



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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April 8, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, amend King County Code (KCC) 2A.300.530 to update the organization and membership requirements of the King County Veterans Advisory Board (VAB). This proposed Ordinance follows a separate proposed Ordinance (2023-0374) under consideration by the Council that would separate Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Advisory Board functions from VAB duties. If enacted, these proposed Ordinances would complete the legislative process to provide for the continuation of the VAB as a distinct body.

The Revised Code of Washington 73.08.035 requires each county in the state to establish a veterans' advisory board to provide advice on the needs of indigent veterans, as well as on the resources and programs that could benefit them and their families. Since 2018, consistent with Ordinance 18785, the Veterans Committee of the VSHSL Advisory Board has served as the VAB for King County. The Department of Community and Human Services states that, due to differing state and local requirements for meeting cadence, Board members' roles and responsibilities, and scope of the Board's duties, continuing this practice is no longer a viable approach.

In August 2023, King County voters approved the renewed VSHSL. The Council adopted implementation plan for the levy via Ordinance 19719 in December 2023. Once enacted, this proposed Ordinance would support the adopted implementation plan's recommendation to separate the VAB from the VSHSL Advisory Board, thereby clarifying the roles of each body. As described in the implementation plan, an independent VAB will allow its members to focus fully on their required responsibilities as directed by state law.

If your staff have questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy County Executive, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Strategic Partnership Director, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services