

RESOLUTION R-5615

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO SCHOOL IMPACT FEE FORMULAS AND METHODOLOGIES AND INCREASED STATE OF WASHINGTON SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

1 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland ("City") strongly supports the
2 ability of the Lake Washington School District ("LWSD") to provide high
3 quality school facilities that meet the needs of current and future
4 students; and
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6 WHEREAS, one element of funding school facilities is to assess
7 school impact fees on new construction to help fund new school
8 capacity as allowed by state law, which requires that impact fees be
9 proportional to the impacts of new growth and prohibits funding 100% of
10 growth-related school construction projects; and
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12 WHEREAS, the City Council is considering adoption of
13 Ordinance O-4863 relating to school impact fee amounts for 2024 and
14 amendments to Kirkland Municipal Code (KMC) Section 27.08.150 to
15 reflect these amounts; and
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17 WHEREAS, Chapter 27.08 of the KMC anticipates amendments
18 by the Council from time to time to reflect revised school impact fee
19 amounts determined by LWSD in accordance with the methodology and
20 data contained within LWSD's Capital Facilities Plan; and
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22 WHEREAS, the formulas and methodologies utilized by LWSD
23 to implement the impact fee requirements of RCW 82.02.060 were
24 originally established in 1993 and last amended by the King County
25 Council in 1998, and have not substantially changed since the City
26 adopted Ordinance O-4285 in 2011 authorizing collection of the impact
27 fees; and
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29 WHEREAS, since 2011, growth patterns and housing options
30 have evolved in response to State, King County and City land-use
31 policies and planning, with a focus on higher density developments such
32 as missing middle housing and mixed-use multi-family developments in
33 close proximity to transit service; and
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35 WHEREAS, the City believes school impact fee formulas and
36 methodologies should be reviewed and possibly revised if changes are
37 needed to ensure adequate cost recovery, that the fees support and are
38 reflective of the City's Comprehensive Plan and housing goals, and the
39 fees are predictable for community members, home builders and
40 elected officials and avoid significant fee changes each year; and
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42 WHEREAS, the Council wishes to encourage such a review by
43 LWSD, in partnership with the affected cities of Kirkland, Redmond and
44 Sammamish, King County and other stakeholders; and

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WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that school impact fees are only a small part of the funding necessary to build new school capacity and by law cannot be the sole source of funding and that school districts must look to other funding tools including state construction dollars and local bonds and levies approved by voters; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges that state construction dollars have not kept up with construction demand and that current state law makes it challenging to pass bonds for school construction, even as state law requires school districts to provide the needed capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to affirm support of LWSD-requested state legislative changes resulting in an increased "fair share" of state funding for public school construction costs and reduced barriers to passing local bonds.

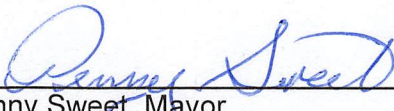
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to request that the Lake Washington School District, the cities of Redmond and Sammamish, King County and other affected stakeholders convene in a forum to evaluate the existing school impact fee formulas and methodologies and potential alternatives prior to Council consideration of school impact fee amounts applicable to 2025. Participating in the forum does not commit any jurisdiction to making any changes to the jurisdiction's current impact fee methodologies.

Section 2. The Council affirms the City's support for the Lake Washington School District's 2024 Legislative Priorities for school construction funding, including incentivizing funding for sustainable design and construction of school buildings, advancing a constitutional amendment that authorizes simple majority for school bond passage, and changing non-voted debt rules to be consistent with other capital funding rules.


Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 12th day of December, 2023.

Signed in authentication thereof this 12th day of December, 2023.



Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk