



SCA Public Issues Committee

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Online Meeting

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/86078128002?pwd=3m76Y357alOA5PoGr384owLTPk5ai1.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 860 7812 8002 / Passcode: 059899

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2024 Meeting](#) 5 minutes
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4. **Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director Recruitment Update** – Mary Lou Pauly, SCA President 5 minutes
6. [2025 SCA Legislative Agenda](#) 30 minutes
ACTION
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SCA Policy Staff
7. [2025 PIC Schedule](#) 10 minutes
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8. [PIC Orientation and New Member Welcome](#) 30 minutes
DISCUSSION
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9. **Upcoming Events**
 - a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
 - b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
 - c. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center

10. For the Good of the Order

11. 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. SCA acknowledges the systemic racism and inequalities in our society and continues its commitment to the work needed to address them.

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

December 11, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Virtual

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Public Issues Committee (PIC) Vice Chair Joeseph Cimaomo, Covington, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. 24 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Shoreline; Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Eric Perry, Renton Staff; Ali Blum, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); Brian Halverson, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); Patti Lui, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); John Walsh, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); Pat McLaughlin, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); Tania Mondaca, King County Council Staff; John Taylor, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, Institute for Energy and Resource Management; and Zach Dugovich, Pacific Public Affairs.

Vice Chair Cimaomo noted that any discussion in the chat for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes.

2. Public Comment

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

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann from the Institute for Energy and Resource Management (IeRM) provided a memo that was shared with PIC members ahead of the meeting. Schmidt-Pathmann urged PIC members to review the memo detailing IeRM's concerns with the County's proposed alternatives for the handling of municipal solid waste going forward, and objections and disagreements with both the methodology and the conclusions of the Long-Term Disposal Study. Schmidt-Pathmann noted that IeRM will be presenting their detailed report to individual city councils in the coming months.

There was no further public comment and this item was closed.

3. Approval of the November 13, 2024 PIC Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Cimaomo asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the November 13, 2024 SCA PIC meeting.

The motion was moved by Tracy Taylor, Auburn and was seconded, to approve the November 13, 2024, PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

In the interest of time, Vice Chair Cimaomo moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. Interim Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Carl Cole updated PIC having a quorum for both caucus meetings this week on Thursday and Friday (December 12 and 13) for Board elections.

Cole shared that updates regarding recruitment for the position of permanent Executive Director will continue to be shared as available.

6. PIC Chair and Vice Chair Election

PIC Vice Chair Cimaomo asked for any comments or questions regarding the election the 2025 PIC Chair and Vice Chair. Following discussion, the PIC made the following action:

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland moved, seconded by Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley to elect Chris Roberts, Shoreline as 2025 SCA PIC Chair, and Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington as 2025 SCA PIC Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Regional Board and Committee Appointments

SCA Chief Operating Officer, Leah Willoughby, presented the board and committee appointments as recommended by the PIC Nominating Committee, and asked for any questions.

Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore moved, seconded by Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, to recommend to the SCA Board appointments to Regional Boards and Committees as provided in the meeting materials packet, including finding of extraordinary circumstances to make an exception to the six-year term limit for the following appointments:

- **Marli Larimer, Kent as member to the Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services**
- **Nancy Backus, Auburn as member to the Greater Seattle Partners**
- **Dana Ralph, Kent as member to the PSRC Transportation Policy Board**
- **Angela Birney, Redmond as member to the Regional Policy Committee**

The motion passed unanimously.

8. King County Long-Term Waste Disposal Options

King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) staff members presented the results of the Long-Term Waste Disposal study, which examined five options for waste disposal following the closure of the regional landfill: waste export by rail, mass burn, gasification, pyrolysis, and refuse-derived fuel. The latter three are no longer being considered. The Solid Waste Division will schedule briefings with cities throughout 2025, and the final environmental and impact study will be ready by the end of 2026. Recommendations to the King County Executive will be made in early 2027. SWD answered questions from members.

9. 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda

SCA policy staff Andie Parnell and Aj Foltz presented the draft SCA 2025 Legislative Agenda and requested input and direction from PIC members on its content, format, and preferred methods for receiving updates from staff during the legislative session.

Questions and comments presented and addressed included:

- Climate issues as a priority
- Support for SCA Guiding Principles to be included in agenda, and wording of this section of the agenda
- Affordable housing unit policies
- Listing SCA cities within agenda
- Monthly PIC updates from SCA staff
- Addition of transportation security
- Alternative language for the 1% property tax item

The SCA Board will review the legislative agenda and PIC revisions at their December 18 meeting. It will then be brought back to PIC for action at the January 8, 2025 meeting, to recommend final approval by the Board at their January 15, 2025 meeting.

10. Upcoming Issues

Interim Executive Director Carl Cole noted that SCA is planning to distribute a survey to SCA members in 2025. Cole also noted that 2025 will be a long state legislative session.

Interim Executive Director Cole also asked for members to share priorities for their cities and provide input on regional issues that will be important for SCA to be engaged with in the coming year, and also to indicate their cities' 2025 PIC representative will be, if that information is available.

The group held a roundtable discussion. There was no action to report.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures

PIC Vice Chair Cimaomo asked members for any future or potential levies and ballot measures in their cities. Cities were encouraged to share their respective levies and ballot issues with SCA staff.

12. For the Good of the Order

Interim Executive Director Carl Cole introduced SCA's new policy analyst, Laura Belmont.

There were no further items for the good of the order.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
December 11, 2024**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Carston Curd	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation	Jim Ribail	
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
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	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Lorri Bodi	Tracy Furutani
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Suzan Torguson
Pacific	Kerry Garberding	Vic Kave
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Pérez	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	none
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Jovita McConnell
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

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



January 8, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:

2025 SCA Legislative Agenda

ACTION

SCA Staff Contacts

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060;
Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org 206-849-3056; Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, laura@soundcities.org , 206-849-7864

SCA Legislative Committee Members

Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland (Chair); Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah;
Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Mayor Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw; Mayor Armando Pavone, Renton; Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines

Action

The SCA Legislative Committee met multiple times in October and November to develop the 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda. In December, PIC reviewed the agenda and provided feedback on housing affordability, local service funding, transportation, and infrastructure, while also requesting the reinstatement of the climate change priority. The SCA Board then revised the agenda based on PIC's input.

The agenda will be acted upon at the January 8 PIC meeting and finalized by the Board on January 15. SCA cities are still encouraged to share their respective legislative agendas with SCA policy staff as they become available.

2025 Legislative Agenda Revisions

This section details the SCA Board's updates to the 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda ([Attachment A](#)), reflecting the input received from the PIC during the January meeting. Additionally, the Board has introduced a new priority addressing climate change for consideration.

Please provide feedback on the language for each revised legislative priority and updated guiding principles:

- **Promote Housing Affordability**
 - Original: Provide resources such as local option REET to assist cities with implementation of affordable housing legislation. Reduce state regulations that prevent the production of affordable housing units at the local level.
 - *Edited: Provide additional funding resources (such as local option REET) to assist cities with the implementation of affordable housing legislation. Prioritize partnerships with cities on existing regulations that support the development of affordable housing prior to enacting new regulations.*

- **Support Sustainable Funding for Core Local Services**
 - Original: Add a local option to tie property tax increases to inflation and population growth while maintaining the 1% cap on annual property tax increases.
 - Alternative language: Add a local option to tie property tax increases to inflation and population growth while allowing property tax increases of greater than 1% for cities to provide and maintain core local services.
 - *Edited: Expand the variety of local revenue options that allow cities to provide and maintain core local services. Support local revenue options that respond to inflation and population growth, such as allowing property tax increases above 1%.*
- **Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility**
 - *Support sustainable state transportation revenue that provides funding for local preservation, maintenance, ~~and~~ operations and safety improvements. Prevent diversion of funds and increase investment in the Public Works Assistance Account. Support local funding options to preserve and maintain public transportation systems.*
- **Guiding Principles**
 - ~~SCA adopts the following guiding principles which all legislative proposals will be measured against~~ SCA supports legislation that aligns with the following guiding principles:
 - Advance racial equity and social justice
 - Improve social safety net
 - Make no unfunded mandates to cities
 - Preserve local decision-making authority
- **[NEW] Prioritize Equitable Resource Distribution for Local Climate Action priority.** Support legislation that emphasizes environmental justice and equity in the allocation of resources for implementation of local climate actions, including preventing and mitigating impacts of environmental harm to overburdened communities. Improve city access to Climate Commitment Act funding, considering geographical differences and specific climate-related needs.

Next Steps

The SCA Board will review final PIC revisions and vote on the SCA Legislative Agenda at their January 15, 2025, meeting. SCA policy staff will provide legislative session updates at the next PIC meeting on February 12, 2025. SCA cities are still encouraged to share their respective legislative agendas with SCA policy staff as they become available.

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) represents 38 cities and over one million people in King County. SCA's primary goal is to create vital, livable communities and unite leaders toward collective decision-making on regional policy issues. The vitality of King County is determined by cities' collective voice in county and state decision-making. It is important to recognize that **King County's cities are currently facing a significant budget crisis**. In response to these urgent challenges, SCA requests the state to consider new state revenue sources to share with localities, grant local authority to institute local revenue sources, and not reduce existing shared revenues.

SCA asks the Legislature to partner with cities and act on the following priorities:

Improve Public Safety

Increase state funding for capital and operating expenses and maintain and/or increase existing tools and resources at the current level. Provide a local option for taxing authority to address public safety expenses and continue to provide other vital local government services.

Promote Housing Affordability

Provide additional funding resources (such as local option REET) to assist cities with the implementation of affordable housing legislation. Prioritize partnerships with cities on existing regulations that support the development of affordable housing prior to enacting new regulations.

Prioritize Equitable Resource Distribution for Local Climate Action.

Support legislation that emphasizes environmental justice and equity in the allocation of resources for implementation of local climate actions, including preventing and mitigating impacts of environmental harm to overburdened communities. Improve city access to Climate Commitment Act funding, considering geographical differences and specific climate-related needs.

Support Sustainable Funding for Core Local Services

Expand the variety of local revenue options that allow cities to provide and maintain core local services. Support local revenue options that respond to inflation and population growth, such as allowing property tax increases above 1%.

Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility

Support sustainable state transportation revenue that provides funding for local preservation, maintenance, operations, and safety improvements. Prevent diversion of funds and increase investment in the Public Works Assistance Account. Support local funding options to preserve and maintain public transportation systems.

Address the Behavioral Healthcare Crisis

Increase the capacity of the crisis response system and fund local systems that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.

Confront Labor Challenges

Increase support for workforce pipelines in order to address the gap between available jobs and the realities of labor shortages. Focus on recruitment and retention of individuals in critical fields.

Legislative Guiding Principles

SCA supports legislation that aligns with the following guiding principles:

*Advance racial equity and social justice

*Improve the social safety net

*Make no unfunded mandates to cities

*Preserve local decision-making authority



January 8, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 7:
2025 PIC Meeting Schedule
ACTION ITEM

Potential Action

Approval of Resolution 2025-1, Setting the Public Issues Committee's 2025 Meeting Schedule.

Pursuant to SCA Bylaw 4.16.7, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) "shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions." These meetings are open to the public, and agendas are available on the SCA website. Pursuant to SCA Bylaw 4.16.7.c, regular meetings of the PIC "shall be held monthly or as deemed necessary."

In the interest of openness, accountability, and transparency, the PIC will adopt a meeting schedule by resolution at its first meeting of the year. This will enable all SCA members and the public to be aware of meeting dates.

The PIC typically meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

A resolution establishing the PIC meeting schedule for 2025 is included in [Attachment A](#) .

**Sound Cities Association
Resolution 2025-1
2025 Public Issues Committee Schedule**

WHEREAS, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) of the Sound Cities Association meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM to conduct the regular business of the Committee, unless otherwise stated; and

WHEREAS, the PIC will meet remotely unless otherwise stated;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

The Public Issues Committee sets the following schedule for 2025 PIC meetings:

January 8
February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
(No August Meeting)
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

SECTION 2:

The PIC will meet remotely unless otherwise stated.

PASSED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THE 8th DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

Chris Roberts, 2025 PIC Chair

Date

Attest:

Date



January 8, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:
PIC Orientation and New Member Welcome
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

At the January 8, 2025, Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting we will devote a portion of the agenda to a “PIC 101” workshop. This information is geared toward new PIC members, but we believe it will also be helpful for experienced PIC members.

Background

The SCA Bylaws provide that SCA shall have a Public Issues Committee (PIC), “which shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions.” Membership consists of one member and one alternate from each SCA city, each of whom must hold an elective office in the city or town they represent. Each city has an equal vote on the PIC, regardless of size.

Per the SCA bylaws, fifty-one percent of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the committee and the vote of two thirds (2/3) represented in person at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the advancement of a public policy position to the SCA Board. In general, when taking a policy position, issues will be first heard at one meeting for discussion and may return no sooner than the next regularly scheduled meeting for action. If not immediately addressing a policy issue renders SCA unable to take a position on a timely basis, 85% of those present at a regularly scheduled meeting may declare an issue an emergency and the issue may be discussed and voted upon at the same meeting.

SCA representatives serving on regional boards and committees shall endeavor to avoid taking positions that are harmful to any SCA member cities. SCA appointees shall follow the following protocols when serving on regional boards and committees:

- 1) When the PIC & Board adopt a public policy position, it shall be binding on SCA representatives serving on regional boards and committees;
- 2) In the absence of such a position, the SCA caucus of a given board or committee shall attempt to develop a caucus position that represents the consensus of the caucus, based (where applicable) on existing SCA policy positions;

3) Where no policy position has been adopted by the PIC and Board, and the caucus is unable to reach a consensus position, individual members shall be free to vote their conscience, with the caveat that no SCA representative to a regional board or committee shall vote in a manner that is at odds with an adopted SCA policy position.

The adopted Operating Policies of the PIC provide that “The PIC shall not make policy recommendations to the Board of Directors that are divisive among the members of SCA. ‘Divisive’ is defined as ‘creating disunity or dissension’ among SCA member jurisdictions. SCA shall not take policy positions that are harmful to the interests of any member city, even if favored by a supermajority of members.

At the PIC 101 presentation, staff will present information to help members understand how the PIC functions, including best practices on how to get the most out of PIC.

Resources

- A. [PIC Operating Policies](#)
- B. [SCA Bylaws](#)
- C. [SCA Board Policies](#)