



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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August 16, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the Urban Unincorporated Area Participatory Budgeting Plan, and a proposed Motion that, if enacted, would acknowledge receipt of the plan, pursuant to Ordinance 19210, Section 129, Proviso P1.

As required, the enclosed report provides information about the development of King County's participatory budgeting process, which will give the estimated 100,000 residents of urban unincorporated King County an opportunity to decide how to spend \$10,000,000 of the 2021-2022 King County Budget on their priorities. The report also addresses the recruitment and makeup of the Community Investment Committee that will conduct this work and how the Department of Local Services (DLS) is working with the Office of Equity and Social Justice to ensure that the Committee can make equitable decisions when investing the funds.

The Community Investment Committee, comprised of 21 community members from the five urban unincorporated areas that are included in this participatory budgeting effort, is developing the participatory budgeting process and will be leading its implementation. The Committee met for the first time in early June 2021. DLS staff have communicated to Council staff the Committee's request for additional time to complete its work, as this report was due before the details of the participatory budgeting process are developed by the Committee.

The work reflected in the enclosed report aligns with the efficient, accountable regional and local government goal of the King County Strategic Plan, and its objective to align the funding, policy, and operational goals of the County with community priorities. Participatory budgeting is one approach that can be used to achieve the goal of aligning funding with community priorities. Participatory budgeting also deepens democracy, builds stronger communities, and makes public budgets more equitable and effective, reflective of the County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan.

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It is estimated that the report required 45 hours of staff time to produce, costing approximately \$5,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. The important work discussed in the report will help King County residents connect with their communities and the County to fund their highest priorities. We look forward to working with Council district offices to support the Community Investment Committee in its community engagement efforts.

If your staff have any questions, please contact John Taylor at 206-477-4602 or john.taylor@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Dwight Dively, Director, Performance, Strategy and Budget
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services