



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 21, 2016

Motion 14669

Proposed No. 2016-0243.3

Sponsors McDermott

1 A MOTION relating to a pilot program for partial payment
2 of delinquent real property taxes.

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

5 WHEREAS, the county treasurer is responsible for providing a notice of tax due
6 to county taxpayers and collecting the tax, and

7 WHEREAS, county treasurers are allowed to collect taxes, assessments, fees,
8 rates, and charges by electronic bill presentment and payment, and

9 WHEREAS, property taxes are due on April thirtieth each year, with the option
10 for eligible accounts to pay one-half of the tax by April thirtieth, and the other half by
11 October thirty-first, and

12 WHEREAS, a tax account becomes delinquent and subject to interest and
13 penalties if the tax payment is not made on time, and

14 WHEREAS, throughout any given tax roll year there are in King County between
15 15,000 and 25,000 current-year delinquent real properties, between 6,000 and 12,000
16 prior-year delinquent real properties, and between 100 and 2,500 real properties subject
17 to property tax foreclosure, and

18 WHEREAS, the county is committed to providing fairness and flexibility in the
19 payment of real property taxes for homeowners experiencing acute financial hardship,
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in the 2014 legislative session, the Washington state Legislature
22 passed Substitute House Bill 2309, which became Chapter 13, Laws of Washington 2014,
23 that allows county treasurers to accept partial payment of property taxes;

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

25 A. The executive is requested to establish a thirty-six month pilot program to
26 allow real property taxpayers in King County, on the terms of this motion, to submit to
27 the treasurer partial payment of delinquent real property taxes including interest and
28 penalties.

29 B. The pilot program for partial delinquent real property tax payment is subject to
30 the following:

31 1. The pilot program will commence on the first Monday of October 2016 and
32 terminate the last Friday of the thirty-sixth month thereafter. The executive may
33 recommend to continue the program permanently as described in section C. of this
34 motion;

35 2. Participation in the pilot program is limited to delinquent real property tax
36 accounts, when the real property serves as the taxpayer's primary residence. The
37 executive may also consider whether to limit program participation to limited-income
38 taxpayers. The executive may also consider whether to limit program participation to
39 property in the unincorporated area which is not found in violation of any code relating to
40 public health and safety, in accordance with K.C.C. Title 23. The executive is also

41 encouraged to work with other municipalities within the county to incorporate additional
42 participation criteria respective to those municipalities;

43 3. Partial payment of delinquent real property taxes including interest and
44 penalties may be accepted using existing payment methods or otherwise as determined by
45 the treasurer;

46 4. The executive will establish minimum payment amounts, allowable payment
47 frequency, and a maximum allowable time for tax accountholders to become current on
48 their delinquent real property taxes, if applicable; and

49 5. The executive will establish a plan for informing eligible real property tax
50 accountholders about the pilot program and must submit a report to the council that
51 explains the plan for informing eligible real property tax accountholders about the pilot
52 program. The report must also explain the executive's selected approach for set up and
53 management of the pilot program including, but not limited to, cost analysis. The
54 executive must file the report by October 3, 2016, in the form of a paper original and an
55 electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an
56 electronic copy to all councilmembers.

57 C. The executive will monitor usage and costs associated with the pilot program
58 and must submit a report to the council, twenty-four months after the program begins,
59 that explains the most-current available information on usage and costs, including, but
60 not limited to, program administrative costs and participation rates, including the number
61 of payments submitted per month, an analysis of whether the pilot had an impact on the
62 number of new delinquent taxpayers, geographic distribution of participating real
63 property tax accountholders and average payment amount. The report must also include

64 the executive's recommendation and decision, if applicable, on continuation of the
65 program beyond the pilot period. The executive must file the report in the form of a
66 paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the
67 original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff,
68 the policy staff director and the lead staff for the budget and fiscal committee, or its
69 successor.

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Motion 14669 was introduced on 5/9/2016 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/20/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None