

# City of Seattle



## Director of Finance

**Confirmation Packet  
March 9, 2026**

**Dwight D. Dively**



# City of Seattle

Mayor Katie B. Wilson

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March 9, 2026

The Honorable Joy Hollingsworth  
President, Seattle City Council  
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Hollingsworth:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my nomination of Dwight D. Dively as Director of Finance and Director of the Office of City Finance (OCF).

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

1. **Dwight D. Dively**

This section contains Mr. Dively's appointment form, oath of office form, resume and the press release announcing his nomination.

2. **Background Check**

This section contains the report on Mr. Dively's background check.

Financial stability and good government are prerequisites for our city to successfully deliver services to the public, and the Office of City Finance plays a key role in ensuring that stability and creating capacity for investment. This decision was shaped through thoughtful discussions with members of my transition team to ensure it reflects our shared vision for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and trust in government.

Dwight Dively brings extraordinary experience to this role, including more than a decade serving as Finance Director at the City of Seattle, followed by more than a decade as Director of the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget at King County, where he has also served as Chief Operating Officer since 2020. Over his long career, Dwight has developed a reputation as one of the best fiscal policy minds in local government. He led the successful effort to secure a AAA bond rating for the City—saving taxpayers millions of dollars over the last 25 years; oversaw the City's investment portfolio during the Great Recession to ensure zero losses from risky investments; and negotiated agreements that led to the construction of Benaroya Hall, Pacific Place, and the first Convention Center expansion. In addition to his public service, Dwight is a beloved professor at the University of Washington, where he has mentored countless students—many of whom now serve in my administration and continue to carry forward his commitment to excellence and integrity in public finance.

This nomination reflects my inauguration commitment to strengthen the foundations of good government. As I said in my inaugural address, "Transparency and accountability are not optional—they are the bedrock of trust." Our work will ensure that every dollar is managed responsibly, every investment is made with integrity, and every decision reflects our values of openness and service. By maintaining financial stability and prioritizing transparency, we create the conditions for Seattle to invest in the programs and services that improve lives across our city.

Dwight Dively:

“It is a great pleasure for me to accept Mayor Wilson’s offer to serve as Finance Director. I am excited to return to city government to help her carry out her vision and use the City’s financial strengths to improve programs and services for everyone.”

I trust that after reviewing Mr. Dively’s application materials, meeting with him, and following the thoughtful review of Councilmember Strauss’ Finance, Native Communities & Tribal Governments Committee, you will find that Mr. Dively is the ideal Director of Finance.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Chief of Staff Kate Brunette Kreuzer would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie B. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie B. Wilson  
Mayor of Seattle

**SECTION**

**A**



**City of Seattle**

Mayor Katie B. Wilson

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January 7, 2026

Dwight D. Dively  
Seattle, WA  
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Dwight,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of Finance at an annual salary of \$270,000.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, your initial term will be for four years and you serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Office will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaite B. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaite B. Wilson  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



# City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Appointee Name:</b><br><i>Dwight D. Dively</i>   |  |
| <b>City Department Name:</b><br><i>Office of City Finance</i>   | <b>Position Title:</b><br><i>Director of Finance</i>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>   | <b>City Council Confirmation required?</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No   |
| <b>Appointing Authority:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> City Council<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>   | <b>Term of Position: *</b><br>Council Confirmation<br><b>to</b><br>12/31/2029<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i> |
| <b>Background:</b> Dwight Dively brings extraordinary experience to this role, including more than a decade serving as Finance Director at the City of Seattle, followed by more than a decade as Director of the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget at King County, where he has also served as Chief Operating Officer since 2020. Over his long career, Dwight has developed a reputation as one of the best fiscal policy minds in local government. He led the successful effort to secure a AAA bond rating for the City—saving taxpayers millions of dollars over the last 25 years; oversaw the City’s investment portfolio during the Great Recession to ensure zero losses from risky investments; and negotiated agreements that led to the construction of Benaroya Hall, Pacific Place, and the first Convention Center expansion. In addition to his public service, Dwight is a beloved professor at the University of Washington, where he has mentored countless students—many of whom now serve in my administration and continue to carry forward his commitment to excellence and integrity in public finance. |  |
| <b>Authorizing Signature:</b><br><br><b>Date Signed:</b> March 9, 2026   | <b>Appointing Signatory:</b><br><i>Katie B. Wilson</i><br><i>Mayor of Seattle</i>  |

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OATH OF OFFICE

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State of Washington

County of King

I, Dwight D. Dively, swear or affirm that I possess all of the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of Director of Finance; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as Director of Finance.

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Dwight D. Dively

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

[Seal]

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Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

## DWIGHT D. DIVELY



### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2/2020 - Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget and Chief Operating Officer  
King County, Washington
- Added the responsibility of serving as the County's COO. This position oversees and directs ten of the County's eleven operating departments.
- 3/2010 - Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
King County, Washington
- This position is responsible for managing an 80-person office that develops and monitors the County's budget, establishes performance measures, prepares and updates the County's strategic plan, develops local and regional plans, manages grants, establishes financial policies, and leads the County's continuous improvement (Lean) efforts. The position is also part of the County's senior leadership team.
- 5/1994 - Finance Director (and from 1997-2002 Executive Services Director)  
3/2010  
City of Seattle, Washington
- This position manages the City's budget, accounting, investment, and debt management functions. At various times, other functions were added to the department, including personnel, fleet management, facilities management, and information technology. The Finance Director also is a member of three City pension boards.
- 6/1992 - Central Staff Director, City Council  
5/1994  
City of Seattle, Washington
- This position manages the 15-person analytical staff.
- 7/1987 - Legislative Analyst (later Supervising Analyst), City Council Central Staff  
6/1992  
City of Seattle, Washington
- Specialized in budget, energy, environment, and technology issues.
- 6/1986 - Consultant on higher education, technology, and economic issues  
7/1987

3/1985 - Senior Policy Analyst (later Staff Director)  
6/1986 Washington High Technology Coordinating Board, Seattle, Washington

12/1982 - Research Scientist  
3/1985 Battelle Human Affairs Research Centers, Seattle, Washington

## **EDUCATIONAL POSITION**

9/1989 - Affiliate Assistant (later Associate) Professor  
Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.C. Civil Engineering, University of Washington, 1988 (dissertation not completed)  
Seattle, Washington

M.P.A. School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 1982  
Princeton, New Jersey

B.S. Chemical Engineering, summa cum laude, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 1980  
Terre Haute, Indiana

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (selected)**

9/1990 - Northwest Regional Interview Panel Chair  
Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation

2/2000 - Board Member, Benaroya Hall Music Center  
Seattle, Washington

## **HONORS AND AWARDS (selected)**

S. Kenneth Howard Award (lifetime achievement in public budgeting and finance), Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, 2019.

Public Employee of the Year, Municipal League of King County, 2008.

Elmer B. Staats Award (outstanding contribution to public service), Truman Scholarship Foundation, 1994.

Outstanding Teacher Award, Evans School, 1994-1995, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2009-2010, and 2012-2013.

## **PUBLICATIONS (selected)**

Dwight Dively and Richard Zerbe. Benefit-Cost Analysis in Theory and Practice (New York: Harper Collins, September 1993).

Dwight Dively. "Applications of Regulatory Theory to the Trucking Industry." Research in Law and Economics, Vol. 6, Spring 1984, pp. 131-140.

Dwight Dively. Transportation and Land Use Decision Making in New Jersey (Princeton: Council on New Jersey Affairs, 1982).



## City of Seattle Office of the Mayor

### Press Release

### For Immediate Release

### Contact Information

Sage Wilson

Phone: 206-889-0277

Email: [sage.wilson@seattle.gov](mailto:sage.wilson@seattle.gov)

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### Mayor Wilson Announces New Leadership at Office of City Finance and Office of Economic Development

***Mayor Katie B. Wilson today announced new departmental leadership at the Office of City Finance and the Office of Economic Development.***

**Seattle, WA** - “Delivering on housing, transportation, and affordability requires a well-managed, financially responsible city government with the capacity to make the big investments we need. It also means doing everything possible to ensure a thriving economic environment for neighborhood businesses, big businesses the creative arts, and people just trying to get their start,” said Mayor Wilson. “Today I’m appointing two leaders with the experience and dedication to achieve these goals: **Dwight Dively** at the Office of City Finance, and **Alicia Teel** as Acting Director of the Office of Economic Development. I’m grateful to Jamie Carnell for 31 years of dedicated service for Seattle residents

and Markham McIntyre for his leadership supporting small business recovery after the pandemic, and I know they'll continue to play an important role in our civic life."

## **City Finance**

Financial stability and good government are prerequisites for our city to successfully deliver services to the public, and the Office of City Finance plays a key role delivering on that stability and capacity for investment.

Dwight Dively comes into this role with extraordinary experience, including more than a decade serving as Finance Director at the City, followed by more than decade as Director of the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget at King County, where he has also served as Chief Operating Officer since 2020. Over his long career, Dwight has developed a reputation as one of the best fiscal policy and minds in local government. He led the successful effort to get a AAA bond rating for the City, which has saved City taxpayers millions of dollars over the last 25 years; oversaw the City's investment portfolio during the Great Recession to ensure that the City lost no money from risky investments; and negotiated agreements that led to the construction of Benaroya Hall, Pacific Place, and the agreement for the first Convention Center expansion.

***"It is a great pleasure for me to accept Mayor Wilson's offer to serve as Finance Director. I am excited to return to city government to help her carry out her vision and use the City's financial strengths to improve programs and services for everyone."***

—Dwight Dively

***"It has been a privilege to lead the financial operations of a AAA-rated major U.S. city, ensuring transparency and clarity for decision-makers and the public."***

*Over the past 31 years with the City of Seattle, I have been honored to serve alongside an exceptional team at the Office of City Finance and to collaborate with City department leaders, Council members, stakeholders, the*

*Administration, and Executive Team. Together, we have upheld the City's strong fiscal foundation and advanced its commitment to accountability and public trust."*

*"As I step away from this role, I do so with deep gratitude for the partnerships and shared accomplishments that have defined my tenure. I remain committed to supporting the incoming leadership team and helping the City of Seattle sustain its financial strength and achieve Mayor Wilson's vision for the future."*

*—Jamie Carnell*

### **Office of Economic Development**

Seattle can only be a great place to live, work, and raise a family if it's also a great place to start and operate a business. The affordability crisis has hit local businesses hard, and the Office of Economic Development has a critical role to play in contributing to thriving communities, neighborhood stability, and a strong local economy.

***"I am honored to have served as the director of the Office of Economic Development for the past four years. I am proud of the team of smart, talented, and dedicated people we have assembled and the meaningful work we have done to shape the future of Seattle's economy.***

*We pioneered community wealth building programs to close the racial wealth gap, led the Downtown Activation Plan, opened AI and climate tech incubators, solved neighborhood business challenges, and so much more.*

*OED is poised to develop the policies, programs, and partnerships that will make our economy more competitive, diverse, and resilient. I look forward to seeing what this office does next."*

*—Markham McIntyre*

Alicia Teel most recently served as Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Development, where she helps lead the City's efforts to support small businesses, advance equitable economic growth, and strengthen

neighborhood and downtown economies. She brings experience in public-sector leadership and cross-sector collaboration focused on inclusive opportunity for Seattle residents and employers.

***“I’m honored to serve in this interim capacity to lead the Office of Economic Development. Our talented team is dedicated to leading projects and making investments that open up access to economic opportunities across our city, reduce the racial wealth gap, and encourage innovation and growth. We are deeply committed to a collaborative approach to this work, and share Mayor Wilson’s sense of urgency to deliver meaningful, sustained progress.”***

—Alicia Teel

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## **SECTION**

### **B**



# City of Seattle

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## Seattle Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Director

**January 8, 2026**

TO: Lindsey King – Talent Acquisition and Compensation Advisor - SHR

FROM: Annie Nguyen – Citywide Employment Compliance Advisor - SHR

SUBJECT: Background check for **Dively, Dwight Douglas**

The Seattle Human Resources has received a copy of **Dwight Douglas Dively's** background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

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Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028  
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: [www.seattle.gov/jobs](http://www.seattle.gov/jobs)

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