



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Select Committee on Federal Administration and Policy Changes Agenda

Friday, August 15, 2025

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Chair
Joy Hollingsworth, Member
Debora Juarez, Member
Robert Kettle, Member
Sara Nelson, Member
Maritza Rivera, Member
Rob Saka, Member
Mark Solomon, Member
Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8808; AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov

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Policy Changes
Agenda
August 15, 2025 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall , 600 4th Avenue , Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<https://seattle.gov/council/committees/federal-administration-and-policy-changes>

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business. Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

D. Items of Business

1. One Big Beautiful Bill Act's Impact on Energy Policy

2. Federal Impacts on Disaster and Emergency Management Systems

Supporting Documents: [OIR and OEM Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion (60 min)

Presenters: Curry Mayer, Director, Office of Emergency Management (OEM); Anne Maher, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)

E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2724, **Version:** 1

One Big Beautiful Bill Act's Impact on Energy Policy



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2725, **Version:** 1

Federal Impacts on Disaster and Emergency Management Systems

Federal Update on Emergency Management

Curry Mayer, Director

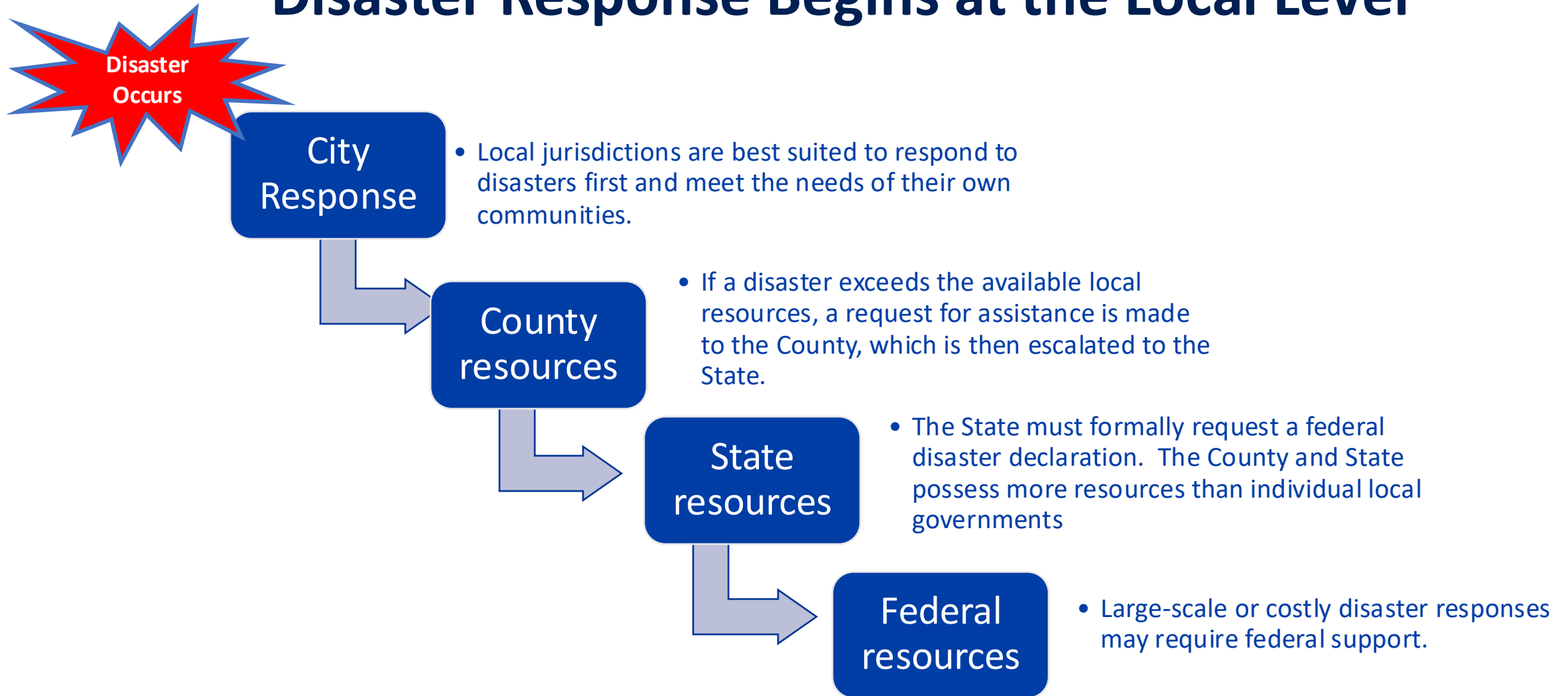
August 15, 2025

Seattle Office of Emergency Management



City of Seattle 6

Disaster Response Begins at the Local Level



Changes to Federal Disaster Funding are Substantive

Previous Federal Assistance	New Federal Assistance (Proposed)
Presidential Declarations and post-incident funding only applied when the damage threshold met of \$1.89 per capita was met. The Washington State threshold was \$14.5 million.	Presidential Declarations only apply if \$7.56 per capita is met, which represents a fourfold increase. In Washington, this threshold amounts to \$58 million.
Cities could receive direct Federal Assistance in the form of staff, resources, and specialty services; e.g. field hospital, COVID reimbursement (Seattle \$30 million).	Uncertain level of Federal Assistance.
Decision support before weather incidents; National Weather Service.	Little to no support before weather incidents.

Federal Emergency: What we know

- The federal government has outlined new terms and conditions to receive grant funds that may make Seattle ineligible.
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds may not be available for Seattle for this calendar year.
- Some FEMA classes restored.
- Political and **legal** landscape shifts regularly

Effect to Seattle: Bomb Cyclone

- Washington State's request for a federal declaration denied (Bomb Cyclone)
- Seattle sustained over \$7.4 million of damages
- State's claim exceeded damage threshold of \$14.5 million
- Denial appealed – Appeal also denied
- All disaster damage now responsibility of Seattle



Federal Changes Affect Regional Emergency Preparedness



Working together to find disaster mitigation & recovery funding alternatives



State Emergency Management (WA EMD) hosting meetings with all WA jurisdictions to discuss funding alternative supports



Continued collaboration such as with an upcoming FIFA exercise

What's Next for Congress

- **Prior to August recess, the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) introduced H.R. 4669/Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025.**
 - This is bi-partisan legislation intending to restore the agency's status as a cabinet level agency and streamline federal disaster response.
- **Concurrently, Secretary Kristi Noem (DHS) and Sec. Pete Hegseth (DoD), are leading the President's FEMA Review Council.**
 - This was established under President Trump's executive order "Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency" in January of 2025.
 - The administration has signaled it does not seek to elevate FEMA to the President's Cabinet, which is unaligned with the T&I Committee.
- The House and Senate continue to work on their respective FY2026 appropriations bills. Given Homeland Security funding bill's jurisdiction over immigration and border security programs, it will face political headwind.

Questions?

