



King County



King County Auditor's Office 2023 Annual Report

PROMOTING IMPROVEMENT IN KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Input, Ideas, and Impact

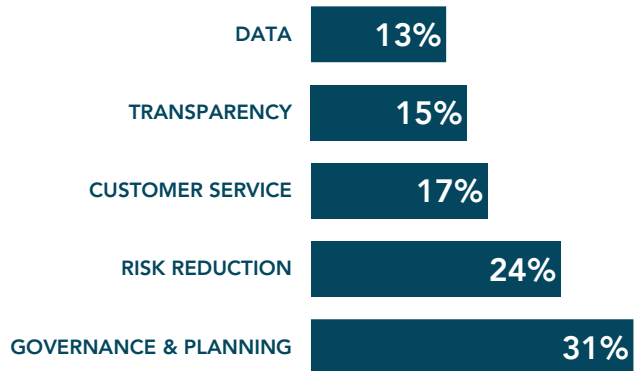
The Auditor's Office made strides to improve public access to audit information. In 2023, our King County International Airport audit was the first audit initiated based on public input into our work program planning process, and it was also the first audit for which we translated key content into three additional languages — Khmer, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Another highlight of 2023 was when our talented team won a highly competitive Knighton Award for our audit [Property Tax Exemptions: Stronger Systems Needed to Meet Demand](#), another topic of high interest to the community.

Our focus on accountability, transparency, and equity will continue in 2024, as we prepare letters to the County Council to highlight areas of risk identified through past audits and begin outreach to develop our 2025 work program.

Effective Government Highlighted in 2023

We made recommendations to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of King County government. Key categories of recommendations in 2023 include data, transparency, customer service, risk reduction, and planning.



KyMBER WALTMUNSON

Significant impacts from implemented recommendations in 2023:



King County received 130% more parking revenue — a \$34,000 gain.



Departments received more employee grievance data, improving transparency, equity, and efficiency.



People experiencing homelessness received fewer denials of services.



Small contractors and suppliers had better access to information on contracting opportunities with King County.



Reduced anticipated project funding gap for Harborview Medical Center by \$12 million.

85%
TOOK ACTION

Action Toward Implementation

Following up on our recommendations creates momentum for positive change by focusing on transparency and accountability. In 2023 we followed up on 96 audit recommendations. Agencies acted on 85 percent of them. We track recommendations until they are complete.



29
DONE



53
IN PROGRESS



14
OPEN



0
CLOSED

95%
CONCURRENCE

Concurrence Increases Impact

Concurrence with our recommendations is the first step in positive change for King County and is one signal that our recommendations are effectively crafted. In 2023, auditees fully concurred with 74 of our recommendations and partially concurred with four.

> \$35
MILLION

Financial Impact for King County

Estimating the financial impact of audit work can be tricky. Very conservatively, over the past three years, our recommendations have identified more than \$35 million in one-time, recurring, and other potential fiscal impacts.

Community Ideas Drive Community Impact

Public interest is an important factor in how the Auditor’s Office selected and scoped audits in 2023. Our audit [King County Airport: Accountability and Transparency Could Strengthen Community Engagement](#) was both initiated based on a work program planning process that proactively scanned for issues of community concern and also resulted in recommendations to help the airport improve its community engagement efforts.

To further support community interest, we translated the highlights and recommendations pages of our airport audit into three of the languages that are spoken most widely in the communities that surround the King County International Airport: Khmer, Spanish, and Vietnamese. We are proud of this work and look forward to continuing our translation and outreach efforts in 2024.



Any member of the public with audit ideas is invited to share them through [our website](#). We look forward to incorporating those suggestions into our work program development process in 2024.

Publications

In 2023, we produced 24 products. All publications are available on the [King County Auditor website](#).

Performance audits:

- [Clearer Roles, Accountability, and Monitoring Would Support Equity Change](#)
- [Growing Case Backlog Requires Re-prioritization of Code Enforcement Resources](#)
- [King County Airport: Accountability and Transparency Could Strengthen Community Engagement](#)
- [Metro Transit: Strengthening Data, Communication, and Continuous Improvement Processes Could Help Reduce Project Delays](#)
- [Staff Capacity and Project Complexity Limit Right-of-Way Revenue](#)

Follow-up reports:

- Assessor – Property Tax Exemptions
- DNRP – Cedar Hills Regional Landfill
- FBOD – Pro-Equity Contracting
- FMD – Building Safety
- FMD – County Parking
- FMD – Courthouse Security
- KCEO – Emergency Preparedness
- KCEO – Homeless Services
- KCEO – Pandemic Response
- Metro Transit – Paratransit
- Metro Transit – Transit Reliability
- OEM – Office of Emergency Management
- OLR – Labor Relations
- PHSKC – Emergency Medical Services
- RES – Real Estate Services
- Sheriff’s Office – Calls for Service
- Sheriff’s Office – High-Risk Equipment
- Sheriff’s Office – Traffic Enforcement
- Sheriff’s Office and PAO – Sex Offense Case Investigations

Auditor’s Office Team

KyMBER Waltmunson – King County Auditor

Brooke Leary – Audit Director; Law Enforcement Audit Manager

Ben Thompson – Audit Director; Transit Audit Manager; Capital Projects Oversight Manager

Cindy Drake – Supervising Auditor

Peter Heineccius – Auditor 4

Mia Neidhardt – Auditor 4

Justin Anderson – Auditor 3

Elise Garvey – Auditor 3

Megan Ko – Auditor 3

Luc Poon – Auditor 3

Zainab Nejati – Capital Projects Analyst

Grant Dailey – Auditor 2

Anu Sidhu – Auditor 2

Basil Hariri – Auditor 1

Rachel Rawlings – Administrative Manager

Meg Sykes – Data Visualization Specialist

Nastassja Campbell – Audit Intern

Sydney Romero – Audit Intern