

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
CBO	Dave Hennes/4-0537	Dave Hennes/4-0537

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the levy of regular property taxes by The City of Seattle for collection in 2016, representing an increase above the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2015; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This legislation, commonly known as the “Short Property Tax Ordinance” reflects changes in the regular property taxes in terms of dollars and percentages. It is a companion to the ordinance authorizing Seattle’s property tax levies, commonly known as the “Long Property Tax Ordinance.”

Since the approval of Referendum 47 in November 1997, state law has required that taxing jurisdictions adopt, by a majority of their legislative body, a separate ordinance authorizing regular property tax increases, other than increases due to certain excluded assessed property values identified below. The ordinances must show the authorized increase in terms of both dollars and percentages. Due to the exclusion of increases due to new construction, construction of wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, the value of state-assessed property, and refund adjustments to the levy amount, the actual year-over-year change in the City’s regular levy will differ from the calculated change in this legislation. Seattle’s Long Property Tax legislation, which is the authorizing legislation for the City’s property tax levy, provides a more detailed description of Seattle’s actual property tax levy and revenues.

In addition to the 1 percent increase in the regular non-voted property tax levy, the Families & Education levy lid lift and the Library levy lid lift proposed in the attached Bill, the City of Seattle’s 2015 levy for collection in 2016 includes a first year levy amount of \$95,000,000 for the recently approved Seattle Transportation levy lid lift and a first year levy amount of \$3,000,000 for the recently approved Election Vouchers levy lid lift. One lid lift expired in 2015, the Bridging the Gap Transportation levy. Altogether, this year’s levy represents an increase of \$61,139,424 (17.10 percent) above 2015. As noted above, this does not include the “refund fund levy,” or additional taxes resulting from new construction, construction of wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, or an increase in the value of state-assessed property.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

_____ **This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.**

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

 X **This legislation has direct financial implications.**

Please see the Fiscal Note to the 2016 Long Property Tax Ordinance, which authorizes the actual property tax levies.