and proposed ordinance apply only to 2020. If it is determined that these tools are necessary to be utilized for the 2021-2022 biennium, a new proclamation and proposed ratifying ordinance will be provided.

Thank you for your attention. If your staff have any questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Whitney Abrams, Chief People Office, King County Executive Office  
Jay Osborne, Director, Department of Human Resources  
Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations  
Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services  
    (DES)  
Brendan McCluskey, Director, Office of Emergency Management, DES