



## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Signature Report

#### KCFC Resolution KCFC2023-02

**Proposed No.** KCFC2023-02.1

**Sponsors**

1                   A RESOLUTION approving the 2023 work program for  
2                   the office of economic and financial analysis.

3                   WHEREAS, in 2008 the citizens of King County amended the county's charter to  
4                   create the office of economic and financial analysis, and

5                   WHEREAS, the charter amendment also created the King County forecast  
6                   council, and

7                   WHEREAS, section 425.20 of the King County Charter provides that the forecast  
8                   council "shall approve an annual work program for the office of economic and financial  
9                   analysis", and

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10 WHEREAS, the county's chief economist has prepared the office's 2023 work  
11 program;


12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KING COUNTY  
13 FORECAST COUNCIL:

14 The forecast council hereby approves the 2023 work program for the office of  
15 economic and financial analysis, Attachment A to this resolution.

KCFC Resolution KCFC2023-02 was introduced on and passed by the King County  
Forecast Council on 3/9/2023, by the following vote:

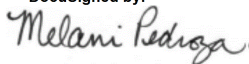
Yes: 4 - Constantine, Dively, Kohl-Welles and McDermott

KING COUNTY FORECAST COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. 2023 Work Program - Office of Economic and Financial Analysis



**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**  
**King Street Center, 3rd floor, 201 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington**  
**206.477.3410**

### **2023 Work Program**

The primary mission of the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) is to produce official economic and revenue forecasts for King County that are independent, transparent, and employ the best practices of professional forecasting. Additionally, the Forecast Council may assign additional economic and financial studies to OEFA. This document outlines the proposed work plan and timelines of OEFA work and work products for 2023.

#### **Revenue Forecasts**

OEFA will continue to produce official economic and revenue forecasts for King County including forecasts of assessed value, new construction, sales taxes, REET, investment pool return, inflation, and others. OEFA is required to prepare and present a minimum of two forecasts per year. However, it has been past practice to present a third revised final forecast in August/September in addition to the preliminary and final forecasts required by the King County charter. OEFA proposes to continue this practice in 2023. The purpose of this third forecast is to update information presented in the final forecast with the most current data available just prior to transmittal of budget submittals to Council. Prior to each of the formal meetings of the Forecast Council, OEFA staff will provide briefings to review a draft of the forecast, discuss preliminary forecast findings and respond to requests for additional information in advance of formal approval. The following is the proposed schedule for Forecast Council working sessions and formal meetings in 2023:

<b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Formal Presentation	March 9, 2023	11 AM	Remote Meeting
Formal Presentation	July 21, 2023	10 AM	Remote Meeting
Work Session	August 31, 2023	10 AM	Remote Meeting

The forecast documents will generally be consistent with past years. OEFA will continue forecasting to ten-year forecast horizons when appropriate to help facilitate the County's financial planning efforts.

#### **Additional Projects**

Listed below are additional OEFA projects that either are ongoing or are proposed to be initiated in 2023:

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### **Economic and Revenue Forecasting**

OEFA proposes to continue its efforts improving existing revenue forecasting and adding forecasts as appropriate. Proposed work for 2023 includes:

1. Maintaining and documenting models and continuing to improve, refine and analyze the accuracy of existing forecast models.
2. Expanding the forecasts as appropriate and as resources allow.
3. Making OEFA staff available to assist other King County agencies with economic and revenue forecasting and forecasting related questions.

### **Revenue Documentation**

A best practice identified by the National Association of State and Local Budget Officials (NASLB) recommends that local governments create Revenue Manuals outlining significant revenues, sources, factors, and history. OEFA completed a first ever version in 2015 and updates in 2016-2020 before moving to a biennial approach for 2022. OEFA will continue to deliver updates on a biennial basis and will deliver an updated version in spring 2024.

### **Economic Forecasting Model**

OEFA typically uses several vendor-provided forecasts as inputs to the revenue forecast models. These models include state and national input models and OEFA had historically relied on a local regional model that was widely used by local governments and other entities. However, the vendor of the local/regional model discontinued publication in June 2017. OEFA was able to acquire the model and support files and began producing its own forecast in the third quarter of 2017. At the same time, OEFA completed the development of its own model. Both models continue to be a critical input to OEFA's work and potentially other jurisdictions around the county and updating, refining, and validating on a regular basis will continue to be an important element of our work in 2023. The models allow OEFA and others to better understand and forecast local economic variables. This likely improves our forecasting, potentially yields efficiencies for other governments, and improves OEFA's understanding of the local economy. For 2023 we will continue producing, monitoring, and utilizing the model results.

### **Economic Data Development**

OEFA uses economic data in its forecast models and will continue to maintain/expand this data in support of the forecast model outlined above and to better understand the local economy. Significant items of work for 2023 include:

- Renew the agreement with the State Employment Security Department that allows OEFA to acquire employment data on King County organizations (expires 12-23)
- Continue to develop and disseminate the KC index of leading indicators.

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### **KC Organizational Support**

OEFA has continued to support county analyses and operations in each year from inception through the present and we propose to continue to do that in 2023. This includes items associated with revenue tracking, ad-hoc forecasting and others as required. Examples include:

- Monthly and year-end revenue memo
- Assistance developing property tax legislation
- Legislative review assistance
- Discount rate development
- Ad-hoc forecasting and modeling (e.g., fleets replacement)
- Rating agency and investment pool member presentations
- Credit committee participation
- Special analyses (e.g., economic impact/tax analysis)
- Others as required/desired

This work is important to county operations and is an appropriate use of OEFA resources.

### **SharePoint Site**

OEFA proposes to continue to provide and maintain current data, forecasts, and analyses on our SharePoint site. OEFA tracks and maintains data for use in its forecasts and analysis of the local economy. County employees also perform analyses using similar data in the course of their work. Having this data readily available countywide in one location should reduce redundancy and improve accuracy and consistency over time. OEFA proposes to continue to update the existing data and analysis as required.

### **Website**

The OEFA homepage displays the most recently adopted forecasts and other information that visitors to the site can access. The forecasts are available in both PDF and Excel formats and the site also includes the Forecast Council presentation and some video.

For 2023, we are continuing publication of two projects to enhance our understanding of the King County economy that are disseminated via the website. The first is the continued development and upkeep of benchmark economic indicator briefs for aspects of the King County economy that provide baseline information and highlight equity and social justice considerations. This includes such items as educational attainment, wage growth and employment. This information about the structure of our economy should be useful for anyone interested in the King County economy.

We will also continue the production of “EconPulse”, OEFA’s quarterly report on the status of the local economy. The report tracks such indicators as employment, retail sales, job advertising and includes the most recent county-wide forecast. EconPulse was initiated in the third quarter of 2014.

We will also continue to work to make our data visualizations more user-friendly and update the formatting of the website.

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**ESJ Commitments**

The County continues to lead in efforts to achieve equity guided by the “Truth North” principle. OEFA has supported the efforts of the ESJ Inter-branch team (IBT) via presentations and data support in past years. This year OEFA’s commitments include continuing to incorporate ESJ principles in the forecasting work and continuing our research efforts on the King County economy and employment. Forecast presentations will endeavor to include information on indicators across different margins (e.g., spatially across the county, across housing values, etc.). Work in support of ESJ efforts will include the benchmark development noted above with research into educational attainment, wages and poverty in King County, and other topics as resources allow. In 2022 and early 2023, we have helped teams analyzing Racism as a Public Health Crisis and equity determinants.

**Miscoded Parcels Project**

OEFA has been working for many years to identify and reclaim back tax revenues that have been incorrectly coded to cities. This has typically involved field work to analyze areas of concern, verification of tax coding with data provided by the state Department of Revenue and submittal of data to support our contention that the county is due funds when businesses are identified. This work has yielded an estimated \$4.0M in additional revenue (from 2010-2022) that would have been incorrectly sent to cities. OEFA did not perform a field audit in 2020 due to safety concerns associated with the pandemic but did complete one late in 2021 and two in 2022. We propose to continue our analysis in 2023.

**Intergovernmental and External Agency Support**

OEFA continues to support other local governments and other entities on request. OEFA has conducted roundtable discussions with representatives of suburban cities in the past and accomplished other communication via email and attachments. OEFA has also supported the analysis of forecast methods for others when asked. Others have generally indicated this is a valuable service and OEFA proposes to continue this work as desired in 2023.

Additionally, the Chief Economist has provided economic presentations/panel participation to the Institute for Supply Management (ISM), the Puget Sound Finance Officers Association, King County Investment Pool Members, and others. We will continue to provide this service as desired and as resources allow.

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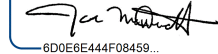
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Joe McDermott

joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov

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Melani Pedroza

melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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