

**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 23-18**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE PROPERTY TAX
LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mercer Island has conducted its mid-biennial review of the 2023-2024 Budget; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.120, the City Council of the City of Mercer Island held a public hearing for the purpose of considering testimony regarding the 2024 property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mercer Island, after due consideration of the evidence and testimony at the public hearing, has determined that the City requires an increase in property tax revenue in order to discharge the expected expenses and obligations of the City of Mercer Island; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the City of Mercer Island approved a levy lid lift in 2022 for the purpose of the operation and maintenance of parks and open spaces, including Luther Burbank Park, and funds for playground replacements and forest restoration in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to collect \$1,645,625 of the authorized 2022 Park Maintenance and Operations levy lid lift in 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Total Property Tax Change.

There is hereby levied upon all taxable property within the City of Mercer Island, Washington, a total property tax levy of \$14,896,481, which is \$145,718, or 1.00% percent, more than the 2023 total property tax levy, excluding the amounts for new construction and refunds related to the 2024 tax year. The \$145,718 increase in the 2024 total property tax levy consists of the following: 1) \$129,425, or 1.00 percent, increase in the regular property tax levy; and 2) \$16,293, or 1.00 percent, increase in the 2022 levy lid lift. The foregoing property tax levy amount shall be automatically adjusted without further action of the City Council to correspond to the final assessed valuation, new construction, and refund levy totals to be received from the King County Assessor prior to December 31, 2023.

Section 2. Regular Property Tax Increase.

An optional increase in the regular property tax levy is hereby authorized for the 2024 levy in the amount of \$129,425, which is a 1.00 percent increase over the previous year. The optional 1.00 percent increase is in addition to the new construction and refund amounts related to the 2024 tax year. The 2024 total regular levy, excluding the amounts for new construction and refunds, is authorized in the amount of \$13,071,970, which is \$129,425, or 1.00 percent, more than the 2023 total regular levy.

Section 3. 2022 Levy Lid Lift Increase.

The voted property tax levy, which pertains to the levy lid lift passed by a vote of the Mercer Island citizens on November 8, 2022, is hereby authorized for the 2024 levy in the total amount of \$1,645,625. This is \$16,293, or 1.00 percent, more than the levy lid lift in the previous year and is within the provisions of the ballot measure.

Section 4. City Clerk Certification.

Pursuant to RCW 84.52.020, the Clerk is directed to certify the amount necessary to be raised by taxation as specified above to the Metropolitan King County Council. The City Finance Director is authorized and directed to transmit any adjustment made pursuant to Section 1 above to the 2024 property tax levy amount to the Metropolitan King County Council.

Section 5. Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect five days after passage and publication in the official newspaper of the City.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THE 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Salim Nice, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Andrea Larson, City Clerk

Bio Park, City Attorney

Date of Publication: _____