

From: [Jorge L. Barón](#)
To: [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Comments for Today's RPC meeting - Please vote to approve VSHSL at 12 cent rate
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:13:16 AM

Dear members of the Regional Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) to ask you to approve the proposed Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) as it was amended by the County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee at a rate of 12 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

As our organization and many others have conveyed to you in prior public testimony, we believed that the original proposal for the levy to be set at a rate of 10 cents was insufficient in light of the combination of both a rising demand for the services supported by the levy and increasing costs to provide those services in the community. In addition, we are concerned that federal COVID relief money provided a temporary increase in resources that allowed providers to meet some of the increase in demand and costs over the past two years. However, that funding is of course ending and we are concerned that the challenges facing the general fund in future years will impact the support from that fund for human services programs.

While we had advocated for an even larger increase to the levy rate, we understand the concerns that have been expressed during the legislative process and believe that a levy rate of 12 cents will be an important step forward toward closing the gap between the demand for services in the community and the availability of those services.

We urge you to vote to approve the amended levy proposal today.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jorge L. Barón
Executive Director
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Jorge L. Barón (*he/him/his*) | Executive Director | [Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#)
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If you need assistance from Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, we encourage you to contact us by phone. If you are not already a client, click [here](#) for more information on how to reach us at the office closest to you.

Si necesita ayuda del proyecto para los derechos del inmigrante del noroeste, le recomendamos que se comuniqué con nosotros por teléfono. Si aún no es cliente, haga clic [aquí](#) para obtener más información sobre cómo comunicarse con nosotros en la oficina más cercana a usted.

From: [Katie Wilson](#)
To: nbackus@auburnwa.gov; mayor@redmond.gov; james.mcneal@bothellwa.gov; [Stokes, John](#); apavone@rentonwa.gov; Mayor@kentwa.gov; [Dembowski, Rod](#); [Zahilay, Girmay](#); [Perry, Sarah](#); [Kohl-Welles, Jeanne](#); [Upthegrove, Dave](#); [Balducci, Claudia](#); [Von Reichbauer, Pete](#); [McDermott, Joe](#); [Dunn, Reagan](#); [Lewis, Andrew](#); [Kshama Sawant](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); debora.juarez@seattle.gov
Cc: [Sanders, April](#); [Calderon, Angelica](#)
Subject: Letter from TRU on VSHSL rate
Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:36:38 PM
Attachments: [TRU_VSHSL_Ltr.pdf](#)

Members of the RPC and King County Council:

Please find attached a letter from TRU in support of raising the rate of the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy.

Thank you,
Katie

Katie Wilson
General Secretary
Transit Riders Union
<https://transitriders.org>
206-781-7204

The Transit Riders Union is a democratic organization of working and poor people, including students, seniors, and people with disabilities, taking control over our own lives, and building up the power we need to change society for the good of humanity and of the planet. We will fight to preserve, expand, and improve the public transportation system in Seattle and beyond, so that every human being has access to safe, affordable, and reliable public transit.