



King County

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818
206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194
TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov

December 2, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would place a measure before King County voters on the Special Election ballot scheduled for April 22, 2025 seeking continued support of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) property tax levy for the years 2026 through 2032. AFIS is a successful regional program that provides fingerprint technology and services to all law enforcement agencies throughout King County. The current levy will expire at the end of 2024 and the program will operate on a fund balance for the 2025 calendar year.

The AFIS Program is a crucial tool for enhancing public and law enforcement officer safety by facilitating information-sharing and the identification of those involved in criminal activity. The program has proven to be an invaluable tool, with numerous success stories and endorsements from local law enforcement agencies. Since its inception in 1986 as a county-wide, levy funded program, AFIS has become a model of efficiency and effectiveness, providing shared services on a regional scale. The regional approach eliminates the need for individual police agencies to fund or contract for their own stand-alone technology and resources.

The levy rate proposed is \$0.0275 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The estimated impact on the owner of a \$875,000 home in King County would be approximately \$24 in 2026. Over the seven-year levy period from 2026 to 2032, the levy is expected to generate approximately \$188 million in funding to maintain existing services and support ongoing technological advancements.

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In light of the current economic climate, the AFIS Program, in collaboration with the AFIS Advisory Committee (AAC) has developed a conservative, status quo levy designed to cover expenditures necessary to maintain, replace, or restore existing technology and operations for an additional seven years. The AAC has reviewed and endorsed the proposed Ordinance and levy rate.

Throughout its history, the AFIS Program has consistently demonstrated its ability to manage projects and operations effectively, remaining under budget while maintaining or expanding services. This commitment to responsible management, efficiency, and regional collaboration will continue throughout the next levy period, should voters approve the renewal in April.

Thank you for your considerations of this proposed Ordinance. I am certain that the King County Council recognizes the importance of this successful program and its mission to deliver regional identification services to law enforcement agencies across the county.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Patti Cole-Tindall, Sheriff, King County Department of Public Safety, at 206-263-2878.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
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, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Patti Cole-Tindall, King County Sheriff
Michael Leahy, Manager, King County AFIS Program, King County Sheriff's Office