

Pierce County 1/10th of 1% Behavioral Health Tax Information and Data

Dates to testify:

- 9:30 - 11 AM on Tuesday, February 18 at the Human Services Committee Meeting
- 3 PM on Tuesday, March 10 at the Pierce County Council Meeting
- Location for both: Pierce County Building, Room 1045, 930 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA

Learn more about the tax and contacting your council member:

- Info Sheet [“How will Pierce County use the one-tenth of 1% Sales Tax?”](#)
- Pierce County Council [1/10th Behavioral Health Webpage](#)
- Pierce County Council Ordinance text (which includes data in the “Whereas” sections- [Proposed Ordinance 20-24](#))
- How do I know who my council member is? - [Find out here!](#)
- Comment on legislation by visiting the [Ordinance Webpage](#) and clicking “comment on legislation” in the upper far right corner

[Click Here for Template Email to Sent to Council Members](#) (emails listed below)

[Planning to testify in person? Help us by filling out this form!](#)**

**this form is only for planning purposes, you must show up and sign up in person at the Council Meeting to testify

Learn more about the issue and need in Pierce County:

- [Mental and emotional suffering: Local data on a national issue](#) – This is a data heavy info sheet from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department that looks at local consequences for children and Youth, adults and military families
- [Decrease Despair, Raise Hope](#) – is an assessment of strategies from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. It starts with policy strategies, moves to prevention and then intervention
- [Revised 2018 Briefing Paper](#) Pierce County Behavioral Health System Study by the Human Services Research Institute - four page summary of revised recommendations
- [Revised 2018 Addendum](#) Pierce County Behavioral Health System Study by the Human Services Research Institute - full study of behavioral health needs in Pierce County including recommendations for next steps

It is critical that we are able to convey that an investment in behavioral health services and resources *across Pierce County* is wanted and needed. It will cost an average of \$19.35 per person per year. This would have raised \$13.1 million in 2019. We know we have a regressive tax system that can only be fixed through the State Legislature. But we also know we are not saving any money by *not* having the tax. With a tax, we are able to have transparency and accountability for how the dollars are spent and most importantly, increase access, coordination, collaboration, education, and so much more for all who live, work, and enjoy Pierce County.

The ordinance will have a first and final reading before the Pierce County Human Services Committee on **9:30 AM - 11 AM on Feb 18, 2020**. This will be at the County City Building (Room 1045, 930 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98402). **Supporters are encouraged to provide a 3 minute testimonial. Public testimonial is extremely helpful at this stage.**

Once the ordinance is out of committee, it will then go before the full County Council. A super majority vote is needed which means at least 5 of the 7 Council Members will need to vote aye/yes for the tax to pass. The final vote will take place at the **March 10 Council Meeting at 3 PM at the County City Building (Room 1045, 930 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98402)**. Public testimony will be heard. Supporters are encouraged to provide testimony.

If you cannot testify, please email the Pierce County Council and share why you are supporting this investment in behavioral health.

Emails: Dave.Morell@piercecountywa.gov; Pam.Roach@piercecountywa.gov;
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