



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16496

Proposed No. 2023-0420.1

Sponsors Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to provide
2 recommendations to restore justice for race-based
3 restrictive real estate practices based on the findings in the
4 Impact of Redlining and Racist Real Estate Practices on
5 King County Residents report.

6 WHEREAS, in 2001, Washington state voters approved Initiative 747 to limit
7 annual property tax levy increases to one percent plus the growth from new construction,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, in 2007, the state Supreme Court ruled on the case of Washington
10 Citizens Action v. State to find Initiative 747 unconstitutional. However, that same year
11 the state reinstated the one-percent limit through Chapter 1, Laws of Washington 2007
12 1st Special Session, and

13 WHEREAS, in the two decades since the limit was instituted, the revenue sources
14 of counties have been structurally insufficient, as counties do not have the ability to
15 impose business and utility taxes, unlike cities and the state, and

16 WHEREAS, since 2001, the county population has grown thirty percent, while
17 consumer prices have increased seventy percent, and inflation since the start of the
18 COVID-19 pandemic has been as high as 9.5 percent, and

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19 WHEREAS, despite the cumulative increase in costs of operating the county, the
20 county's property tax levies have grown only an average of 2.68 percent in recent years,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, at the June 14, 2023, budget and fiscal management committee
23 meeting, the director of the office of performance, strategy and budget provided a
24 briefing on the current \$50 million revenue shortfall to the county's general fund as a
25 result of the one percent limit on annual property tax levy increases, and

26 WHEREAS, the director also briefed the committee on the executive's plan to
27 respond to the revenue shortfall by proposing budget reductions to the general fund in the
28 midbiennial supplemental appropriation ordinance to the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget
29 Ordinance, Ordinance 19546, and additional reductions to the general fund in the 2025
30 annual budget, and

31 WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, the executive transmitted Proposed Ordinance
32 2023-0355, the midbiennial supplemental appropriation ordinance, which would make
33 \$13 million of budget reductions to the general fund, including eliminating sixty
34 positions, and

35 WHEREAS, in prior years, the county was able to avoid major budget reductions
36 through increases in other revenue sources such as increase in sales tax receipts from the
37 county's economic growth and federal grant allocations during the COVID-19 pandemic,
38 however, such alternative revenue sources are no longer available, and

39 WHEREAS, in July 2023, the council acknowledged receipt of the Impact of
40 Redlining and Racist Real Estate Practices on King County Residents – Wastewater
41 Capacity Charge Exemption Recommendations final report, as required by the 2021-2022

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42 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section 112, Proviso P2, which required
43 the executive to transmit a report on the application of the county's wastewater capacity
44 charge to county residents who themselves, or whose progenitors, or both, were impacted
45 by racial deed restrictions, racial covenants, and redlining practices, and

46 WHEREAS, the report found that, since 1950, the lost intergenerational wealth
47 for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ("BIPOC") county residents impacted by
48 race-based restrictive real estate practices is between \$12 billion and \$34 billion and of
49 the total between \$5.4 billion and \$15.8 billion for Black residents, and

50 WHEREAS, the report also found that trends in homeownership rates show that
51 the Black homeownership rate in 2019 continues to be well below that of other races and
52 ethnic groups in the county and research on the national scale reveals that barriers to
53 accessing credit and financial products, mortgage discrimination, eviction rates,
54 gentrification, and displacement are all current contributors to homeownership disparities
55 among racial and ethnic groups, and

56 WHEREAS, the report noted that discriminatory practices and policies in
57 government, banking, and real estate industries continue to impede access to
58 homeownership for BIPOC households and such discriminatory practices negatively
59 affect credit scores, mortgage access, and the general financial security of BIPOC
60 households, such that obtaining homeownership has been, and continues to be, a
61 significant and unacceptable hurdle, and

62 WHEREAS, the report estimates that the number of BIPOC residents present in
63 the county during the periods when race-based restrictive real-estate practices were

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64 enforceable is estimated to be 386,600, which represents approximately 129,300
65 households, and

66 WHEREAS, based on federal and state legal limitations, the final report did not
67 recommend an exemption or a reduced rate to the wastewater capacity charge for those
68 impacted by racial deed restrictions, racial covenants, and redlining practices, and

69 WHEREAS, given the scope of the budget proviso, the executive's
70 recommendation was limited to the wastewater capacity charge. However, the report
71 highlighted additional policies that local jurisdictions in the country have considered and
72 implemented to restore justice for race-based restrictive real estate practices such as
73 direct cash payments, housing assistance, education assistance or job training, land
74 return, and startup capital;

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

76 A. The council requests the executive to provide recommendations to restore
77 justice for race-based restrictive real estate practices based on the findings in the Impact
78 of Redlining and Racist Real Estate Practices on King County Residents report. The
79 recommendations should include, but not be limited to, the following:

80 1. Reparative actions that local jurisdictions in the country have considered and
81 implemented as described in the report such as direct cash payments, housing assistance,
82 education assistance or job training, land return, and startup capital;

83 2. General fund budget reduction proposals for the 2025 annual budget that
84 would minimize the following:

- 85 a. loss of intergenerational wealth for BIPOC county residents,
86 b. decreases in Black homeownership rates,

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87 c. increases in eviction rates, gentrification, and displacement of BIPOC
88 communities, and

89 d. adverse effects on the general financial insecurity of BIPOC households;
90 and

91 3. Reparative actions that can be taken by federal government and Washington
92 state to be considered for the county's federal and state legislative agendas.

93 B. The executive should consult with the subject matter experts that contributed
94 to the Impact of Redlining and Racist Real Estate Practices on King County Residents
95 report including county employees, ECONorthwest, and affiliated scholars to determine
96 whether recommendations would restore justice for race-based restrictive real estate
97 practices.

98 C. The executive should also consult with the community groups and
99 Washington state agencies involved in the implementation efforts of the Covenant
100 Homeownership Program, established in Chapter 340, Laws of Washington 2023.


101 D. The executive should include the recommendations as requested in section A
102 of this motion in the form of a letter. The executive should electronically file the letter by
103 June 1, 2024, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and
104 provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead
105 staff for the committee of the whole, or its successor.

Motion 16496 was introduced on 11/7/2023 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 12/5/2023, by the following vote:


Yes: 8 - Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott,
Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay
No: 1 - Dunn

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Dave Upthegrove
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
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Melani Hay
melani.hay@kingcounty.gov
Clerk of the Council
King County Council
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	12/11/2023 7:32:47 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	12/11/2023 7:33:01 AM
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