



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Motion 16970

**Proposed No.** 2026-0112.2

**Sponsors** Barón, Dembowski and Fain

1           A MOTION relating to the King County Regional  
 2           Homelessness Authority, requesting the executive to  
 3           provide a briefing and report on the authority's corrective  
 4           actions, administrative funding needs, and decision  
 5           framework regarding the county's continued participation  
 6           in the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement and  
 7           potential impacts, and steps to protect the county's  
 8           investment pool.

9           WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, King County enacted Ordinance 19039,  
 10          authorizing the executive to execute an interlocal agreement with the city of Seattle to  
 11          establish the King County Regional Homelessness Authority ("the authority"), and

12          WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement was first effective December 18, 2019, and

13          WHEREAS, King County and the city of Seattle amended the 2019 agreement  
 14          and approved an Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement in 2024, and

15          WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1, of the Amended and Restated Interlocal  
 16          Agreement provides that the initial duration of the agreement was for five years, through  
 17          December 18, 2024, with the agreement continuing in effect indefinitely after that until  
 18          terminated by either party, and

19          WHEREAS, the Five-Year Plan for the authority was adopted on June 1, 2023,

20          and

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21 WHEREAS, the Strategic Five-Year Plan Addendum for the authority, adopted  
22 on February 20, 2026, included a commitment to annually monitor spending from all  
23 sources and align financial expenditures with performance metrics established in the  
24 King County Homeless Housing Plan, and

25 WHEREAS, the authority's utilization of the King County investment pool has  
26 resulted in negative cash balances since inception of the authority, and

27 WHEREAS, audits and monitoring reports have identified concerns related to  
28 internal controls, invoicing, financial reporting, and fund balance sufficiency, and

29 WHEREAS, a forensic evaluation dated April 17, 2026, identified significant  
30 financial management and internal control deficiencies, and recommended numerous  
31 corrective actions to provide appropriate stewardship over public moneys, and

32 WHEREAS, the King County executive and the city of Seattle mayor have  
33 directed the authority to provide a written response addressing the high-risk findings from  
34 the forensic evaluation by May 8, 2026, and a corrective action plan by May 23, 2026,  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the governing board of the authority passed a resolution on April 24,  
37 2026, establishing a finance committee to strengthen financial oversight, management  
38 and internal controls, including enhanced oversight of financial reporting, audit  
39 implementation, and certain operational decisions, and

40 WHEREAS, the city of Seattle requested that its human services department  
41 assess the authority's administrative shortfall and propose solutions in a 2026 mid-year  
42 supplemental budget by May 31, 2026, and

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43 WHEREAS, King County has a similar interest in assessing the authority's  
44 administrative funding but has not yet undertaken a parallel assessment, and

45 WHEREAS, the authority serves as the region's designated Continuum of Care  
46 collaborative applicant and is responsible for administering and coordinating tens of  
47 millions of dollars in federal funding from the United States Department of Housing and  
48 Urban Development each year, and

49 WHEREAS, the Continuum of Care program requires defined governance,  
50 administrative capacity, and system coordination to maintain eligibility for federal  
51 funding, and

52 WHEREAS, any disruption to governance, administrative capacity, or system  
53 coordination without a clearly defined transition plan could potentially jeopardize the  
54 region's ability to retain existing federal and state funding, compete for future awards,  
55 and ensure continuity of services for individuals experiencing homelessness, and

56 WHEREAS, ensuring the protection of federal and state funding and continuity of  
57 critical homelessness response systems is essential to maintaining services for vulnerable  
58 populations and safeguarding public investments, and

59 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1, of the Amended and Restated Interlocal  
60 Agreement provides that the agreement may be terminated by a resolution of the city of  
61 Seattle council or a motion of the county council, and

62 WHEREAS, Proposed Motion 2026-0107 was introduced before the county  
63 council on April 28, 2026, and the motion, if passed, would provide notice of the  
64 termination of the county's participation in the Amended and Restated Interlocal  
65 Agreement and trigger a 12-month period of dissolution for the authority unless the

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66 mayor and executive jointly agree that termination can and should occur sooner, and

67 WHEREAS, the chair of the committee of the whole, which has jurisdiction over  
68 matters relating to the authority, has expressed the intent to have the committee take up  
69 Proposed Motion 2026-0107 at the committee's August 25, 2026, meeting, and

70 WHEREAS, the council is considering potential approval of Proposed Motion  
71 2026-0107 and seeks to ensure that any such decision is informed by a comprehensive  
72 analysis of corrective actions, system performance, and transition feasibility;

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

74 A. The council requests the executive provide a briefing to the council's  
75 committee of the whole, no later than June 15, 2026, that addresses the following with  
76 regard to the authority:

- 77 1. An assessment of the authority's administrative funding shortfall, including:
- 78 a. A framework that begins to address the receivables balance that could not be
  - 79 reconciled based on available records;
  - 80 b. The total estimated administrative funding need for 2026 and 2027;
  - 81 c. The share of administrative funding required by each funder, including King
  - 82 County and city of Seattle, to the extent such information is available, and if not certain,
  - 83 an estimate or range of anticipated funding needs; and
  - 84 d. Options to address the administrative shortfall, including recommendations
  - 85 to reduce or eliminate the authority's interest expenses;

86 2. The corrective action plan developed by the authority addressing each of the  
87 findings from the April 17, 2026, forensic evaluation;

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88           3. The executive's initial assessment of the authority's corrective action plan and  
89 a proposed framework for county protocols to monitor and evaluate the authority's  
90 implementation of those corrective actions, including proposed:

- 91           a. Specific performance metrics and benchmarks;
- 92           b. Interim financial management actions necessary to ensure fiscal stability and  
93 continuity of provider payments during implementation of corrective actions; and
- 94           c. Identification of any enforcement mechanisms or contingencies if corrective  
95 actions are not implemented; and

96           4. An assessment of actions necessary to ensure continued compliance with  
97 federal, state, and other funding requirements during implementation of corrective  
98 actions, including:

- 99           a. Identification of any critical functions, roles, or responsibilities necessary to  
100 maintain compliance with external funding requirements;
- 101           b. Assessment of risks to continued receipt of existing funding; and
- 102           c. Identification of actions necessary to maintain eligibility and competitiveness  
103 for future federal and state funding opportunities.

104           B.1. The council requests the executive to transmit a report providing a  
105 recommendation, supported by a clear decision framework, on whether the county should  
106 continue, amend, or terminate its participation in the Amended and Restated Interlocal  
107 Agreement, and the potential impacts to the continuity of homelessness response systems,  
108 programs, and services.

109           2. The report should be developed after consultation with the city of Seattle, and  
110 to the extent practicable, in coordination with the city, entities providing homelessness

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111 response services funded through the authority, members of the governing board of the  
112 authority, leadership of the authority, and other stakeholders as identified by the  
113 executive to develop aligned recommendations.

114 3. The report should address the following:

115 a. A clear decision framework to guide the council's consideration of whether  
116 to continue, amend, or terminate participation in the Amended and Restated Interlocal  
117 Agreement, including:

118 (1) criteria to evaluate, and an evaluation of, the authority's ability to  
119 successfully and timely implement corrective actions;

120 (2) specific performance metrics related to financial management, service  
121 delivery, and system outcomes;

122 (3) identification of key risks and tradeoffs associated with each option; and

123 (4) a recommended timeline for council consideration and decision-making;

124 b. An assessment of the steps necessary to transition contracts and activities  
125 currently managed or carried out by the authority. The assessment should include a plan  
126 for which entities would undertake responsibility for the contracts and activities currently  
127 managed or carried out by the authority and a timeline for the potential transition. The  
128 assessment should specifically outline transition considerations with regard to the  
129 homeless management information system and the coordinated entry system;

130 c. An assessment of the impacts of a potential termination of the Amended  
131 and Restated Interlocal Agreement on the continuum of care board and on contracts and  
132 services funded by the federal continuum of care program, and of any potential actions to  
133 mitigate such impacts;

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134 d. An assessment of whether the 12-month period outlined in article III of  
135 the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement is sufficient to complete the transition of  
136 activities from the authority to a new entity or entities and, if not, a proposed timeline for  
137 such transition along with interim reporting milestones;

138 e. An assessment of the ability and readiness of any county departments that  
139 the executive determines should undertake activities currently carried out by the  
140 authority, including consideration of the creation of a new county department or entity  
141 that would operate separately from, but in coordination with, existing county  
142 departments, along with an estimate of the staffing and budget necessary for such  
143 transition of activities;

144 f. An assessment of any other steps necessary to ensure continued  
145 compliance with federal or state funding requirements during any potential transition of  
146 activities and/or contracts from the authority to other entities;

147 g. An assessment of any other steps necessary to ensure the continuation of  
148 homelessness response services without reduction in service levels, to the extent  
149 practicable, during any potential transition of either activities or contracts, or both, from  
150 the authority to other entities;

151 h. An assessment of financial risks during any transition, including:

152 (1) cash-flow management;

153 (2) continuity of provider payments;

154 (3) administrative funding needs; and

155 (4) any actions necessary to prevent disruption of contracted services;

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156 i. An outline of any other considerations the executive determines the  
157 council should take into account regarding the potential termination of the Amended and  
158 Restated Interlocal Agreement;

159 j. An update on the status of the implementation of the corrective action  
160 plan;

161 k. If the executive recommends against termination of the Amended and  
162 Restated Interlocal Agreement, the report should also address, in detail, any proposed  
163 reforms or changes to the authority including timelines, performance expectations, and  
164 funding alignment necessary to ensure successful implementation; and

165 l. An assessment of the risks to the county's investment pool associated with  
166 the authority carrying a negative balance in the county's investment pool and  
167 identification of completed or recommended actions by the executive, the council, or  
168 both, necessary to mitigate such risks.

169 4. The executive should electronically file the report requested in this motion  
170 and a motion accepting the report by August 1, 2026, with an interim briefing provided to  
171 the committee of the whole no later than June 15, 2026. The report shall be filed with the  
172 clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to  
173 all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the committee of the  
174 whole, or its successor.

175 C. The council requests the executive take all necessary steps as expeditiously as  
176 practicable to protect the county's investment pool and to report monthly to the executive  
177 finance committee, the chair and vice chair of the budget and fiscal management  
178 committee, and the chair of the council, on the steps taken and any recommended actions

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179 by either the council or the executive finance committee, or both, to protect the county's  
180 budget and invested funds of partner jurisdictions.

Motion 16970 was introduced on 5/5/2026 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/5/2026, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis,  
Mosqueda and von Reichbauer  
Excused: 1 - Perry

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

*Sarah Perry*

062AC77E76FB49B...

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Melani Hay*

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None

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