



SCA Public Issues Committee

November 8, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

The November 8, 2023, Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting will be held in-person at Renton City Hall and virtually.

Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by using the following link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85925468211?pwd=MnFhcEF5NjNHZm5leDFzT3BMbkZz09>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 859 2546 8211/ Passcode: 374918

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Roll Call** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair 3 minutes
- 2. Public Comment** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair 5 minutes
- 3. [Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2023 Meeting](#)** 2 minutes
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- 4. Chair’s Report** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair 5 minutes
- 5. Executive Director’s Report** – David Hoffman, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes
- 6. [2024 PIC Chair and Vice Chair Election](#)** 5 minutes
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
- 7. [2024 SCA State Legislative Priorities](#)** 25 minutes
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION
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Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst
- 8. [Free Youth Transit Passes](#)** 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst
- 9. [King County Climate Crisis Funding](#)** 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst

10. [King County Cultural Access Sales Tax](#) 10 minutes
UPDATE
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
11. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#) 5 minutes
UPDATE
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
12. [Election Roundup](#) 20 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
13. **Upcoming Events**
 - a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center
14. Jurassic Parliament Webinar – Wednesday, November 29, 2023 – Virtual
 - c. SCA Annual Meeting & Networking Dinner – Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 5:30 to 8:30 PM – Renton Community Center
15. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 13, 2023
14. **For the Good of the Order**
15. **Adjourn**

Sound Cities Association

Mission

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision

Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

Values

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AHC	Affordable Housing Committee
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflows
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DCHS	King County Department of Community and Human Services
DVI Task Force	Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force
EDDB	Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
EMAC	Emergency Management Advisory Committee
EMS Advisory Task Force	Emergency Medical Services Levy Advisory Task Force
ETP	Eastside Transportation Partnership
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
JRC	Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants
K4C	King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
KCD	King Conservation District
KCDAC	King Conservation District Advisory Committee
KCFCD	King County Flood Control District
KCFCDAC	King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
KCPEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
LHWMP	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
LHWMP MCC	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
PIC	Public Issues Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSCAAAC	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council
PSERN	Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RLSJC	Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee
RPC	Regional Policy Committee
RPEC	PSRC Regional Project Evaluation Committee
RTC	Regional Transit Committee

RWQC	Regional Water Quality Committee
SCA	Sound Cities Association
SCAACG	South Central Action Area Caucus Group
SCATBd	South County Area Transportation Board
SeaShore	Seashore Transportation Forum
SKHHP	South King Housing and Homelessness Partners
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board
WTD	King County Wastewater Treatment Division



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT Minutes

October 11, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Online

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. 25 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Dana Parnello, Maple Valley (PIC Alternate); Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Karen Howe, Sammamish City Council; Traci Buxton, Des Moines City Council; Louis Washington, Snoqualmie City Council; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville staff; Tania Santiago Pastrana, King County Council staff; Jenny Huston, King County Executive staff; John Sheller, King County Library System; Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC); and Deanna Dawson, Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated in hybrid format. He noted that any discussion in the chat for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

2. Public Comment

Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment.

John Sheller, King County Library System, said that as part of the KCLS's climate planning they are seeking input and partnership with cities where electric vehicle charging stations located at libraries will help cities meet their climate goals. Cities are encouraged to reach out to KCLS for more information.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2023 Meeting

PIC Chair Bill Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of July 12, 2023 PIC meeting. **PIC Vice Chair Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, to approve the July 12, 2023 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Boyce reported that SCA is seeking PIC members to serve on the PIC Nominating Committee and as PIC Chair and Vice Chair in 2024. There are currently vacancies on the Nominating Committee for the Snoqualmie Valley and South Valley Caucus members. The Nominating Committee is responsible for reviewing applications and making recommendations for all SCA board and committee appointments. The PIC Chair is responsible for appointing PIC Nominating Committee members. In December, PIC will elect its Chair and Vice Chair for 2024. PIC Chair Boyce is serving his second of the maximum two one-year terms as PIC Chair. Vice Chair

Chris Roberts is interested in moving on to being the Chair if elected by PIC. The deadline to apply for the Nominating Committee or for PIC leadership is Friday, November 10.

5. Executive Director's Report

David Hoffman, SCA Executive Director reported on SCA staffing, and welcomed Andie Parnell as SCA Policy Analyst. Andie will staff SCA members on the Regional Transit Committee, Board of Health, King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee and Implementation Board, and several committees touching on human services issues. Hoffman highlighted the importance building relationships with legislators to advocate for city legislative priorities. The next SCA networking dinner is scheduled for October 25, 5:30 to 8:00 PM, at the Renton Pavilion Event Center.

6. 2024 State Legislative Priorities

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel reported that PIC would be briefed by the Association of Washington Cities on their recently adopted legislative priorities and follow that with discussion of SCA's legislative priorities for the 2024 session.

Deanna Dawson, AWC CEO, and Candice Bock, AWC Director of Government Relations, reported on AWC's adopted [2024 City Legislative Priorities](#): help recruit and retain police officers for public safety; revise the arbitrary 1% property tax cap; continue investing in infrastructure; provide behavioral health resources; and [other significant issues](#). The 2024 Legislative Session is a short, 60-day session.

7. King County Cultural Access Sales Tax – King County Doors Open

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the County Council is considering a proposal to implement a councilmanic one-tenth of one percent sales tax to support cultural access through the King County "Doors Open" Program. Doors Open would provide cultural access organizations with grant funding to support operations and programs, reduced or free admissions costs, access in underserved geographic areas, transportation costs, internships, and more. Grants would be administered by King County's Cultural Development Authority, 4Culture. The proposed tax would be collected for a period of seven years at which time it could be renewed, and is anticipated to initially generate about \$100 million per year. The proposal was transmitted by the County Executive to the County Council on September 25. The County Council and Regional Policy Committee are expected to review and take action on the proposal prior to the end of 2023, with collection of the tax proposed to begin on April 1, 2024

Vice Chair Roberts noted that the Legislature recently authorized the cultural access tax to be imposed without going to voters and that it was likely to have support among a majority of County Councilmembers. He said the portion of funding being set aside exclusively for use outside of Seattle – 22% of levy proceeds – did not seem equitable when compared to population and suggested that RPC members advocate for a higher share to be adopted.

8. King County Flood Control District Budget

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel reported on the proposed 2024 operating and capital budget recommended by the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee typically writes a letter to the Flood Control District Board of Supervisors to comment

on the proposed budget. For 2024, the Advisory Committee took particular interest in the District's projected fund balance, which is expected to reach zero by 2025. The Advisory Committee made several requests to address that shortfall in its annual recommendation letter to the Board that could increase future rates or delay projects. These include recommending that the Board consider raising the levy rate, study bonding options during 2024, and work closely with the Advisory Committee on project prioritization in the coming year.

Councilmember Karen Howe, Sammamish, who serves on the Flood Control District Advisory Committee, said the Flood Control District has been spending down reserves for several years to advance important projects impacting cities and would soon need to increase the levy to keep pace with project needs. The Advisory Committee is recommending a gradual increase over three years.

Council Vice President Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, noted the importance of the work conducted by the Flood District and asked for more information about discussions in prior years about the levy.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, asked about spending by the District and justification for spending down fund reserves.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, noted that she is a member of the Flood Control District Advisory Committee and that there are many factors that have driven up flooding risk and the cost of projects. She noted that projects that were advanced using fund balance are projects that cities have requested and that those funds had been collecting for the purposes of being expended on these projects. There has been reluctance to increase the levy, but the projects provide critical protection to people and property and should be funded.

9. 2024 Regional Board and Committee Appointments

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of the process for appointing SCA representatives to regional boards and committees. A Boards and Committees Appointment Process Q&A is scheduled for October 30 for members.

10. Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County and noted the upcoming General Election on November 7, 2023.

11. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, October 18, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center
- b. SCA Networking Dinner with guest speaker Jevin West, co-founder of the UW Center for an Informed Public and co-author of *Calling BS: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World* – Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 5:30 - 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion Event Center
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – Virtual

d. SCA Annual Meeting – Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – Renton Community Center

12. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

13. Adjourn

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
October 11, 2023**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Sofia Aragon	Cydney Moore
Carnation	Dustin Green	Jim Ribail
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Gene Achziger
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Zach Hall
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Penny Sweet
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Mac Johnston	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Steve Peretti	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Linda Newing
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Eric Zimmerman
North Bend	Heather Koellen	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	Kerry Garberding
Redmond	Vanessa Kritzer	Angela Birney
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Pam Stuart
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	James Mayhew
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Kathy Hougardy
Woodinville	Mike Millman	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Katy Harris	

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.

DRAFT Minutes SCA PIC October 11, 2023

SCA PIC Nov 8, 2023

SCA PIC October 11, 2023
Attachment B: Chat Log

19:14:06 From Brian Parry, SCA To All Panelists:

Register here! <https://leahsca.wufoo.com/forms/xrvv22o13o3ph8/>

19:18:52 From Candice Bock, AWC To All Panelists:

<https://wacities.org/advocacy/City-Legislative-Priorities>

19:40:44 From Deanna Dawson, AWC To All Panelists:

This is on the agenda - "Producer responsibility for packaging
Support proposals to establish a product stewardship
framework for packaging."

19:58:30 From Candice Bock, AWC To All Panelists:

I was going to stick around and listen to your conversation if that is ok.

19:59:25 From Kate Kruller, Tukwila To All Panelists:



20:10:50 From Penny Sweet, Kirkland To All Panelists:

Kirkland is adopting our initial Leg agenda next Tuesday.

20:48:49 From Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond To All Panelists:

Thank you, Mayor Guier, for that perspective. Appreciate your years of service and thoughtful leadership on this!

21:00:20 From Katy Harris, Yarrow Point To All Panelists:

Please send us the list of committees. Thank you!

Item 6:

2024 PIC Chair and Vice Chair Election

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION

Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, 206-499-4159, brian@soundcities.org

Future Action

The Public Issues Committee (PIC) will elect the 2024 PIC Chair and Vice Chair at the December 13, 2023 meeting. PIC members who are interested in serving as chair or vice chair are encouraged to contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at 206-499-4159 or brian@soundcities.org.

SCA is also seeking applicants to fill vacant seats on the PIC Nominating Committee. In accordance with SCA Bylaws, Members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the PIC Chair.

To apply to serve as PIC Chair or Vice Chair, or to be a member of the PIC Nominating Committee, PIC members are asked to submit an email to sca@soundcities.org indicating interest and any relevant background information by **Monday, November 13, 2023**.

Background

PIC Chair and Vice Chair

SCA is seeking applicants from Public Issues Committee members to serve as the 2024 PIC Chair and Vice Chair. Per the SCA Bylaws, the PIC Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the committee and may serve up to two consecutive one-year terms.

PIC Chair Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, is serving his second one-year term as Chair and is not eligible to continue as PIC Chair in 2024. PIC Vice Chair Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, has expressed interest in serving as the 2024 PIC Chair. Other members interested in serving in the PIC Chair or Vice Chair position are encouraged to contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry (brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159) with any questions about the roles or application process.

The PIC Chair and Vice Chair must be members of PIC. The Chair leads PIC meetings and, in the absence of the Chair, meetings are led by the Vice Chair. Both work with SCA staff to create the monthly PIC agenda and prepare for the presentation of action items and briefings during each meeting. The PIC Chair also appoints members annually to the PIC Nominating Committee, which is responsible for recommending appointments to regional committees and to the positions of PIC Chair and Vice Chair to the full PIC. Typically, the PIC Chair and Vice Chair meet twice each month with SCA staff to prepare for each monthly PIC meeting.

The PIC Chair also serves as a member of the SCA Board of Directors, which meets monthly on the third Wednesday from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Tukwila Community Center.

The SCA Public Issues Committee was established as a standing committee by SCA in 1995 to review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions. In addition, PIC recommends regional committee appointments to the SCA Board of Directors. PIC includes an elected official representative appointed by each member city, and each SCA member city has an equal vote on issues that come before the PIC. PIC is SCA's vehicle for bringing policies to member cities, and for member cities to bring policies to SCA.

PIC Nominating Committee

SCA is also seeking PIC members to serve on the PIC Nominating Committee. The PIC Nominating Committee is an important body that makes recommendations to PIC on who represents SCA members on regional boards and committees and who serves as PIC Chair and Vice Chair. Only PIC members are eligible to serve on the committee.

The Chair of the Public Issues Committee, currently Kent Council President Bill Boyce, is responsible for appointing members to serve on the PIC Nominating Committee. Members include one PIC representative from each of the four geographic SCA caucuses: South, South Valley, North, and Snoqualmie Valley.

Current PIC Nominating Committee members Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland (North), and Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila (South), have indicated their interest in continuing to serve on the Committee in 2024. The Snoqualmie Valley and South Valley positions for 2024 are vacant.

Members serve one-year terms with the next term beginning this November. The Committee will hold at least one meeting lasting half of a day during the week of November 27 (*tentatively Wednesday, November 29, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM*), with additional shorter meetings possible ahead of making a slate of recommendations in time for the December 13 PIC meeting. The Committee will also meet in 2024 as necessary to recommend nominees to fill vacant board and committee positions.

Next Steps

The full PIC will vote to elect a 2024 PIC Chair and Vice Chair at the December 13, 2023 PIC meeting. The PIC Chair will appoint PIC Nominating Committee members after the Monday, November 13 deadline for applications.

Item 07:
2024 SCA State Legislative Agenda
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION

SCA Staff Contact

Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst, kazia@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

SCA Legislative Committee Members

Mayor Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw (Chair); Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island

Potential Future Action

At the November PIC meeting, members will be asked to provide input on the draft 2024 SCA State Legislative Agenda and to consider taking action to forward the draft Legislative Agenda to the December 13 PIC meeting for a vote to recommend approval by the SCA Board of Directors.

If recommended for adoption by PIC in December, the SCA Board of Directors will consider the recommended 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda at their December 20, 2023, meeting.

SCA is collecting member city legislative agendas to inform the ongoing development of the 2024 SCA State Legislative Agenda. Members are encouraged to share city legislative agendas as they are finalized with SCA staff (kazia@soundcities.org).

Draft 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda

Legislative Priorities

SCA urges the Legislature to partner with cities to:

Improve public safety by increasing tools and resources to address auto theft and property crime and to support officer recruitment and retention.

Support sustainable funding for core local services by replacing the 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation and population growth and increasing flexibility for use of existing revenue sources.

Address the behavioral health treatment crisis by increasing the capacity of the crisis response system and funding local programs that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.

Continue to invest in local infrastructure, transportation, and mobility by increasing investment in the Public Works Assistance Account, honoring commitments made in Move Ahead Washington, and providing local funding options with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance.

Promote economic vitality by increasing support for community revitalization and workforce development programs in critical fields with hiring shortages.

Allocate state and federal funding to cities to mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change, including responding to extreme weather emergencies.

Promote housing affordability by providing resources to assist cities with implementation of local affordable housing plans and recently adopted planning and zoning changes and reducing the cost of regulations on housing production.

Legislative Principles

SCA adopts the following guiding principles against which all legislative proposals will be measured:

- Advance racial equity and social justice
- Improve the social safety net
- Honor commitments to shared revenues
- Make no unfunded mandates of cities
- Preserve local decision-making authority

Background

At the November PIC meeting, members will be asked to provide input on the draft 2024 SCA State Legislative Agenda and to consider taking action to forward the draft Legislative Agenda to the December 13 PIC meeting for a vote to recommend approval by the SCA Board of Directors. This is aligned with the “two touch” process outlined in the [PIC Operating Policies](#), which states that final action on an issue should not be taken until at least the second time that issue is brought before PIC, with exceptions for emergencies.

Members should note that a vote to forward the draft Legislative Agenda to the December meeting is a vote on a work in progress; the SCA Legislative Committee will continue to edit the Legislative Agenda based on feedback from PIC and other forums before bringing it back to PIC in December for potential action (Table 1).

If a vote to forward the draft is taken, PIC will consider the updated Legislative Agenda in December and decide whether to request additional changes or to recommend adoption of the 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda by the SCA Board of Directors at their meeting on December 20.

Table 1 Schedule – Development of 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda	
November 7	Discuss at North End Mayors’ Meeting

November 8	Discuss at Public Issues Committee (PIC)
November 14	Discuss at South End Mayors' Meeting
November 15	Update SCA Board of Directors
November 20	SCA Legislative Committee reviews input from mayors, PIC, Board
December 4	SCA Legislative Committee reviews updated agenda
December 13	PIC reviews updated agenda and, if ready, recommends adoption by Board
December 20	SCA Board considers adoption of 2024 Legislative Agenda
January 8	2024 Legislative Session begins

Next Steps

At the November meeting, PIC will consider taking action to forward the draft Legislative Agenda to the December 13 PIC meeting for a vote to recommend approval by the SCA Board of Directors. Based on city legislative agendas as well as input collected at the SCA PIC and other forums, the Legislative Committee will update the draft Legislative Agenda. At the December meeting, PIC will consider the updated Legislative Agenda and decide whether to request additional changes or to recommend adoption of the 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda by the SCA Board of Directors at their meeting on December 20.

Cities are encouraged to continue sending final legislative agendas to SCA staff as they become available. Questions, comments, and city legislative agendas can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel at kazia@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

Item 8:

Free Youth Transit Passes

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060

SCA Regional Transit Committee Members

Councilmember Jon Pascal, Kirkland (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington City; Councilmember Bob Baggett, Auburn; Councilmember Barb de Michele, Issaquah; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Deputy Mayor Betsy Robertson, Shoreline; Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle (Alternate); Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Federal Way (Alternate); Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila (Alternate); Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue (Alternate).

Discussion

The Regional Transit Committee and King County Council approved a free fare for youth (Free Youth Transit Pass) for all King County Metro services, which took effect on September 1, 2022. Youth 18 years and under can ride for free by using a Youth ORCA card, showing a student ID, or just boarding on transit systems across the region. In its first year, King County Metro estimates that more than seven million rides were taken by youth under age 19, and 44,000 Youth ORCA cards were distributed throughout the county.

King County Metro is conducting public engagement for the Free Youth Transit Pass through a Tap for Transit campaign, Metro's Youth Mobility Program, Metro's Transit Equity Internship, a communications toolkit and a classroom transit education curriculum. Over the next year Metro will be working with stakeholders to overhaul their reduced fare programs, including the Free Youth Transit Pass, to make the programs easier to access and easier to administer.

Background

King County Metro offers free or reduced fares for low-income and very-low-income people, seniors, people with disabilities, and children and youth.¹ Children under age six ride free on all Metro services. The youth fare, for ages 6 through 18 had previously been set at \$1.50 for Metro buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles, or streetcars; \$3.75 for the West Seattle water taxi route; and \$4.50 for the Vashon Island water taxi route. To access the youth fare,

¹ [Enrollment and ORCA LIFT cards - King County, Washington ; Regional Reduced Fare Permit - King County, Washington ; Youth Ride Free - myORCA](#)

Metro had created an ORCA youth card, which also offered these reduced-price youth fares on services of ORCA's partner agencies.

In 2022 the State Legislature passed the Move Ahead Washington transportation investment program, which offered transit support grants for transit agencies with a free fare for youth. In response, the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council approved legislation to amend the King County Code to set the transit fare to zero for youth from 6 to 18 for all Metro services. The Free Youth Transit Pass took effect September 1, 2022.

Youth can ride for free by using a Youth ORCA card, showing a student ID, or just getting on board transit systems across King County. King County Metro encourages youth to use Youth ORCA cards, or a school ID card, when boarding transit to help Metro track ridership trends and to minimize fare disputes between youth customers and operators.

From September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023, King County Metro estimates that more than seven million rides were taken by youth under age 19 on Metro buses. Metro utilized their Youth Mobility Program to spread the word and distribute more than 22,000 Youth ORCA cards at 41 schools. In all, more than 44,000 Youth ORCA cards were distributed in King County.

Implementation & Engagement

King County Metro is conducting public engagement for the Free Youth Transit Pass through a Tap for Transit campaign, Metro's Youth Mobility Program, Metro's Transit Equity Internship, a communications toolkit and a classroom transit education curriculum.

King County Metro launched a "Tap for Transit" media campaign that encourages all transit users, especially youth, to tap their ORCA cards every time they board.² Each tap provides Metro with data used to improve Metro services. For example, more taps at a specific location or at a certain time of day can indicate to Metro to increase service at that location.

King County Metro established the Youth Mobility Program in early 2022. The program works with local jurisdictions, schools, community organizations, operators, and young people to promote accessible, sustainable and safe access to mobility options.

King County Metro hosted its second annual Youth Transit Equity Internship in July 2023.³ The internship program is for youth ages 15-18 interested in public transit and community leadership. Transit Equity Interns become peer ambassadors of transportation resources, explore career pathways within Metro, and build skills and knowledge of transit, urban planning, climate justice, and local government. Transit Equity Interns participate in workshops, field trips and conversations with decision-makers.

King County Metro recently published a communications toolkit to help spread the word about

² [Tap for transit - King County, Washington](#)

³ [Youth learn and develop community leadership skills through Metro Transit Equity Internship Program – Metro Matters \(kingcountymetro.blog\)](#)

the Free Youth Transit Pass and increase youth ridership. The toolkit is free to download and includes social media post templates, an email blast template, and flyers.⁴

In 2024, King County Metro will relaunch a classroom transit education curriculum. The transit education curriculum varies by age, and includes instructor guides, student activities, and instructional videos. Educators and youth-serving organizations may use these materials with students in any capacity.⁵

Over the next year Metro will be working with stakeholders to overhaul their reduced fare programs, including the Free Youth Transit Pass, to make the programs easier to access and easier to administer.

Data quality about youth ridership is inconsistent and most youth riders do not regularly use an ORCA card. To overcome these challenges, King County Metro is exploring future options for digital fare media and developing new ways to measure youth ridership and program impact including observational counts, school surveys, and qualitative feedback.

Local leaders and agencies can support Metro's efforts by amplifying key messages to internal and community networks such as:

- Sharing the communications toolkit and promoting use of transit education curriculum materials through any existing relationships with schools and educators;
- Empowering youth to share information with their peers; and,
- Encouraging schools and organizational staff to sign up for the Youth Mobility Program newsletter.⁶

Next Steps

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Andie Parnell at andie@soundcities.org or 206-724-4060.

⁴ [King County Metro Free Youth Transit Pass Toolkit - Google Drive](#)

⁵ [King County Metro Youth Transit Education Curriculum - Google Drive](#)

⁶ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAKING/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAKING_1935

Item 9:
King County Climate Crisis Funding

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst, kazia@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

Discussion

The King County Council is considering a motion sponsored by Councilmember Rod Dembowski that would request that the County Executive develop proposals to generate \$1 billion in funding over a six- or nine-year period to address the climate crisis ([Proposed Motion 2023-0315](#)). The proposal would take the form of a report transmitted to the Council by April 30, 2024, as well as accompanying legislation.

Proposed Motion 2023-0315 was introduced to the King County Council and referred to the Transportation, Energy, and Environment Committee for an initial briefing on September 19. It passed out of committee on October 17 and is expected to go before full council in the next several weeks.

Background

The King County Council is considering a motion sponsored by Councilmember Rod Dembowski that would request that the County Executive develop proposals to generate \$1 billion in funding over a six- or nine-year period to address the climate crisis (Proposed Motion 2023-0315). The proposal would take the form of a report transmitted to the Council by March 31, 2024, as well as accompanying legislation.

King County Code Section 18.25 requires adoption of a Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) at least every five years to develop goals and priority actions towards achieving King County’s goal of reducing climate emissions 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 compared to a 2007 baseline. As of 2019, the most recent year with reliable data, emissions had increased by 11% relative to the 2007 baseline, suggesting that the County is not on track to meet these goals under current conditions.

The most recent SCAP was adopted in 2020. For many of the priority actions identified in the 2020 SCAP, the document states that the County lacks the financial resources for implementation.

Proposed Motion 2023-0315 would request the Executive to develop proposals to generate \$1 billion in funding over a six- or nine-year period to address the climate crisis, for the purpose of addressing the climate crisis through actions relating to greenhouse gas reduction and response

to climate impacts. The proposal would take the form of a report transmitted to the Council by March 31, 2024, as well as accompanying legislation.

To inform development of the funding proposal, the motion would request the Executive to convene a work group of interested parties. The funding proposal would be expected to include a proposed property tax levy lid lift, an analysis of additional funding sources, and a preliminary implementation plan.

Levy Lid Lift

The funding proposal would include a proposed property tax levy lid lift to be submitted to the voters in November 2024, along with policy recommendations for how the money could be allocated among projects in areas including transportation, building energy, open space acquisition, and response to climate impacts. According to an initial estimate from the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, a property tax levy of 11.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) would be needed to generate \$1 billion over nine years, and a levy of 18.5 cents per \$1,000 AV to generate \$ billion over six years. However, as the proposed motion requests that the Executive evaluate additional funding sources, it is possible that a proposed levy might not be used to generate the full \$1 billion, potentially resulting in a lower levy rate.

Analysis of Additional Funding Sources

The proposed motion requests the Executive assess additional revenue sources that could be used for greenhouse gas mitigation or to address climate impacts. Two possible sources to be considered are revenues from solid waste disposal and wastewater treatment. Any uses of these revenues for climate purposes would need to also meet the expenditure-related requirements of the code and interlocal agreements, meaning that solid waste revenue must be used for solid waste-related climate initiatives and similar for wastewater revenue.

Preliminary Implementation Plan

The proposed motion would request that, based on the analysis and resulting recommendations from the Executive and work group, the Executive develop a preliminary implementation plan for use of the revenues from the levy and other sources. The implementation plan would include recommended subcategories of expenditures, a proposal for overall administrative responsibility and management of expenditures and proceeds, and proposed provisions for annual reporting to the council.

The motion would require that the proposal include a recommendation for the categories of expenditures to be funded with levy proceeds, including, at a minimum, the following:

- Projects or programs to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector;
- Projects or programs to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy consumption in structures;
- The purchase or acquisition of open space land identified through the land conservation initiative that will sequester greenhouse gases or mitigate urban heat island effect or other climate impacts; and

- Projects or programs to prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to the impacts of climate change, including, but not limited to, extreme weather events and wildfire smoke.

Proposed Motion 2023-0315 was introduced to the King County Council and referred to the Transportation, Energy, and Environment Committee for an initial briefing on September 19 and a second briefing on October 17. It passed out of committee on October 17 with one amendment making a minor adjustment to the timeline and is expected to go before the full council in the next several weeks.

Next Steps

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel at kazia@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

Item 10:
King County Cultural Access Sales Tax
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org , (206) 499-4159

SCA Members of the Regional Policy Committee

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn (Caucus Chair); Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue; Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent (alternate); Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton (alternate)

Update

The County Council is considering a proposal to implement a councilmanic one-tenth of one percent sales tax to support cultural access through the King County “Doors Open” Program. If adopted, the proposal would significantly increase local public funding support for cultural access programs operated by local nonprofit organizations and in public schools.

The proposal was transmitted by the County Executive to the County Council on September 25. The Regional Policy Committee and the King County Council Committee of the Whole will hold a joint meeting on November 8.

The County Council and Regional Policy Committee are expected to review and take action on the proposal prior to the end of 2023, with collection of the tax proposed to begin on April 1, 2024.

Background

The County Council is considering proposed [Ordinance 2023-0343](#) that would, if approved, impose a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax to finance cultural access through the King County “Doors Open” program. The tax is projected to generate approximately \$100 million annually in each of the first five years, which would be managed and administered by the County’s designated Cultural Development Authority, [4Culture](#). The goals of the program as [transmitted](#) by the County Executive on September 25 include to “foster the creation and development of new cultural organizations throughout King County, reduce geographic barriers, and ensure that all residents have improved access to arts, science, and heritage resources.”

As proposed, the Doors Open program would include funding for:

- A public school cultural access program, designed to increase public school student access to cultural educational experiences by extending the offerings of cultural entities

through programs provided at schools and at the facilities and venues of the cultural entities, including the provision of transportation to facilities and venues;

- New or emerging cultural organizations with a focus on ensuring that all geographic areas of the county and all communities in the county have access to cultural experiences;
- Countywide initiatives and projects including public programs, centralized supports for cultural practitioners, limited-time events, and funding for unmet community needs;
- Building for Equity grants to help cultural organizations acquire, build, and renovate brick and mortar buildings, to purchase equipment, and to help provide launch funding for new cultural organizations, and support organizational capacity building;
- Reimbursing cultural organizations for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in providing public access to cultural experiences; and,
- Programmatic support to meet the ongoing needs of cultural organizations, including but not limited to assistance with rent, utilities, payroll, and other basic annual expenses.

Collection of the additional sales tax is proposed to begin on April 1, 2024, and an initial round of grant funding is proposed for the third and fourth quarter of 2024. Beginning in 2025, funding would be guided by an Implementation Plan approved by the County Council and Regional Policy Committee.

Proposed Funding Allocation for 2024

In 2024, tax proceeds are proposed to be used as follows:

- Up to 2% for repayment of start-up funding
- Up to 3% for administrative costs
- Up to 67% for capital and one-time operating support in 2024:
 - Applications will be solicited from cultural organizations to participate in competitive process in four disciplines: heritage; historic preservation; arts; and, science. Culture and the County will jointly implement, supported by the recommendations of seven peer review panels with members appointed by the council and executive.
- The remainder allocated to future year expenditures

Proposed Allocation for 2025 and Beyond

For 2025 through 2030, tax proceeds are proposed to be used as follows:

- Up to **3%** for administrative costs
- Approximately **75%** for Doors Open, distributed as follows:
 - Programmatic support for cultural organizations, including but not limited to assistance with rent, utilities, payroll, and other basic annual expenses – **50%**
 - Public school access programs – **15%**
 - Reimbursement for free public access to cultural experiences, including but not limited to travel-related costs – **15%**

- Building for equity grants to help organizations acquire, build, and renovate buildings; to purchase equipment; and, to help provide launch funding and support organizational capacity building – **10%**
- Reimbursement to cultural organizations for countywide initiatives and projects – **7%**
- Launch funding for new or emerging cultural organizations with a focus on equitable geographic distribution – **3%**
- Approximately **22%** for programs dedicated to increasing cultural access in geographic areas that currently have less access. Funding from this program is to be expended solely to cultural organizations located outside of established cultural centers.¹

Detailed descriptions of programs and major elements of Doors Open are to be described in an Implementation Plan to be approved by the County Council no later than July 15, 2024.

Authorization and Funding

Doors Open would be funded by a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax authorized under [RCW 82.14.525](#). Funds must be spent in accordance with the requirements of [RCW 36.160](#), which authorizes counties to establish and fund Cultural Access Programs.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, RCW 82.14.525 was amended ([HB 1575](#)) to allow the tax to be imposed by council action. Previously, imposition of the tax required voter approval. In 2017, the County Council adopted Ordinance 18513 creating a cultural access program called Access for All, which sought voter approval for a one-tenth of one percent sales tax to support the program. The measure, 2017 Proposition 1, was [narrowly rejected](#) by voters in August 2017, with 50.1% voting in opposition. In 2020, state law was amended to allow funding to be allocated to smaller and newer cultural organizations, which provides increased opportunities to fund programs on a more socially and geographically equitable basis.

The tax may be imposed for a period of up to seven years and can be renewed for subsequent periods up to seven years.

With collection beginning on April 1, 2024, county analysis projects the following revenues per biennium:

2023-2024	\$71.8 million
2025-2026	\$204.6 million
2027-2028	\$225.6 million

Imposition of the tax would provide a significant increase to funding that is currently allocated to the county’s Cultural Development Authority, 4Culture. In 2022, 4Culture’s work was

¹ "Established cultural centers" is defined in the ordinance as meaning “a city containing at least two cultural organizations that have annual ongoing operating revenues over ten million dollars each and are within a mile of each other.”

supported by \$21.4 million in funding allocated by King County. Primary funding sources include lodging tax revenue and the County’s 1% for the Arts program funds derived from capital improvement projects.

About 4Culture

[4Culture](#) was established in 2003 and is designated as King County’s Cultural Development Authority under [KCC 2.49](#), which defines its structure and authority. Its purpose is to strengthen the region’s shared heritage through supporting local arts and cultural opportunities. It is governed by a 15-member board nominated by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. 4Culture offers grants and support to public art and heritage preservation projects. It is funded primarily by lodging taxes and the county’s 1% for the Arts program. 4Culture serves four program areas: arts, heritage, historic preservation, and public art.

Proposed Timeline

The following timeline is as proposed by the Executive Office and is subject to change by the County Council.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
September 25, 2023	Executive transmittal to County Council
October 4, 2023	First briefing to County Council
October 11, 2023	First briefing to Regional Policy Committee (RPC)
November 8, 2023	Joint KCC Committee of the Whole and RPC discussion
November-December 2023	County Council and RPC deliberation/ action
April 1, 2024	Begin sales tax collection
July 15, 2024	Implementation Plan transmitted to County Council and RPC
July-December 2024	Year one capital and operating grant administration 2025 budget proposal
January 1, 2025	Doors Open full launch as described in approved Implementation Plan

Next Steps

The King County Council Committee of the Whole and the Regional Policy Committee will discuss Ordinance 2023-0343 at a joint meeting on November 8, 2023. Action by RPC and the County Council is anticipated in November-December 2023 with collection of the tax to begin

on April 1, 2024. For more information, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.



November 8, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 11:
Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2023	November	Maple Valley	Levy lid lift for public safety
2023	November	Kirkland	Levy lid lift for expanded aquatics; recreation; and parks facilities, operations, and programs

Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2023	November	Seattle	Housing property tax levy renewal for seven years at an initial rate of approximately 45-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and a maximum annual collection of \$138.6 million
2023	November	Enumclaw School District	General obligation bonds - \$103 million*
2023	November	Fife School District	General obligation bonds - \$204.8 million*
2023	November	Kent School District	Educational programs and operations replacement property tax levy at a rate of \$1.72 per \$1,000 of assessed value
2023	November	Kent School District	Capital projects and technology property tax levy with an initial 2024 rate of 66-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and increasing to \$1.32 per \$1,000 for 2025-2027
2023	November	Skykomish School District	Technology capital projects property tax levy at a rate of 22.7-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
2023	November	Snoqualmie Fire and Rescue	Fire protection and emergency medical services property tax levy at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value limit factor of 103% for each of the subsequent five years
2023	November	Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue	Fire protection and emergency medical services property tax levy at a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value with a limit factor of 106% for each of the subsequent five years
2023	November	Valley Regional Fire Authority	Fire authority bonds - \$96.5 million*

2023	November	Si View Park District	General obligation bonds - \$21.3 million*
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*60% majority and minimum turnout of 40% of voters who cast ballots in the most recent general election

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024		Enumclaw	Community center levy

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2024		Seattle	Transportation Levy renewal (“Move Seattle”)
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
2027		King County	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy
TBD		King County	Climate resiliency levy lid lift

Next Steps

The 2023 General Election will be held on November 7. Members are encouraged to please send information about any levies or ballot measures under consideration that will impact SCA cities to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or (206) 499-4159.



November 8, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 12:

Election Roundup

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org , (206) 499-4159

Discussion

November 7, 2023 is General Election Day. As an odd numbered year, voters will decide who represents them in approximately half of all local Mayor and City Councilmember positions. While some cities will see many returning members, others with retiring elected officials and contested races may be anticipating new priorities and policy direction in the coming months. At the November PIC meeting, members will have a roundtable discussion to share and reflect upon city election results.

Background

On November 7, voters throughout King County will decide races for approximately half of the nearly 300 Mayor and City Councilmember positions in the county.

At the November PIC meeting, we will have a roundtable discussion for members to share and reflect upon city election results, new members, and how the election may inform city priorities.

Next Steps

If you or your city has feedback, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org , or (206) 499-4159.