

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Snohomish County Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at the hour of 10:30 a.m., in the Henry M. Jackson Board Room, 8th Floor, Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA in conjunction with a remote meeting platform via the following Zoom link to consider proposed Ordinance No. 24-047.

Zoom Webinar Information:

Join Online: <https://zoom.us/j/94846850772> or by Phone: (253) 215-8782
Meeting ID: 948 4685 0772

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 24-047

PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX OF TWO TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES FOCUSED ON REDUCING VIOLENT CRIME AND THE IMPACTS OF THE DRUG EPIDEMIC AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 4.140 SCC

Summary: The ordinance approves the placement of a ballot proposition for a Public Safety, Health, and Criminal Justice Sales and Use Tax, and adopts the code to implement the tax if approved by a majority of voters on November 5, 2024. A summary is as follows:

Section 1. Submittal to Voters. A ballot proposition shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the county pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 to authorize the county council to fix and impose a local sales and use tax of two tenths of one percent (0.2% -- 2 cents for every \$10) to provide funds to be used for public safety, health, and criminal justice purposes in accordance with new Chapter 4.140 SCC as set forth in section 4 of this ordinance.

Section 2. Election Authorization. At a special election hereby called by the county council to coincide with the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, a proposition in substantially the following form shall be submitted to the voters of Snohomish County:

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION NUMBER 1
PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SALES AND USE TAX

The Snohomish County Council passed Ordinance No. 24-XXX concerning a public safety, health, criminal justice sales and use tax. This proposition would authorize the imposition of a county-wide sales and use tax, in addition to any other taxes authorized by law, of two tenths of one percent (0.2% -- 2 cents for every \$10) to be used for public safety, health, and criminal justice purposes, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450. Should this proposition be:

Approved ☐
Rejected ☐

Section 3. Auditor's Duties. The auditor-supervisor of elections shall cause notice of the proposed proposition to be published in accordance with the state constitution and general law and shall place the proposed proposition upon the ballot of the county-wide election held on November 5, 2024.

Section 4. Chapter 4.140 SCC Adopted. If a sales and use tax is authorized by a majority of voters in the special election conducted pursuant to Section 2 of this ordinance, the following new chapter is added to Title 4 of the Snohomish County Code:

Chapter 4.140
Public Safety, Health, and Criminal Justice
Sales and Use Tax

Sections:

- 4.140.010 Imposition of sales and use tax.**
- 4.140.020 Rate of tax imposed.**
- 4.140.030 Use of tax.**
- 4.140.040 Administration and collection.**
- 4.140.050 Effective date.**
- 4.140.900 Severability.**

4.140.010 Imposition of sales and use tax.

There is hereby imposed a sales and use tax, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450, upon every taxable event occurring within Snohomish County. The tax shall be imposed upon and collected from those persons from whom the state sales and use tax is collected pursuant to chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The sales and use tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be in addition to those sales and use taxes imposed under chapters 4.24 and 4.25 SCC.

4.140.020 Rate of tax imposed.

The rate of tax imposed by SCC 4.140.010 shall be two-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of the use tax).

4.140.030 Use of tax.

(1) Monies received from the tax imposed by SCC 4.140.010 shall be used for the purposes authorized by RCW 82.14.450. At least one-third of the revenue shall be used for criminal justice purposes. For the purposes of this section, "criminal justice purposes" has the same meaning as provided by RCW 82.14.340, and includes expenses for:

- (a) Law enforcement officers;
- (b) Court system;
- (c) Prosecuting attorney's office; and
- (d) Public defense.

(2) For the purposes of reducing violent crime and the impacts of the drug epidemic, the remaining monies may be used:

- (a) To fund behavioral health services and facilities; and
- (b) To fund new or expand existing public safety services and programs, including those that address the visual blight associated with crime and the drug epidemic; and
- (c) To fund personnel and programs regarding violence prevention and intervention; and
- (d) To fund fire protection, ambulance, medical, and other emergency services as allowed by state law.

(3) The monies received by the county from the tax imposed by SCC 4.140.010 shall be shared between the county and the cities within the county as follows: sixty percent shall be retained by the county and forty percent shall be distributed on a per capita basis to the cities within the county.

4.140.040 Administration and collection.

The administration and collection of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be in accord with the provisions of chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW, and subject to such regulations, contracts, and inspections as are required by the department of revenue for the administration of such taxes.

4.140.050 Effective date.

This chapter shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

4.140.900 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Section 5. Notification of department of revenue.

Upon certification of the results of the special election conducted pursuant to Section 2 of this ordinance, if the sales and use tax is authorized by a majority of voters, the executive shall immediately notify the state Department of Revenue of the county's imposition of the sales and use tax.

At the Public Hearing, the Council may consider amendments to the proposed ordinance.

For More Information: Copies of the proposed ordinance and related documents are available upon request by calling the Council Office at (425) 388-3494, 1(800) 562-4367 x3494, TDD 1(800) 877-8339, or by e-mailing Contact.Council@snoco.org. Files are also available on the Council's website at <https://snohomish.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx> (File # 2024-1157) or <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/Council-Hearings-Calendar>.

Public Testimony: The public may testify in person or remotely. Submit written testimony to Snohomish County Council, 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 609, Everett, WA 98201, or e-mail to contact.council@snoco.org. Submitting written testimony 24 hours prior to the hearing will ensure copies are distributed to the Council and appropriate staff in advance of the hearing.

American with Disabilities Act Notice: Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please contact Elena Lao one week prior to the hearing at (425) 388-3494, 1(800) 562-4367 x3494, TDD 1(800) 877-8339, or by e-mail elena.lao@snoco.org.

Dated this 17th day of June, 2024.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

/s/ Jared Mead
Council Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Elena Lao, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Council

Publish: June 20, 2024

SUBMIT AFFIDAVIT TO: County Council
SUBMIT INVOICE TO: Executive - 106441