SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
CBO	Richard Dadzie	Alexandria Zhang

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing the levy of regular property taxes by The City of Seattle for collection in 2026, representing an increase above the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2025; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background 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."

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.

The City of Seattle's 2025 levy for collection in 2026 includes a first-year levy amount of $209,716,667 for the recently approved Families, Education, Pre-School and Promise levy lid lift. The current 2019 Families, Education, Pre-School and Promise levy lid lift expires in 2025. Additionally, due to the 1 percent increase in the regular property tax levy proposed in the attached Bill, the City of Seattle's 2025 levy for collection in 2026 represents an increase of $112,992,323 (14.48%) from 2025. 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.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Please see the Fiscal Note to the 2026 Long Property Tax Ordinance, which authorizes the City's actual property tax levies.

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

Please see the Fiscal Note to the 2026 Long Property Tax Ordinance, which authorizes the City's actual property tax levies.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

Please see the Fiscal Note to the 2026 Long Property Tax Ordinance, which authorizes the City's actual property tax levies.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.

See the "Anticipated Revenue" Table above for affected departments.

b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.

No.

c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.

The revenues generated through the property tax, both general expense and levy lid lifts for particular purposes, support a broad range of government services, many of which support vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. This legislation has no policy or program implementation ramifications affecting vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities beyond providing the underlying funding that supports City programs. Increases in taxes may disproportionately affect low-income individuals.

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?

N/A.

d. Climate Change Implications

i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.

Neither. This legislation only provides authorization to collect property taxes. It has no direct policy or programmatic effects on carbon emissions.

ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

Neither. This legislation only provides authorization to collect property taxes. It has no direct policy or programmatic effect.

e. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?

N/A.

5. CHECKLIST

☒ **Is a public hearing required?**

☐ **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?**

☒ **If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?**

☐ **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

6. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.