

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Seattle Public Utilities	Paula Laschober	Akshay Iyengar

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU); amending Resolution 31800, as later amended by Resolution 31825; and updating the ongoing Customer Review Panel (CRP) to provide additional opportunities for young adult engagement and clarify panel eligibility for optional stipends, as SPU implements the six-year Strategic Business Plan (Plan) and conducts future Plan updates.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** The Council in 2012 approved a Statement of Legislative Intent directing SPU to develop a six-year Strategic Business Plan. A subsequent resolution, Resolution 31429, clarified the primary goal of the Plan, which is to set a transparent and integrated direction for all of SPU's business lines that reflects customer values, provides customer rate predictability, and results in the best value for customer dollars. That resolution also established a nine-member CRP to provide input to the Plan during its development and provide to the Mayor and City Council comments on the Plan concurrent with delivery of the final proposed Plan to Council. In 2018, the Council passed Resolution 31825, expanding the panel to 11 positions to ensure continuous stakeholder engagement and acknowledge the benefit of additional members in fostering a more diverse set of views.

This legislation creates two additional positions on the panel, increasing the number of seats on the panel from 11 to 13. The two new seats would be reserved for young adult representatives.

This legislation also codifies the stipends paid to the CRP members who opt to receive them. Current CRP rules provide for an annual stipend of \$1,300 for panel members, and \$2,000 for the Chair and Vice Chair.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

<b>Expenditure Change (\$);</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
<b>General Fund</b>					
<b>Expenditure Change (\$);</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>\$650</b>	<b>\$2,600</b>	<b>\$2,600</b>	<b>\$2,600</b>	<b>\$2,600</b>

Revenue Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.

Number of Positions	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Total FTE Change	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.

The annual incremental cost of two additional panel members is \$2,600. It is assumed the two new members would be empaneled by Q4 of 2025.

### 3.d. Other Impacts

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

None.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

The stipends for panel members can be absorbed within existing operations.

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**

Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Immigrant & Refugee, and low-income communities are routinely asked to participate in public engagement by the city. Over time, continual unfunded requests of time and lived experience to participate in public engagement leave communities feeling fatigued, disrespected, and distrustful. Compensation is a way to honor and build relationships and trust with community as more equal partners in our work.

Including positions for two young adults, ages 18 through 29 at the time of appointment or reappointment shows intentionality to engage younger generations by having seats at the table to participate in their public utility and for SPU to gain further insight from younger ratepayers and community members. Not implementing the legislation would result in an inability to add two positions specifically designed to represent the perspective of young adults in the community. While SPU retains the right to nominate young adults to currently existing CRP seats, creating these dedicated new positions establishes a more focused and intentional pathway for ensuring sustained young adult participation within the panel.

**Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.**

This legislation involves continuing coordination with the Department of Neighborhoods for the support of the CRP and models best practices for the City's Boards and Commissions.

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No

**b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**

No

**c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

**i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response, please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

This legislation will create additional opportunities for young adults, including those from vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities, to participate in advising SPU. Compensation for community participation is a race and social justice best practice proven to reduce barriers to participation and honor volunteer commitment, expertise, and lived experience. This practice aims to advance racial equity best practices and build community trust, furthering the vision of being a Community Centered Utility as outlined in the SPU Strategic Business Plan. Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Immigrant & Refugee, and low-income communities are routinely asked to participate in public engagement by the city. Over time, continual unfunded requests of time and lived experience to participate in public engagement leave communities feeling fatigued, disrespected, and distrustful. Compensation is a way to honor and build relationships/trust with community as more equal partners in the utility's work.

**ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

N/A

**iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

The CRP operates under the City of Seattle's citywide Language Access Plan for all public communications. In accordance with this policy, the Panel ensures materials and meetings are accessible, and does not maintain a separate, duplicative plan.

**e. Climate Change Implications**

- i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

This legislation does not directly increase or decrease carbon emissions but could indirectly impact them by enhancing the CRP's ability to advise on SPU policies that influence carbon emissions. By reducing barriers to participation for young adults and members of vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities, who offer unique perspectives on climate impacts, SPU can develop a more holistic approach to policies, potentially leading to better strategies for emission reduction.

- ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

This legislation is likely to increase Seattle's ability to adapt to climate change in a material way. The CRP weighs in on SPU policies, including those that directly influence climate resiliency. Young adults and members of vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities experience climate change impacts uniquely, offering critical perspectives on adaptation strategies. By reducing barriers to their participation on the CRP, this legislation enables SPU to gain invaluable insights, fostering a more holistic and equitable approach to developing policies that effectively address climate change implications for resiliency.

- f. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

- g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No

<b>5. ATTACHMENTS</b>
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**Summary Attachments:** None