



SCA Public Issues Committee
October 8, 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/81473146419?pwd=nB4lfiQmblQqyCF01wNegshYUzyU9D.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 814 7314 6419/ Passcode: 529520

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) Welcome and Roll Call – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, PIC Chair | 5 Minutes |
| 2) Public Comment | 5 Minutes |
| 3) Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2025 Meeting
Page 6 | 5 Minutes |
| 4) Chair’s Report – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, PIC Chair | 5 Minutes |
| 5) Executive Director’s Report – Robert Feldstein, Executive Director | 5 Minutes |
| 6) SCA Regional Boards and Committees 2026 Appointments
DISCUSSION
Page 16
Robert Feldstein, Executive Director
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst | 5 Minutes |
| 7) Indigent Defense Caseload Standards Letter to the Legislature
ACTION
Page 18
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst | 30 Minutes |
| 8) 4Culture Doors Open Presentation
DISCUSSION
Page 28
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst | 20 Minutes |
| 9) Regional Boards and Committees Upcoming Issues
DISCUSSION
Page 29
Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst
Laura Belmont, Policy Analyst
Dax Tate, Policy Analyst | 15 Minutes |

10) Updates/Informational Items

15 Minutes

- a. Update on the 2026 State & County Legislative Agendas
- b. October 2025 Newsletter
- c. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#)

11) For the good of the order**12) Adjourn****Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – Renton City Hall
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2025 – Virtual
- c. SCA Annual Meeting – Evening of Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – Pickering Barn, Issaquah

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

SCA will lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world for our diverse communities.

Values

SCA is committed to creating 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 inequities in our society and continues its commitment to the work needed to address them.

Guiding Principles

- Assume that others are acting with good intent
- No surprises!
- Have each other's backs
- Think about who is not at the table
- Be candid, but kind
- Once a decision is made, work together to make it work
- Show up to meetings prepared
- Be fully present and engaged during meetings
- Extend grace to others – cut them some slack
- Remain open-minded
- Respect differing views

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

September 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Mercer Island Community & Event Center

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Public Issues Committee (PIC) Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. 19 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included: David White, Algona (PIC Alternate); Traci Buxton, Des Moines, SCA Board President; Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville Staff; Tania Mondaca, King County Staff; John Sheller, King County Library Systems; Heidi Daniel, King County Library Systems; Chase Gallagher, King County Library Systems; Christian Sinderman, NWP Consulting.

2. Public Comment

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment.

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

3. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2025 Meeting

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the July 9, 2025 SCA PIC meeting.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed.

4. Chair's Report

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, had no items to report.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein expressed that fall is a transition time, when he is watching budgets coming out of the County, elections, and thinking about the committee appointment process for next year. He added that SCA's work extends beyond advocacy to governing and being at the table for conversation, and that appointees to committees will receive support from SCA policy staff. Feldstein encouraged members to spread the word as committee applications are released.

Feldstein expressed excitement on SCA's progress on getting PIC to be more active, and thanked King County Library System staff for engaging proactively with PIC.

SCA PIC October 8, 2025

Attachment: 1 Draft Minutes of the SCA PIC September 10, 2025

6. Debrief: Sound Transit Tour of Mercer Station

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, asked members to share their experience of the tour for those who could not attend.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, shared that he found the station impressive and that it reminds him of stations he has seen in Asia, where platforms are longer. He expressed that the tour was nice and informative, and shared excitement that the map in the station has a portion that will be removed when the stations in South King County open later this year.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, expressed excitement that the 2 Line will connect to the northern portion of the 1 Line and stated that she appreciates the ease of access.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein thanked Stuart for her prior suggestion to hold a tour of the Mercer Island Station ahead of the PIC meeting in Mercer Island.

Cimaomo shared his excitement at the upcoming and recent station openings.

7. King County Library System (KCLS) Levy Lid Lift

Presentation by Heidi Daniel, Executive Director, King County Library System (KCLS). Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, encouraged members of PIC to give early feedback regarding the potential King County Library System (KCLS) levy lid lift.

John Sheller, Government Relations Manager, KCLS, introduced himself and other KCLS staff. He also introduced KCLS, sharing that it is not part of the King County government. KCLS serves 35 of the 38 member cities and the unincorporated areas of King County; they are an associate member of SCA. Sheller shared that KCLS conducted leader interviews regarding the potential KCLS Levy Lid Lift.

Daniel introduced herself and shared her excitement for getting feedback from PIC members. She overviewed that KCLS has 50 locations throughout King County. Daniel shared that 1 out of 2 households are active cardholders, meaning they utilized their library card within the last year. When fully staffed, KCLS can have up to 1058 employees. They have a seven-member Board of Trustees that is appointed by the King County Council. She also shared that over 20 million items were circulated in the last year, with over \$310 million in retail value.

KCLS has an annual budget of \$164.5 million, with 96% of those funds coming from a property tax levy. KCLS receives limited state funds, and all federal grants were recently revoked. The KCLS Foundation also serves as a financial support for the system. Sixty percent of the annual budget is spent on library operations and collections, which includes items such as staff and electricity. Thirty percent of the budget is spent on administration, and ten percent is spent on facilities and

capital investments. In 2024, KCLS was projected to go into the negative, but they were able to avoid touching reserves through careful budgeting. That is not likely to be the case in 2025.

In 2010, KCLS restored their levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Over time, as assessed values have gone up, their rate has been driven down; it currently is \$0.2452 per \$1,000. In 2020, the Board planned a levy lid lift knowing they were about to hit their reserves. COVID-19 mandated closures, meaning hours were pulled back dramatically, resulting in funding being saved and put in reserves. The levy lid lift was re-evaluated in 2022 but did not move forward due to general uncertainty during COVID-19 recovery. Currently, KCLS is evaluating a levy lid lift in 2026. They have begun having community conversations, including with SCA members, regarding a levy lid lift.

Daniel shared that KCLS's goals include expanding evening and weekend hours, maintaining and refreshing aging buildings, and enhancing their collection to reduce hold times and balance digital items. She added that they do not expect physical circulation to decrease, but they expect digital circulation to increase. KCLS wants to ensure they have spaces for children's activities, working spaces, and can conduct necessary maintenance for the buildings. Potential risks of not doing a lid lift include eliminating weekend hours, reducing collection availability, and evaluating of immediate cost reductions.

Without a lid lift, KCLS will run out of reserves in 2027, requiring services to be significantly pulled back. Daniel then shared three potential levy scenarios. The first includes raising the levy lid by \$0.50, which is far more than adequate for KCLS's needs and would not be considered unless the community asks for it. The second scenario is raising the levy lid by \$0.35, which is nearly status quo, meaning the budget would be funded but there would be no expansions, reductions would be needed as time goes on, and another lid lift would be required in a few more years. The third scenario is raising the levy lid by \$0.45, which has growth in mind, meaning that they have room to expand (such as expanding homework help and other learning programs as well as constructing building changes) and would not need to revisit the levy for 8-10 years.

KCLS is completing their community survey by the end of this month and will make a recommendation regarding the levy lid lift to the Board by the end of the year. The Board would be expected to decide in early 2026, with a target of the lid lift being on the ballot during the August primary election.

Councilmember Sid Gupta, Sammamish, asked if the growth mindset of the \$0.45 levy lid lift scenario includes additional locations with population growth or if it is strictly maintenance. Daniel replied that KCLS does not have a specific plan in mind and are currently meeting with cities to discuss where cities are expanding. KCLS would be thinking about how to meet those current needs and are waiting for cities to make their plans. She shared that options for expansion include converting a self-serve stand to a full-service location or adding non-staffed access points for areas that don't have physical locations or have a location that is outside of the growth area.

Gupta also asked Daniels to clarify how hold time ratios are decided. Daniel replied that for every 9 people that place a hold on a book, KCLS buys a copy. This ratio of holds to items is increased or decreased based on funding. KCLS is aiming for a 5-to-1 ratio.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, asked whether a scenario for a 40-cent levy lid lift was considered. Daniel shared that a 40-cent lid lift would allow for some expansion of hours or locations but would result in another levy lid lift being on the ballot in 6-8 years or KCLS making choices to avoid another lift, such as not expanding hours as much or adding less money to the collection.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, asked whether libraries would have to close if no levy lid lift happens. Daniel replied that this would be the case, though KCLS would first have an immediate rollback of weekend hours in 2027 and re-evaluate capital projects. She clarified that closing libraries would occur in the outyears of their forecast. Assefa-Dawson then asked how it would be decided which locations would close. Daniel said that if closures were required following reduction in hours, KCLS would look at equity considerations, such as the community reaching another library or whether the location a critical spot for children after school or for seniors.

Assefa-Dawson also asked about whether KCLS is considering digital equity. Daniel replied that wi-fi use at libraries is high, that KCLS hosts computer literacy courses, and that KCLS recently received a grant to explore AI in light of digital equity concerns. She stated digital equity will continue to be a priority for KCLS.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, asked about whether KCLS has an appetite for growth in types of circulation, citing interest in her community for circulation of items like e-bikes or mobility devices. Daniel shared that the Foundation applied for a grant to circulate mobility devices, and KCLS is very interested in this work. KCLS would like to work with the community to determine the best items to circulate. She also shared KCLS already has some non-traditional circulation such as hiking or museum passes or their makerspaces, which KCLS would like to expand.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, expressed that it is important for KCLS to highlight not only collection expansion, but that libraries serve as third spaces for the community. Curtis asked what percentage of budget was made up of federal grants. Daniel shared that federal grants were a small component of the budget; one grant was for climate change planning in their buildings, and the only item remaining on it was outreach with Tribes. She also shared that the state lost federal funding, and interconnectedness of library systems might mean KCLS faces impacts of this, though 96% of KCLS's budget is from the levy.

Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked whether there is an opportunity for other pools of funding like partnering and co-locating with another organization, such as where 30% of the building is for another service to serve as a funding source. Daniel replied that KCLS can look into this, but is hesitant to lease half of the building to a nonprofit for the purpose of being a source

of funding. This is because it is an uncertain funding source, especially if the nonprofit loses their funding. She shared this may be an avenue to co-locate services for the community but would not work as a stable funding source.

Daniel shared that she is available to speak with cities and answer questions.

8. KCTD: Prep for Upcoming King County Council Discussion

Presentation by SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein. Materials attached and available [here](#) .

Feldstein reviewed that the King County Transportation District (KCTD) Board had planned to propose a 10-year 0.1% sales and use tax, where revenues would be distributed evenly between roads (focused on high-priority road and bridge projects) and metro (focused on safety and security upgrades for operators and riders). In response, SCA took emergency action to write a letter. Following the letter, the decision was postponed and King County Councilmember Sarah Perry wrote a response. She also is conducting outreach to a small group of SCA members. SCA also received a response letter from the Seattle Building Trades expressing that the group supports the tax as they feel County roads and bridges are in need and delaying investments increases cost; they also cited that the work funded by the tax would create jobs.

Feldstein also overviewed the budget challenges faced by the Roads Services Division, as they are facing a large funding gap which will result in their dedicated funding for capital projects being exhausted in 2029. He also overviewed the budget challenges faced by King County Metro, which is also facing a funding gap that could result in \$18 billion total in unfunded capital costs by 2050.

Feldstein reviewed that SCA staff met with SCA leadership and representatives of transportation caucuses the morning of this PIC meeting. He shared that members support a pause in implementing the KCTD sales tax, particularly in light of tax fatigue, and that they would like to see a revenue sharing options with cities and generally want to develop a funding solution in collaboration with cities. He asked PIC members to share why they feel the KCTD sales tax is not a suitable solution at this time and if they have ideas to address these issues going forward.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, asked which caucuses were involved in this morning's meetings. SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz clarified that caucus leadership from SCA's Regional Transit Committee and Transportation Policy Board were involved.

Curtis shared that Kirkland is an advocate for revenue sharing and has discussed potentially 20% of revenue going to cities. She suggested that SCA brings calculations of where the revenue from the tax is coming from and what revenue sharing could look like to meetings with Councilmember Perry to support this proposal.

Deputy Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, stated that her city council expressed concern around tax fatigue and will be prioritizing funding needs in their city due to fiscal constraints. Hohimer shared that King County needs to be mindful that the County is running a jobs program.

Councilmember Jon Lebo, Lake Forest Park, asked if a car tab tax increase is under consideration as an alternative. Feldstein replied that he has not heard discussion around this.

Hohimer expressed concern around how this tax, particularly in combination with the upcoming public safety sales tax, will be implemented and impact South King County.

Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore, shared that County taxes are often regressive and that it is worth considering a car tab tax option, though those are often unpopular.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, shared that she opposed the tax in hopes of choosing a less regressive option and is in favor of keeping a car tab tax on the table. She stated that she hopes the group representing SCA can have a conversation that goes beyond opposing the tax and looks toward a long-term partnership. Feldstein agrees that SCA should be willing to say yes more often.

Councilmember Mark Joselyn, North Bend, shared that he was impressed with the response from Councilmember Perry, as everyone is traveling on County roads and that the issues on this topic are real. He stated that he was pleased that the focus is on coming together to find a solution, rather than solely expressing a hard no.

9. New Indigent Defense Caseload Standards: SCA Draft Letter

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

Foltz overviewed the caseload limits for public defenders, which was approved by the Washington State Bar Association. These standards will reduce the number of cases public defenders can take on and will be phased in over a 10-year period. At the July PIC meeting, PIC agreed that SCA should take collective action on this topic. PIC members' main concern included the budget impact of the new standards on cities, and felt that SCA should ask for the standards to be delayed (but not changed) and for guidance from the state on retention and recruitment strategies for public defenders. Members also expressed a desire for SCA to partner with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) while developing a letter.

Originally, PIC considered taking emergency action, but SCA staff instead recommend PIC to follow the traditional two-touch rule as there is time before the standards go into effect. The goal is for PIC members to vote to take action at this PIC meeting. If PIC chooses to take action, members would send feedback on the draft letter in advance of the October PIC meeting, where PIC would vote to recommend a final letter to the SCA Board of Directors, who would approve it at their October meeting.

Since the July PIC meeting, SCA staff met with AWC and Gordon Thomas Honeywell, distributed a survey to members, and drafted and distributed a letter (found on page 27 of the PIC packet, linked [here](#)). SCA staff have received sixteen responses to the survey and are continuing to collect responses; Foltz encouraged members to complete the survey. She shared the data will be used to inform the letter and potentially for further research by SCA staff. Foltz then overviewed

findings of the current survey responses, including operational impacts of the caseload standards. These impacts include complexities with scheduling, delayed proceedings, frequent reassignments, additional discovery requests, prolonged cases, and an unwillingness to resolve cases. In response to these impacts, respondents are considering implementing new taxes, increasing fees, cutting other parts of the city budget, charging fewer crimes, seeking grant funding, and other steps.

Foltz shared that since quorum was lost prior to this item, the originally planned vote on whether PIC will take up this item for action will not occur, though discussion can proceed.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, shared that SCA needs an understanding of how cities are currently funding public defender contracts, as cities are not in a position to ask how to get more defenders in the pipeline if we do not know how this is done. He shared counties have a more effective way of funding and recruiting public defenders and are looking at around a 10% increase in public defenders over the next 10 years to meet the standards. He suggested SCA and member cities look at the Washington Office of Public Defense as a conduit and apply for funds that are hopefully coming from the state legislature, as this is an unfunded mandate for cities.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, expressed support for taking action on this item and complimented Feldstein on SCA's more active stances since he has joined. She asked where AWC fits into this dynamic. Foltz replied that SCA met with AWC, and that AWC recently sent their own letter on this topic. Katie Halse, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Bellevue, added that the AWC Legislative Priorities Committee added this item as one of their top four legislative priorities. Curtis shared she feels SCA and AWC should be a united front. She suggested the letter highlight that the study cited in reference to the new standards is a national study that is not specific to Washington state. Curtis also stated the letter should suggest the legislature fund a study specific to Washington state.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, expressed appreciation for the conversations at PIC on this item, and shared that she and other SCA PIC members were able to bring those perspectives to the AWC Legislative Priorities Committee meeting.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein echoed that he has heard concerns around the lack of a state-specific study. He cautioned members on the feasibility of such a study.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, relayed that Issaquah has had concerns about the new caseload standards for some time and is grateful that SCA is active on this matter and becoming more active generally.

Foltz reviewed the timeline and next steps. The SCA Board of Directors will review the letter at their next meeting. PIC members can propose edits to the letter by sending them to her and/or Feldstein by September 29. An updated draft of the letter will be presented at the October PIC meeting for a vote. If PIC votes to recommend the letter to the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors will vote whether to adopt it at their October 16 meeting.

Feldstein asked whether this counts as a first touch given the lack of quorum. Foltz answered that she will defer to Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, and PIC as a whole. Cimaomo said he felt this discussion counted as a first touch; members agreed.

10. Updates/Informational Items

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

Foltz provided early ideas for SCA's State Legislative Agenda and County Priorities Agenda. She explained that the SCA Board of Directors will soon elect the Legislative Committee and that PIC would be updated as the agendas are developed.

Feldstein shared that SCA is now considering County Priorities as SCA has a stronger voice at the County level.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that Issaquah is very concerned about public safety and wondered whether there are state or county policies SCA can advocate for that would allow cities to promote public safety and navigate the changing relationship with federal law enforcement.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, appreciated the suggestion to add a County Priorities Agenda. She shared that AWC's Legislative Priorities Committee decided to ask the state to give cities more funding options to use to address concerns around food security and public health in light of budget constraints.

Councilmember David Edwards, Woodinville, expressed that he thinks developing a County Priorities Agenda is great, particularly as the County landscape changes.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, stated that he thinks County taxing policy and collaborating with the County to deliver necessary services should be one of our priorities.

Deputy Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, thinks emergency preparedness should be an item on the County Priorities Agenda, as it is important to ensure jurisdictional relationships are strong, plans are in place, and residents feel prepared in case of a crisis.

Mark Joselyn shared trucking is an issue of state-wide significance, as many trucks go through North Bend, which may involve a change in the growth management boundary.

Foltz thanked PIC members for their feedback.

Subsequently, Foltz opened the floor for questions on the SCA Regional Boards and Committee Updates memo. Seeing none, she summarized recent updates on the Regional Policy Committee's (RPC) discussions on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependence (MIDD) Renewal Ordinance. Foltz shared that the SCA RPC Caucus proposed an alternative ordinance renewing the MIDD sales tax for two years instead of the originally proposed nine-year renewal period. She

welcomed questions via email. Foltz also requested feedback around converting the memo on this item to focus on upcoming agenda items; PIC members supported this change.

Foltz also gave an update about SCA's recently launched newsletter and encouraged cities to submit city wins.

Foltz also asked members to submit their ballot measures and levies to her to be included on the tracker shared with PIC.

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, shared that Covington is considering developing a parks district and is now fact-finding to determine resident's interest in this item.

11. For the Good of the Order

Covington Councilmember, Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., PIC Vice Chair, shared that Covington is hosting drive-in movies throughout the month.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that Issaquah will be hosting their Salmon Days on October 4 and 5.

Councilmember Tracy Taylor-Turner shared that Auburn is hosting a Hops and Crops event this weekend.

Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, shared that Des Moines is hosting an Oktoberfest on September 20 and 21.

Councilmember Sid Gupta, Sammamish, shared that there will be a Salish Sunset Salmon Hatchery event in Issaquah this weekend.

Councilmember Syd Dawson, Maple Valley, shared that Maple Valley is hosting a Hope Walk on September 20 to fundraise for cancer research, and is hosting a Lake Wilderness Park Zombie Dash on October 18.

Cimaomo shared that Covington is hosting a Mayor's Day of Concern Food Drive on September 20 benefitting the Covington Storehouse, which also will be hosting an upcoming auction and gala. He also shared that Covington has an upcoming Makers' Market.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting – Attachment A
September 10, 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	Joe Lebo	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**.

Item 6:

2026 Regional Board and Committee Appointments

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Leah Willoughby, Chief Operating Officer, 206-849-8132 leah@soundcities.org (general questions and application questions)

Discussion

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) has appointing authority to over thirty regional boards and committees that guide regional policy on a wide range of issues. SCA representatives on these regional committees play a critical role in ensuring that the perspectives of SCA cities and their 1.2 million residents are represented in regional decision-making.

Appointments are made each fall, with vacant positions filled as they arise throughout the year.

Background

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) has appointing authority to more than thirty [regional boards and committees](#). These regional boards and committees cover important topics including affordable housing and homelessness, children and youth, economic development, emergency management, flood control, growth management and land use, health, solid waste, transportation, and water quality.

Each fall, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair appoints a PIC Nominating Committee, made up of one PIC representative from each SCA caucus (North, Snoqualmie Valley, South, and South Valley). The PIC Nominating Committee makes initial recommendations on appointments to the PIC. The PIC then makes a recommendation to the SCA Board, which makes the final appointments. For 2026, the PIC action is scheduled for the December 10 meeting, and the SCA Board action is scheduled for the December 17 meeting.

Expected Timeline for 2026 Board and Committee Appointments:

- Call for Nominations sent out: September 24
- Applications Due: EOB on November 7
- PIC Nominating Committee meets and makes recommendations to PIC
- PIC meets and makes recommendations to the SCA Board of Directors: December 10 SCA PIC Meeting
- SCA Board of Directors make final appointments: December 17 Board of Directors Meeting

Next Steps

The application process for 2026 SCA board and committee appointments is now open.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM PST on November 7. Current members with expiring terms must also reapply if they wish to continue serving. The application and related information have been distributed by email and are also available on the SCA website [HERE](#).

SCA will hold a second online **Q&A session** to provide information on the process, the role of SCA representatives, and anticipated vacancies on Monday, October 13, 4 – 5 PM.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Links and Resources:

[Information and Application](#)

[Information on Individual Committees](#)

[List of SCA staff assigned to each committee](#)

[Answers to frequently asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) including expected vacancies

Item 7:

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

Dax Tate, SCA Policy Analyst, dax@soundcities.org,

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 October PIC meeting, **members will review the *final* draft of a letter to the Washington State Legislature and vote to elevate the letter to the SCA Board of Directors for review and approval.** [Attachment A](#) includes the redlined version of the letter for approval by PIC. Amendments to the letter can be found in [Attachment B](#) and members can make amendments during the meeting. Each proposed amendment will be discussed by PIC members and approved in succession.

Background information on this item is included in Appendix 1.

Amendments to the Draft Letter**Amendment #1**

Two cities proposed amendments to the same sentence in the draft letter. PIC can choose which language they prefer or request that staff combine the language following discussion of this amendment.

Amendments #2 and #3

Proposed by City of Kirkland, the second and third amendments add language to the letter to advocate for a state-specific study on indigent defense and caseload standards.

The state's new standards are based on a [national study](#) by RAND, which does not include specific data for Washington State. The study explains that because substantive law and court rules can vary by jurisdiction and can impact the amount of time attorneys require to represent their clients, state-specific studies are important for developing accurate caseload models (pg.

ix). SCA staff are currently collecting data around specific factors in Washington State that could impact a state-specific study.

However, the national study references 16 states that have already performed state-specific studies and finds that the recommended national standards fit roughly in the middle of the standards established by these 16 studies (pg. 86). Additionally, when reviewing six of the state-specific studies which contained metrics that were readily-comparable to the national study, SCA staff found that four of the six (New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, and five counties of New York) recommended standards roughly in line with the national study (about three times current capacity), while one (Louisiana) recommends five times current capacity, and another (Utah), recommends between two and four times current capacity depending on case category. While this represents a relatively small sample, it suggests that a state-specific study may produce standards equal to or greater than those in the national study.

Amendment #4

This amendment provides additional context to support the public defense workforce development concerns expressed in the letter.

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. Additionally, King County has already implemented the new standards at the county level, which has created new challenges for cities looking to hire 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.

State-Level Context - HB 1592

[HB 1592](#) (Concerning public defense services) was introduced by Rep. Peterson in the 2025 legislative session, and he is likely going to work on the bill again in the 2026 session. The legislation would reallocate funding for public defense services between the state and local jurisdictions. Among other adjustments, it would require the state to fund:

- 50% of the five-year average of public defense costs paid for by eligible cities and counties (eligible cities and counties must adhere to certain training and reporting requirements laid out in [RCW 10.101.050](#));
- All public defense costs of eligible cities and counties that exceed the five-year average.

HB 1592 reflects the sentiments reflected in the draft letter regarding the overreliance on local funding for public defense in Washington state. However, due to state budget constraints, the chances the bill will be passed are slim.

Letter Review & Approval Timeline

OCTOBER

Wednesday 10/8

October PIC meeting

Second Touch

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

Additional amendments can be made at this time.

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

Wednesday 10/15

October Board meeting

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

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](#) .

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~~ While additional pay may help solve some of the recruitment and retention challenges, 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 only 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 ongoing 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 municipal 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~~ best ensure that public defense is administered swiftly, fairly and equitably and wants to ensure that all defendants, regardless of zip code, have an equal right to such 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

Amendments to the SCA Draft Letter to the Legislature

This list of amendments is slated for approval at the October PIC meeting. PIC members will consider each amendment in succession.

Amendment #1

First paragraph, sentence #2 edit

Proposed by City of Kent

We respect the fundamental and constitutional importance ~~and obligation to provide the effective assistance of counsel to indigent defendants in our courts. SCA appreciates the many months of work by the Washington State Bar Association and Washington State Supreme Court to create and approve these standards.~~

OR

Proposed by City of Kirkland

We respect the fundamental and constitutional importance of providing adequate public defense, ~~which is why our cities already provide the resources necessary to provide effective legal representation to indigent defendants in our local courts.~~

[Note: Since proposing Kirkland's amendment, the city has communicated that they support Kent's amendment.]

Amendment #2

Proposed by City of Kirkland

First paragraph add

However, ~~we remain concerned that these new caseloads have been adopted based on a national study, which does not accurately represent the current state of the criminal justice system in Washington, particularly the work of public defenders on misdemeanor cases in district and municipal courts. In addition, despite the 10-year...~~

Amendment #3

Proposed by City of Kirkland

Add new paragraph, following paragraph 1

~~We request that the state conduct a Washington-specific study. The state should provide funding and direction for a comprehensive evaluation of conditions in Washington. This should also include a deeper analysis of sample Washington jurisdictions with different levels of diversity in population, geographic characteristics, and defense delivery models. Ultimately, such a study can be utilized to best ensure that caseload standards are reasonable and suitable for Washington and that we have relevant information to ensure that all attorneys have the resources required to provide effective legal representation to their clients. This should also include a deeper analysis of sample Washington jurisdictions with different levels of diversity in population, geographic characteristics, and defense delivery models.~~

Amendment #4

Add to Defense Recruitment Strategies section

Proposed by City of Kent

...public defense contractors and cities. Washington has only three law schools with each of them graduating approximately 180 students per year. Taking into account: (1) attorney demand created by these rules; (2) attorneys who retire or leave the practice; and (3) the significant demand for attorneys in other practice areas, there will be too few attorneys to satisfy the requirements across the state. As a result...

Item 8:
4Culture Doors Open Presentation

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Discussion

At the October meeting, staff from 4Culture are providing updates to PIC on the Doors Open equitable cultural access program.

On December 5, 2023, the King County Council unanimously passed Doors Open legislation to increase funding to the County’s arts, heritage, science, and historic preservation non-profit organizations through a 0.1 percent sales tax. 4Culture is the County’s designated agency to distribute these funds, anticipated to be approximately \$100 million per year. A minimum of 25% of all Doors Open funding will go to organizations outside of the city of Seattle.

When the King County Council passed the levy, the Regional Policy Council stipulated in the ordinance that 4Culture was required to have a communication plan to jurisdictions regarding the use of the levy funds. 4Culture’s presentation to PIC is the first step in that plan – to provide some basic context and begin engaging PIC in a discussion of how 4Cultures and Sound Cities should communicate going forward.

Eligibility for Doors Open Funding

King County-based nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is the advancement and preservation of science or technology, the visual or performing arts, including zoology, botany, anthropology, heritage, or natural history are eligible for Doors Open funding. These organizations must provide programming or experiences available to the general public. Organizations that meet this state-mandated eligibility requirement but are not designated 501(C)3 are eligible if they are fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit organization that does meet eligibility requirements. As always, 4Culture Program Managers will be available to discuss eligibility requirements.

Item 9: Regional Boards & Committees Upcoming Issues

This memorandum provides an overview of key issues scheduled for discussion on regional boards and committees to inform the Public Issues Committee and support proactive engagement and policy alignment.

The SCA policy staff have identified the following issues for consideration by PIC as potential items for discussion:

- **KCRHA Governing Board: Regional Temporary Shelter Siting Policy**
 - Proposed by City of Seattle Mayor Harrell, Resolution No. 2025-10: Regional Temporary Shelter Siting Policy would ask that KCRHA conduct a county-wide inventory (including all cities) of locations that could host temporary shelters and encampments, as part of an ongoing effort to build a land bank.
 - The KCRHA Governing Board SCA Caucus has an opportunity to offer amendments to this resolution at the upcoming October 27 meeting.

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	Next Meeting	Upcoming Issues
King County Regional Transit Committee (RTC)	Chair: Deputy Council Pres. Barb de Michele, Issaquah; Vice Chair: Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Councilmember Neal Black, Kirkland; Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington; Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish; Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle; Councilmember Tracy Taylor, Auburn; Councilmember Tarlochan Mann, Pacific; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines	Oct 15	Annual update from Metro on their performance measures dashboard
Board of Health (BOH)	Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes, Auburn; Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Deputy Council	Oct 16	Discussion and possible action on a resolution regarding the BOH's commitment to supporting immigrant and refugee health access

	President Barbara de Michele, Issaquah		
Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Advisory Committee (MIDD)	Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle	Oct 23	Discussion around the behavioral health landscape for youth, which is a proposed strategy area for the MIDD renewal
KCRHA Governing Board	Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton; Kent Hay	Oct 27	Discussion/Potential Action on Regional Temporary Shelter Siting Policy Countywide inventory of housing & homelessness investments (data presentation from KCRHA staff)
Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)	Chair: Deputy Mayor Mork, Shoreline Vice Chair: Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland Councilmember Conrad Lee, Bellevue; Mayor Jessica Rossman, Medina; Deputy Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien; Councilmember Yolanda Trout-Manuel, Auburn	Nov 5	Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update, Wastewater Treatment Division's Operating Budget
Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)	Chair: Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond Vice Chair: Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland Council President Satwinder Kaur, Kent; Mayor Salim Nice, Mercer Island; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Councilmember Kent Treen, Sammamish; Councilmember Amy McHenry, Duvall; Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way; Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation; Councilmember Kate Baldwin, Auburn	Nov 19	Designation of Countywide & Regional Centers starting this fall; action slated for early 2026 Action on the AHC Strategic Direction and Charter Amendments
King County Regional Law, Safety, & Justice Committee (RLSJC)	Chair: 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	Dec 11	Updates on HB 2015 (public safety funding), county budget, and grant eligibility requirements for cities.



October 8, 2025
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10.c:

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

TBD	Covington	Parks District	TBD – Fact-finding stage
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Other Renewals – King County		
Year	Renewal	Status Update
2026	Mental Illness & Drug Dependency (MIDD) 0.1% sales tax renewal	King County Council approved the originally transmitted 9-year MIDD sales tax renewal ordinance at their September 23 meeting.