

SOLICITATION PROTESTS

Updates to formal protest procedures bring needed clarity, fairness, and transparency



WHAT IS A PROTEST?

A protest is a way for suppliers to point out errors they believe affected the outcome of a solicitation.

King County Procurement & Payables updated its protest procedures to make this process clearer, fairer, and more transparent for everyone. This includes the suppliers, the agencies, and the public we serve.

Trusted relationships start in the solicitation process. The updates encourage greater supplier participation through transparency and more periods of time to interact with King County.

WHAT'S NEW?

Bidder Notifications: The process now requires King County to notify bidders being protested within two business days if there is a protest on a solicitation award.

Protest Deadlines Extended for RFPs, RFQs: The deadline to submit a protest on a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was extended from two days to five days.

Protests on Invitation to Bid (ITB) solicitations must still be submitted within two days, which is consistent with state law RCW 39.04.105.

The deadline to submit a protest on construction-related Job Order Contracts (JOCs) will remain at 10 days, consistent with state law RCW 39.10.430.

Clarity on Contract Execution Timing: King County will not execute a contract if there is an active Protest or Request for Reconsideration.

KEY UPDATES

To submit a protest on something in the solicitation documents, suppliers must submit a question or documentation that describes the county's error or omission before the solicitation closes.

Protests or Requests for Reconsideration that don't comply with the new protest procedures will automatically be rejected.

ADDED DEFINITIONS

Definitions of key terms create common understanding.

Protest: A written objection submitted by a Protester with the intent of receiving a remedial result to a Solicitation's content/structure, another firm's bid or qualifications, or the award of a Solicitation.

Protester: An actual or prospective bidder/proposer interested in a Solicitation or an actual bidder/proposer who submitted a bid or proposal whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract or by failure to award the contract.

Request for Reconsideration: A formal written request by a bidder or proposer for reconsideration of a protest determination.

Solicitation: An Invitation to Bid (ITB), Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Final Proposal (RFFP), or Request for Qualification (RFQ).

QUESTIONS? WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

King County Procurement & Payables



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Alternate formats available:

Call 206-263-9400 ext. 4 or TTY Relay 711