



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Marilynne Beard, Interim City Manager  
**From:** Erin Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
**Date:** April 6, 2010  
**Subject:** 2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 8

The 2010 State Special Legislative session is scheduled to be concluded by April 13<sup>th</sup>. As of this memorandum, the Legislature is still in session and the House and Senate have yet to agree on a budget/revenue package.

This is an update on the City's interests as of April 6<sup>th</sup>. The final Gordon Thomas Honeywell report about the budget and a final scorecard comparison against the adopted legislative agenda will be emailed to the Council in advance of the meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Enhanced 911 Emergency Communications Services ([HB 3216](#) and [SSB 6846](#)) – Emergency 911 communications services allow callers to reach agencies that can dispatch an appropriate type of response. Enhanced 911 (E-911) is a type of service that allows the caller's phone number and location to be automatically displayed at the public safety answering point. In Washington, 911 systems are primarily administered by counties and in some cases cities.

Enhanced 911 services are funded by county and state excise taxes. All counties may impose an excise tax on each switched telephone access line. The current maximum rate that a county may levy on a switched access line is 50 cents. Counties may also impose an excise tax of up to 50 cents per month on each radio (wireless) access line. In contrast to the counties, the state levies a 20-cent tax on switched telephone access lines and radio access lines. State E-911 excise taxes fund a state E-911 coordinator and help counties to pay for the extra costs incurred in upgrading from a basic system to an E-911 system.

The Senate version of this bill passed both houses and will be sent to Governor Gregoire for consideration. The final bill:

- Increases the maximum tax rate by 5 cents and 20 cents, respectively, for state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes;
- Expands the enhanced 911 excise tax to include interconnected voice-over internet protocol service lines; and
- Provides centralized collection by the state Department of Revenue for county enhanced 911 excise taxes.