

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the levy of regular property taxes by The City of Seattle for collection in 2015, representing a decrease below the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2014; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

WHEREAS, to increase regular property taxes, RCW 84.55.120, as approved by the voters of the State of Washington in "Referendum 47" on November 4, 1997, requires the City to enact a separate ordinance indicating the change in taxes from the previous year in terms of percentage and total amount; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle proposes to make its regular property tax levy for collection in 2015 in the amount reflected in the companion ordinance to this Bill, which is commonly known as the "Long Property Tax Ordinance"; and

WHEREAS, the Long Property Tax Ordinance for 2015 authorizes a decrease below the amount of regular property taxes levied for collection in 2014; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.120, after proper notice was given, the City Council held public hearings on October 7, 2014 and October 23, 2014, to consider The City of Seattle's 2015 budget and the regular property tax levy to support it; and

WHEREAS, notice of the City Council's consideration of this ordinance has been provided in the usual manner for other proposed City ordinances; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Regular property taxes for collection in 2015 are authorized in the amount reflected in the Ordinance introduced as Council Bill 118261. Not including increases resulting from the addition of new construction, construction of wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, the regular property tax levy for 2015 collection represents a decrease below regular property taxes levied for collection in 2014 (excluding the "refund fund levy" in both instances) of \$14,315,712, which is a 3.86% decrease. These regular property tax levies for collection in

1 2014 and 2015 include regular property tax “levy lid lifts” previously approved by the voters of
2 The City of Seattle.

3 **Section 2.** Any act pursuant to the authority of this ordinance taken after the passage of
4 this ordinance is hereby ratified and confirmed.

5 **Section 3.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
6 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
7 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

8 Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and
9 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
10 ____ day of _____, 2014.

11 _____
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13 President _____ of the City Council

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15 Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

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17 _____
18 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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20 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

21
22 _____
23 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

24 (Seal)

2015 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
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Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the levy of regular property taxes by The City of Seattle for collection in 2015, representing a decrease below the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2014; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary of the Legislation: This legislation, commonly known as the “Short Property Tax Ordinance” reflects changes in the regular property taxes in terms of dollars and percentages. It is a companion to the ordinance authorizing Seattle’s property tax levies, commonly known as the “Long Property Tax Ordinance.”

Background:

Since the approval of Referendum 47 in November 1997, state law has required that taxing jurisdictions adopt, by a majority of their legislative body, a separate ordinance authorizing regular property tax increases, other than increases due to certain excluded assessed property values identified below. The ordinances must show the authorized increase in terms of both dollars and percentages. Due to the exclusion of increases due to new construction, construction of wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, the value of state-assessed property, and refund adjustments to the levy amount, the actual year-over-year change in the City’s regular levy will differ from the calculated change in this legislation. Seattle’s Long Property Tax legislation, which is the authorizing legislation for the City’s property tax levy, provides a more detailed description of Seattle’s actual property tax levy and revenues.

In addition to the 1 percent increase in the regular non-voted property tax levy, the Bridging the Gap Transportation levy lid lift, the Families & Education levy lid lift and the Library levy lid lift proposed in the attached Bill, the City of Seattle’s 2015 levy includes a first year levy amount of \$14,566,630 for the recently approved Seattle Preschool Program levy lid lift. Two lid lifts expired in 2014, the Pike Place Market levy and the Parks levy. Altogether, this year’s levy represents a decrease of \$14,315,712 (-3.86 percent) below 2014. As noted above, this does not include the “refund fund levy,” or additional taxes resulting from new construction, construction of wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, or an increase in the value of state-assessed property.

X This legislation has financial implications.

Please see the Fiscal Note to the 2015 Long Property Tax Ordinance, which authorizes the actual property tax levies.