



# CITY OF SEATTLE

## City Council

### Agenda

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

**2:00 PM**

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

**Joy Hollingsworth, Council President**

**Dionne Foster, Member**

**Debora Juarez, Member**

**Robert Kettle, Member**

**Eddie Lin, Member**

**Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member**

**Maritza Rivera, Member**

**Rob Saka, Member**

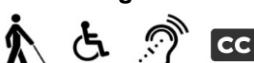
**Dan Strauss, Member**

**Chair Info: 206-684-8803; [Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov](mailto:Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov)**

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**Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566**

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

## City Council Agenda

**January 13, 2026 - 2:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:**

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

**Committee Website:**

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

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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

<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.

Written comments must be submitted prior to 10 a.m. to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the start of the meeting.

Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Comments received after 10 a.m. will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Members of the public may sign up to address the Council for up to 2 minutes on matters on this agenda; total time allotted to public comment at this meeting is up to one hour.*

**E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:**

*Introduction and referral to Council committees of Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF) for committee recommendation.*

[IRC 506](#) January 13, 2026

**Attachments:** [Introduction and Referral Calendar](#)

**F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA****G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

*The Consent Calendar consists of routine items. A Councilmember may request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed on the regular agenda.*

**Journal:**

1. [Min 550](#) January 6, 2026

**Attachments:** [Minutes](#)

**Bills:**

2. [CB 121148](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 29, 2025, through January 2, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Supporting Documents:** [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Discussion and vote on Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF).*

**LAND USE COMMITTEE:**

1. [CB 121143](#) AN ORDINANCE relating to floodplains; tenth extension of interim regulations established by Ordinance 126113, and as amended by Ordinance 126536, for an additional six months, to allow individuals to rely on updated National Flood Insurance Rate Maps to obtain flood insurance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program.

**The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).**

**In Favor: 4 - Lin, Strauss, Rinck, Rivera**

**Opposed: None**

**Supporting**

**Documents:** [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

**I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

**K. OTHER BUSINESS**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** IRC 506, **Version:** 1

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January 13, 2026



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

January 13, 2026

## Introduction and Referral Calendar

List of proposed Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt) and Clerk Files (CF) to be introduced and referred to a City Council committee

Record No.	Title	Committee Referral
<b><u>By: Strauss</u></b>		
1. <a href="#">CB 121148</a>	AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 29, 2025, through January 2, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.	City Council
<b><u>By: Strauss,Foster</u></b>		
2. <a href="#">CB 121153</a>	AN ORDINANCE relating to the Social Housing Tax; authorizing the Mayor or designee to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Seattle Social Housing Developer to establish the terms and procedures for the implementation, administration, transfer, reporting, and oversight of the Social Housing Tax, including provisions for reimbursement of the City's administrative and implementation costs and outstanding loan balances; creating the Social Housing Tax Fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.	Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee
<b><u>By: Lin</u></b>		
3. <a href="#">CB 121152</a>	AN ORDINANCE relating to floodplains; adopting permanent regulations consistent with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations; adopting the February 2020 updated National Flood Insurance Rate Maps to allow individuals to continue to obtain flood insurance through FEMA's Flood Insurance Program; repealing Ordinances 126113 and 126536; and amending Chapter 25.06 and Section 25.09.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code.	Land Use and Sustainability Committee



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Min 550, **Version:** 1

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January 6, 2026

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104



## Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall

600 4th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

### City Council

*Joy Hollingsworth, Council President*

*Dionne Foster, Member*

*Debora Juarez, Member*

*Robert Kettle, Member*

*Eddie Lin, Member*

*Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member*

*Maritza Rivera, Member*

*Rob Saka, Member*

*Dan Strauss, Member*

*Chair Info: 206-684-8803; [Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov](mailto:Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov)*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council of The City of Seattle met in the Council Chamber in City Hall in Seattle, Washington, on January 6, 2026, pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., with Council President Pro Tem Strauss presiding.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 8 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Late Arrival:** 1 - Juarez

**C. ELECTION OF 2026 - 2027 COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Council President Pro Tem Strauss opened the floor to nominations for the position of Council President for 2026 and 2027.

Motion was made by Councilmember Strauss and duly seconded, to place in nomination the name of Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth.

*Councilmember Juarez joined the meeting at 2:03 p.m.*

Hearing no further nominations, nominations were closed.

The Motion carried and Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth was elected as Council President of the Seattle City Council for 2026 and 2027 by the following vote:

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

**D. PRESENTATIONS****The Oath of Office Ceremony:**

The Oath of Office was administered to Dionne Foster by her son, Miles Foster-Cundiff. Councilmember Foster addressed those in attendance in the Council Chamber.

The Oath of Office was administered to Alexis Mercedes Rinck by Bilan Aden, Co-Founder and Vice President, African Community Housing and Development. Councilmember Rinck addressed those in attendance in the Council Chamber.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Paul Glumaz  
Rep. Brianna K. Thomas  
Carolyn Malone  
Bennett Haselton  
Nathan Wall  
David Haines  
Yvette Dinish  
Alberto Alvarez  
Joe Kunzler  
Palmira Figueroa

**F. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:**

IRC 505**January 6, 2026**ACTION 1:

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth and duly seconded to adopt the proposed Introduction and Referral Calendar.

ACTION 2:

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth, duly seconded and carried, to amend the proposed Introduction and Referral Calendar by introducing Resolutions 32188, 32189, and 32190, and by referring them to the City Council to be acted on at today's City Council meeting.

Resolution 32188, A RESOLUTION designating the monthly President Pro Tem of the City Council of The City of Seattle for 2026-2027; superseding Resolution 32177.

Resolution 32189, A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council; and superseding Resolution 32162.

Resolution 32190, A RESOLUTION relating to participation on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 32178.

**The Introduction & Referral Calendar (IRC) was adopted as amended by the following vote:**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

## **G. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted.

## **H. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth, duly seconded and carried, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

**Journal:**

1. [Min 548](#)**December 9, 2025**

**The Minutes were adopted on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Minutes (Min):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

2. [Min 549](#)**December 16, 2025**

**The Minutes were adopted on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Minutes (Min):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

**Bills:**3. [CB 121145](#)

**AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 8, 2025, through December 12, 2025, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

**The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

4. [CB 121146](#)

**AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 15, 2025, through December 19, 2025, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

**The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

5. [CB 121147](#) **AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 22, 2025, through December 26, 2025, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

**The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

## **I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were none.

## **J. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were none.

## **K. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

1. [Res 32188](#) **A RESOLUTION designating the monthly President Pro Tem of the City Council of The City of Seattle for 2026-2027; superseding Resolution 32177.**

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 32188.

**The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution (Res):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

2. [Res 32189](#) **A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council; and superseding Resolution 32162.**

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 32189.

**The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution (Res):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

3. [Res 32190](#) **A RESOLUTION relating to participation on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 32178.**

ACTION 1:

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 32190.

ACTION 2:

By unanimous consent, the Council Rules were suspended to allow consideration of an amendment that was not distributed 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

ACTION 3:

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth and duly seconded, to amend Resolution 32190, by changing the memberships as follows: by deleting Councilmember Juarez as a member of the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board, and inserting Councilmember Rivera as a member of the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board; deleting Councilmember Juarez as the alternate member of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee, and inserting Councilmember Kettle as the alternate member of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Board; and adding Councilmember Kettle as a member to the Seattle International Affairs Advisory Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

**The Resolution (Res) was adopted as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution (Res):**

**In Favor:** 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

**Opposed:** None

**L. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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**Jodee Schwinn, Deputy City Clerk**

**Signed by me in Open Session, upon approval of the Council, on January 13, 2026.**

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**Joy Hollingsworth, Council President of the City Council**



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Legislation Text

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**File #: CB 121148, Version: 1**

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### **CITY OF SEATTLE**

#### **ORDINANCE** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **COUNCIL BILL** \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 29, 2025, through January 2, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

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

Section 1. Payment of the sum of \$29,439,689.06 on PeopleSoft 9.2 mechanical warrants numbered 4100997217 - 4100998830 plus manual or cancellation issues for claims, e-payables of \$103,758.41 on PeopleSoft 9.2 9100015893 - 9100015904, and electronic financial transactions (EFT) in the amount of \$178,001,845.25 are presented to the City Council under RCW 42.24.180 and approved consistent with remaining appropriations in the current Budget as amended.

Section 2. Payment of the sum of \$67,270,033.63 on City General Salary Fund mechanical warrants numbered 10457120 - 10457350 plus manual warrants, agencies warrants, and direct deposits numbered 0000001 - 1016234 representing Gross Payrolls for payroll ending date December 30, 2025, as detailed in the Payroll Summary Report for claims against the City that were reported to the City Council January 08, 2026, is approved consistent with remaining appropriations in the current budget as amended.

Section 3. RCW 35.32A.090(1) states, "There shall be no orders, authorizations, allowances, contracts or payments made or attempted to be made in excess of the expenditure allowances authorized in the final budget as adopted or modified as provided in this chapter, and any such attempted excess expenditure shall be void and shall never be the foundation of a claim against the city."

Section 4. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken prior to its effective date is

ratified and confirmed.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the 13th of January, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 13th of January, 2026.

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

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Office of City Finance	Kaitlin Klaustermeier	Lorine Cheung

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

#### **Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of December 29, 2025, through January 2, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts. Claims include all financial payment obligations for bills and payroll paid out of PeopleSoft for the covered.

#### **Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

RCW 42.24.180 requires that payment of certain claims be authorized by the City Council. This bill, prepared each week by the City Treasury, authorizes the payments of funds that were previously appropriated by the City Council, so the passage of this bill does not have a direct result on the City's budget.

### **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

This bill authorizes the payments of funds that were previously appropriated by the City Council, so the passage of this bill does not have a direct result on the City's budget.

**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.**

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

The legislation authorizes the payment of valid claims. If the City does not pay its legal obligations it could face greater legal and financial liability.

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

**a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.**

This type of legislation authorizes payment of bill and payroll expenses for all City departments.

**b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

No.

**c. 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.**

N/A

**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?**

N/A

**d. 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.**

N/A

**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.**

N/A

**e. 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

## 5. CHECKLIST

- Is a public hearing required?**
- Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?**
- If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?**
- Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

## 6. ATTACHMENTS

**Summary Attachments:**

None.



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CB 121143, **Version:** 1

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### **CITY OF SEATTLE**

#### **ORDINANCE** \_\_\_\_\_

#### COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to floodplains; tenth extension of interim regulations established by Ordinance 126113, and as amended by Ordinance 126536, for an additional six months, to allow individuals to rely on updated National Flood Insurance Rate Maps to obtain flood insurance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program.

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126113 in July 2020, the City adopted interim floodplain development regulations to regulate development in special flood hazard areas in accordance with standards established by the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology and areas identified as flood-prone in subsection 25.09.012.B of the Seattle Municipal Code, with an effective date of August 24, 2020, and an expiration date of February 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126271 in January 2021, the City renewed the interim floodplain development regulations for 12 months with an effective date of February 22, 2021, and an expiration date of February 22, 2022, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126536 in February 2022, the City amended Section 25.06.110 of the Seattle Municipal Code and extended the interim floodplain development regulations for six months with an effective date of February 18, 2022, and an expiration date of August 18, 2022, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126651 in August 2022, the City again renewed the interim floodplain

development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of August 17, 2022, and an expiration date of February 17, 2023, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126763 in February 2023, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of February 15, 2023, and an expiration date of August 15, 2023, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126885 in August 2023, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of August 15, 2023, and an expiration date of February 15, 2024, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 126994 in February 2024, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of February 13, 2024, and an expiration date of August 13, 2024, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 127064 in August 2024, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of August 7, 2024, and an expiration date of February 7, 2025, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 127179 in February 2025, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of February 4, 2025, and an expiration date of August 4, 2025, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance 127258 in August 2025, the City again renewed the interim floodplain development regulations as amended by Ordinance 126536 for six months with an effective date of August 4, 2025, and an expiration date of February 4, 2026, to continue to meet the National Flood Insurance Program and the Washington State Department of Ecology requirements to remain in compliance; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the City published its State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decision on the proposed permanent regulations that included amendments to the interim code and additional amendments; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the City's SEPA decision was appealed by the Port of Seattle, which has delayed the adoption of the proposed permanent regulations because the Port and City staff have been working on amendments to the proposed permanent regulations, Director's Rules, Tips, and a variance guidance document to address the Port's concerns; and

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the City withdrew its SEPA decision to address the issues raised by the Port of Seattle's appeal and planned to reissue SEPA on the amended proposed permanent Floodplain Development Regulations; and

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the City published its State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decision on the proposed permanent regulations that included amendments to the interim code and additional amendments; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 SEPA decision was not appealed but it did bring about new interest in the

proposal and has led to additional outreach and discussion; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2025, an addendum to the August 1, 2024 Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) was issued based on a modified legislative proposal for the permanent floodplain development regulations; and

WHEREAS, the permanent floodplain regulation proposal has not yet been transmitted to Council; thus, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections now seeks another extension of the interim floodplain regulations to be in place while the City deliberates on the permanent floodplain proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The City Council makes the following legislative findings of fact and declares as follows:

A. The Council incorporates by reference the findings of fact contained in Ordinance 126113.

B. In July 2020, the City Council passed, and the Mayor signed Ordinance 126113, establishing interim floodplain development regulations to maintain the City's standing in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program, enabling residents to continue to be eligible for flood insurance while preventing development incompatible with City goals related to development in the floodplains.

C. Since that time, the City has proposed permanent floodplain development regulations that included the amendments proposed in the interim regulations and additional code amendments and published a new State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decision on this proposal; however, due to factors detailed below, the work necessary to complete the permanent regulations will not be completed before the expiration of the interim regulations on February 4, 2026.

D. The City's initial SEPA decision, published in July 2021, was appealed to the Hearing Examiner by the Port of Seattle ("Port") and Port and City staff subsequently worked to resolve the issues raised by the Port with code amendments, Director's Rules, Tips, and a variance guidance document.

E. The City withdrew its SEPA decision in February 2022 in order to reissue an updated SEPA analysis on the amended proposed permanent Floodplain Development Regulations that address some or all issues raised by the Port of Seattle.

F. The City issued a new SEPA decision in August 2024 and this decision was not appealed. However, the Port of Seattle continues to request additional amendments, and additional constituents have requested additional engagement with the City and FEMA.

G. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.390 authorizes the City to renew interim regulations by ordinance for a six-month period.

Section 2. Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.390, the interim regulations first set forth in Ordinance 126113, and as amended by Ordinance 126536, shall be renewed for a period of six months from the date this ordinance becomes effective, and shall automatically expire after the six-month period unless the same is extended as provided by statute, or unless terminated sooner by the City Council.

Section 3. This ordinance, which is not subject to referendum, shall take effect: immediately after its approval by the Mayor; immediately after its unsigned return by the Mayor; if the Mayor disapproves it and the Council upon reconsideration passes it again, immediately after that passage; or, if not returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, 15 days after its passage by the City Council.

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

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

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
SDCI	Margaret Glowacki	Christie Parker

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to floodplains; tenth extension of interim regulations established by Ordinance 126113, and as amended by Ordinance 126536, for an additional six months, to allow individuals to rely on updated National Flood Insurance Rate Maps to obtain flood insurance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This legislation extends the interim floodplain development legislation adopted by Ordinance 126113, and amended by Ordinance 126536, for a tenth time with a public hearing as allowed by the State Growth Management Act. Without adoption of this legislation the interim regulations would expire on February 4, 2026. This legislation extends the amended interim regulations for 6 months so that the City's floodplain mapping and development regulations will continue to be consistent with federal law. These interim regulations will continue to be in place while SDCI conducts the final work before Council considers the Permanent Floodplain Development legislation, which incorporates feedback from enhanced stakeholder outreach. The additional time is needed to allow for the 60-day notice, as required by the Department of Commerce. This time will also be used to provide opportunities for additional public comment during Council deliberations.

The extension of the interim regulations applies to permit applications for construction on property within floodplain areas mapped by FEMA. FEMA has required these types of updates across the country. FEMA published the final updated floodplain map for King County in February 2020. This map (called the Flood Insurance Rate Map) identifies properties that are at risk of flooding and is used to determine which properties are required to have flood insurance. The updated FEMA map is considered final and took effect on August 19, 2020.

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

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

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

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

### **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.**

No. While the updated mapping in the interim legislation, Ordinance 126113, includes approximately 185 additional properties, the number of permit applications that are being reviewed using the interim regulations is minimal. Existing SDCI staff is sufficient to review permit applications and costs are recovered by existing permit fees. The updated maps have already been prepared.

**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.**

See response above.

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

No financial costs to the City are anticipated. If the City does not extend the interim regulations, property owners in the FEMA mapped floodplain areas may not be able to purchase flood insurance, renew an existing policy, or attain federally backed mortgages.

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

Seattle Public Utilities, Parks, Seattle Department of Transportation, and any other department that is proposing development in the floodplain will need to comply with these regulations.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

The legislation will continue to apply to approximately 2,190 properties along the Puget Sound coast, the Duwamish River, and certain streams. This number includes the additional 185 properties included in the interim regulations

**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.**

Nationally, areas with more minority residents tend to have a greater share of unmapped flood risk. While FEMA's February 2020 maps better reflect that risk, some property owners will need to purchase flood insurance, which low-income property owners may struggle to afford. The City's floodplain regulations meet the federal requirements for flood insurance and in some instances are more protective. The more protective standards will result in lower insurance rates over the long term.

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

No specific RET or equity analysis was prepared for these interim regulations.

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

Access to language translation services is available, if needed. No language access plan was prepared for these interim regulations.

**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.**

There will be no increase or decrease of carbon emissions as a result of this legislation.

**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.**

The interim floodplain regulations are intended to increase resiliency to climate change in Seattle by identifying areas that are at risk of flooding and requiring building standards that either keep development out of the areas that are at the highest risk of damage or require structures to be elevated and/or floodproofed to decrease the risk of damage.

**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.

## **5. ATTACHMENTS**

**Summary Attachments:**

None.