



King County
Office of Economic and Financial Analysis
 King Street Center, 3rd Floor.
 201 South Jackson Street
 Seattle, WA 98104
 206.477.3413

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2026
 TO: King County Forecast Council
 FROM: Lizbeth Martin-Mahar, Laurie Elofson, Tony Cacallori
 RE: King County Revenue through April 2026

**Actuals Compared to Budget Forecast - King County Revenue
 (through April 2026 unless noted)¹**

Revenue	YTD Forecast (2026 Budget)	YTD Actual	Actual - Forecast	Difference (percentage)
Current Expense Levy*	\$ 191,970,000	\$ 190,206,054	\$ (1,763,946)	-0.9%
UAL/Roads Levy^	\$ 46,660,000	\$ 46,535,967	\$ (124,033)	-0.3%
Parks Levy^	\$ 93,450,000	\$ 91,265,281	\$ (2,184,719)	-2.3%
AFIS Levy^	\$ 10,950,000	\$ 10,680,657	\$ (269,343)	-2.5%
Veterans, Seniors, & HS Levy (1143)^	\$ 39,990,000	\$ 39,283,856	\$ (706,144)	-1.8%
Conservation Futures Levy (3151)^	\$ 24,710,000	\$ 24,086,566	\$ (623,434)	-2.5%
EMS Levy^	\$ 62,890,000	\$ 66,617,920	\$ 3,727,920	5.9%
Transit Levy^	\$ 15,510,000	\$ 15,222,984	\$ (287,016)	-1.9%
Marine Levy^	\$ 3,270,000	\$ 3,210,144	\$ (59,856)	-1.8%
Best Starts for Kids Levy^	\$ 70,900,000	\$ 70,017,846	\$ (882,154)	-1.2%
Crisis Care Centers Levy^	\$ 54,970,000	\$ 54,293,988	\$ (676,012)	-1.2%
County Hospital Levy^	\$ 60,720,000	\$ 59,820,677	\$ (899,323)	-1.5%
P&I on Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 7,010,000	\$ 6,451,927	\$ (558,073)	-8.0%
Sales Tax - Local Option (3/26)	\$ 44,840,000	\$ 45,613,393	\$ 773,393	1.7%
Sales Tax-Criminal Justice (3/26)	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 4,729,552	\$ 129,552	2.8%
Sales Tax-MIDD (3/26)	\$ 23,110,000	\$ 23,807,630	\$ 697,630	3.0%
Sales Tax - Transit (3/26)	\$ 210,290,000	\$ 216,596,179	\$ 6,306,179	3.0%
Sales Tax - Health Through Housing (3/26)	\$ 17,680,000	\$ 18,069,214	\$ 389,214	2.2%
Sales Tax - Cultural Access Program (3/26)	\$ 22,780,000	\$ 23,705,328	\$ 925,328	4.1%
Sales Tax - Safe and Stable Communities (3/26)	\$ 22,830,000	\$ 23,009,694	\$ 179,694	0.8%
Marijuana Excise Tax	\$ 690,000	\$ 683,255	\$ (6,745)	-1.0%
MV Fuel Tax-Roads+	\$ 3,440,000	\$ 3,802,243	\$ 362,243	10.5%
E-911 Excise Tax (3/26)	\$ 6,520,000	\$ 6,567,148	\$ 47,148	0.7%
Hotel/Motel Tax (3/26)	\$ 7,430,000	\$ 7,062,243	\$ (367,757)	-4.9%
Lodging Tax (HB 2015) (3/26)	\$ 410,000	\$ 457,653	\$ 47,653	11.6%
Rental Car Tax (3/26)	\$ 850,000	\$ 725,361	\$ (124,639)	-14.7%
REET 1 Revenue	\$ 2,440,000	\$ 2,357,746	\$ (82,254)	-3.4%
Wastewater Revenues+	\$ 197,400,000	\$ 198,572,109	\$ 1,172,109	0.6%
Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges+	\$ 52,430,000	\$ 54,030,422	\$ 1,600,422	3.1%
Transit Fare+	\$ 18,250,000	\$ 19,248,814	\$ 998,814	5.5%

¹ 2026 actual values are preliminary and subject to adjustment.
 * 2026 budget is 97.5% of levy ordinance
 ^ 2026 budget is 99% of levy ordinance
 + 2026 budget is from Agency budget documents.
 All other taxes' 2026 budget based on OEFA March 2026 Forecast

2026 Actuals Compared to Budget Forecasts

Through the end of April 2026, property tax revenues combined for all levies are down from the forecast by \$4.75 million or 0.7 percent. This is preliminary data for 2026 as it now includes the first half of the property tax collections in April 2026. The year-to-date differences in the actuals versus the March 2026 forecast for all levies were negative except for the EMS levy. The Parks expense levy is down the most at \$2.2 million or 2.3 percent below forecast. The current expense levy is second largest, down \$1.76 million or 0.9 percent below forecast. The Best Start for Kids levy is down \$0.9 million, and the County hospital levy is down \$0.9 million. All the other levies are down from projections by less than \$0.8 million. The new EMS levy is above the forecast for the first 4 months by \$3.7 million or 5.9 percent. The first 4 months of collections of penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes came in -\$0.56 million or 8 percent below forecast. This current shortfall is really due to an unusually low February 2026 collection month in which collections did not even reach \$1 million and penalties and interest have not been below \$1 million for a February in more than a decade. Subsequent months have not made up for that low February collection month.

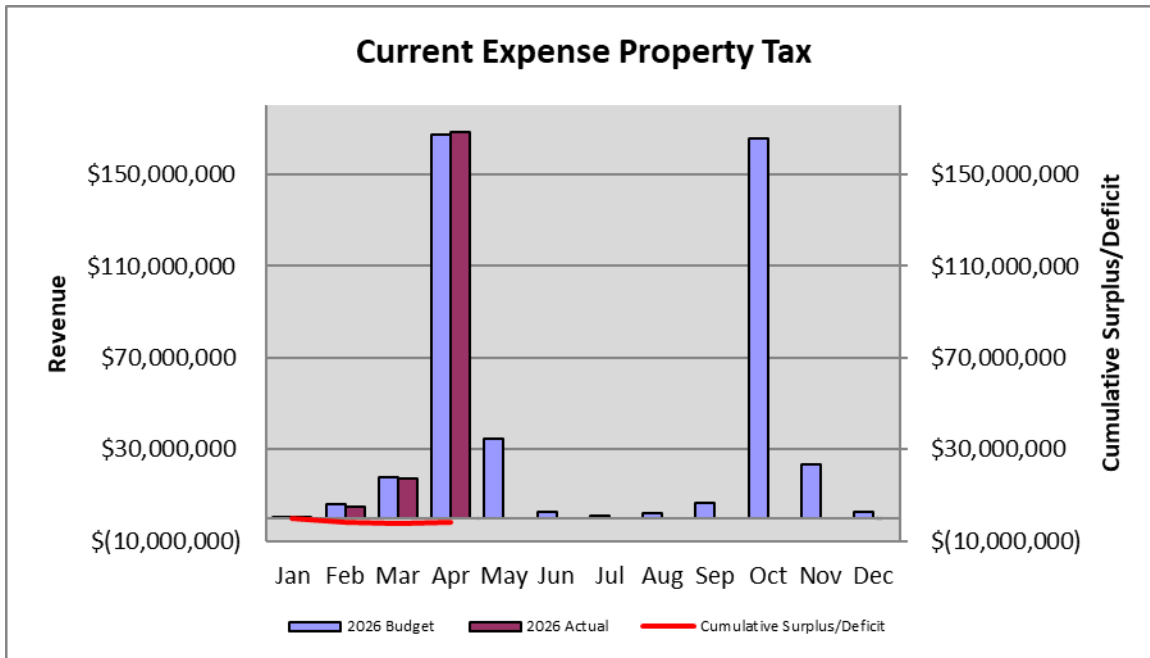
Total taxable sales, categorized by industry sectors, were up for the first quarter of 2026 by 9.3 percent yoy, and most of the industry sectors were up from last year except for four sectors: construction, wholesale trade, real estate, rental and leasing and public administration. The sectors showing strong performance in the first quarter of 2026 from last year were the following: information up 50.3 percent, manufacturing up 23.7 percent, transportation and warehousing up 14.7 percent, finance and insurance up 10.2 percent, retail trade up 4.1 percent, professional, scientific, and technical services up 25.8 percent, management of companies up 39.1 percent, health care and social assistance up 7.2 percent, arts, entertainment, and recreation services up 9.5 percent, accommodations and food services up 3.2 percent, administrative and support and warehousing up 26.0 percent, educational services up 37.9 percent and other services up 2.0 percent over last year. For the first quarter of 2026, some big sectors in the local economy were down from last year like construction sales down 3.3 percent, wholesale trade down 2.0 percent, real estate, rental and leasing services down 0.5 percent, and public administration down 31.1 percent. As noted in prior editions of this report, the 2026 taxable sales are heavily impacted by the passage of ESSB 5814 which expanded the sales tax base for many sectors causing strong growth in sales from last year in most of the sectors like information, transportation and warehousing, professional and technical services and management of companies. The increase in taxable sales in 2026 would be minor growth without the 2025 legislation.

An appendix to this memo provides King County taxable retail sales by industry for the most recent month of March 2026 compared to March 2025. This table indicates that in the month of March, total taxable sales were up year-over-year by 8.6 percent, which was strong monthly growth. All industry sectors are up, with only the mining sector being down in March compared to last year. The information sector was up sharply yoy by 31.4 percent due to expansion of the retail sales base this year. Manufacturing was also significantly up by 29.3 percent and professional, scientific and technical services were also strong by 29.3 percent. Other notable industries grew in March 2026, management of companies was up 31.9 percent, finance and insurance was up 23.3 percent, professional, scientific, and technical services up 29.3 and transportation and warehousing up 13.5 percent.

The first three months of 2026 saw sales taxes up from the March forecast by \$9.4 million, 2.7 percent, for all six sales tax levies. Sales tax distributions for Metro Transit were up the most at \$6.3 million or 3.0 percent and second largest was the Cultural Access Program being up \$0.9 million, 4.1 percent from the March forecast. The third largest levy increase was the Local & Option levy was up \$0.8 million, or 1.7 percent, from the March forecast. The Mental Health sales tax levy was up \$0.7 million or 3.0 percent and Health Through Housing levy was up \$0.39 million, 2.2 percent.

Most other revenue streams deviated from the forecast by more than one percent except for E-911 and wastewater revenues which were up by \$0.05 million and \$1.2 million respectively. Revenue streams which were down included the marijuana tax down 1 percent, hotel/motel taxes down 4.9 percent, rental car tax down 14.7 percent, and real estate excise taxes down 3.4 percent. Lodging taxes were revised down heavily in the March forecast and are coming in slightly above forecast by \$0.05 million or 11.6 percent for the past three months. The solid waste disposal charges are up \$1.6 million or 3 percent from the March forecast. Both transit fares and MV fuel taxes were up significantly from budgeted estimates by 5.5 and 10.5 percent respectively.

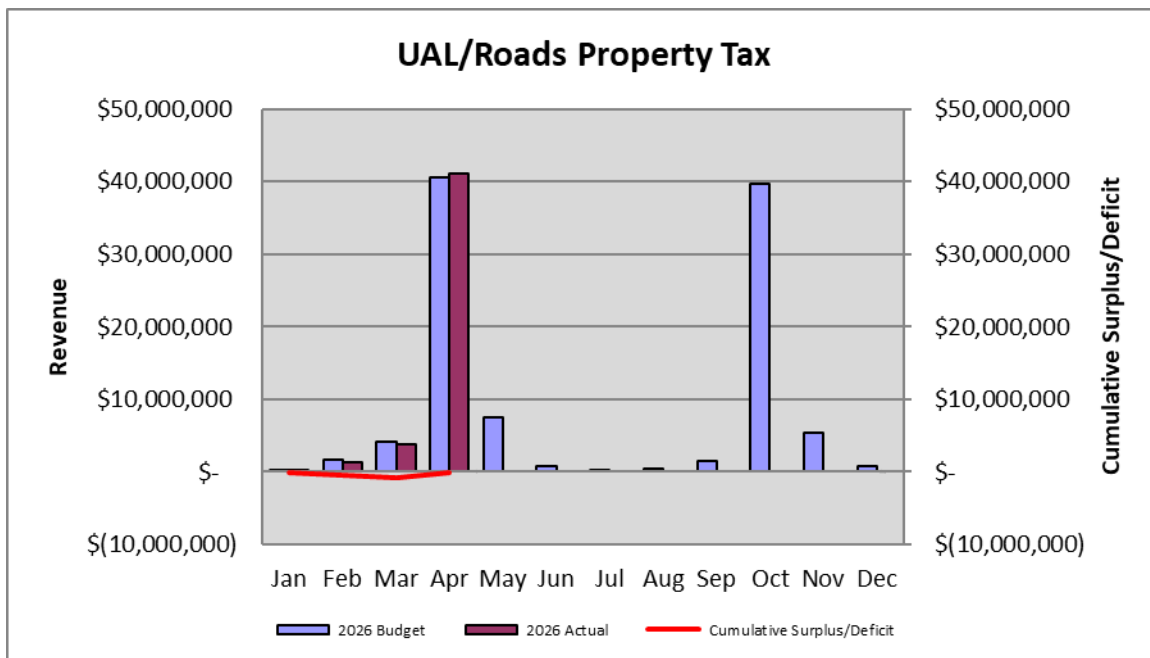
The following charts and tables show the accumulative monthly actuals and projections for all revenue sources with the latest month comparison of actuals and projections highlighted in each table.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31111 & 31112

Current Expense Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

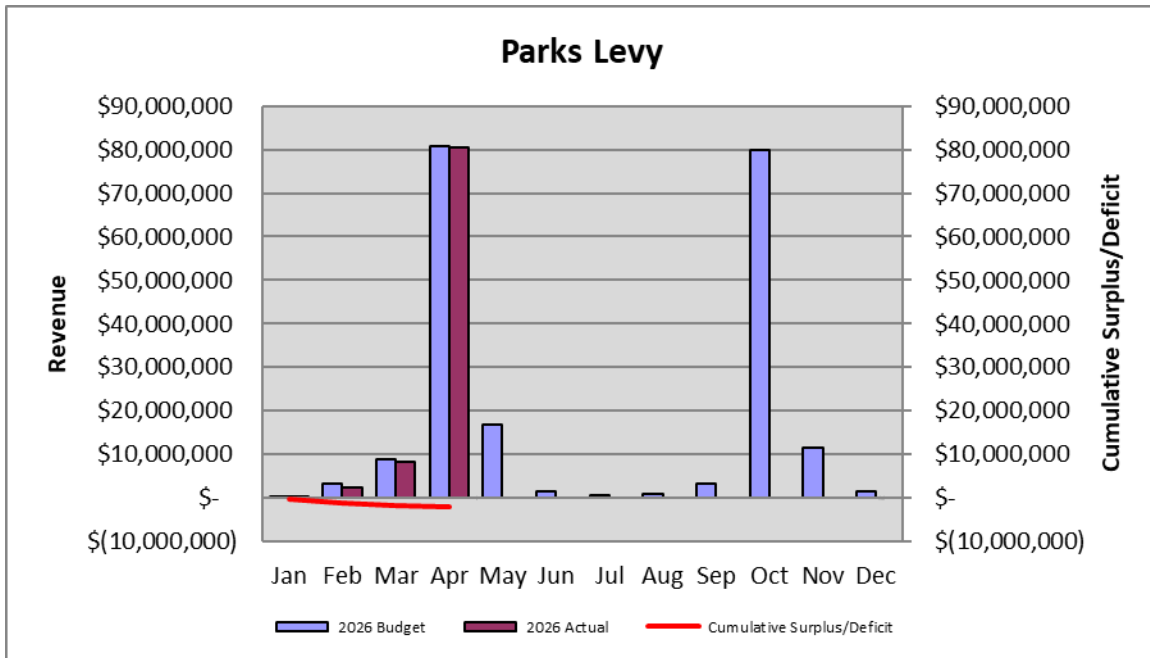
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 167,566,449	\$ 168,360,605	\$ 794,157	0.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

UAL/Roads Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

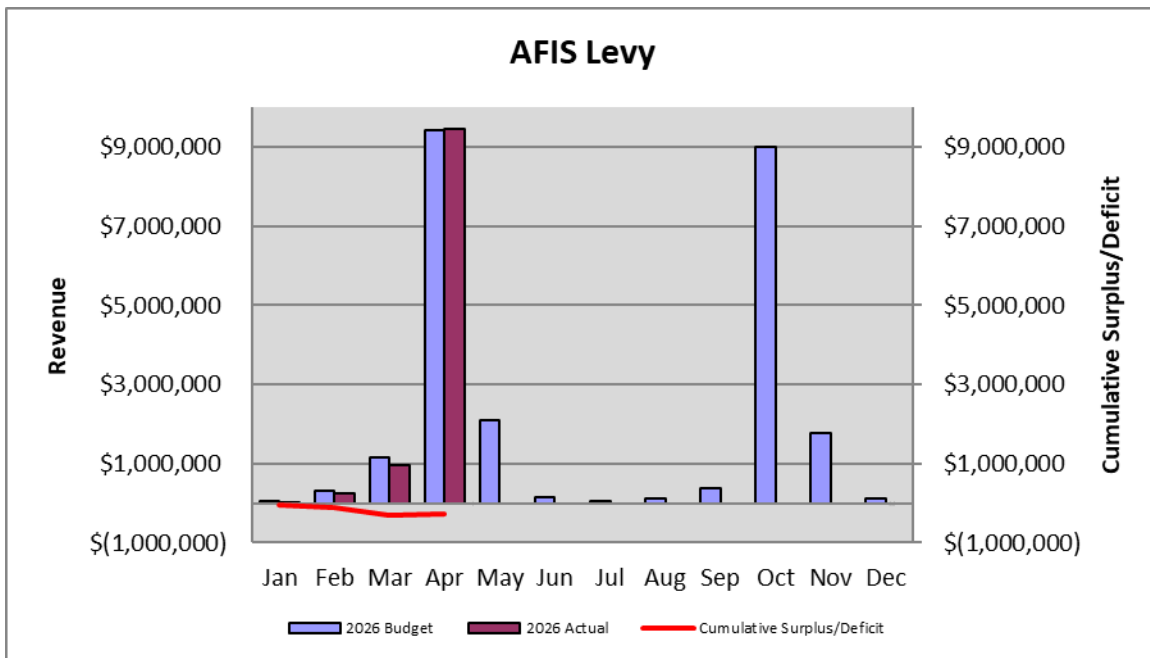
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 40,532,762	\$ 41,179,048	\$ 646,286	1.6%



Data: King County EBS 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Parks Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

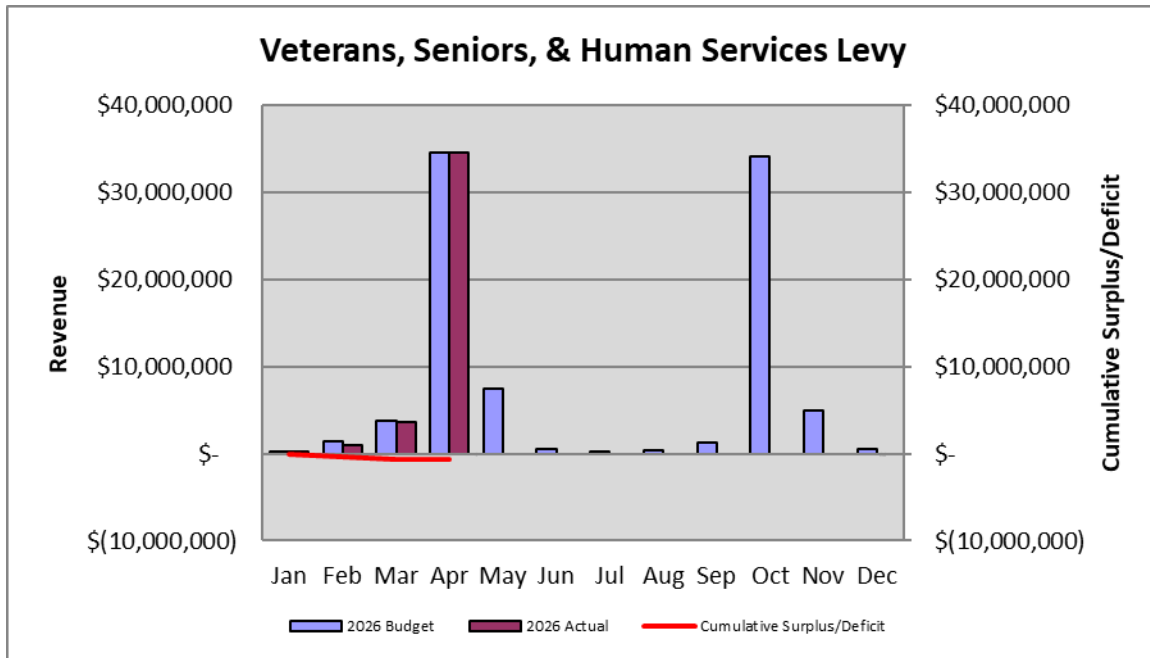
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 80,882,794	\$ 80,422,614	\$ (460,180)	-0.6%



Data: King County EBS 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

AFIS Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

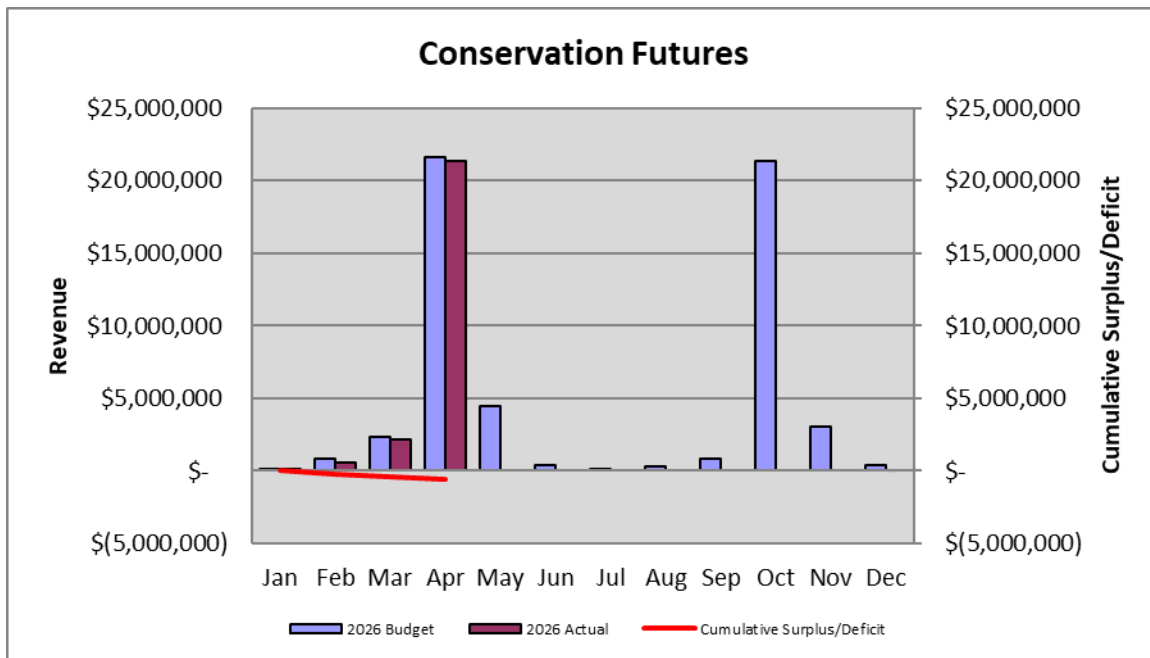
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 9,425,961	\$ 9,471,043	\$ 45,082	0.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1143, Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

VSHSL Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

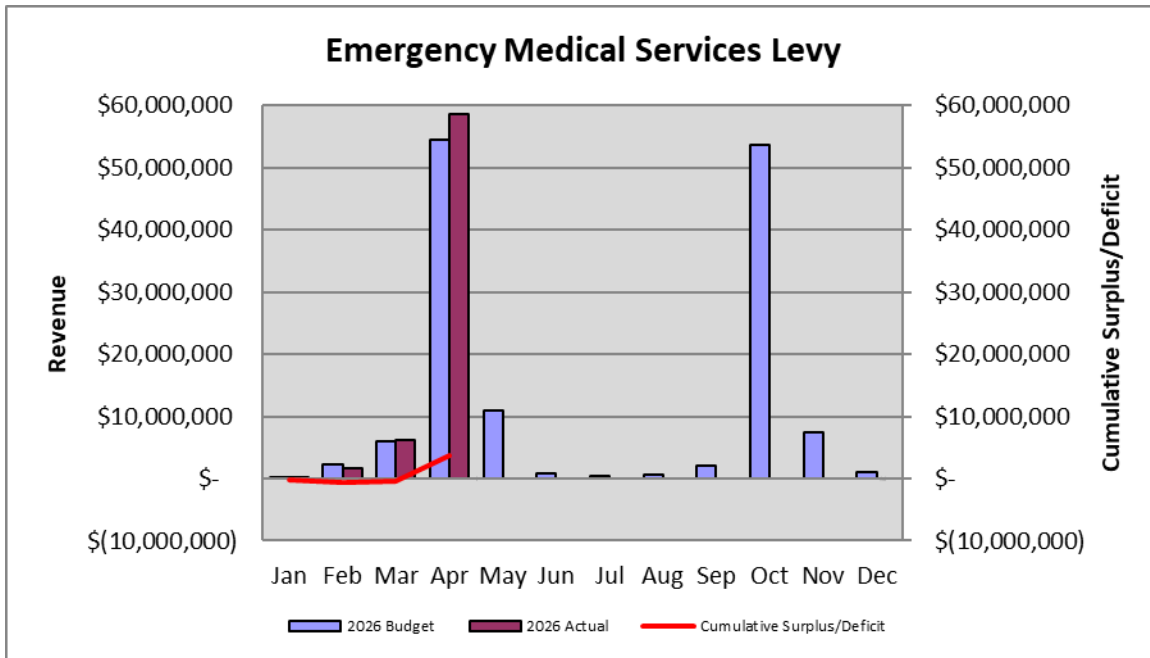
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 34,619,118	\$ 34,534,029	\$ (85,089)	-0.2%



Data Source: King County EBS, Acct. 31117

Conservation Futures Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

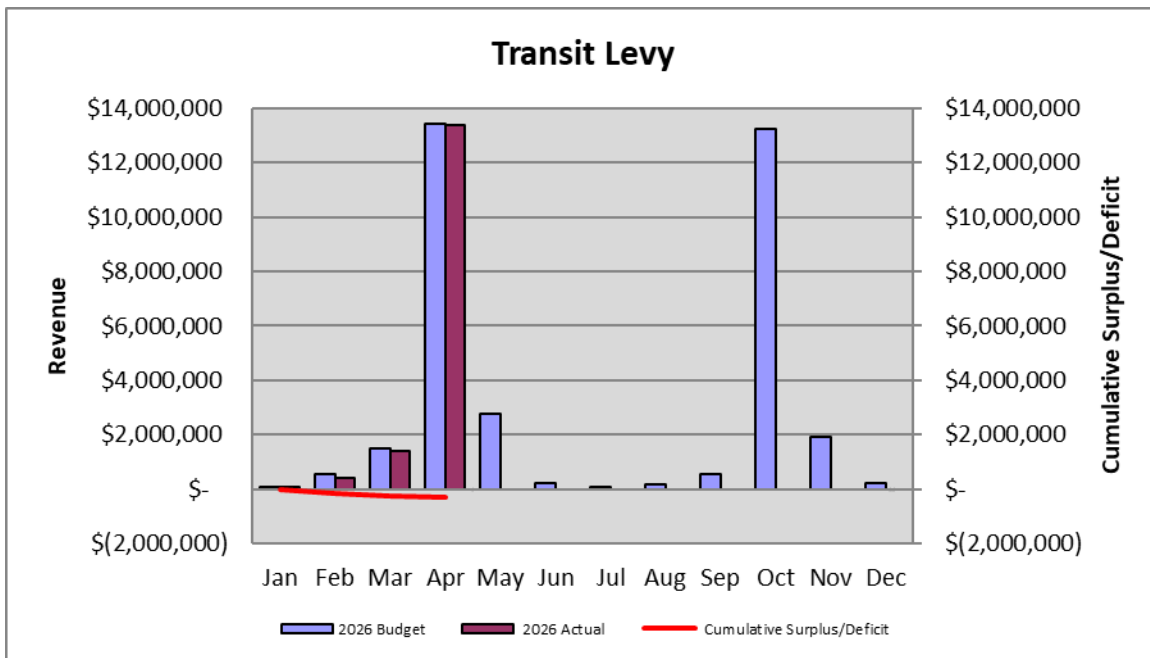
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 21,585,054	\$ 21,335,427	\$ (249,627)	-1.2%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

EMS Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

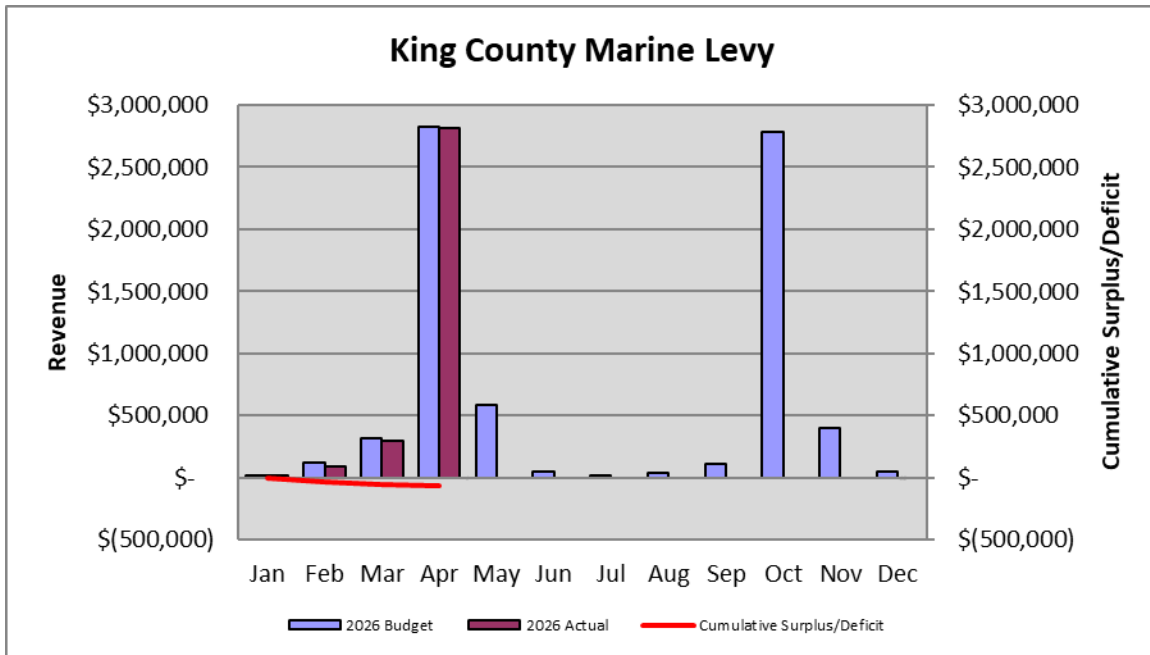
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 54,434,607	\$ 58,588,984	\$ 4,154,377	7.6%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Transit Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

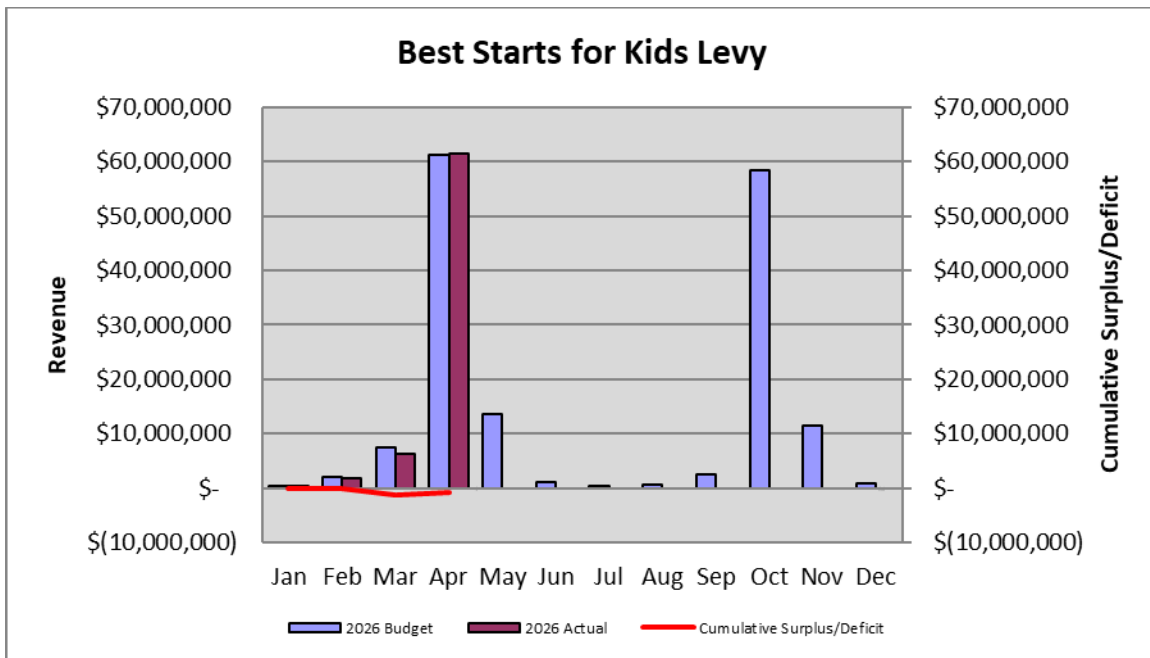
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 13,398,026	\$ 13,357,330	\$ (40,696)	-0.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 3641, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

King County Marine Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

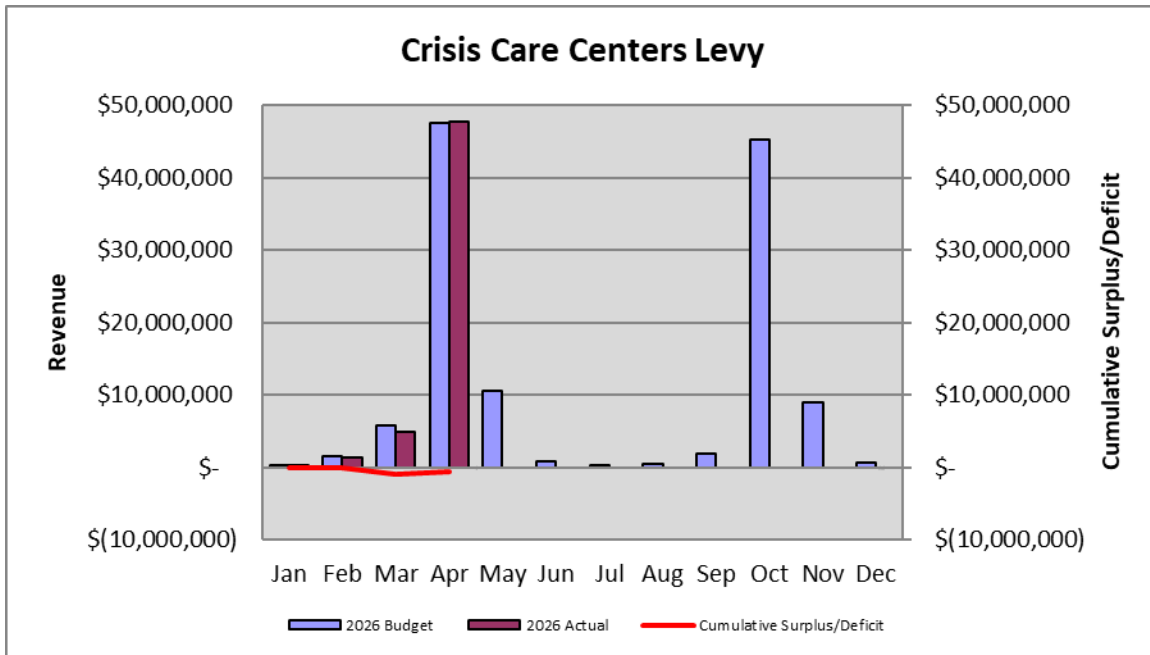
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,826,892	\$ 2,816,795	\$ (10,097)	-0.4%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Best Starts for Kids Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

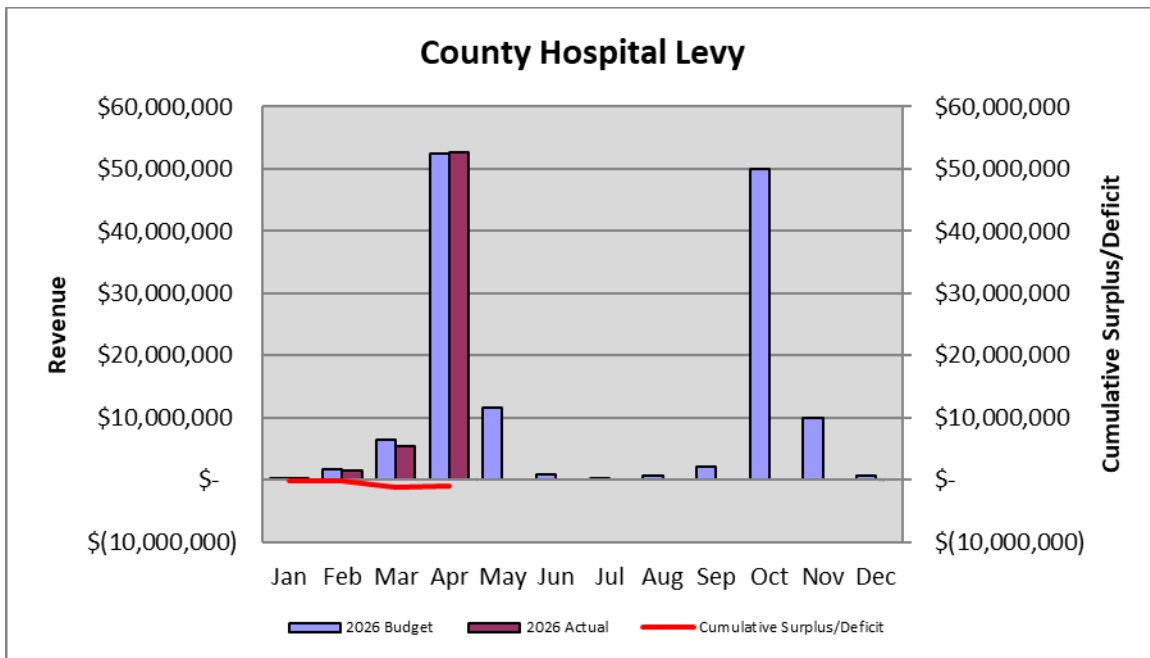
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 61,221,539	\$ 61,545,366	\$ 323,827	0.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Crisis Care Centers Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

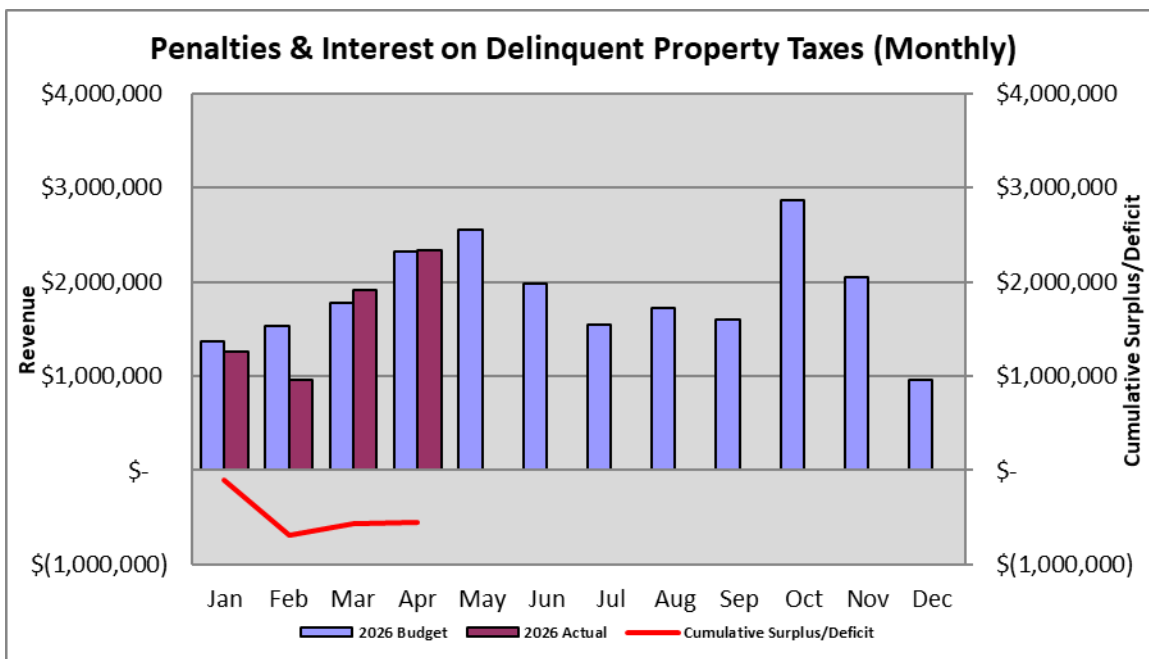
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 47,469,397	\$ 47,718,578	\$ 249,180	0.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1700, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

County Hospital Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

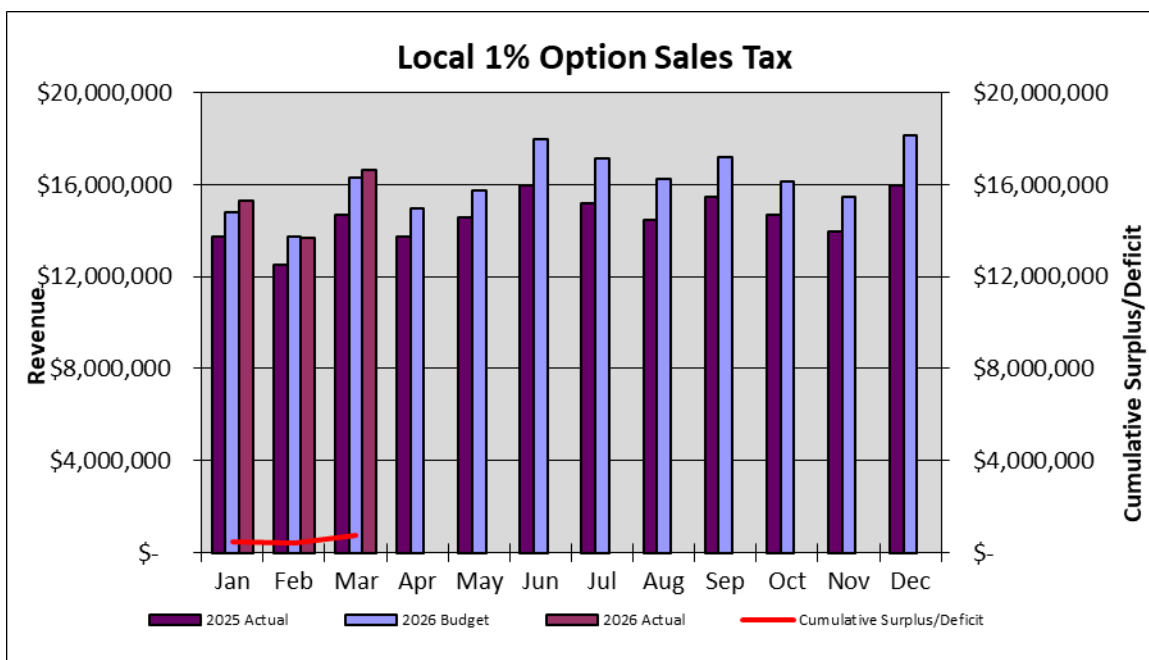
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 52,433,753	\$ 52,670,876	\$ 237,123	0.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Acct 31911

Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Property Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

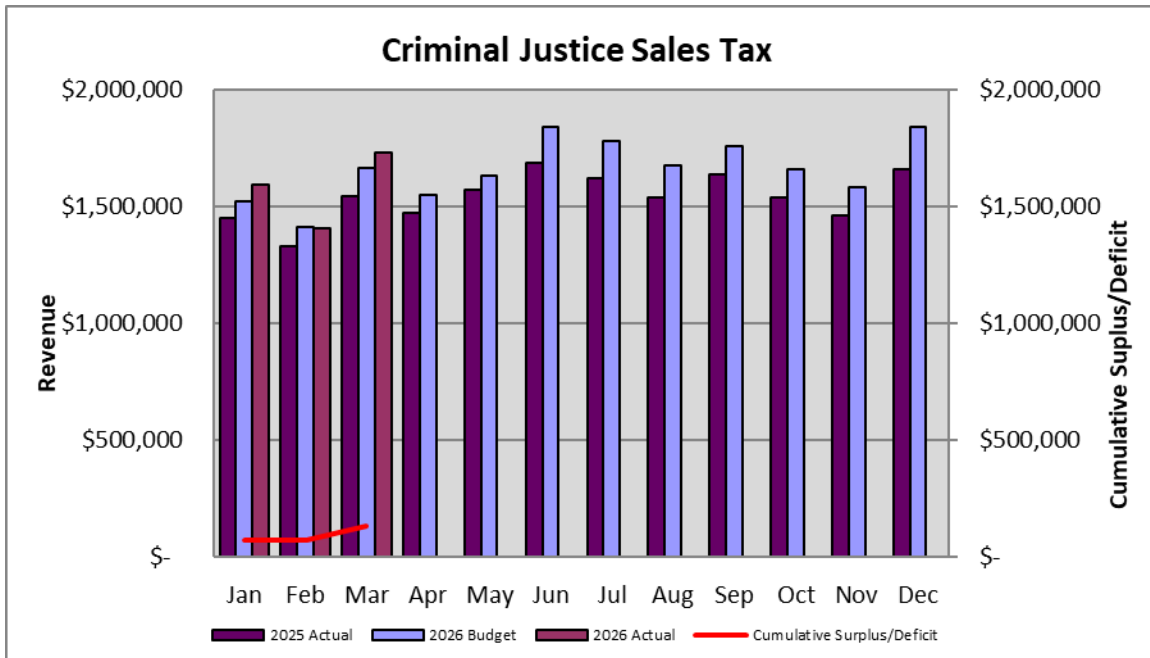
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,325,833	\$ 2,331,607	\$ 5,775	0.2%



Data Source: Washington State DOR through May

Local Option Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

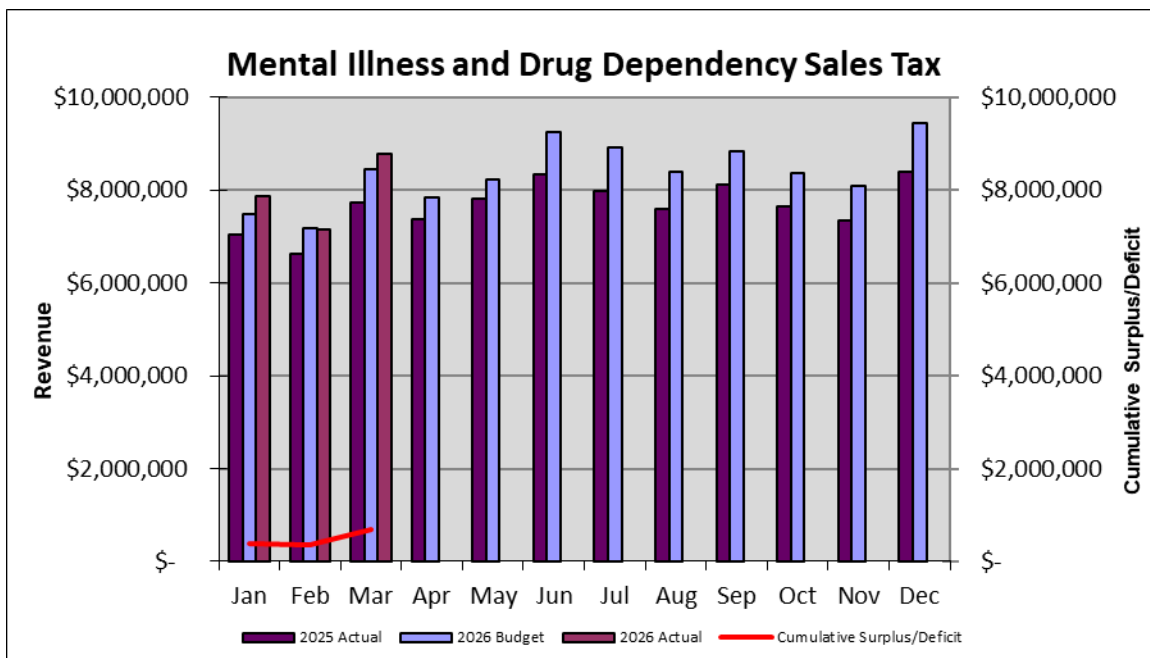
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 16,289,813	\$ 16,656,552	\$ 366,739	2.3%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

CJ Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

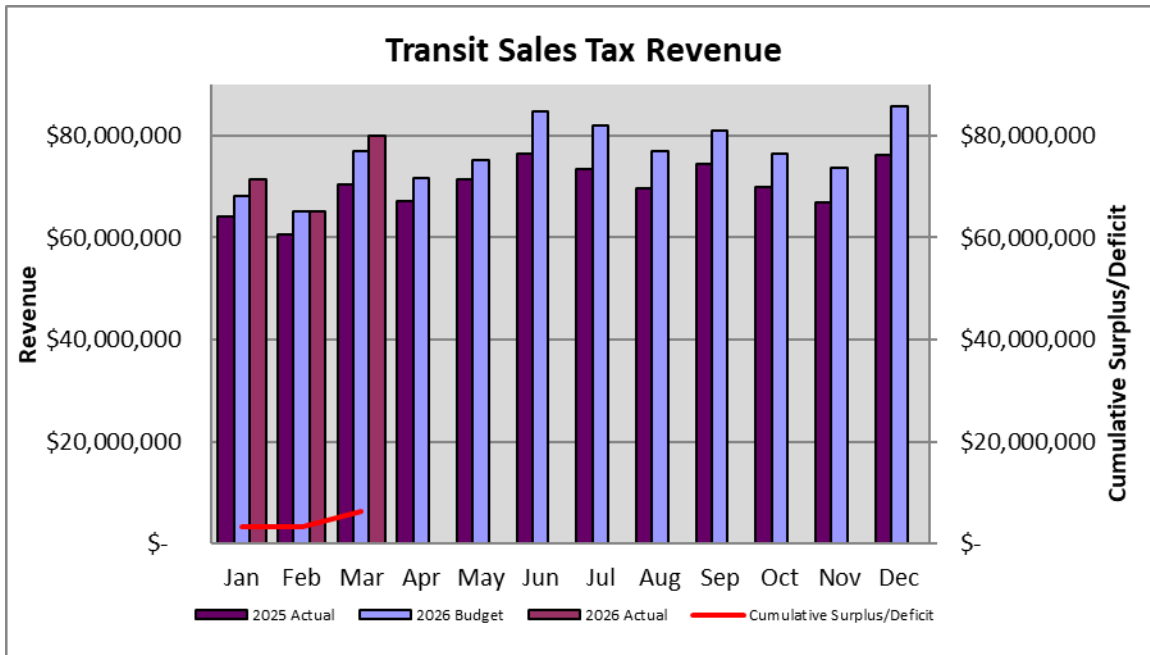
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,664,798	\$ 1,728,426	\$ 63,628	3.8%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

MIDD Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

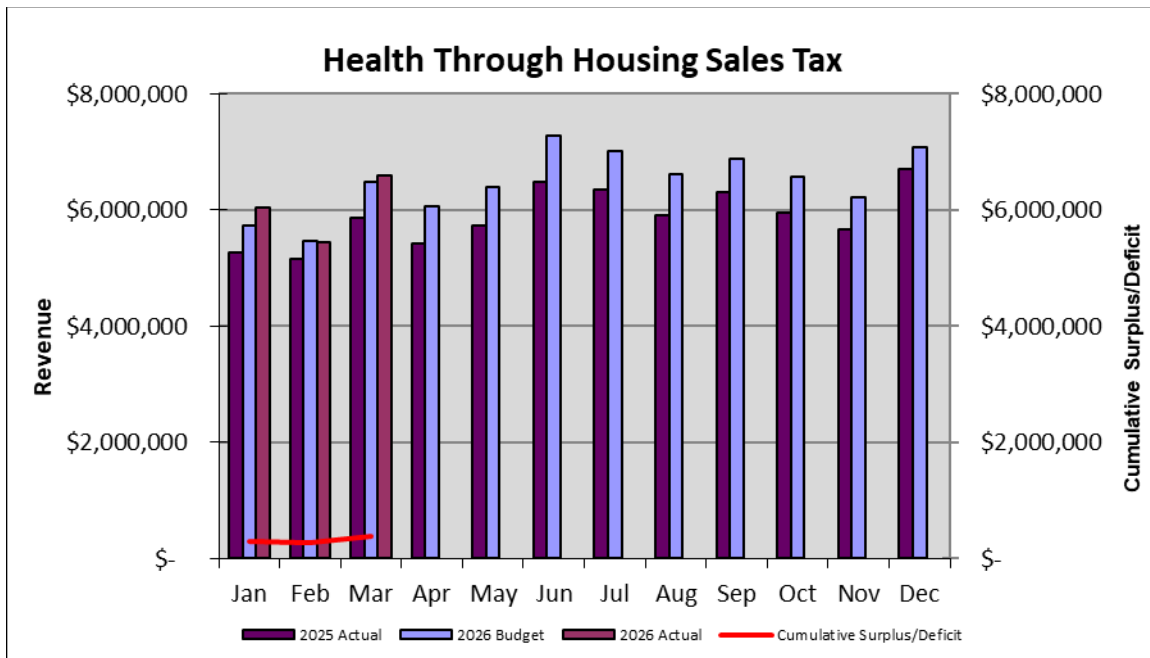
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,449,463	\$ 8,784,168	\$ 334,705	4.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

Transit Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

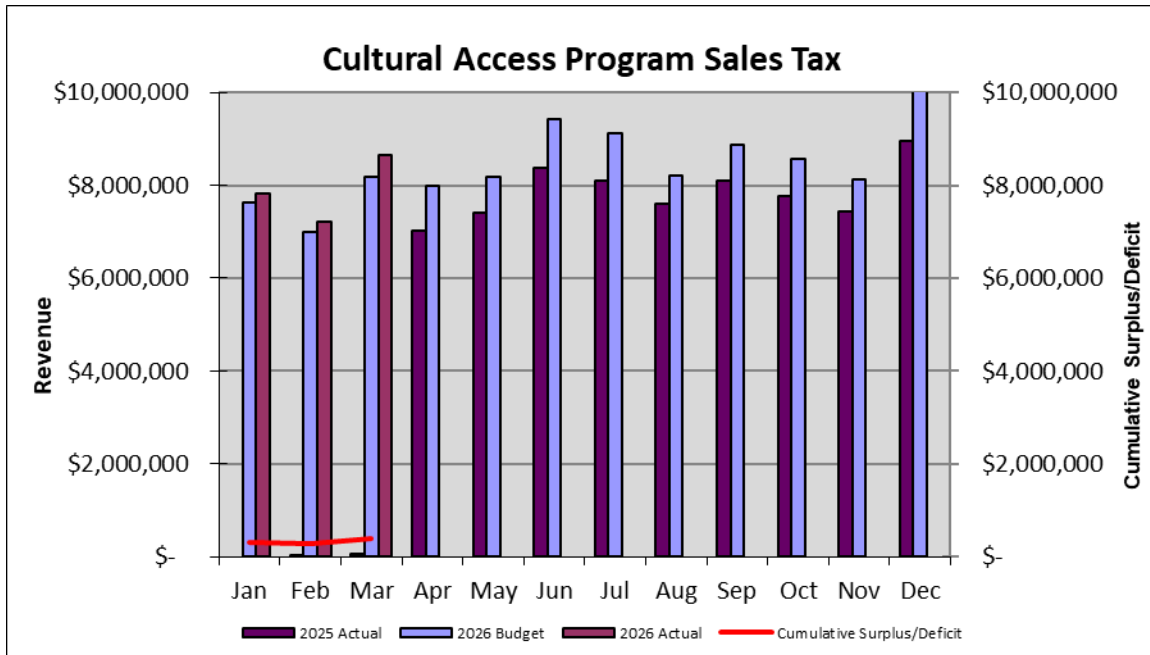
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 76,999,393	\$ 79,965,289	\$ 2,965,896	3.9%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

HTH Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

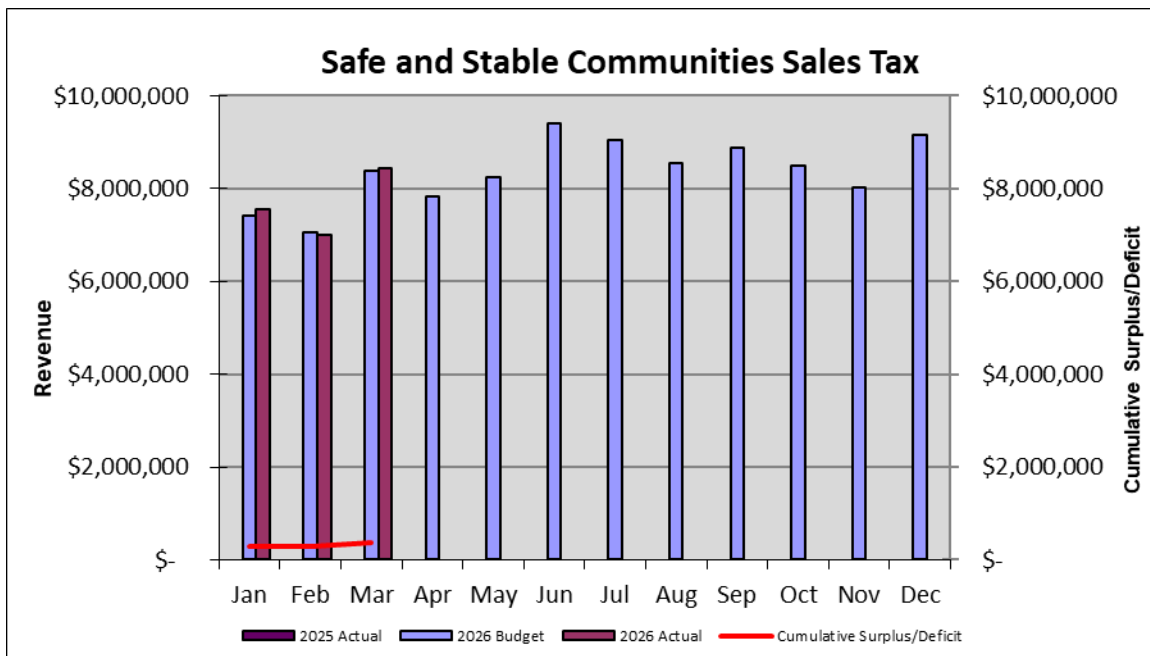
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 6,490,073	\$ 6,594,187	\$ 104,114	1.6%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

CAP Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

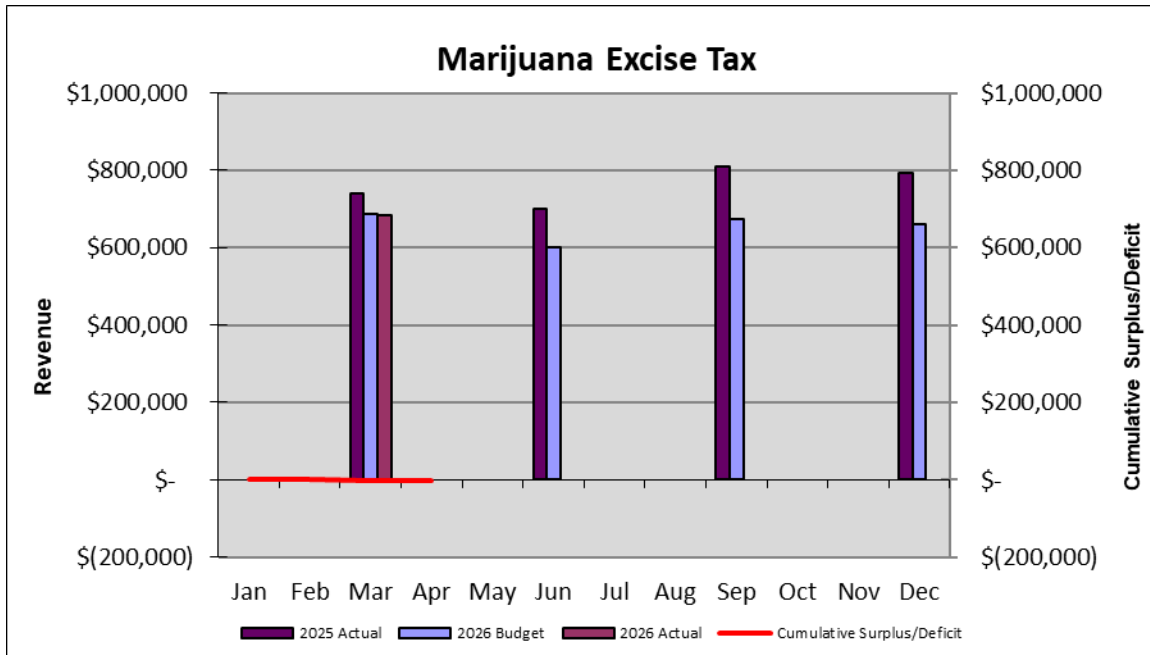
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,166,724	8,663,050	\$ 496,326	6.1%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

SSC Sales Tax Comparison (March 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,379,240	\$ 8,441,338	\$ 62,147	0.7%

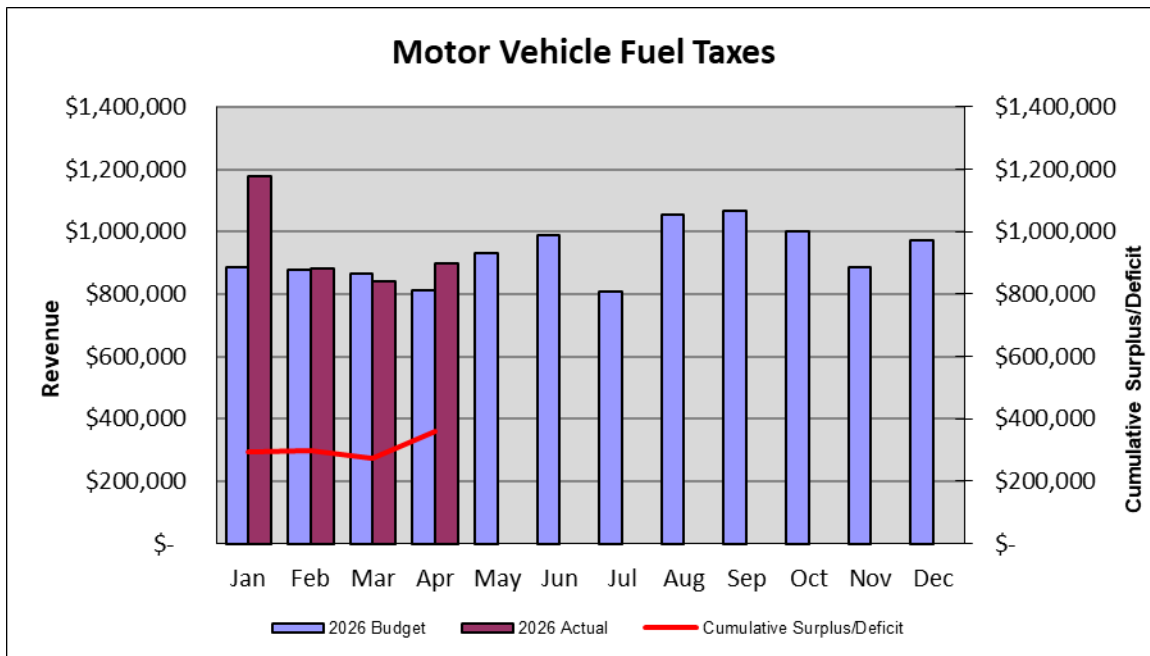


Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Account 33605

Marijuana Excise Tax Comparison (April 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -	0.0%

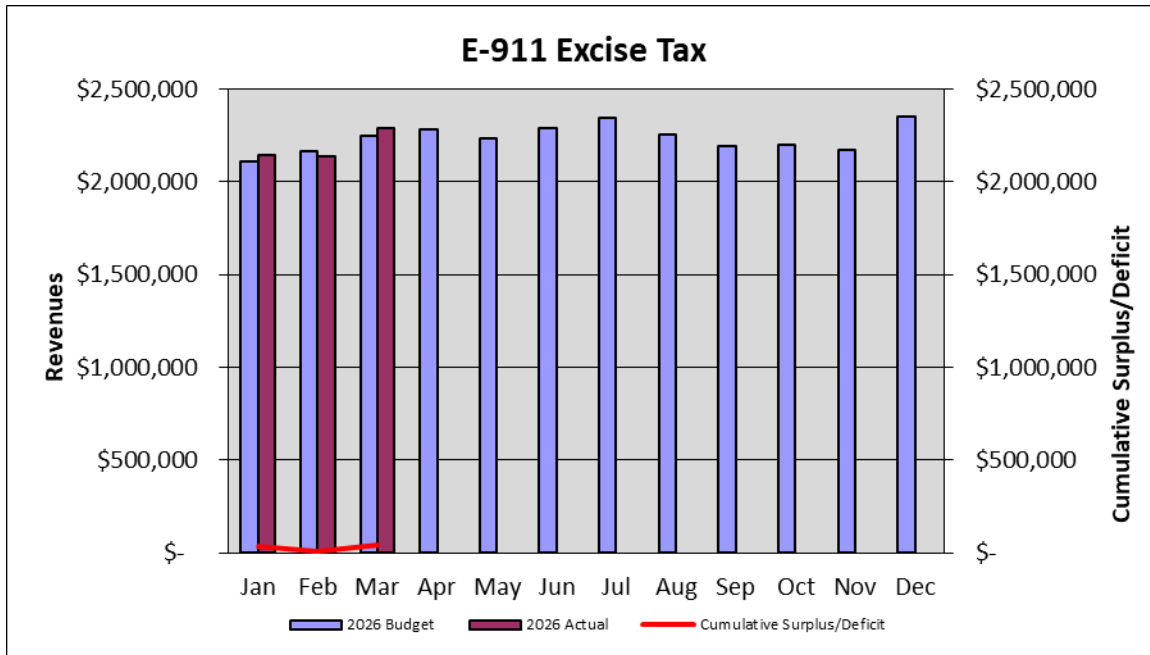
This data is received quarterly in March, June, September and December.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 33689

MV Fuel Taxes Comparison (April 2026)

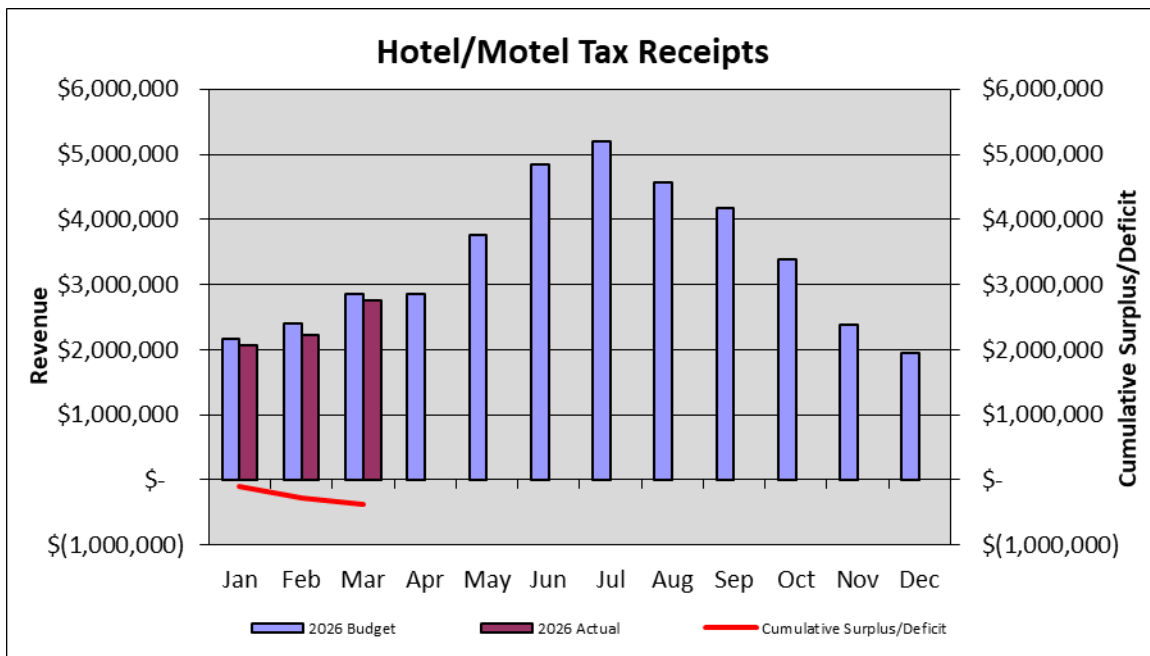
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 810,900	\$ 897,532	\$ 86,632	10.7%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

E-911 Excise Tax Comparison (March 2026)

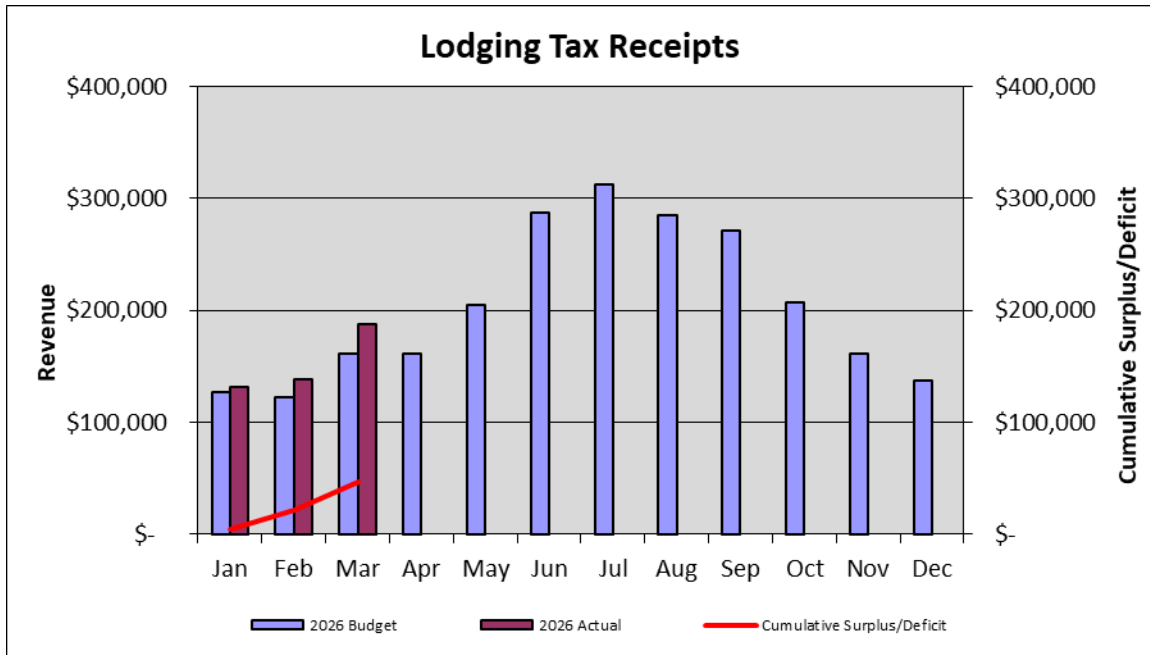
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,249,858	\$ 2,286,523	\$ 36,665	1.6%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

Hotel/Motel Tax Comparison (March 2026)

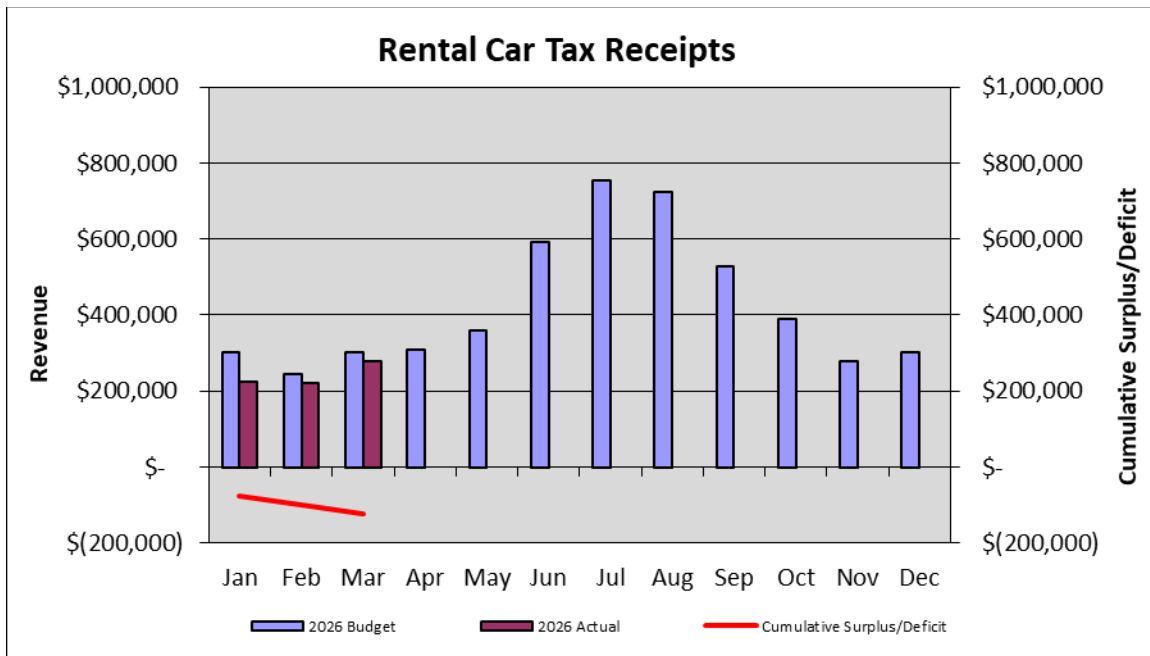
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,858,077	\$ 2,757,316	\$ (100,761)	-3.5%



Data Source: Seattle Convention Center through May

Lodging Tax Comparison (March 2026)

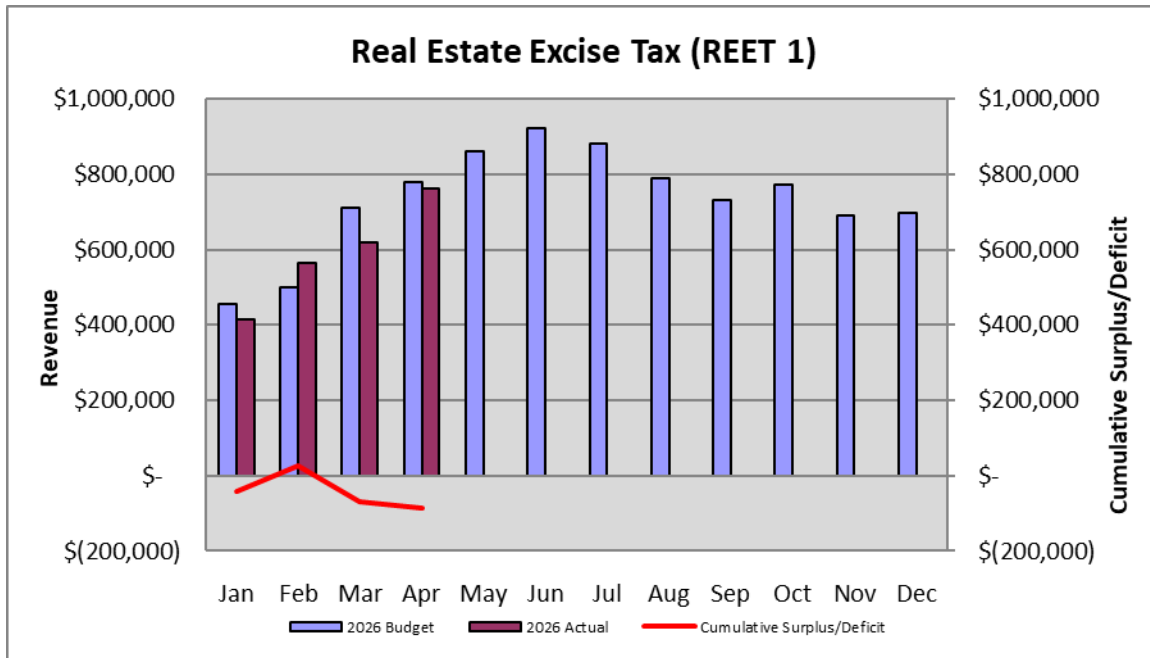
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 161,836	\$ 187,717	\$ 25,881	16.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through May

Rental Car Tax Comparison (March 2026)

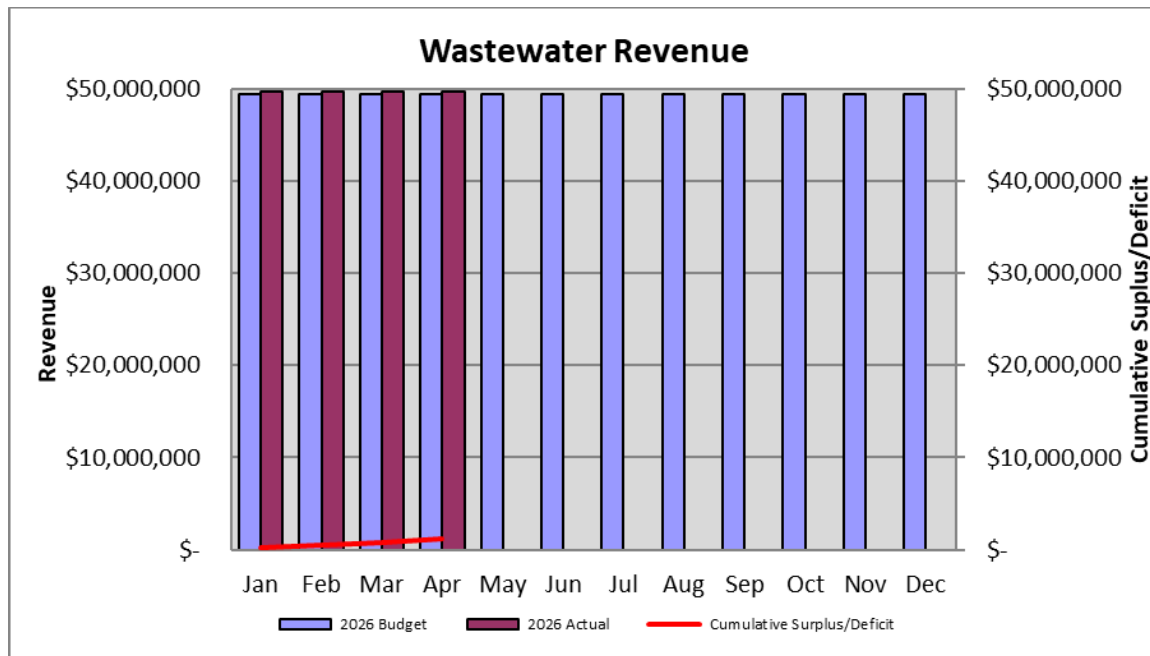
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 303,770	\$ 278,033	\$ (25,738)	-8.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31734

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) Comparison (April 2026)

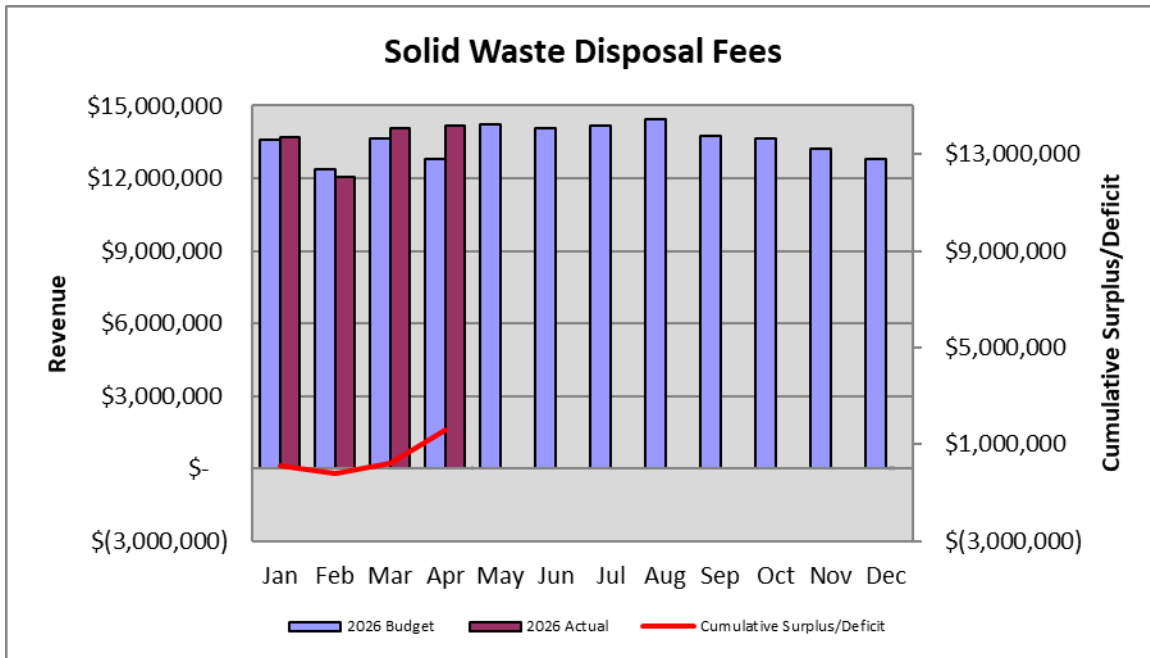
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 778,376	\$ 760,620	\$ (17,756)	-2.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 44192

Wastewater Revenues Comparison (April 2026)

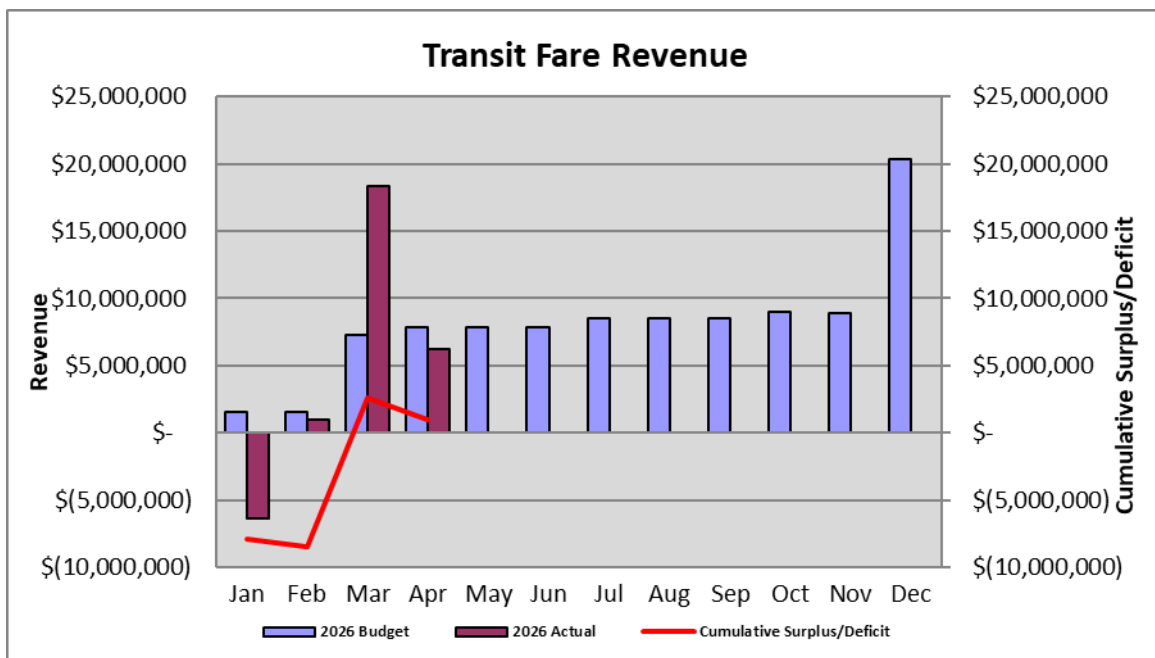
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 49,349,014	\$ 49,689,317	\$ 340,303	0.7%



Data Source: EBS acct. 34371

Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges Comparison (April 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 12,801,896	\$ 14,202,508	\$ 1,400,612	10.9%



Data Source: King County EBS Accts 44233, 44234, 44235, 44237, 44249, 44253, and 44269

Transit Fare Charges Comparison (April 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,811,591	\$ 6,263,919	\$ (1,547,672)	-19.8%

Appendix
King County Taxable Retail Sales by Industry
 (Current obligations: March 2025 – March 2026)

NAICS Category	2-digit NAICS	Mar-25	Mar-26	Percent change (2025-2026)
Agriculture	11	\$ 1,640,963	\$ 1,964,047	19.7%
Mining	21	559,009	416,703	-25.5%
Utilities	22	6,910,966	7,135,131	3.2%
Construction	23	1,432,790,400	1,461,297,796	2.0%
Manufacturing	31-33	174,462,650	225,654,997	29.3%
Wholesale	41-42	485,109,628	511,897,718	5.5%
Retail Trade	44-45	2,540,194,909	2,573,493,646	1.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	120,371,306	136,326,109	13.3%
Information	51	362,984,874	477,140,616	31.4%
Finance & Insurance	52	58,673,767	72,322,208	23.3%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	53	163,625,801	172,338,394	5.3%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	54	359,955,624	465,439,698	29.3%
Management, Education and Health Services	55-62	509,221,410	671,901,685	31.9%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	71	95,017,895	102,817,637	8.2%
Accommodations, Food Services	72	802,972,346	813,326,428	1.3%
Other Services	81	169,385,159	171,515,832	1.3%
Public Administration/DOL Monthly	92	23,316,362	71,104,102	205.0%
Other		-	-	100.0%
Total-All Industries		\$ 7,307,193,068	\$ 7,936,092,749	8.6%
NAICS Category	3-digit NAICS	Mar-25	Mar-26	Percentage change (2025-2026)
Construction				
Construction of Buildings	236	\$ 897,357,590	\$ 880,775,947	-1.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	96,601,036	127,125,994	31.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	438,831,773	453,395,855	3.3%
Retail				
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	603,735,153	529,724,105	-12.3%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	170,041,054	160,497,000	-5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	148,581,581	154,643,267	4.1%
Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	449	361,992,120	364,022,300	0.6%
General Merchandise Retailers	455	271,946,052	306,416,400	12.7%
Health and Personal Care Retailers	456	85,348,574	86,354,244	1.2%
Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	457	45,664,338	48,351,590	5.9%
Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	458	200,859,445	209,834,079	4.5%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, & Misc. Retailers	459	652,026,592	713,650,662	9.5%
Wholesale				
Wholesale: Durable Goods	423	394,765,663	413,218,490	4.7%
Wholesale: Nondurable Goods	424	84,251,758	92,259,772	9.5%
Wholesale: Electronic Markets	425	6,092,207	6,419,456	5.4%
Food Service and Accommodations				
Accommodation	721	166,163,197	163,602,825	-1.5%
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	636,809,149	649,723,603	2.0%
Note: NAICS values were updated & consolidated in 2022				
NAICS Category	4-digit NAICS	Mar-25	Mar-26	Percentage change (2025-2026)
Sporting Goods, Hobby, and Musical Instrument Retailers	4591	\$ 94,691,350	\$ 98,236,483	3.7%
Book Retailers and News Dealers	4592	9,775,349	11,401,386	16.6%
Florists	4593	2,968,799	2,854,672	-3.8%
Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Retailers	4594	23,920,968	23,112,367	-3.4%
Used Merchandise Retailers	4595	13,057,527	14,185,245	8.6%
Other Miscellaneous Retailers	4599	507,612,600	563,860,509	11.1%