



**DATE:** January 23, 2023

**TO:** Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

**SUBJECT:** King County Regional Committees Update

**Regional Policy Committee (RPC)**

At its December 7 meeting, the RPC:

- **Discussed King County Executive Constantine's behavioral health property tax levy.** The levy would be assessed at 14.5 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value, estimated to cost approximately \$121 per year in 2024 for a median-priced home of \$694,000. Total revenue is estimated at \$1.25 billion over nine years (2024-32) with 1 percent allowable growth.

The primary purpose of the levy is to create five new regional crisis care centers, which would be distributed geographically across the county. The centers would provide walk-in access and the potential for short-term stays to help people stabilize, depending on needs, with one center specifically serving persons younger than 19. At least one center would be located in East King County, which includes Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, and Yarrow Point.

The levy has two supporting purposes:

- Restore the number of mental health residential treatment beds in King County to at least 355 beds and expand the availability and sustainability of residential treatment in King County. The County has 244 residential mental health beds. As of July 2022, people wait an average of 44 days before being placed in a mental health treatment bed.
- Increase the sustainability and representativeness of the behavioral health workforce in King County. The levy proposes to improve financial sustainability for the behavioral health workforce through increased wages, apprenticeship programming, and reduction of costs such as costs of insurance, childcare, caregiving and fees or tuition associated with behavioral health training and certification.

RPC members spoke in support of reporting ZIP code-level data to show the geographic distribution of levy investments.

At its January 11 meeting, the RPC:



- **Elected Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus to serve as RPC vice chair in 2023.**
- **Received a briefing from Public Health – Seattle & King County (Public Health)**, a department of King County that serves a resident population of nearly 2.2 million. Public Health is one of the largest metropolitan health departments in the United States with 1,400 employees, 40 sites, and a biennial budget of \$686 million.
- **Recommended the King County Council approve the behavioral health property tax levy** described above. The RPC amended the levy ordinance to require annual reporting of ZIP code-level data and to make technical corrections.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for February 8. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

#### **Regional Transit Committee (RTC)**

At its January 18 meeting, the RTC:

- **Introduced King County Metro General Manager Michelle Allison, who was appointed in January 2023.**
- **Elected Kirkland Councilmember Jon Pascal to serve as RTC vice chair in 2023.**
- **Received a briefing on the draft 2023 RTC Work Plan**, which will include briefings on the RapidRide K Line Progress Report, a System Evaluation Report, and service recovery plans.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for February 15. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

#### **Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)**

The RWQC canceled its January meeting.

- **King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci is the new Chair.** Other Councilmembers representing King County on the RWQC include Reagan Dunn (former Chair) and Dave Upthegrove.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for February 1. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.



**Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)**

Notes from recent AHC meetings were not available in time for packet production but will be included in the next set of reports.

**Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)**

Notes from recent GMPB meetings were not available in time for packet production but will be included in the next set of reports.