



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

May 20, 2026

The Honorable First and Last Name of current Council Chair
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

I am pleased to transmit to you a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, update the divisions of the King County Information Technology Department (KCIT), move the Cable Office to the Department of Executive Services, and make other adjustments to King County Code for KCIT. The department's divisional structure was last updated in 2016 via Ordinance 18432. Since that time, King County's technology needs and uses have significantly expanded, along with the rapidly evolving modern technology environment.

On March 10, 2026, the King County Council confirmed my appointment of Stephen Heard as the director of KCIT. Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Heard had served for over a year as the acting director of KCIT, and before that as the Chief Technology Officer for the department. Over this time, Mr. Heard and his leadership team have been focused on increasing efficiency, driving strategic alignment, and delivering value for the County's technology customers. The updated divisional structure, duties, and functions reflect department's organizational realignment, further strengthening KCIT's ability to more effectively meet the County's business and capital technology needs.

Key changes to KCIT's divisional structure, functions, and duties include adding two new divisions, the Information Security and Privacy Division and the Data and Information Services Division. Two existing division names and functions are updated, with the Enterprise Business Services Division renamed the Enterprise Technology Services Division and the Infrastructure and Operations Division renamed the Business and Operations Services Division. The former standalone Radio Communications Division is moved to be a function under the Business and Operations Services Division. The Enhanced-911 Program, or E-911 Program, is renamed the 911

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Program, dropping the “enhanced” as a long-outdated term for the technology involved in the program.

Another key change is the transfer of the Cable Office, which handles cable franchise agreements, to the Department of Executive Services (DES), Facilities Management Division (FMD). Under King County Code 2.16.035, the Department of Executive Services oversees all franchising activities except for cable telecommunications, which is currently managed by the department of information technology. In partnership with DES, the move of the Cable Office to DES FMD efficiently consolidates all franchise work under one department. The two General Fund supported FTEs doing Cable Office franchise work will be moved in a future budget Ordinance.

As noted, the proposed legislation modernizing KCIT’s divisional structure updates the functions and duties of the divisions. As part of KCIT’s strategic transformation, previously narrowly defined duties and functions are shifting to a dynamic structure designed to advance agility, collaboration, and evolving operational priorities. This shift supports the ability of the department to flexibly respond to evolving customer needs. The updated duties and functions of the department’s divisions highlight modern technology needs such as cybersecurity, privacy, data modeling, and data integration.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. By more efficiently organizing the work of the department, KCIT is taking steps to deliver on the County’s strategic technology goals of increasing mission impact, improving resident and stakeholder experience, reducing cybersecurity and enterprise risk, driving productivity and cost optimization, and developing people and teams.

If your staff have questions, please contact Stephen Heard, Chief Information Officer and Director, King County Information Technology Department, at 206-477-5728.

Sincerely,



for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

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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

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

Stephen Heard, Chief Information Officer and Director, King County Information
Technology Department

Lorraine Patterson, Director King County Department of Executive Services