



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

July 10, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if adopted, will enable King County to continue to collect the 0.1 percent behavioral health sales and use tax authorized by RCW 82.14.460, known in King County as the MIDD (Mental Illness and Drug Dependency tax), through January 1, 2035.

Adoption of this proposed legislation would continue a vital, consistent source of ongoing local funding for essential behavioral health treatment and services for King County residents, especially those with the greatest needs and the least access, amidst significant uncertainty at the federal level regarding restricting access to Medicaid. An accompanying memo prepared by the Department of Community and Human Services provides information about the impacts of MIDD investments since 2017.

In 2025, the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis estimates that the MIDD behavioral health sales tax will infuse \$97 million into the King County community behavioral health system. From 2017 through 2024, MIDD served more than 100,000 King County residents. MIDD funds supported programs that improved health and wellness, recovery, and connection to community, especially for people most affected by inequities related to race, income, housing status, and access to health care.

As the enclosed memo notes, MIDD investments helped people achieve recovery and stability. Three years after enrollment in relevant MIDD initiatives, participants experienced:

- 67 percent fewer engagements with adult crisis programs;
- 36 percent fewer involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations;
- 62 percent fewer King County jail bookings, and
- 33 percent fewer emergency department visits.

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Continuing the MIDD behavioral health sales tax enables King County to build on our successes as well as to continue to collaborate with community members and community behavioral health providers to further strengthen our behavioral health system.

I anticipate that the next King County Executive will transmit to the Council an updated MIDD implementation plan in 2026. My 2026-2027 proposed budget that I will transmit in the fall will continue MIDD investments using the same strategy areas and implementation plan that have been in effect since 2017. The Department of Community and Human Services will continue annual reporting on MIDD behavioral health sales tax programs and expenditures as it has in past years.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, director of the Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Braddock", with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
 Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services