



SCA Public Issues Committee

March 12, 2025 – 7:00 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/85455926022?pwd=ILKko0IPccKUCBL38X6yDeB1a7t4kK.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 854 5592 6022 / Passcode: 030426

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2025 Meeting](#) 5 minutes
Page 6
4. **Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
5. **SCA Update** – SCA President Traci Buxton 5 minutes
6. **Executive Director’s Report** - Robert Feldstein, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes
7. [Growth Target Reconciliation](#) 30 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 10
Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst
8. [King County Parks Levy Renewal](#) 30 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 13
John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Warren Jimenez, Director, King County Parks Division
9. [Legislative Update](#) 30 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 20
Carl Schroeder, Deputy Director of Government Relations, AWC
10. **For the Good of the Order**
11. **Adjourn**

Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- c. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center

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

January 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Virtual

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 22 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Tracy Taylor, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Dana Parnello, Maple Valley (PIC Alternate); Mark Joselyn, North Bend; Amy Tsai, Redmond staff; Eric Perry, Renton staff; Tania Mondaca, King County staff; and Katie Halse, Bellevue staff.

Chair Roberts 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

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, this portion of the agenda was closed.

3. Approval of the December 11, 2024 PIC Meeting Minutes

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, PIC Chair asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the December 11, 2024 SCA PIC meeting.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, PIC Chair thanked the PIC for another year serving as Chair. In the interest of time, Chair Roberts moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. Executive Director Recruitment Update

Issaquah Mayor, Mary Lou Pauly, SCA Board Past President, thanked the PIC Chair and PIC members for their continued service and provided an update on the SCA Executive Director recruitment process. Kristi Rowland was introduced as additional support for the SCA staff. Des Moines Mayor, Traci Buxton, SCA Board President, thanked President Pauly. Rowland introduced herself and briefly reported her experience. President Pauly reported on the upcoming SCA membership survey, and encouraged the participation of PIC members.

6. 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, and Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, presented the draft SCA 2025 Legislative Agenda and requested final input from PIC members on the Board's revisions. After discussion, the PIC took the following action:

Council President, Kerry Garberding, Pacific, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to recommend the 2025 Legislative Agenda, as shown in meeting materials, to the SCA Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2025 PIC Schedule

Chair Roberts reported on the 2025 PIC schedule, as provided in the meeting materials, and asked for any questions. Following discussion, the PIC took the following action:

Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to approve the Resolution 2025-1 setting the 2025 SCA Public Issues Committee meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

In response to a member question, Chair recommended that discussions regarding format of upcoming meetings be continued after the new Executive Director has been onboarded.

8. PIC Orientation and New Member Welcome

Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, lead members through an PIC 101 presentation, providing an orientation on role of SCA and how PIC works to develop policy positions on behalf of the SCA's 38 member cities, and giving an overview of SCA's resources. SCA staff asked for any questions. There were no action items to report.

9. Upcoming Events

Chair Roberts noted upcoming events as provided in meeting materials.

10. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting – Attachment A
January 8, 2025**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village		
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond		
Bothell	Carston Curd	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien		
Carnation		
Clyde Hill		
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Ronn Mercer	Mike Supple
Enumclaw		
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point		
Issaquah	Tola Marts	
Kenmore		
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Lorri Bodi	Tracy Furutani
Maple Valley	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina		
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Tim Ceder	Shanna Styron Sherrell
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	Sid Gupta	Amy Lam
SeaTac		
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Jovita McConnell	Armen Papyan
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

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

SCA PIC January 8, 2025

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:20:56 From Mary Lou Pauly, SCA President to Hosts and panelists:

Heading out. Thanks for the opportunity to share information tonight.

19:39:48 From Traci Buxton, SCA Vice President to Hosts and panelists:

I will need to exit now - fantastic intro and summary - thank you for your work in supporting all that we do!



March 12, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 06:
King County Growth Target Reconciliation Process

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org, (206) 849-3056

2025 SCA Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) Members

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland; Mayor Salim Nice, Mercer Island; Council President Satwinder Kaur, Kent; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Councilmember Kent Treen, Sammamish; Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond; Councilmember Amy McHenry, Duvall; Councilmember Lydia-Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way; Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation; Councilmember Kate Baldwin, Auburn

Discussion

Throughout 2024, the King County Growth Management Planning Council reviewed and discussed two growth target reconciliation requests submitted by Carnation and Snoqualmie. The growth target reconciliation process is new for the county, thus necessitating the creation of a new process to address the reconciliation requests.

At the March PIC meeting, PIC will receive a presentation outlining the timeline and considerations with the reconciliation process. **SCA Policy Staff are seeking PIC's input on the proposed reconciliation options to inform the SCA GMPC Caucus decision.** This memorandum provides background information on the issue and the reconciliation options, all of which will be expanded on during the PIC presentation.

Background

Growth targets are policy statements about the number of housing units and jobs each urban jurisdiction is planning for within their comprehensive plan. Coordination among jurisdictions in developing and planning for growth targets is essential to achieving shared countywide and regional planning goals. An individual jurisdiction's planning for housing, employment, transportation, and public services affects neighboring communities and the region as a whole.

The **King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)** create a shared framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County. The CPPs are overseen by the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), a body that brings together elected officials from King County and the cities. The GMPC develops and recommends the CPPs to the King County Council. Following County Council adoption, the CPPs are sent to all cities and towns in King County for review and ratification.

The **VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy** is the region's plan for growth. The region's cities, counties, Tribes, ports, agencies, businesses, and communities have worked together to develop VISION 2050 to prepare for this growth and serve as a guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities and a strong economy. VISION 2050's multicounty planning policies, actions, and regional growth strategy guide how and where the region grows through 2050.

Both the CPPs and the Regional Growth Strategy informed the growth target reconciliation process as it was being developed.

In 2021, the CPPs were amended to permit the GMPC to adjust growth targets after the periodic comprehensive plan update, reconciling them with growth assumptions to maintain consistency between plans and CPPs. The policy states:

*DP-13 The Growth Management Planning Council shall . . .
c) Create a coordinated countywide process to reconcile and set growth targets that implements the Regional Growth Strategy through countywide shares of regional housing and job growth, countywide shares of statewide housing needs, allocations to Regional Geographies, and individual jurisdictional growth targets.*

The GMPC has coordinated growth target setting for decades but never reconciled them post-adoption. In January 2024, the GMPC created the new "Growth Target Reconciliation" process for adjusting growth targets after comprehensive plan submittal.

The Growth Target Reconciliation Process followed these guiding principles:

1. Reconciliation/amendments may be pursued when significant changes to the planning framework or local circumstances that could not have been anticipated have occurred since target adoption.
2. Reconciliation/amendments may be allowed where adherence to the adopted targets creates a conflict with other GMA goals (e.g., environmental issues, infrastructure to serve growth).
3. Jurisdictions are responsible for demonstrating need, consistent with the threshold and principles for reconciliation, for the requested target change.
4. Jurisdictions should directly request reconciliation or amendment of their target.
5. Amended targets must further King County's alignment with the Regional Growth Strategy and protect the integrity of the growth target setting process.
6. GMPC staff will coordinate with PSRC and Commerce to minimize any risks to plan certification.
7. Growth targets should only be redistributed when countywide housing needs are addressed.
8. Reconciliation should limit impacts to jurisdictions not requesting amended targets.

Growth Target Requests

The growth target reconciliation process began with a request from the City of Snoqualmie. While developing their comprehensive plan, Snoqualmie identified that they cannot accommodate their residential growth target and requested reconciliation. The Interjurisdictional Team (IJT) then conducted outreach to King County jurisdictions in April and May 2024 to assess the need for a reconciliation process. The outreach revealed that Carnation and Snoqualmie were likely or intending to use growth assumptions in their plans that differ from adopted growth targets.

Table 1 summarizes Carnation and Snoqualmie’s reconciliation requests. Collectively, the two requests seek a reduction of 1,230 housing units, which is 0.4% of King County’s targeted countywide growth of approximately 309,000 housing units between 2019-2044.

Table 1

City	Adopted Housing Target	Requested Housing Target	Difference
Snoqualmie	1,500	719	-781
Carnation	799	350	-499
Total			-1,230

Following the above guiding principles, ***the requested housing need targets are concentrated in the 0-80% area median income (AMI) categories for both jurisdictions.*** The 81-121% AMI categories have been reduced significantly in lieu of reducing the 0-80% AMI categories, to ensure that jurisdictions still plan for affordable housing development.

Next Steps

In March, the GMPC will vote to amend the county-wide growth target reconciliation process. The options put forward to the GMPC are as follows:

- **Option 1:** GMPC denies reconciliation requests
- **Option 2:** GMPC accepts reconciliation requests and adjusts countywide growth
- **Option 3:** GMPC accepts reconciliation requests with an opportunity for other jurisdictions to take on the remaining 1,230 growth targets (in line with the VISION 2025 Regional Growth strategy)

Option 3 is the result of hesitation to reduce the countywide housing growth targets. This option will allow jurisdictions to take on Snoqualmie and Carnation’s 1,230 growth targets if they wish.

Item 7:

King County Parks Levy Renewal

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

SCA Regional Policy Committee Members

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Debra Srebnik, Kenmore

Discussion

At the March PIC meeting, John Taylor, Director of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Warren Jimenez, Director of King County Parks Division, will brief members on the 2026-2031 Parks Levy renewal. The King County Council and Regional Policy Committee (RPC) will discuss and amend the levy renewal throughout March, with tentative Council action in mid-April. If approved, the levy will be placed on the August 2025 ballot.

Several SCA cities are concerned about the levy allocation percentage returning to them and the disparity between their contributions and allocations. SCA staff is coordinating discussions among SCA city managers and administrators and gathering information from King County to inform future discussions and RPC amendments.

Background

In 2002, to prevent closure to the parks system following a significant deficit in the General Fund, King County convened the Metropolitan Parks Task Force to develop a business transition plan for King County’s parks. In response, in 2003, King County voters approved a 4.9 cent, four-year levy to support operations and maintenance for regional and rural parks.

In 2007, voters approved two six-year parks levies: (1) a 5 cent operating levy to fund maintenance and operations for regional and rural parks, and (2) a 5 cent capital levy to fund expansion of the regional parks and open space system. Twenty percent of the capital levy was allocated to cities for trails, parks, and open space. In 2013, voters approved a new, 18.91 cent six-year parks levy with an annual escalator tie to the consumer price index.

Most recently, in 2019, voters approved a six-year property tax levy with an initial rate of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV). The 2019-2025 levy is projected to generate around \$852 million over six years, with 8% allocated to towns and cities for their parks system operations and capital improvements.

2026-2031 Parks Levy

In January 2024, the King County Parks Division established the King County Parks Levy Community Advisory Committee to provide guidance on developing the 2026-2031 Parks Levy. Informed by Advisory Committee discussions, the proposed 2026-2031 six-year property tax levy includes an initial levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV and is estimated to generate approximately \$1.5 billion over the six-year period. After initial allocations for specific projects and grant programs, 9% of the remaining proceeds would be distributed to towns, cities, and parks districts.

King County Parks has proposed an allocation plan for the levy which is also up for adoption by the King County Council. If approved, the Executive must submit a report to the Council detailing any future proposed changes. The 2026-2031 Parks Levy renewal proposed allocation plan includes a \$119 million six-year pass-through investment to cities, towns, and park districts ([Attachment A](#)). This is an increase from the actual 2020-2025 investment of \$62 million to cities and towns, however park districts were not included in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

The annual minimum allocation has changed between the two levy cycles. Under the 2020-2025 levy, \$25,000 was allocated annually to each city and an additional \$75,000 annually to each city with a population greater than 4,000. Under the proposed 2026-2031 levy, \$100,000 is allocated annually to each town, city and park district. The new levy also changes the allocation of the remainder from a 50/50 split to 60% distributed in proportion to each town or city's population and 40% distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city ([Attachment B](#)). The adjusted 60/40 formula aims to more equitably distribute levy proceeds across King County communities. Smaller towns and cities will still benefit from increased annual levy distributions by receiving at least \$100,000, mitigating the impact of the previous 50/50 formula.

King County towns and cities are also eligible for all four grant programs funded by the levy totaling \$117 million across the six-year levy period (Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program, Aquatic Facilities Grant Program, Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Program, and Community Partnerships and Grants program).

City Concerns

The Executive's staff presented to city managers and administrators at their March meeting. Several attendees urged King County to address individual city councils and raised concerns about monitoring grant reporting data and smaller cities lacking the population for major investments. They also voiced concerns about the levy renewal timeline and delayed notice from King County. Cities are concerned about the unequal tax contributions relative to the direct allocations they receive from the levy. There is significant interest among SCA cities in coordinating efforts to propose an alternative to the King County Council. SCA staff are meeting with city managers and administrators to inform future RPC discussions and amendments and develop a potential course of action.

Next Steps

The King County Council Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee and the RPC will discuss the proposed renewal at their respective March 12 meetings. Then, BFM action is scheduled for March 26, and RPC action for April 3. Final action by the full King County Council is tentatively scheduled for April 15, or if more time is needed, April 22. If approved by the Council, the 2026-2031 Parks Levy will be placed on the August 5, 2025, ballot.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	
Election Costs	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$18,000,000
Fixed income exemption ¹	\$3,000,000
1% undercollection assumption	\$15,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront²	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium³	\$2,500,000
Pools	\$22,000,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22,000,000
Grants and Community Partnerships	\$117,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly named Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46,000,000
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance⁴	\$550,600,000
Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517,000,000
Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4,300,000
Safety Program Expansion	\$3,200,000
Asset Management Program	\$4,100,000
Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10,400,000
Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4,800,000
Jobs & Housing Program	\$5,000,000
Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1,800,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$217,500,000
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$96,000,000
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$20,000,000
Fish Passage Program ⁵	\$10,000,000
Climate Resilience ⁶	\$33,000,000
Environmental Stewardship ⁷	\$58,500,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System⁸	\$179,000,000
Eastrail	\$65,000,000
Lake to Sound Trail	\$55,000,000
Green River Trail Extension - North	\$6,000,000
Interurban Trail South investments	\$8,000,000
Soos Creek Trail	\$7,000,000
Other New Regional Trails ⁹	\$38,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements¹³	\$51,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	
Dog Parks	\$3,000,000
Lakeland Park North	\$10,000,000
Skyway Park Planning and Community Center	\$13,000,000
Backcountry Trails (new trails)	\$3,000,000
Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)	\$3,000,000
Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	\$19,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$177,000,000
Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure¹⁰	
General infrastructure	\$23,000,000

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

<i>Playground rehabilitation</i>	\$7,000,000
<i>Park amenities rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Parks building system rehabilitation</i>	\$8,000,000
<i>Ballfield synthetic turf replacement</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trail rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.)</i>	\$8,000,000
ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation	\$12,000,000
Regional Trails Rehabilitation¹¹	\$55,000,000
Marymoor Park Rehabilitation¹²	\$16,000,000
Sunset Park Renovation and Repair	\$4,000,000

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

2. New levy investment that support accessibility for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; maintenance and operations of facilities and grounds; offering free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships.

3. This allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

4. Of this allocation, 93% funds the day-to-day operational needs to maintain the park system (personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, administrative costs, etc.). \$2.4M shall be allocated for the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. Additional funding to be allocated for critical programs and services to manage the growing parks system and enhance safety and belonging for park users. These programs include the expansion of the service level agreement with King County Sheriff's Office to fund the Parks Patrol Program; the expansion of the Parks Safety Program for ongoing implementation of safety related elements within the park system, i.e., regulatory compliance and trainings for onsite staff; and expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps summer internship program.

New investments include:

- Funding for the continuity of the Jobs and Housing Program due to sunseting of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funding in 2024.
- Funding for the enforcement of Parks Land Use Guidelines on park lands and regional trail segments to protect capital investments, open space acquisitions, and new properties and easements in support of environmental preservation.
- Funding to support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships, and improve conservation and recreational planning.

5. The Fish Passage Program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

6. Climate resilience investments will support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community response projects and programming as identified.

7. Environmental stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

8. This allocation provides funding for Regional and Other Public Trails System including:

- Construction of two additional segments of Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport.
- Construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paves Central Wilburton segment, and completes design on Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.
- Construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle.
- Complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South.
- Construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and planning for future Soos Creek Trail segments.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

9. Of this allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

\$20M of this funding will be used for emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

10. Capital major maintenance programs keep parks clean, safe, and open and include, but are not limited to: rehabilitation of play areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, as well as coordination with other agencies who have infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, WSDOT). A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

11. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that will support design, construction, and initial operational costs. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and bond financing. Funding allocated for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

12. This program keeps the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

13. This allocation will fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

Allocations for Each City 60/40 vs. 50/50

City/Town/Park District	60/40 Remainder Allocation	50/50 Remainder Allocation	Difference
Federal Way	\$4,411,347	\$4,116,436	7.2%
Des Moines	\$1,550,126	\$1,465,033	5.8%
SeaTac	\$1,486,104	\$1,405,463	5.7%
Burien	\$2,431,739	\$2,307,305	5.4%
Covington	\$1,060,452	\$1,009,866	5.0%
Pacific	\$413,997	\$395,193	4.8%
Enumclaw	\$684,257	\$654,152	4.6%
Kent	\$6,534,942	\$6,271,627	4.2%
Auburn	\$3,739,243	\$3,589,077	4.2%
Maple Valley	\$1,454,677	\$1,399,691	3.9%
Shoreline	\$2,997,012	\$2,898,693	3.4%
Renton	\$5,242,409	\$5,075,860	3.3%
Duvall	\$527,412	\$519,466	1.5%
Kenmore	\$1,336,132	\$1,319,071	1.3%
Algona	\$265,104	\$261,765	1.3%
Carnation	\$209,360	\$206,756	1.3%
Snoqualmie	\$843,344	\$834,035	1.1%
Black Diamond	\$455,392	\$451,647	0.8%
Si View MPD	\$1,050,350	\$1,042,969	0.7%
Lake Forest Park	\$821,972	\$818,624	0.4%
Milton	\$185,755	\$185,190	0.3%
Skykomish	\$108,387	\$108,264	0.1%
Seattle	\$42,172,695	\$42,204,151	-0.1%
North Bend	\$539,302	\$539,846	-0.1%
Normandy Park	\$478,201	\$480,696	-0.5%
Vashon PD	\$725,072	\$729,477	-0.6%
Issaquah	\$2,426,184	\$2,452,037	-1.1%
Tukwila	\$1,386,630	\$1,401,707	-1.1%
Newcastle	\$877,995	\$889,326	-1.3%
Beaux Arts Village	\$127,543	\$130,190	-2.0%
Sammamish	\$4,128,157	\$4,216,263	-2.1%
Kirkland	\$5,932,007	\$6,085,629	-2.5%
Woodinville	\$949,191	\$975,361	-2.7%
Redmond	\$4,821,961	\$4,959,566	-2.8%
Fall City MPD	\$380,370	\$392,794	-3.2%
Bellevue	\$10,449,390	\$10,956,082	-4.6%
Bothell	\$2,100,868	\$2,207,026	-4.8%
Mercer Island	\$2,140,565	\$2,303,482	-7.1%
Yarrow Point	\$264,824	\$290,755	-8.9%
Clyde Hill	\$460,141	\$508,253	-9.5%
Hunts Point	\$225,340	\$250,484	-10.0%
Medina	\$604,049	\$690,695	-12.5%

Note. From [Budget and Fiscal Management Committee Meeting Materials](#), March 12, 2025.



March 12, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:
Legislative Update
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Update

PIC will be joined by Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Deputy Director of Government Relations Carl Shroeder, who will provide an update on the 2025 Washington State Legislative Session. Time will be allotted for questions and answers. Members are encouraged to provide any questions or topics of interest to SCA staff in advance of the meeting to help facilitate discussion.

Background

The 2025 Washington State Legislative Session began on January 13. The 105-day session will come to a close on April 27, 2025.

PIC will be joined at the March meeting by Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Deputy Director of Government Relations Carl Shroeder, who will provide an update from midway through the session.

The latest information on AWC priority bills can be found on AWC’s weekly [Hot Sheet](#) and [bill tracker](#) .

2025 Session Cutoff Calendar

January 13	First Day of Session
February 21	Last day to pass bills out of policy committees in house of origin
February 28	Last day to pass bills out of fiscal committees and transportation committees in house of origin
March 12	Last day to consider bills in house of origin
April 2	Last day to pass bills out of policy committees in opposite house
April 8	Last day to pass bills out of fiscal committees and transportation committees in opposite house

April 16 Last day to consider opposite house bills (except fiscal, initiatives, and resolving differences between chambers)

April 27 Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution

2025 SCA Legislative Agenda

The 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda, as recommended by PIC, was approved by the SCA Board of Directors in January ([Attachment A](#)). Overall, SCA requested the state consider new state revenue sources to share with localities, grant local authority to institute local revenue sources, and not reduce existing shared revenues. Key priority areas identified by SCA members include public safety, housing affordability, equitable resource distribution for local climate action, sustainable funding for core local services, investment in transportation infrastructure and mobility, behavioral healthcare capacity, and support for workforce pipelines.

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 authority²²