



For Immediate Release  
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**Report from County Forums Shows Labor Costs Key to Budget Fix**  
*Strong majority say more county unions should forgo COLAs*

SEATTLE – A recent report from King County’s nationally recognized public engagement program [Countywide Community Forums](http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/auditor/communityforums/topics.aspx) (CCF) show 64 percent of respondents to a CCF survey say more collective bargaining units representing county employees should agree to forgo Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs). The survey, taken by a record 766 respondents, included questions on labor costs, revenue, and possible program cuts as a means to deal with the county’s current budget shortfall. Copies of the King County Auditor’s report and survey demographic information are available on the county website.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/auditor/communityforums/topics.aspx>

When asked whether they agreed or disagreed that, “More of the county’s collective bargaining units should agree to forgo their cost-of-living increases,” a strong majority of respondents – 64 percent -- “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with that statement.

Round 6 marked a new record for CCF with 766 people taking the survey online or participating in one of 23 forums hosted throughout King County by volunteers between Sept. 11 and Oct. 23, 2010. The CCF survey and forums are open to any interested person living or working in King County and are not a scientific sampling of county residents. The CCF survey was the result of a comprehensive process involving Councilmembers, county agency heads, community leaders, and King County residents with final approval by the King County Auditor.

Over 2,000 people have registered to serve as a *Citizen Councilor* since the program began in 2007. In 2009, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2.org) recognized CCF as an innovative project designed to encourage civic engagement. To register as a *Citizen Councilor*, and access opportunities to engage, go to [CommunityForums.org](http://CommunityForums.org). Call (206) 296-1633, toll-free (800) 369-2584 or email:

[CommunityForums@KingCounty.gov](mailto:CommunityForums@KingCounty.gov)

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