

RESOLUTION R-5643

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND OPPOSING INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 2066 CONCERNING REGULATING ENERGY SERVICES, INCLUDING NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIFICATION.

1 WHEREAS, Washington State has placed a ballot measure
2 before the voters with the official ballot measure title of "Initiative
3 Measure No. 2066 concerns regulating energy services, including
4 natural gas and electrification"; and
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6 WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 2066 is scheduled to go to
7 the voters during the November 5, 2024, Washington General Election;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, Washington State Secretary of State has identified
11 that Initiative Measure No. 2066 would require utilities and local
12 governments to provide natural gas to eligible customers; prevent state
13 approval of rate plans requiring or incentivizing gas service termination,
14 restricting access to gas service, or making it cost-prohibitive; and
15 prohibit the state energy code, localities, and air pollution control
16 agencies from penalizing gas use. It would repeal sections of chapter
17 351, Laws of 2024, including planning requirements for cost-effective
18 electrification and prohibitions on gas rebates and incentives; and
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20 WHEREAS, in 2020, Kirkland City Council adopted a
21 Sustainability Master Plan, since renamed to Sustainability Strategic
22 Plan, which sets environmental goals for the community and identifies
23 about 200 actions the City can take to help the community meet its
24 goals; and
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26 WHEREAS, the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan and 2015
27 Comprehensive Plan identified policy goals of achieving 50% reductions
28 in greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030 and 80% reductions by
29 2050 as compared to a 2007 baseline; and
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31 WHEREAS, as of 2017, emissions from natural gas used for
32 heat and other gas appliances made up 21% or 138,000 MTCO₂e
33 (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) of Kirkland's community
34 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the total of which in 2017 reflected a
35 22% reduction from the 2007 baseline; and
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37 WHEREAS, reducing the use of natural gas in buildings and
38 converting existing systems to clean electric is an identified
39 recommendation in the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan; and
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41 WHEREAS, the City is an active participant in the King County-
42 Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and has adopted by Resolution R-
43 5406 the Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate Change Actions; and
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45 WHEREAS, the K4C Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate
46 Change Actions includes several goals that advocate for the reduction
47 of natural gas utilization including the reduction of natural gas and other
48 fossil fuel use in existing buildings by at least 20% in 2030 and 80% by
49 2050; and

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51 WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 2066 would require gas
52 utilities and local governments to provide natural gas to customers who
53 demand it, even if other energy services or energy sources are
54 available; and

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56 WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 2066 would prohibit local
57 governments, air pollution control agencies, and the State Building Code
58 Council from prohibiting, penalizing, or discouraging the use of natural
59 gas; and

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61 WHEREAS, adoption of Initiative Measure No. 2066 would
62 infringe on the City's ability to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals
63 and natural gas reduction strategies identified in the City's Sustainability
64 Strategic Plan and K4C Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate Change
65 Actions; and

66
67 WHEREAS, in compliance with RCW 42.17A.555(1), notice of
68 the meeting during which this Resolution is being voted on included the
69 title and number of the ballot measure, and members of the public and
70 City Councilmembers were afforded an approximately equal opportunity
71 for the expression of an opposing view; and

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73 WHEREAS, with this Resolution, the City Council desires to
74 oppose Initiative Measure No. 2066.

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

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79 The City Council of the City of Kirkland hereby declares its official
80 opposition to Initiative Measure No. 2066 concerning regulating energy
81 services, including natural gas and electrification.

82
83 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
84 meeting this 17th day of September, 2024.

85
86 Signed in authentication thereof this 17th day of September,
87 2024.



Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk