



City of Seattle

Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

**City of Seattle Economic and Revenue Forecast Council
August 10th, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes / Annotated Agenda

Attendees:

City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

Deputy Mayor Tiffany Washington (as Mayor Harrell's designee)

Interim City Finance Director Jamie Carnell

BrynDel Swift (as Council President Juarez' designee)

Meeting Items:

1. Adoption of the [minutes from the April 10th, 2023](#), meeting.

The Forecast Council unanimously approved the minutes of the April 10 meeting.

2. [Presentation of the August 2023 Economic and Revenue Forecasts](#), and recommendation from the Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts regarding the 2023 and 2024 revenue forecasts.

Presenters:

Ben Noble, Jan Duras, and Sean Thompson, Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

Dave Hennes, Alex Zhang, and Joe Russell, City Budget Office

The economic and revenue presentation highlighted the relatively strong performance of the national economy in the fourth months since that last Forecast Council meeting, noting that the consensus national forecast had shifted towards a likely “soft landing” that will avoid a recession but lead to a period of relatively low growth for the next few years. Consistent with this expectation, the revenue forecast update modestly increased the near-term (2023 and 2024) revenue forecasts for most economically dependent revenues, while at the same time lowering the forecasts for 2025 and the years beyond. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) revenues were a notable exception. Sales slowdowns in both

commercial and residential real estate markets has led to a sharp downturn in REET revenues. After having been adjusted downward in April, REET forecasts for all six years of the forecast were revised further lower. Current sales have fallen short of even the reduced April forecast, and persistently high interest rates are expected to discourage sales recovery for some time to come.

3. Forecast Council Adoption of the August 2023 Revenue Forecast –
Discussion and Possible Vote.

The Forecast Council discussed the presentation, and given the unanimous consensus among Council members, the Chair confirmed that the Council concurred with the recommendation to use the baseline forecast, and she then directed that these meeting minutes reflect that decision.