



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

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April 10, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit to you the February 2025 Medic One/Emergency Medical Services 2026-2031 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) and a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, accept and approve the Strategic Plan. The recommendations contained in the Plan inform and update the provision of emergency medical services throughout King County during the 2026-2031 time span.

The current Medic One/EMS levy will expire December 31, 2025. To ensure continued Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in 2026 and beyond, regional partners undertook an extensive planning process in 2024 to develop a Strategic Plan and financing plan (levy) for consideration by King County voters to renew the levy in 2025. This process brought together regional leaders, decision-makers, and EMS partners to assess the needs of the system and collectively develop recommendations to direct the system into the future. As in past years, the EMS Advisory Task Force oversaw the development of the recommendations, and endorsed broad policy decisions, including the levy rate, length, and ballot timing outlined in the Strategic Plan.

The enclosed Strategic Plan is the primary policy and financial document that directs the system in its work. The Strategic Plan outlines the services, programs and initiatives that would be supported by a voter-approved, countywide, EMS levy. The Strategic Plan reflects a proposed a six-year, 25-cent Medic One/EMS levy that:

- Assures advanced life support (ALS), basic life support (BLS), and regional services programmatic needs will be met by:
 - Continuation of fully funding eligible ALS costs; includes a placeholder for the equivalent of a new unit if service demands increase beyond what is anticipated;
 - Increased funding for BLS and mobile integrated healthcare program to address community needs, and
 - Maintains regional programs that support the system; continuing focus on improving patient care and outcomes.
- Carries forward \$64 million of 2020-2025 reserves to help reduce the starting levy rate, and
- Includes sufficient reserves to address the Task Force's concerns to protect the system from unforeseen financial risk.

The proposed 25-cent levy rate would cost \$211 per year for the median King County homeowner, based on a \$844,000 home value. A proposed ballot measure placing the Medic One/Emergency Medical Services reauthorization levy on the November General Election ballot is transmitted separately and simultaneously with this proposed Ordinance.

The Strategic Plan reflects King County's mission to provide fiscally responsible, quality driven local and regional services. EMS responses are distributed throughout the region based on service criteria, areas with economic challenges are provided the same level of service as areas with economic prosperity, ensuring access to vital services. In addition, EMS programs directly align with Public Health – Seattle & King County's core values and priorities of protecting and improving the health and well-being of all people in King County.

The Strategic Plan supports the Medic One/EMS system's tradition of service excellence, effective leadership, and regional collaboration. Including equity and social justice in the EMS levy planning process helped ensure equity principles influence decision-making for delivering pre-hospital care throughout the region. This well-balanced approach will allow the system to meet the needs and expectations of the system and its users, now and in the future. I want to thank all those who worked diligently to develop this Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of the Medic One/Emergency Medical Services 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. If your staff have questions, please contact Michele Plorde, Emergency Medical Services Division Director, at 206-263-8603.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

February 15, 2025

Page 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Braddock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

Michele Plorde, Emergency Medical Services Division Director, PHSKC