

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (ESJ) LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The ESJ Legislative Analysis Methodology is a four-step tool for council legislative analysts to conduct ESJ analysis on most proposed legislation taken up by the King County Council. The purpose of the methodology is two-fold: (1) identify whether a proposed legislation fosters or impedes “distributional equity”, and (2) evaluate “process equity” for a proposed legislation.

As defined by the [King County Equity Impact Review Tool \(EIR\)](#), “distributional equity” is the fair and just distribution of benefits and burdens to all affected parties and communities across the community region and organizational landscape; and “process equity” is a procedural mechanism to ensure inclusive, open and fair access by all affected communities to decision processes that impact community and operational outcomes related to a proposed legislation. Process equity relies on all affected parties having access to and meaningful experience with civic and employee engagement, public participation, and jurisdictional listening.

A key step of the Methodology determines whether a proposed legislation relates to a determinant and then references the Determinants of Equity Dashboard to identify metric(s) related to the proposed legislation. The Methodology does not evaluate the proposed legislation’s impact on the metric(s) but rather informs councilmembers on how the proposed legislation would be relatable to the metric(s) and whether additional work may be necessary to ensure distributional equity and process equity are adequately addressed. The diagram below details the four-step methodology process.

The Methodology is currently undergoing testing and will be used for future proposed legislation. Here is a [link](#) to the presentation on the ESJ Legislative Methodology at the March 15, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.



Description			
Substantiate existing and available ESJ analysis conducted by the county or by a 3 rd party organization on behalf of the county and/or in collaboration with the county related to the proposed legislation.	Determine whether the proposed legislation relates to any of the fourteen “Determinants of Equity” and its related metrics from the DoE Report/Dashboard, focusing on single determinant if feasible.	If a determinant cannot be identified for the proposed legislation, then determine if proposed legislation would have differential impacts among constituent groups based on race, class, gender and languages.	Identify a list of affected communities (based on Steps 2 & 3) that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed legislation and determine the level and method of engagement with those affected communities.

Rationale			
<i>Substantiates existing ESJ analysis related to proposed legislation and ensures that this check is standardized and included in all ESJ analysis.</i>	<i>Provides a framework to determine whether a proposed legislation either fosters or impedes distributional equity.</i>	<i>Evaluates whether a proposed legislation either fosters or impedes distributional equity where determinant of equity is unclear and/or provides opportunity for further analysis.</i>	<i>Evaluates whether process equity was included in the formulation of proposed legislation.</i>