



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**Motion 16250**

**Proposed No.** 2022-0396.2

**Sponsors** Balducci

1                   A MOTION establishing the King County 2023 State  
2                   Legislative Agenda.

3                   WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive have  
4 worked together through their respective government relations staff and desire to bring  
5 their positions on issues facing the 2023 Washington state Legislature to the attention of  
6 the Washington state Legislature, and

7                   WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local  
8 governments and other organizations such as the Washington State Association of  
9 Counties, the Washington Association of County Officials, the Sound Cities Association  
10 and the Association of Washington Cities to achieve its 2023 legislative goals, and

11                  WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the Legislature as partners with  
12 the state in the delivery of such critical services as public health, transportation, public  
13 safety, behavioral health services, affordable housing, and water quality, and

14                  WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has further highlighted the vital role  
15 played by county government in protecting public health and safety, and has dramatically  
16 increased demand for critical public services, and

17                  WHEREAS, King County has a limited number of revenue sources available to  
18 mitigate impacts of budget decisions at the state level, and

19                  WHEREAS, King County's ability to deliver public health, behavioral health  
20 services, public safety and other basic services is directly impacted by decisions in the

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21 state budget, and

22 WHEREAS, the increasing cost of providing essential services to a growing King  
23 County population combined with an arbitrary cap on property tax revenue growth has  
24 created a structural gap in King County's general fund, which is projected to reach \$80  
25 million to \$100 million by the 2025-2026 biennial budget, and

26 WHEREAS, King County is dedicated to exploring with the state new ideas for  
27 sustained funding for critical services including transportation and transit, affordable  
28 housing, behavioral health and crisis response, public safety and flood protection, and

29 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will  
30 continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 2023  
31 state legislative program;

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

33 The King County council adopts the King County 2023 State Legislative Agenda,

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- 34 Attachment A to this motion, as King County's highest priorities for action in the 2023  
35 legislative session of the Washington state Legislature.

Motion 16250 was introduced on 10/4/2022 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/22/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott,  
Upthegrove and Zahilay  
No: 1 - Dunn  
Excused: 1 - von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

*Claudia Balducci*

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Melani Pedroza*

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. 2023 State Legislative Agenda



## TOP PRIORITIES

### Strengthen Access to Behavioral Health Care

- Eliminate obstacles to the efficient provision of behavioral health support and treatment.
- Provide immediate crisis services and behavioral health treatment by investing in behavioral health workforce, community-based behavioral health capital facilities and operations.



### Local Government Funding and Tax Reform

- Replace the arbitrary one percent property tax cap with a mechanism that accounts for inflation and population growth.
- Provide local governments with needed flexibility and tools to help implement a more progressive tax system and to preserve and maintain local roads.
- Simplify property tax exemption programs for our senior and disabled residents.



## ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

### Housing and Homelessness

- Fund additional robust capital and operating investments in low-income and supportive housing.
- Adopt policies and incentives to advance development and construction of missing middle housing.
- Adopt policies and funding to support individuals and families in recovery from substance use disorders.



### Public Safety and Justice System

- Maintain the intent of previous law enforcement accountability reforms while seeking improvements for operational implementation.
- Invest in public safety staffing.
- Address gun violence through prevention and expand innovative diversion efforts that address root causes.
- Improve conditions for juveniles in detention.



### Maintain and Expand Pro-Equity and Anti-Racist Policies

- Increase community-based resources that address hate and bias crimes and incidents.
- Address the expiring Blake decision response legislation and maintain resentencing funds for local governments.
- Pursue legislation that provides equity for people with disabilities.



### Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change

- Emphasize outcome-based water quality benefits necessary to promote long-term resilience for Puget Sound.
- Continue to enhance and grow product stewardship programs to make products safer for people and the planet, from design to disposal.
- Invest in transit, building decarbonization, vehicle electrification, clean energy supplies, and climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Support updates to land use planning and permitting that align policies with state emission reduction goals and establish greenhouse reduction goals at the regional and county level and a framework for implementation via reasonable regional, county, and local efforts.



### Ensure Access to Complete Health Care

- Ensure providers can treat patients seeking reproductive health care without repercussion and residents can access those providers despite increased demand and decreased capacity.
- Provide necessary resources for Monkeypox vaccines.
- Support policy and budget efforts that address challenges with discharging patients who no longer need acute hospital-level care to settings that provide the appropriate level of care, particularly for patients with significant medical and behavioral complexity.



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Angel Foss  
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Supplemental Documents: Motion 16250 Attachment A.pdf

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