

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 127235  
**COUNCIL BILL** 120996

AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency medical services; authorizing execution, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, of an agreement with King County regarding the imposition and allocation of property tax revenues generated by a six-year, voter-approved King County-wide tax levy for emergency medical services; approving the submittal by King County of a proposition to the voters seeking authority to levy those additional taxes; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

WHEREAS, King County desires to place before the qualified electors of King County a ballot proposition authorizing the County to levy additional regular property taxes in amounts up to 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation each year, for exactly six consecutive years, on all taxable property within King County for the support of emergency medical services (EMS), pursuant to the powers granted to it in RCW 84.52.069; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 does not permit a county-wide regular tax levy for emergency medical services to be placed on the ballot until after the legislative authority of 75 percent of all cities having a population in excess of 50,000 within such county has approved such action; and

WHEREAS, King County proposes to carry out its obligation to provide emergency medical services on a County-wide basis by, among other actions, making funds available for expenses incurred in the City's independent emergency medical services program by allocating and transferring to the City that portion of the tax revenues generated by the County EMS tax levy that is attributable to taxable property within the City of Seattle, with certain minimum amounts established; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The placing before the qualified electors of King County, pursuant to the powers granted to King County by RCW 84.52.069, of a ballot proposition on November 4, 2025, authorizing the County to levy each year for exactly six consecutive years commencing in 2025 (for collection beginning in 2026) additional regular property taxes Countywide in amounts up to \$0.25 per \$1,000 dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable property within King County, for the support of emergency medical services (EMS), is approved, conditioned upon the execution by King County, prior to placement of the measure on the ballot, of the interlocal agreement authorized by Section 2 of this ordinance, and subject to the terms of that agreement.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to execute, for and on behalf of The City of Seattle, an agreement with King County substantially in the form of the attached Exhibit A, "Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Allocation of Property Tax Revenues between The City of Seattle and King County." No deviation from the form of agreement shown in Exhibit A may reduce the City's right to receive the minimum amounts shown in Paragraph 3 of Exhibit A.

Section 3. Execution by the Mayor of the agreement authorized by Section 2 of this ordinance prior to the effective date of this ordinance is ratified and confirmed.

1           Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the latest of: (a) 30 days  
2 after its approval by the Mayor; (b) 30 days after the Mayor's unsigned return; (c) 45 days after  
3 Council passage if the Mayor does not return within ten days after presentation; (d) the date of  
4 reconsidered Council passage of this ordinance over the Mayor's disapproval; or (e) the date the  
5 King County Executive signs, on behalf of King County, the agreement authorized by Section 2  
6 of this ordinance, having first been authorized to do so by ordinance or motion of the King  
7 County Council.

Passed by the City Council the 17th day of June, 2025,  
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 17th day of  
June, 2025.



President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

☒ Approved / ☐ returned unsigned / ☐ vetoed this 23rd day of June, 2025.



Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this 23rd day of June, 2025.



Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - 2026-2031 EMS Levy ILA between KC and Seattle

Exhibit 1 – Emergency Medical Services Levy Overview – Proposed Financial Plan  
(King County March 2025 Forecast)

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR ALLOCATION OF  
PROPERTY TAX REVENUES

BETWEEN THE CITY OF SEATTLE

AND

KING COUNTY

(2026—2031)

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into pursuant to the "Interlocal Cooperation Act," codified as Ch. 39.34 RCW, by and between The City of Seattle ("The City") and King County ("The County"); WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County desires to place before the qualified electors of King County a ballot proposition authorizing the County to levy additional regular property taxes County-wide in amounts up to 25 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation each year for six consecutive years on all taxable property within King County for the support of emergency medical services ("EMS") pursuant to the powers granted to it in RCW 84.52.069; and

WHEREAS, the City operates and funds an emergency medical services program which is independent from, but coordinated with, the County's program; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the revenues to be collected pursuant to the county-wide EMS levy will be attributable to taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto desire to reimburse and transfer to the City for the support of its emergency medical services program all revenues to be collected pursuant to the county-wide EMS levy from the taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the reimbursement and transfer agreement set forth below will not affect the County's ability to provide emergency medical service throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 provides that no county-wide EMS levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without the legislative authority of at least 75% of those cities with a population exceeding 50,000.

Now, Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. The County shall submit to the qualified electors of King County at a general election to be held on November 4, 2025, a proposition authorizing the County to levy additional regular property taxes each year for exactly six consecutive years beginning in 2025 for collection beginning in 2026 on taxable property within the County in amounts up to twenty-five (25) cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation pursuant to RCW 84.52.069 for expenses incurred in the provision of emergency medical services.
2. This Agreement shall commence upon its signing by both parties. This Agreement shall terminate when all property taxes levied by King County under this Agreement have been collected and the proper share transferred to the City.
3. Upon approval by the qualified electors of King County of the authority for additional regular property tax levies as set forth in RCW 84.52.069 and paragraph 1 of this Agreement, the County shall transfer to the City all revenues collected pursuant to the county-wide EMS levy from taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City.

The total amount transferred shall not be less than the smaller of the following:

- a) All revenues that could be collected under a county-wide EMS levy from taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City at a beginning 2026 levy rate of twenty-five (25) cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, accounting for historical rates of undercollection and adjusting in subsequent years per the growth limit factor of 1% plus new construction: or
- b) The amount identified for the corresponding tax collection year as “Projected Net Seattle Property Taxes” set forth in the King County 2026-2031 “Emergency Medical Services Levy Overview – Proposed Financial Plan (March 2025 Forecast)” dated May 7, 2025 attached as Exhibit 1: or
- c) All revenues that could be collected under a county-wide EMS levy from taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City at the highest levy rate that the county is allowed to impose under state law, accounting for historical rates of undercollection.

In any year in which the County has imposed the highest levy allowed under state law, but the distribution of assessed value growth would result in a net transfer of money from the rest of King County to Seattle under “b” above, then Seattle agrees to receive its transfer under “c” above.

4. Transfer of the revenues set forth in Paragraph 3 above shall be administered by the King County Finance and Business Operations Division of the Department of

Executive Services in the manner and at such times as the County transfers revenues produced pursuant to levies listed in or authorized by RCW 84.52.043, provided if the amount to be transferred requires a payment in excess of the actual EMS levy revenues collected within the legal boundaries of the City, the additional transfer amount shall be distributed in the same manner as King County distributes taxes for an annexation.

5. All revenues received pursuant to the county-wide EMS levy and this Agreement shall be used only for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services as specified in RCW 84.52.069(5) and shall be deposited into a special revenue account established by the City for that purpose. The City shall provide the county a report describing the City's use of the proceeds annually.

6. In return for the County's agreement to impose taxes and transfer tax proceeds as set forth in Paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the City gives its approval by ordinance for the submission to the qualified electors of King County of the county-wide multi-year additional property tax levy proposition for emergency medical services described in Section 1 above.

7. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to prohibit the City from levying an annual tax levy pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 or a levy pursuant to RCW 84.52.069 to fund emergency medical services.

8. The parties hereto expressly reserve for themselves the right to amend this Agreement. No amendment hereto will be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties hereto.

KING COUNTY

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Acting under authority of

Acting under authority of

Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form:

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecuting Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LEVY OVERVIEW - (March 2025 Forecast) - 25.0 cents**

5/7/2025

	2026 Proposed	2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed	2029 Proposed	2030 Proposed	2031 Proposed	2026-2031
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Countywide Assessed Value (EMS Only)	900,361,839,667	932,621,368,969	966,950,031,725	998,753,254,891	1,042,177,421,775	1,075,460,988,298	
Countywide EMS Levy	225,090,460	230,462,234	235,080,343	239,706,406	244,405,893	249,182,917	1,423,928,253
Levy Rate	0.25000	0.24711	0.24312	0.24001	0.23451	0.23170	
Proportion	34.90%	35.05%	35.21%	35.40%	35.49%	35.64%	
Projected Net Seattle Property Taxes	78,556,571	80,777,013	82,771,789	84,856,068	86,739,652	88,808,792	502,509,883
<b>Seattle Revenue</b>	<b>78,556,571</b>	<b>80,777,013</b>	<b>82,771,789</b>	<b>84,856,068</b>	<b>86,739,652</b>	<b>88,808,792</b>	<b>502,509,883</b>
Proportion	65.10%	64.95%	64.79%	64.60%	64.51%	64.36%	
Projected Net King County Property Taxes	146,533,889	149,685,221	152,308,554	154,850,339	157,666,242	160,374,125	921,418,370
Projected King County Other Revenue	3,848,000	3,529,000	3,487,000	3,236,000	3,236,000	3,236,000	20,572,000
<b>King County Revenue</b>	<b>150,381,889</b>	<b>153,214,221</b>	<b>155,795,554</b>	<b>158,086,339</b>	<b>160,902,242</b>	<b>163,610,125</b>	<b>941,990,370</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>228,938,460</b>	<b>233,991,234</b>	<b>238,567,343</b>	<b>242,942,406</b>	<b>247,641,893</b>	<b>252,418,917</b>	<b>1,444,500,253</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
<b>Total City of Seattle</b>	<b>(78,556,571)</b>	<b>(80,777,013)</b>	<b>(82,771,789)</b>	<b>(84,856,068)</b>	<b>(86,739,652)</b>	<b>(88,808,792)</b>	<b>(502,509,883)</b>
Advanced Life Support Services -- King Count	(77,697,276)	(81,190,874)	(84,896,835)	(88,551,633)	(92,313,037)	(96,332,593)	(520,982,249)
Basic Life Support Services -- King County	(41,556,724)	(43,447,554)	(45,454,830)	(47,432,115)	(49,466,952)	(51,643,497)	(279,001,672)
Regional Services	(18,954,061)	(19,816,472)	(20,731,993)	(21,633,834)	(22,561,925)	(23,554,650)	(127,252,935)
Strategic Initiatives	(1,258,488)	(1,303,968)	(1,407,434)	(1,458,311)	(1,507,840)	(1,557,582)	(8,493,623)
<b>Total King County EMS Fund</b>	<b>(139,466,549)</b>	<b>(145,758,868)</b>	<b>(152,491,092)</b>	<b>(159,075,893)</b>	<b>(165,849,754)</b>	<b>(173,088,322)</b>	<b>(935,730,479)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(218,023,120)</b>	<b>(226,535,882)</b>	<b>(235,262,881)</b>	<b>(243,931,961)</b>	<b>(252,589,406)</b>	<b>(261,897,113)</b>	<b>(1,438,240,362)</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE Revenues/Expenditures</b>	<b>10,915,340</b>	<b>7,455,353</b>	<b>3,304,462</b>	<b>(989,555)</b>	<b>(4,947,513)</b>	<b>(9,478,197)</b>	<b>6,259,891</b>
<b>Year End RESERVES (not cumulative)</b>	<b>(60,859,012)</b>	<b>(62,410,543)</b>	<b>(64,070,543)</b>	<b>(65,694,193)</b>	<b>(67,364,460)</b>	<b>(43,272,080)</b>	<b>(69,149,312)</b>