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King County Council approves new ferry budget

By Seattle Times staff

The Metropolitan King County Council, in its role as a ferry district, approved a new budget Monday for operating the Vashon Island passenger ferry and the Elliott Bay water taxi.

The budget for the ferry service is funded by a tax authorized by the state Legislature. The tax increases property taxes 5 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The tax is the equivalent of \$20 a year on a \$400,000 home.

King County took over the Vashon ferry last summer. It's run by Washington State Ferries, for now, but will be operated by King County next summer.

The county hopes to eventually start five passenger-ferry demonstration routes, linking Seattle to Kirkland, South Puget Sound, Kenmore, Shilshole Bay and Renton.

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