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Subject: Mayor Burgess' and City Attorney Holmes' statement on income tax ruling



City of Seattle
Mayor Tim Burgess

NEWS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICES OF THE MAYOR & CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Mayor Burgess' and City Attorney Holmes' statement on income tax ruling

SEATTLE (November 22, 2017) – Mayor Tim Burgess and City Attorney Pete Holmes issued the following statement after King County Superior Court Judge John Ruhl ruled on the City's proposed income tax on high-income residents:

“Our state continues to be one of the worst in the nation when it comes to tax fairness, a result of our misguided over-reliance on regressive sales taxes. We are also living in a time of extreme income inequality that corrodes our social compact and causes many to wonder whether wealthy individuals are paying their fair share. When it comes to Washington state, the studies are clear: the wealthiest among us are not paying their fair share. As it happens, many of them agree. In order to build a more just and equitable society for all, we need a serious overhaul of our state's tax structure. We know some argue against any income taxes at all, but we would point out that we already have a corporate income tax in this state—through the business and occupation tax. But we need more progressive tax sources, not fewer. The Seattle income tax was an attempt to move toward this goal, and we are hopeful that it will be upheld on appeal.”