



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Joe Sanford, Fire Chief  
Andreana Campbell, Management Analyst

**Date:** April 13, 2020

**Subject:** ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION R-5314 ACCEPTING COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP REPORT TO COUNCIL.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Kirkland City Council adopts Resolution R-541 accepting the community safety advisory group report and directing the City Manager to conduct further public outreach and return to the Council with ordinances authorizing the City to place two measures on the ballot. Staff further recommends that the Council:

- Receives the Community Safety Advisory Group initial survey feedback.
- Receives the final community survey questions from EMC Research.

## **RESOLUTION R-5413 ELEMENTS**

Resolution R-5413 is included as Attachment A to this memorandum with changes in response to Council comments from the April 7 Council meeting included. If Council adopts resolution R-5413, Council is accepting the Community Safety Advisory Committee report, and directing the City Manager to return to the Council with two ballot measure ordinances after additional public outreach is conducted. One ordinance authorizing a permanent levy be placed on the ballot to fund operating investments, and a second ordinance authorizing a 30-year bond be placed on the ballot to fund capital investments. These two ballot measure ordinances would be brought back to the Council for review after the survey results are compiled, and no later than July.

The revised resolution includes title changes to make the resolution's purpose more clear, new WHEREAS sections related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and adds three new amendments as sections 2 through 4 below.

- Section 2. The City Manager is hereby directed to seek additional input from the Community Safety Advisory Group to determine if any of their recommendations on investments or ballot dates have changed due to the COVID-19 emergency and current or anticipated economic conditions, and to conduct additional public outreach.
- Section 3. The City Manager is further directed to develop options for consideration that would limit the propositions' impact on seniors, disabled veterans, and others with disabilities as allowed by state law.
- Section 4. The City Manager is further directed to develop options for consideration to enhance emergency preparedness, build or replenish stockpiles, and make other investments in light of lessons learned during the City's COVID-19 response to date.

Section 5 was consolidated to include both ordinances and was modified to state "with the goal" of placing measures on the November 3, 2020 ballot to express intent, but provide flexibility to move the date.

## **SECTION 2. COMSAG INITIAL SURVEY FEEDBACK**

Section 2 of Resolution R-5413 directs the City Manager to “seek additional input from the ComSAG to determine if any of their recommendations on timing of the investments, or ballot dates have changed due to the COVID-19 emergency and current or anticipated economic conditions.” Staff engaged the ComSAG with a brief survey to gauge initial feedback on potential changes to the recommendation regarding ballot measure elements, timing, financing, and/or interest in reconvening. The survey was sent to the ComSAG Monday, April 13 and was available to take until Friday, April 17 at noon. The results of the initial ComSAG survey will be available in the staff presentation at the April 21 Council meeting.

## **SECTION 3. INCORPORATING RCW 84.36.381**

Council recommends incorporating RCW 84.36.381 which exempts certain senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities from the tax increase.

Incorporating this tax exemption has the following impact:

	Kirkland's Assessed Valuation	30-Year Bond Rate/\$1000	Permanent Levy Rate/\$1000	Annual Bond Impact	Annual Levy Impact
Original Costs	\$31,524,712,048	\$0.10133	\$0.12380	\$73.97	\$90.37
With RCW 84.36.381	\$31,160,621,400	\$0.10263	\$0.12540	\$73.96	\$91.57
<b>Impact of RCW</b>	<b>(\$364,090,648)</b>	<b>\$0.0013</b>	<b>\$0.0016</b>	<b>\$0.99</b>	<b>\$1.19</b>
IRRT Latest Updates	\$31,160,621,400	\$0.10595	\$0.14162	\$77.34	\$102.22

The impact of including the exempt properties decreases Kirkland's overall assessed valuation by roughly \$364,000,000, which has an impact of about an additional tenth of a penny for both the bond and the levy, and an additional \$0.99 per year on the bond and \$1.19 per year on the levy. The annual costs assume a median home value of \$730,000 determined by the King County Assessors' Office for 2020.

RCW 84.36.381 also provides, for those who qualify, a deferral program. Details on both the exemption and deferral program were provided by the City's financial advisors and included as Attachment B to this memorandum.

## **FIRE/EMS COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The final Fire/EMS community survey provided by EMC Research is included as Attachment C to this memorandum. Staff met virtually with EMC Research after the April 7 Council meeting to go over the feedback provided by Council and confirm a timeline for conducting the survey. The survey is set to begin April 20, 2020 and run for up to a week and a half. EMC Research will have top line results ready during the first week in May for staff to bring to Council at the May 19 Council meeting.

In response to the Council's inquiries, staff asked that EMC Research not request the youngest male in the household when calling a land line phone number. Although they are historically an underrepresented demographic, Council expressed the preference avoid specifically asking for any demographic to take the survey, regardless of representation levels. EMC Research has removed that portion of the survey.

EMC Research recommended not prioritizing or trying to explain in more depth the firefighter health and safety improvements. Although equally important, the issue is extremely complex and difficult to synthesize to the community in a way that would provide meaningful results.

Lastly, staff asked EMC Research about the language in the right direction, wrong track question to gather insight on word choice. EMC Research explained that the survey benefits from language that requires a polarized choice from the survey taker. They also mentioned that it was the same language used in the 2018 Enhanced Police and Community Services survey. After the discussion, staff recommends keeping the language the same to provide a direct comparison of results related to public safety investments. The City may decide not to include that language in future surveys.

In conjunction with the City Attorney’s Office, the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) received the final community survey for review. The survey won’t go into the field until the PDC responds with comments.

**NEXT STEPS:**

At the March 17, 2020 meeting, Council received a preliminary update on the ComSAG’s recommendation, and received the full report at the April 7, 2020 meeting along with updated survey questions incorporating Council’s feedback. At the April 21, 2020 Council meeting, staff will be seeking action from the Council to accept the ComSAG report by adopting Resolution R-5413. Staff will also be seeking Council’s feedback and direction on the ComSAG’s initial survey responses, which will be provided in the Council presentation.

Pending PDC review, EMC Research intends to begin conducting the survey on April 20, 2020. The survey duration will be up to a week and a half, and staff will bring results back to the Council at the May 19 Council meeting along with two draft ordinances for the Council’s review. The July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting marks the last day for Council to take final action to place these two measures on the ballot by adopting the two ordinances.

A timeline is outlined below with deadlines and an accelerated timeline if Council would like to act faster.

<b>Election Calendar</b>	<b>Accelerated Calendar</b>	
March 17		Staff Presented Preliminary Update on ComSAG Recommendation to Council
April 7		Staff to present Full ComSAG Recommendation to Council
April 21		Council to Adopt Resolution R-5413 Accepting Full ComSAG Report
April 20		EMC Research to Begin Fire/EMS Community Survey
May 19		Staff to Bring Survey Responses and Draft Ordinances to Council
July 7 or 21	June 2 or 16	Ballot Measure(s) Public Hearings
July 7	June 6	Pro/Con Committee Appointments Authorized
July 21	June 16	Pro/Con Committee Appointments Confirmed
July 21	June 16	Last Council Meeting to Approve Ballot Measure Ordinances
August 4		Ballot Measure Resolution due to King County
August 7		Explanatory Statement Due
August 11		Pro/Con Statements Due
November 3		General Election



**Live Telephone Survey**

**City of Kirkland**

15 minutes; n=400

04/16/20

EMC Research #20-7667

**[IF PHONE NUMBER IS A CELL PHONE READ INTRO\_CELL]**

**INTRO\_CELL:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm conducting a survey for \_\_\_\_\_ to find out how people feel about issues in Kirkland. We understand this is a challenging situation and we appreciate your participation. We are not trying to sell anything and are collecting this information on a scientific and completely confidential basis. **CONTINUE WITH PERSON ON PHONE, REPEAT INTRO IF NECESSARY**

**[IF PHONE NUMBER IS A LANDLINE READ INTRO\_LAND]**

**INTRO\_LAND:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm conducting a survey for \_\_\_\_\_ to find out how people feel about issues in Kirkland. We understand this is a challenging situation and we appreciate everyone's participation. We are not trying to sell anything and are collecting this information on a scientific and completely confidential basis.

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1. Do you live in Kirkland?
  1. Yes
  2. No/(Don't know/Refused) → **TERMINATE**
  
2. What is your gender? **(DO NOT READ LIST)**
  1. Male
  2. Female
  3. Non-binary
  4. Self describe **(RECORD RESPONSE)**
  5. (Refused)
  
- 3A. What year were you born? **[RECORD YEAR - VALID RANGE: 1910-2002; IF REFUSED, CODE AS 9999]**
  
- 3B. **[AGE RANGE - CODE FROM PREVIOUS QUESTION]**  
**[IF 3A=9999 THEN ASK FOLLOWUP: "Would you say you are age (READ LIST)..."]**
  1. 18-29
  2. 30-39
  3. 40-49
  4. 50-64
  5. 65 or over
  6. (Refused)

4. Do you feel that things in Kirkland are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?
  1. Right direction
  2. Wrong track
  3. (Don't know/Refused)
5. What do you think is the most important problem facing Kirkland today? **(OPEN END, RECORD UP TO TWO VERBATIM RESPONSES, PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE)** And what do you think is the next most important problem facing Kirkland?

6INT. Recognizing the unique situation we are experiencing, I would like to ask you about a variety of potential issues facing Kirkland, both current and long term. Please rate each one using a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means you feel that issue should be a very low priority and 7 means that you feel that item should be a very high priority for the City of Kirkland.

**(PROMPT IF NECESSARY:** How would you rate that item on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is a very low priority and 7 is a very high priority?)

**SCALE:**

1. 1 - Very Low Priority
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7 - Very High Priority
8. (Don't know)

**(RANDOMIZE)**

6. Improving police services and response times
7. Improving fire and emergency medical services and response times
8. Reducing homelessness
9. Reducing traffic congestion
10. Improving housing affordability
11. Providing services for people in need
12. Addressing impacts of growth
13. Keeping residents informed about the coronavirus
14. Responding to the coronavirus

**(END RANDOMIZE)**

15INT. I'd like you to rate the job the City of Kirkland is doing on a variety of issues. Using a scale of excellent, good, only fair, or poor, please rate each of the following.

**(PROMPT IF NECESSARY: How would you rate that, using a scale of excellent, good, only fair or poor?)**

**SCALE:**

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Only fair
4. Poor
5. (Don't know/Refused)

**(ALWAYS ASK FIRST)**

15. The job the City of Kirkland government is doing overall

**(RANDOMIZE)**

16. The job the City of Kirkland is doing using tax dollars responsibly
17. The job the City of Kirkland is doing providing police services
18. The job the City of Kirkland is doing providing firefighting services
19. The job the City of Kirkland is doing providing emergency medical services
20. The job the City of Kirkland is doing responding to the coronavirus

**(END RANDOMIZE)**

21INT. The City of Kirkland is considering two potential ballot proposals, including – **(ROTATE: [a bond measure to build a new fire station in Totem Lake and fund seismic renovations and other safety and capacity upgrades to several existing fire stations (ASK Q21 FIRST, THEN Q22)] and [a measure to hire more firefighters who are also Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) (ASK Q22 FIRST, THEN Q21)])**. The city wants to understand how high a priority each measure is for you. The first one is... **[RETAIN ROTATE ORDER]**

21. A potential sixty million-dollar, 30-year bond measure to fund capital improvements for Kirkland's fire services. If approved, this measure would fund the construction of a new fire station near Totem Lake and a new training center to improve fire and emergency response times. The measure would also fund seismic renovations of the existing Forbes Creek, Houghton, and North Rose Hill fire stations to improve firefighter health and safety. This measure would be funded by an estimated property tax of ten and a half cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

In general, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this potential ballot measure?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. (Don't know/Refused)

The next one is...

22. A potential four point four million-dollar per year levy to fund the hiring of additional fire and emergency medical staff. If approved, this levy would fund the hiring of twenty-four new firefighters who are also trained as emergency medical technicians to fully staff Fire Station 24 in North Juanita and improve response times throughout the City for both fire and medical 9-1-1 calls. This measure would be funded by an estimated property tax of fourteen cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

In general, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this potential ballot measure?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. (Don't know/Refused)

**[END ROTATE]**

**[RETAIN ROTATE ORDER FROM EARLIER]**

23. If approved, the bond measure to build a new fire station in Totem Lake and fund seismic renovations and other safety and capacity upgrades would cost the owner of a \$730,000 home an estimated ten and a half cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, which amounts to a about six and a half dollars a month or roughly seventy seven dollars per year.

After hearing this, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a 30-year bond measure to fund the construction of a new fire station near Totem Lake and a new training center to improve fire and emergency response times, and to fund seismic renovations of the existing Forbes Creek, Houghton, and North Rose Hill fire stations to improve firefighter health and safety?

1. Strongly support
  2. Somewhat support
  3. Somewhat oppose
  4. Strongly oppose
  5. (Don't know/Refused)
24. If approved, the levy to fund the hiring of more firefighters who are also Emergency Medical Technicians would cost the owner of a \$730,000 home an estimated fourteen cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, which amounts to just under eight and a half dollars per month or about one hundred and two dollars per year.

After hearing this, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a levy to fund the hiring of twenty-four new firefighters, who are also trained as emergency medical technicians, to fully staff Fire Station 24 in North Juanita and improve response times throughout the City for both fire and medical 9-1-1 calls?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. (Don't know/Refused)

**[END ROTATE]**



25INT. Next I'm going to read you a list of potential investments which could be included in the City of Kirkland's ballot measures. After each one, please tell me if that investment is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you.

**(PROMPT IF NECESSARY:** Is that very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?)

**SCALE:**

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not too important
4. Not at all important
5. (Don't know/Refused)

**(RANDOMIZE)**

25. Build a new fire station 27 located near Evergreen Health Primary Care Hospital to provide a second fire station on the East side of I-405 to serve Kingsgate, Juanita, the Village at Totem Lake and surrounding developments.
26. Make critical earthquake and other safety upgrades, modernize, and expand fire station 21 at Forbes Creek, fire station 22 in Houghton, and fire station 26 in North Rose Hill, all serving the central and south parts of Kirkland.
27. Purchase a second ladder truck to allow firefighters to extinguish commercial and residential structure fires more effectively.
27. Build a fire training center to enhance specialty training and improve response times as firefighters can remain in Kirkland to train instead of traveling to Bellevue and Kenmore.
28. Provide a new dedicated aid car team of firefighters who are also trained as emergency medical technicians at station 22 in Houghton to serve Downtown Kirkland, and to respond to increasing medical calls especially among the growing elderly population.
29. Provide dedicated staffing for aid car transports to hospitals during the busiest 12-hour shifts, improving aid car response times to and from emergency medical scenes.
30. Hire additional firefighters who are also emergency medical technicians to improve response times throughout the City.
31. Replenish stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and make other investments to improve firefighter health and safety during pandemics and other emergencies.

**(END RANDOMIZE)**

**[RETAIN ROTATE ORDER FROM EARLIER]**

31INT. Now I would like to ask you again about both public safety measures. Given everything you have heard:

31. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a 30-year bond measure to fund the construction of a new fire station near Totem Lake and a new training center to improve fire and emergency response times, and to fund seismic renovations of the existing Forbes Creek, Houghton, and North Rose Hill fire stations to improve firefighter health and safety?
1. Strongly support
  2. Somewhat support
  3. Somewhat oppose
  4. Strongly oppose
  5. (Don't know/Refused)

And...

32. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a levy to fund the hiring of twenty-four new firefighters, who are also trained as emergency medical technicians, to fully staff Fire Station 24 in North Juanita and improve response times throughout the City for both fire and medical 9-1-1 calls? ?
1. Strongly support
  2. Somewhat support
  3. Somewhat oppose
  4. Strongly oppose
  5. (Don't know/Refused)

**(END ROTATE)**

33INT. There are a number of different types of revenue sources which could be used for funding the fire and emergency medical services investments and fire station projects. For each of the following, say whether you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose using that revenue source to fund fire and emergency medical services investments and fire station projects.

**(PROMPT IF NECESSARY: Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose that type of revenue?)**

**SCALE:**

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. (Don't know/Refused)

**(RANDOMIZE)**

33. A sales tax increase
34. A property tax increase
35. Diverting contributions to the City's rainy day and rate stabilization funds
36. Reducing the budgets of general government, and programs such as parks maintenance and roads maintenance to free up funds to invest in fire and emergency medical services

**(END RANDOMIZE)**

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

37. Do you own or rent the place in which you live?
  1. Own/(Buying)
  2. Rent
  3. (Don't know/NA)
38. Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your home?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. (Don't Know/Refused)
39. **(IF RESPONDENT AGE<65)** Are there any seniors age 65 or older living in your home?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. (Don't Know/Refused)
40. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. (Refused)

41. Please choose one or more races you consider yourself to be. **(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)**
1. White/Caucasian
  2. Black, African or African American
  3. American Indian or Alaska Native
  4. Asian or Pacific Islander
  5. Other (Please specify) **[TEXT BOX]**
  6. (Refused)

**DEBRIEF:** Those are all of the questions I have for you today. We understand this is a very difficult situation for everyone and I would like to thank you for taking the time to speak with me and share your opinions.

**THANK YOU!**