



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
www.kirklandwa.gov

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

**Date:** September 28, 2015

**Subject:** RESOLUTION SUPPORTING KING COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2015.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council holds a public hearing and considers the attached Resolution expressing support for King County Proposition No. 1, which will be on the general election ballot in November 2015.

### **BACKGROUND:**

King County Ordinance No. 18088, concerning funding to improve well-being of children, youth, families and communities, was passed by the King County Council with an 8 to 1 vote (Attachment A). The proposed six year, \$392 million property tax levy for children, youth, families and communities needs a simple majority to pass. If passed, it would cost the average homeowner in King County about \$5 a month, or \$60 per year, according to the Seattle Times.

The certified ballot title for King County Proposition No. 1 reads as follows:

The King County Council passed Ordinance No. 18088 concerning funding to improve well-being of children, youth, families and communities. If approved, this proposition would provide funding for prevention and early intervention to achieve positive outcomes related to: healthy pregnancy; parental and newborn support; healthy child and youth development; the health and well-being of communities; and crisis prevention and early intervention for children and youth, including for domestic violence and homelessness. The measure would authorize an additional regular property tax of \$0.14 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection beginning in 2016 and authorize maximum annual increases of 3% in the succeeding 5 years. Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

### **Explanatory Statement on the King County Elections Department web site**

If approved by the voters, the proposition would authorize King County to levy an additional regular property tax at the rate of fourteen cents (\$0.14) or less per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation on all taxable property within King County to fund prevention and early intervention strategies to improve the health and well-being of children, youth,

families and communities. The levy would be authorized for a six-year period with collection beginning in 2016 and with annual increase up to 3% authorized for years two through six.

Levy proceeds would be used to improve the health and well-being of children, youth, families and communities, with 50% focused on children under 5 years of age, 35% on children aged 5 through 24, 10% on communities of opportunity, and the remaining 5% as detailed in Ordinance 18088. Funding would go towards services for pregnant women and newborns, access to safe and healthy food, and improved access to mental health services and developmental screening. Funding would also be used for prevention and early intervention on negative outcomes including chronic disease, mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence and incarceration. Funding would further be used to reduce inequities in outcomes for children and youth in the county and to strengthen, integrate and encourage innovation in health and human services agencies. Of the first year levy proceeds, \$19 million would fund a youth and family homelessness prevention initiative and cover levy election costs.

**OUTREACH TO CAMPAIGNS "FOR" AND "AGAINST":**

The general election voter pamphlet includes statements "For" and "Against" King County Proposition 1. These two statements are included (Attachment B).

Staff reached out to representatives of the Best Starts for Kids Campaign (supporting Prop 1) and the Smart Choices King County Campaign (opposing Prop 1) in an effort to: A) gather information on both perspectives; and B) Invite representatives to the Oct. 6 public hearing.

[www.beststartsforkids.com](http://www.beststartsforkids.com) is the web site for Best Starts for Kids: Yes on KC Prop 1. This web site provides information about the levy proposal (Attachment C). The Auburn City Council is listed among the endorsing organizations.

[www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com](http://www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com) is the web site for Smart Choices King County: No on KC Prop 1. As of the writing of this memo, this web site is not live.

- Attachments:
- A. Full text of King County Ordinance 18088, concerning funding to improve well-being of children, youth, families and communities.
  - B. Voter Pamphlet Statements (For and Against)
  - C. About Best Starts for Kids (Campaign Information)
  - D. Resolution in support of King County Proposition 1



# KING COUNTY

## Signature Report

July 22, 2015

**Ordinance 18088**

**Attachment A**  
1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Proposed No. 2015-0177.3**

**Sponsors McDermott and Dembowski**

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the  
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be  
3 held in King County on November 3, 2015, a proposition  
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy  
5 limitations contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a  
6 consecutive six-year period at a first year rate of not more  
7 than 14 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed  
8 valuation, and limiting annual levy increases to three  
9 percent in the five succeeding years, all for the purpose of  
10 funding prevention and early intervention strategies to  
11 improve the health and well-being of children, youth and  
12 their communities.

13 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 14 1. Approximately twenty-five thousand children are born in King County  
15 every year. County residents under age eighteen comprise twenty-one  
16 percent of the county's population. Nearly half of people under age  
17 eighteen in King County are people of color.
- 18 2. Eighty-five percent of the human brain is developed by age three.  
19 According to early childhood development experts, basic skills necessary

20 to be ready to learn in school and be successful as an adult, such as self-  
21 esteem, motivation, coordination, prioritization, management of incoming  
22 information, attention and distraction control, are developed by age five  
23 before children go to school.

24 3. A second significant time of brain development is adolescence.  
25 According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the parts of the brain  
26 responsible for controlling impulses and planning ahead, which are the  
27 hallmarks of successful adult behavior, mature during adolescence.  
28 Adolescence is also the critical period when young people learn to form  
29 safe and healthy relationships, and when many patterns of health-  
30 promoting or potentially health-damaging behaviors are established.

31 4. Although King County as a whole is a thriving, prosperous region,  
32 there is evidence that some of our children and youth are in danger of  
33 being left behind. The percentage of children five and under living in  
34 poverty is as low as four and seven-tenths percent in some regions of the  
35 county and as high as twenty-six percent in other regions. Infant mortality  
36 is four times higher in some areas of King County than others.

37 Approximately one-third of pregnant women do not receive the  
38 recommended levels of prenatal care. One in five adolescents is  
39 overweight or obese and only twenty-four percent of adolescents receive  
40 the recommended levels of physical activity. Twenty-six percent of  
41 adolescents report having depressive feelings and twenty-nine percent  
42 report using alcohol or other illicit drugs. Over six thousand King County

43 students are homeless; in some school districts as many as one in ten are  
44 homeless.

45 5. Studies have shown that adverse childhood experiences, such as  
46 domestic violence and sexual assault, increase the odds of experiencing  
47 homelessness as an adult, as well as mental health and physical health  
48 problems. The significance of the impact of those experiences on the  
49 development of children and youth emphasizes the necessity of the  
50 provision of robust social services and shelter programs for at-risk  
51 children and youth in domestic violence and sexual assault situations to  
52 prevent homelessness and physical and mental health problems later in  
53 life.

54 6. All too often the children and youth who are being left behind and are  
55 not receiving services before a crisis occurs are children and youth of  
56 color. Young people of color make up at least fifty to sixty percent of  
57 youth and young adults experiencing homelessness despite only twenty-  
58 nine percent of King County's general population being people of color.

59 7. One of the areas where the disparities in those who do not receive  
60 appropriate services before a crisis occurs is the juvenile justice system.  
61 African-American youth make up approximately fifty percent of those in  
62 detention in King County, or five times their rate of representation in the  
63 general population. According to a report from the National Conference  
64 of State Legislatures as many as seventy percent of children and youth in  
65 the juvenile justice system nationally are affected with a mental disorder,

66 and one in five suffer from a mental illness so severe as to impair their  
67 ability to function as a young person and grow into a responsible adult.

68 King County is committed to preventing crises before they occur and  
69 ending disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.

70 8. The county actively engages in equity and social justice efforts to eliminate  
71 racial disparities in the juvenile justice system and the council will consider this  
72 goal when deliberating on future policies and plans related to the voter-approved  
73 best starts for kids levy.

74 9. Investment in prevention and early intervention can prevent long-term  
75 harm of children as they grow up. According to the National Scientific  
76 Council on the Developing Child, extensive research on the biology of  
77 stress now shows that healthy development can be derailed by excessive  
78 or prolonged activation of stress response systems in the body and the  
79 brain, with damaging effects on learning, behavior and health across the  
80 lifespan.

81 10. Prevention and early intervention are also the most effective and least  
82 expensive ways to address serious future problems such as chronic  
83 disease, mental illness, substance abuse and incarceration. Science tells us  
84 that lifelong problems can be prevented: by investing heavily in children  
85 before age five; by making strategic investments at critical points in a  
86 young person's development before age twenty-four; and by taking actions  
87 to ensure that all children and youth have opportunities to live in safe,  
88 thriving, health-promoting home, school and community environments.

89           11. Studies have shown that the return on investment in early childhood  
90           development, ensuring that children have a strong start in life, is from  
91           three to seventeen dollars for every dollar invested. Similarly, the Institute  
92           of Medicine and National Research Council's Preventing Mental,  
93           Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People report  
94           released in 2009 notes that cost-benefit ratios for early treatment and  
95           prevention programs for addictions and mental illness programs range  
96           from 1:2 to 1:10. This means a one-dollar investment yields two to ten  
97           dollars savings in health costs, criminal and juvenile justice costs,  
98           educational costs and lost productivity.

99           12. Studies show that prevention has positive economic impacts for  
100           business. For example, a healthier workforce can reduce the extent to  
101           which health insurance costs and employee absenteeism affects a  
102           company's competitive edge. In the United States, full-time employees  
103           with chronic disease miss an estimated four hundred fifty million  
104           additional work days per year, compared to healthy employees,  
105           contributing to a cost of one hundred fifty-three billion dollars in lost  
106           productivity every year.

107           13. Many of the county's current funding sources, as well as other public  
108           budgets, are dedicated to responding to crises and negative outcomes,  
109           particularly negative outcomes for adults, such as severe mental illness,  
110           homelessness and chronic illness, and for children and youth who have  
111           already dropped out of school or who have been involved in the juvenile

112 justice system. While these are required or necessary expenditures, little  
113 funding is available to invest in prevention. For example, seventy-five  
114 percent of the county's general fund supports the law and justice system.  
115 The veterans and human services levy, because it is focused on services  
116 for people who are in crisis, provides for services primarily for adults.  
117 Only sixteen percent of its total funding is available to support people  
118 under age twenty-four and only eleven percent of the total levy provides  
119 for prevention-oriented services.

120 14. In 2014, the shortfall of funding for public health - Seattle & King  
121 County reached a critical point, threatening the loss of proven prevention  
122 and early intervention programs for mothers and families, such as the  
123 Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program and maternity support  
124 services.

125 15. While the voter-approved best starts for kids levy would allow public  
126 health - Seattle & King County to continue providing parent-child health  
127 services, such as the nurse family partnership home visiting program and  
128 maternity support services, the levy would not stabilize King County's  
129 broader public health services. The public health fund remains at risk, as  
130 long-term public health funding sources have not been identified.

131 16. The majority of levy proceeds from the voter-approved best starts for  
132 kids levy is intended to go to community partners to provide services in  
133 the community. As the levy is being implemented, the county's goal is to  
134 ensure that diverse communities and small organizations, including those

135 that are using emerging and innovative approaches to provide services, are  
136 able to access moneys in order to provide culturally appropriate services in  
137 King County. The county intends to collaborate with these organizations  
138 and help evaluate innovative new programs or services so that promising  
139 practices become proven practices.

140 17. Services for children and youth will improve as agencies and  
141 organizations working with children and youth have opportunities for  
142 training, building organizational and system capacity and sufficient  
143 resources to administer programs and services.

144 18. In 2010, the county enacted Ordinance 16857, establishing the King  
145 County Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes as one of its goals  
146 Health and Human Potential: Provide opportunities for all communities  
147 and individuals to realize their full potential.

148 19. In 2010, the county enacted Ordinance 16948, transforming its work  
149 on equity and social justice from an initiative to an integrated effort that  
150 applies the King County Strategic Plan's principle of "fair and just"  
151 intentionally in all the county does in order to achieve equitable  
152 opportunities for all people and communities.

153 20. In 2012, the council adopted Motion 13768, establishing the Health &  
154 Human Services Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan  
155 establishes as its vision that, by 2020, the people of King County will  
156 experience significant gains in health and well-being because our  
157 community worked collectively to make the shift from a costly, crisis-

158 oriented response to health and social problems, to one that focuses on  
159 prevention, embraces recovery and eliminates disparities.

160 21. In 2014, the county enacted Ordinance 17738, establishing the youth  
161 action plan task force and providing policy direction regarding the  
162 development of a youth action plan. The youth action plan task force  
163 members helped shape the best starts for kids levy.

164 22. In 2014, as part of the implementation of the King County Strategic  
165 Plan, the equity and social justice ordinance, the health and human  
166 services transformation plan and as part of the development of the youth  
167 action plan, King County staff began examining how the county could  
168 balance its investment portfolio towards more preventive approaches that  
169 lead to improved outcomes that allow individuals and communities to  
170 achieve their full potential. This resulting best starts for kids levy  
171 ordinance is guided by and represents a further implementation of the  
172 county's adopted policy direction.

173 23. In addition to building on adopted county policy, in developing this  
174 best starts for kids levy ordinance, King County staff consulted with  
175 experts at the University of Washington Institute for Learning & Brain  
176 Sciences and with several groups and coalitions, including the Best Starts  
177 for Kids Advisory Group, the Youth Action Plan Task Force, the  
178 Transformation Plan Advising Partners Group, the King County Alliance  
179 for Human Services, the Youth Development Executive Directors  
180 Coalition and several early learning coalitions. County staff also reviewed

181 and consulted with jurisdictions and organizations from around the United  
182 States and the world regarding best and promising practices.

183 24. It is the intent of the council and the executive that the strategies  
184 supported by the voter-approved best starts for kids levy will achieve a  
185 variety of individual and community outcomes. Individual outcomes will  
186 include the following: increasing the percentage of pregnant women who  
187 receive early and adequate prenatal care; increasing technical assistance to  
188 child care providers; reducing psychiatric hospitalizations for children and  
189 youth; decreasing the percentage of children and youth using alcohol or  
190 drugs; increasing the percentage of children and youth who feel they have  
191 an adult in their community they feel they can talk to; and decreasing the  
192 percentage of school-aged children and youth in south King County who  
193 are at an unhealthy weight. Community outcomes will include the  
194 following: decreasing inequities in outcomes for children and youth in  
195 King County; decreasing suspensions and expulsions, from child care  
196 through high school; decreasing disparities in health and well-being  
197 outcomes between different areas within King County; decreasing  
198 domestic violence; decreasing moneys spent on crisis services, such as  
199 incarceration and involuntary commitment; increasing the number of  
200 families and children and youth who are prevented from entering  
201 homelessness; and improved quality of life index in Communities of  
202 Opportunity.

203           25. It is the intent of the council and the executive that funding for the  
204           youth and family homelessness prevention initiative will allow the  
205           initiative to be flexible, client-centered and outcomes-focused and will  
206           provide financial support for community agencies to assist clients.

207           26. It is the intent of the council and the executive that levy proceeds  
208           described in section 5.C. of this ordinance shall be distributed in a  
209           geographically equitable manner, in furtherance of the King County  
210           Strategic Plan, the equity and social justice ordinance and other adopted  
211           county policies.

212           27. The council and the executive recognize the concerns of senior  
213           citizens, low-income households, and other vulnerable populations  
214           regarding housing costs and affordability. While the county would be  
215           authorized to implement a maximum increase of three percent annually  
216           from 2017 through 2021 if the best starts for kids levy is approved by  
217           voters, it is the intent of the council and the executive to consider  
218           economic conditions that affect those senior citizens, low-income  
219           households and other vulnerable populations, such as the year-over-year  
220           change in the national consumer price index for urban wage earners and  
221           clerical workers (CPI-W), as calculated by the United States Bureau of  
222           Labor Statistics, in determining the percentage by which to increase the  
223           levy each year.

224           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

225            **SECTION 1. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this  
226 ordinance unless the context clearly require otherwise.

227            A. "Children and youth" means a person through twenty-four years old.

228            B. "Communities of opportunity" means the program launched by The Seattle  
229 Foundation and King County in 2014 and memorialized in Contract #5692351, including  
230 any successor contract, to support communities in improving the health, social and  
231 economic outcomes of the residents of those communities, and to do so by partnering  
232 with those communities to shape and own solutions. In the event the formal relationship  
233 described in this subsection B. between The Seattle Foundation and King County ceases  
234 to be in effect at any point during the life of the levy, "communities of opportunity"  
235 means a strategy that is designed to improve the health, social and economic outcomes of  
236 specific communities that is administered by the county and developed in partnership  
237 with those communities.

238            C. "Communities of opportunity interim governance group" means the group and  
239 any successor group charged with advising on strategic direction and operations for  
240 communities of opportunity. The communities of opportunity interim governance group  
241 shall include one appointee of the executive and one appointee of the council,  
242 respectively, who shall be confirmed by ordinance. Interim governance group members  
243 as of the date of enactment of this ordinance include community partners and  
244 representatives from local government, from The Seattle Foundation and from King  
245 County. If the proposed levy passes, the group will be reconstituted in accordance with  
246 section 7.B. of this ordinance.

247 D. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and  
248 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state  
249 law.

250 E. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy and  
251 any interest earnings on the moneys.

252 F. "Limit factor," for purposes of calculating the levy limitations in RCW  
253 84.55.010, means one hundred three percent.

254 G. "Strategy" means a program, service, activity, initiative or capital investment  
255 intended to achieve the goals of this ordinance.

256 H. "Youth and family homelessness prevention initiative" means an initiative  
257 intended to prevent and divert children and youth and their families from becoming  
258 homeless.

259 **SECTION 3. Levy submittal.** To provide necessary moneys for the purposes  
260 identified in section 5 of this ordinance, the county council shall submit to the qualified  
261 electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy in excess of  
262 the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive years,  
263 commencing in 2016, at a rate not to exceed fourteen cents per thousand dollars of  
264 assessed value in the first year and authorizing a limit factor of one hundred three percent  
265 for each of the five succeeding years, which are 2017 through 2021. In accordance with  
266 RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a regular property tax levy, which is subject to the  
267 statutory rate limit of RCW 84.52.043.

268 **SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited in  
269 a special revenue fund, which fund shall be created by ordinance.

270            **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.**

271            A. Out of the first year's levy proceeds:

272                1. Nineteen million dollars shall be used to plan, provide and administer a  
273 youth and family homelessness prevention initiative; and

274                2. Such sums as are necessary to provide for the costs and charges incurred by  
275 the county that are attributable to the election.

276            B. The remaining levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide and administer the  
277 provision of a wide range of strategies to:

278                1. Improve health and well-being outcomes of children and youth, as well as the  
279 families and the communities in which they live, including, but not limited to, by  
280 ensuring adequate services and supports for pregnant women and newborns; access to  
281 safe and healthy food; support for hospitals and other mental health providers in King  
282 County to provide children and youth with access to mental health services; and  
283 developmental screening for children and youth;

284                2. Prevent and intervene early on negative outcomes, including, but not limited  
285 to, chronic disease, mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, domestic violence and  
286 incarceration;

287                3. Reduce inequities in outcomes for children and youth in the county; and

288                4. Strengthen, improve, better coordinate, integrate and encourage innovation in  
289 health and human services systems and the agencies, organizations and groups addressing  
290 the needs of children and youth, their families and their communities.

291            C. Of the eligible expenditures described in subsection B. of this section:

292           1. Fifty percent shall be used to plan, provide and administer strategies focused  
293 on children and youth under five years old and their caregivers, pregnant women and for  
294 individuals or families concerning pregnancy. Of these moneys, not less than \$42.8  
295 million shall be used to provide health services, such as maternity support services and  
296 nurse family partnership home visiting program services;

297           2. Thirty-five percent shall be used to plan, provide and administer strategies  
298 focused on children and youth ages five through twenty-four years old;

299           3. Ten percent shall be used to plan, provide and administer communities of  
300 opportunity; and

301           4. Five percent shall be used to plan, fund and administer the following:

302               a. evaluation and data collection activities;

303               b. activities designed to improve the delivery of services and programs for  
304 children and youth and their communities;

305               c. services identified in subsection B. of this section provided by metropolitan  
306 park districts in King County. Of these moneys identified in this subsection C.4.c., an  
307 amount equal to the lost revenues to the metropolitan park districts resulting from  
308 prorationing as mandated by RCW 84.52.010, up to one million dollars, shall be provided  
309 to those metropolitan park districts if authorized by the county council by ordinance; and

310               d. services identified in subsection B. of this section provided by fire districts,  
311 in an amount equal to the lost revenues to the fire districts in King County resulting from  
312 prorationing, as mandated by RCW 84.52.010, for those services, to the extent the  
313 prorationing was caused solely by this levy and if authorized by the county council by  
314 ordinance.

315            **SECTION 6. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,  
316 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with  
317 the general election on November 3, 2015, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular  
318 property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director  
319 of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state  
320 constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the  
321 said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council  
322 shall certify that proposition to the director of elections in substantially the following  
323 form:

324            PROPOSITION\_\_\_; The King County Council has passed Ordinance  
325            \_\_\_\_\_ concerning funding to improve well-being of children, youth,  
326 families and communities. If approved, this proposition would provide  
327 funding for prevention and early intervention to achieve positive outcomes  
328 related to: healthy pregnancy; parental and newborn support; healthy  
329 child and youth development; the health and well-being of communities;  
330 and crisis prevention and early intervention for children and youth,  
331 including for domestic violence and homelessness. The measure would  
332 authorize an additional regular property tax of \$0.14 per \$1,000 of  
333 assessed valuation for collection beginning in 2016 and authorize  
334 maximum annual increases of 3% in the succeeding 5 years.

335            **SECTION 7. Governance.**

336            A. If the levy is approved by the voters, an oversight and advisory board shall be  
337 established by ordinance to serve as the oversight and advisory board for the portion of

338 the levy proceeds described in section 5.C.1., 2. and 4. of this ordinance. The executive  
339 shall transmit to the council by December 1, 2015, a plan relating to the oversight and  
340 advisory board and a proposed ordinance that identifies the duties and composition of the  
341 oversight and advisory board. The duties of the oversight and advisory board shall  
342 include making recommendations on and monitoring the distribution of levy proceeds.  
343 The oversight and advisory plan shall be consistent with the recommendations contained  
344 in the county's youth action plan, adopted by Motion 14378. The oversight and advisory  
345 board shall be comprised of a wide array of King County residents and stakeholders with  
346 geographically and culturally diverse perspectives.

347 B. The communities of opportunity interim governance group shall serve as the  
348 advisory board for levy proceeds described in section 5.C.3. of this ordinance. The  
349 executive shall transmit to the council by December 1, 2015, a plan relating to the  
350 communities of opportunity interim governance group and a proposed ordinance that  
351 identifies the composition and duties of the interim governance group with respect to the  
352 levy proceeds described in section 5.C.3. of this ordinance.

353 **SECTION 8. Implementation plans.**

354 A. The executive shall transmit to the council an implementation plan that  
355 identifies the strategies to be funded and outcomes to be achieved with the use of levy  
356 proceeds described in section 5.A.1. of this ordinance. This implementation plan relating  
357 to the youth and family homelessness prevention initiative shall, to the maximum extent  
358 possible, be developed in collaboration with the oversight and advisory board and shall  
359 be transmitted to the council by March 1, 2016, for council review and approval by  
360 ordinance.

361           B. The executive shall transmit to the council an implementation plan that  
362 identifies the strategies to be funded and outcomes to be achieved with the use of levy  
363 proceeds described in section 5.C. of this ordinance. The implementation plan shall be  
364 developed in collaboration with the oversight and advisory board and the communities of  
365 opportunity interim governance group, as applicable. The implementation plan shall, to  
366 the maximum extent possible, take into consideration the county's youth action plan,  
367 adopted by Motion 14378, and any recommendations of the county's steering committee  
368 to address juvenile justice disproportionality that was formed in 2015 that are adopted  
369 into policy. Along with the implementation plan required by this subsection B., the  
370 executive shall transmit to the council for approval by motion a policy that identifies the  
371 economic indicators the council should consider each year in determining the percentage  
372 by which to increase the levy for the subsequent year. The motion shall also include the  
373 executive's recommendations for the percentage by which the levy should change based  
374 on changes in the identified economic indicators. The implementation plan shall be  
375 transmitted to the council by June 1, 2016, for council review and approval by ordinance.

376           C. Levy proceeds may not be expended for the purposes described in section 5.A.  
377 and C. of this ordinance until the date on which the applicable implementation plan is  
378 approved by ordinance, .except for planning funds, which shall be approved by ordinance  
379 and not exceed two million dollars, the funds required for elections costs described in  
380 section 5.A.2. of this ordinance, and funds for public health services described in section  
381 5.C.1. of this ordinance

382           D. The implementation plans described in subsections A. and B. of this section  
383 shall each include a proposal for an annual reporting process to the council, including the  
384 regional policy committee or a successor committee.

385           SECTION 9. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the  
386 county council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the election on  
387 November 3, 2015, and any other act consistent with the authority and before the  
388 effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

389           SECTION 10. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

390 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the  
391 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

392

Ordinance 18088 was introduced on 5/4/2015 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/20/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove  
No: 1 - Mr. Dunn  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 23 day of JULY, 2015.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

King County

[Proposition No. 1](#)

[Regular Property Tax Levy for Children, Youth, Families and Communities](#)

<b>Statement For</b>	<b>Statement Against</b>
<p>Every child in King County deserves the best start in life. All kids need support as they grow to reach their full potential. Proposition 1 is a bipartisan, evidence-based package that will fund proven programs, deliver real, measurable benefits, and create lasting change.</p> <p>Early Childhood: Groundbreaking UW research shows brain development is most critical from ages 0-3. Prop 1 provides prenatal support, parent education, caregiver training, developmental screenings, and targeted help for young families facing economic hardship or homelessness.</p> <p>Behavioral Intervention: Equipping teachers and parents to identify behavioral and mental health challenges—and get kids the help they need—is critical to school success, dropout prevention, and keeping kids away from crime.</p> <p>Domestic Violence Prevention: Kids should live in nurturing homes. Prop 1 supports programs to reduce the risk of domestic abuse—and to protect victims.</p> <p>Fiscally Responsible: Currently 75% of county resources go to criminal justice —managing bad outcomes rather than preventing them. Prop 1 moves upstream – into prevention - breaking cycles of poverty and punishment, saving money, and making sure every child can grow, learn, and thrive.</p> <p>Endorsements: Executive Dow Constantine; mayors and councilmembers; business and union leaders; Boys and Girls Clubs; YWCA; United Way of King County.</p> <p>Statements submitted by: Nancy Backus, Calvin Lyons, and Dow Constantine, <a href="http://www.beststartsforkids.com">www.beststartsforkids.com</a></p>	<p>Basic county services are underfunded. King County is closing bridges and returning roads to gravel due to annual maintenance budget shortfalls of over \$100 million. The Sheriff’s budget needs millions to return staffing to pre-recession levels. The County Executive recently proposed releasing some felons hours after arrest to cut costs.</p> <p>This levy sounds nice, but it is a “blank check” without details on how it will be spent. King County taxpayers simply cannot afford this additional \$400 million when King County is not funding basic services.</p> <p>Due to state-imposed property tax limits, up to 14 Fire and Hospital Districts could lose funding with this levy. There would also be little room left under our taxing authority to fully fund law enforcement, courts, jails, or road maintenance.</p> <p>Just a few short months ago, the State increased education funding by 19% or \$2.7 billion earlier this year. As former State Legislators we understand these programs are a state responsibility, and recent state budget increases will expand high-quality early learning opportunities for our kids.</p> <p>Now is not the time for a new \$400 million levy. Politicians need to fund vital county services first, before asking for extras in the County’s budget.</p> <p><a href="http://www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com">www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@smartchoiceskingcounty.com">info@smartchoiceskingcounty.com</a></p> <p>Statements submitted by: Warren Peterson and George Scott, <a href="http://www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com">www.smartchoiceskingcounty.com</a></p>

<b>Rebuttal of Statement Against</b>	<b>Rebuttal of Statement For</b>
<p>Best Starts is a smart investment in preventing problems, reducing criminal justice costs, and creating long-term tax savings. The Seattle Times agrees, endorsing Prop 1: “... the cold-eyed assessment of social-sciences researchers ... finds that \$221 spent on behavioral interventions for kids in child care yields benefits (better grades, fewer disruptions, prevented crime) worth \$31,741...” An independent citizen oversight board ensures accountability. For less than \$5 per average homeowner, Best Starts helps all children succeed.</p>	<p>King County’s Charter, our county Constitution, requires us to fund basic county services first. Our Sheriff’s Office has nearly 125 fewer officers than pre-recession and our roads remain critically underfunded. Until we fully fund our county services, taxpayers shouldn’t be asked to shoulder Olympia’s responsibilities.</p> <p>This proposed levy lacks specifics. It’s a blank check to spend \$400,000,000 without details on how to spend it. Our children deserve organization and accountability, which this levy doesn’t provide.</p>

## About

Best Starts for Kids will provide the resources needed to put every child on a path toward lifelong success. Science tells us prevention and early intervention are the most effective and least expensive ways to address our most serious problems such as obesity, mental illness, domestic violence, substance abuse, and homelessness. Yet, much of the County's funding is responding to these negative outcomes – severe mental illness, homelessness, chronic illness, and youth who have already dropped out of school or who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Specifically, 75% of the County's general fund pays for the law and justice system.

Best Starts for Kids invests in a child's early years, carries forward throughout a child's journey to adulthood, and creates healthy communities that reinforce their progress.

## Levy Amount

A six-year levy lid lift at a rate of 14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which would raise about \$65 million per year at a cost to the average King County homeowner of about \$1 per week.

## Investing Early

Fifty percent of the revenue would be invested in strategies focused on children under age five and pregnant women, including a modest investment to sustain and expand parent and child health services that are delivered through the county's Public Health Centers. The science and evidence shows us that the earlier we invest, the greater the return for both the child's development and our society.

## Sustaining the Gain

Thirty-five percent would be invested in strategies focused on children and youth aged five through twenty-four. The science and research tells us that the brain continues to develop during this time and that prevention efforts addressed at key developmental stages or transition points in a young person's life help to sustain gains made earlier in life.

## Communities Matter

Ten percent would be invested in strategies to create safe and healthy communities. This strategy will sustain and expand the partnership between King County and The Seattle Foundation on Communities of Opportunity (COO). COO is based on the latest research and evidence regarding the impact of place on a child's success and the importance of supporting communities in building their own capacity to create positive change.

## Outcomes-Focused and Data Driven

Five percent would support evaluation, data collection and improving the delivery of services and programs for children and youth. This will ensure Best Starts for Kids strategies are tailored for children from every background in King County and that we deliver on the results for every child in King County.

## Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention

Initial levy collections would be used to create a family and youth homelessness prevention initiative modeled on a successful pilot implemented by organizations serving survivors of domestic violence.

## Advisory Boards

An oversight and advisory board comprised of county residents and stakeholders with geographically and culturally diverse perspectives would be established. The advisory board will make recommendations and monitor distribution of levy proceeds. The existing governance group for COO will act as the advisory board for that portion of the levy funds.

## Implementation

In order to reduce inequities in our County, Best Starts for Kids strategies are designed to be both universal and targeted, with the large majority of Best Starts for Kids levy funding competitively bid in outcomes-focused contracts to community-based organizations. This will help ensure that the strategies are implemented in a manner that is appropriate for all cultural and ethnic groups and that each child and her caregivers receive the tools and level of support they need. Should the voters approve it, the county will refine outcomes and indicators through development of a detailed implementation plan with input and consultation from the community.

*Paid for by* **Best Starts for Kids**

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425-516-7128

RESOLUTION R-5155

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND  
2 SUPPORTING KING COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1, A REGULAR  
3 PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO FUND PREVENTION AND EARLY  
4 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-  
5 BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.  
6

7 WHEREAS, on November 3, 2015, voters in King County will  
8 decide whether to approve a levy to provide funding for prevention and  
9 early intervention to achieve positive outcomes related to: healthy  
10 pregnancy; parental and newborn support; healthy child and youth  
11 development; the health and well-being of communities; and crisis  
12 prevention and early intervention for children and youth, including for  
13 domestic violence and homelessness; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, this proposition would authorize King County to levy  
16 an additional regular property tax of \$0.14 or less per \$1,000 of  
17 assessed valuation on all taxable property within King County for a six-  
18 year period with collection beginning in 2016 and authorize maximum  
19 annual increases of three percent in years two through six; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, levy proceeds would be used to improve the health  
22 and well-being of children, youth, families and communities, with 50  
23 percent focused on children under 5 years of age, 35 percent on children  
24 aged 5 through 24; 10 percent on communities of opportunity, and the  
25 remaining 5 percent as detailed in King County Council Ordinance  
26 18088; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, of the first year levy proceeds, \$19 million would fund  
29 a youth and family homelessness prevention initiative and cover levy  
30 elections costs; and

31 WHEREAS, an oversight and advisory board comprised of county  
32 residents and stakeholders with geographically and culturally diverse  
33 perspectives would also be established to make recommendations and  
34 monitor distribution of levy proceeds; and

35 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to improve the health and  
36 well-being of children, youth families and communities; and

37 WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, RCW 42.17.130, the City  
38 Council of Kirkland desires to show its support for Proposition No. 1.  
39

40 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
41 of Kirkland as follows:

42            Section 1. The City Council supports Proposition No. 1, a Regular  
43 Property Tax Levy for Children, Youth Families and Communities.

44  
45            Section 2. The City Council urges Kirkland voters to vote yes on  
46 Proposition No. 1.

47  
48            Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
49 meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

50  
51            Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
52 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk