

KING COUNTY UPDATE



Councilmember
Reagan Dunn

*State of the County
Bellevue City Council*

February 5, 2024



Agenda

Introduction

Redistricting

Substance Use Disorder

Public Safety

Court Backlog

King County's Biennial Budget

Community Investments

Q&A

King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

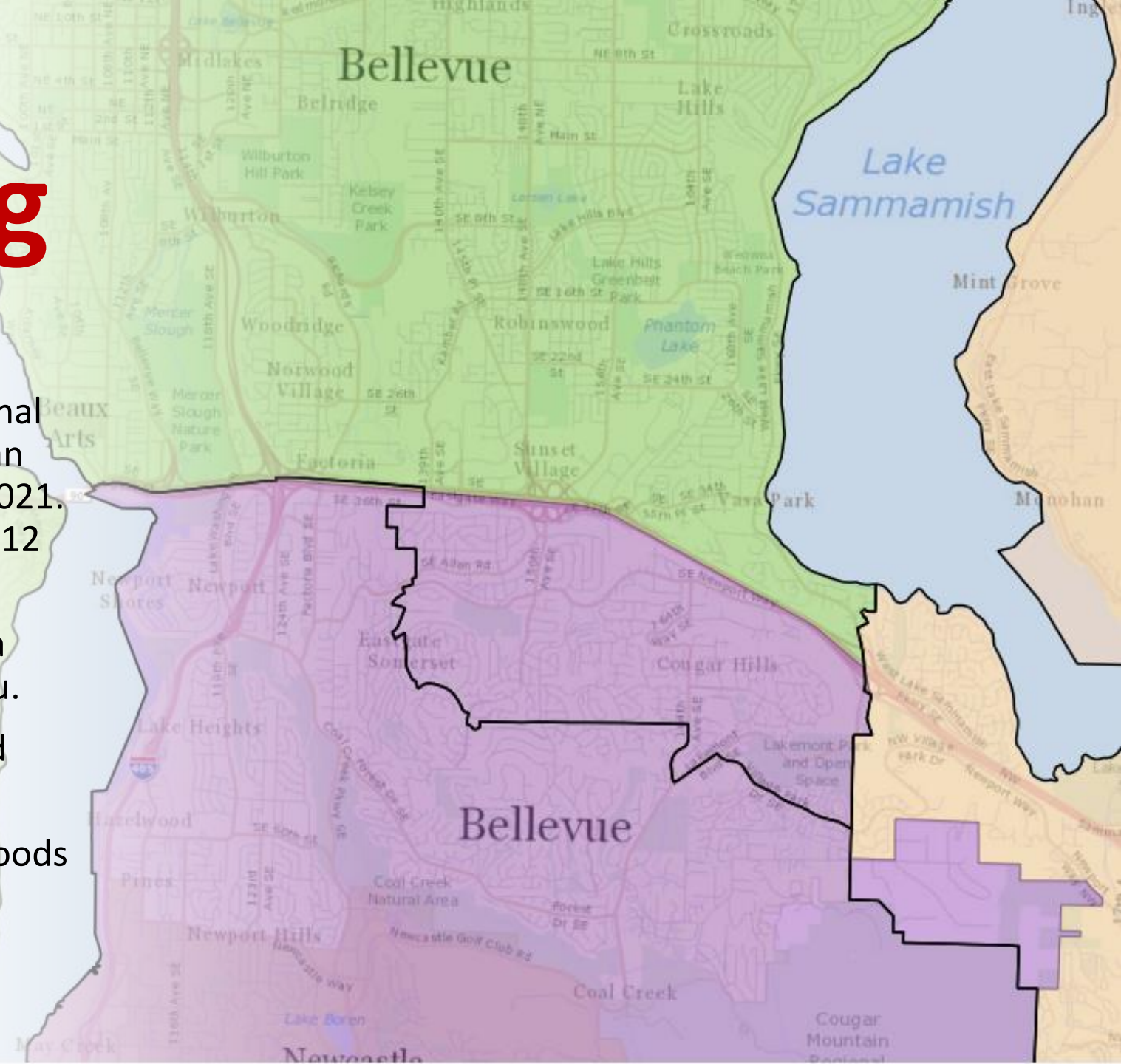
2024 Council Assignments

- Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan King County Council
- Committee assignments:
 - Local Services and Land Use
 - Law and Justice
 - Government Accountability and Oversight
 - Regional Water Quality
 - Committee of the Whole
- Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the King County Flood Control District



King County Redistricting

- On December 8, 2021, the Districting Committee adopted the Amended Final Draft Districting Master Plan. This plan became effective on December 21, 2021.
 - Total District 9 population: 251,812
- The new District 9 includes a new portion of South Bellevue as well as a new portion of the Enumclaw Plateau.
- District 9 no longer contains Kent and lost a portion of Renton.
- District 9 now includes all neighborhoods in the City of Bellevue below I-90.



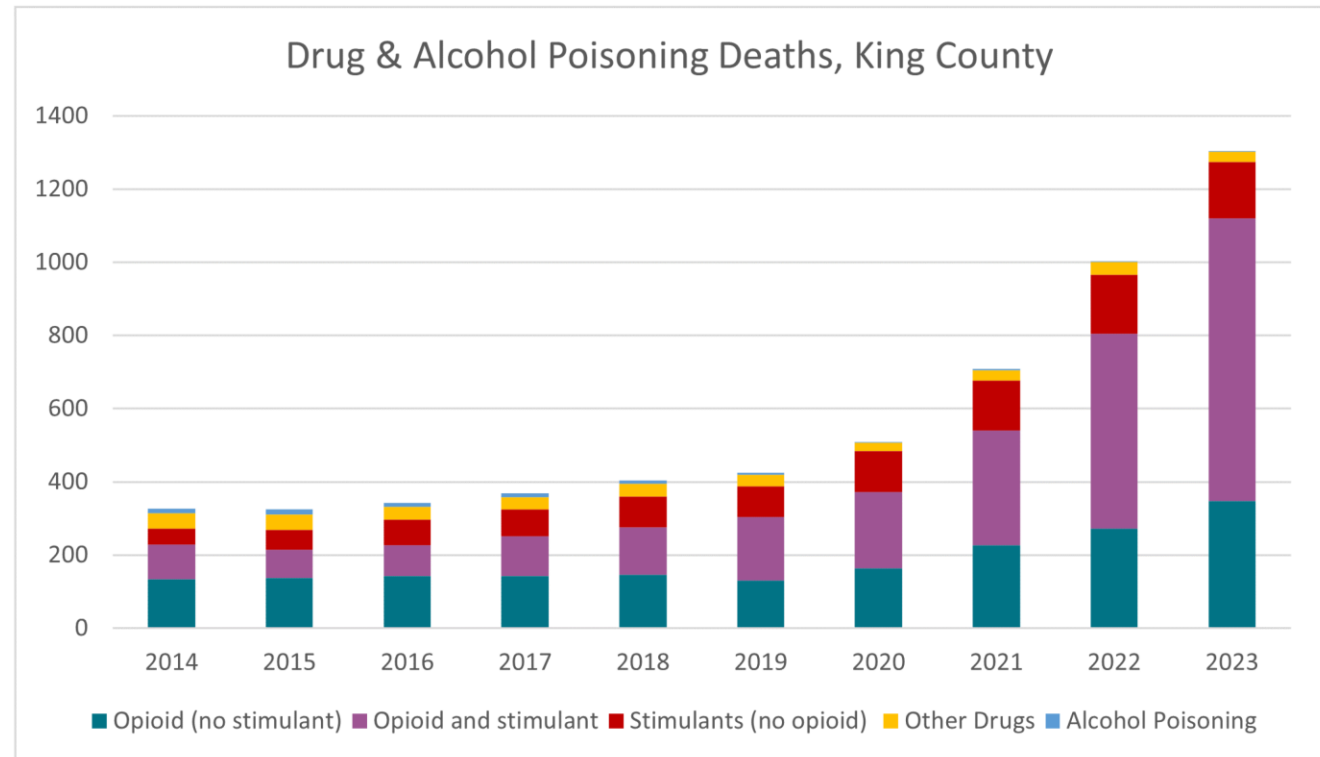
Substance Use & Recovery

A mounting Public Health crisis

- **Increases in Behavioral Health Issues** – During the pandemic, 40% of adults reported experiencing adverse mental or behavioral health conditions
 - 13% reporting increased drug and alcohol addiction to cope with stress or emotions related to COVID-19.
- **Overdoses Rapidly Rising** – In King County, overdose deaths increased 207% between 2019 and 2023.
 - 2019 – 424
 - 2020 – 509
 - 2021 – 708
 - 2022 – 1,001
 - 2023 – 1,311

Reagan Dunn
King County Councilmember

Public Health
Seattle & King County 



Source: King County Fatal Overdose Dashboard

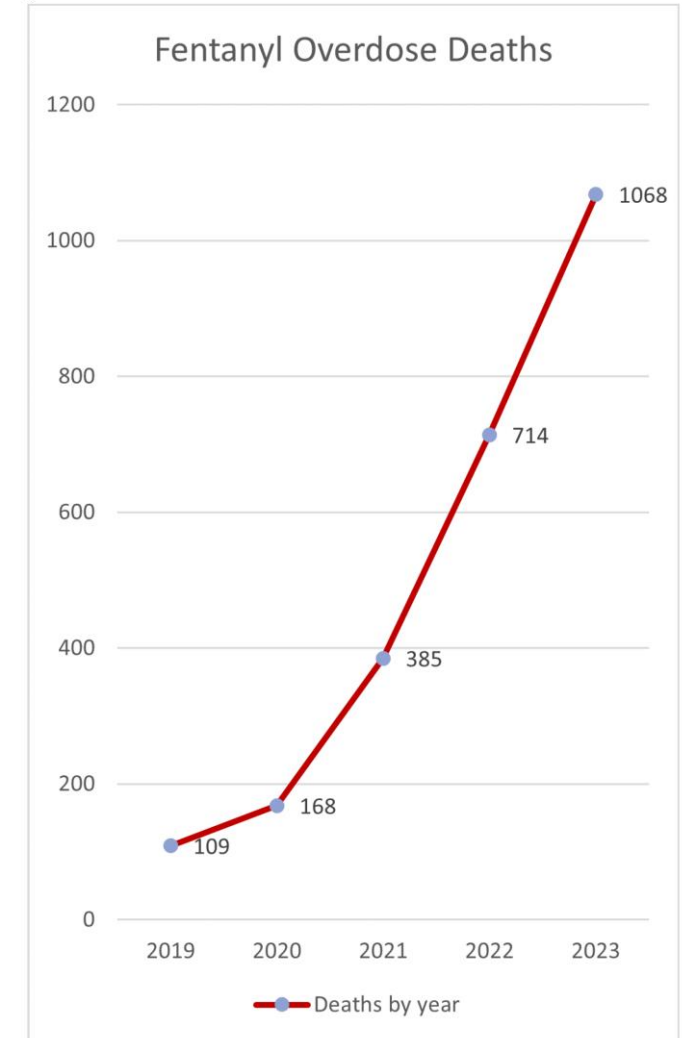
Substance Use & Recovery

Fentanyl

- **Fatal overdoses in King County** – largely driven by fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 100 times stronger than morphine.
 - In King County, we've seen a 880% increase in fentanyl deaths since 2019.
 - 2019 fentanyl deaths = 109
 - 2023 fentanyl deaths = 1,068
- **Fentanyl as a Public Health Crisis** – in July 2022, King County Council declared fentanyl a public health crisis and asked Public Health to develop strategies to combat overdose deaths.
- **“Laced and Lethal” overdose prevention campaign** - In 2023, the Council approved my funding request of \$150,000 to continue “Laced and Lethal,” a campaign to raise awareness in youth about the dangers of fentanyl.
 - “Laced and Lethal” was adapted into **“Talk Even If,”** an awareness campaign highlighting that a teen dies of overdose every 2 weeks in King County.

Reagan Dunn
King County Council Member

Public Health
Seattle & King County



Source: King County Fatal Overdose Dashboard

Substance Use & Recovery

Public Awareness Campaigns

“Don’t Count Us Out” Anti-Stigma Campaign – In 2021, the Council approved my funding request of \$500,000 to launch a campaign to reduce the stigma for those seeking help for substance use disorder. I worked to provide another \$150,000 to continue this campaign in King County’s 2023-24 biennial budget.

- 2023 NACo Achievement Award



3rd Annual King County Conference on Substance Use Disorders

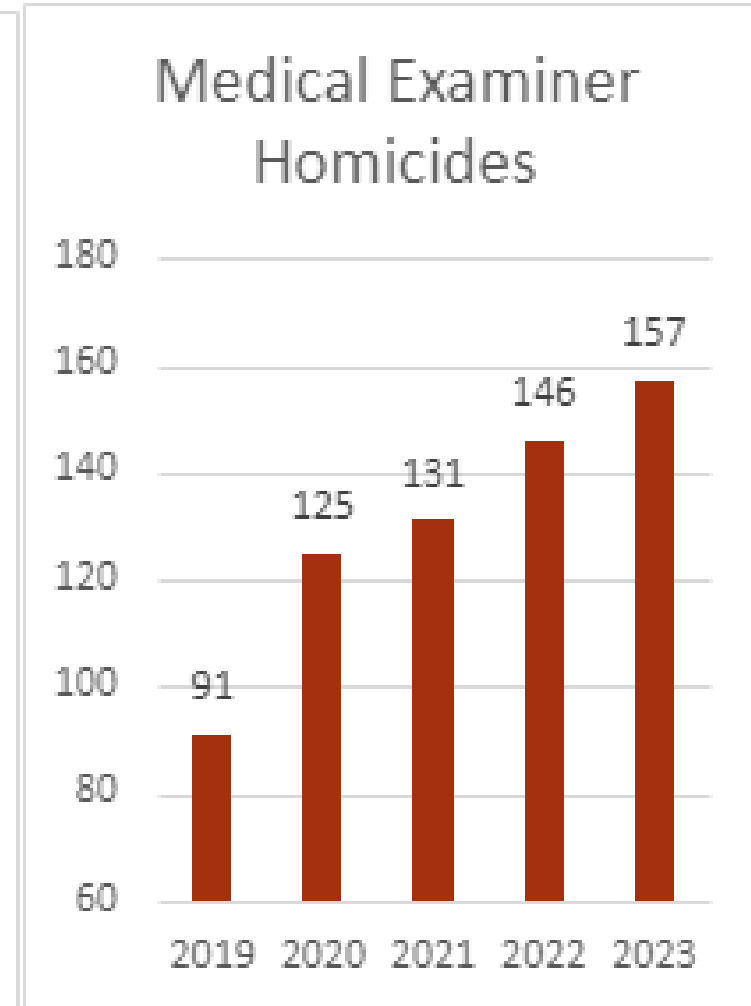
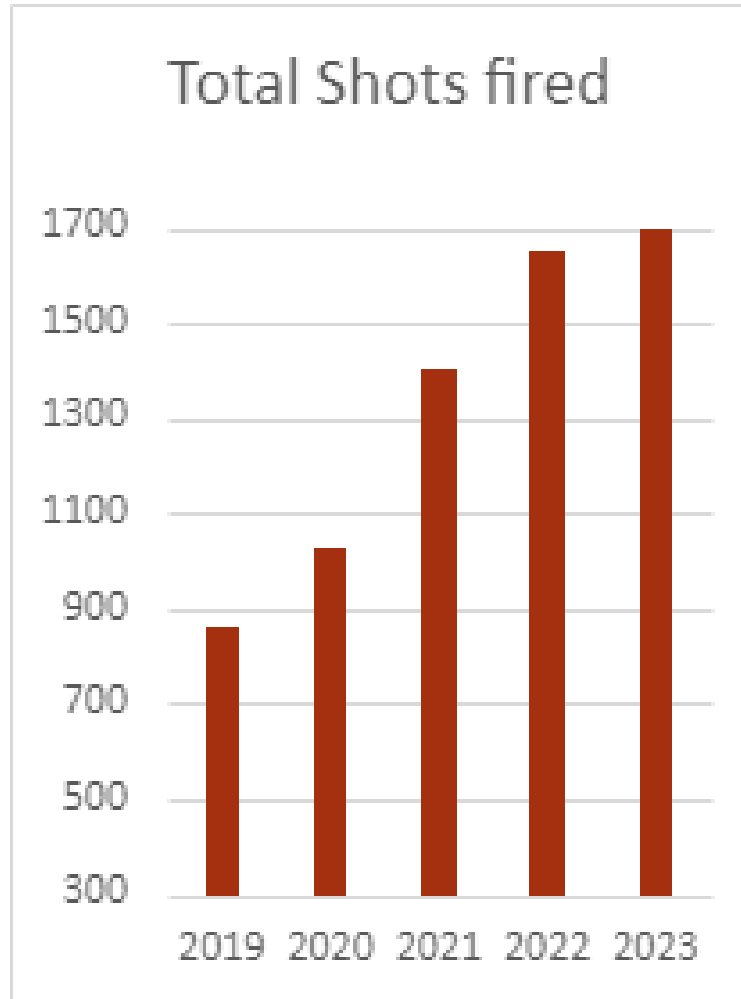
- *Took Place on Thursday May 11, 2023 at Bellevue Community College*
- *Over 700 registrants total*
- *Nearly 300 attended in person*

Community Safety

Violent Crime Spike in King County

King County experienced a dramatic increase in violent crimes in recent years, including a spike in gun violence and a record number of homicides.

- **Homicides and murders have spiked 73% since 2019** - The number of homicides has increased from 91 in 2019 to 157 in 2023.
- **Firearm violence has skyrocketed**
 - Shootings have doubled since 2019.
 - Firearm homicide victims has more than doubled from 49 in 2019 to 107 in 2023.
 - Of the 476 shooting victims in 2022, 86% were male; 26% were between the ages of 18-24 ; and 78% were people of color.



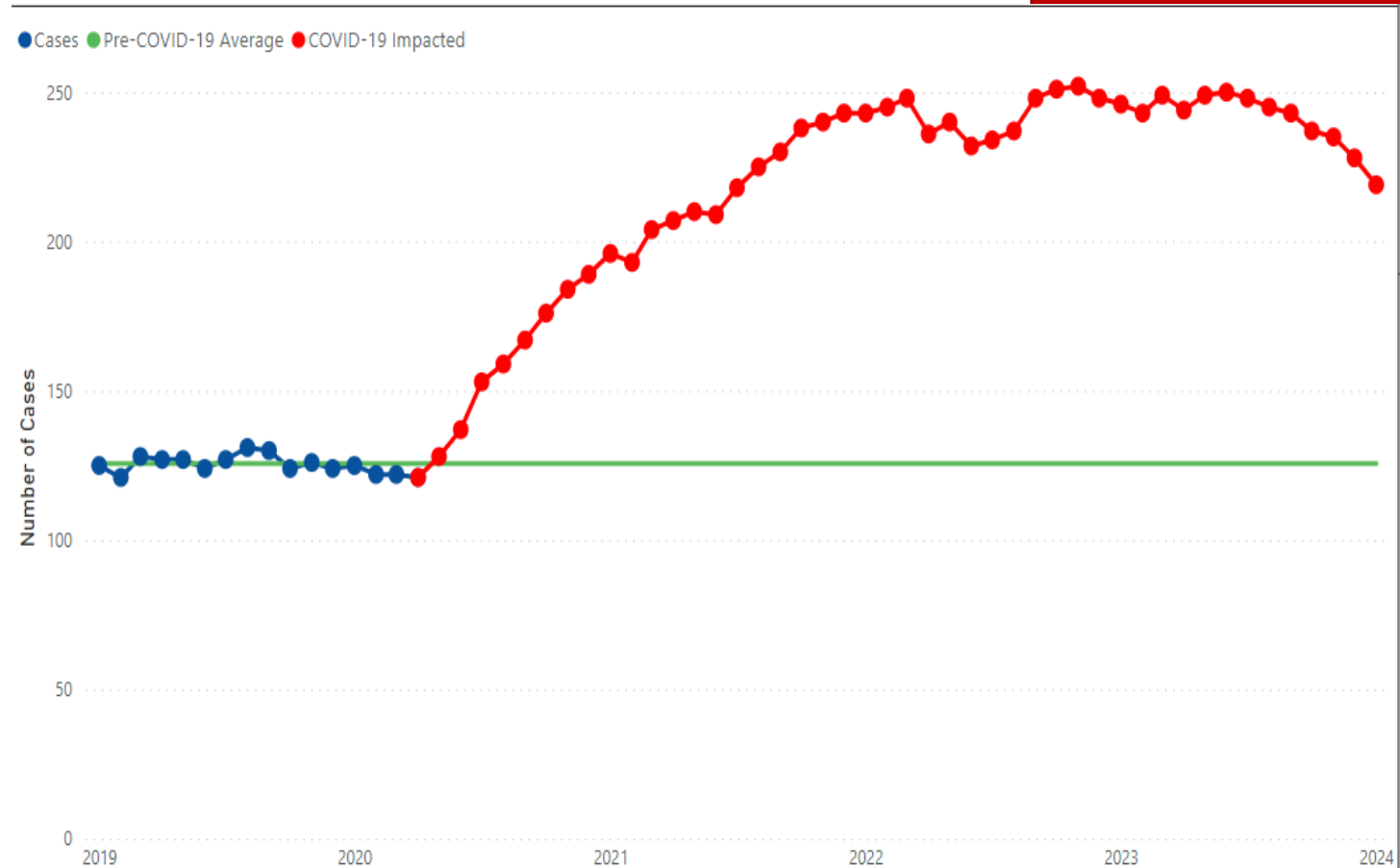
Our Criminal Justice System

Many violent crimes left unresolved

Pending Murder/Homicide Cases

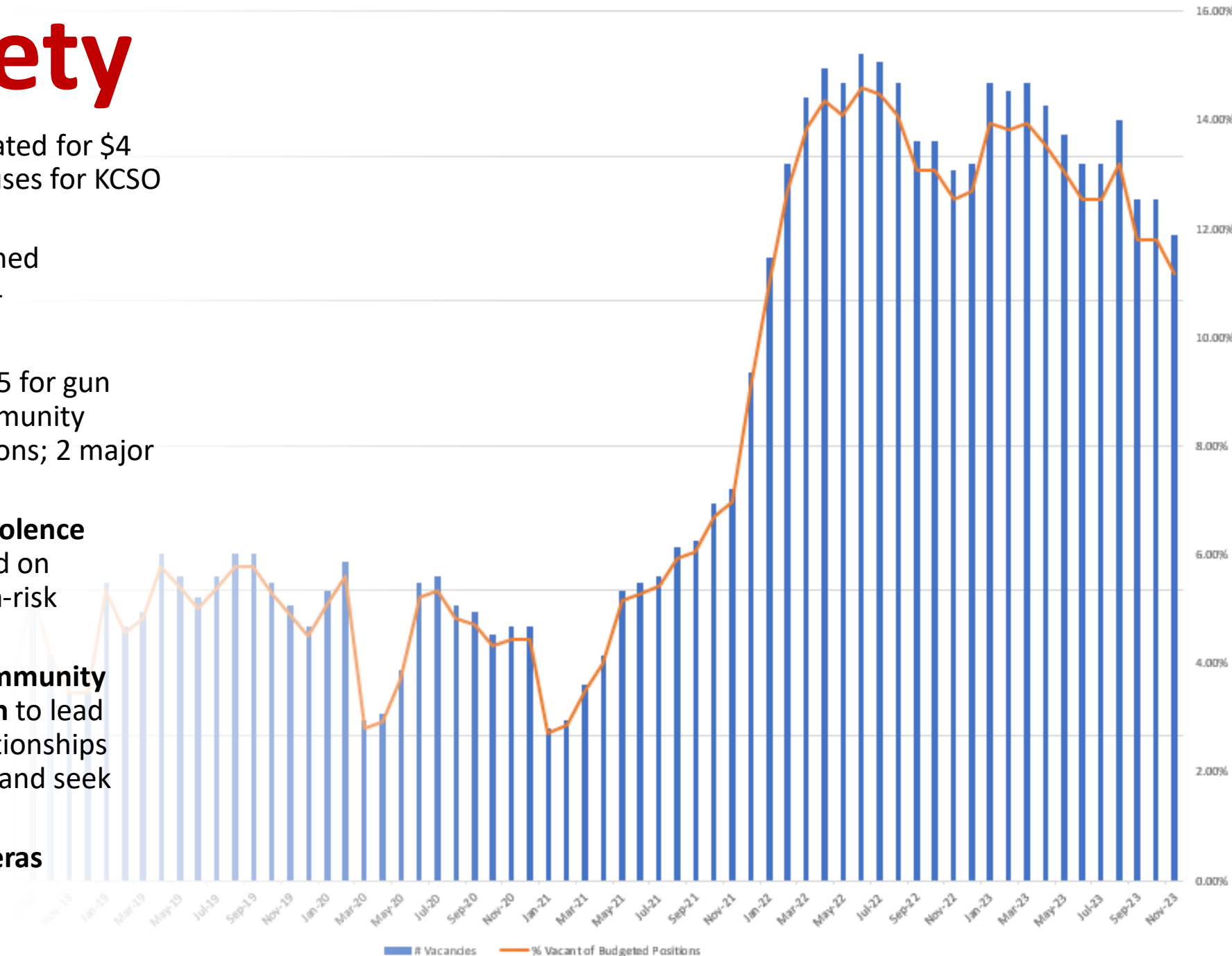
Despite the rise in serious crime, the caseload at the King County Superior Court has become severely backlogged and record levels of felony cases have been left pending due to COVID-19 restrictions and a lack of funding.

- Pending felonies have risen from an average of 3,172 in February 2019 to 4,383 in January 2024.
- Major offenses including homicide, rape, robbery, and assault have risen from 1,984 to 3,003 cases between January 2019 and January 2024.



Public Safety

- **KCSO Hiring and Retention** – Advocated for \$4 million for retention and hiring bonuses for KCSO deputies and a dedicated recruiter.
 - We are down to 89 commissioned vacancies from the peak of 104
- **Recent Investments** –
 - **14 new Sheriff's Office FTEs** - (5 for gun violence prevention; 2 for community programs; 2 for special operations; 2 major crimes detectives)
 - **\$1.7 million to create a Gun Violence Special Emphasis Team** focused on preventing gun violence in high-risk communities.
 - **\$700,000 to create a KCSO Community Programs and Services Division** to lead KCSO's efforts to maintain relationships with community organizations and seek community input.
 - **\$4 million for body worn cameras**



Public Safety, cont.

- The mid-biennial budget made the following investments:
 - **\$6.5 million** for a new helicopter for the Sheriff's Office
 - **\$1.7 million** for a new Park Ranger Program
- The mid-biennial budget also provided **\$1 million** in ongoing funding to support the increased workload associated with body worn camera requirements.
 - The PAO requested 2 paralegals, 2 attorneys, and 3 public records positions to review and process videos in real time as well as new high volume/capacity computers for 10 employees.



King County Budget

King County is addressing a \$100 million revenue shortfall in 2025-26

- In December 2023, the King County Council approved the \$511 million mid-biennial budget, which cut \$15 million from the King County 2023-2024 biennial budget's \$750 million general fund.
 - These cuts were mostly in the form of eliminating vacant positions, including 13 FTEs at the Sheriff's Office.
- General fund cuts for the 2025 annual budget are expected to surpass \$50 million.
- An additional \$35 million in cuts is expected to take place in 2026.
- The mid-biennial budget also made the following investments:
 - \$3 million, to be reimbursed by the state, to provide housing and hotel rooms for the hundreds of asylum-seekers currently living in encampments on the grounds of a Tukwila church.
 - \$1.5 million for the Restorative Community Pathways program, which offers community-driven alternatives to lower-level youth offenders to keep them out of the criminal legal system.
- The budget package passed 6-3, with Councilmembers Reagan Dunn, Rod Dembowski, and Pete von Reichbauer voting no. All three had opposed adding new funding to funding from Restorative Community Pathways.

Community Investments

2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS

- \$2,000 for the Eastside Heritage Center
- \$2,000 for the Bellevue Schools Foundation
- \$5,000 for the Bellevue Thunderbirds
- \$5,000 Get Active/Stay Active grant for Newport High School
- \$5,000 Get Active/Stay Active grant for the Bellevue School Foundation
- \$5,000 Get Active/Stay Active grant for the City of Bellevue
- \$9,247,500 to the City of Bellevue to support its Cougar Mountain Connections project
 - Dunn and Balducci authored a joint letter to the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee to express their support for the project.

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT PROJECTS

- \$6.814 million just approved for Factoria Blvd Storm Conveyance Improvements Project
- *Now complete* – Lower Coal Creek Project - replaced undersized culverts that caused neighborhood flooding and were barriers to fish passage.



To connect with grant opportunities, contact my office at reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov



Questions?

Contact me anytime:

Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov