

2025 FISCAL NOTE

Ordinance/Motior 2025-XXXX
 Title: 2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal
 Affected Agency and/or Agencies: Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
 Note Prepared By: Andrea Smith, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP
 Date Prepared: February 4, 2025
 Note Reviewed By: Elka Peterson Horner, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
 Date Reviewed: February 10, 2025

Description of request:

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 5, 2025, a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than \$0.2443 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases to local inflation and population growth in the five succeeding years.

Revenue to:

Agency	Fund Code	Revenue Source	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/Parks and Recreation	1455	Property Tax Levy Lid Lift (Net) ^{1,2}	\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures from:

Allocation Category	Fund Code	Department	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs ³	1455	DNRP	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Woodland Park Zoo ⁴	1455	DNRP	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000
Seattle Aquarium ⁵	1455	DNRP	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Seattle Waterfront ⁶	1455	DNRP	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Memorial Stadium ⁷	1455	DNRP	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (formerly TEG) ⁸	1451	DNRP	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants (CPG) ⁸	3581	DNRP	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts ⁹	1455	DNRP	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$39,000,000
King County Parks Operations & Maintenance ¹⁰	1451	DNRP	\$164,000,000	\$189,000,000	\$216,000,000
King County Parks Capital Program ¹¹	3581	DNRP	\$193,000,000	\$215,000,000	\$238,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures by Categories

	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Wages/Benefits ¹²	\$98,000,000	\$113,000,000	\$130,000,000
Supplies/Services ¹²	\$76,000,000	\$86,000,000	\$96,000,000
Capital Outlay	\$222,000,000	\$244,000,000	\$267,000,000
Other Transfers ¹³	\$64,500,000	\$62,000,000	\$61,000,000
TOTAL		\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000

Does this legislation require a budget supplemental? Yes/No Yes, if the proposed ballot measure is approved by voters.

Notes and Assumptions:

- The levy period covers 2026 through 2031. The fiscal note shows a levy rate of 24.43¢ per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) in the first year, 2026. Subsequent revenue is calculated as prior year collections multiplied by the limit factor, plus revenue from new construction built during the year. Forecast assumptions for assessed value, new construction, local inflation (CPI-W), and population growth are from the August 2024 Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) and PSB projections.
- Total revenues are net levy proceeds. Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 24.43¢ levy rate, before undercollection and exemption assumptions are applied. Assumed exemptions/undercollection are the exemption of qualifying households per RCW 84.36.381, and a one percent undercollection rate assumed countywide for property taxes.
- Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2025 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2026 if the ballot is approved.
- Distribution to the Woodland Park Zoo shall be no more than \$42M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

5. Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than \$15M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

6. Distribution to the Seattle Waterfront shall be no more than \$9M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

7. Distribution to the Memorial Stadium shall be no more than \$2.5M over the first two years of the levy (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds). The allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

8. Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs and Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) over the six years is as follows:

\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants)

\$30M – Capital Projects & Acquisitions (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$11M - Community Partnerships and Grants refers to "the program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit" (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

9. 9% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the towns and cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

10. 43% of the remaining revenue funds King County Parks operations and maintenance, 4-H Program support, KC Fair, and King County Search and Rescue operations. This includes assumed exemptions and undercollections.

11. 48% of the remaining revenue is allocated to the Capital Improvement Program to fund the following capital portfolios:

Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship (\$218M)

Regional and Other Public Trails (\$179M)

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation (\$177M)

New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

It also includes \$22M for Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.