

## **County Can Charge Rent to Utilities for Use of Public Right of Way**

The Washington State Supreme Court just ruled that King County may charge rent to water, sewer, gas and electric utilities for use of public right of way. The Court's ruling will significantly increase the cost of utility operations and will result in increases in your water bills. The specific amount is not presently known because the rent charge has not been finalized. We don't know when rent will commence (it may have already commenced due to retroactive provisions of King County rules) and when the Board will adjust the rates to cover this new added cost.

Even if you live in the city, your rates may nevertheless be adjusted because the Association will have to pay rent on water transmission facilities located in the County that are used to serve your area.

We urge you to contact the King County councilmembers who have constituents in unincorporated King County. Listed below is their contact information.

- District 1. [rod.dembowski@kingcountry.gov](mailto:rod.dembowski@kingcountry.gov); 206-477-1001 (A sponsor of the Ordinance)
- District 3. [kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1003 (A sponsor of the Ordinance)
- District 4. [jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1004 (Supported the Ordinance)
- District 5. [dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov](mailto:dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1005 (A sponsor of the Ordinance)
- District 7. [peter.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:peter.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1007 (Opposed the Ordinance)
- District 8. [joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov](mailto:joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1008 (Supported the Ordinance)
- District 9. [reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov](mailto:reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov); 206-477-1009 (Opposed the Ordinance)