



King County

Girmay Zahilay

King County Executive

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January 29, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, adopt amendments to the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). The enclosed proposed amendments were recommended by the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on November 19, 2025.

As a part of the shared framework for growth management planning established by the CPPs, housing and employment growth targets are adopted for each jurisdiction. Jurisdictions use these targets as growth assumptions to plan for development capacity and public services in their comprehensive plans. King County uniquely has multiple growth targets for distinct Potential Annexation Areas within the urban unincorporated area.

In July 2025, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) certified King County's Comprehensive Plan. In its certification report, PSRC encouraged King County to work "promptly" with GMPC to amend growth targets for the Black Diamond Potential Annexation Area which had a 128-unit capacity deficit to accommodate its growth target. GMPC began its discussions in September 2025.

Urban unincorporated King County has abundant capacity for its growth targets overall. The GMPC proposed this as a solution to the capacity gap, reapportioning 128 units from the Black Diamond Potential Annexation Area to the Unaffiliated Urban Unincorporated area. Unaffiliated Urban Unincorporated has the greatest share of capacity within the urban unincorporated area, with most of its capacity located in southern King County.

At its November 2025 meeting, the GMPC unanimously approved GMPC Motion 25-3 recommending the growth target amendments for urban unincorporated King County.

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The collaborative process used to develop this proposed legislation embodies the ethic of coordinated planning required by the Growth Management Act. King County staff, municipal planners, and elected officials were involved in developing the recommendations in the proposed legislation. No budget action is needed to support the proposed Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This legislation is one of many steps to ensure King County is planning to accommodate and manage growth, ensuring that all residents have opportunity to thrive.

If your staff have questions, please contact Marissa Chavez, Policy Director, Office of the Executive, at (206)263-9126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Girmay Zahilay".

for

Girmay Zahilay
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, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive
Aaron Rubardt, Director, King County Budget Office