

**2015 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE**

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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.