



SCA Public Issues Committee

June 11, 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/86541521931?pwd=5uh3yohlqwbknegn8boliptd9kygnb.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 865 4152 1931 / Passcode: 251416

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 – May 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) 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 Updates](#) 30 minutes
[UPDATE](#)
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SCA Policy Staff
7. [Revising the Public Issues Committee](#) 30 minutes
[DISCUSSION](#)
Page 18
Robert Feldstein, Executive Director
8. [House Bill 2015 & New Criminal Justice Sales Tax](#) [DISCUSSION](#) 30 minutes
Page 22
Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst
9. [King County Transportation District Sales Tax](#) 20 minutes
[DISCUSSION](#)
Page 28
Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst
10. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#) 5 minutes

UPDATE

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Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst

11. June Newsletter

5 minutes

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst

12. Proposed Standing Item: Upcoming SCA Meeting with the Executive's Office

13. For the Good of the Order

14. Adjourn

Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Monthly Leadership Meeting with the Executive's Office - TBD
- b. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- d. SCA Networking Event - (Tentative) Wednesday, July 23, 2025

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

May 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Public Issues Committee (PIC) Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11PM. 20 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included: Tracy Taylor, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Amy Lam, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Jon Gire, Bellevue Staff; Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Chris Searcy, Enumclaw Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Michele Plorde, King County Staff; Misha Lujan, King County Staff; Tania Mondaca, King County Staff; Amy Ockerlander, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD); Christopher Stubbs, King County SWD; Lindy Honaker, King County SWD; Rebecca Singer, King County SWD; and Helen Chatalas, Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

Vice Chair Cimaomo noted that any discussion in the chat for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, to continue the meeting's informational items without quorum. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice 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 .

Hearing none, Vice Chair Cimaomo closed this portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2025 Meeting

This item was moved to later in the agenda because there was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Item was addressed once quorum was reached, following Item 7. Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the April 9, 2025 SCA PIC meeting.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair did not have any updates on behalf of Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, or updates as Vice Chair for tonight's meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein thanked the committee members for attending tonight's meeting.

Feldstein provided an update on the evolution of the Utilities Affordability Summit introduced at the April PIC meeting by the City of Kirkland. Executive Braddock recently announced a 200-day plan which included this summit with partner cities around utility affordability, rapidly speeding up the planning timeline and thus increasing the required staff capacity. SCA will partner with the County on this issue. Feldstein has discussed the summit at the City Managers/City Administrators meeting, and with King County staff John Taylor and Misha Lujan. Following this PIC meeting, Feldstein will meet with the Executive to discuss PIC and other topics.

The next step for PIC is to discuss ways to connect PIC more closely to policy work in committees earlier and upstream to give the caucuses a stronger voice from PIC. An additional goal is to increase PIC attendance.

6. Regional Board and Committee Appointments

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair recommended this item be moved to the next PIC meeting due to lack of quorum. Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, made a point of order to suggest that this item be discussed at this meeting and bring feedback to the decision next month. Leah Willoughby, SCA Chief Operating Officer, suggested the item could be moved to later in the agenda in the hopes of reaching quorum.

This item was moved due to lack of quorum, and was addressed once quorum was reached following Item 7.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein introduced Item 6 and spoke to the PIC Nominating Committee's actions. The PIC Nominating Committee met to review candidates for the Regional Transit Committee (RTC). As detailed in the packet, the Committee recommended elevating Councilmember Neal Black, Kirkland, from an alternate to voting member of RTC and appointing Councilmember Tracy Taylor-Turner, Auburn, as a new alternate.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, expressed appreciation for the work of the committee. Stuart shared concern that this would create an imbalance in RTC membership, as this would result in two fewer voting members from the North Caucus as from the South, and asked if there were other qualified candidates from the North and what factors were considered. Feldstein responded that there was one candidate from the North, several from the South, and one from Snoqualmie Valley. Feldstein also stated that a composition difference of 2 is in keeping with about 40% of committees with similar differences, as on 7 committees the North has a majority by 2 seats and on 5 committees the South has a majority by 2 seats, meaning this is within the

margin of regional balance. He explained that there is variation in membership across types and sizes of committees due to who applies. Geography, history, size of city, form of government, and experience are the five factors considered.

Councilmember Dave Hamilton, Bellevue, raised that geographic distribution of candidates is important for consideration and expressed concern about precedence this sets and feels it seems contrary to the appointment policy.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, mentioned Snoqualmie Valley is not even in PSRC's transportation plan and has no representation in regional plan. Ribail stated finding elected officials to serve on committees is difficult given they hold full-time jobs.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, expressed that over the course of her time at SCA the balances have changed even while striving for equity. Backus shared that even during cases of imbalances, the caucuses work well together given the goal is to focus on SCA as a whole rather than on specific cities. Backus stated that she does not believe this sets precedence as this has been an ongoing practice, though she understands this would be a concern if it occurred in the majority of committees.

Vice Chair Cimaomo welcomed Black as a voting member of RTC pending the vote outcome.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, to approve the recommendations forwarded to SCA Board for final approval at the next full board meeting. The motion passed.

7. Regional Board and Committee Updates

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair asked if there were any questions regarding the Boards and Committees memorandum included in the packet.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, asked about what came of the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) review of the state legislative session with regard to housing issues. Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, clarified that committees in general receive a briefing of what happens at the state legislature, to which the committee reacts and responds. Members of the AHC SCA Caucus specifically asked for a deeper dive on the affordable housing agenda and received an update on that from AHC staff.

Councilmember Dave Hamilton, Bellevue, asked for clarification that PIC is on Item 7, and thanked the staff for these updates as a helpful tool. Hamilton asked about updates on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Sales Tax Renewal item, and if PIC will be able to see this issue in the future. Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, explained that staff have reached out to MIDD staff to see if they are available to present at the next PIC meeting, or another time soon in a different format. Belmont encouraged cities with human services or other subject matter experts interested in providing feedback on the renewal to reach out to SCA so a group can be convened.

Hamilton also asked if SCA will be sharing outcomes of the state legislative session or weighing in on federal budget reductions that have significant impacts on cities. SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein said that SCA is following the lead of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), since AWC is more resourced at the state level. Feldstein shared that SCA staff are having informal conversations on how entities are responding to federal action, such as with city managers and deputy mayors, but have not done a federal overview.

At this time, quorum was achieved, so Items 3 and 7 were subsequently addressed before moving forward with the rest of the agenda.

8. Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal

Presentation by King County Emergency Medical Services Director Michele Plorde. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Plorde gave an overview of the Medic One/EMS levy renewal process. An 8-month process was held to develop recommendations for the Strategic Plan and finance plan for King County voters to consider renewal in 2025. 75% (9 out of 11) of the cities in King County with a population over 50,000 must approve it for the ballot, as must the King County Council. The King County Executive transmitted it to the King County Council in April.

Any time 911 is called, the Medic One/EMS system is used. It serves 2.3 million people throughout the County and provides services every two minutes. It has responded to over 255,000 calls in the County in 2024, with a survival rate for cardiac arrest of 51%. The regional system is centered on partnerships and uses a tiered response model that is equity-driven and committed to providing high-quality care. The system also tries to innovate new strategies in pilot programs before bringing them to the rest of the county.

The task force needed to identify programmatic needs, develop a financial plan, provide sufficient reserves, and recommend a levy length, rate, and ballot timing. All money raised in the City of Seattle is retained within Seattle.

The 2020-2025 Medic One/EMS levy had a starting rate of 26.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to generate \$1.115 billion over a six-year period. The levy funds Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), regional services, strategic initiatives, and reserves.

The EMS Advisory Taskforce had 20 seats, which were held by cities with 50,000+ in population, the Sound Cities Association, Fire Commissioners, the King County Council, and the King County Executive's Office. Four subcommittees were also designed to report back to the full taskforce, which developed key recommendations.

For the ALS subcommittee, the recommendations were to continue using the ALS allocation methodology, include a place holder for potential new services, and continue using reserves and contingencies to cover unanticipated costs. For the BLS Subcommittee, the recommendations

were to increase total BLS funding as they are asked to do more, inflate funding annually by a CPI-W+1, distribute funding 60% call volume to 40% assess value to promote equity and access, and support Fire Chiefs' mental wellness and equity and inclusion efforts. The Regional services committee recommended continuing the delivery of programs, enhancing programs such as initial EMT trainings for new staff, and maintaining and developing strategic initiatives. These initiatives are ECHO (which aims to enhance education about EMS in the community), PRIME (data systems), and a new emergency medical dispatch system.

Plorde overviewed expected costs over the life of the levy. The finance subcommittee recommended a risk analysis to determine appropriate reserves, which are driven by revenues such as beginning assessed valuation and expenditures such as the number of ALS units and cost per unit. Each risk scenario has a range, for a total range of \$31.8-76.9 million. Total revenues were originally estimated at \$1,552,700,000 while expenditures and reserves are estimated at \$1,505,700,000, for a total reserve of \$47 million. Currently, total revenues are estimated at \$1,526,300,000 while expenditures and reserves are estimated at \$1,505,900,000 million, for a total reserve of \$20.4 million. The levy is set to appear on the November 2025 ballot.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, expressed that, while we are dealing with levy fatigue, as a former firefighter and EMT, this is probably the best and most well-thought-out levy. Ribail stated having ALS is vital in dire situations and shared appreciation for the presentation.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, echoed Ribail's comments, saying this was a well-laid-out levy with an important cause that deserves support despite levy fatigue.

9. Solid Waste Division Rate Changes

Presentation by King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) staff. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Christopher Stubbs, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) Deputy Director, began the presentation by sharing that the rate is preliminary and has not been adopted by the King County Council. SWD operates eight transfer stations, 2 rural drop boxes, nine closed landfills, one currently operating landfill, and a zero waste Re+ program.

The revenue to fund this program is primarily generated by the solid waste disposal rate, which is a per-ton charge often referred to as a tipping fee. In the beginning of 2024, SWD introduced the fixed annual charge (FAC), which is independent of the variable tonnage delivered to the system and is instead a fixed charge for each waste hauler based on the proportion of total tonnage each hauler brings into the system. The FAC was instituted to ensure adequate funding for the division in future years as waste diversion and reduction strategies are implemented to reduce overall tonnage in system. The projected revenue for the division in 2025 is expected to total \$175M, primarily derived from disposal fees, which come from self-hauling customers and commercial customers who haul garbage on behalf of residents and businesses. From the commercial stream, about \$102M is from tipping fees, while the FAC is only \$23M. Revenue is mainly used to support direct services, such as costs to operate transfer stations, transport waste to the landfill, and

manage it once it is in the landfill. Revenue is also used to ensure regulatory compliance, strategic planning, household hazardous waste program, and various programs that move county toward future of zero waste of resources (Re+ program). The Re+ program and diversion strategies will yield significant environmental and financial benefits to ratepayers.

The proposed rate increase for 2026 is being driven in part by a projected increase in capital expenditure in the near-term and the resultant debt service the county will accumulate in the outyears. Capital investments are largely driven by projects to modernize and rightsized infrastructure, amplify services offered to ratepayers, and ensure regulatory compliance. These include the South Country Recycling and Transfer Station, the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station, and the acquisition of a natural gas plant. Capital projects are underway to expand the capacity of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

The 2026 rate proposal would increase the average curbside rate by \$0.71 per month, though this varies by jurisdiction and can size. The 32-gallon can size is the most popular in the region and has been used to illustrate rate increases from King County and haulers. Lindy Honaker, King County SWD Special Projects Manager, shared rates can disproportionately impact low-income customers, and therefore SWD has programs for them. Cleanup LIFT allows customers to show an ORCA LIFT, Medicaid, or EBT card to receive a 50% discount at transfer stations. They are also launching a low-income discount program for customers in the UTC, allowing residents in unincorporated King County to access a low-income discount for the first time. Many cities also offer curbside low-income discounts.

The tipping fee is proposed to increase 8.0%, and the FAC is proposed to increase 15%. These are applied to the disposal component of rates. Commercial customers pay more into the system than the cost required to provide them with service, while the inverse is true for self-haul customers, so adjustments are proposed to bring the cost and revenues more into alignment.

Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, announced that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) SCA caucus members, Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Shoreline and Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish, as well as the Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chair Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland, are present to answer any questions PIC members have.

Councilmember Dave Hamilton, Bellevue, expressed appreciation for the flexible approach to rates being considered for 2026, and noted interest in seeing alternatives under consideration to reduce impacts on ratepayers. Hamilton asked about the County's long-term plans to rebuild rainy day and rate stabilization funds. Honaker responded that SWD is proposing single-year increase in part to reevaluate capital activity ahead of the 2027 proposal, and that the long-term plan for the rate stabilization reserve needs to be factored into that as well. Honaker shared a recession reserve will be carried forward.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, stated that Carnation was one of 3 cities to vote against the new solid waste contracts in 2017 when he began his time on Carnation City Council. Ribail expressed that King County has been using landfilling without a proper solution, and that a

solution such as waste-to-energy would have a revenue source, recyclable materials, and would not result in items being buried. He summarized a recent article showing an Apple AirTag placed on a recyclable item ending up in a landfill, underscoring the need to change approaches to handling solid waste.

Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland, stated that it is clear SWD has been working for a long time on a long-term solution and waste-to-energy is a consideration. She also introduced the new SWD Director, Rebecca Singer. Sweet shared that, at this time, the Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) is not submitting a letter of support for this budget allocation to give SWD and MSWAC 2026 to figure out the direction of solid waste. Sweet stated that this will become part of the discussion around a utility affordability evaluation and summit, which has been embraced by King County Executive Shannon Braddock. She expressed that MSWAC is searching for best options for affordability for rate payers with best long-term impacts for the environment. Sweet stated that she anticipates a transition away from landfilling, but that we have the landfill until at least 2039, and it costs less to maximize the use of the landfill until it closes, though a long-term decision is needed soon. Sweet stated that there is excitement for extended producer responsibility, but it and the [Re+ program](#) have many hidden costs that have not been incorporated into long-term thinking. She reiterated that there are many questions to be asked around long-term budgeting, but that for 2026, a rate response letter is ready to be sent.

Deputy Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation, said he appreciated Sweet's comments. Ribail stated that there are many environmental efforts underway and better solutions beyond landfilling exist that have proven to be better in other nations yet have not been taken up by King County. He urged King County to consider making these changes sooner.

Shoreline Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, SCA SWAC Representative, shared that nominal recycling and compost rates leave many items going to the landfill, necessitating changes. Mork shared that a rate response letter from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is written but does not fully reflect the perspective of cities; she shared that the Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee may be more in line with city perspectives.

Sammamish Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, SCA SWAC Representative, encouraged members to review the spreadsheet of city costs for 2026 and work with their public works staff to get a longer-term near-future forecast since each city has different haulers and contracts. Lam stated the affordability summit is coming at an apt time, as she has heard that cities are looking at increases of 30-40% during the renegotiation of their hauler contracts. Lam also stressed that sewer rates are supposed to double in 6 years, which is untenable. She explained that under the upcoming extended producer responsibility programs, producers will pay into a fund that gets paid to municipalities, which could alleviate some of the recycling costs for cities. Lam also noted, however, that this, combined with cities renegotiating contracts, leaves the future of rates feeling uncertain.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA PIC June 11, 2025

Attachment: 1 Draft Minutes of the SCA PIC May 14, 2025

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair requested that members share with SCA staff information regarding city ballot measures and levies, or to share relevant information now. SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein shared this also makes us more useful to others who are planning and trying to discern what cities are doing.

11. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting – Attachment A
May 14, 2025

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

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

SCA PIC May 14, 2025

Attachment B: Chat Log

(no content to record)



June 11, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6: Regional Boards & Committees Update **UPDATE**

SCA Staff Contacts

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

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

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

Update

At the June 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
Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)	Chair: Amy Falcone, Kirkland Vice Chair: Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah Nigel Herbig, Kenmore Ryan McIrvine, Renton Lynne Robinson, Bellevue Annette Ademasu, Shoreline Dana Parnello, Maple Valley Christina Rustik, North Bend	Thurs., June 5	Approved the AHC Recommended Strategic Direction and charter amendments; goes next to the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) for approval. Discussed the challenges and successes of the Housing-focused Draft Comprehensive Plan Review Program, which took place in 2024.	Thurs., Sept. 4
PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)	Chair: Melissa Stuart, Redmond Vice Chair: Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah Ed Prince, Renton Pam Stuart, Sammamish Satwinder Kaur, Kent Amy McHenry, Duvall	Thurs., June 5	Approved comprehensive plans for 7 jurisdictions. Conditionally certified plans for 2 jurisdictions (plans must be updated by December 31; PSRC has communicated extensively with both jurisdictions).	Thurs., July 3
Hazardous Waste Management Coordination Committee (MCC)	Councilmember John Boyd, Kent; Councilmember Kim-Khánh Văn, Renton	Tues., May 20	Approved the 2026-2027 budget, reviewed the 2024 Annual Report, and discussed the Hazardous Waste Program's efforts on PFAS.	Thurs., July 24
Mental Illness and Drug	Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Kent;	Thurs., June 5	Transmittal of the MIDD Behavioral Health Sales Tax	Thurs., July 24

Dependency Advisory Committee (MIDD)	Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle		Renewal Ordinance has been delayed. Reviewed the 2024 MIDD Annual Report and the structure of the MIDD Advisory Committee.	
Regional Policy Committee (RPC)	Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Debra Srebnik, Kenmore	Wed., May 14	Received the first briefing on the 2026-2031 EMS Levy Ordinance and Medic One/EMS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. RPC caucus members have been working on amendments to the Strategic Plan, up for discussion and possible action at the June RPC meeting.	Wed., June 11
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)	Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish; Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Shoreline	Fri., May 9	Discussed the 2026 Rate Proposal and comments for a rate response letter which will be finalized at the June meeting. Reviewed Comprehensive Plan Chapters 5&6.	Fri., June 13

Item 7:

Revising the Public Issues Committee

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

SCA is proposing adjusting the focus of PIC meetings from a venue of mostly presentations to a venue mostly focused on discussions among PIC Representatives about issues in regional committees and in our cities. This comes in response to feedback from the 2025 SCA Membership Survey and multiple conversations with current and former SCA members, board members, and engaged stakeholders. The goal of tonight's PIC discussion is to gain feedback on the proposed changes to help build a stronger, more responsive, and more inclusive PIC that helps support more robust and well-informed advocacy by SCA members across the region.

Background

SCA's Public Issues Committee first arose in 2004 as an idea from the board's retreat facilitator, Enid Layes and met for the first time on July 29, 2004 – the attendance notes that 7 members attended, but that Rosmarie Ives (Redmond) could not. PIC was designed to serve as a monthly opportunity for SCA members from across their cities to check in with each other on regional issues and the work in regional committees and ensure they were aligned going forward. Since then, PIC has grown in number of members, details of structure, and regional reputation, but its mission has remained constant. According to current SCA bylaw 4.16.7: "There shall be a Public Issues Committee which shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions." The current outlines on "manner of acting," include the following guidelines (edited for brevity):

- Fifty-one percent of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum;
- The vote of two thirds (2/3) shall be necessary for the advancement of a public policy position to the Board;
- Votes shall be recorded in the minutes in the name of the member city;
- Issues will be heard at one meeting for discussion and may return no sooner than the next meeting for action;
- If necessary, 85% of those present at a regularly scheduled meeting may declare an issue an emergency and the issue may be discussed and voted upon at the same meeting.

Overall, SCA is working to cultivate two interrelated goals: a stronger internal bond among members and stronger external advocacy voice with regional stakeholders. The Public Issues

Committee lies at the nexus of both of these goals – a place where cities can learn from each other, share concerns, and have tough discussions all towards the goal of forging clear direction and consensus for our collective SCA voice in regional issues. The desire for PIC to serve this purpose was reflected in the 2025 SCA Membership Survey regarding improvements to PIC. Major themes from survey responses included the desire to increase the level of discourse on regional issues and to be more proactive in policymaking discussions. Additionally, some respondents wished for a stronger connection between PIC discussions and committee caucus meetings. This discussion will introduce actionable changes for PIC’s consideration that aim to achieve these goals. In response to this feedback, SCA staff have been working to revise PIC meetings as outlined below.

Proposed Revision of PIC

Purpose: Ensure that we optimize our time in PIC to provide new, relevant content about issues that necessitate PIC involvement and will gain value from the full SCA perspective.

- (1) Focus on fewer presentations and more conversations: Move the PIC agenda from listening to presentations (often by the County) to engaging in conversations that begin with shorter presentations by staff (and/or caucus chairs and members) about policy and other issues in their committees. Most often this would manifest as a discussion by all of PIC, taking advantage of the unique composition – a voice for all 38 cities – to provide a way to gather wider perspectives, and ideally, move towards greater consensus on a topic.
- (2) Move longer external presentations to before the PIC meeting. There are challenges with the current lineup of (mostly County) presentations. First, a large balance of PIC’s meeting time is dominated by the presenters; and even the ensuing conversation is often questions directed back at the presenter rather than to other PIC members. Second, while it is new content for some PIC members, others are seeing the same County presentations either in their city council meetings or other boards and committees. Every city has a right to this information, and shifting these presentations to meetings before PIC would preserve PIC time for general, all-member, discussion. We could arrange these to be standing directly before (“pre-PIC”) or try find another agreeable standing time for preparatory briefings (e.g., a lunch or a different evening).
- (3) Identify issues earlier. By reorganizing PIC conversations and presentations, SCA members and staff will all work to get “upstream” on identifying issues that will be coming to regional boards and committees. The ideal timeline identifies an issue early enough to allow for:
 - (1) An initial briefing at PIC by SCA staff, City Staff, or City electeds on the issue and key questions;
 - (2) An intermediate month for PIC Representatives to discuss with their respective city elected and staff colleagues to gather perspective, concerns, ideas, and areas for agreement; and
 - (3) A second PIC meeting with a more robust discussion and possible action taken, informed by all PIC Representatives and their city colleagues.

NOTE: There will, of course, be times that PIC does not have the time to provide two-touches. In those cases, when possible, SCA will work to include more guidance, information, and questions in either/both the PIC preview (2 weeks before) and the PIC package (1 week before), so that PIC Representatives have at least some chance to discuss the issues with their city colleagues before the PIC discussion.

- (4) Follow-up with actions informed by all of SCA. Ideally, in all cases, these PIC discussions will help bring more voices into the room and a greater chance for cities to hear and learn from each other. The nature of the discussion will inform next steps.
- a. No formal action: In most cases, the points raised in the discussion will be taken used to help inform SCA caucuses on how to navigate/address the issue at their regional committees.
 - b. Formal action: In some cases, the PIC may decide that it wants, as a whole, for SCA to take formal action. In those cases, per SCA bylaws, the PIC recommendation would go to the SCA Board for approval.

Examples of when cities, regional boards, or committees would bring their issues to PIC:

- Situation 1: There is pending action by a committee.
Purpose: Inform other SCA cities of the actions and their implications and ensure consensus or no unintended harm. If time allows, PIC can take action on an SCA-wide position to guide the caucus vote.
- Situation 2: When there is agreement among the SCA caucus, but disagreement with the other committee members (e.g., the County, Seattle, or other voices).
Purpose: To help the SCA caucus identify new solutions, gain more nuance from other cities, and/or gather further evidence for their position. This could also lead to action items from SCA to the County Council, Executive, the City of Seattle, or other regional or State leaders to express SCA's consensus opinion on an item. Any such formal action would, per bylaws, need approval by the SCA board.
- Situation 3: When there is disagreement among SCA Caucus members about how to move forward on an item.
Purpose: Bring the issue to the larger PIC for a healthy debate and greater clarity on the sentiments of the full membership.
- Situation 4: When a committee has completed a large body of work or major report.
Purpose: Ensure that all members are informed of any significant milestones, the implications, and how cities may engage (e.g., what's in a new report, toolkit, or action plan).

There are other reasons – outside of committee work – that a city might want to bring an issue to PIC, for example:

- Situation 5: Interest from one or more cities in a PIC discussion about how cities are addressing a challenge (e.g., rampant unauthorized drone usage) or opportunity (e.g., new revenue or grant program).
Purpose: For cities to share best practices, lessons learned, and even simple commiseration about the challenges of working on some issue and ideally identify steps forward or possible areas for collaboration.
- Situation 6: There is concern about a policy or action, such as by the City of Seattle, King County, or the State.
Purpose: For cities to raise awareness – and quite possibly gain alternate perspectives – of an issue that might affect all or many SCA cities and see if there is interest in some form of collective action or response.

Next Steps

- SCA staff will gather feedback and suggestions from SCA PIC representatives at the meeting to help shape the agenda and format of upcoming meetings.
- Barring any larger changes, it is not believed any formal changes are needed to SCA bylaws or that any formal actions will be taken that will be recommended to the Board.

Item 8:

House Bill 2015 & New Criminal Justice Sales Tax

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

SCA Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee Members

Councilmember Neal Black, Kirkland; Councilmember Zandria Michaud, Kent; Councilmember Rob Wotton, Snoqualmie; Mayor Troy Linnell, Algona; Councilmember Steve Sinwell, Clyde Hill; Mayor Eric Zimmerman, Normandy Park; Councilmember Carmen Rivera, Renton; Councilmember Suzan Torguson, North Bend

Discussion

Governor Ferguson signed Washington State House Bill 2015 into law, requiring the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to create a three-year Local Law Enforcement Grant Program for local and tribal law enforcement agencies, and authorizing cities and counties to create 0.1% sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes without voter approval. House Bill 2015 will take effect on July 27, 2025.

At the June PIC meeting, members will discuss their cities' perspectives on House Bill 2015 and its implications. A draft list of discussion questions is provided below. Members are encouraged to consult with their city councils beforehand. The goal is to engage all SCA voices in preparation for the county roundtable.

Existing Public Safety Sales Tax

Under existing Washington law ([RCW 82.14.450](#)), any city or town may impose a public safety sales tax of up to 0.1% with voter approval, and any county may impose a public safety sales tax of up to 0.3% with voter approval. However, the combined city/county public safety sales tax rate may not exceed 0.3% and if it does then the county must credit the surplus back to the city. Similarly, if a county already levies the full 0.3% sales tax, no city within the county may impose a new public safety sales tax because doing so would exceed the maximum 0.3% rate.

As required by Washington law, at least one-third of the public safety sales tax revenues must be used solely for criminal justice purposes (as defined in [RCW 82.14.340](#)), fire protection purposes, or both; “criminal justice purposes” is defined as:

Activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates as defined in [RCW 70.123.020](#)

The public safety tax revenues must be shared between the city and county, but the exact formula depends on which jurisdiction (city, county, or both) placed the issue on the ballot:

- If the county imposes the public safety sales tax, the county retains 60% of any revenues, while the remaining 40% is distributed to the cities within the county on a per capita basis;
- If a city imposes a public safety sales tax, the city retains 85% of the revenues and must share 15% of the revenue with the county; or
- If both city and county have imposed a public safety sales tax, the city keeps 85% of the city sales tax revenue, shares 15% with the county, and also receives a proportional share of the county's sales tax revenue based on population size.

King County does not currently have a public safety sales tax, and only 3 SCA cities (Kirkland, North Bend, Snoqualmie) have a public safety sales tax.

Existing Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Under existing Washington law ([RCW 82.14.340](#)), any county may also impose a criminal justice sales tax of up to 0.1% without voter approval. The criminal justice sales tax may only be imposed by the county, and if imposed, 10% of the revenue is distributed to the county, and the remaining 90% is shared between the county and its cities on a per capita basis. As defined in the RCW, "criminal justice purposes" means activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates. King County does not currently have a criminal justice sales tax.

More information on city and county sales tax laws and requirements in Washington, including revenue sharing examples, can be found in the [Municipal Research Services Council's Revenue Guide for Washington Cities and Towns](#).

Washington State House Bill 2015

The new bill creates two new funding streams: a law enforcement grant program and a local criminal justice sales tax option.

Local Law Enforcement Grant Program

As required by House Bill 2015, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) must develop and implement a Local Law Enforcement Grant Program for the purpose of providing direct support to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in hiring, retaining, and training law enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response. The grant program is funded by \$100 million in the Legislature's 2025-2027 operating budget and expires June 30, 2028. However, the total amount of grant funding potentially available to jurisdictions statewide is not set out in the legislation.

To be eligible for a grant, a law enforcement agency must have:

- Established policies that comply with state law as well as the Attorney General's guidance for law enforcement practices related to citizenship status;

- Participated in CJTC trainings related to behavioral health and first aid;
- Established policies on de-escalation and use of force that incorporate the Attorney General's guidance on duty to intervene and use of police dogs;
- Complied with state laws on use of force data reporting (once that state program is operational);
- Established policies related to civil protection orders and the court-ordered surrender of firearms;
- At least 25% of officers who have completed CJTC crisis intervention team training;
- 100% completion by required officers for CJTC trainings on sexual assault and gender-based violence;
- Received funds from or authorized a public safety or criminal justice sales tax;
- A police chief, sheriff, or marshal who is CJTC-certified and has no felony convictions or gross misdemeanor convictions for moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption; and
- Established policies for supervising agency volunteers, for any insignia worn by volunteers, and for restricting those volunteers from enforcing criminal laws other than for special event traffic and parking, using force, carrying weapons, or using dogs for purposes besides search and rescue.

Grant applicants must also submit to the CJTC:

- Detailed agency staffing reports and plans including co-response teams, administrative staff, specially commissioned officers, and officers on flexible schedules; and
- Average rates for the preceding year for 911 responses and case closures.

In selecting grant recipients, the CJTC will prioritize those law enforcement agency applicants in the following order:

- Those who are seeking grants to establish co-response teams or community immersion law enforcement programs;
- Those who currently maintain co-response teams and are seeking grants to hire additional law enforcement officers;
- All other applicants.

Grant funding may be used for:

- Recruiting and funding new law enforcement officers from the community in which the officer will be working, and recruiting and funding county corrections officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response in Washington State. Grants may provide up to 75 percent of the entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of full time local or tribal law enforcement officers for a maximum of 36 months, with a minimum 25 percent local cash match requirement and a maximum state share of \$125,000 per position;
- Use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed trainings for officers to remain in compliance with CJTC's required trainings (CJTC may provide law enforcement agencies an advance on grant funding for the sole purpose of the law

enforcement agency coming into compliance with the training requirements of the grant application); and

- Broader LE and public safety efforts to include emergency management planning, environmental hazard mitigations, security personnel, community outreach and assistance programs, alternative response programs, and mental health crisis response.

New Local Criminal Justice Sales and Use Tax

While the existing public safety and criminal justice sales taxes are still available with voter approval, House Bill 2015 authorizes cities or counties to create 0.1% sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes, by resolution or ordinance, without voter approval, by June 30, 2028. However, if the city or county voters have rejected the imposition of the local criminal justice sales and use tax or the local public safety sales and use tax within the past 12 months, the city or county may not impose the new sales and use tax. If the city or county has not adopted a resolution or ordinance to impose the tax by June 30, 2028, the city or county may only impose the tax with voter approval.

To collect the sales tax, a jurisdiction must submit documentation to CJTC demonstrating compliance with the grant requirements. The moneys from this tax must be used for criminal justice purposes, meaning activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes:

- Domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates;
- Staffing adequate public defenders to provide appropriate defense for individuals;
- Diversion programs;
- Reentry work for inmates;
- Community placement for juveniles; and
- Local government programs that have a reasonable relationship to reducing the numbers of people interacting with the criminal justice system; community outreach and assistance programs, alternative response programs, and mental health crisis response including but not limited to the recovery navigator program.

Cities and counties who impose this tax must, within one calendar year and annually thereafter, make a report to either the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) or the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) on how the moneys received from the tax were expended. By December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, AWC and WSAC must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature detailing the purposes for which each city and county expended the moneys received from the tax.

More information on House Bill 2015 can be found on the [Washington State Legislature website](#).

New King County Criminal Justice Sales Tax

On June 5, King County Executive Shannon Braddock transmitted a proposal for a countywide criminal justice sales tax to King County Council. The Budget and Fiscal Management Committee will receive their first briefing on the sales tax on June 10.

If approved by the Council, the new revenue would be included in the 2026-2027 county budget. While approximately \$180 million is expected to address projected shortfalls, some funds may be allocated elsewhere or adjusted.

If the County imposes this sales tax, cities are still able to impose their own, so long as the city meets eligibility requirements.

June PIC Discussion

House Bill 2015 & New Criminal Justice Sales Tax

At the June PIC meeting, members will discuss their cities' perspectives on House Bill 2015 and its implications. Members are encouraged to consult their city councils beforehand to ensure full SCA engagement ahead of the county roundtable. A draft list of discussion questions is provided below.

1. Does your city currently impose a public safety sales tax? If yes, what are the successes and challenges?
2. If not, has your city council attempted to pass one, but voters rejected it? Any lessons learned?
3. What is your jurisdiction's top public safety issues and funding needs?
4. Thoughts and concerns about the new councilmanic criminal justice sales tax and Local Law Enforcement Grant Program?
5. Any lingering implementation questions?

Upcoming Public Safety Roundtable

As part of King County Executive Braddock's [200 day plan](#), Executive Braddock announced plans to convene a public safety roundtable, to "better align on smart, equitable safety strategies that can be recommended as part of the 2026-2027 budget." The roundtable is expected to convene in July. In addition to SCA leadership and a few SCA members selected by the PIC Nominating Committee, the roundtable will likely include representatives of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the King County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Seattle. In anticipation of that roundtable, PIC members are encouraged to identify key priorities or concerns regarding public safety among their own city councils and discuss with broader SCA membership at the June PIC meeting. A draft list of discussion questions is provided below.

1. What are your city's top public safety concerns? How would your city prefer any additional revenue be spent?
2. Are there any aspects of the current public safety spending that you think are not working? Is there any current program or resource that you would advocate for moving dollars away from? If so, why, and towards what?
3. Are there other voices – outside of governmental agencies – do you think should be included in a discussion of public safety spending?

Staff Contact

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

Item 9:**King County Transportation District Sales Tax*****DISCUSSION***

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

At the June PIC meeting, members will receive a briefing on the King County Transportation District sales tax increase.

Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) are independent governments that fund and implement transportation improvements. The King County Transportation District (KCTD) is the county-wide TBD, governed by the nine King County Councilmembers. On June 2, the King County Council proposed a 10-year, 0.1% sales tax for transportation improvements, with proceeds split evenly between the Road Services Division and Metro Transit.

Under state law, the TBD Boards can impose a 10-year, 0.1% sales tax without voter approval and are not required to consult or seek input from other jurisdictions or governing bodies, such as the Regional Policy Committee. The 0.1% sales tax would be imposed countywide and would be in addition to the TBD sales tax, and vehicle license fees, currently imposed by the 19 King County jurisdictions with their own TBDs.

Transportation Benefit Districts

Washington state law ([RCW 36.73](#)) allows the creation of local Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs), which are independent governments created to fund and implement transportation improvements. TBDs may be established by the legislative authority of a county or city, and they can encompass territory within a jurisdiction's boundaries, the boundaries of multiple jurisdictions, or a portion of the territory within a jurisdiction's boundaries ([RCW 36.73.020](#)).

State law gives TBDs access to several funding sources, including councilmanic and voter approved sales tax. TBDs have access to a total of 0.3% in increased sales tax, of which 0.1% can be imposed by the TBD Board, and 0.2% requires a popular vote after approval by the TBD ([RCW 82.14.0455](#)).

Although other TBD funding sources can only be used for specific development projects or for defined geographic areas, the sales tax can be used for general transportation improvements within the boundaries of the TBD. According to state law ([RCW 36.73.015](#)), transportation improvement projects may include, "investment in new or existing highways of statewide significance, principal arterials of regional significance, high capacity transportation, public transportation, and other transportation projects and programs of regional or statewide

significance including transportation demand management,” and the operation, preservation, and maintenance of those transportation facilities or programs.

King County Transportation District

King County has a TBD, the King County Transportation District (KCTD). The KCTD encompasses the geographic boundaries of King County and is governed by a Board of Supervisors comprised of the nine King County Councilmembers.

In addition to King County, 19 cities in the county have TBDs: Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Duvall, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Seattle, Shoreline, and Snoqualmie.

New Sales Tax Proposal

King County Councilmembers have proposed a countywide, 10-year, 0.1% sales and use tax for transportation improvements, with revenues distributed equally between the Road Services Division (Roads) and the Metro Transit Department (Metro). The 0.1% sales tax would be imposed countywide and would be in addition to the TBD sales tax currently imposed by local jurisdictions, as listed in the table below.

City	Established	Sales Tax	Vehicle License Fee
Black Diamond	2015		\$20
Burien	2009		\$20
Covington	2013	0.30%	\$20
Des Moines	2008		\$40
Duvall	2015	0.20%	
Enumclaw	2013	0.10%	\$20
Issaquah	2018	0.10%	
Kenmore	2012		\$20
Kirkland	2014		\$20
Lake Forest Park	2008	0.10%	\$50
Maple Valley	2012	0.10%	\$20
Mercer Island	2014		\$20
Normandy Park	2013		\$20
North Bend	2011	0.20%	
Redmond	2023	0.10%	
Renton	2023	0.10%	
Seattle	2010	0.15%	\$50
Shoreline	2009	0.20%	\$40
Snoqualmie	2010	0.30%	

The King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB) estimates that the 0.1% sales tax imposed countywide would collect approximately \$95 million in its first year of

collections. PSB estimates that an increase in the countywide sales tax by 0.1% would have an annual impact of \$40 on the median income household. Retail sales taxes currently average 9.7% in King County. [Attachment A](#) provides a breakdown of total sales taxes, prepared by King County central staff, showing amounts collected by each jurisdiction within King County.

The Council proposal states that any revenues collected by the proposed 0.1% sales tax would first be used to pay administrative costs incurred by KCTD, then the remaining revenues would be dedicated to transportation improvement projects, allocated equally to Roads and Metro. Roads revenues would fund high-priority road and bridge projects; Metro revenues would fund safety and security upgrades for operators and riders (including operator safety shields, as well as safety and cleanliness enhancements at bus stops, transit centers, and on coaches).

More details on the proposal and background are available in the KCTD Board's June meeting materials [here](#). The Urbanist also published an article on the issue, which can be found [here](#).

Legislative Authority

The proposed sales tax does not require review by the regional committees, local jurisdictions, or other governing bodies. The KCTD Board alone has the authority to approve this councilmanic sales tax. In the future, if the KCTD decides for King County to assume its duties, then its responsibilities and funding authority will be managed by the Executive, Council, and regional committees as set forth in the King County Charter. Some local TBDs, including Seattle's, have been assumed into their local government. However, for now, the KCTD remains an independent government and will contract with King County for implementation of services, should the sales tax be imposed.

Timeline

If the KCTD Board approves the sales tax and notifies the State Department of Revenue by October 18, sales tax collections would begin January 1, 2026. The KCTD Board received its first briefing on the news sales tax on Monday, June 2; action has not yet been scheduled.

June PIC Discussion Questions

1. What clarifying questions do you have about the potential new sales tax?
2. What are your thoughts or reactions to the potential of new revenues being dedicated to transportation improvement projects for Roads and Metro?
3. What, if any, actions do you think should be taken now by SCA or member cities in response to the proposal?

Next Steps

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

Local Sales and Use Tax Rates in King County, April 1-June 30, 2025¹

Jurisdiction	Local Rate	State Rate	Total Sales Tax
Unincorp. Areas	0.037	0.065	0.102
Unincorp. Non-RTA ²	0.023	0.065	0.088
Algona	0.037	0.065	0.102
Auburn/King	0.038	0.065	0.103
Auburn/King Non-RTA	0.024	0.065	0.089
Beaux Arts Village	0.037	0.065	0.102
Bellevue	0.037	0.065	0.102
Bellevue Non-RTA	0.023	0.065	0.088
Black Diamond	0.023	0.065	0.088
Bothell/King	0.037	0.065	0.102
Burien	0.037	0.065	0.102
Carnation	0.023	0.065	0.088
Clyde Hill	0.037	0.065	0.102
Covington	0.026	0.065	0.091
Des Moines	0.037	0.065	0.102
Duvall	0.025	0.065	0.090
Enumclaw	0.024	0.065	0.089
Federal Way	0.037	0.065	0.102
Puyallup Tribe - Federal Way	0.037	0.065	0.102
Hunts Point	0.037	0.065	0.102
Issaquah	0.038	0.065	0.103
Issaquah Non-RTA	0.024	0.065	0.089
Kenmore	0.037	0.065	0.102
Kent	0.037	0.065	0.102
Kent Non-RTA	0.023	0.065	0.088
Kirkland	0.038	0.065	0.103
Lake Forest Park	0.038	0.065	0.103
Maple Valley	0.024	0.065	0.089
Medina	0.037	0.065	0.102
Mercer Island	0.037	0.065	0.102
Milton/King	0.037	0.065	0.102
Newcastle	0.037	0.065	0.102
Newcastle Non-RTA	0.023	0.065	0.088
Normandy Park	0.037	0.065	0.102
North Bend	0.026	0.065	0.091
Pacific/King	0.038	0.065	0.103

¹ Source: Washington State Department of Revenue, Q2 2025 ([link](#))

² “Non-RTA” refers to geographic areas located outside the boundaries established for Sound Transit, aka Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (RCW 81.112)

Jurisdiction	Local Rate	State Rate	Total Sales Tax
Redmond	0.038	0.065	0.103
Redmond Non-RTA	0.024	0.065	0.089
Renton	0.038	0.065	0.103
Renton Non-RTA	0.024	0.065	0.089
Sammamish	0.037	0.065	0.102
Sammamish Non-RTA	0.023	0.065	0.088
SeaTac	0.037	0.065	0.102
Seattle	0.0385	0.065	0.1035
Shoreline	0.039	0.065	0.104
Skykomish	0.023	0.065	0.088
Snoqualmie	0.027	0.065	0.092
Tukwila	0.037	0.065	0.102
Woodinville	0.037	0.065	0.102
Woodinville Non-RTA	0.023	0.065	0.088
Yarrow Point	0.038	0.065	0.103

Sales Taxes in King County, April 14, 2025³

Government	Title of Tax	Tax Rate	Notes
State of Washington	General	6.5%	Rate unchanged in over 40 years
King County/Cities	General	1.00%	Within cities, the city gets 0.85% and King County gets 0.15%. The County gets the full amount in unincorporated areas.
King County	Criminal Justice	0.10%	Split with cities by formula. In 2025, King County is projected to receive ~20%.
	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)	0.10%	
	Health Through Housing	0.10%	Except in cities that “opted out” and imposed the same tax.
	Doors Open (Cultural Access)	0.10%	
	Metro	0.9%	
Sound Transit	Sound Transit	1.40%	Only in Sound Transit (RTA) service areas

³ Source: King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, April 14, 2025



June 11, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
Levies and Ballot Measures
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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

Update

The upcoming King County and special district 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	Proposal	Status Update
2025	August	Parks Levy renewal	\$0.2329 per \$1000 of assessed 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 assessed value	The Regional Policy Committee is scheduled to take action on the EMS Levy Ordinance and Medic One/EMS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan at the RPC meeting on June 11
2026	TBD	King County Library System levy lid lift	TBD	KCLS staff are exploring options for a possible levy lid lift

Upcoming Ballot Measures - Special Districts			
Election	Special District	Measure	Proposal
August 2025 Primary (for voters in King County Public Hospital District #2)	EvergreenHealth	Levy Lid Lift	\$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value (increase from \$0.14 per \$1,000 assessed value)

November 2025 General Election	Lake Washington School District	Education Programs & Operations Levy	TBD
November 2025 General Election	Lake Washington School District	Capital Project Levy for Technology and Facilities	TBD

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