



## SCA Public Issues Committee

May 14, 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/81637321900?pwd=uJakrZTbq2YliQ0BROapqy7hmlKtYX.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 816 3732 1900 / Passcode: 662912

## 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 – April 9, 2025 Meeting](#) 5 minutes  
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4. **Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** - Robert Feldstein, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes  
5 minutes
6. [Regional Board and Committee Appointments](#)  
ACTION  
Page 19  
Robert Feldstein 5 minutes  
5 minutes
7. [Regional Board and Committee Updates](#)  
UPDATE  
Page 21  
SCA Policy Staff 20 minutes
8. [Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal](#)  
DISCUSSION  
Page 23  
Michele Plorde, King County Emergency Medical Services Director 20 minutes
9. [Solid Waste Division Rate Changes](#)  
DISCUSSION  
Page 35  
King County Solid Waste Division

**10. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#)**

5 minutes

**UPDATE**

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Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst

**11. For the Good of the Order**

**12. Adjourn**

**Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
- b. PSRC 2025 Annual General Assembly Meeting – Thursday, May 22, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Seattle Convention Center ([Register Here](#))
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM

# 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
BPAC	PSRC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
CPPs	Countywide Planning Policies
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
GMA	Growth Management Act
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
HIJT	Affordable Housing Interjurisdictional Team
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
ICA	Interlocal Cooperation Agreement
ILA	Interlocal Agreement
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
KCEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
MCC	Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
OPMA	Open Public Meetings Act
PHSKC	Public Health – Seattle & King County
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
PRA	Public Records Act
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
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

April 9, 2025 – 7:00 PM

### Online Meeting

#### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 28 cities were represented. ( [Attachment A](#) ).

Guests present included: Tracy Taylor, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Kelly Jiang, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Mark Joselyn, North Bend (PIC Alternate); Amy Lam, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); James Alberson, Renton; Laura Mork, Shoreline; Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Carly Joerger, Kirkland Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Tania Mondaca, King County Staff; Courtney Black, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; Crystal Fleet, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; Olivia Robinson, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; and Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

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](#) ).

#### 1. Public Comment

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment, and encouraged any individuals with comment to contact [sca@soundcities.org](mailto:sca@soundcities.org) .

Hearing none, Chair Roberts closed this portion of the meeting.

#### 2. Approval of the March 12, 2025 PIC Meeting Minutes

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, PIC Chair asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the March 12, 2025 SCA PIC meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. Chair's Report

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, PIC Chair, stated that there is interest in holding the next PIC meeting in person.

Chair Roberts appointed Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, to the PIC Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy for the Snoqualmie Valley seat.

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein reported on possibility of in-person PIC meeting in May or June, and notes that Mercer Island has shared their willingness to host the meeting again. He thanked Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, for joining the PIC Nominating Committee and is excited to begin filling committee vacancies. Feldstein also encouraged attendees to tell their colleagues to join SCA and be part of our regional voice.

Feldstein also provided an update on the Parks Levy. He reported that its status was dual referral and had gone through Budget and Fiscal Management with Chair Dembowski. Items were named for Council Districts before arriving in RPC, giving us less room to maneuver. Feldstein shared that SCA still fought hard, and was honored by SCA's conduct across the board from policy staff, the RPC caucus, and their staff. He was glad to be able to change the levy in all three directions: making it smaller, getting more funding for cities, and securing changes to measure equity. A comparison of city totals by Executive Proposal, BFM Striker, and RPC Final can be found [here](#) . Feldstein shared he is happy to debrief with anyone who asks, and that he is already getting calls asking for SCA's thoughts, indicating that this has left a mark.

## **3. Legislative Update**

Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Association of Washington Cities, provided an update on the Washington State Legislative Session. Bock shared that there are 18 days remaining in the Session, and that yesterday was the cutoff for bills to be passed out of the Fiscal Committee in the Opposite House. She shared that the focus is now on Floor Action in the Opposite House, with a deadline of April 16. Bock reported that attention has shifted to budget and revenue and highlighted that the revenue proposal to increase the cap for the local option property tax is still alive. She shared the Senate and House bills are slightly different, but both remain in the mix. Bock overviewed that other questions about new revenue still remain, as Governor Ferguson has expressed doubt on the wealth tax which would generate \$4 billion in funding for the budget that other funding would not be able to backfill. Bock said they are watching revenue proposals very closely and encouraged members to contact their legislators regarding the local option.

Bock also shared that both the Senate and House budgets have taken a swipe at the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). She stated the Senate proposal looked a bit more favorable with a \$165 million sweep that would be repaid next year, while the House had proposed a \$288 million sweep on top of other diversions. However, the Senate has subsequently proposed permanent revenue sweeps from the PWAA to the general fund, so the House proposal currently looks better given that those cuts are not permanent; Bock expressed following the House's lead to back off of interconnectivity between budgets to preserve the PWAA. She stated that even if member cities have not used the account in a while, they may want to use it in the future, so legislators need to hear from members regarding the PWAA.

Bock also shared updates on various bills, including that the House has a higher gas tax proposed that shares a portion with cities. She also shared HB 1622 requiring bargaining around artificial intelligence did not advance and is considered dead. Bock stated that HB 2016 which provides additional public safety funding continues to work its way through the legislative process, and

that it also provides a new sales tax the city and county can take if they meet eligibility criteria. Bock shared that the Housing Accountability Act may see onerous pieces rolled back. She also mentioned that AWC updated its hot sheet today and encouraged members to check it out.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair stated many bills with expenditures have language added to specify they only go into effect if funded, and asked Bock if she anticipates bills passed this year that contain this language will be funded in the budget. Bock answered that fiscal committees can put a null and void clause that would void any unfunded bills even if they were passed. She shared it is possible some bills will get funded and die, though expressed that bills passed are likely to be funded in some manner; she summarized that this is complicated, but not to count on it.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, emphasized that the AWC team moves very fast once session ends and immediately kicks off into the next session, and a few SCA members serve on the AWC Legislative Priorities Committees, which already has scheduled meetings. Stuart stated the story about the Parks Levy is a reminder of the power of coalitions, and wondered how PIC and SCA may take some lessons learned into the next session and show up. She gave the example of artificial intelligence in bargaining as a situation where an effort to increase cost in cities has been a concern for everyone. Stuart also asked Bock when to expect a survey from AWC on legislative priorities for the next session. Bock affirmed that AWC does begin working on the next legislative session immediately following the conclusion of another, and the survey will go out in early May even if a special session is called. She said the survey is an opportunity for members to share ideas to be considered in 2026. Bock also shared there is a webinar recapping this session on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the May 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Governor to sign or veto bills, and reminded members that bills that did not pass this session are eligible for action again during the second year of the biennium.

## **6. Wastewater Rate Proposal**

Presentation by King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, overviewed that WTD staff would present and give a Q&A, and that SCA Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Caucus leaders were present: Shoreline Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Caucus Chair; and Kirkland Councilmember Penny Sweet, Caucus Vice Chair. Belmont stated the goal is to connect the caucus to PIC and that this is part of a regional rates conversation, as PIC will be joined by the Solid Waste Division next month. Belmont then introduced the presenters from WTD: Courtney Black, Chief Financial Officer; Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager; and Olivia Robinson, Government Relations.

Black shared that the rate-setting calendar is unique since WTD is a wholesale agency; contracts with cities and sewer districts require adoption of the rate by the end of June. She overviewed that their first touch on the rates was with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) in January where a preliminary rate forecast was overviewed before the fiscal year has closed. In mid-February, WTD has the freshest information to put together a sewer



rate proposal, which then goes through a follow-up process. In April, the proposal has been before the RWQC for the first substantive rate presentation. MWPAAC also discusses their rate response letter in April. She shared April 24<sup>th</sup> is when the County Executive will transmit the sewer rate proposal to the County Council.

Black overviewed that emerging regulatory requirements and performing catch-up on managing assets are key drivers affecting the rate. She also stated that Council Motion 16449 extended the financial sewer rate forecast, meaning that a 20-year sewer rate forecast is used. This forecast length is unique as most forecasts do not extend beyond 5 years. Key assumptions for the rate include regulatory needs, especially combined sewer overflow (CSO) consent decree modification as the 2037 end date moves the costs earlier in the forecast. The Mouth of the Duwamish CSO (MDCSO) project has also seen cost increases as it has moved along the planning process. Other regulatory factors include nutrient reduction evaluation study and near-term optimization investments.

Asset management is another key driver, as many high-risk assets need to be replaced and renewed, as are contract obligations related to meeting the growing capacity needs of the region. Black shared that WTD has looked for every opportunity to defer lower-priority items.

She also shared that there is a rapidly changing environment when trying to forecast out 20 years into the future, and that there is a lot of uncertainty around future regulations and therefore future capital investment and planning.

Fleet stated that the capital forecast has changed in relation to last year's, particularly since the forecast now covers 20 years instead of 10. She presented a graph showing the previous forecast and the increased costs since then. Fleet stated some of these increases are driven by the MDCSO program, but that increases are seen across the entire capital program, driven by market conditions. She also overviewed the forecasts for 2035-2045, which were not included in the previous forecast and are impacted by uncertainties around items like future regulations.

Fleet then overviewed the different categories of investment in the capital program. She shared that the largest of the big three categories is regulatory, mostly related to the CSO consent decree. She described that there are very large investments, large program support, and significant major new infrastructure needed. She stated that this comprises about half of the capital forecast in the first ten years, the majority of which are MDCSO facilities (wet weather treatment, storage, conveyance, and outfall). Fleet stated the next largest category is asset management, particularly renewal and replacement of existing assets mainly due to their condition. She stated the majority of the wastewater system was built in the 1950s and 1990s, and therefore many assets are at or near the end of their lives and must be replaced. The third largest category is capacity, as WTD has contractual requirements to meet growth needs in the region. Other categories include items like seismic resiliency and resource recovery.

Fleet then reviewed how funding is mapped over the expenditure needs as shown in the capital funding forecast. She reviewed the cash-funded capital, which is what is collected from the sewer rate revenue, as well as how much is being funded through bonds, WIFIA loans/interim financing,

state revolving fund loans, and other sources such as grants or settlements. Fleet stated that in recent history the County has been significantly leveraged, though MWPAAC has expressed interest in WTD doing more cash funding to become less leveraged. The target is to be 60% leveraged by the end of the forecast period.

Fleet stated that WTD both builds and runs the system, and that there are growing gaps in resources as the system grows and facilities age. WTD must renew, replace, maintain, and grow assets. To do so, operations staff are needed; these emerging resource needs are spread over the next 5 years. WTD has held some successful training programs to assist with this.

Black reviewed the revenue requirement. She stated that existing debt service decreases as it is paid off over time, while new debt service increases. She also overviewed the portion of cash-funded capital, stating there is a policy to match it to depreciation. Together, these items and operating and maintenance expenses represent the revenue requirement. Black overviewed the revenues at existing and proposed sewer rates; proposed rates are forecasted at \$174 by 2045.

Black then overviewed the sewer rate forecast, mentioning that it is cumulative. In 2025, the adopted rate and 10 year forecast was around 7%, 8.25%, and 9.25%. She stated that since WTD has heard a desire from agencies for greater rate stability, they stuck close to the previously forecasted rate for 2026 at 7.25%, though there are significantly higher increases (such as 12.75% or 13.25%) to follow, primarily due to the MDCSO projects.

Black next overviewed rate impacts across the various agencies, which was a request by SCA. The chart is based on rates for a single-family residential household and exhibits a uniform portion for the county. Black shared that the rates team collects information from all agency websites on rate structures, assumptions, and utility taxes, and that the average cost was \$85. However, she stated this masks the affordability challenge, and shared that WTD bills local agencies, so their increases are a line item cost to all districts/agencies. She stated that there are customer assistance programs raising utility revenue to provide customer assistance, though the county is unable to do so given that they do not have a direct billing relationship with customers.

Black also reviewed the capacity charge, which is a utility connection charge, is adopted at the same time as the sewer rate. She stated that WTD is in the middle of a methodology update regarding the capacity charge, as they are working with MWPAAC and consultants for a more transparent methodology.

Black summarized that WTD is facing rising costs, which rates follow, and that main drivers continue to be regulatory requirements, asset management, and capacity.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair asked Shoreline Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, SCA RWQC Caucus Chair and Kirkland Councilmember Penny Sweet, SCA RWQC Caucus Vice Chair if they had anything to add. Sweet stated that she will overview a proposal at the end, but for now will reiterate that WTD has presented an accurate rundown of what we are facing. She stated that the caucus recognizes these are not sustainable increases and is doing everything they can to work in partnership with WTD to push back on the rates. Sweet stated that WTD Director

Kamuron Gurol and RWQC Chair Claudia Balducci have been to Washington, D.C. to advocate for wastewater infrastructure funding. Sweet stated this discussion will be similar next month around solid waste rates. Mork echoed that Sweet covered the issue well; she stated the rates are unsustainable and that she is trying to figure out what can be done to make this work. Mork highlighted that cities and districts also have needs that must be addressed via the rates, which is leading to rate compression making it more difficult for everyone. Mork shared that the caucus has requested an executive session at the next RWQC meeting to review the consent decree.

Sweet added that she has spent a lot of time working on utilities, and that rates increasing on an annual basis is overwhelming, particularly as this is happening across electricity, drinking and waste water, and solid waste. She shared Kirkland feels this is untenable, and that there is no single body looking at all of the utilities. Therefore, Kirkland has developed a 1-page proposal for a utilities affordability summit in spring 2026 that brings together elected officials from every district like what was done to establish the Metro District, with the goal of determining what options or levers are available to leaders. Sweet asked for SCA to send out the proposal and said that Mayor Curtis will send out a sign-on letter for this proposal. Proposal available [here](#).

Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, expressed support for the proposal and felt the summit should occur sooner rather than later. He shared concern about the devastating impact of the rate on lower-income ratepayers. Nieuwenhuis stated that he understands SCA RWQC Caucus members have done a lot to advocate for long-term predictability and forecasting, and asked Mork whether the Caucus had considered guiding principles for long-term financial outlooks. He also asked Mork whether SCA would generally be supportive of the points expressed in MWPAAC's rate letter or are there any differences SCA members should be aware of. Mork replied that guiding principles are a great idea to bring back to the caucus, and mentioned WTD's work on the Vision for Clean Water and Regional Wastewater Service Plan includes guiding principles. Mork also summarized MWPAAC's letter, sharing that they supported the 2026 rate increases but expressed significant concerns about future rate increases. She said that the caucus is working to write a letter that reflects SCA views, and that it concurs with MWPAAC thus far. Sweet also stated that MWPAAC's letter is reflective of shared discussion between RWQC and MWPAAC, and that the two bodies are trying to be in alignment in their responses to issues.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation asked if there is any thought on a low-income discount on rates. Sweet replied that some agencies have it including Bellevue. Ribail clarified he meant on the King County Side. Black replied that the County has an inventory of the 34 agencies' versions of customer assistance programs, and mentioned Kirkland recently updated theirs and that it reflects current best practices. Black mentioned many programs limit by senior and disability status and significantly misses the low-income population. She also shared the state is doing studies on a state-wide program, though this remains to be seen given budget challenges. Black stated that the county does not have the customer relationship for customer assistance. Ribail stated it is a great thing to look at. He also stated that Carnation built a sewer treatment facility about 20 years ago and had added a 30% bill to customers to pay it off; he stated that it might be worth considering an alternative rate structure where citizens in Seattle pay an extra charge where their facilities are not built out to pay for these facilities. Ribail stated that this stacked

charge may be more complicated but also does not feel it is fair for a city that has built out their capacity to pay extra.

Roberts stated that as much as the local area manages the sewers, most treatment is done regionally, meaning that the question is whether we are paying equitably into the system. Black said that they are currently looking at the Regional Wastewater Services Plan now and one of the financial policies they will consider is rate equity, and that modelling and analysis is planned to try to address it. She also referenced a prior agreement called the Robinswood Agreement, in which agencies agreed to a regional system under the policy of “all for one and one for all”, which may be re-evaluated.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, expressed concern around hearing that there was deferred action on work that needed to be done, and that rates have gone up recently an annualized 5.2%, meaning that they have already gone up around 30%, with a planned 11% annualized increase over the next 8 years. Marts stated that this is outrageous and calls for another way of doing things. He expressed the regional summit is a good start but the size of the increases points to a more fundamental problem.

Roberts asked SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein if SCA had a copy of the summit proposal and if it could be distributed; Feldstein agreed. Roberts encouraged every city to discuss it as it will come back to PIC. Sweet said it could be featured on the next agenda in light of the solid waste rates discussion.

Councilmember Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, expressed that regulatory concerns were brought up frequently and asked whether these are regulations from the state or federal level. Hohimer also asked if these are unfunded mandates. Sweet replied these are both from the state and federal level. Hohimer stated she supported the affordability summit, and that it is clear that the infrastructure in Washington state needs work. She also echoed concerns from residents around rising costs in the state, and how this has led to residents moving states. Hohimer expressed that a closer look into how Washington state is spending its money and prioritizing infrastructure is needed.

## **7. SCA Membership Survey Findings**

Presentation by SCA staff. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Aj Foltz and Laura Belmont gave a presentation on the 2025 SCA Membership Survey findings and analysis of the responses. This presentation included discussion questions (which can also be found in the chat log) for PIC members to engage and provide additional feedback that goes deeper on the initial findings. Foltz shared that 113 responses were collected, though not every respondent was routed to every question.

Belmont shared that for city council engagement, members wanted to see increased involvement of city councils beyond council leadership, education sessions on SCA’s work, visits and presentations to city councils, and more personalized recruitment to boards and committees. They also shared that members had interest in increased collaboration across cities, including

increased learning opportunities across cities, elevating city issues to the broader network, identifying issues across cities, and sharing brief information on key issues. Members also expressed interest in increasing SCA outreach, including increased transparency and communication, planning orientations and events in advance with varied time options, ensuring members are connected to SCA leadership, using social media, reinvigorating Lunch & Learns, and leveraging partnerships.

Foltz shared that for PIC, there was a misunderstanding of usefulness of PIC actions and discussions, as well as differing opinions on taking on meatier issues versus sticking to basics and on taking action items. She shared that members expressed outside presentations affect discussion, PIC and SCA staff should determine a roadmap for PIC, and that alternates should be engaged more during PIC meetings. Foltz also shared that members wanted to connect PIC to city councils and committee caucuses, including having clear messages to take back to councils, shareable content to distribute, and reports on boards and committees. She also shared members expressed a desire to increase PIC's regional impact by being proactive, elevating feedback to the executive, clarifying PIC's purpose and scope, increasing discourse on regional issues, and educating electeds on the purpose of PIC.

Belmont then overviewed responses around policy support. They stated that members wanted to see caucus materials that had standard formats, teased out policy questions, provided examples of successful policies, had summaries and breakdowns of materials, and included insights beyond the packet. Members also expressed interest in strengthened new appointee onboarding that included receiving calendars, updates, materials, and briefings ahead of time. They also shared members wanted to see policy support for the SCA network that includes policy analysis or position papers for issues affecting all cities, reports from caucuses to the wider network, and education sessions on regional policy issues.

Foltz next overviewed responses around networking and events. She shared members often cited location or scheduling conflicts as reasons they had not attended events. Foltz also stated members expressed interest in small group discussions on regional issues with discussion questions that engage the audience, as well as a welcoming space with one-on-one interactions with the Executive Director. She also shared that members are interested in rotating event locations and days and in seeing presentations that connect to city needs. Foltz stated members feel events are a great networking opportunity, and sponsors find events insightful and relevant.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart expressed that ideas that feel smaller, such as tours and visits, are helpful. Stuart gave the example that if PIC is held in Mercer Island, a visit to the new light rail station the hour before the meeting could be ideal. She shared that small things like this matter to help build relationships to fall back on during difficult discussions.

Belmont read a comment from Councilmember Errol Tremolada, North Bend, which stated it would be useful for PIC to define annual KPIs to measure actual effectiveness and influence.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair thanked staff for putting this together, and shared this is the first time he has seen SCA do internal polling and that it is valuable work.

SCA PIC April 9, 2025

Attachment 1: Draft Minutes of the SCA PIC April 9, 2025

Councilmember Carston Curd, Bothell, asked what a sponsor is in this context. Foltz replied that these are sponsors of our organization, such as Lumen or Boeing, but specified that the sponsors who replied are not always indicated in survey responses. SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein added that these are corporate companies who sponsor and attend SCA events.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, shared that many great ideas were expressed in the responses, such as networking with smaller, more targeted breakout session. He stated he felt this would encourage more interactions and stressed the value he has received from getting to know and interact with the people in nearby cities, particularly when discussing how to deal with certain issues.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, thanked SCA staff for their work, and shared that when he came on board, Aj did a 20-minute introduction with him which he found very useful. Ribail added that most members work full-time jobs and do their work as electeds on a semi-volunteer, semi-paid basis, and that their responsibility is to report back to the meetings. He said that to this end, a breakdown of these meetings with key points, particularly with graphs, would be helpful. Ribail also expressed interest in having additional meetings in-person, ideally with a central location like Mercer Island.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that the corporate world has found benefit for people meeting in person. He expressed sympathy for those who hold elective office and find it difficult to get to places, but that he hopes more meetings happen in person, as it would lead to higher participation. Marts stated he has heard there is an equity issue to physically meeting, but still finds value in getting together more often.

## **8. Regional Boards and Committees Update**

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair opened the floor for questions on the memo provided regarding this item. Seeing none, this portion of the agenda was closed. Chair Roberts thanked SCA staff for their work putting the memo together.

## **9. Levies and Ballot Measures**

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, opened the floor for questions on levies.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein highlighted that there are three levies from the county this year; one for next year is included as SCA is aiming to get upstream on discussions. Feldstein shared that he is interested in hearing about city levies and will ask for them in the crib notes so they can be added to the calendar.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, asked if anyone is aware of polling on levy fatigue as discussed regarding the Parks Levy. Feldstein replied that he is aware of the polling on the Parks Levy that showed it doing well a few months ago but is unaware of updated or further data.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, shared her appreciation for Mayor Backus's leadership on the Parks Levy, stating that it is a great space for us to begin to do something differently as Councilmember Sweet encouraged us to do. Stuart described the tension between trying to respond to County Initiatives while trying to respond to city issues and is curious to see how this looks in future large cycles.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, thanked Stuart. She stated that SCA has an opportunity to be more proactive as the new King County Executives become established and to set an expectation early for SCA involvement. Backus mentioned that since SCA is involved in regional committees, where some items must first go, we can have early engagement to benefit the entire county. She stated that she will continue to push for early engagement between County staff and electeds and SCA members, and that it takes SCA members being willing to have difficult conversations. Backus recounted that SCA members agreed years ago that they would support the Best Starts for Kids levy despite minimal details but that they would not do so again; she stated that she feels it has happened again. Backus stated that we must ensure SCA's voice is sought out and she is confident that although it will take time and effort to get our voice back, we will do so.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, agreed with Backus. He shared that he has no problems having difficult conversations with constituents, but one of the good things that SCA could provide is tracking of county levies. Ribail stated he can track his own city's levies, but a synopsis of what is occurring at the county level in a simple format would help inform a more holistic view and would be useful to include as part of a binder of information available to citizens during Carnation's monthly coffee with Council.

#### **11. For the Good of the Order**

There were no items for the good of the order.

#### **12. Adjourn**

**Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Mayor Katy Kinney Harris, Yarrow Point, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting – Attachment A**  
**April 9, 2025**

<b>City</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>Algona</b>	Troy Linnell	Gordon Cook
<b>Auburn</b>	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
<b>Bellevue</b>	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
<b>Black Diamond</b>	Tamie Deady	
<b>Bothell</b>	Carston Curd	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
<b>Carnation</b>	Jim Ribail	
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
<b>Covington</b>	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
<b>Des Moines</b>	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
<b>Duvall</b>	Ronn Mercer	Mike Supple
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
<b>Federal Way</b>	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
<b>Issaquah</b>	Tola Marts	Kelly Jiang
<b>Kenmore</b>	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
<b>Kent</b>	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
<b>Kirkland</b>	Kelli Curtis	Penny Sweet
Lake Forest Park	Lorri Bodi	Tracy Furutani
<b>Maple Valley</b>	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
<b>Mercer Island</b>	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Tim Ceder	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
<b>Normandy Park</b>	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jack Lamanna
<b>North Bend</b>	Errol Tremolada	Mark Joselyn
<b>Pacific</b>	Kerry Garberding	Vic Kave
<b>Redmond</b>	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
<b>Renton</b>	Ruth Pérez	Armondo Pavone
<b>Sammamish</b>	Sid Gupta	Amy Lam
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
<b>Shoreline</b>	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
<b>Skykomish</b>	Henry Sladek	
<b>Snoqualmie</b>	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
<b>Tukwila</b>	Jovita McConnell	Armen Papyan
<b>Woodinville</b>	David Edwards	James Randolph
<b>Yarrow Point</b>	Katy Kinney Harris	



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

## SCA PIC April 9, 2025

### Attachment B: Chat Log

19:12:31 From Jim Ribail, Carnation to Hosts and panelists:

Could we get a list of the changes made to report back to our Councils? Thanks

20:19:19 From Jim Ribail, Carnation to Hosts and panelists:

I think that regional planning effort on the impacts on the system would be a great way to look at it. Thank you.

20:34:38 From Laura Belmont, SCA (they/them) to Everyone:

Questions posed thus far in the survey presentation:

In what ways can SCA best convene our network to foster collaboration?

What does collaboration look and feel like? Is it across geographic or subject areas? How can we identify issues?

With these topics in mind, if SCA started a monthly newsletter, what information would you want included?

20:37:16 From Errol Tremolada, North Bend to Hosts and panelists:

Would be useful for PIC to define annual KPIs to measure actual effectiveness and influence.

20:37:31 From Laura Belmont, SCA (they/them) to Everyone:

How can SCA enhance the reciprocal relationship between PIC's work and SCA's board and committee caucuses?

What does a regionally impactful PIC look like, and what outcomes would result from this?

What does proactivity look like for this body?

20:40:16 From Laura Belmont, SCA (they/them) to Everyone:

How can policy staff better incorporate a regional, systemic perspective to your work representing SCA?

How can policy staff better support you in your role as policymakers?

20:42:01 From Laura Belmont, SCA (they/them) to Everyone:

How do we draw people together again in a meaningful way?

How should networking events tie into other areas of SCA's work as identified in this discussion?

20:42:58 From Melissa Stuart, Redmond (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

All of these questions might be well suited to some kind of warm-up/mixer at the in-person meeting next month. This is a great discussion to have in-person.

20:51:05 From Jim Ribail, Carnation to Hosts and panelists:

I just really want to thank SCA Staff for all the hard work in getting this information together.



May 14, 2025  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 6:**  
**Regional Board and Committee Appointments**  
***ACTION***

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**Staff Contact**

Robert Feldstein, SCA Executive Director, [robert@soundcities.org](mailto:robert@soundcities.org), 206-499-4238

**SCA PIC Nominating Committee Members**

Mayor Troy Linnell, Algona, Chair; Councilmember Cara Christensen; Ruth Pérez, Renton; Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle (*absent*)

**Action**

The PIC Nominating Committee met on April 28, 2025 to recommend mid-2025 SCA Board and Committee Appointments for consideration by the PIC. The PIC is anticipated to take action at the May 14, 2025 PIC meeting to recommend appointments to the SCA Board of Directors, who will consider PIC's recommendations at their meeting on May 21, 2025.

**Background**

A nominating committee of the Public Issues Committee (PIC) consisting of one representative of each SCA Regional Caucus (South, North, South Valley, and Snoqualmie Valley) is appointed annually by the Chair of the PIC, and makes recommendations to the PIC on appointments. The PIC in turn makes recommendations on regional board and committee appointments to the SCA Board of Directors.

Per SCA Bylaws, appointees to major regional committees shall be selected from among elected officials otherwise qualified to serve in such positions, in accordance with the terms of the enabling documents creating such boards and committees. Appointees shall represent the positions of all SCA member cities. Equitable geographic distribution shall be considered in recommending appointments to the Board of Directors.

No member shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years on a regional board or committee appointed by SCA. This limitation shall not apply to alternates to regional boards and committees. Once a member has served six (6) consecutive years on a regional board or committee, they shall be ineligible to serve on said committee for a minimum of one (1) year. Pursuant to a bylaw amendment adopted on December 2, 2015, "In extraordinary circumstances, the Board may make exceptions to the six-year term limit upon the recommendation of the PIC nominating committee and the PIC when a supermajority (2/3) of Board members present and voting at a meeting finds that doing so would be in the best interests of SCA and its member cities."

The PIC Nominating Committee met on April 28, 2025, to review applications for the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) voting member vacancy. The Nominating Committee recommends elevating Councilmember Neal Black (Kirkland) from **alternate to voting member** and appointing Councilmember Tracy Taylor-Turner (Auburn) as a **new alternate**. The proposed RTC membership:

#### Regional Transit Committee

Seat	Name	City	Caucus
Member	Ryan McIrvine	Renton	S
Member	Katherine Ross	Snoqualmie	SNO
<b>Member</b>	<b>Neal Black</b>	<b>Kirkland</b>	<b>N</b>
Member	Susan Honda	Federal Way	S
Member	Toni Troutner	Kent	S
Member	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Covington	S
Member	Barb de Michele	Issaquah	N
Member	Karen Howe	Sammamish	N
Alternate	Paul Charbonneau	Newcastle	N
<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Tracy Taylor-Turner</b>	<b>Auburn</b>	<b>S</b>
Alternate	Tarlochan Mann	Pacific	SV
Alternate	JC Harris	Des Moines	S

The following committee positions remained unfilled following the Nominating Committee's meeting on April 28:

- Domestic Violence Initiative Task Force (2 Alternates)
- Joint Recommendations Committee (1 Member / 2 Alternates)
- Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (1 Member)

#### Next Steps

Following action by the PIC, recommendations will be forwarded to the SCA Board for final approval at their next meeting on May 21, 2025.



May 14, 2025  
SCA PIC Meeting

## Item 7: Regional Boards & Committees Update **UPDATE**

### SCA Staff Contacts

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, [andie@soundcities.org](mailto:andie@soundcities.org) , (206) 724-4060

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

Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, [laura@soundcities.org](mailto:laura@soundcities.org) , (206) 849-7864

### Update

At the May PIC meeting, SCA policy staff will briefly update members on current and upcoming issues in regional boards and committees.

### Boards & Committees Update

Committee	SCA Caucus	Last Meeting	Summary	Next Meeting
<b>Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Amy Falcone, Kirkland <b>Vice Chair:</b> Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah Nigel Herbig, Kenmore Ryan McIrvine, Renton Lynne Robinson, Bellevue Annette Ademasu, Shoreline Dana Parnello, Maple Valley Christina Rustik, North Bend	Thurs., May 1	Reviewed the 2025 Washington State Legislative session for issues related to affordable housing work  Continued discussion regarding draft revised charter amendments and the strategic direction of the committee moving forward	Thurs., June 5
<b>PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Melissa Stuart, Redmond <b>Vice Chair:</b> Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah Ed Prince, Renton Pam Stuart, Sammamish Satwinder Kaur, Kent Amy McHenry, Duvall	Thurs., May 1	Approved comprehensive plans for 14 jurisdictions, including 7 SCA member cities	Thurs., June 5
<b>PSRC Executive Board</b>	Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah Jeff Wagner, Covington Thomas McLeod, Tukwila Chris Roberts, Shoreline Mason Thompson, Bothell Traci Buxton, Des Moines	Thurs., April 24	Approved comprehensive plans for 14 jurisdictions previously reviewed by GMPB  Adopted the FY2026-27 Biennial Budget & Work Program  Adopted the Regional Safety Action Plan	Thurs., June 26  (no May meeting)
<b>KCRHA Governing Board (GB)</b>	Nancy Backus, Auburn Angela Birney, Redmond Ed Prince, Renton	Thurs., April 17	Approved the KCRHA GB Bylaws	Thurs., May 15

			The SCA Board of Directors appointed a member with Lived Experience with homelessness to the GB	
<b>Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Laura Mork, Shoreline <b>Vice Chair:</b> Penny Sweet, Kirkland Conrad Lee, Bellevue Jessica Rossman, Medina Sarah Moore, Burien Yolanda Trout-Manuel, Auburn	Wed., May 7	Voted to approve RWQC's response letter to King County related to rates and charges for sewage treatment and disposal  Gave preliminary feedback on the County's Vision for Clean Water through 2100	Wed., June 4
<b>Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Advisory Committee (MIDD)</b>	Brenda Fincher, Kent Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle	Thurs., April 24	Continuing discussions of the MIDD Behavioral Health Sales Tax Renewal	Thurs., May 22

## Item 8:

### Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal

#### ***DISCUSSION***

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#### **SCA Staff Contact**

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, [andie@soundcities.org](mailto:andie@soundcities.org), 206-724-4060

#### **Emergency Medical Services Advisory Task Force Representatives from SCA Cities**

Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Mayor Kevin Schilling, Burien; Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way; Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Deputy Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish; Councilmember Keith Scully, Shoreline; Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley; Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific; Councilmember Catherine Cotton, Snoqualmie; Fire Chief Brad Thompson, Auburn (Valley Regional Fire Authority)

#### **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

#### **Update**

The King County Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is primarily funded by a countywide voter approved EMS levy. The current levy was approved beginning in 2020 at a rate of 26.5-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) and has lowered to a rate of 22.1 cents for 2025. Levy revenues are anticipated to total approximately \$1.1 billion for the six-year period. The current EMS levy expires on December 31, 2025.

An EMS Advisory Task Force, composed of elected officials, experts, and stakeholders, met from February to September 2024 and made recommendations for the new levy. The EMS Advisory Task Force has endorsed an initial EMS levy rate of 25-cents per \$1,000 AV for 2026-2031. Levy revenues under the proposed levy rate are estimated to total approximately \$1.5 billion for the six-year period.

As required by [RCW 84.52.069](#), King County has been briefing the 11 King County cities with 50,000+ population over the last several months to get support from at least 9 of the 11 cities to put the EMS levy on the ballot. If approved by the requisite cities, and the King County Council, the EMS levy will be placed on the November 2025 general election ballot.

#### **Background**

The King County Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system of King County is a regional, cross-jurisdictional system that provides essential life-saving services to King County

residents and visitors. Medic One/EMS services rely on coordination between fire departments, paramedic agencies, EMS dispatch centers, and hospitals. The system is managed by the EMS division of Public Health – Seattle and King County and funded through a property tax known as the EMS levy (sometimes referred to as “Medic One”). The City of Seattle operates and funds a Medic One emergency services program that is separate from the county program but is part of the regional delivery system.

The EMS system relies on a tiered approach, consisting of five elements, to deliver necessary medical intervention in the most efficient manner possible:

1. A patient or bystander accesses the Medic One/EMS system by calling 9-1-1 for medical assistance.
2. Calls to 9-1-1 are received and triaged by professional dispatchers who determine the most appropriate level of care needed.
3. The Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel respond to all service requests and services are provided by first responders to an incident, generally firefighters who have trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMS levy contributes some BLS funding to local fire agencies to help offset costs of providing EMS services; however, most BLS funding is raised and managed locally.
4. Advanced Life Support (ALS) is activated when the response requires out-of-hospital emergency medical care for critical or life-threatening injuries and illnesses. ALS is provided by highly trained paramedics on 27 medic units located throughout King County and is funded entirely by the Medic One/EMS levy.
5. Once a patient is stabilized, it is determined whether transport to a hospital or clinic for further medical attention is needed. Transport is most often provided by an ALS agency, BLS agency, private ambulance or taxi for lower acuity situations.

### **Current 2020-2025 EMS Levy**

The regional Medic One/EMS system is primarily funded by a countywide, voter-approved EMS levy which will expire December 31, 2025. The levy funds four main areas: (1) ALS services, (2) BLS services, (3) Regional Support Services, and (4) Strategic Initiatives.

The current levy was approved beginning in 2020 at a rate of 26.5-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) and has lowered to a rate of 22.1 cents for 2025 due to increases in AV. As required by state law, annual county levy increases are restricted to 1% plus new construction.

Therefore, as the AV increases, the EMS levy rate must decrease to stay within the cap:

- 2020 levy rate: 26.5 cents
- 2021 levy rate: 26.5 cents
- 2022 levy rate: 24.8 cents
- 2023 levy rate: 20.9 cents
- 2024 levy rate: 22.67 cents
- 2025 levy rate: 22.1 cents



The 2020-2025 levy revenues are anticipated to total approximately \$1.1 billion for the six-year period. However, continuing at a 22.1 cent levy rate will not generate the 2026-2031 EMS system budget needs, estimated at \$1.552 billion over the renewed levy period.

### **EMS Advisory Task Force**

The EMS Advisory Task Force, composed of elected officials and their delegates, met from February to September 2024, and made recommendations for the levy renewal:

- Enact a levy rate of 25 cents per \$1,000 AV
- Continue using financial policies for the upcoming levy and meet the needs of the 2026-2031 levy span
- Continue services from the current levy:
  - Fully fund ALS services and continue operations with the current ALS units in service
  - Partially fund BLS services for local fire and emergency response departments
  - Help support Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) programs to assist lower acuity and complex patients
  - Maintain programs that provide essential support to the system
  - Pursue initiatives that encourage efficiencies, innovation, and leadership
- Meet future demands:
  - Enhancing programs to meet increased EMT hiring, low-acuity patients and community needs, and existing data and e-learning technology
  - Strengthening community interactions and partnerships
  - Including a placeholder for the equivalent of a new medic unit, should service demands be higher than originally anticipated.

The King County Executive transmitted a proposed [Medic One/ EMS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan](#) and EMS Levy ordinance, based on the Task Force's recommendations.

### **2026-2031 EMS Levy Renewal**

The EMS Advisory Task Force has endorsed an initial EMS levy rate of 25-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2026-2031. Levy revenues under the proposed levy rate are estimated to total approximately \$1.552 billion for the six-year period. The levy proposal would cost the typical King County homeowner \$211 per year in 2026, based on an \$844,000 home value.

Due to budgetary needs, King County must reset the new EMS levy rate from the 22.1 cent levy rate in 2025 to the 25-cent levy rate in 2026 (subject to the 1% plus new construction annual increase restriction). The forecast levy rate reflects the 1% plus new construction cap:

- 2026 levy rate: 25 cents
- 2027 levy rate: 24.5 cents
- 2028 levy rate: 24 cents
- 2029 levy rate: 23.5 cents
- 2030 levy rate: 22.9 cents
- 2031 levy rate: 22.4 cents

The proposed budget maintains funding for the system’s key services of ALS, BLS, regional programs, and initiatives, while making some changes ( [Attachment A](#) ). The 2026-2031 levy financial plan also assumes that a total of \$64.4 million from the 2020-2025 levy reserves will carry forward to the 2026-2031 levy period to reduce the need to raise funds in the next levy. Additional information can be found in the [Medic One/EMS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan](#) .

### Levy Approval Process

Under [RCW 84.52.069](#) , a countywide Medic One/EMS levy requires that at least 75% of the legislative authorities of those cities with a population above 50,000 must approve placing the levy on the ballot. King County has 11 such cities: Bellevue, Renton, Redmond, Shoreline, Sammamish, Kent, Kirkland, Auburn, Federal Way, Burien, and Seattle. In addition, the King County Council must endorse placing the levy on the ballot.

The King County Executive has transmitted the [EMS levy ordinance](#) and an accompanying Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan, which is the EMS system’s primary policy and financial document, to the County Council. The EMS levy ordinance has been referred to the Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee, while the Strategic Plan has been dually referred to both BFM and the Regional Policy Committee. If approved by the requisite cities, and King County Council, the EMS levy will be placed on the November 2025 general election ballot. The levy must then be approved by a simple majority of voters.

### Next Steps

The King County EMS staff have briefed 9 out of 11 of the cities, with 7 resolutions passed so far, and 2 pending resolutions scheduled for action:

City	Status
1. Bellevue	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
2. Renton	Resolution to be brought to City Council again in early June
3. Redmond	Resolution on consent calendar for May 20
4. Shoreline	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
5. Sammamish	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
6. Kent	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
7. Kirkland	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
8. Auburn	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
9. Federal Way	<b>Passed Resolution</b>
10. Burien	Meeting on May 19
11. Seattle	TBD

Once at least 9 cities endorse placing the EMS levy on the ballot, the levy ordinance could proceed to the King County Council BFM as early as June 10, 2025. If approved by the Council, the levy would be placed on the November 2025 general election ballot.

The Regional Policy Committee could vote on the Strategic Plan on June 11, after which the Plan would proceed to the King County Council for a vote on June 24.

Additional information can be found in the framework for the 2026-2031 Medic One/EMS Levy Planning Process and EMS Levy Fact Sheet ( [Attachment B](#) ).

## Emergency Medical Services Programmatic Changes Between Levies

Adapted from the [Medic One/EMS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan](#)

Advanced Life Support Programmatic Comparison	
2020-2025 Levy	2026-2031 Levy
Maintain current level of ALS service	Maintain current level of ALS service
0 planned additional units	0 planned additional units
\$11.6 million “placeholder”/reserve should service demands require additional units over the span of the 2020-2025 levy	\$15.8 million “placeholder”/reserve should service demands require additional units over the span of the 2026-2031 levy
Average Unit Allocation over span of levy (KC): \$3.2 million	Average Unit Allocation over span of levy (KC): \$4.1 million
Piloted two ALS-based programs that benefit the regional system in 2024-2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALS Support of BLS Activities</li> <li>- Having paramedics guide and train students at Harborview’s Paramedic Training Program</li> </ul>	Support two ALS-based programs that benefit the regional system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALS Support of BLS Activities</li> <li>- Having paramedics guide and train students at Harborview’s Paramedic Training Program</li> </ul>
Operating Allocation Inflater: CPI (using CPI-W + 1%) to inflate annual costs Equipment allocation: Transportation Equipment PPI	
Basic Life Support (BLS) Programmatic Comparison	
2020-2025 Levy	2026-2031 Levy
Consolidate the funding for the BLS Core Services program and the BLS Training and QI Initiative with the allocation to simplify contract administration; maintain designated programmatic funding and usage requirements.	Consolidate BLS Training & QI funding into the Basic BLS allocation; remove requirements that it be spent on QI activities
For the first year, distribute full funding amount across all agencies using BLS allocation methodology of 50% AV and 50% call volumes; reset the first year using updated data; increase funding to ensure consistency in the first year.	Allocate new funding and annual increases to BLS agencies using methodology that is based on 60% Call Volumes and 40% Assessed Valuation.
Inflate costs at CPI-W + 1%	
Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Programmatic Comparison	
2020-2025 Levy	2026-2031 Levy
Provide \$26 million over 6 years for MIH.	Provide \$50 million over 6 years for MIH.
For the first year, distribute full funding amount across all agencies using BLS	For the first year, distribute new funding across all agencies using new BLS allocation

allocation methodology of 50% AV and 50% call volumes.	methodology of 60% Call Volumes and 40% Assessed Valuation.
Inflate each agency's funding in subsequent years of levy by CPI-W + 1%.	Inflate costs annually at CPI-W + 1%. Distribute subsequent years' funding using 60% CV/40% AV methodology.
<b>Regional Services (RS) Programmatic Comparison</b>	
<b>2020-2025 Levy</b>	<b>2026-2031 Levy</b>
Fund regional services that focus on superior medical training, oversight, and improvement; innovative programs and strategies; regional leadership, effectiveness and efficiencies.	Fund regional services that focus on superior medical training, oversight, and improvement; innovative programs and strategies; regional leadership, effectiveness and efficiencies; and strengthening community interactions and partnerships.
Move BLS Core Services program out of Regional Services budget and into BLS allocation.	Enhance programs to meet regional needs.
Inflate costs at CPI-W + 1%	
<b>Strategic Initiatives (SI) and Other Program Comparison</b>	
<b>2020-2025 Levy</b>	<b>2026-2031 Levy</b>
Convert or integrate five strategic initiatives with other programs to supplement system performance. Explore a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) model to address community needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convert BLS Efficiencies into ongoing programs</li> <li>- Transition CMT and E&amp;E into MIH exploration</li> <li>- Convert RMS into ongoing programs</li> <li>- Integrate the BLS Training and QI SI into the BLS Allocation</li> </ul>	
Support existing and new strategic initiatives that leverage previous investments made to improve patient care and outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue implementing next stages of Vulnerable Populations</li> <li>- Develop two new Initiatives: 1) AEIOU and 2) STRIVE</li> <li>- Transition Community Medical Technician into MIH exploration</li> </ul>	Support existing and new strategic initiatives that leverage previous investments made to improve patient care and outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue implementing next stages of Vulnerable Populations -&gt; ECHO and AEIOU -&gt; PRIME</li> <li>- Develop one new Initiative focused on Emergency Medical Dispatch</li> <li>- Support KCFCA proposals promoting mental wellness and ERSJ/DEI</li> </ul>

Provide regular updates to past audit recommendations	
Inflate costs at CPI-W + 1%	

# Framework for the 2026-2031 Medic One/EMS levy planning process

## OVERVIEW

The King County Medic One/EMS system is funded principally via countywide, voter-approved EMS levy. **The current six-year (2020-2025) Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025.** The EMS Division brought together regional partners and the EMS Advisory Task Force to develop a new Strategic Plan and levy for King County voters to renew in 2025.

## PROCESS

This all-inclusive process was rooted in partnerships and consensus-building. It took eight months to develop, finalize, and obtain *Task Force* support for levy recommendations.

### 1. EMS Advisory Task Force

- Consists of regional elected officials and decision-makers.
- Responsible for overseeing the development and vetting of Medic One/EMS levies.
- Reviews and endorses broad policy decisions for the system:
  - Current and projected EMS system programmatic needs;
  - Financial Plan based on those needs; and
  - Levy rate, levy length, and timing of levy ballot measure.

### 2. Subcommittees

- **4 subcommittees** conducted the bulk of the program and cost analysis. They met once a month (except Finance, which meets every few months). These 4 subcommittees focused on the areas of:
  - Advanced Life Support (ALS, or paramedics)
  - Basic Life Support (BLS, or FF/EMTs)
  - Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives (core support services and pilots)
  - Finance
- Subcommittees were chaired by EMS Advisory Task Force members.
- Subcommittees consisted of EMS partners and subject matter experts from all aspects of Medic One/EMS system.
- Subcommittees generated recommendations; the Finance Subcommittee reviewed a financial plan to support these needs; Subcommittees present to *Task Force*.

## NEXT STEPS

Convene Task Force (kickoff levy planning process)	February 15, 2024
Initiate Subcommittee meetings	March 2024
Recommendations finalized	September 2024
Strategic Plan & Levy Ordinance to King County Council	April 2025

## **EMS LEVY FACT SHEET**

### **What is Medic One/EMS?**

Any time you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, you are using the Medic One/EMS system. The Medic One/EMS system serving Seattle and King County is known worldwide for its excellence and innovation.

It serves over **2.3 million people** throughout King County and provides lifesaving services on average **every 2 minutes**.

In 2024, the Medic One/EMS system treated over **255,000 people** in King County.

In 2023, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was **51%** throughout the region.

Because of our strong program, cardiac arrest victims here are **2 to 3 times more likely to survive**, compared to other cities.

### **Why does our system work so well?**

We get these high survival rates because of the unique configuration of our system. It includes the following key components:

It is a regional system based on partnerships that are built on collaborative, cross-jurisdictional coordination so that no matter where you are in King County, you receive the same, consistent, high quality medical care.

It uses a tiered medical model founded on medicine so its services and practices are based on the highest standards of training, care, and scientific evidence.

It is equity-driven and committed to providing high-quality emergency medical services that uplift and safeguard the well-being of all King County communities.

It uses programs and innovative strategies to obtain superior medical outcomes and continually improve to meet its own needs and expectations, and those of its residents.

It is funded by an EMS levy which has proven to be reliable and stable.

### **What is the EMS levy?**

The Medic One/EMS system of King County has been primarily supported by a countywide, voter-approved EMS levy since 1979.

The current Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025.

Voters will be asked to renew the levy in order to continue funding this life-saving service.

In 2024, the region undertook a comprehensive levy planning process to develop the Strategic Plan and levy rate for the next Medic One/EMS levy.

This brought together **leaders and decision-makers from throughout region** and **EMS system partners** to assess the needs of the system and develop recommendations to direct the system into the future.



## EMS Advisory Task Force for the 2026-2031 levy planning process

	Name	Organization	Representation Category
1	Karan Gill	Chief of Staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine	King County Executive
2	Reagan Dunn	Councilmember, King County	King County Council
3	Tom Goff	Director of Local and Regional Affairs, King County Council	King County Council
4	Brad Thompson	Fire Chief, Valley Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Auburn	Cities over 50,000 in population
5	Lynne Robinson	Mayor, City of Bellevue	Cities over 50,000 in population
6	Kevin Schilling	Mayor, City of Burien	Cities over 50,000 in population
7	Jim Ferrell	Mayor, City of Federal Way	Cities over 50,000 in population
8	Brian Carson	Fire Chief, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Kent	Cities over 50,000 in population
9	Penny Sweet	Councilmember, City of Kirkland	Cities over 50,000 in population
10	Angela Birney	Mayor, City of Redmond	Cities over 50,000 in population
11	Armondo Pavone	Mayor, City of Renton	Cities over 50,000 in population
12	Karen Howe	Deputy Mayor, City of Sammamish	Cities over 50,000 in population
13	Harold Scoggins	Fire Chief, City of Seattle	Cities over 50,000 in population
14	Keith Scully	Councilmember, City of Shoreline	Cities over 50,000 in population
15	Vic Kave	Mayor, City of Pacific	Cities under 50,000 in population
16	Catherine Cotton	Councilmember, City of Snoqualmie	Cities under 50,000 in population
17	Sean Kelly	Mayor, City of Maple Valley	Cities under 50,000 in population
18	Don Gentry	Fire Commissioner, Mountain View Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
19	Anita Sandall	Fire Commissioner, Eastside Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
20	Jenny Jones	Fire Commissioner, Enumclaw Fire Dept	King County Fire Commissioners

# **MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS)**

- CONTINUE USING the unit allocation to fund ALS, but with slight revisions to better ensure full funding.
- INCLUDE A "PLACE HOLDER" in the Financial Plan to for a new medic unit, should service demands require adding one over the 2026-2031 levy span.
- CONTINUE SUPPORTING the two ALS-based programs that support the region - the ALS Support for BLS Activities and having paramedics train paramedic students.

## **BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)**

- INCREASE TOTAL BLS FUNDING by at least \$3 million in the first year, \$5 million if it can be done within a 26.5 cent levy rate.
- DISTRIBUTE 60% of this new funding to the BLS Basic Allocation, and 40% into Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH).
- DISTRIBUTE new funds and annual increases based 60% on call volumes and 40% on AV.
- SUPPORT mental wellness and ERSJ/DEI efforts proposed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association.

## **REGIONAL SERVICES**

- CONTINUE delivering programs that provide essential support to the system.
- ENHANCE current programs to meet regional needs.
- MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP Strategic Initiatives that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes.
- SUPPORT mental wellness and ERSJ/DEI efforts proposed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association.

## **FINANCE**

- INCLUDE sufficient reserves in the Financial Plan to mitigate potential risks.
- PURSUE a 6-year levy.
- FORWARD the Updated Initial Proposed Financial Plan that supports a six-year budget of \$1.5 billion with a 25 cent EMS levy to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for consideration and adoption.

**Item 09:**  
**Solid Waste Rate Proposal**

***DISCUSSION***

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**SCA Staff Contact**

Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, [laura@soundcities.org](mailto:laura@soundcities.org) , (206) 849-7864

**SCA Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members**

Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish; Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Shoreline

**Discussion**

The Solid Waste Division (SWD) has been preparing the 2026 rate proposal, which has been presented to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC). Commercial rates are proposed to increase by 8.8% overall, while self-haul rates are proposed to increase 12.5%.

This month, SWAC and MSWAC will be briefed on finalized rate proposals from SWD and the King County Executive and begin drafting response letters. In June, the response letters will be finalized and transmitted to the King County Council. PIC will be joined by King County Solid Waste Division staff who will provide an overview of the rate forecasting process and proposal.

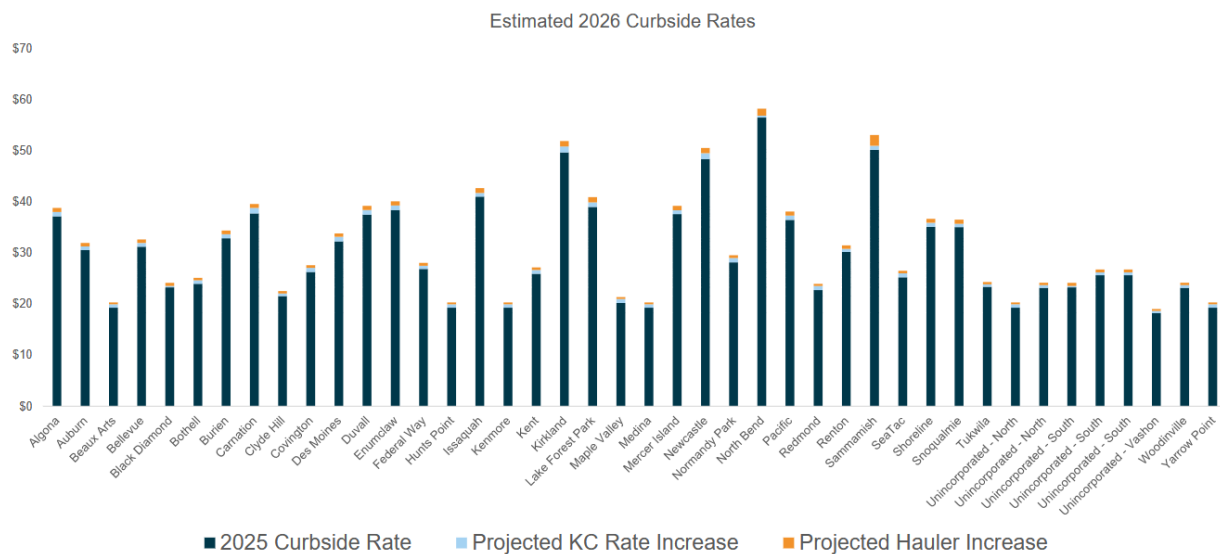
**Solid Waste Division Rate Planning**

SWD has finalized their proposal for 2026 rates. Originally, SWD had developed a rate proposal for the 2026-2027 biennium. However, in May, SWD shifted to a single-year increase proposal; they will develop a new rate proposal for 2027 by Q1 of 2026. This will allow for additional engagement among the County, cities, and other partners. The County will also review its capital program and strategy.

The 2026 rates are based on forecasts that extend through 2031. The revenue requirement is increasing by a net 5% in 2026, and can be largely categorized as capital expenditures, operating expenditures, and landfill reserve fund. Of these, capital expenditures is the largest-increasing category, increasing from \$34 million in 2025 to \$99 million in 2031 (the end of the rate forecast). These increases stem from large projects that fulfill the 2019 Comprehensive Plan commitments such as the South County Recycling and Transfer Station, Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station, and Area 9 Development and Facilities Relocation. Rate increases are proposed to cover the increased revenue requirement.

SWD charges a commercial rate and a self-haul rate. Overall commercial rates consist of two components: a tipping fee, which represents the per-ton garbage disposal fee, and a fixed

annual charge, a fixed amount not based on tonnage disposed to account for revenue loss due to waste diversion efforts. The tipping fee is proposed to increase 8.0% and the fixed annual charge is proposed to increase 13%. Once aggregated into an overall commercial rate, this represents an 8.8% increase. Self-haul rates are proposed to increase 12.5%, as are yard waste rates. SWD charges contract cities and private haulers for their waste, who then bill curbside customers. Therefore, exact rates customers pay will likely vary by city. A projection of curbside rates by city are included in the graph below; projected rates by cities can also be explored in this [linked spreadsheet](#) developed by SWD. Please note that projected rates are based on best available data and may vary depending on specific contract provisions.



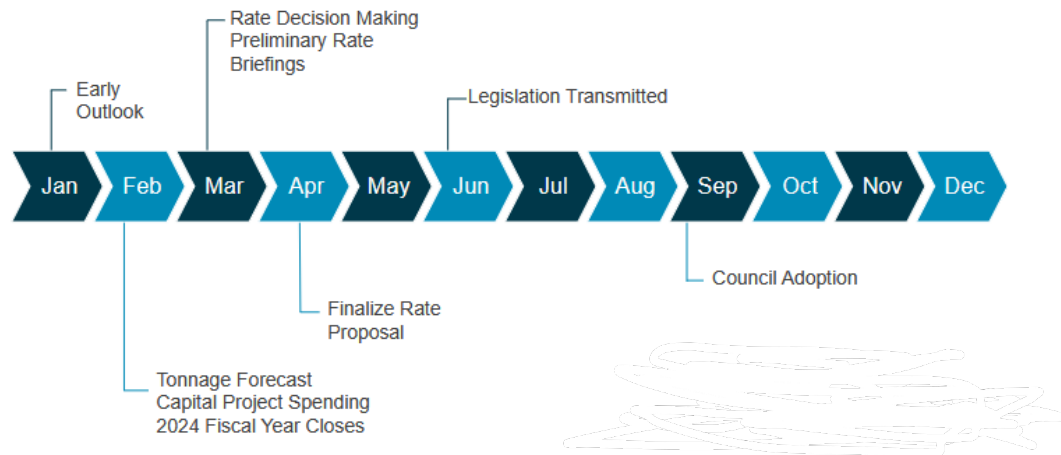
Estimated curbside rates by city provided in Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting materials for May 2025.

The King County Auditor's Office released a letter on Solid Waste rates stating that rate increases are in part due to several large capital projects, which are mostly in early phases and could therefore be scoped back or eliminated to mitigate rate impacts. The letter includes that SWD has been depleting its rate stabilization reserve, meaning that the only way to reduce future rate increases is to reduce future spending. A summary of and link to the Auditor's Office's letter can be found at the following link:

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/independents/governance-and-leadership/government-oversight/auditors-office/reports-papers/reports/2025/swd-rates> .

SWD discussed with SWAC one option to reduce rates, which consists of delaying the construction of the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station and Permanent Facilities Solution. This alternative would reduce commercial rates by around an average of 1.8% (tipping fee increases would then be 6.5%, while fixed annual charge increases would then be 13%). However, SWD has said this alternative does not include additional maintenance and renewal for interim, aging facilities that would still be in use and would also wipe out SWD's recession reserve. SWD has also suggested this alternative might lead to higher rates in the long run.

SWD has been working on forecasting and developing a proposal for rates, which have been presented to members of SWAC and MSWAC. This month, SWAC and MSWAC will hear briefings on a finalized rate proposal and develop corresponding rate response letters, ahead of rate transmittal to the King County Council in June. The full timeline for SWD's rate process is below.



Rate timeline provided in Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting materials for May 2025.

The fixed annual charge for 2026 will be \$26,838,510. An initial allocation table will be shared by SWD on May 30, with city and hauler feedback requested by June 27. Two office hours will be held on June 12 at 9 am and June 25 at 2 pm. SWD will release a revised table on July 3, which cities and haulers will review by July 30, for final release of the fixed annual charge allocation table on August 4.

### Next Steps

Members of SWAC, including the SCA SWAC caucus, have discussed drafting a letter to respond to the rate proposal. This letter will be discussed at the May 9 SWAC meeting, at a working session later in May, and again at the June 13 SWAC meeting. The letter will be finalized and voted on at the June 13 SWAC meeting and subsequently transmitted to the King County Council on June 18. SCA staff are hoping to bring this discussion to PIC for any input to inform actions of the SCA SWAC Caucus.

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Laura Belmont at [laura@soundcities.org](mailto:laura@soundcities.org) or 206-849-7864.



May 14, 2025  
SCA PIC Meeting

**Item 10:**  
**Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**  
**UPDATE**

**SCA Staff Contact**

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, [andie@soundcities.org](mailto:andie@soundcities.org) , (206) 724-4060

**Update**

The upcoming King County levies and ballot measures are below. PIC members are encouraged to share upcoming or recently approved city and special districts levies and ballot measures with SCA staff.

Upcoming Ballot Measures – King County				
Year	Month	Measure	Proposed Levy Rate	Status Update
2025	April	Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Levy renewal	\$0.0275 per \$1000 of assessed property value (decrease from current \$0.03501 levy rate)	Approved by voters
2025	August	Parks Levy renewal	\$0.2329 per \$1000 of assed property value (increase from current \$0.1973 levy rate)	King County Council approved placing on the August 5 ballot
2025	November	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy renewal	\$0.250 per \$1000 of assed property value	EMS staff has been meeting with the 11 individual jurisdictions required to approve the levy by resolution; if approved, the levy will be placed on the November general election ballot
2026	TBD	King County Library System levy lid lift	TBD	KCLS staff are exploring options for a possible levy lid lift

Other Renewals – King County		
Year	Renewal	Status Update
2026	Mental Illness & Drug Dependency (MIDD) 0.1% sales tax renewal	DCHS is hosting community engagement sessions and working with the Executive’s Office to finalize the remainder of the steps and dates