



Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

August 25, 2016

Motion

Proposed No. 2016-0419.1

Sponsors Dembowski, von Reichbauer,
Balducci and Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION requesting the executive's response informing
2 council deliberations regarding possible renewal of the
3 veterans and human services levy.

4 WHEREAS, in November 2005, King County voters passed the first veterans and
5 human services levy to generate funding for a wide range of programs to assist veterans,
6 military personnel and their families and individuals and families in need, and

7 WHEREAS, in August 2011, voters in King County voted to renew the veterans
8 and human services levy for another six years, and

9 WHEREAS, the goals of the existing veterans and human services levy are to
10 reduce homelessness and emergency medical costs, to reduce criminal justice system
11 involvement and to increase self-sufficiency by means of employment, and

12 WHEREAS, fifty percent of the existing levy's proceeds are allocated to provision
13 of regional health and human services for veterans, military personnel and their families
14 and fifty percent is allocated to provision of regional health and human services to a wide
15 range of people in need of those services. The allocation has been beneficial in
16 delivering services to populations in need of such services, and

17 WHEREAS, the veterans and human services levy will expire on December 31,
18 2017, and

19 WHEREAS, the veterans and human services levy is a voter-approved, six-year
20 levy lid lift, renewal of which requires voter approval of a ballot measure, and

21 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that King County
22 remains home to more than one hundred and ten thousand veterans and military
23 servicemembers, and

24 WHEREAS, All Home estimates that eight hundred sixty-seven veterans remain
25 homeless in King County in 2016, and

26 WHEREAS, veterans, servicemembers, their families and other populations
27 within King County have benefitted from services funded by the veterans and human
28 services levy;

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

30 A. The King County council is considering whether to submit to the qualified
31 electors for their approval in 2017 a ballot measure to renew the veterans and human
32 services levy. The council requests that the executive submit for council review an
33 assessment report of the veterans and human services levy-funded goals, strategies,
34 services and programs. The assessment report submitted to the council shall be
35 developed in consultation with stakeholders and shall include:

36 1. An assessment of the effectiveness of the of the veterans and human services
37 levy-funded goals outlined in Ordinance 17236, and the effectiveness of the existing
38 strategies, services and programs in meeting the three policy goals. The assessment
39 report shall include an explanation of the methodology used to make the determination of
40 effectiveness. The purpose of the review is to identify potential changes to improve the

41 levy's effectiveness, improve the levy's stewardship of resources and improve the levy's
42 equity and social justice impact;

43 2. Analysis and recommendations that address the following:

44 a. whether the council should revise, eliminate, or retain the veterans and
45 human services levy's three goals, enumerated in Ordinance 17236: to prevent and
46 reduce homelessness; to reduce unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical
47 system involvement; and to increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable
48 populations;

49 b. whether a renewed levy should incorporate any new goals not specified in
50 the current levy's service improvement plan;

51 c. how a renewed levy would align and coordinate with the best starts for kids
52 levy and the mental illness and drug dependency sales tax, as well as other federal, state
53 and local funding streams and programs, so as to integrate, align and avoid duplication of
54 effort;

55 d. whether a renewed levy should retain some or all of the existing levy's four
56 strategies, which are to: support veterans and their families to build stable lives and
57 strong relationships; end homelessness through outreach, prevention, permanent
58 supportive housing and employment; improve health through the integration of medical
59 and behavioral health services; and strengthen families at risk;

60 e. whether a renewed levy should incorporate any new strategies not specified
61 in the current levy's service improvement plan. The analysis and recommendations shall
62 specifically address: whether a renewed levy should include a strategy or strategies to
63 serve older adults; a strategy or strategies to increase integration of civil legal services for

64 levy-funded programs or persons served by the levy; a strategy or strategies to increase
65 investments in affordable housing generally and reduction of homelessness specifically; a
66 strategy or strategies to enhance reentry services for criminal justice system-involved and
67 incarcerated persons; strategy or strategies to tailor services for particular populations
68 whose circumstances warrant specialized approaches, including sexually exploited youth,
69 victims of human trafficking and low-income residents living in rural communities; and a
70 strategy or strategies to provide investments in services for survivors of domestic
71 violence and people experiencing domestic violence; and

72 f. whether a renewed levy should retain or revise the current levy's citizen
73 oversight board structure; and

74 3. An assessment of the state of funding for basic human services throughout
75 King County, sometimes referred to as the "social safety net," in light of changing
76 priorities of public and private funders, specifically the move away from flexible funding
77 based on community needs and toward targeted funding of specific causes. The report
78 should include options and recommendations for use of proceeds from a renewed
79 veterans and human services levy to fill gaps in the social safety net.

80 B. In addition to the report requested in section A. of this motion, the council
81 requests that the executive prepare and deliver an additional report at the same time as the
82 assessment report requested herein, to assess the costs of providing housing, including
83 shelter where and when needed, for every King County veteran in need of housing or
84 shelter, such that no veteran residing in King County who seeks housing or shelter, shall
85 remain unhoused. This additional report should also assess whether funding to support
86 these costs should be assembled by re-allocating existing levy proceeds, or whether

87 additional revenues should be raised, or a combination of both. The report should also
88 provide a potential timeline to accomplish the goal of housing every veteran who seeks
89 housing or shelter.

90 C. The executive shall file the veterans and human services levy assessment
91 report and the additional report requested by this motion by January 19, 2017, in the form
92 of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain
93 the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of

Motion

94 staff, the policy staff director and the lead staff for the health, housing and human
95 services committee and the regional policies committee, or their successors.
96

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None