



**King County**  
**Office of Economic and Financial Analysis**  
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 Seattle, WA 98104  
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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 7, 2026  
 TO: King County Forecast Council  
 FROM: Lizbeth Martin-Mahar, Laurie Elofson, Tony Cacallori  
 RE: King County Revenue through May 2026

**Actuals Compared to Budget Forecast - King County Revenue  
 (through May 2026 unless noted)<sup>1</sup>**

Revenue	YTD Forecast (2026 Budget)	YTD Actual	Actual - Forecast	Difference (percentage)
Current Expense Levy*	\$ 226,400,000	\$ 227,312,041	\$ 912,041	0.4%
UAL/Roads Levy^	\$ 54,220,000	\$ 53,681,828	\$ (538,172)	-1.0%
Parks Levy^	\$ 110,160,000	\$ 109,018,456	\$ (1,141,544)	-1.0%
AFIS Levy^	\$ 13,040,000	\$ 12,764,195	\$ (275,805)	-2.1%
Veterans, Seniors, & HS Levy (1143)^	\$ 47,410,000	\$ 46,912,463	\$ (497,537)	-1.0%
Conservation Futures Levy (3151)^	\$ 29,150,000	\$ 28,785,820	\$ (364,180)	-1.2%
EMS Levy^	\$ 73,740,000	\$ 78,808,380	\$ 5,068,380	6.9%
Transit Levy^	\$ 18,280,000	\$ 18,177,116	\$ (102,884)	-0.6%
Marine Levy^	\$ 3,860,000	\$ 3,833,111	\$ (26,889)	-0.7%
Best Starts for Kids Levy^	\$ 84,490,000	\$ 83,611,698	\$ (878,302)	-1.0%
Crisis Care Centers Levy^	\$ 65,510,000	\$ 64,835,961	\$ (674,039)	-1.0%
County Hospital Levy^	\$ 72,360,000	\$ 71,457,737	\$ (902,264)	-1.2%
P&I on Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 9,560,000	\$ 8,962,054	\$ (597,946)	-6.3%
Sales Tax - Local Option (4/26)	\$ 59,820,000	\$ 61,446,880	\$ 1,626,880	2.7%
Sales Tax-Criminal Justice (4/26)	\$ 6,140,000	\$ 6,397,175	\$ 257,175	4.2%
Sales Tax-MIDD (4/26)	\$ 30,950,000	\$ 32,272,301	\$ 1,322,301	4.3%
Sales Tax - Transit (4/26)	\$ 281,850,000	\$ 293,743,273	\$ 11,893,273	4.2%
Sales Tax - Health Through Housing (4/26)	\$ 23,750,000	\$ 24,727,244	\$ 977,244	4.1%
Sales Tax - Cultural Access Program (4/26)	\$ 30,770,000	\$ 32,482,408	\$ 1,712,408	5.6%
Sales Tax - Safe and Stable Communities (4/26)	\$ 30,660,000	\$ 31,653,817	\$ 993,817	3.2%
Marijuana Excise Tax (6/26)	\$ 1,290,000	\$ 1,372,344	\$ 82,344	6.4%
MV Fuel Tax-Roads+	\$ 4,370,000	\$ 4,664,765	\$ 294,765	6.7%
E-911 Excise Tax (4/26)	\$ 8,810,000	\$ 8,433,540	\$ (376,460)	-4.3%
Hotel/Motel Tax (4/26)	\$ 10,290,000	\$ 9,908,391	\$ (381,609)	-3.7%
Lodging Tax (HB 2015) (4/26)	\$ 570,000	\$ 620,901	\$ 50,901	8.9%
Rental Car Tax (4/26)	\$ 1,160,000	\$ 1,002,247	\$ (157,753)	-13.6%
REET 1 Revenue	\$ 3,310,000	\$ 3,137,991	\$ (172,009)	-5.2%
Wastewater Revenues+	\$ 246,750,000	\$ 248,272,809	\$ 1,522,809	0.6%
Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges+	\$ 66,670,000	\$ 68,220,859	\$ 1,550,859	2.3%
Transit Fare+	\$ 26,120,000	\$ 26,496,377	\$ 376,377	1.4%

<sup>1</sup> 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 May 2026, property tax revenues combined for all levies are up from the forecast by \$0.58 million or 0.07 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 actual versus the March 2026 forecast for most levies were negative except for the EMS and Current Expense levies. The Parks levy is down the most at \$1.1 million or 1 percent below forecast but this is an improvement over last month when it was still down 2 percent from the forecast. The Hospital levy is second largest, down \$0.90 million or 1.2 percent below forecast. The Best Start for Kids levy is also down \$0.88 million, or 1 percent below the forecast. All the other levies are down from projections by less than \$0.7 million. The new EMS levy is above the forecast for the first 5 months now by \$5.1 million or 6.9 percent. The first 5 months of collections of penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes came in -\$0.59 million or 6 percent below forecast. This current shortfall is 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 made up some of the losses seen in the early months of 2026, but collections are still \$0.6 million below March's projections.

Total taxable sales, categorized by industry sectors, were up for the first four months of 2026 by 11.2 percent yoy, and most of the industry sectors were up from last year except for three sectors: construction, real estate, rental and leasing and public administration. The sectors showing strong performance in the first four months of 2026 from last year were the following: information up 78.4 percent, manufacturing up 25 percent, transportation and warehousing up 13.1 percent, finance and insurance up 5.6 percent, retail trade up 4.1 percent, professional, scientific, and technical services up 28.6 percent, management of companies up 26.0 percent, health care and social assistance up 0.3 percent, arts, entertainment, and recreation services up 8.5 percent, accommodations and food services up 3.8 percent, administrative and support and warehousing up 27.1 percent, educational services up 36.1 percent and other services up 1.9 percent over last year. For the first four months of 2026, some big sectors in the local economy were down from last year like construction sales down 3.6 percent, real estate, rental and leasing services down 5.2 percent, and public administration down 20.7 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.

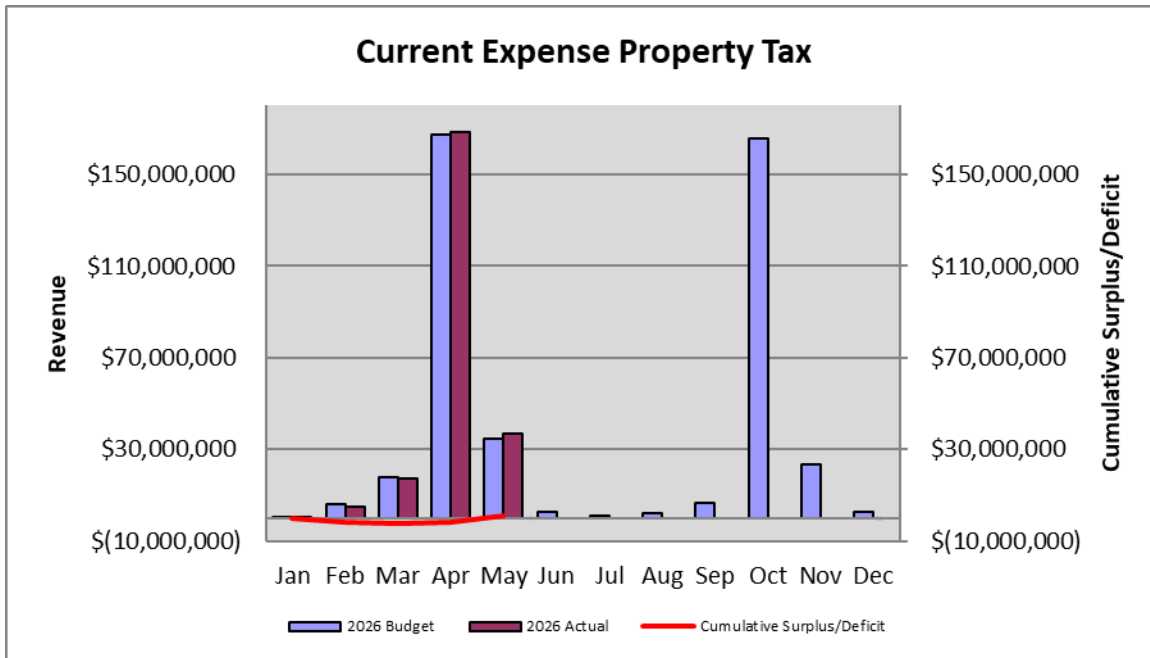
An appendix to this memo provides King County taxable retail sales by industry for the most recent month of April 2026 compared to April 2025. This table indicates that in the month of April, total taxable sales were up year-over-year by 16.4 percent, which was another very strong monthly growth with the information sector having a more than 100 percent increase over April 2025. Most industry sectors are up, with only the following five sectors being down from last April: construction, finance and insurance, real estate and rental and leasing, management of companies and health care and social assistance. The information sector made big payments this month with revenue up 153 percent compared to prior year. . Manufacturing was up by 28.4 percent, administrative and support and waste management up 30.1 percent, educational services up 30.6 percent and professional, scientific and technical services were also strong by 37.2 percent. Other notable industries grew in April 2026, public administration was up 26.5 percent, arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services were each up more than 5 percent, wholesale trade up 6.4 percent and retail trade up 4.2 percent and transportation and warehousing up 8.5 percent.

The first four months of 2026 saw sales taxes up from the March forecast by \$18.8 million, 4 percent, for all seven sales tax levies. Sales tax distributions for Metro Transit were up the most at \$11.9 million or

4.2 percent and second largest was the Cultural Access Program being up \$1.7 million, 5.6 percent from the March forecast. The third largest levy increase was the Local & Option levy was up \$1.6 million, or 2.7 percent, from the March forecast. The Mental Health sales tax levy was up \$1.3 million or 4.3 percent, the new Safe and Stable Communities levy was up \$0.99 million or 3.2 percent and Health Through Housing levy was up \$0.98 million, 4.1 percent.

Most other revenue streams deviated from the forecast by more than one percent except for wastewater revenues which were up by \$1.52 million or 0.6 percent. Revenue streams which were down included E-911 down 4.3 percent, hotel/motel taxes down 3.7 percent, rental car tax down 13.6 percent, and real estate excise taxes down 5.2 percent. Lodging taxes were revised down heavily in the March forecast and are coming in slightly above forecast by \$0.05 million or 8.9 percent for the past four months. The solid waste disposal charges are up \$1.6 million or 2.3 percent from the March forecast. Marijuana excise tax was up 6.4 percent based on preliminary figures through June 2026. In addition, both transit fares and MV fuel taxes were up from budgeted estimates by 1.4 and 6.7 percent respectively.

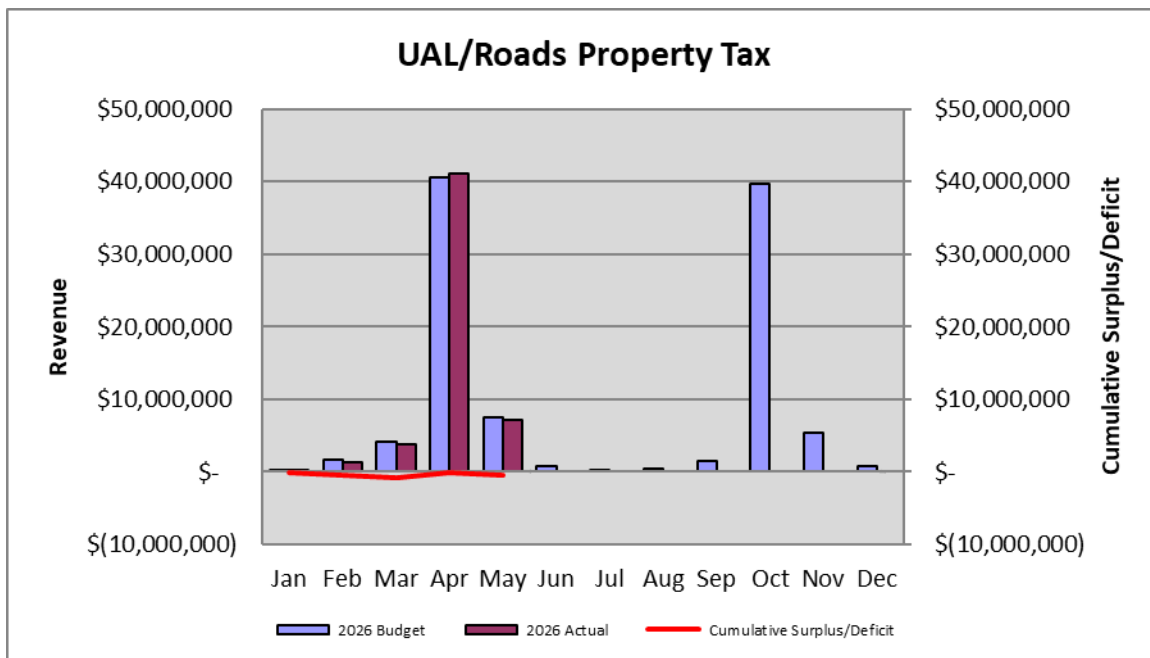
The following charts and tables show the accumulative monthly actuals and projections for all revenue sources with the latest month comparison of actuals and projections highlighted in each table.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31111 & 31112

### Current Expense Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

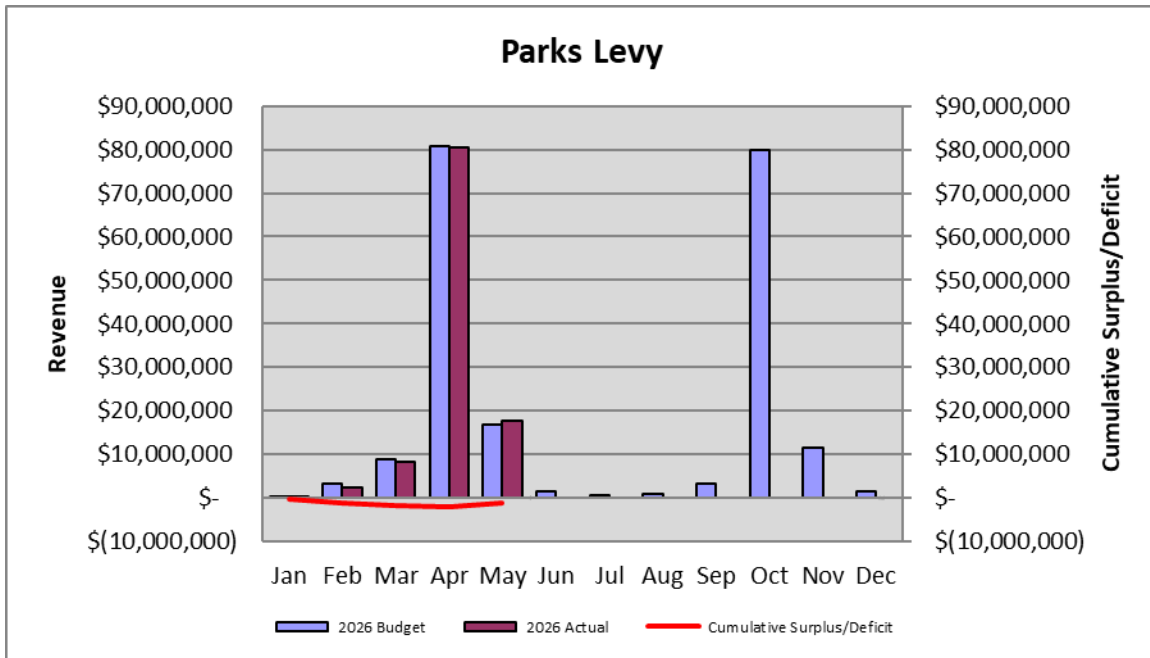
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 34,435,664	\$ 37,105,987	\$ 2,670,323	7.8%



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

### UAL/Roads Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

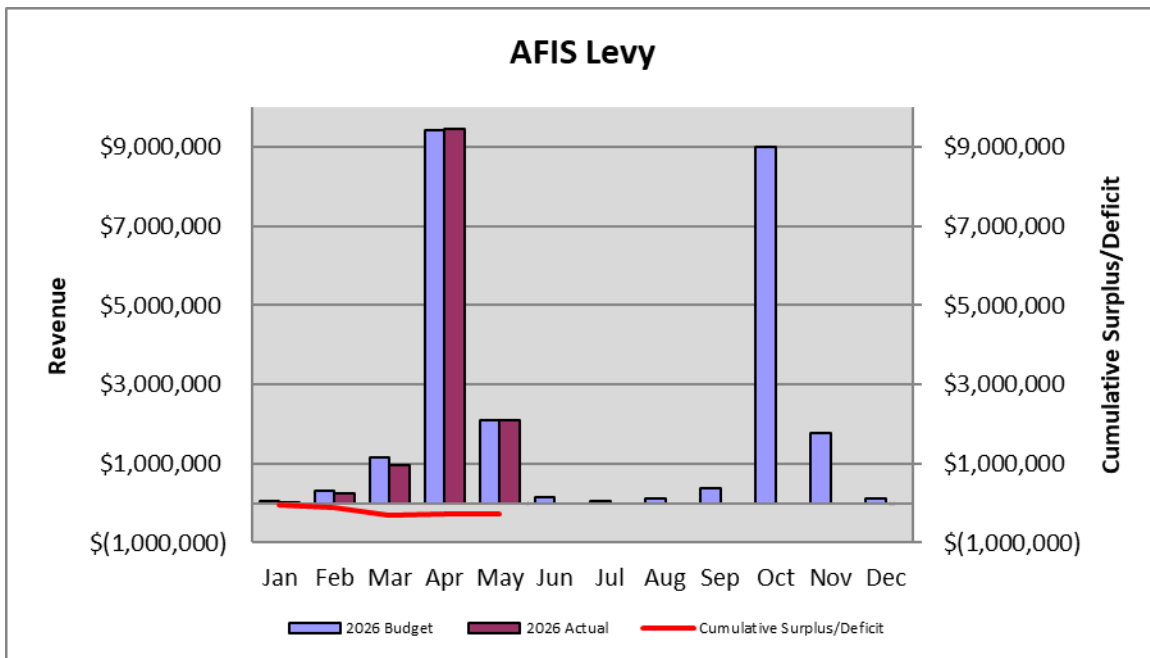
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,559,440	\$ 7,145,861	\$ (413,580)	-5.5%



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

**Parks Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

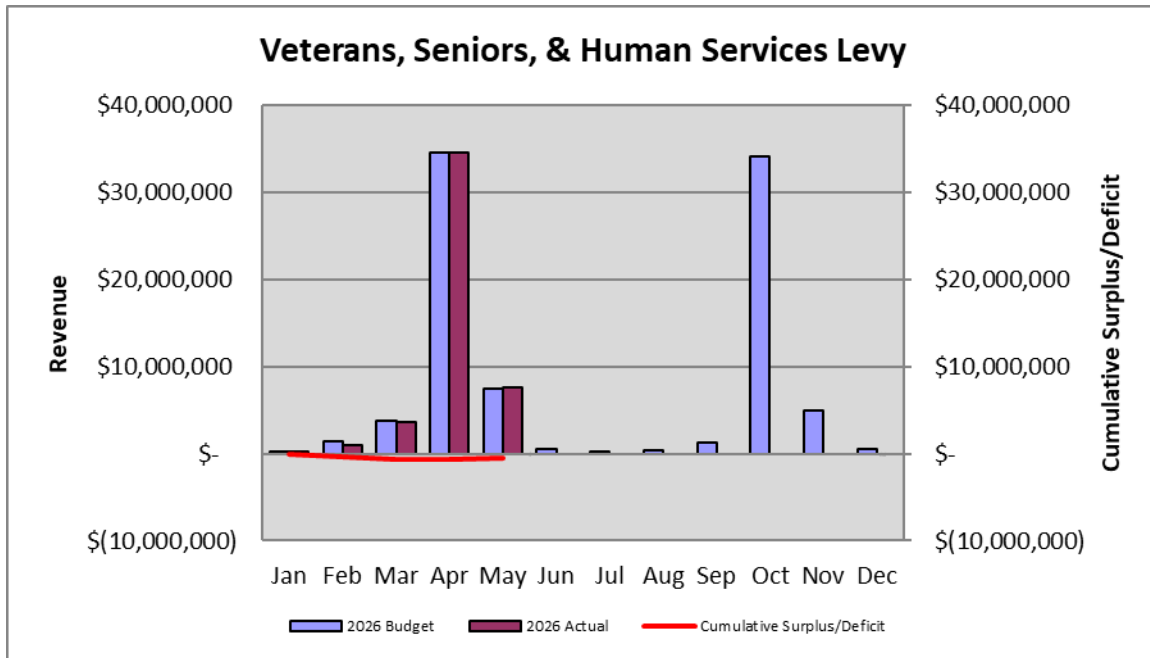
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 16,704,782	\$ 17,735,175	\$ 1,048,393	6.3%



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

**AFIS Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

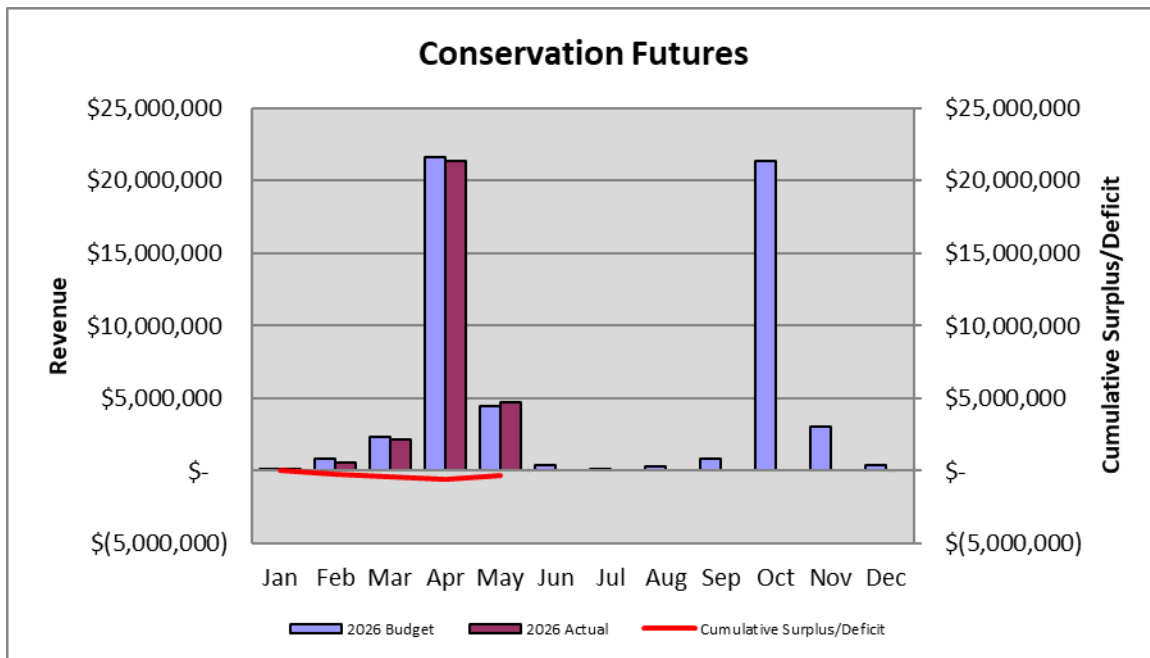
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,098,240	\$ 2,083,538	\$ (14,702)	-0.7%



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

### VSHSL Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

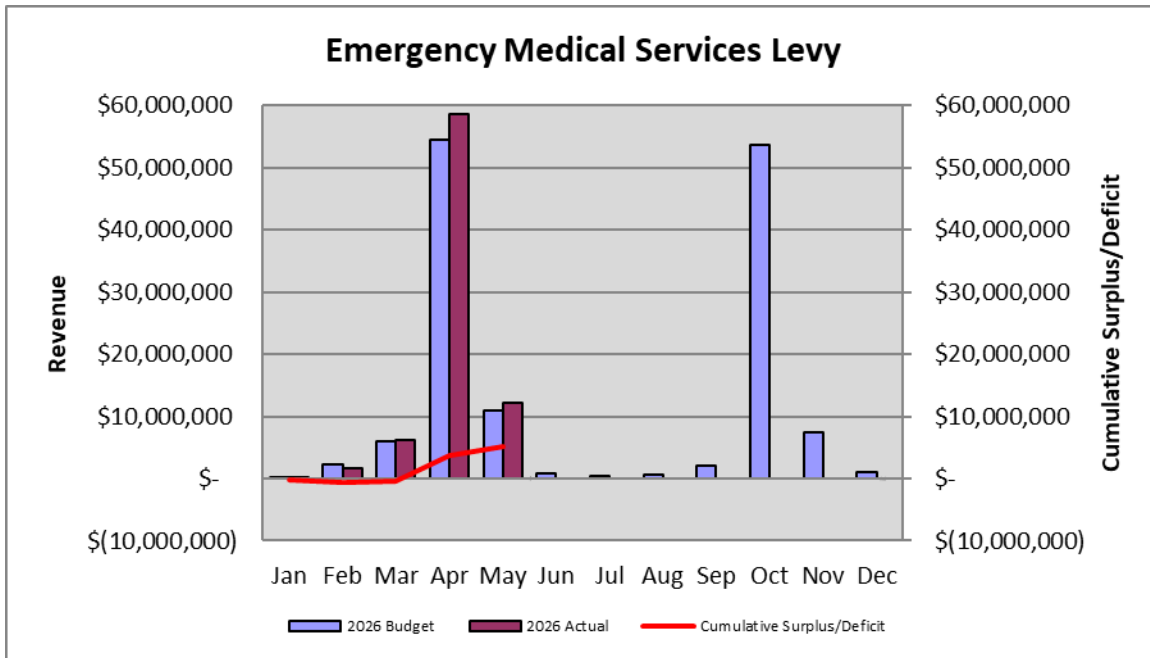
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,420,778	\$ 7,628,607	\$ 207,829	2.8%



Data Source: King County EBS, Acct. 31117

### Conservation Futures Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

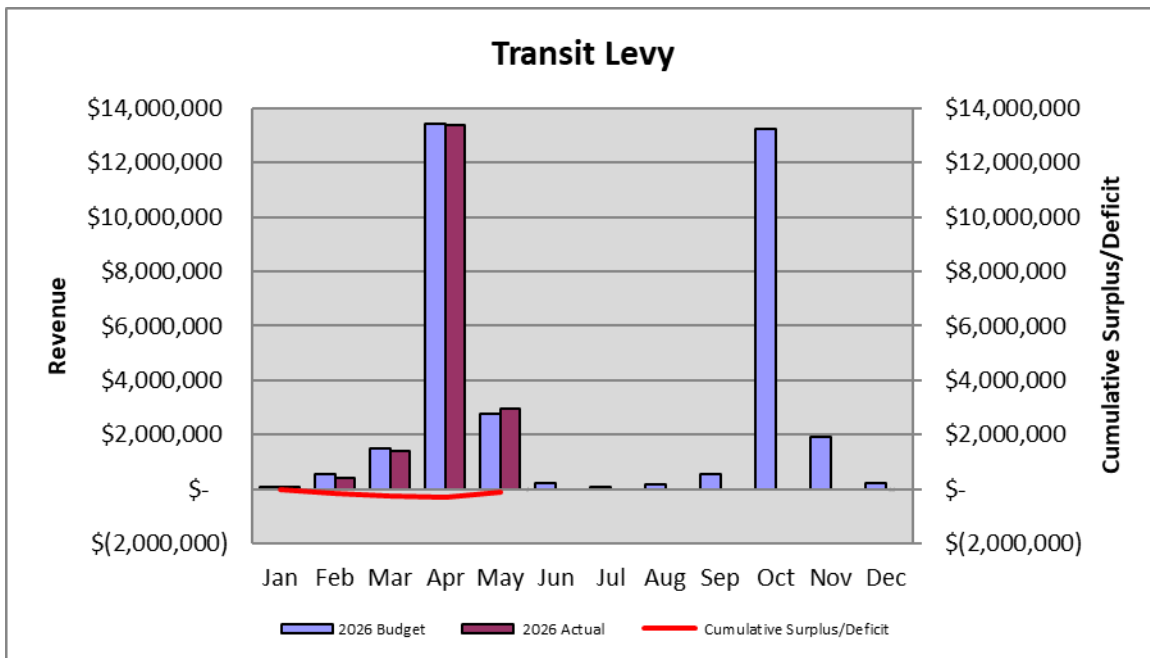
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 4,431,877	\$ 4,699,254	\$ 267,377	6.0%



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

### EMS Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

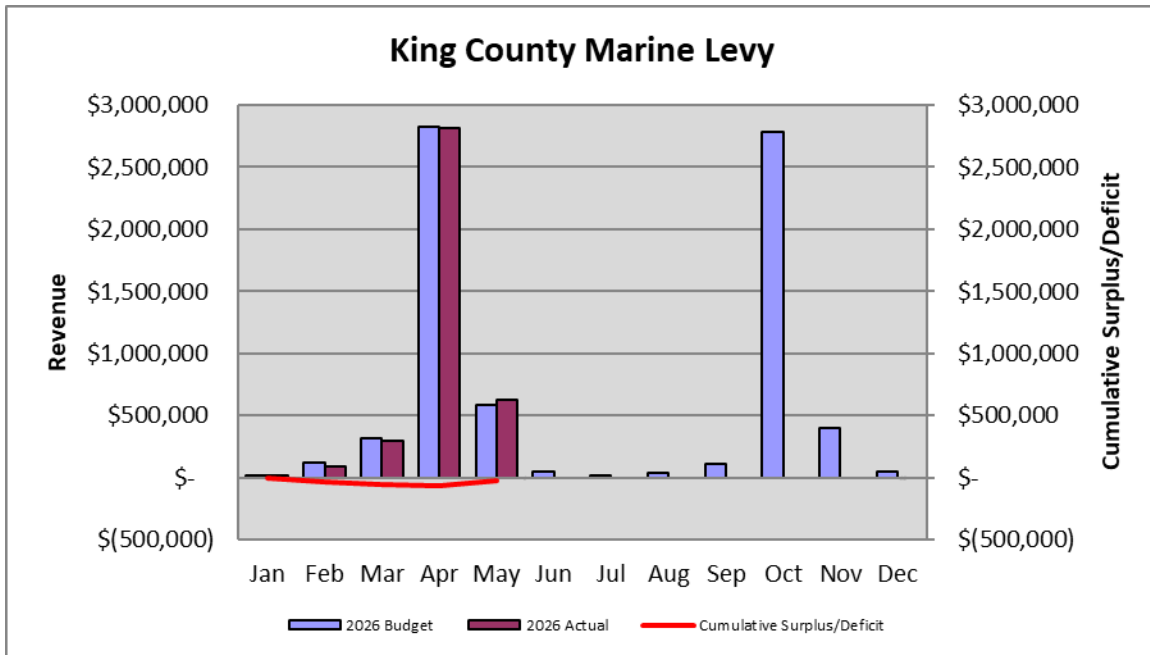
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 10,850,251	\$ 12,190,460	\$ 1,340,209	12.4%



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

### Transit Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

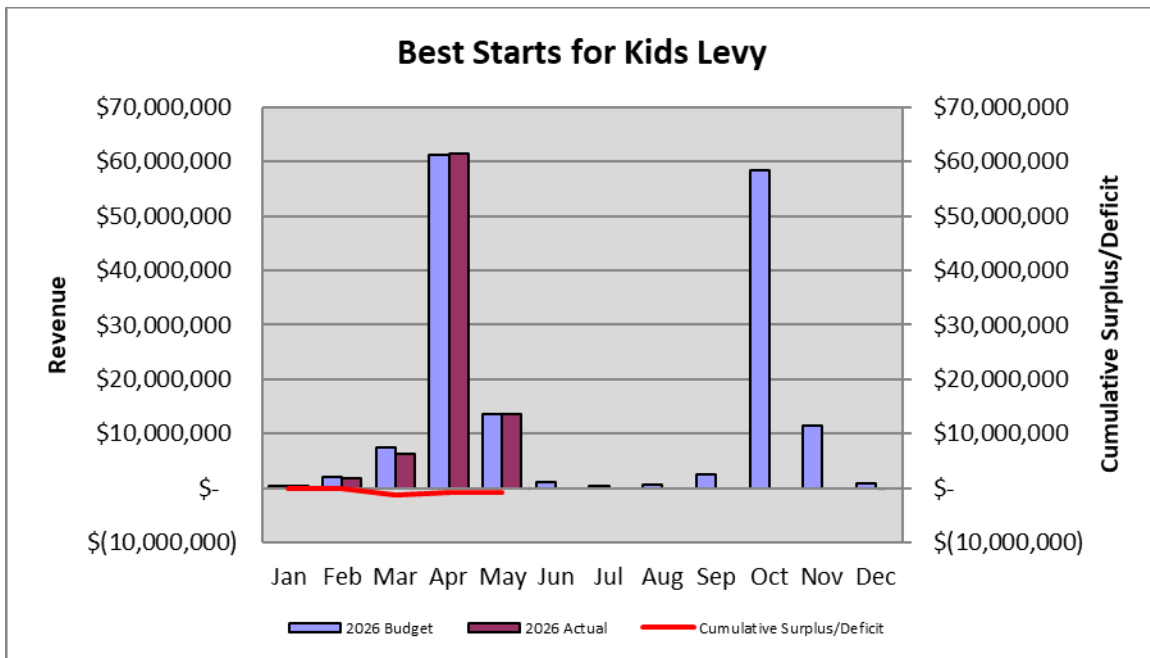
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,772,962	\$ 2,954,131	\$ 181,170	6.5%



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

#### King County Marine Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

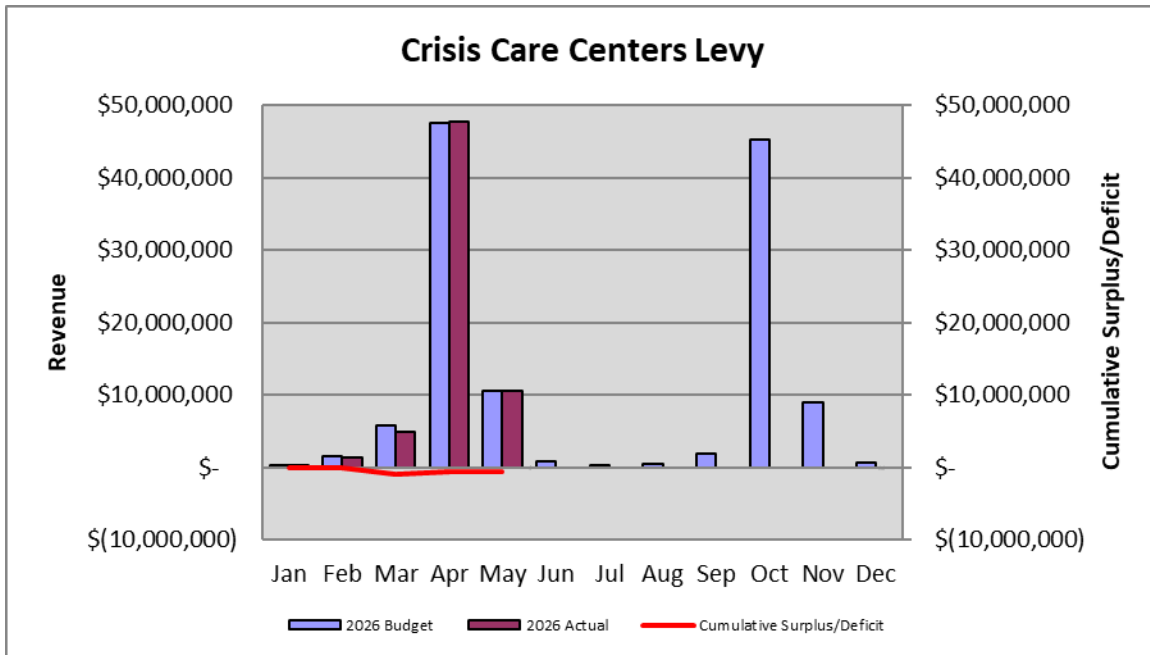
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 585,053	\$ 622,967	\$ 37,913	6.5%



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

#### Best Starts for Kids Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)

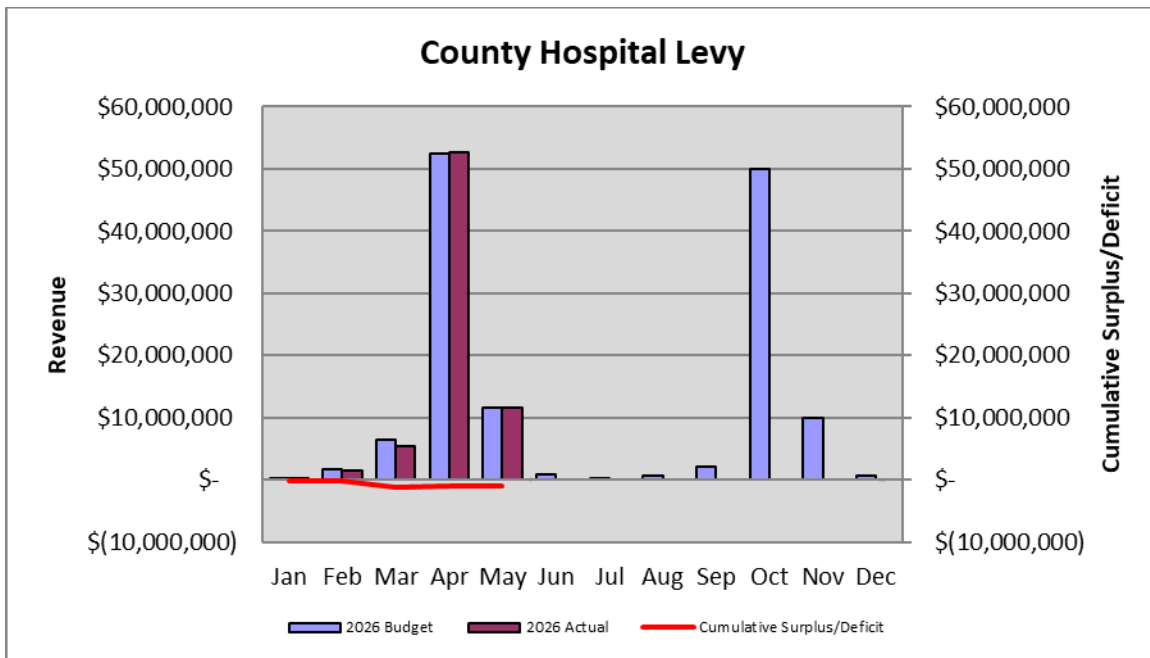
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 13,587,441	\$ 13,593,852	\$ 6,411	0.0%



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

**Crisis Care Centers Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

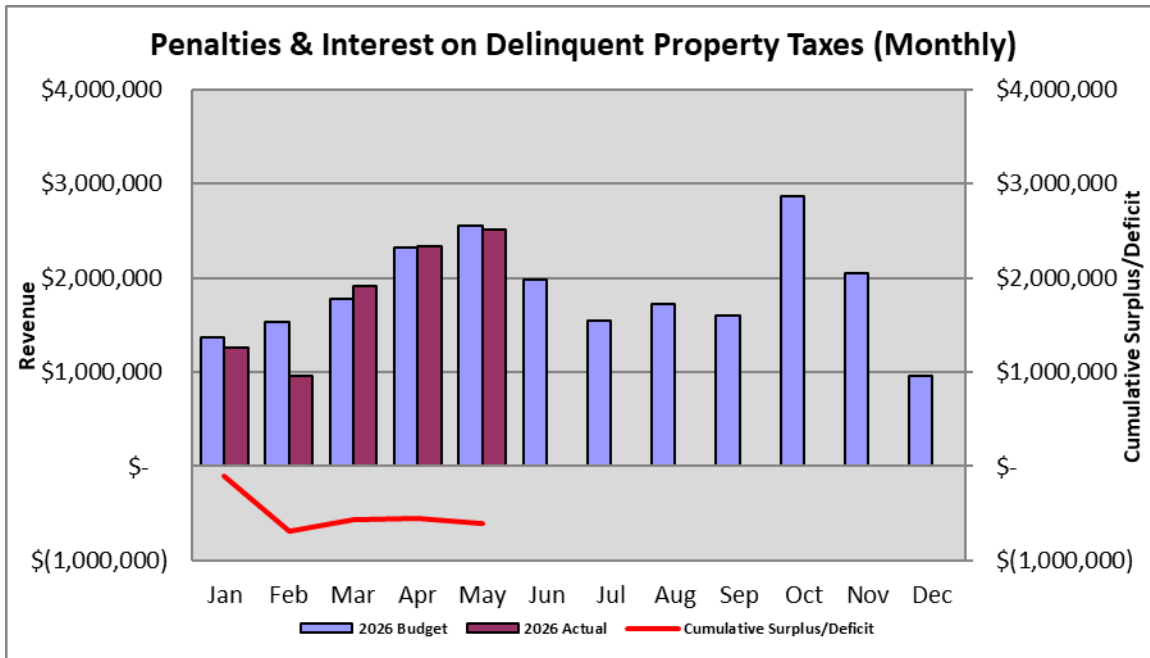
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 10,535,306	\$ 10,541,973	\$ 6,667	0.1%



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

**County Hospital Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

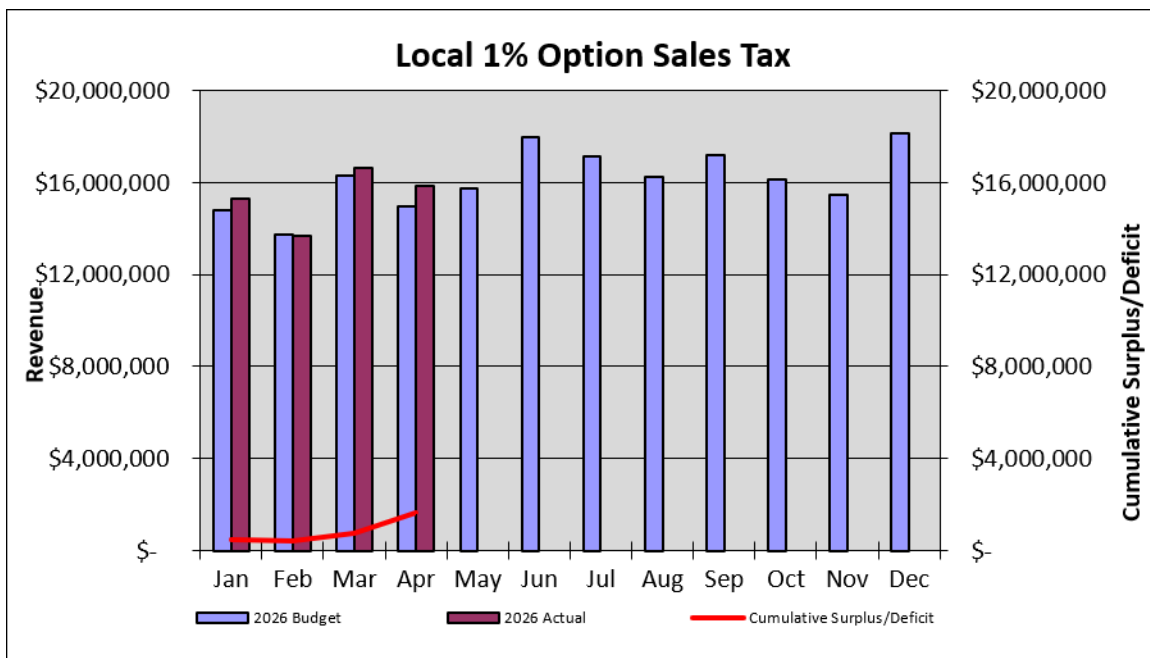
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 11,637,089	\$ 11,637,060	\$ (30)	0.0%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Acct 31911

**Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Property Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

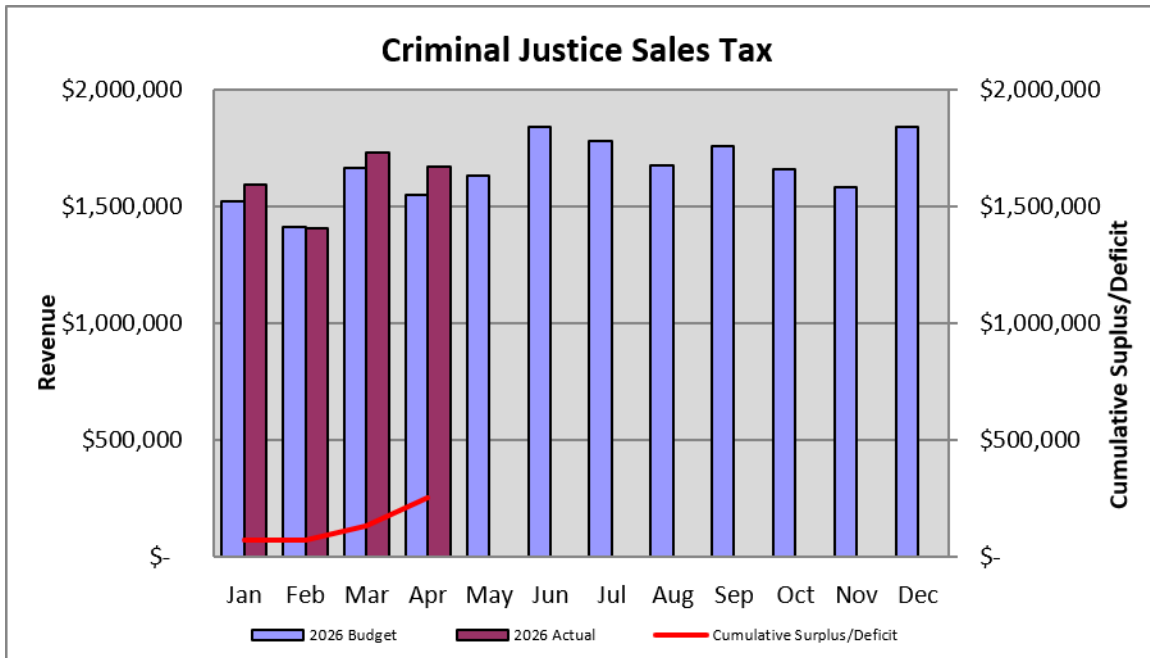
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,557,564	\$ 2,510,127	\$ (47,436)	-1.9%



Data Source: Washington State DOR through June

**Local Option Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

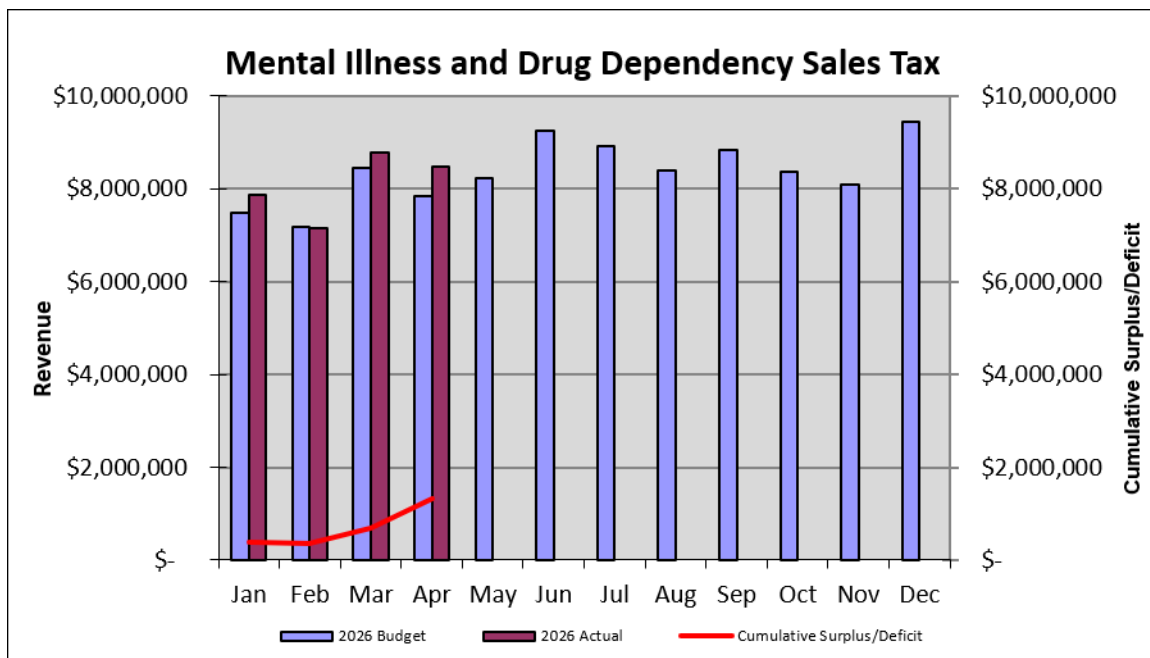
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 14,977,718	\$ 15,833,486	\$ 855,768	5.7%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**CJ Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

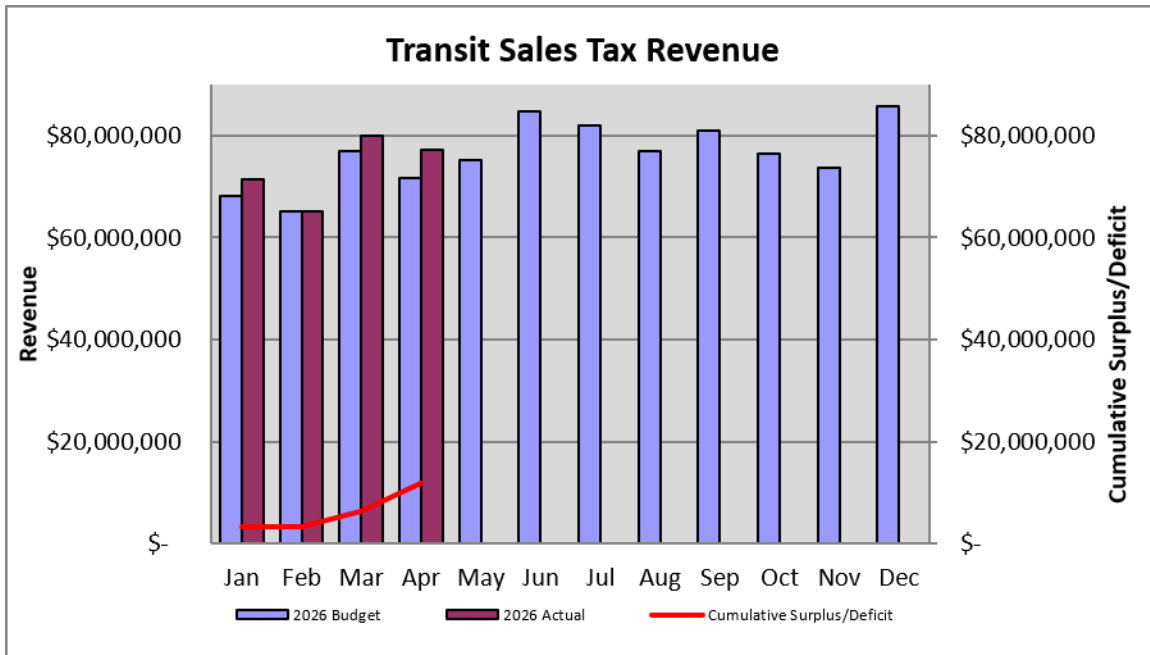
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,548,021	\$ 1,667,623	\$ 119,602	7.7%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**MIDD Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

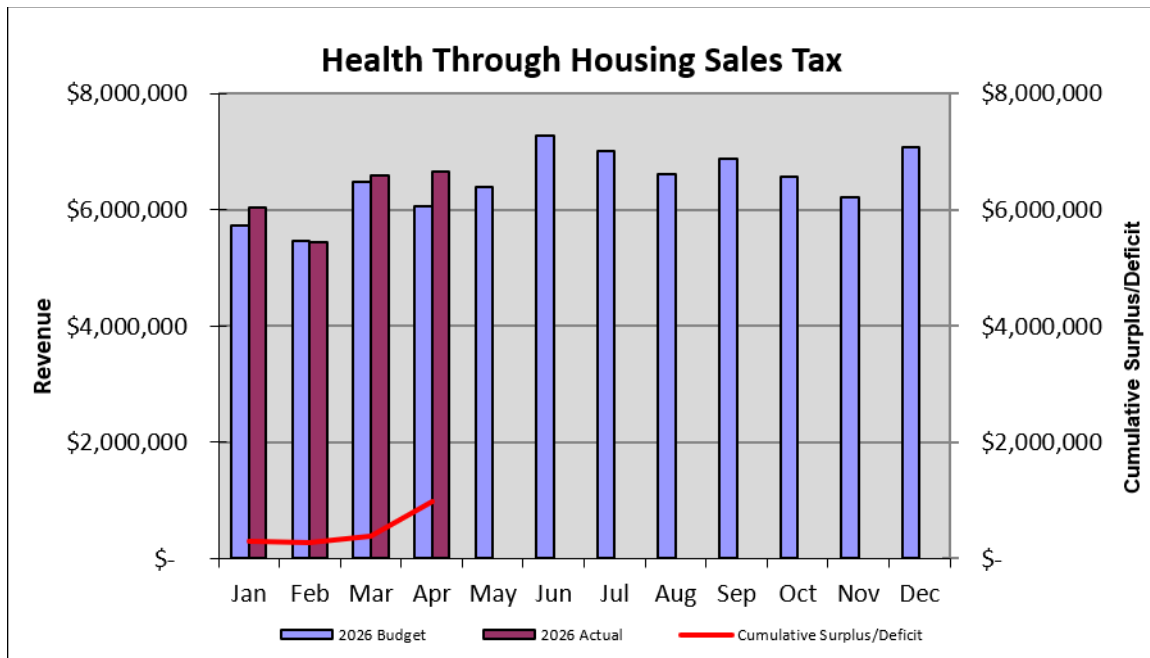
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,846,543	\$ 8,464,671	\$ 618,128	7.9%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**Transit Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

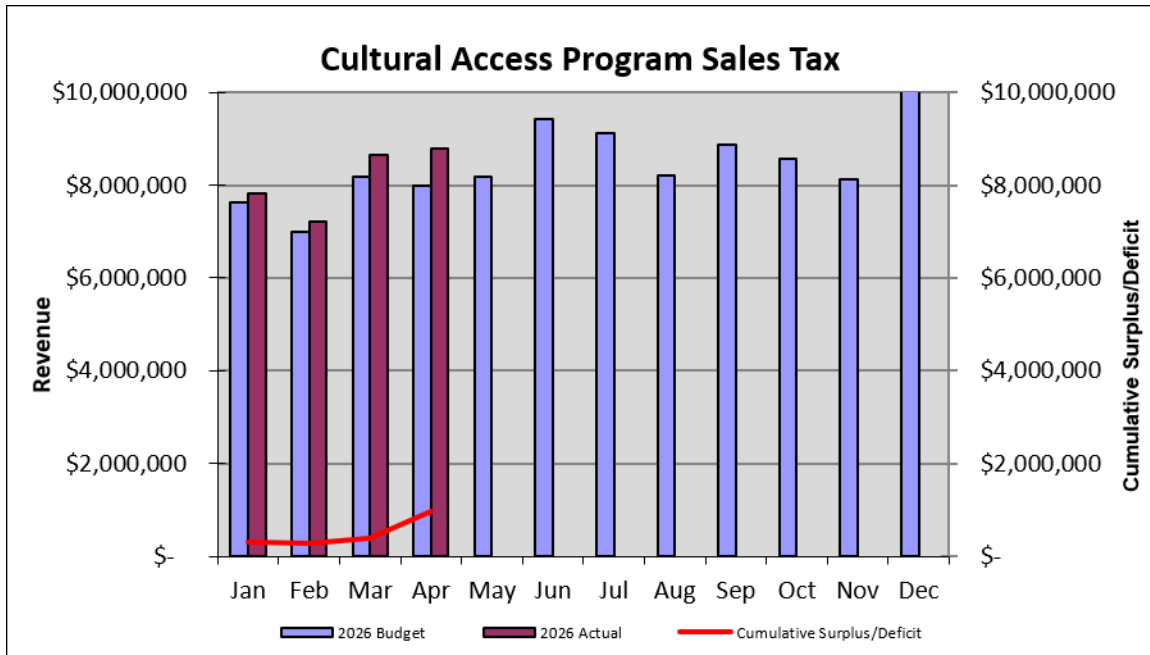
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 71,568,199	\$ 77,147,094	\$ 5,578,895	7.8%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**HTH Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

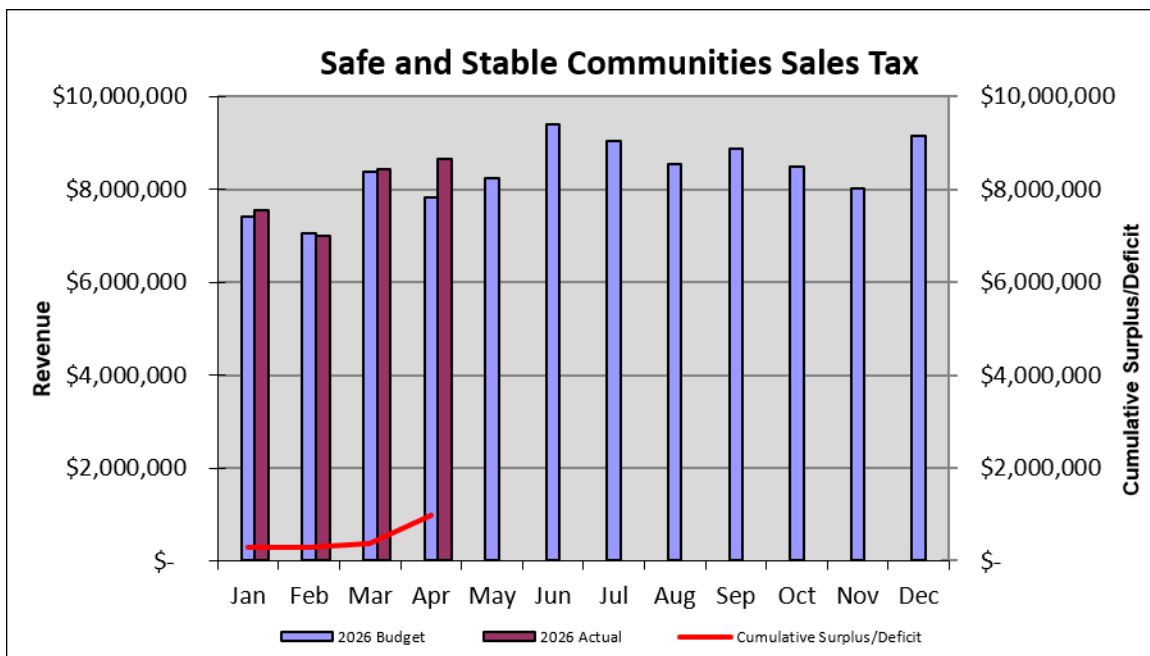
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 6,063,004	\$ 6,658,030	\$ 595,025	9.8%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**CAP Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

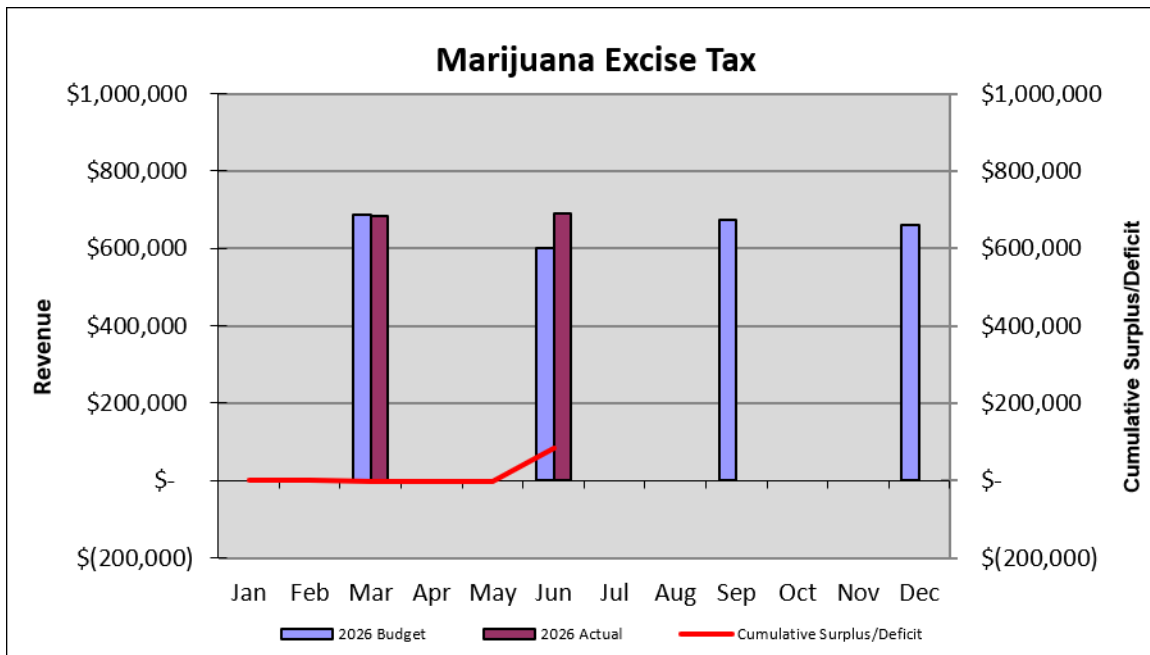
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,992,042	8,777,080	\$ 785,039	9.8%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**SSC Sales Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,827,859	\$ 8,644,123	\$ 816,264	10.4%

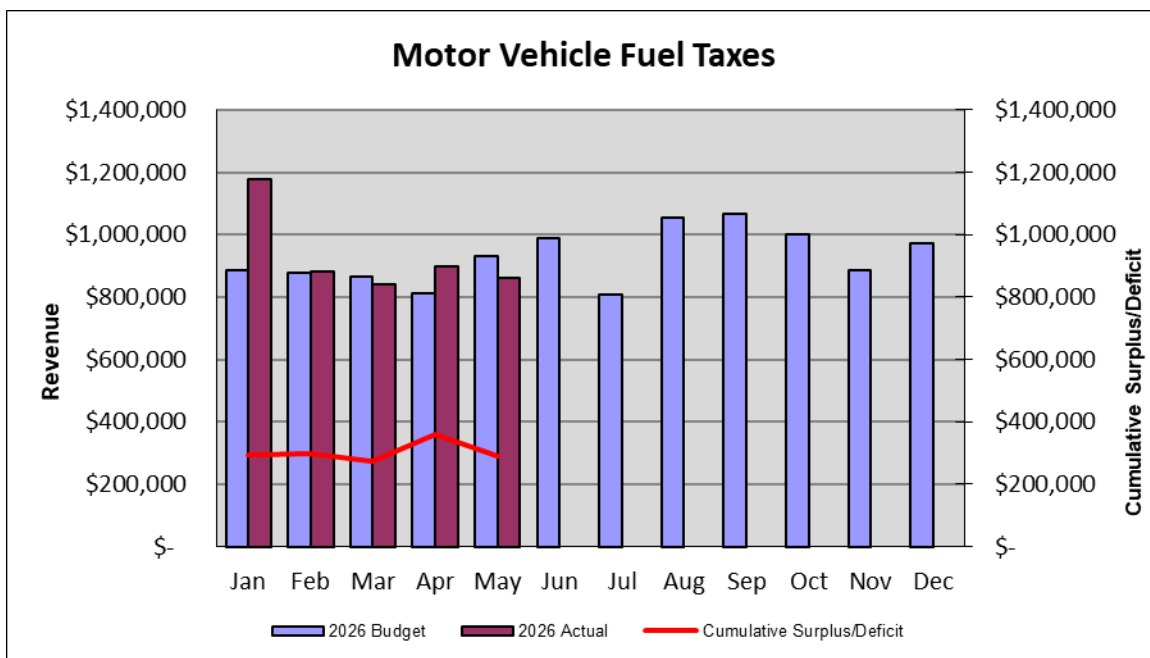


Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Account 33605 – Preliminary June 2026

**Marijuana Excise Tax Comparison (June 2026)**

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 602,119	\$ 689,089	\$ 86,970	14.4%

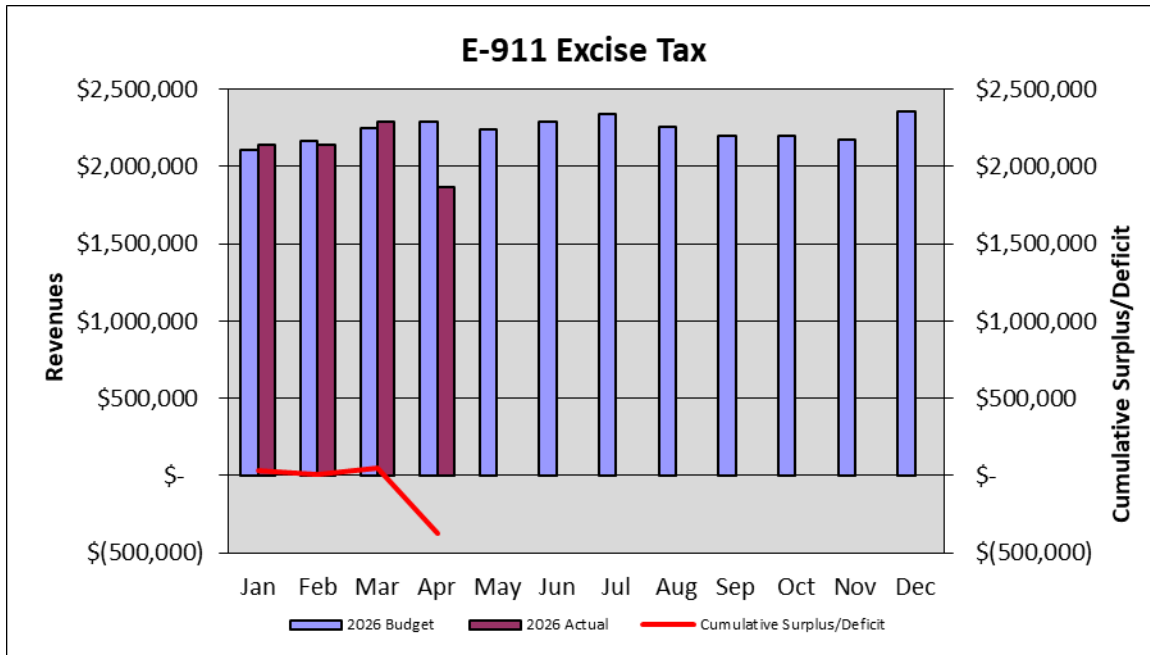
This data is received quarterly in March, June, September and December.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 33689

**MV Fuel Taxes Comparison (May 2026)**

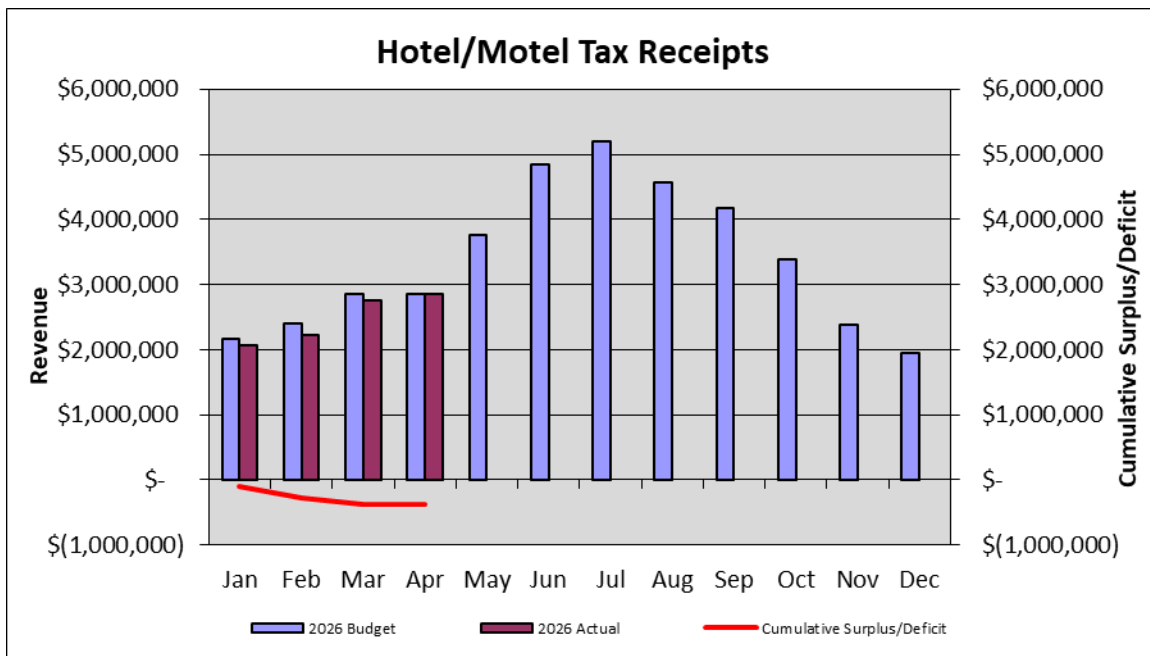
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 931,642	\$ 862,521	\$ (69,121)	-7.4%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**E-911 Excise Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

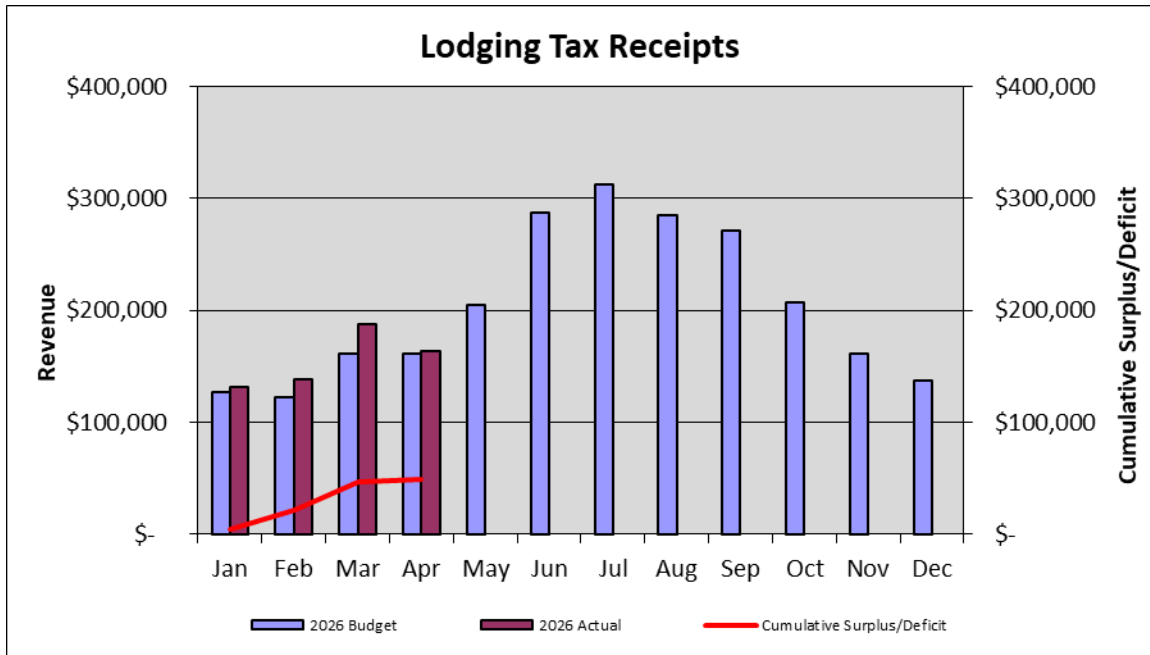
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,284,428	\$ 1,866,392	\$ (418,036)	-18.3%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**Hotel/Motel Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

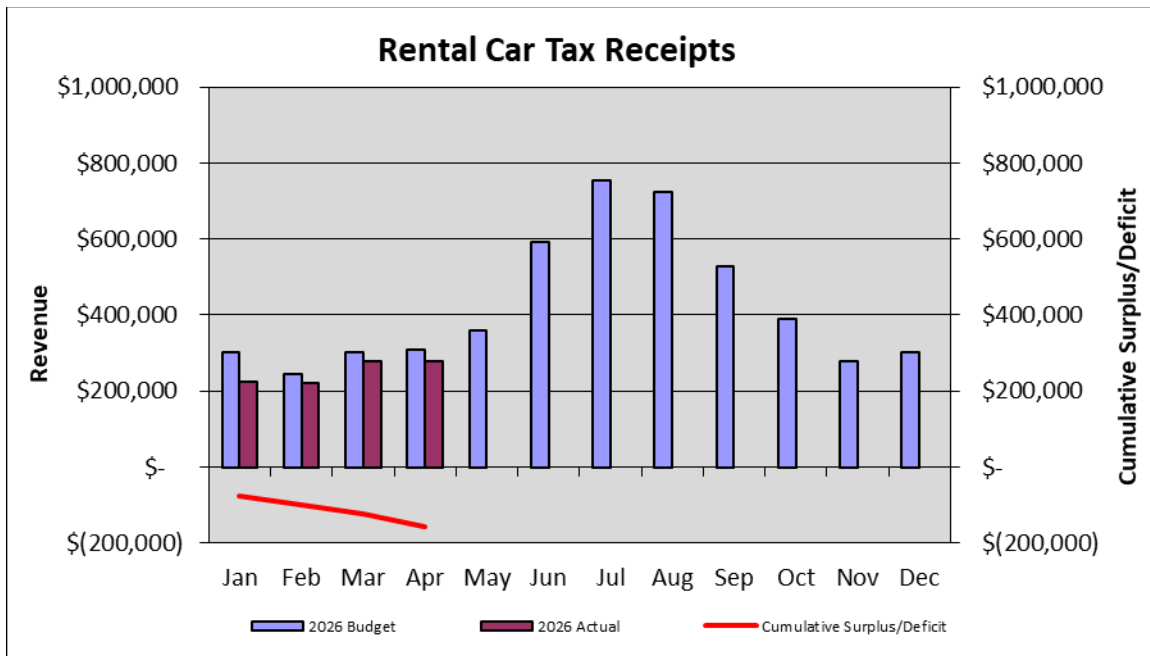
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,858,366	\$ 2,846,148	\$ (12,218)	-0.4%



Data Source: Seattle Convention Center through June

**Lodging Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

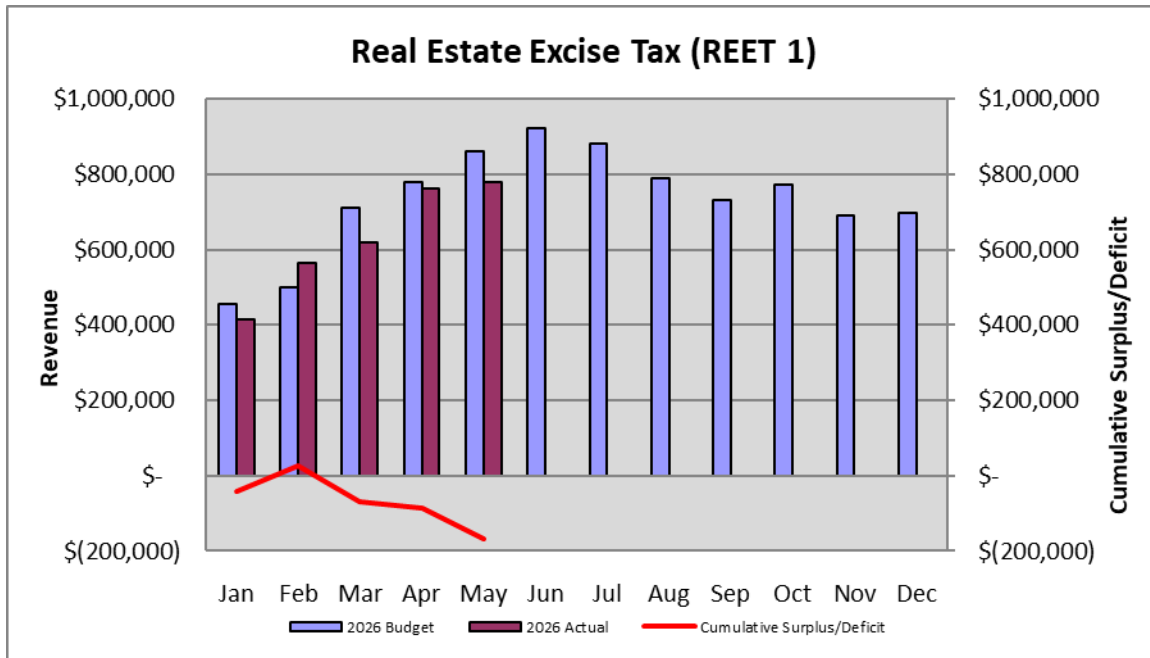
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 161,421	\$ 163,248	\$ 1,827	1.1%



Data Source: Washington DOR through June

**Rental Car Tax Comparison (April 2026)**

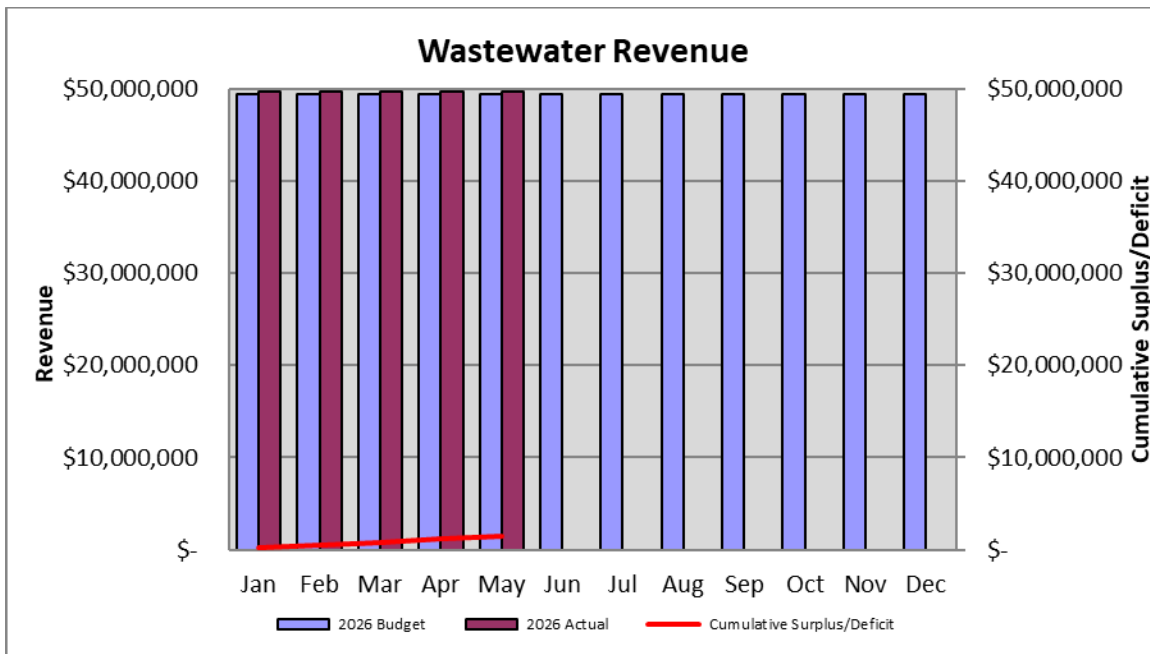
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 309,634	\$ 276,886	\$ (32,748)	-10.6%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31734

**Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) Comparison (May 2026)**

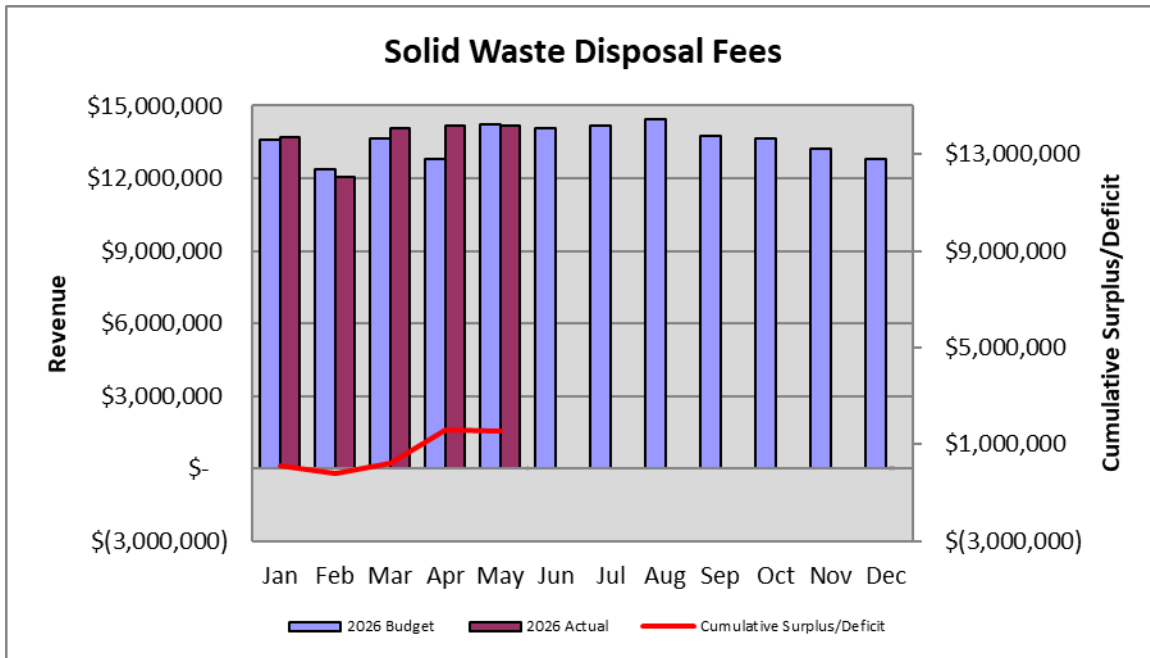
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 861,165	\$ 780,246	\$ (80,919)	-9.4%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 44192

**Wastewater Revenues Comparison (May 2026)**

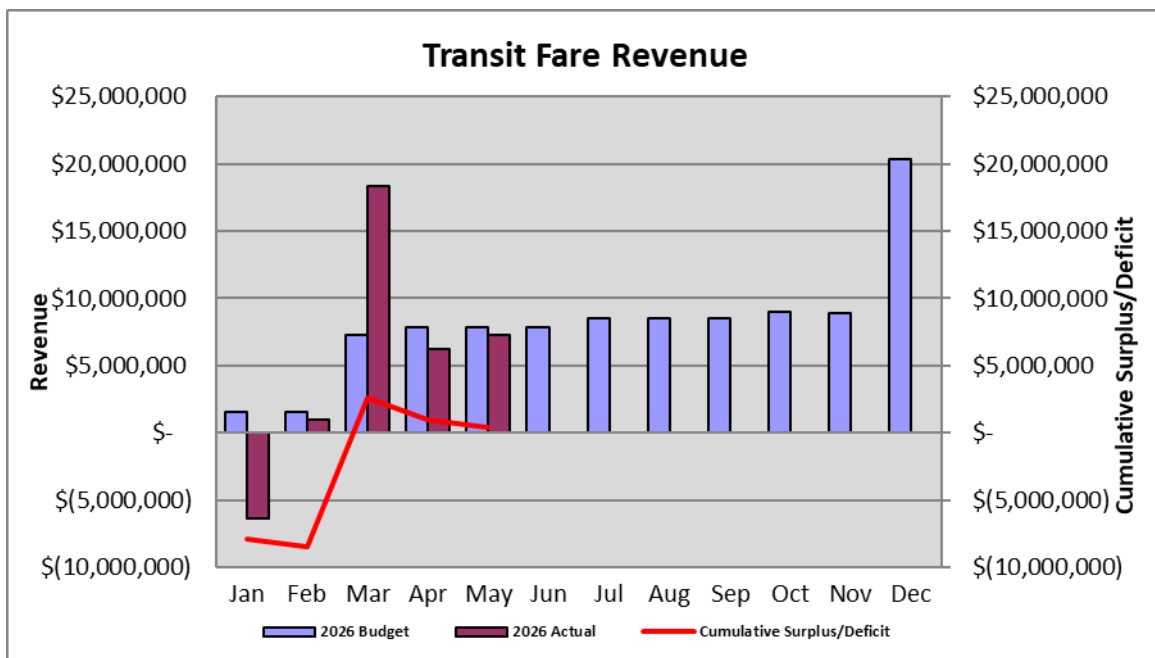
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 49,349,014	\$ 49,700,700	\$ 351,686	0.7%



Data Source: EBS acct. 34371

### Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges Comparison (May 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 14,240,440	\$ 14,190,437	\$ (50,003)	-0.4%



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

### Transit Fare Charges Comparison (May 2026)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,872,622	\$ 7,247,563	\$ (625,059)	-7.9%

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

NAICS Category	2-digit NAICS	Apr-25	Apr-26	Percent change (2025-2026)
Agriculture	11	\$ 2,043,038	\$ 2,088,441	2.2%
Mining	21	755,761	594,003	-21.4%
Utilities	22	5,336,139	8,060,542	51.1%
Construction	23	1,559,545,663	1,492,271,777	-4.3%
Manufacturing	31-33	183,934,935	236,150,978	28.4%
Wholesale	41-42	474,163,532	504,382,054	6.4%
Retail Trade	44-45	2,461,718,041	2,564,288,458	4.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	121,924,372	132,309,940	8.5%
Information	51	500,765,401	1,267,724,338	153.2%
Finance & Insurance	52	67,997,574	63,383,440	-6.8%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	53	213,280,724	179,716,692	-15.7%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	54	341,432,220	468,370,403	37.2%
Management, Education and Health Services	55-62	544,707,919	669,054,312	22.8%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	71	90,215,606	95,001,532	5.3%
Accommodations, Food Services	72	763,925,645	805,012,801	5.4%
Other Services	81	170,404,144	173,534,195	1.8%
Public Administration/DOL Monthly	92	4,170,087	77,311,994	1754.0%
Other		-	-	0.0%
<b>Total-All Industries</b>		<b>\$ 7,506,320,801</b>	<b>\$ 8,739,255,901</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
NAICS Category	3-digit NAICS	Apr-25	Apr-26	Percentage change (2025-2026)
<b>Construction</b>				
Construction of Buildings	236	\$ 956,603,696	\$ 929,447,636	-2.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	138,120,906	102,540,946	-25.8%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	464,821,061	460,283,195	-1.0%
<b>Retail</b>				
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	513,711,401	511,338,898	-0.5%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	219,184,199	210,782,721	-3.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	152,979,421	150,213,634	-1.8%
Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	449	345,224,119	369,376,774	7.0%
General Merchandise Retailers	455	261,554,044	300,233,691	14.8%
Health and Personal Care Retailers	456	85,591,833	83,336,542	-2.6%
Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	457	47,173,837	49,971,389	5.9%
Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	458	183,028,850	198,776,686	8.6%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, & Misc. Retailers	459	653,270,336	690,258,124	5.7%
<b>Wholesale</b>				
Wholesale: Durable Goods	423	393,825,862	413,259,083	4.9%
Wholesale: Nondurable Goods	424	74,263,328	84,451,955	13.7%
Wholesale: Electronic Markets	425	6,074,343	6,671,017	9.8%
<b>Food Service and Accommodations</b>				
Accommodation	721	163,514,029	174,315,111	6.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	600,411,616	630,697,690	5.0%
Note: NAICS values were updated & consolidated in 2022				
NAICS Category	4-digit NAICS	Apr-25	Apr-26	Percentage change (2025-2026)
Sporting Goods, Hobby, and Musical Instrument Retailers	4591	\$ 82,184,548	\$ 87,352,540	6.3%
Book Retailers and News Dealers	4592	10,790,621	9,366,833	-13.2%
Florists	4593	2,936,702	3,198,123	8.9%
Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Retailers	4594	21,704,776	25,689,420	18.4%
Used Merchandise Retailers	4595	11,854,582	12,857,587	8.5%
Other Miscellaneous Retailers	4599	523,799,106	551,793,619	5.3%