

Other Land Use Actions

PUBLIC HEARING ON A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, EXPANSION, OR CONVERSION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES TO DETENTION CENTERS

The Seattle City Council will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 127401 on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 2 p.m. Ordinance 127401:

- Makes findings-of-fact related to the lack of current regulations in the Seattle Municipal Code for detention centers and the potential impacts of those facilities, absent regulations, on the public health, safety, and welfare;
- Declares a public emergency;
- Defines “detention center” consistent with the definition in RCW 36.70A.200(1)(b) as “a facility that is operated by a private entity in which persons are detained in custody under process of law pending the outcome of legal proceedings but is not used for punishment, correction, counseling, or rehabilitation following the conviction of a criminal offense;”
- Establishes a year-long moratorium on permit applications for establishment, expansion, or conversion of existing structures to detention centers; and
- Approves a work plan to consider permanent regulations by January 2027.

Ordinance 127401 passed on an emergency basis on March 10, 2026, and is now effective. The moratorium in the legislation is effective for one year and may be renewed for one or more additional six-month periods. The Council is holding a public hearing pursuant to RCW 36.70A.390.

PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing to take comments on the moratorium adopted in Ordinance 127401 on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the:

City Council Chambers
2nd Floor, Seattle City Hall
600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Comments are accepted in person or remotely. Please review the published City Council agenda a few days prior to the meeting for instructions on how to register and provide comments. Link is here: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees>.

Print and communications access is provided on prior request. Seattle City Council Chambers is accessible. Directions to the City Council Chambers, and information about transit access and parking are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/council/meet-the-council/visiting-city-hall>.

Written Comments

For those unable to attend the public hearing, written comments may be sent to:

Council President Joy Hollingsworth
Attn: Emilia Sanchez
600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025
or by email to council@seattle.gov

Written comments should be received by Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10:00 p.m.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Copies of the moratorium may be obtained from the City Clerk's legislation webpage: <https://seattle.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>. Please reference Ordinance 127401.

Questions regarding the legislation may be directed to Ketil Freeman at the City Council Central Staff at (206) 295-3827 or via email at ketil.freeman@seattle.gov.