



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 14, 2011**

**Motion 13620**

**Proposed No. 2011-0498.2**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1                   A MOTION adopting the King County 2012 (FY 2013)  
2                   Federal Agenda and the King County 2012 (FY 2013)  
3                   Federal Policy Interests.

4                   WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive have  
5 worked together through their government relations staff and desire to bring their  
6 positions on federal issues affecting King County to the attention of the Second Session  
7 of the 112th Congress, and

8                   WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local  
9 governments and other organizations to achieve its 2012 (FY 2013) federal legislative  
10 goals, and

11                   WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the  
12 federal government for transportation, public health, homeland security, salmon recovery,  
13 flood control, affordable housing and other important needs, and

14                   WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will  
15 continue to review congressional developments for possible revisions of King County's  
16 2012 (FY 2013) federal legislative goals;

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

18                   The King County council hereby adopts the attached King County 2012 (FY

19 2013) Federal Agenda and King County 2012 (FY 2013) Federal Policy Interests as King  
20 County's highest priorities for federal action in the 2012 (FY 2013) congressional cycle.  
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Motion 13620 was introduced on 12/12/2011 and passed as amended by the  
Metropolitan King County Council on 12/12/2011, by the following vote:

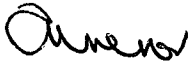
Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms.  
Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. King County, Washington 2012 (FY 2013) Federal Agenda-Dated December 12,  
2011, as amended by Council 12-12-2011, B. King County, Washington 2012 (FY 2013) Federal Policy  
Interests - Dated December 12, 2011



## KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2012 (FY 2013) FEDERAL AGENDA

King County's top federal priorities represent a commitment to meeting the most critical needs of its residents despite ongoing challenges. These priorities protect essential functions and infrastructure, continue our many areas of innovation, and make King County a thriving hub of economic development and job creation. King County's Strategic Plan is the foundation for these federal goals and objectives.

### **Justice and Safety: Support safe communities and accessible justice systems for all.**

King County supports a fair and accessible law and justice system that keeps people safe in their homes and communities.

**Spectrum:** Protect federally-permitted county investments in radio and other narrowband spectrum.

**Justice:** King County seeks resources to protect and support our children through tools like Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants, juvenile connections and mentoring like the LEAP Program, and School Resource Officers, child support enforcement, and grants for gang interdiction. We support legislation providing for continuation of federal benefits for qualifying mentally ill adult and juvenile inmates and detainees through the Inmates with Mental Illness Treatment and Public Safety Act.

**Health and Human Potential: Provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potential.** We believe in preserving a safety net of basic services for our residents in health, housing, and human services.

**Housing:** King County supports services critical to maintaining housing stability and preventing homelessness, including Community Development Block Grants, McKinney Homeless Assistance Grants, HOME Investments, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, and the National Housing Trust Fund.

**Health:** King County supports the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and preservation of the Public Health and Prevention Fund. We seek to protect Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid & social services.

**Employment:** King County supports employment programs like those in the Workforce Investment Act, as well as programs for developmentally disabled.

### **Economic Growth and Built Environment: Encourage a growing and diverse King County economy and vibrant, thriving and sustainable communities.**

**Transportation:** Robust, multimodal mobility through a surface transportation reauthorization bill with both directly distributed and competitive federal funds is critical to the economic growth and community livability of the County. The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve aging roadway infrastructure, maintain existing transit mobility while growing bus rapid transit systems, and develop essential non-motorized transportation connections such as the eastside rail corridor.

**Levees:** We continue to seek a holistic approach to floodplain management and levee maintenance.

**Aerospace:** King County's civic, industry, and education leaders must assure the long-term vitality, growth, and global competitiveness of the aerospace industry—a major source of family-wage jobs for the County. Workforce training and government policies that allow aerospace companies, their suppliers, and their employees to thrive are imperative. The federal government is a critical partner in realizing our aerospace



## KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2012 (FY 2013) FEDERAL AGENDA

future, and the benefits aerospace provides the nation for its positive impacts on trade and balance of payments.

### **Environmental Sustainability: Safeguard and enhance King County's natural resources and environment.**

**Environment:** We support responsible and innovative stewardship of our watersheds, the Puget Sound, and our other natural resources. King County supports federal investments in cost-effective approaches for retrofitting stormwater and septic facilities, and reducing Combined Sewer Overflows. In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Cleanup that reduces human health risks as quickly as possible while minimizing construction impacts on local neighborhoods, human health, and economic development. We support resources for salmon recovery efforts like the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Programs. We support ongoing federal assistance for local governments to retrofit public facilities for greater energy efficiency.

December 12, 2011

Attachment B



## KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2012 (FY 2013) FEDERAL POLICY INTERESTS

### **Conservation, Natural Resources, and Habitat Protection & Restoration**

We seek federal funding support to implement habitat protection and restoration projects in approved WRIA-based salmon recovery plans. We support:

- legislation directing a portion of major transportation project mitigation funds to high-priority salmon recovery projects.
- federal funding for USFWS to continue investments in research, habitat restoration, and hatchery supplementation for Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon.
- recovery of ESA-listed species that consider multiple species and their habitats.
- investments to maintain the good working order of the Ballard Locks, a critical passage for juvenile salmon and an essential navigation link between Puget Sound to Lake Washington.
- funding for natural resources like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Secure Rural Schools Act.
- ecosystem restoration projects, including the work underway on the Duwamish-Green riverway.

### **Climate Change and Energy**

King County supports federal assistance for local government to become more energy efficient and to meet climate change goals like:

- the EECSBG Program and Qualified Energy Efficiency Bonds to retrofit public facilities for greater energy efficiency, partner with the private sector and local universities to develop “green” technologies and provide green jobs training, and provide assistance to housing authorities to make energy efficiency investments.
- mechanisms to help utilities and communities address the impacts of climate change.
- federal funding to replace our transit fleet with hybrid electric buses, develop electric-car charging infrastructure, and purchase alternative fuel vanpool fleet vehicles.
- federal funding support for development of tools and strategies for evaluating and adapting to climate impacts on public health, emergency response, and natural resources.
- federal grant programs, including the Sustainable Housing and Communities Grant Program, that promote integration of transportation, housing, health, low impact development, and climate mitigation planning and projects.

### **Economic Development**

We encourage federal efforts to partner with local governments and provide them with tools needed to build strong, diverse, and sustainable economies.

We support regional economic growth through strategic public-private partnerships such as the Central Puget Sound Regional Economic Strategy, federal support to help develop this and other economic strategies to retain existing businesses and strategically recruit new ones in key industrial clusters where the region has a competitive advantage. King County supports public works grants, such as those through the Economic Development Administration, to support private-sector projects that will create basic jobs, leverage private investment, and encourage domestic and international exports.

King County values export promotion programs that inform small to middle-size businesses of the economic benefits of international exporting, reduce the fear, myths, and uncertainty surrounding exporting, and encourage firms to actively seek international business.

We support continued funding of Workforce Investment Act programs for youth, low-income adults, and dislocated workers to provide them the tools they need to enter or reenter the workforce in emerging sectors with career opportunities. We support greater funding and support for curricula at the secondary and postsecondary education levels that emphasize training and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

### **Emergency Management & Flood Hazard Reduction**

We support fundamental emergency management tools, including improvements in enhanced 911 services. King County supports integrated approaches to major river flood hazard reduction, including development of regional standards for levee maintenance that both protect public safety and meet state and federal requirements for protecting listed species and maintaining levees. We seek federal funding for major flood hazard mitigation projects, including those that meet multiple objectives of reducing future flood damages, protecting habitat, and providing open space benefits. We support efforts to repair the Howard Hanson Dam so that it may regain its historical conservation pool levels and reduce flood risks in the Green River Valley. We seek funding support and technical assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue updating federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps used to identify flood hazards and regulate development.

### **Health Care and Support**

King County develops and implements creative and effective strategies and programs that prevent the leading causes of poor health, ensure access to appropriate and quality physical and behavioral health services, and promote individual health and interventions to reduce health disparities. Supporting and expanding this work requires stable funding at the federal level for our public health, mental health and chemical dependency prevention and support infrastructure. Critical components of our system of regional public health include:

- preparedness funding
- CDC disease control and prevention
- Maternal Child Health Block Grants

Addressing health disparities in our community requires investments in resources and initiatives that will give all our residents access to affordable health care, including prescription drug coverage, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, and comprehensive mental health services.

The County will work with Congress and administration officials to support implementation of national health care reform legislation and related legislative and administrative policies that meet the above goals. We particularly support the Public Health Prevention Fund and Community Transformation Grants. We also support federal regulatory and legislative initiatives that will protect the health of our communities and provide environmental safeguards to ensure the safety of our residents. We support steps that will strengthen healthy eating and active living standards that will prevent obesity and reduce use of tobacco and tobacco by-products.

### **Homelessness & Housing**

King County is the administrative lead for the Countywide Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The plan's success is built on existing strong collaborations between local, state and federal governments, and community nonprofit providers. We support maintaining and expanding funding and regulatory initiatives for affordable, appropriate housing at the federal level for homeless and low income residents of King County, including the Workforce Investment Act and funding for YouthBuild.

King County supports federal initiatives that provide services critical to maintaining housing stability and prevent homelessness, including Community Development Block Grants, McKinney Homeless Assistance Grants, HOME Investments, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, the National Housing Trust Fund, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit & Tax-Exempt Bond Housing Program. Complementing the housing strategy is the provision of tools to reduce homelessness for families, individuals and youth through early

support and intervention, including consideration of ways to prevent discharging youth and adults directly into homelessness from federal institutions. We also seek opportunities to connect county investments supporting veterans with the federal government's initiative to end homelessness for veterans.

### **Human Services**

King County supports funding for human services programs that help all children and youth grow and prosper socially and academically, offer paths to reduce or prevent involvement in the criminal justice system, crisis mental health and emergency medical systems, and provide a safety net of services and partnerships to support our most vulnerable residents. We further support initiatives that offer opportunities for independence, self-sufficiency and mobility for all residents, including those with developmental and other disabilities.

### **Land Use and Built Environment**

King County favors policies that support the integration of land use, transportation and public health through urban and suburban development standards; siting of hazardous land uses; transportation infrastructure; transit planning, and building construction requirements. We also support greater access to locally generated and fresh food, and the improved use of electronic food stamps to purchase these products from local farmers and producers. The Farm Bill and many of its components—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP)—help promote healthier communities.

### **Law & Criminal Justice**

We support a fair and accessible justice system that keeps people safe in their homes and communities. We support the use of court fees that appropriately balance the need for revenue with the need to eliminate barriers to court access. We support legislation that would allow for the interception of federal tax refunds to pay for past-due state judicial debts, as well as Child Support Enforcement funds. We are committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault for our residents, and support resources like those through the STOP Violence Against Women program. We continue to be concerned about human trafficking and will work to combat its practice. We encourage the continued use of successful crime prevention and gang intervention programs, like School Resource Officers and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants. We also support collaborative partnerships between communities and law enforcement and tools that help residents and local officers exchange information.

We also support reasonable implementation of the Voting Rights Act that allows local governments to comply without undue financial or administrative burden.

### **Stormwater/Water Quality/Puget Sound Partnership**

We support more holistic implementation of the Clean Water Act, including evaluation of and prioritization of actions at a watershed and Puget Sound scale. We seek federal funding to support watershed- and Puget Sound-scale analysis and identification of the most cost-effective approaches for retrofitting stormwater facilities. We support federal aid for wide-scale retrofits of stormwater facilities and septic systems, similar to past federal investments to develop wastewater treatment plants.

In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Cleanup that would enable high-priority clean-up actions to proceed and reduce human health risks as quickly as possible while minimizing construction impacts to local residents and businesses. Clean-up work should be subject to rigorous monitoring and adaptive management.

We support funding and implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, including funding for grants administered by EPA and establishment of the Puget Sound Restoration as a recurring line-item in the federal budget. We support federal appropriations for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program.

**Transportation**

Robust, multimodal mobility is critical to economic growth and community livability in King County and the nation. We support a surface transportation reauthorization bill that supports these goals through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds. With nearly 1,700 miles of paved roads, 51 miles of unpaved roads, and 184 bridges under county management, we have a diverse and complex mix of infrastructure needs to support our many communities. The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve and maintain the aging roadway infrastructure connecting rural, suburban and urban communities.

We support resources to acquire remaining parcels adjacent to the County's airport property, as well as funding for passenger ferry service capital investments. We support preservation and expansion of trip reduction programs and innovation in carpool and vanpool programs, including the Commute LESS Act. We support continued improvement in enforcement of laws that make it a crime to have an unsecured load.

As the operator of one of the largest bus systems in the United States, King County strongly supports federal efforts to fund public transportation improvements nationwide, including maintaining existing transit mobility while growing both bus and light-rail rapid transit systems. We support innovative opportunities for transit-oriented development that serves a number of complementary goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, focusing density into urban areas, and providing for a range of affordability levels for county residents. We support legislation to reduce greenhouse gas levels caused by transportation, including legislation that gives transit vehicles priority in the design and operation of federal roads. We support programs to promote hybrid and electric buses, electric charging stations, and alternative fuels for vehicles.

**Waste Reduction and Recycling**

We support development "cradle-to-cradle" product education, stewardship, recycling, and take-back programs for products for which improper disposal is likely to result in hazardous waste or water quality contamination, including pharmaceuticals and medicines, computers and other electronics, carpet, and fluorescent lighting. We support resources to reduce and regulate toxics in the environment, as well as the ability to exercise local authority over toxics in alignment with other laws and standards.