

King County Councilmember
Reagan Dunn

State of the County
City of Bellevue
2025



King County
Council District 9



King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

2025 Council Assignments

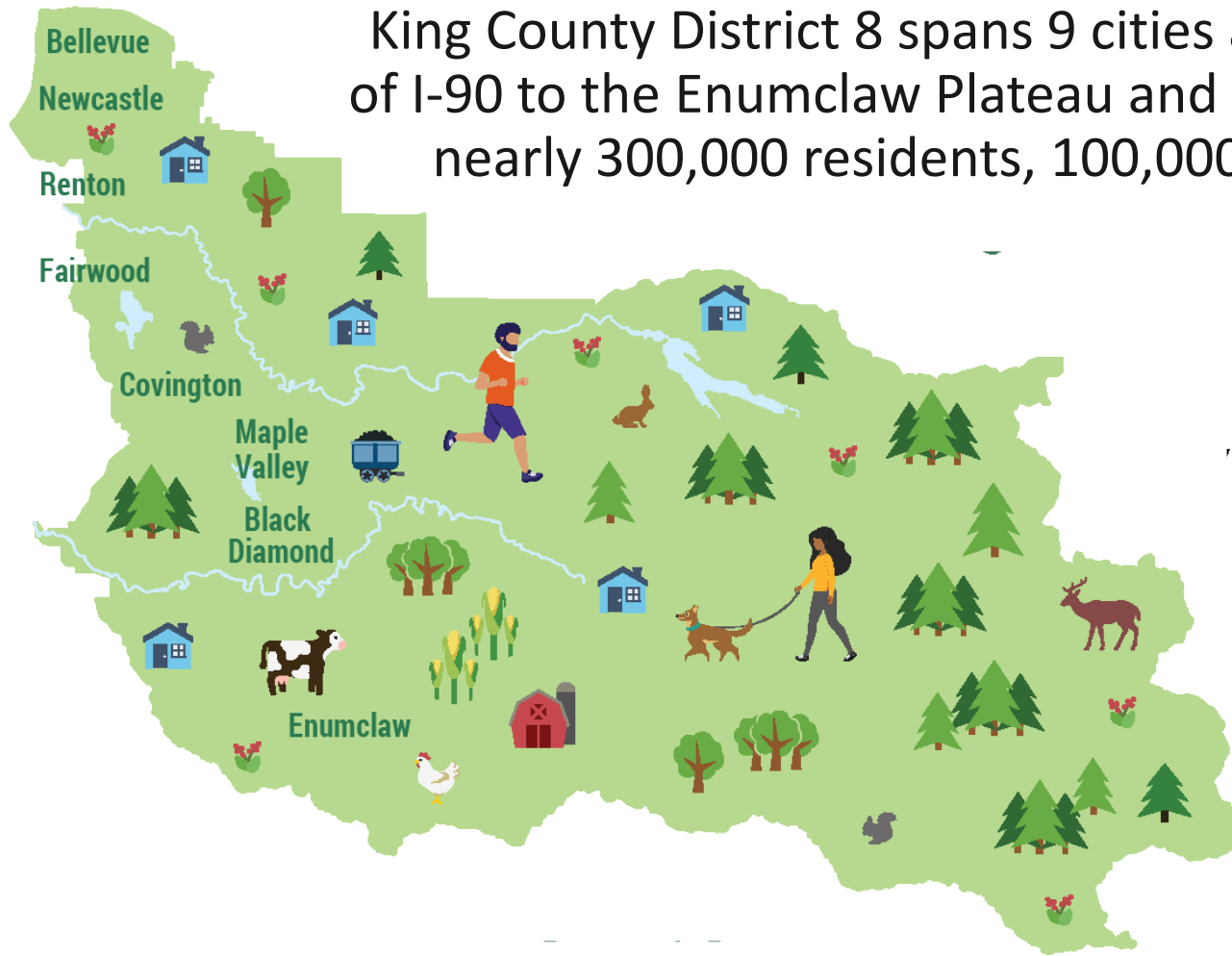
- Vice Chair of the Metropolitan King County Council
- Committee assignments:
 - Local Services and Land Use
 - Vice Chair of Health and Human Services
 - Vice Chair of Government Accountability and Oversight
 - Regional Water Quality
 - Committee of the Whole
- King County Flood Control District
 - Chair of the Board of Supervisors
 - Chair of the Executive Committee



King County Council District 9

Reagan Dunn

King County District 8 spans 9 cities and unincorporated communities, from south of I-90 to the Enumclaw Plateau and west to the Cascade Mountains. District 9 has nearly 300,000 residents, 100,000 of whom live in unincorporated King County.



Cities

- Bellevue
- Newcastle
- Renton
- Maple Valley
- Covington
- Black Diamond
- Enumclaw

Unincorporated

- Fairwood
- Mirrormont
- Hobart
- Ravensdale
- Morton-Berrydale
- Lake Holmes
- Neuwakum-Wabash
- Cumberland

Muckleshoot Tribe

District 9 Voices

Constituent Issues

TOP THREE ISSUES

- 1. Reducing Crime & Improving Public Safety (71%)**
- 2. Reducing Property Taxes (48%)**
- 3. Solving Homelessness (30%)**

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **In the past year, have you felt more or less safe in your community**
 - More Safe (3.5%)
 - Less Safe (53.3%)
 - The Same (42.6%)
- **Do you support the Executive's plan to close the juvenile jail by 2028?**
 - No (93.3%)
 - Yes (6.7%)

Do you want to see more or less law enforcement in your community?

- More (69.3%)
- Less (1.4%)
- Maintain the Same Amount (27.4%)

TAXES

- 68.3% do not support new taxes or levees, including Parks and Open Space, Roads, Harborview, MIDD.

HOMELESSNESS

- 90.4% of District 9 constituents do not think King County is doing an adequate job addressing homelessness.
- 92.1% would support a law requiring the removal of homeless encampments (provided there is nearby shelter).

Year in Review

Top Issues of 2025 for District 9

- **Harborview Hospital Tax**

- In November, the Council voted to impose a property tax to fund maintenance, operations, and capital projects at Harborview Medical Center.
- The new tax, intended to aid Harborview, was targeted by county leaders to the tune of \$30 million to fund the county's public health clinics.
- King County needs to make the necessary choices to improve operations, reduce waste, and balance its budget before raising taxes to use funds intended for Harborview to fund its own unsustainable operations.

- **Creating a minimum wage that would only affect unincorporated businesses**

- The King County Council passed a minimum wage of over \$20.29, affecting only unincorporated businesses.
- This gave unincorporated King County one of the highest minimum wages in King County.

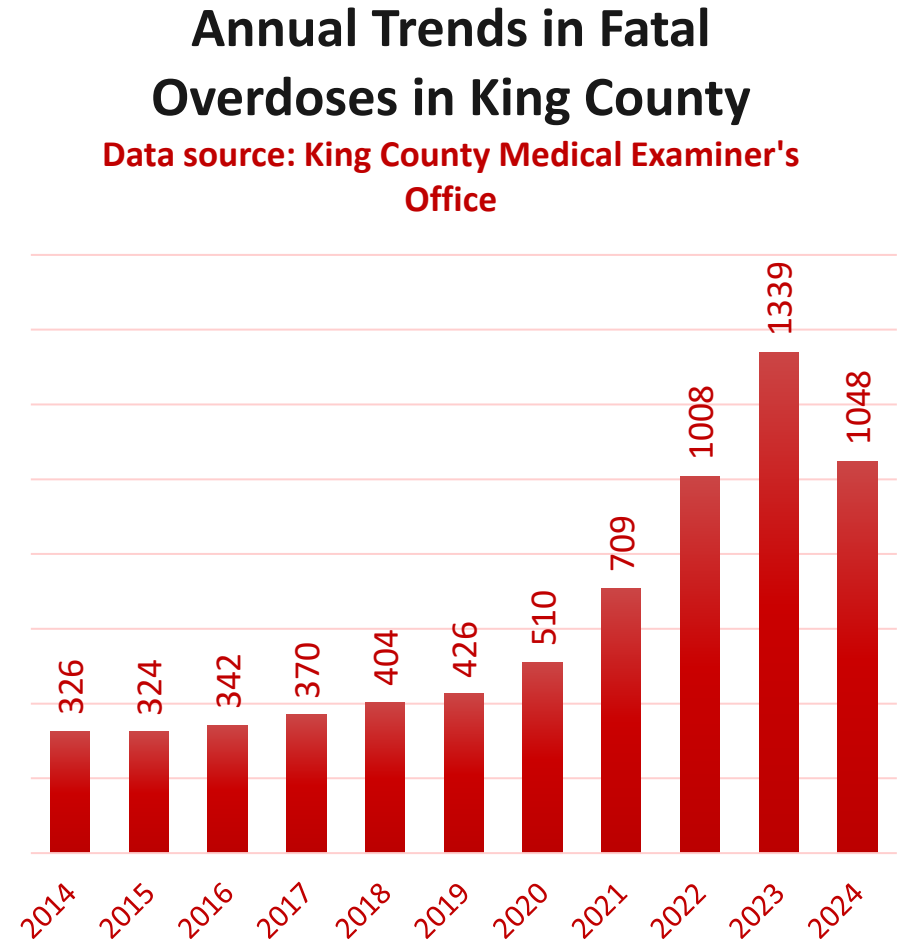
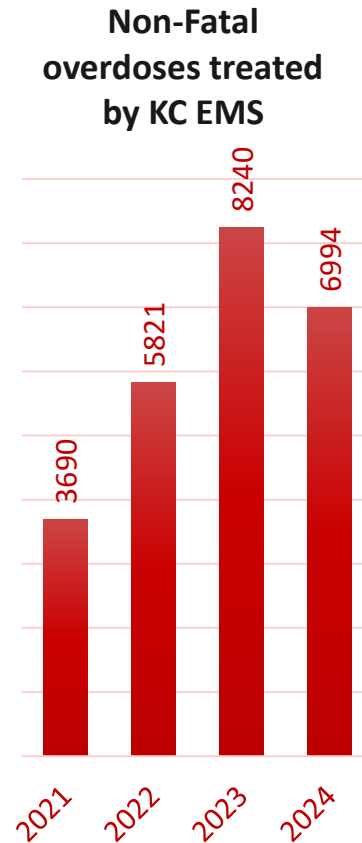
- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); Comprehensive Plan; Winery, Beverage, and Distillery Ordinance**

- BESS – Zoning legislation allowed BESS facilities in all zones except agriculture, where the Council was able to keep BESS as a prohibited use.
- As the voice for 90,000 unincorporated King County residents, I voted no in opposition of land use policy that our communities in District 9 expressly opposed.

Substance Use & Recovery

A Continuing Public Health Crisis

- **Overdoses Rapidly Rising** – In King County, overdose deaths increased 209% between 2019 and 2023.
- **2024 fatal and non-fatal overdoses**
 - 1,048 Overdose deaths
 - 6,994 Nonfatal overdoses treated by King County EMS
- **Fatal overdoses in King County** – largely driven by fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 100 times stronger than morphine.
 - 880% increase in fentanyl deaths, from 2019 to 2023 (111 to 1,085 deaths).
- **Overdose trends in 2024** – Due to the lethality of fentanyl, the death rate has outpaced the rate of new users, which is why we have seen fewer overdoses in 2024



Substance Use & Recovery

Initiatives

Fentanyl as a Public Health Crisis

- King County Council declared fentanyl a public health crisis and asked Public Health to develop strategies to combat overdose deaths (2022)

Public Awareness Campaigns

- **Don't Count Us Out** – Anti-stigmatization
- **Laced & Lethal** – Fentanyl Awareness for Youth
- **Talk Even If** – Fentanyl Awareness for Parents

Crisis Cares Centers

- **5 Crisis Care Centers:** North, East, Central, South, Youth
- **Mobile Crisis Unit** – King County Behavioral Health launched 10 new mobile crisis teams in December

5th Annual King County Conference on Substance Use Disorders

- *2025 Conference will take place at Green River College on June 25, 2025*



Homelessness Crisis

Homelessness Rises Despite Investments

Since the creation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, there has been a rapid rise in the number of people who are homeless and the percentage of those living unsheltered, despite a \$250,000,000 budget in 2024.

Point-in-Time Count

	2019	2020	2022	2024
Count	11,199	11,751	13,368	16,285
Unsheltered	47%	47%	57%	60%

* 2021 Counties were not required to do a Point-in-Time Count due to the pandemic

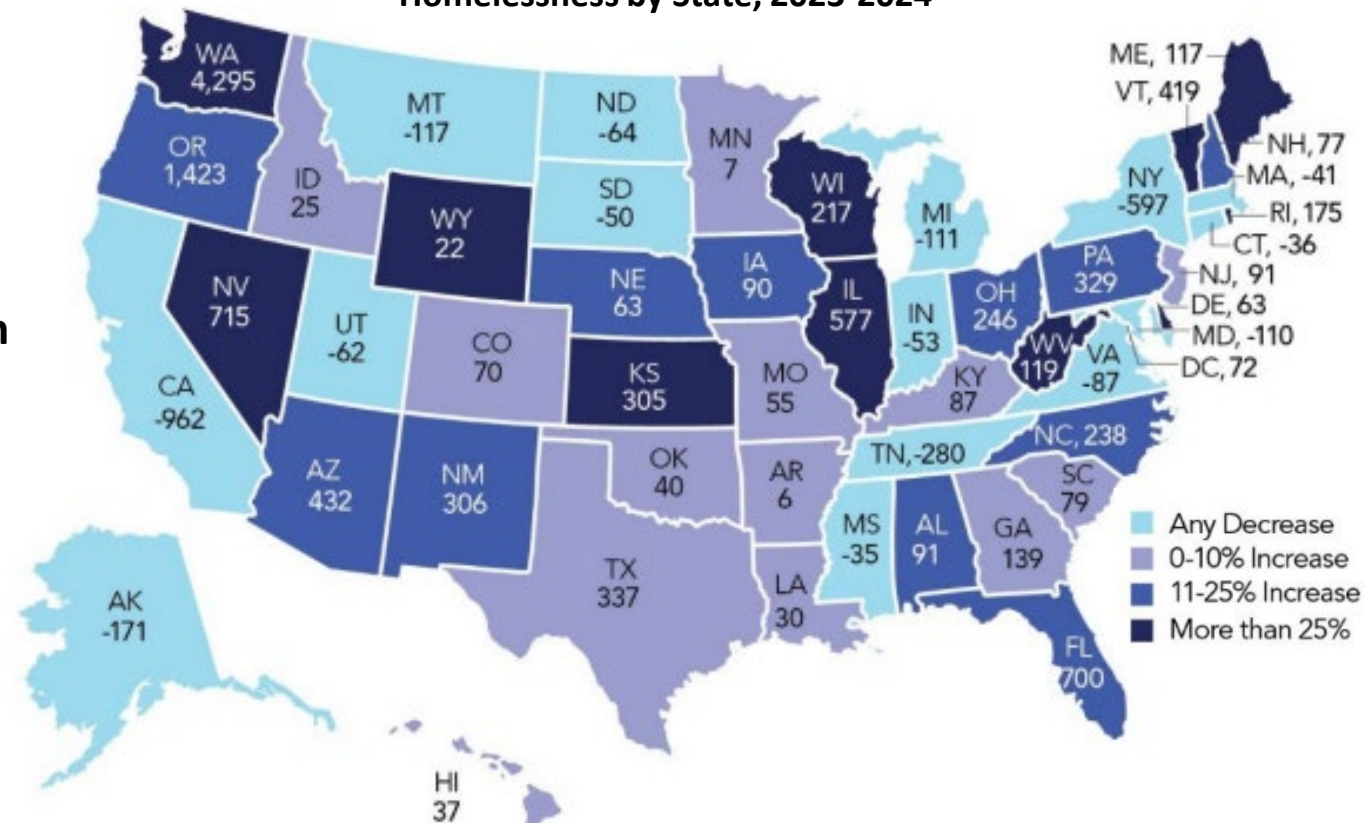
* In 2023 King County sought exemption from the Point-in-Time Count

Washington has the third-largest homeless population in the nation, after California and New York.

Compare here with New York, a state with nearly 2 ½ times more people.

- Washington had 16,222 rough sleepers on a given night in 2024; New York had just 5,638.
- Chronic cases: Washington had 9,185 unsheltered compared with New York's 1,337.

Changes in the Number of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Patterns of Homelessness by State, 2023-2024



Court Backlog

Unlawful Detainers

King County Superior Court Unlawful Detainer Case Backlog

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Filings Total	4625	1356	682	2317	4542	7098
Filings Monthly Average	385	113	57	193	379	645
Dispositions Total	4617	1219	653	1932	3476	6353
Dispositions Monthly Average	385	102	54	161	290	578
Pending Monthly Average	481	461	493	714	1082	2276

King County Superior Court is experiencing an unprecedented backlog of unlawful detainer cases.

- **Worked with the Courts**
 - Created an expedited hearing process for individuals who are a danger to the community
 - Implemented emergency rules to minimize unnecessary delays and continuances
- **Budget and Legislation**
 - Adding judicial officers and support staff dedicated to addressing unlawful detainer cases to the tune of \$846,646
 - Adding support staff for judicial officers in Superior Court dedicated to addressing unlawful detainer cases to the tune of \$679,231.
 - Legislation adding two new Superior Court Judges
- **Legislative Agenda**
 - The County's 2025 state legislative agenda requests authority for authority for additional court commissioners to unlawful detainer cases

Our Criminal Justice System:

Violent Crime in King County

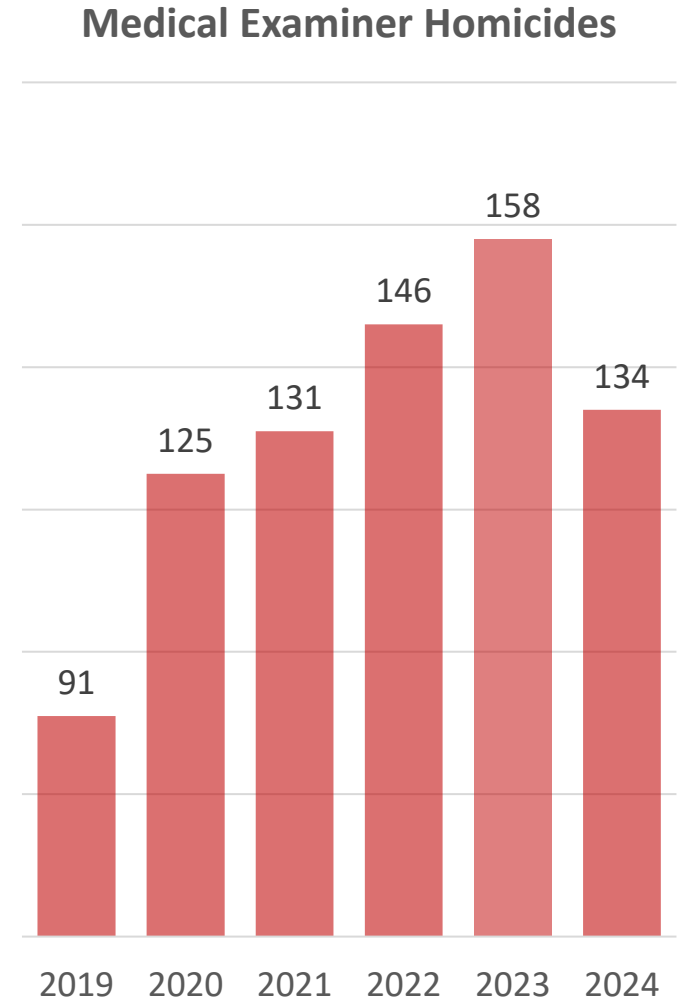
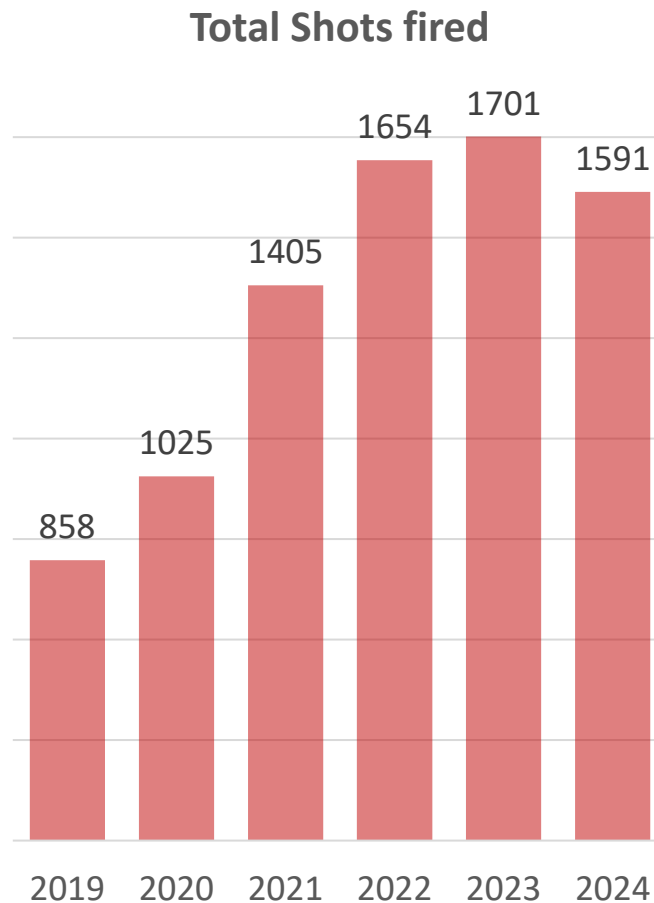
King County experienced a dramatic increase in violent crimes in recent years, including a spike in gun violence and a record number of homicides.

Homicides spiked 73% between 2019 and 2023

Shootings doubled since 2019 and 2023

- Firearm homicide victims has more than doubled from 49 in 2019 to 107 in 2023.
- Of the 394 shooting victims, 82% were male; 26% were aged between 18-24; and 76% were people of color.

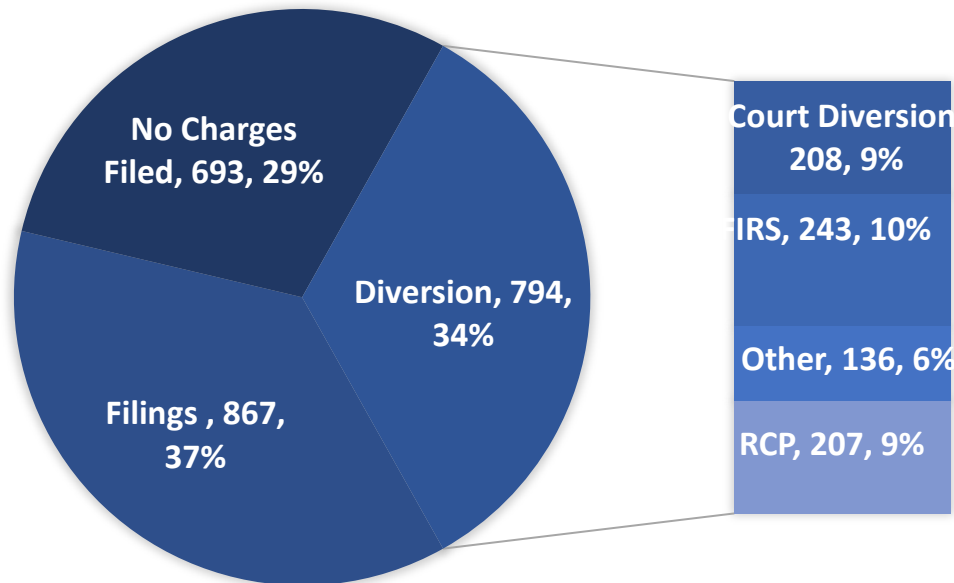
While shootings and homicides are down from the peak in 2024, they are still far above the 2019 levels



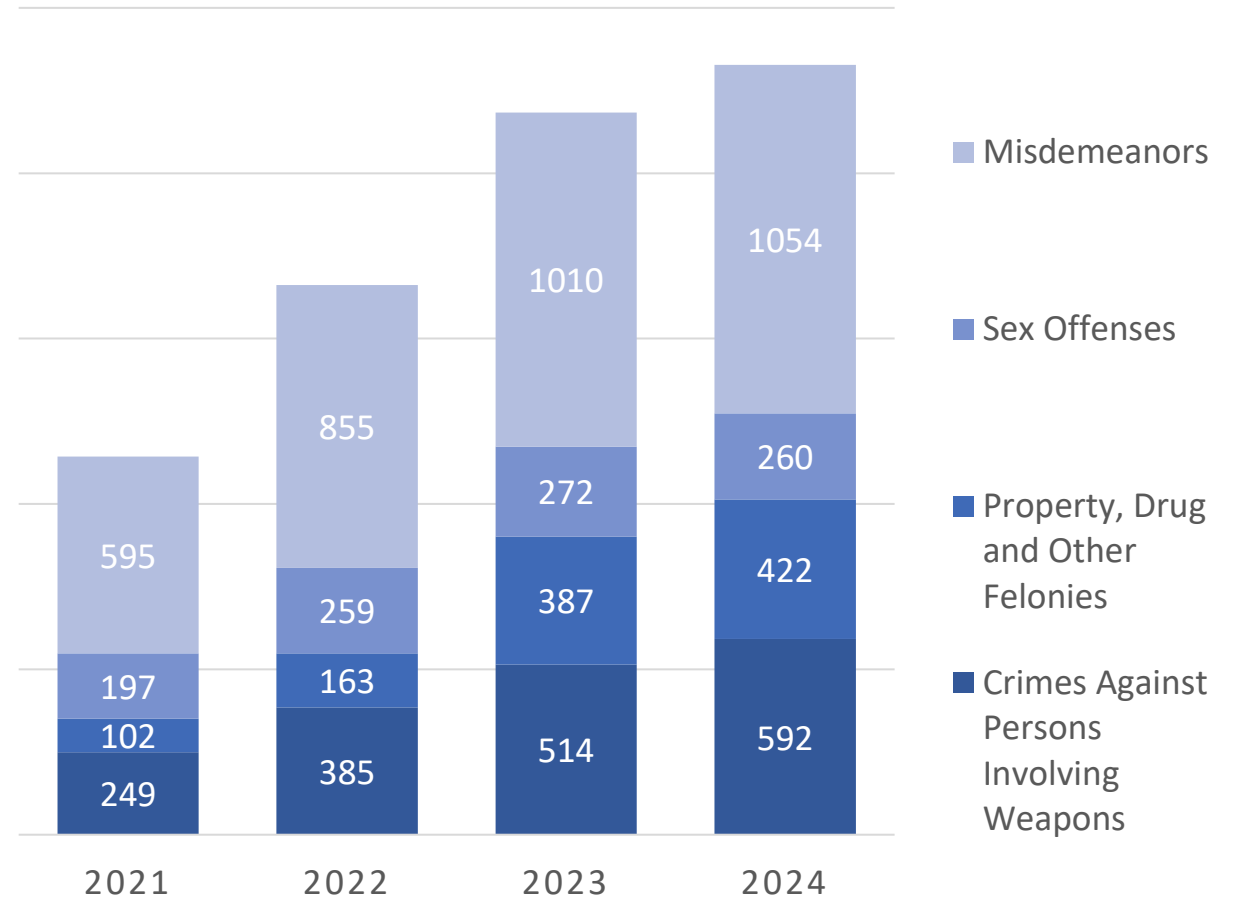
Our Criminal Justice System: Juvenile Crime Continues to Rise

Between 2021 and 2024, Juvenile crime referrals increased by 104%

- Crimes against a person or involving a firearm increased by 138%
- Property, drugs and other felonies increased by 314%
- Sex offenses increased by 77%



JUVENILE CRIMINAL REFERRALS



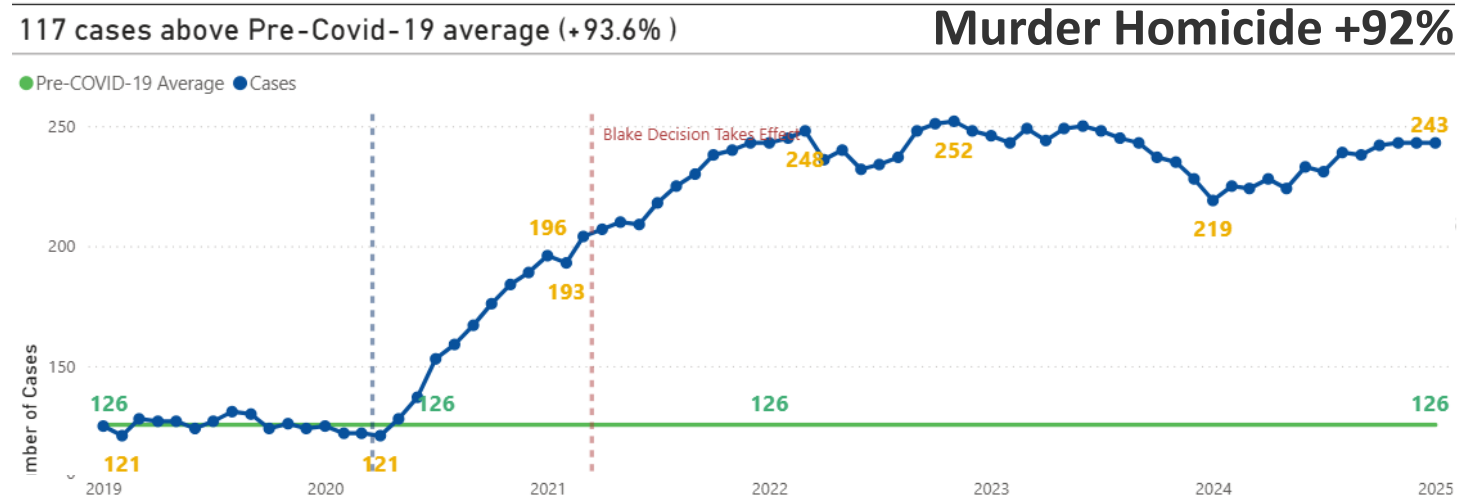
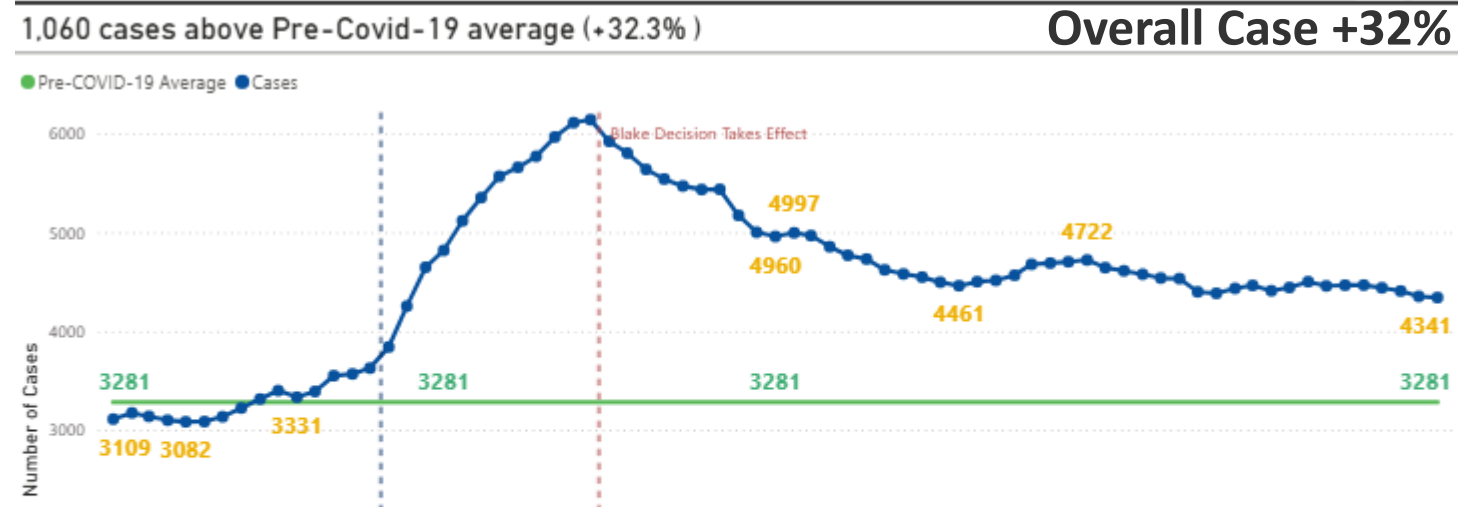
Our Criminal Justice System:

Many Violent Crimes Left Unresolved

The caseload at the King County Superior Court has become severely backlogged and record levels of felony cases have been left pending.

Open Cases Above the Pre-Covid Average

- Pre-COVID Average: 3,281
- Pandemic High: 6,144 (+87% Above Ave)
- January 2024: 4,341 open cases (32%) over the pre-COVID average
 - **Murder Homicide +92%**
 - **Burglary +13%**
 - **Sexual Assault & Child Abuse +24%**
 - **Vehicle Theft +87%**



Our Criminal Justice System:

Juvenile Detention Center

In July of 2020, the King County Executive committed to “Zero Youth Detention”, a plan to close King County’s only youth detention center by 2025. The plan has been delayed, with a new report due in 2028.

- **Violent juvenile crime is increasing:** Juvenile violent felony filings are up 57% in 2023 from 2022, and up 146% from 2021
- **We need a location to hold juveniles that pose a danger to others.**
 - In 2023, 60 percent of youth were held on felony crimes against persons, including assault or sexual violence
 - Recently, King County’s youth detention center was holding 5 youth for murder, 10 for assault, 6 for gun crimes, and 13 for robbery
 - Half of the juveniles currently in the facility are repeat offenders
- **I introduced legislation to keep the juvenile detention facility open – On August 27, 2024, it passed the King County Council by a vote of 8-0**



“Council members should approve the motion and focus their attention on improving current conditions in the

Our Criminal Justice System:

KCSO Hiring and Retention Challenges

- **Shortage in KCSO Deputies** – Over the past three years, the King County Sheriff's Office has experienced a dramatic rise in vacancies.
 - **Peak Vacancies:** At the peak (June 2022), there were 114 vacancies of commissioned deputies, 14.6% of the 781 authorized FTE's (Does not include non-deployable deputies due to training, injured, leave, etc.)
 - Additionally, there were 62 non-commissioned vacancies
- **Budget Allocation for Hiring and Retention** – Advocated for \$4 million for retention & hiring bonuses for deputies & a dedicated recruiter.
- **Latest Statistics:**
 - Commissioned Budget 796
 - Vacancies 75 (NOTE: metro has requested an additional 10 deputies)
 - Training 52;
 - Deployed 648
 - Non-Commissioned Budget 424.5 – Vacancies 38.5



2025 Issues

Taxes, Budget Deficit, and Leadership

LEADERSHIP:

- In the 5th Council District, Councilmember De'Sean Quinn was recently appointed to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Dave Upthegrove
- The Council also recently elected Councilmember Girmay Zahilay to serve as Council Chair
- The Vice Chairs for the new term are Councilmembers Reagan Dunn and Sarah Perry

Legislative Calendar:

- Jan-Feb: AFIS Renewal (for April Ballot)
- Feb-Apr: Parks Levy (for possible August ballot)
- May-Jul: Supplemental Budget
- Jun-Jul: EMS Levy (For November Ballot)
- Sep-Nov: 2026-27 Biennial Budget
- Nov-Dec: Independent Agency Reappointments
- Tentative Legislation: Metro Transit plans and new routes, additional onsite sewage regulations, winery/brewery/distillery legislation

King County Budget

Addressing the General Fund Budget Deficit

- **Overall, King County’s budget is healthy**
 - King County has \$10.2 billion budget for FY2025
 - General Fund budget is \$1.27 billion for FY2025
- **The General Fund** – is facing a \$150 million gap in 2026-2027
- **Some departments are more reliant on the General Fund than others.**
 - Mandatory: courts, property assessments, public defense, and corrections.
 - In late January, most General Fund agencies received budget goals to meet
- **Property Tax** – The King County Executive is focusing on modifying state law’s limiting annual property tax increases to 1% plus new construction
 - King County Executive is advocating to raise the property tax cap to 3% and remove a non-supplant restrictions for levies.

	2026-2027 Target Reduction
Adult and Juvenile Detention	7.5 M
Sheriff	30.2 M
Public Defense	3.0 M
Prosecuting Attorney	15.5 M
Superior Court	15.5 M
Jail Health Services	2.3 M
Assessments	3.0 M
District Court	7.5 M
Judicial Administration	4.7 M
Records and Licensing Services	4.1 M
General Fund Transfer to DCHS	25.2 M
General Fund Transfer to DPH	17.6 M
Medical Examiner	0.7 M
Elections	0.7 M
General Fund Transfer to DLS	6.8 M
Office of Inquest	3.0 M
General Fund Transfer to DNRP	2.6 M
Total	150.0 M

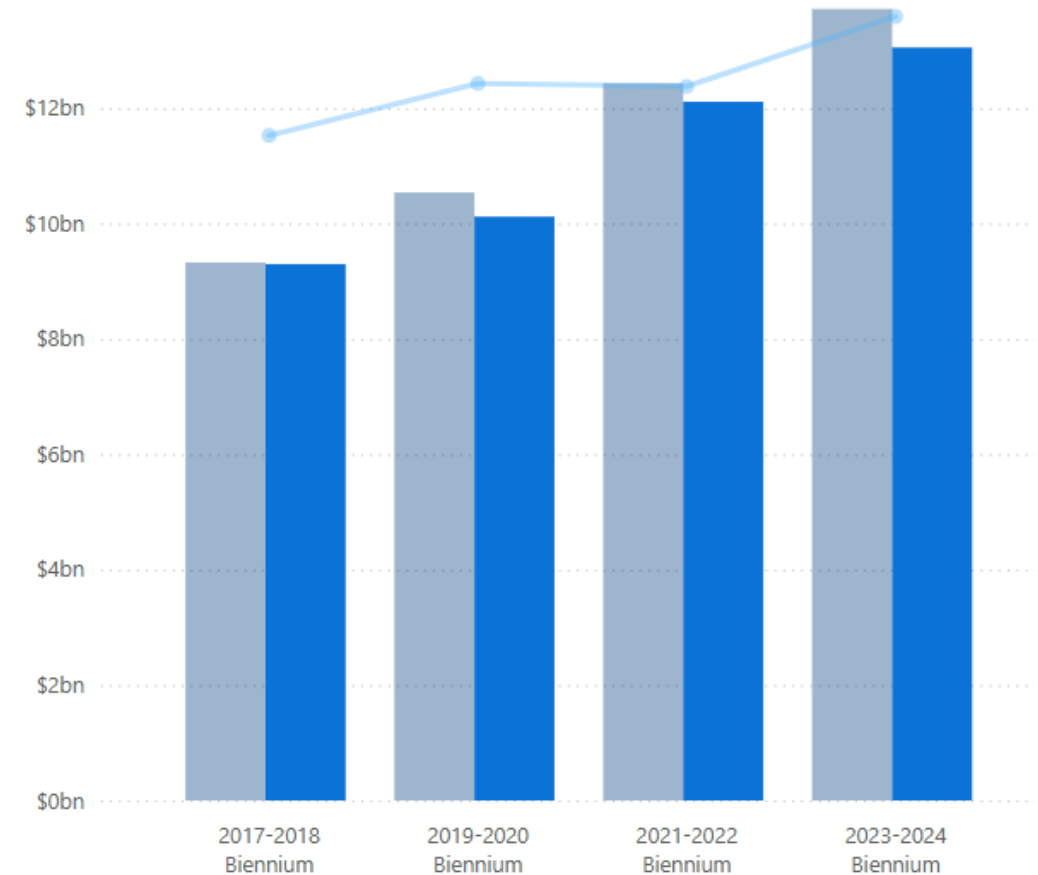
King County Budget

Spending and Population Growth

	Population	Budgeted	Expended
2017/2018	2,200,000	\$9.3B	\$9.33B
2019/2020	2,250,000	\$10.12B	\$10.54B
2021/2022	2,252,980	\$12.11B	\$12.43B
2023/2024	2,271,380	\$13.05B	\$13.72B
2025 (one year)	2,283,518	\$10.2B	\$10.2B

Budgeted Expenditures, Revenues, and Full-Time Employees by Biennium

● Expenditures ● Revenues ● Budgeted Full-Time Employees



Recent Community Investments

SAVE COAL CREEK



- In 2023, Dunn and Balducci partnered with the City of Bellevue and Save Coal Creek to obtain \$9.25m Conservation Futures Grant to conserve the historic Milt Swanson property.
- In Dec of 2024, Bellevue approved the purchase.

FACTORIA FLOODING

King County Flood Control District

- 2025 - \$3.1 in additional funding was added to the project.
 - Total contributions by KCFLD - \$9.9 m



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

Recent Community Investments

2024 COMMUNITY GRANTS

- \$5,000 South Bellevue Community Center
- \$5,000 Emerald Parents Association Track and Field Event
- \$5,000 City of Bellevue
- \$5,000 Bellevue LifeSpring
- \$3,388 Bellevue Police Foundation
- \$1,500 Kid's Quest Bellevue

2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS

- \$12,500 Ffactoria Lunar New Year – Emerald Parents Association
- \$5,000 Bellevue United FC
- \$5,000 Newport High School
- \$2,000 Eastside Heritage

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

- \$668,232 for Upper Kelsey Creek Phase 2
- \$1,432,358 Lower Coal Creek - Previous investment: \$13,156,592
- \$3,100,000 - Ffactoria Blvd. Drainage - Previous investments: \$6,814,000



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

Recent Community Investments

2025 OPEN DOORS GRANTS

Open Doors Capital Grants

- \$309,792 Theatre33: Phase 2&3 Construction

Sustained Support Grants

- American Asian Performing Arts Theatre \$51,700
- Bellevue Chamber Chorus \$19,600
- Bellevue College Foundation for 91.3 KBCS \$59,680
- Bellevue Youth Choirs (dba Bellevue Girlchoir & Bellevue Boychoir) \$24,600
- Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra \$74,200
- Bellevue Youth Theatre \$50,480

Sustained Support Grants, Cont'd

- Chinese Radio Seattle \$24,400
- City of Bellevue \$64,000
- Emerald Ballet Theatre \$34,400
- Emerald City Ringers \$15,700
- Evergreen Association of Fine Arts \$16,300
- From Within Nucleus \$11,300
- International Ballet Theatre \$48,900
- KidsQuest Children's Museum \$179,300
- Music Works Northwest \$75,500
- Northwest Edvard Grieg Society \$16,800
- NriyenaKatha Dance-Theater Company \$11,600
- Theatre33 \$43,800
- VCBynum Arts and Education \$20,800

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

Community Investments

Grant Opportunities

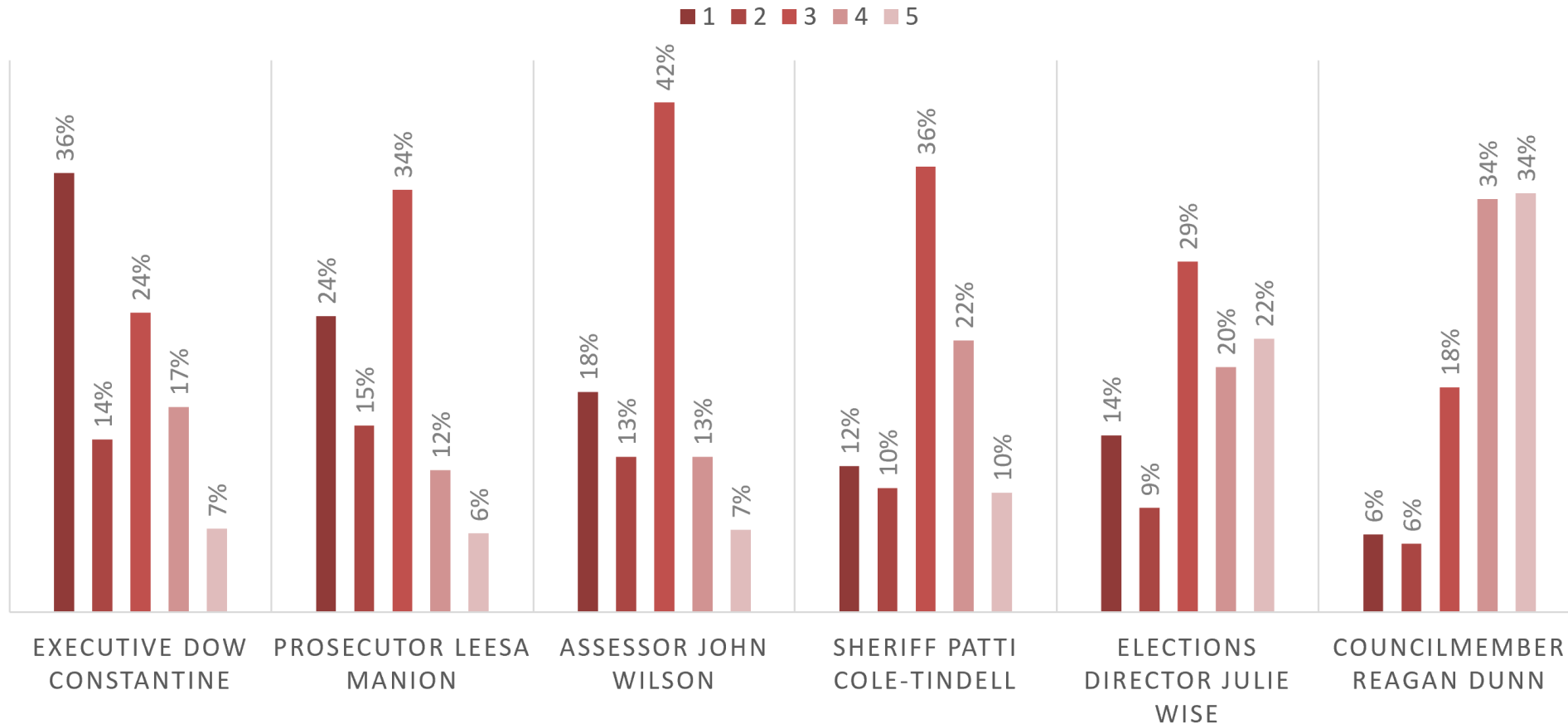
- **District 9 Councilmanic Grant Programs**
 - Youth and Amateur Sports Grant
 - VSHSL Community Grants
 - Veteran Service Organization
 - Waterworks Grant
 - Food Security Grants
- **Parks Levy Grant Programs**
 - Parks Capital and Open Space
 - Aquatic Facilities Grant
 - Health Communities and Parks Fund
 - Youth and Amateur Sports
- **WaterWorks Grants** – Water Quality
- **Veteran, Senior, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Grants**
- **Conservation Futures Grants** – Parks and open spaces such as natural lands, urban greenspaces, forests, community gardens, farms, and trails.
- **Best Starts for Kids Grants**
- **4Culture Grants**
 - Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, Science
- **King County Flood Control District**
 - Steve Bleifuhs Memorial Flood Reduction Grant Program
 - Subregional Opportunity Funds

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

District 9 Voices

Rating Elected Officials

WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL OPINION OF YOUR ELECTED KING COUNTY OFFICIALS?
RATE YOUR SATISFACTION FROM 1-5 (5 BEING THE HIGHEST)





Thank you!

Contact me anytime:

Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov