



SCA Public Issues Committee
September 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Mercer Island Community & Event Center

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair 5 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) 5 minutes
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4. **Chair’s Report** – Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** - Robert Feldstein, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes
6. Debrief: Sound Transit Tour of Mercer Station 10 minutes
7. [King County Library System \(KCLS\) Levy Lid Lift](#) 20 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 19
KCLS Executive Director Heidi Daniel
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst
8. [KCTD: Prep for Upcoming King County Council Discussion](#) DISCUSSION 20 minutes
Page 20
Robert Feldstein, Executive Director
9. [New Indigent Defense Caseload Standards: SCA Draft Letter](#) POSSIBLE ACTION 30 minutes
Page 22
Robert Feldstein, Executive Director
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst
10. [Updates/Informational Items](#) 15 minutes
Page 30
 - a. Early Feedback on the 2026 State & County Legislative Agendas
 - b. [SCA Regional Boards and Committee Updates](#)
 - c. August & September SCA Newsletter
 - d. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#)

11. For the Good of the Order

12. Adjourn

Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
- b. SCA Lunch & Learn: Opioid Settlement Funds – Thursday, October 2, 2025 – Virtual – [Register Here](#)
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- d. SCA Annual Meeting - Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – Details TBD

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

July 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 7:01 PM. 23 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included: Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Eric Perry, Renton Staff; and Tania Mondaca, King County Staff Misha Lujan, King County Executive Staff.

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

2. Public Comment

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA 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 .

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

3. Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2025 Meeting

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, PIC Chair asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the June 11, 2025 SCA PIC meeting.

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair shared that last month marked SCA and King County Executive Braddock's second meeting. They discussed sales tax measures currently moving through the King County Council, such as the King County Transportation District Sales Tax, MIDD Renewal, and Criminal Justice Sales Tax. Roberts also shared that they discussed the upcoming Criminal Justice Roundtable and asked members to apply to be on the roundtable. He overviewed that the SCA Board will select three members to represent SCA at the roundtable. Roberts also asked members to include Executive Braddock or someone on her staff on their newsletters, as Executive Braddock wants to support cities and local government.

Roberts also shared that there is no PIC meeting scheduled for August; therefore, the next PIC meeting will be Wednesday, September 10 in person at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

5. Executive Director's Report

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, and Laura Belmont, SCA Policy Analyst, reported on behalf of SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein.

Parnell shared that the application is still open to represent SCA on the King County Executive's Public Safety Roundtable, which will be held on July 31 from 12:00-2:30 PM. Elected officials from all SCA cities, and city managers from cities that contract with the county for police services, are encouraged to apply by the end of the business day on July 11. Parnell stated that SCA and the Executive's Office are aiming to represent SCA's diversity at the roundtable, including across geography, contracting of police services, and other factors.

Parnell also stated that the SCA Board of Directors will review draft dues for member cities for 2026 at their July meeting. The goal is to distribute these draft dues to cities in late July to allow cities to include them in their budget planning. Draft dues will be presented to the full membership for approval at the Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 3.

She also shared that Comcast will be sponsoring the Annual Meeting, and that SCA is also planning a fall event in partnership with Boeing at the Museum of Flight. More details on both events will be shared as the events approach. Additionally, SCA is working to coordinate a couple of smaller, regional gatherings.

Belmont stated that the initial meeting of the Steering Committee for the Regional Utilities Affordability Summit was recently held, consisting of County staff, Kirkland City Manager Kurt Triplett, and SCA. The Summit is likely to be a 1-day summit in late October or early November, with predicted follow-up such as workgroup meetings, following the format of the Transit Safety Summit. They shared that the summit is set to span a range of utilities such as solid waste, wastewater, electricity and natural gas, and drinking water, but will not include city by city surface water rates or telecoms such as cable. The County's Solid Waste and Wastewater Treatment Divisions are confirmed as participants, with invitations coming to Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Lights, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Cascade Water Alliance. More information will be released as planning continues. Belmont encouraged members to reach out to them with any questions or concerns.

Parnell also shared that tonight is her last PIC meeting, and thanked members for contributing to her experience at SCA. She also congratulated Aj Foltz, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, on her new role.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, thanked Parnell for her work with SCA.

6. Regional Board and Committee Appointments

Leah Willoughby, SCA Chief Operating Officer, presented on this item. Willoughby overviewed that the PIC Nominating Committee met on June 18, 2025, to review applications for vacancies on the Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force (DVI) and the Joint Recommendations Committee (JRC). One application was received for each committee, though outstanding vacancies remain on DVI, JRC, the Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council, and the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee. She encouraged interested members to reach out to her or any other SCA policy staff members.

Willoughby shared that the Nominating Committee recommended appointing Councilmember Alex Andrade, Burien, as Alternate to the DVI; and Councilmember Jessica Merizan, Carnation, as Member to the JRC.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, to approve the recommendations forwarded to SCA Board for final approval at the next full board meeting.

Curtis raised that two of the four members of the PIC Nominating Committee were absent for the meeting where these recommendations were made and asked whether the bylaws have any attendance-related restrictions. Willoughby stated that the bylaws only require a majority of the Nominating Committee to be present, and that they had 50% attendance and were on a tight timeline. She shared that expected attendance was higher, but there was an excused absence. Curtis stated she wanted to ensure there was a process for handling absences moving forward, which Willoughby stated she would discuss with SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, stated that the recommendations go through both PIC and the SCA Board of Directors so many eyes are on the nominations.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. King County Transportation District Sales Tax

Presentation by SCA Senior Policy Analyst Andie Parnell. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Parnell stated that proposed language changes to the draft letter on the King County Transportation District (KCTD) Sales Tax were incorporated and included in the meeting packet. Parnell explained that she would overview the proposed tax, then PIC members will vote whether to take action, and then, if so, whether to amend the letter further.

Parnell reviewed the proposal for a 10-year, 0.1% sales and use tax for transportation improvements. The tax would be imposed countywide in addition to the sales tax currently imposed by local transportation benefit districts. It is estimated the tax would generate \$95 million in year-one revenue. The revenue would be split evenly among roads, for high-priority road and bridge projects, and metro, for safety and security upgrades for operators and riders. The KCTD Board was briefed on the tax on June 2, and October 18 is the deadline for the

Washington State Department of Revenue to be notified of sales tax approval to begin collections on January 1, 2026.

Parnell reviewed that the KCTD is an independent government; the tax does not require review by the Executive, regional committees, local jurisdictions, or other governing bodies beyond the KCTD Board.

Parnell then overviewed the process SCA has undertaken to draft a letter on the tax. Four weeks prior to this PIC meeting, SCA created the first draft of the letter which was then shared with cities' intergovernmental relations staff members who provided feedback. Two weeks prior to this PIC meeting, a second draft was shared with PIC members and the SCA Board. Last week, the PIC packet (linked [here](#)) went out with the third draft of the letter and was distributed to PIC members, intergovernmental relations staff, and other interested parties. This draft includes proposed changes that were received between the release of the PIC Preview and the PIC packet. The SCA Board also received the PIC packet. Parnell explained that at today's PIC meeting, members may adopt additional amendments or vote to approve the draft as-written in the PIC packet. In either case, members must vote to take emergency action. If action is taken, the letter would be reviewed by the SCA Board at their meeting next week.

Parnell then overviewed the draft letter included in the PIC packet. The sentiment expressed in the letter follows the sentiment shared by members during the June PIC discussion: that now is not the right time for a new sales tax, and regional collaboration is critical before choosing a new transportation revenue option. SCA staff received amendments from three cities: Yarrow Point, Des Moines, and Renton. Yarrow Point presented technical amendments and changes to language to improve flow. Des Moines had some recommendations for tightening the language of the letter and revisions to improve clarity. Renton suggested the addition of two sentences to the top of the second page of the letter. All of these changes are included in the redlined version of the letter included in the PIC packet.

Parnell then overviewed the voting procedure. The first step will be to vote to declare the issue an emergency. This requires an affirmative vote of 85% of the members present. If the emergency action is declared, additional amendments to those already included in the version of the letter provided in the meeting materials may be proposed, and a vote or votes would be taken on the new amendments, which would require a simple majority. Once all amendments have been adopted, a final vote will be taken to recommend to the SCA Board approval of the letter. This vote requires a two-thirds majority of those present.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland moved, seconded by Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, to declare consideration of a position on the King County Transportation District Sales Tax to be an emergency, requiring immediate action. The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, to approve the letter as provided in the July 9, 2025 PIC meeting materials (linked [here](#)). After further discussion and an amendment, the motion passed unanimously.

Prior to the vote, Steinmetz stated that the amendments already incorporated into the version included in the meeting materials do not significantly alter the intent of the letter but instead refine the language and add valuable elements. He expressed appreciation for the points added at the top of the second page and stated that the edits are thoughtful and worthy of consideration.

Pavone expressed that Renton's amendment to the letter, as reflected in the version included in the meeting materials linked earlier, addresses the issue of funding for local jurisdictions. He stated that County-proposed measures such as this can limit flexibility for local action; he hopes that through SCA, jurisdictions will find opportunities to advance the measures they need.

Prior to the vote, Parnell added that an additional amendment from Redmond was received and invited Stuart to speak on it.

Stuart explained that the amendment intends to add a brief statement at the beginning of the letter, acknowledging that the tax is currently under consideration but has not yet been acted upon.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore, to amend the letter by adding the following language, as submitted by Redmond:

"...writing regarding the proposed 0.1% sales tax under consideration by the King County Transportation District."

The motion to approve Redmond's amendment to the letter passed 21-2-0.

Discussion was held prior to the vote on Stuart's amendment.

Pavone stated that he had no issue with Redmond's amendment but felt that it was redundant. Mayor Katy Kinney-Harris, Yarrow Point, agreed with Pavone's assessment. Stuart responded that she respected those perspectives.

A vote was then held to approve the letter as amended.

8. New Indigent Defense Caseload Standards

Presentation by SCA Senior Policy Analyst Andie Parnell. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Parnell overviewed the current indigent defense caseload standards, which were adopted by the State Supreme Court in 2012. These standards cap public defenders at 150 felonies per attorney per year, 300 misdemeanor cases per attorney per year OR 400 misdemeanor cases per attorney per year in jurisdictions that have not adopted a case weighting system, and 250 juvenile offender cases per attorney per year.

In March 2024, the Washington State Bar Association submitted proposed indigent defense caseload standards for their review. These standards would require a reduction in misdemeanor cases by July 2025 to a limit of 280 case credits, followed by subsequent reductions in July 2026 and July 2027, ultimately being reduced to a limit of 120 case credits. For felony cases, annual reductions between July 2025 and July 2027 were similarly proposed until ultimately reaching a reduced limit of 47 case credits. Misdemeanors are proposed to be split into “high” and “low categories”. Drug offenses, sex offenses, domestic violence offenses, and driving under the influence offenses would be categorized as “high” and weighted at 1.5 credits. All other offenses would be categorized as “low” and weighted at 1.0 credits.

The Washington State Supreme Court approved different indigent defense standards in June 2025. While the credit limits of 120 case credits for misdemeanors and 47 case credits for felonies are still required to be met, the approach would be phased in over 10 years until the required limits are ultimately hit in 2036. The caseload reductions will therefore be phased in at a rate of at least 10% each year.

Parnell then explained that the policy has the potential to triple the number of public defenders needed in some jurisdictions. She stated that the standards do not address the underlying concerns about recruitment for new public defenders, and that the legislature has not provided any new revenue-generating tools for cities.

She shared that the City of Kent has sent a letter to the Washington State Supreme Court emphasizing the financial harm of the adopted standards on cities and requesting a delay in implementing the public defense standards until a Washington-specific study is conducted, in order to adequately tailor the standards to Washington’s needs. This is because the changes were made based on a national study that had no Washington representation.

Parnell also shared that the Washington State Association of Counties has urgently called upon the Legislature and Governor Ferguson to act immediately and decisively by ensuring full funding of public defense. She then opened the floor for discussion, asking members how their cities have begun to prepare for these changes and whether PIC wants to consider any collective action in response to these changes.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, stated that he has worked as a prosecutor, private criminal attorney, judge, and now as a public defender. He shared he felt the standards are quite reasonable and reflect what is necessary to provide adequate criminal defense. Steinmetz shared that he got a job with a local public defender agency in Washington after working in California and remembered thinking that it would be difficult to provide adequate representation given the caseloads. He also shared that Des Moines is concerned about this being an unfunded mandate and is also worried about situations where the court does legislation. Steinmetz stated that the standards are good, and the 10-year timeline is reasonable, but that this represents a huge burden on cities. He shared that PIC should take collective action and that it should be part of SCA’s legislative agenda for these standards to be funded before being fully implemented.

Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, shared that Bellevue is expecting a substantial budgetary impact as they prepare to comply with these standards. He stated that Bellevue has a large caseload that is handled by a team of only four members, and that therefore the case limits would be reached very early in the phase-in process. Nieuwenhuis stated that this will leave Bellevue with limited options and guidance on how to maintain the standards. He shared that while the Court showed responsiveness by adjusting implementation timeline, he is unsure whether they would be responsive again. Nieuwenhuis stated he thinks SCA should advocate for increased funding and support for cities to implement these standards and this implementation should be delayed so cities can get funding and guidance on managing overload cases. He shared pushing back strongly as an organization would be ideal given the impact that this will cause collective municipalities.

Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore, stated that cities need to rely on the state to incentivize public defenders. He shared that recruiting for public defenders is currently a nightmare given the available pay. Herbig stated that public defenders do not currently exist, will not appear out of nowhere, and will not leave the private sector for public defense, and that he therefore hopes the state would find a way to incentivize graduates from the University of Washington to jump into this field since more people are needed to meet these numbers.

Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, stated that he is hearing most of these concerns as asks to the state legislature, and that this is an unfunded mandate and should be added to SCA's legislative agenda. He asked members to confirm this is correct, and to confirm that it sounds like there is no appetite to send a letter to the Washington State Supreme Court.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, affirmed that this is also what she heard. She stated that she appreciates Steinmetz's comments that these standards are reasonable to carry out justice, but that achieving these standards is difficult. Stuart shared Redmond is supportive of adding this to SCA's legislative agenda and giving the item air time in the upcoming session. She stated that a lot of funding has been requested but not a lot will be available. She stated she worries that if SCA approaches the legislature too quickly, they may point to the public safety sales tax as a tool to use for this item.

Nieuwenhuis stated that a letter may not be needed, but immediate and strong action is. He expressed a desire to make this part of SCA's legislative agenda and to work with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and others to take action.

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, stated that this item is needed on cities' and SCA's legislative agendas. He shared that Covington also prosecutes often, and many cases sent through as misdemeanors require a public defender. Therefore, he shared that Covington will reach the limit by at least the mid-point of the year. Cimaomo expressed that cities should find common language to put on their own legislative agendas. He agreed that the legislature gave cities a funding tool, but that utilization of that tool will be a couple of years down the road.

Roberts asked if Parnell has collected letters on this topic from cities. Parnell asked cities to send in their letters, as she has only heard from Kent and the Washington State Association of Counties. Roberts shared that Shoreline also sent a letter (linked [here](#)).

Deputy Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, agreed that this item should be added to SCA's legislative agenda, but thinks sending a letter is a good idea given that PIC members are the representatives closest to the people impacted. She shared that she felt the state legislature should get used to hearing from cities when there are unfunded mandates, and that it would be great for SCA to be an example of coming together with a collective voice to say that we can do better. Hohimer stated that the standards have great intentions, as people want great legal representation and justice requires time and diligence, but that we need to ensure we have enough people who want these jobs.

Roberts asked Hohimer if she felt a letter should be addressed to the Washington State Supreme Court or the Washington State Legislature. Hohimer replied that the letter would go to the Washington State Supreme Court, though SCA would also notify State Legislators.

Councilmember Mark Joselyn, North Bend, stated he supported the consensus of placing this on SCA's legislative agenda. He expressed that he wanted to push back on the notion that this is an unfunded mandate, as this represents a problem many are looking for solutions. Joselyn shared Steinmetz's comments hit home. He stated that his sense is SCA and PIC should engage in pressuring the legislature to come up with funds to help cities pay for necessary legal assistance.

Roberts shared Shoreline's letter in the chat, and summarized that they are not asking for the standards to be changed. Rather, they are requesting a 3-year delay in the first set of implementation. Roberts shared he agrees with Steinmetz and others that he agrees with what the Court is doing, but time is needed to work on implementation. He shared that he is unsure whether Shoreline would be supportive of a letter asking for the standards to be revisited or changed.

Parnell clarified that SCA staff would discuss this matter with the SCA Board of Directors, but asked whether PIC members were interested in staff drafting a letter and continuing this conversation.

Steinmetz shared that he thinks this is a great idea, and that he thinks the letter should be addressed jointly to the State Supreme Court and State Legislature, since funding comes from the Legislature.

Roberts summarized that he heard common concerns around the financial impact. Roberts reflected that he heard some concerns with the standards themselves, but he reiterated that Shoreline would be wary of going that direction. Roberts confirmed that there is support for writing something but asked PIC members if there was direction to SCA staff on what the letter should say beyond financial impact.

Nieuwenhuis seconded Steinmetz's comments as good starting points.

Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, stated she agrees with Steinmetz and focusing the letter on financial concerns. She shared that residents deserve proper representation.

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, stated he also supports Steinmetz's comments. He shared that this will have a huge impact in Kent and that something needs to be put together.

Roberts asked whether SCA staff has enough to put together a letter. He also asked Parnell if she has a sense of when a letter should be released and whether PIC can follow its normal process to take action in October or whether PIC should take emergency action in September. Parnell replied that she felt replying earlier is better as the standards go in effect in January.

Boyce shared that the City of Kent is very passionate about this topic and is happy to put something together for SCA staff to build on.

Roberts shared that Shoreline's letter is based on Kent's letter and asked Boyce and other members who have sent letters to send them to SCA staff. Roberts summarized that he will defer to SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein, but that he will plan to consider emergency action in September.

Hohimer asked if there were any programs similar to Teach for America, where individuals can serve as public defenders to pay for their schooling. She stated that it feels like we need a creative solution to get people on the path of being lawyers by spending time first as public defenders, and that she hopes SCA's letter addresses issues in recruiting public defenders.

Steinmetz shared that most law schools do have a loan forgiveness program that addresses public interest law, but that whether public defenders are included in that umbrella varies depending on the law school. He also stated that these programs are not well-funded, so there is not a large amount of loan forgiveness. Steinmetz also stated he has heard many programs are a substantial commitment, as many look for five to ten years of work as a public defender in order for participants to receive loan forgiveness.

Nieuwenhuis suggested SCA partner with AWC on this matter, as a unified strong voice may help raise serious consideration.

Roberts shared that he knows AWC has been active on this issue.

9. Updates/Informational Items

SCA Senior Policy Analysts Andie Parnell and Aj Foltz presented on this standing agenda item to offer an opportunity for questions from PIC members.

Parnell shared that this agenda item is an umbrella of various items from previous PIC conversations and welcomed feedback on whether this agenda item is helpful or confusing.

Parnell stated that earlier today, the King County Council Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee approved the Executive's proposed 0.1% criminal justice sales tax. Overall, BFM was supportive of the sales tax because it continues funding public safety services and wraparound human services related to criminal justice and prevents countywide cuts. The Association of Washington Cities will be holding a webinar on Tuesday, July 29 with the Criminal Justice Training Commission to discuss the two new funding measures from HB 2015. This webinar is for mayors, councilmembers, police chiefs, city administrators/managers, finance staff, and city clerks.

Foltz shared that she and SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein compiled a snapshot of the 2025 county tax proposals and levies. The memo is included in the PIC packet and shows the exact changing impact on county taxpayers.

Parnell shared that at June's PIC meeting, PIC members expressed a desire for SCA to take more proactive action on items before issues reach regional committees or other bodies. In most cases, discussion will inform SCA caucuses on how to navigate/address the issue in their regional committees. A memo is included in the PIC packet that details examples of when issues would come to PIC. Parnell asked members to keep these items in mind during regional committee discussions.

Parnell also shared that the SCA Board of Directors has approved updated protocols for enforcing SCA's attendance policies for SCA appointees on regional boards and committees. SCA staff will begin reaching out to appointees after each unexcused absence, then follow the protocols outlined in the memo included in the PIC packet to address further meeting absences. She stated that once an appointee has three consecutive unexcused absences or has missed 50% of planned meetings, the SCA Board will be informed, and the appointee may be subject to removal. SCA staff will provide slightly different protocols for the SCA Board and PIC members and alternates after further discussion with the Board.

Foltz shared that the first newsletter was launched yesterday afternoon. She stated that she has received many good reviews so far as well as requests to be added to the distribution list. Foltz asked for members with staff who should be added to the distribution list to email her with their information. She also encouraged feedback on content and any ideas members may have. Foltz highlighted that there is a City Wins section with a corresponding a form to fill out to be featured in that section moving forward. The newsletter will be released on the first Monday of each month.

Foltz also shared that the KC Library System has reached out to present at September PIC and is seeking input early from SCA cities.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, recommended that for the Regional Board and Committee Updates, SCA staff should reach out to Caucus Chairs to discuss respective committee work plans to determine which items should be discussed at PIC meetings.

10. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, thanked Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, for her work, and stated that he looked forward to seeing members in person at the September PIC meeting.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
July 9, 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	Lorri Bodi	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	John Ramsdell
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 July 9, 2025

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:08:14 From Andie Parnell, SCA to Everyone:

Apply for the public safety roundtable here:

<https://leahsca.wufoo.com/forms/z14fspi006aeerd/>

19:12:49 From Susan Honda, Federal Way to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Annie.

19:41:29 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Discussion question #1:

How have cities begun to prepare for these changes – in their budget, in the structure or recruiting of public defense, others?

19:41:57 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Discussion question #2:

Does the PIC want to consider any collective action in response to these proposed changes, for example, an SCA letter to the Supreme Court and/or incorporating this as part of a state legislative agenda?

19:54:06 From Chris Roberts, Shoreline to Hosts and panelists:

Shoreline letter:

<https://cosweb.shorelinewa.gov/uploads/attachments/cmo/councilupdatesattachements/2025/20250627/publicdefense.pdf>

20:08:55 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://wacities.org/events-education/upcoming-awc-events/events-details?ID=2799>

20:13:57 From Andie Parnell, SCA to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5KoMLy1J4qyGy5PV67kFcmDKnEnSu7S5P4qwyTur0b8g3Bw/viewform?usp=send_form

Item 7:

King County Library System (KCLS) Levy Lid Lift

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

In 1943, King County Rural Library District (KCLS) was established as a “special purpose” district to provide library service to residents of rural King County. Similar to other special purpose districts, such as school, fire, and water districts, KCLS is an independent entity—it is not part of King County government and does not receive funding from King County’s budget. KCLS’ annual budget is funded predominantly through property tax revenues.

Today, KCLS operates 50 libraries serving more than one million patrons across the county. The property tax revenue KCLS receives is distributed among all 50 libraries to ensure equitable service for the urban, suburban, and rural communities KCLS serves.

At the September PIC meeting, KCLS Executive Director Heidi Daniel and staff will **present on the proposed 2026 KCLS Levy Lid Lift and seek early feedback from cities to consider throughout the levy development process.**

Background

County residents have approved ballot measures supporting library operating and capital levies only five times since the Library District was established in 1943. The last levy lid lift was approved by voters on February 9, 2010. This levy lid lift restored the operating levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

KCLS is currently exploring options for the 2026 levy lid lift and are seeking early feedback from SCA cities to inform the process. Voter approval of a new levy lid lift would increase revenue and allow KCLS to sustain library operations.

Item 8:

KCTD Sales Tax Discussion with King County Council

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

Following PIC's emergency action on the King County Transportation District Sales Tax at the July meeting, SCA has been asked by King County Councilmember Sarah Perry to engage further on the issue. **At the September meeting, SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein will seek input from the SCA PIC regarding the upcoming discussions with Councilmember Perry.** Please review the discussion questions in this memorandum to prepare for the discussion.

Background

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. At the June 2 KCTD board meeting, both King County roads and Metro reported on their economic challenge –

King County roads:

- Unincorporated roads are supported by a dedicated property tax on unincorporated properties (80% of revenue), the state gas tax, and grant funding. – Annexation has decreased the tax base and gas tax has remained flat.
- In January 2016, the Bridges and Roads Task Force (which SCA was part of) identified an annual funding gap of \$250 to \$400 million based on average estimated revenues to Roads of just over \$100 million annually, or less than half the estimated \$220 million needed annually to moderate the decline of the system and minimize risk.
- [Roads' 2023-2024 Business Plan](#) indicates that this structural funding crisis means that dedicated funding for capital projects will be exhausted in 2029

Metro:

- Metro is supported by a dedicated 0.9% sales tax; federal and state grants; contracts for service; fares; and a dedicated property tax for water taxi service.

- Metro’s adopted policies, the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects long-range plan identify the service and capital investments needed to implement future transit networks in the late 2030s and in 2050. Metro Connects as adopted is not fully funded, with an identified funding gap, as of 2021, of \$724 million each year in unfunded service costs and \$18 billion total in unfunded capital costs by 2050. Additional funding requests are anticipated to support the recommendations on the Task Force on Transit Safety and Security.

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 (RPC). 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.

The KCTD councilmanic 0.1% sales tax isn’t the only tool available to the KCTD to raise revenue. The other tools are:

- Up to 0.2% additional sales (voter approval)
- Up to \$50 in vehicle license fees over a period of years (councilmanic vote)
- Up to \$100 vehicle license fee (voter approval).

PIC Discussion & Action

At the July meeting, PIC took emergency action to send a letter ([Attachment 8.a](#)) to the KCTD with the overall sentiment that (1) now is not the right time for a new sales tax, and (2) regional collaboration is critical before choosing a new transportation revenue option. The SCA Board of Directors approved the letter at their July 16 Board meeting, and the letter was sent to the KCTD on July 18, 2025. Originally, the sales tax decision would have taken place at the July 21 KCTD meeting, but the meeting was cancelled. SCA then received an initial response from King County Councilmember Sarah Perry, which offered further discussion on the issue.

SCA Small Group Discussion with CM Perry

A small group of SCA representatives, including members who sit on the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) and the PSRC Transportation Policy Board (TPB), are meeting with Councilmember Perry in September. As part of our revamping of PIC to empower SCA in conversations and negotiations, in the September meeting, members will be asked to provide thoughts and feedback that will guide this small group for the discussion.

Please consider the following points throughout this discussion. Here are some of the items that CM Perry would like to hear:

- Why is the KCTD sales tax an unsuitable solution at this time? Please provide direct examples and thoughts about how the new sales tax would impact city plans and interests.
- Given the demonstrable needs, what changes to the proposal, other solutions, or ideas should the County explore for addressing the regional transportation challenges?

Item 9:

Indigent Defense Caseload Standards – Draft Letter to the Legislature

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

The Washington State Supreme Court has announced a [10-year phased reduction in public defender caseloads](#), starting January 1, 2026. By 2036, caseload limits for public defenders will drop to 47 felony credits and 120 misdemeanor credits—about two-thirds lower than previous standards. The phased approach is an improvement to the initial proposal, which had recommended a two-year implementation, but still demands significant new resources for cities to meet these targets by 2036.

At the September PIC meeting, **members will review the first draft of a letter to the Washington State Legislature and vote on whether it is an issue on which PIC wants to consider adopting a position.** This is the first touch on the draft letter, which will come back to PIC in October for final approval if PIC votes in favor of taking a position this month. A timeline is included in this memorandum outlining the process and next steps.

Please note that this decision is not an emergency action. SCA staff recommend that PIC follow the two-touch rule on this issue.

Background information on this item is included in Appendix 1.

July PIC Discussion

At the July PIC meeting, PIC discussed members' concerns regarding the implementation of the new standards and reached consensus on SCA taking collective action. The following points were raised:

- The budget impact of the new standards on cities should be emphasized in the 2026 SCA Legislative Agenda.
- Collective action should be taken by SCA. SCA might consider jointly sending a letter to the Washington State Supreme Court and the Legislature.
- PIC members discussed the following elements for possible inclusion in the letter:
 - Not asking to change the standards, but to delay implementation;
 - Providing new revenue options for cities to meet the standards by the 2036 deadline; and
 - Guidance from the state on retention and recruitment strategies, and other resources available to cities to implement the standards.

- SCA should partner with the Association of Washington Cities in some capacity while developing/publicizing this letter.

SCA staff have begun drafting a letter to the Washington State Legislature for review by PIC and the Board of Directors ([Attachment A](#)) Additionally, SCA staff met with AWC, who provided an additional suggestion for how to advocate the Legislature on this issue. Cities are encouraged by AWC to send individual letters to their respective state legislatures. SCA staff can provide a template and summary of survey data (details in the next paragraph) to help cities write their letters.

SCA Indigent Defense Caseload Standards Survey

In the past month, SCA staff disseminated a survey and a calculator tool to member cities to gain more information on how the new caseload standards would have adverse fiscal and operational impacts during the implementation process. Data from this survey will be included in SCA's letter to the Legislature, and SCA staff will utilize these data to develop a comprehensive policy analysis on the indigent defense caseload standards issue.

The preliminary results of the survey are described in the draft letter. ***We will continue to update the numbers in the draft letter as we receive additional survey responses.*** If your city has yet to submit a survey response, please encourage your staff to complete the questions and return the calculator tool. The survey will be open throughout the letter drafting process, and final numbers will be included in the letter approved by PIC and the Board of Directors in October.

Letter Review & Approval Timeline

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 9/10

Staff present information and draft letter.

September PIC meeting
First Touch

PIC votes on whether it is an issue on which they want to consider adopting a position.

A majority of members present must vote in favor to bring the issue back to the next meeting for possible adoption.

In discussion, amendments to the draft (if applicable) would be noted.

**This is when the amendment process starts; amendments offered by members at the meeting or afterwards will be included in the October PIC packet.*

Wednesday 9/17

SCA Board of Directors discusses the item and reviews the first draft of the letter.

September Board meeting

Between September & October PIC meetings

PIC members can seek feedback from their city council, their mayor, and/or city staff.

Proposed amendments can be sent to SCA staff:

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein: Robert@soundcities.org

Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz: Aj@soundcities.org

SCA Staff will send regular updates on proposed amendments to PIC members and staff during this time, so conversations remain up to date.

Monday 9/29

Amendment collection process closes

OCTOBER

If PIC members wish to propose additional amendments after September 29, members must propose the amendment at the October PIC meeting.

Wednesday 10/8

The draft letter comes back to PIC for vote. Proposed amendments are reviewed in succession.

***October PIC meeting
Second Touch***

Additional amendments can be made at this time, either by:

- Introducing individual motions for amendments, or
- Live-updating document and moving to recommend it to the Board as shown on screen.

PIC votes to recommend the final letter to the Board for approval.

Wednesday 10/15

The Board of Directors reviews the letter as drafted and amended by PIC, and makes the final decision to adopt the letter.

October Board meeting

APPENDIX 1: ISSUE BACKGROUND

Background

In March 2024, the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) adopted revised public defense standards and submitted those as recommendations to the Washington State Supreme Court. Read the 2024 standards as recommended [here](#). Included in the recommendations before the Supreme Court was a change to caseload standards that would reduce by nearly two-thirds the maximum caseload for public defense lawyers. The revised caseload standards were proposed in response to a [national study](#), that did not include any Washington State representation.

The State Supreme Court first adopted the current case load standards for indigent defense in 2012. The current indigent defense standards cap public defenders at:

- 150 felonies per attorney per year
- 300 misdemeanor cases per attorney per year, OR 400 misdemeanor cases per attorney per year in jurisdictions that have not adopted a case weighting system.
- 250 juvenile offender cases per attorney per year.

WSBA's proposed standards would phase in progressively lower caseload limits over the next three years that cap public defenders and effectively cuts by two-thirds the number of cases a defender can accept:

- By July 2025: 110 felony case credits per full-time felony attorney per year, or 280 misdemeanor case credits full-time misdemeanor attorney per year.
- By July 2026: 90 felony case credits per full-time felony attorney per year, or 225 misdemeanor case credits per full-time misdemeanor attorney per year.
- By July 2027: 47 felony case credits per full-time felony attorney per year, or 120 misdemeanor case credits per full-time misdemeanor attorney per year.

WSBA's 2024 proposed standard goes to a different system of weighting cases for the purposes of the cap. Under the proposed standard, each case type is assigned a case credit weight used to calculate an attorney's workload. Importantly for cities, misdemeanors are split into "high" and "low" categories with different credit weights:

- Misdemeanor-High cases are weighted at 1.5 credits each. The category includes drug offenses, sex offenses, domestic violence offenses, and DUIs.
- Misdemeanor-Low cases are weighted at 1.0 credits each. This category includes all other misdemeanors.

Washington State Supreme Court Approved Standards

In June 2025, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted caseload limits approved by WSBA in 2024. However, instead of defining case weighting, the Court's new standards include local authority for adopting policies defining "case credits" to count and weight caseloads based on local court practices. The Supreme Court's complete order can be found [here](#).

The new caseload limits take effect on January 1, 2026, and caseload reduction can be phased in at a rate of at least 10% each year. This phase in approach is a significant improvement to the

WSBA’s initial proposal, which had recommended a two-year implementation as detailed above.

Indigent defense caseload standards comparison:

Caseloads Per Year	Old Case Standards	2026 Case Standards (meet by 2036)	Mandatory Case Reductions Per Year (2026-2036)
Misdemeanor cases	400 cases or 300 weighted cases	120 case credits	28 fewer per year (18 fewer if weighted)
Felony cases	150 cases	47 case credits	11 fewer per year

For more information on the new indigent defense standards, and the implications for cities, see [AWC’s website](#) .

Impact on Cities

According to AWC, these proposed standards could triple the number of public defenders needed in some jurisdictions. Further, there are already hiring shortages, and the standards do not address the underlying concerns about recruitment for new public defenders.

In Washington State, the vast majority of public defense costs are paid out of city and county general fund budgets. The Legislature has not provided any new revenue-generating tools for cities, so to cover costs of compliance with these standards, cities will likely have to cut costs for other essential services.

To: Washington State Legislature
CC: AWC, GTH, Supreme Court
From: SCA Board of Directors

Honorable Washington State Legislators:

On behalf of the Sound Cities Association (SCA), which represents thirty-eight cities in King County, I am writing regarding the implementation of the new indigent defense caseload standards as recently adopted by the Washington State Supreme Court. We respect the fundamental and constitutional importance of providing adequate public defense and reducing caseloads per public defender. SCA appreciates the many months of work by the Washington State Bar Association and Washington State Supreme Court to create and approve these standards. However, despite the 10-year implementation period, cities are constrained financially to implement these standards and face challenges with recruiting and retaining public defenders. As such, we urge the Legislature to explore funding options, workforce development pathways, and other resources for cities as they navigate adhering to these standards.

Sound Cities Association recently conducted a membership survey to assess the impact of the new defense caseload standards, centering on two key concerns: the financial strain on city budgets, and challenges to recruitment and retention of public defenders. The results were clear: ***cities anticipate the total rising cost of indigent defense to strain budgets and impact operations, with the vast majority of cities concerned about recruitment and retention of adequate defense attorneys.***

Rising Costs: Projected over 10 years, taking into consideration the increase in court cases, increased number of attorneys necessary due to the changing standards, and the rising salaries to remain competitive, the impact is significant. While surveyed cities projected a range of rates, using even the below-average assumption that both the caseload and salaries would rise 4 percent annually yields a projected total cost increase of 692 percent over the 10-year implementation period.

Defense Recruitment Challenges: Most cities identified that recruitment and retention of public defenders throughout the 10-year implementation period will be a significant challenge. Further, most of those cities indicated *existing* challenges with recruitment and retention in the field. Public defenders are significantly underpaid and there is a noted lack of career advancement opportunities in the field, leading to retention issues for public defense contractors and cities. As a result, ***cities expect an inadequate number of public defenders will be available to meet the demand imposed by the new caseload standards.*** Furthermore, higher demand for public defenders with low supply will increase the cost per defender to attract new hires, which is another driver of the budgetary issues outlined above.

Operational and Fiscal Impacts: To accommodate the rising costs, cities are looking at all measures, including:

- Increasing fees,
- Considering cutting other parts of the city budget,
- Adjusting case filings or priorities due to resource constraints,
- Seeking out sources of grant funding, and/or
- Implementing new taxes, among many additional options.

As a result of inadequate numbers of defense attorneys, cities are worried about the day-to-day operational impacts for courts, personnel, and defendants: complex scheduling, delayed proceedings, and frequent reassignments were cited as potential impacts. We recognize that in face of the existing challenges, the state Office of Public Defense has already launched programs focused on training, recruitment and retention of public defenders. ***To adequately meet these new standards, cities request that the state expand the range of workforce development or incentive-based policies to strengthen the public defense field.***

Inequality in Impact: SCA's survey also revealed concerns about the disparate impacts across cities. In *"Right to Counsel Services in the 50 States,"* the Sixth Amendment Center notes that Washington state is one of eight states that requires local governments to provide a majority of the funding needed to support indigent defense services at the local level. **The paper also outlines that state funding, as opposed to local funding, of indigent defense services is proven to be the most stable and equitable source of funding.** The paper writes that *"...the jurisdictions that are often most in need of indigent defense services are the ones that are least likely to be able to afford it. That is, in many instances, the same indicators of limited revenues – low property values, high unemployment, high poverty rates, limited house-hold incomes, limited higher education, etc. – are often the exact same indicators of high crime. And those same counties have a greater need for broader social services, such as unemployment or housing assistance..."*.

Ultimately, ***cities require state-funded resources, workforce development support, and guidance on how to effectively allocate city resources.*** The math is simple: cities will need more defense lawyers, and salaries will need to increase to recruit those additional attorneys – all in the face of growing populations and caseloads, resulting, in total, greatly increased costs for public defense. But the implications are not simple: to address this unfunded mandate, all cities will look at making budget cuts in other programs, raising fees and taxes, changing arrest and filing priorities, and, in the courtroom, lengthening and delaying the administration of justice. And because the cost of public defense lies almost exclusively with cities in Washington State, the impact will be inequitable: cities that have higher caseloads, more indigent defendants, and fewer resources will need to raise more taxes and/or cut more services than cities with smaller caseloads, fewer indigent defendants, or more resources.

If the Washington State Legislature wants to support this important standard of public defense is administered swiftly, fairly and equitably and wants to ensure that all defendants, regardless of zip code, have an equal right to defense, the State must be a partner in this change, including providing greater – if not full – funding for public defense. SCA cities welcome partnership opportunities and future discussion on this issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

SCA Board President

Item 10.b:

Regional Boards & Committees Update

This recurring agenda item aims to inform PIC members of items being discussed by regional boards and committees. If you have any questions, please reach out to the SCA staff assigned to the committee; SCA staff assignments can be found on the [SCA website](#).

Committee	SCA Caucus	Last Meeting	Summary	Next Meeting
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., August 20	Discussed the Solid Waste Long Term Disposal Plan; discussion will continue at the September RPC meeting following questions from SCA caucus members. Discussed the upcoming Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) sales tax renewal; vote will take place at the September RPC meeting.	Wed., September 10 (before PIC)
King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (KCFCDAC)	Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish; Mayor Carol Benson, Black Diamond; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines; Deputy Mayor Melanie O’Cain, Kenmore; Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish; Mayor Troy Linnell, Algonia; Councilmember Amy McHenry, Duvall; Councilmember Annette Ademasu, Shoreline	Thurs., August 21	Discussed, refined, and approved their annual budget recommendation letter to the District Board of Supervisors.	Thurs., October 2
Board of Health (BOH)	Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes, Auburn; Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele, Issaquah	Thurs., July 17	Received briefings on increased food safety through improved labor standards; a proposed rule and regulation on this item is expected to be before the BOH in September. Received briefings on board membership and recruitment for 2026, health needs of asylum seekers and refugees, and on the Equitable Wastewater Futures Program.	Thurs., September 18

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Advisory Committee (MIDD AC)	Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle	Thurs., August 28	Reviewed the 2025-2026 MIDD Proposed Budget and discussed revisioning the MIDD AC structure under the new MIDD renewal.	Thurs., September 25
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)	Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish; Deputy Mayor Laura Mork, Shoreline	Fri., August 8	Discussed implementation of state organics management laws. Reviewed Comprehensive Plan Chapters 4&2.	Fri., September 12
PSRC Growth Management Planning Board (GMPB)	Chair: Melissa Stuart, Redmond Vice Chair: Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah Ed Prince, Renton; Pam Stuart, Sammamish; Satwinder Kaur, Kent; Amy McHenry, Duvall	Thurs., July 3 and Thurs., September 4	July Meeting: Approved comprehensive plans for five cities and three counties. September Meeting: Agenda includes: • Discussion and approval of eight city comprehensive plans • Recommendation for conditional certification for one city and one county <i>Please note that the GMPB meeting is taking place after the PIC packet was sent out. Updates on the September meeting can be provided by staff at PIC if requested.</i>	Thurs., October 4



September 10, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10.d:

Levies and Ballot Measures

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)	Passed by 72.9% on the August 5 th ballot.
2025	November	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy renewal	\$0.250 per \$1000 of assessed value	The King County Council unanimously passed the strategic plan and levy ordinances. The levy will be on the November 2025 general election ballot.
2026	TBD	King County Library System levy lid lift	TBD	KCLS staff are exploring options for a possible levy lid lift

Upcoming Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Election	City	Measure	Proposal
November 2025	Lake Forest Park	Public Safety Levy	\$0.24 per \$1,000 of assessed property value

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	Renewal ordinance was transmitted in July and is on its second reading in the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee. Final action is needed by October 18 th to avoid a lapse in collections.