

5/2/2011 Council Meeting

S1

Sponsor: Councilmember Patterson

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Proposed No.: 2011-0018

JP Moved
PASSED: 9-0

1 **STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2011-0018, VERSION**

2 **3**

3 Beginning on page 2, line 22, delete everything through page 11, line 207, and insert

4 "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

5 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

6 A. To enhance the available funding for veterans and other human services in
7 King County, the metropolitan King County council approved Ordinance 15279, placing
8 a six-year veterans and human services levy on the ballot. In November 2005, the
9 veterans and human services levy passed with nearly fifty-eight percent approval,
10 generating much needed funding to help veterans, military personnel and their families
11 and other individuals and families in need across the county through a variety of regional
12 health and human services.

13 B. The veterans and human services levy generates an average of \$14.6 million
14 per year. One-half of these revenues are dedicated exclusively for veterans and their
15 families and the remaining one-half is dedicated to other King County residents in need
16 of human services. This levy remains in effect until December 31, 2011.

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17 C. All activities supported by the levy advance one or more of three overarching
18 policy goals:

- 19 1. Reducing homelessness;
- 20 2. Reducing emergency medical and criminal justice involvement; or
- 21 3. Increasing self-sufficiency for veterans, military personnel, their families and
22 other individuals and families in need.

23 D. Since 2006, the veterans and human services levy has met these policy goals
24 by:

- 25 1. Enrolling over one thousand seven hundred chronically homeless individuals
26 in outreach services as a first milestone in ending homelessness. Of those helped,
27 approximately eighteen percent are veterans and at least one hundred had been involved
28 in the criminal justice system due to mental illness or co-occurring disorders;
- 29 2. Providing over four hundred homeless veterans with twenty-four thousand
30 bed-nights of emergency shelter and transitional housing, coupled with case management
31 and advocacy;
- 32 3. Expanding King County's existing veterans programs and adding one new
33 program to serve over nine thousand military personnel, veterans and their families.
34 These programs include: financial aid and emergency assistance for rent, food, utilities,
35 medical needs and burial; employment services such as job placement, career counseling
36 and job training; transportation; mental health counseling, including crisis and
37 posttraumatic stress disorder counseling and intervention services; case management
38 services for those needing housing, treatment or other assistance; long-term and short-

39 term housing; treatment for trauma; homeless prevention; veterans' incarcerated
40 prevention; and other programs;

41 4. Serving three hundred eighty veterans experiencing posttraumatic stress
42 disorder with five thousand nine hundred thirty hours of levy-funded counseling in 2009
43 alone, with a demonstrated success rate of ninety-five percent of clients reducing
44 posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms;

45 5. Assessing over ten thousand four hundred low-income persons for behavioral
46 health issues. Of these persons, more than three thousand were indicated to have
47 depression or anxiety symptoms and entered treatment by the end of 2009;

48 6. Treating one thousand primary care clients, including an estimated one
49 hundred fifty veterans or their family members, successfully reducing their depression or
50 anxiety symptoms and improving their long-term health prospects; and

51 7. Screening over seven thousand one hundred mothers for maternal depression.
52 Of these, six hundred eighty-five received behavioral health treatment services,
53 contributing to the healthy development of their children. Of those measured, sixty-eight
54 percent have reduced depression or anxiety, or both, thereby improving the likelihood of
55 their successful parenting and improved self sufficiency;

56 E. Although the veterans and human services levy is set to expire at the end of
57 2011, the need for veterans and human services remains high. Approximately one
58 hundred thirty-nine thousand veterans live in King County representing over twenty
59 percent of the state's veterans. The population of veterans in the state is growing and
60 Washington ranks eighth nationwide for the total number of veterans in the state.

61 F. King County has a growing homeless population, estimated to be as many as
62 eight thousand five hundred on any given night. Among these, the United States
63 Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are as many as two thousand five
64 hundred homeless veterans in the Puget Sound region.

65 G.. The current recession continues to challenge individuals and families
66 throughout the region, as high unemployment and foreclosure rates increase the need for
67 housing and supportive health and human services.

68 H. King County's current expense fund faces continuing challenges in future
69 years, including anticipated shortfalls in 2012 and 2013 in excess of twenty million
70 dollars each year. As a discretionary service under state law, human service funding has
71 been almost entirely eliminated and faces complete elimination in future years. At the
72 state level, cuts to human services funding are anticipated to have devastating impacts on
73 King County families in need.

74 I. Given the positive outcomes of the veterans and human services levy on the
75 lives of veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in
76 need, and the projected need for sustained veterans and human services funding in future,
77 it is appropriate to ask the voters to renew and replace the veterans and human services
78 levy.

79 J. The current economic crisis has eroded property values causing jurisdictions to
80 reach the limits of the authorized property tax rate under state law. As a result, any future
81 increase in the veterans and human services levy rate would negatively affect the ability
82 of other jurisdictions in King County to collect needed revenues for flood prevention,
83 hospital maintenance and fire district operations. As such, it is appropriate to maintain

84 the current rate of \$0.05 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year of
85 the levy.

86 K. Under state law, a levy lid lift is limited to a maximum term of six years if the
87 levy provides for a specified index to be used to determine the limit factor.

88 **SECTION 2. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this
89 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

90 A. "Family" means a veteran's or military personnel's spouse, domestic partner or
91 child or the child of the spouse or domestic partner or other dependent relatives if living in
92 the household of a veteran or military personnel.

93 B. "Human services for veterans" means services and projects of the King
94 County veterans' program specifically developed to meet the needs of veterans, military
95 personnel and their families in King County.

96 C. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purpose and
97 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
98 law.

99 D. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the levy and
100 any interest earnings on the funds.

101 E. "Limit factor" means the greater of 1% or the percentage increase in the
102 consumer price index as long as that amount does not exceed 3%. The consumer price
103 index is defined as the ratio of the most recent June Consumer Price Index to the
104 immediately previous June Consumer Price Index (final published CPI-W Seattle-
105 Tacoma-Bremerton, as calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its

106 successor) expressed as a multiple of one hundred percent to achieve the result of one
107 hundred percent plus inflation.

108 F. "Military personnel" means those persons currently serving in a branch of the
109 military, including the National Guard and reservists for any branch of the military.

110 G. "Regional health and human services" means a range of services and related
111 capital facilities, including housing, that meet basic human needs and promote safe and
112 healthy communities including, but not limited to:

113 1. Prevention and early intervention services that reduce or prevent adverse
114 human behaviors and social conditions that lead to crises, serious dysfunction or
115 disability;

116 2. Criminal justice linked services that assist individuals and their families in
117 avoiding or mitigating their involvement with the criminal justice system;

118 3. Crisis intervention services that address life threatening situations and other
119 crises;

120 4. Rehabilitation and support services that provide treatment for individual and
121 family problems or provide support to maintain or enhance their present level of
122 independence.

123 H. "Veterans" mean those persons who have served in any branch of the military,
124 including the National Guard and reservists for any branch of the military.

125 **SECTION 3. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary funds for the
126 provision of regional health and human services to King County's veterans, military
127 personnel and their families and other residents in need of health and human services, the
128 county council shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition to renew

129 and replace an expiring levy and authorize a regular property tax levy in excess of the
130 levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive years, commencing
131 in 2011, with collection beginning in 2012, at a rate not to exceed five cents per one
132 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year, with subsequent levies limited by the
133 limit factor as defined in section 2 of this ordinance.

134 **SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited in
135 two special revenue funds, which funds shall be specified by ordinance. The levy
136 proceeds shall be divided to place fifty percent of the levy proceeds in one fund
137 designated for the provision of regional health and human services for veterans, military
138 personnel and their families. The remaining fifty percent of the levy proceeds shall be
139 placed in another fund designated for the provision of regional health and human services
140 to a wide range of people in need of such services.

141 **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
142 county, all levy proceeds shall be used to pay the costs associated with provision of
143 regional health and human services to a wide range of people in need of such services,
144 including, but not limited to, services that increase self-sufficiency for veterans, military
145 personnel and their families, services that reduce involvement in the criminal justice
146 system, services that reduce emergency medical costs, services for children and youth,
147 the elderly, the unemployed and underemployed and for services specific to veterans'
148 needs such as treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder and specialized employment
149 assistance. The provision of services will include a range of regional health and human
150 services and related capital facilities including, but not limited to, housing assistance,

151 homelessness prevention, mental health counseling substance abuse prevention and
152 treatment and employment assistance.

153 Eligible expenditures shall also include payment of costs to strengthen and
154 improve the health and human services system and infrastructure to provide greater
155 access to services and engender better coordination and integration of regional health and
156 human services addressing the needs of veterans, military personnel and their families.

157 SECTION 6. Call for special election. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, it
158 is hereby deemed that an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified
159 electors of the county at a special election to be held on August 16, 2011, a proposition
160 authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The
161 director of the elections department shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in
162 accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified
163 electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set
164 forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the director of the
165 elections department, in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions
166 or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the prosecuting
167 attorney:

168 PROPOSITION ___: The King County council has passed Ordinance
169 _____ concerning funding for regional veterans, health, and human
170 services. This proposition would renew and replace an expiring levy and
171 fund capital facilities and services that reduce medical costs,
172 homelessness, and criminal justice system involvement with half of
173 proceeds supporting veterans and their families. It would authorize King

174 County to levy an additional property tax of 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed
175 valuation for collection in 2012 and authorize annual increases by the
176 percentage increase in the consumer price index or 1%, whichever is
177 greater, with a maximum increase of 3%, for the five succeeding years.

178 Should this proposition be:

179 Approved? _____

180 Rejected? _____

181 **SECTION 7. County citizen oversight boards established.** If the levy is
182 reapproved by the voters, the oversight boards established by Ordinance 15279 shall be
183 continued and the criteria identified for board membership shall be maintained.

184 **SECTION 8. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
185 county council to the director of the elections department in accordance with law before
186 the election on August 16, 2011, and any other act consistent with the authority and
187 before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

188 **SECTION 9. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to
189 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
190 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected."

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192 **EFFECT: Amends ordinance to clarify that the proposed levy would renew and**
193 **replace the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy.**

5/2/2011 Council Meeting

Sponsor: Councilmember Patterson

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Proposed No.: 2011-0018

JP Moved
PASSED: 9-0

1 **TITLE AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2011-0018, VERSION 3**

2 Beginning on page 1, line 1, delete everything through page 2, line 21, and insert

3 "AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the

4 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be

5 held in King County on August 16, 2011, of a proposition

6 to provide regional health and human services to residents

7 of King County by renewing and replacing authorization of

8 the veterans and human services property tax levy in excess

9 of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, for

10 a consecutive six-year period at a first year rate of not more

11 than \$0.05 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation,

12 with subsequent maximum levy collections being increased

13 by the greater of 1% or the percentage increase in the

14 consumer price index as long as that amount does not

15 exceed 3%, for the purpose of providing funding to enable

16 the provision of health and human services such as

17 affordable and supportive housing, mental health

§ 9091

18 counseling, substance abuse prevention and treatment,
19 employment assistance and other essential regional health
20 and human services for residents of King County and
21 establishing county citizen oversight boards to review and
22 report on expenditures of levy proceeds, contingent on
23 voter approval of the levy."

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25 **EFFECT: Amends the title to reflect the changes in S1.**