King County

King County 2025 Budget

Legal System Budget Overview

December 5, 2024

Regional Law, Safety, and Justice Committee

King County at a Glance

$10.2 billion budget

Nearly 17,700 employees

60+ services

Serving nearly 2.4 million residents

2,100+ square miles

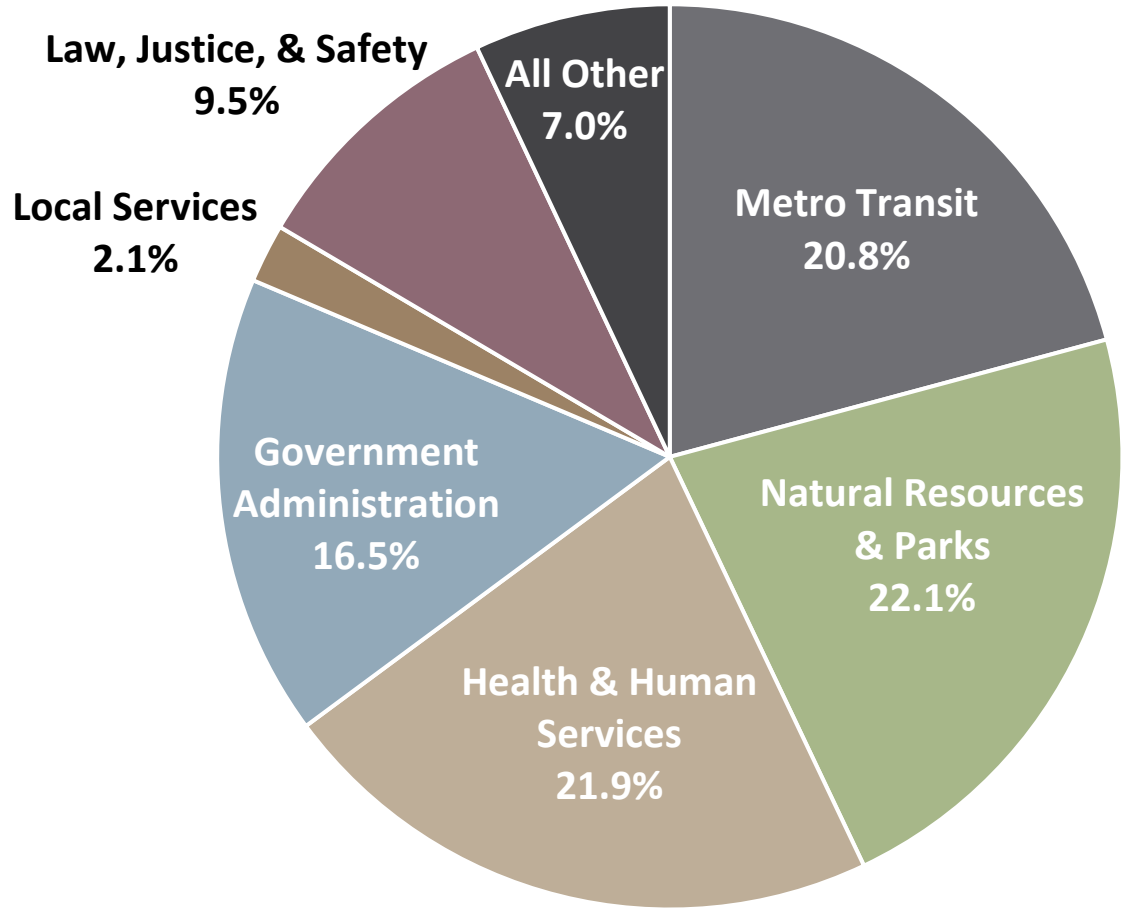
State law and the King County Charter impose **restrictions on the uses of many revenues**. For example, the County can only use E-911 excise taxes collected by phone service providers to support the E-911 system.

King County's finances are organized into about **140 different funds**, each with its own revenue sources and expenditures**.**

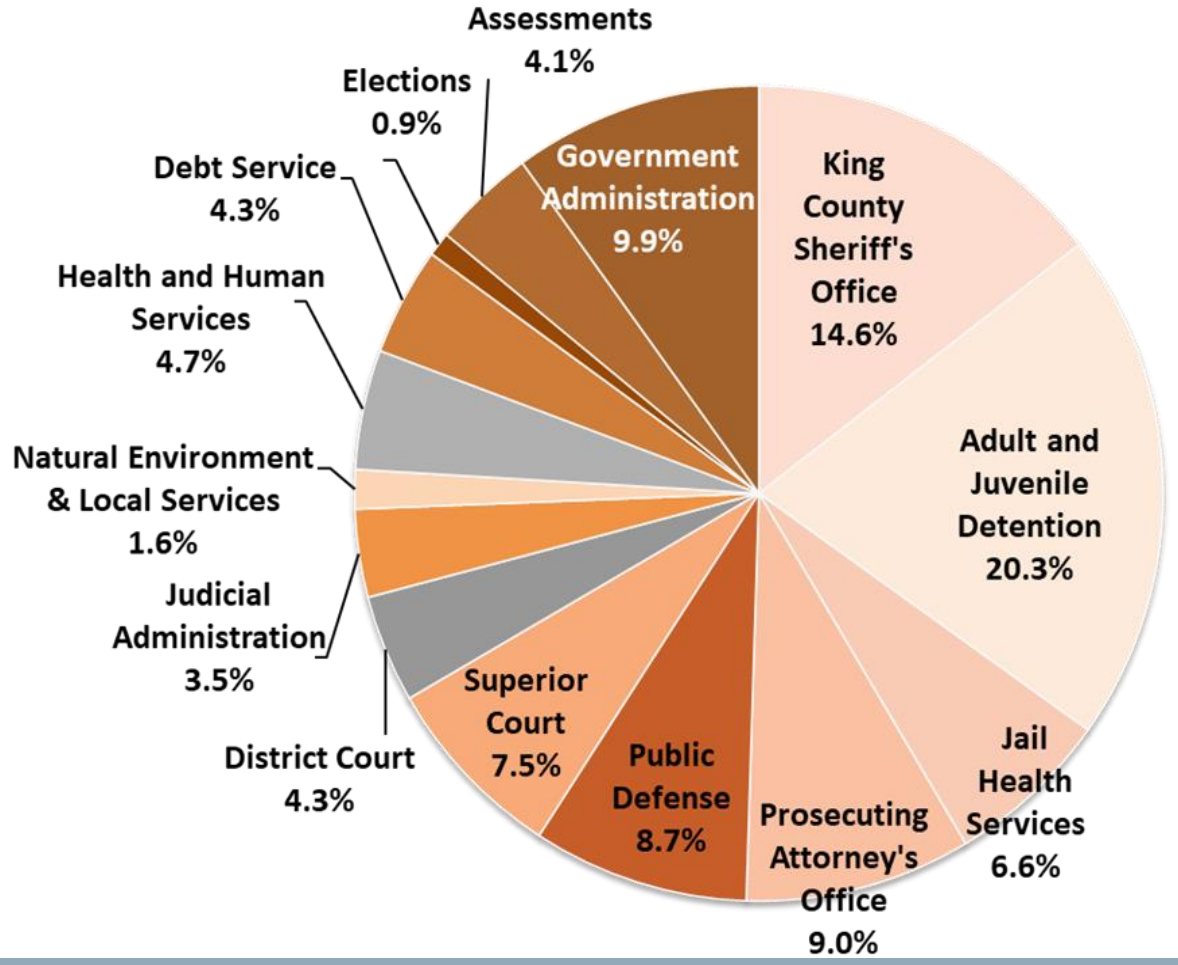
The only truly flexible source of funds is the General Fund. **General Fund revenues are severely limited by State law.** The State and cities have much more revenue flexibility than counties.

Restrictions on revenue

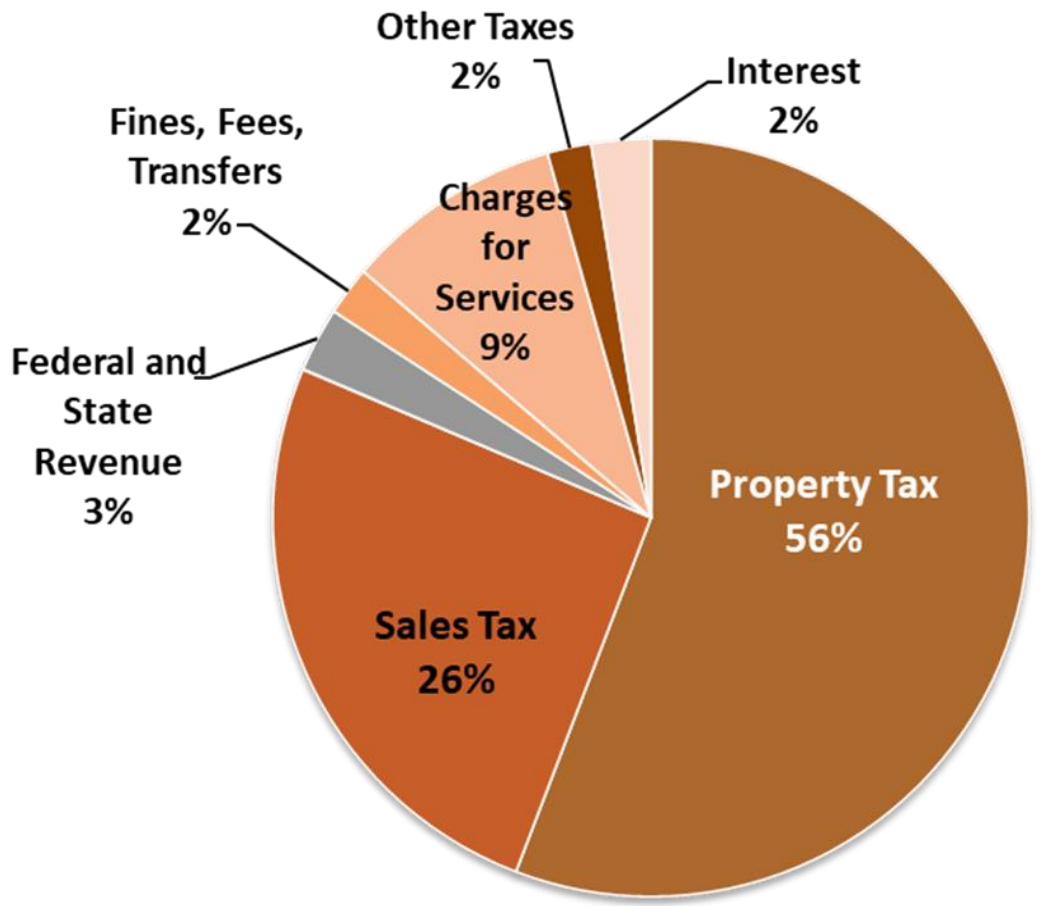
Total Expenditures



General Fund Net Expenditures (excludes contracts)



General Fund Net Revenues (excludes contracts)



2025 Budget
Key Investments

Health & Safety
Non-General Fund

$4.7 million to support **safety and security on and around transit**

$50+ million to provide **treatment for substance use disorder** and **overdose prevention**

Additional **community court** in Bellevue

Health & Safety
General Fund

$2.8 million to **support youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system.**

$7.9 million to maintain the **Regional Peacekeepers Collective's** work to provide intervention, prevention, and restoration services for those impacted by gun violence.

$3.6 million for court resources to address **protection order and eviction cases**.

$4.6 million to address **new caseload standards for public defense**.

General Fund Shortfall

Current forecasts show the General Fund is facing a **$150 million shortfall** the 2026-2027 biennium due to the effects of high recent inflation and the 1% limit on property tax revenue growth.

State legislative action is critical to preventing devastating cuts.

Questions