



SCA Public Issues Committee

February 11, 2026 - 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/82856191652?pwd=c9Ve0VJNE4znIk2tafBEO9aJ4pdRUa.1>

AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome and Roll Call – Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, PIC Chair** 5 Minutes
- 2) **Public Comment** 5 Minutes
- 3) **Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2026, Meeting** 5 Minutes
Page 6
- 4) **Chair’s Report – Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, PIC Chair** 5 Minutes
- 5) **Executive Director’s Report – Robert Feldstein, Executive Director** 5 Minutes
- 6) [PIC Orientation & Welcome New Members](#) 30 Minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 17
SCA Staff
- 7) [PIC Looking Back & Looking Forward](#) 35 Minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 21
SCA Staff
- 8) [PIC Schedule](#) 15 Minutes
ACTION
Page 24
Robert Feldstein, Executive Director
- 9) **Updates/Informational Items** 15 Minutes
 - a. February Newsletter
 - b. [Regional Boards & Committees Upcoming Issues](#)
 - c. [Levies & Ballot Measures](#)
 - d. [2026 PIC Work Plan](#)

- 10) **For the good of the order**

11) Adjourn

Upcoming Events

- 1. SCA Board of Directors Retreat – Tuesday, February 24, 2026**
- 2. SCA Networking Event – Evening of Wednesday, March 4, 2026, Mercer Island Community & Events Center - details TBA**
- 3. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

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
CJTC	Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission
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

December 10, 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. 27 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included: Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Chris Searcy, Enumclaw Staff; Kyle Moore, Kent Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Linda Lagunas, Renton Staff; Darren Nguyen, King County Council Staff; and Claire Miccio, 4Culture. 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 .

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, raised a point of order that staff from Redmond are experiencing technical difficulties joining the meeting and wanted to ensure members of the public were able to join. SCA Chief Operating Officer Leah Willoughby replied that some guests were able to access the meeting and will follow up with Redmond staff to ensure they can access the meeting.

Written public comment ([Attachment C](#)) was received prior to the meeting and distributed to members. Chair Roberts noted this and asked members to review the public comment.

Hearing no additional, Chair Roberts closed this portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 12, 2025 Meeting

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

Covington Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, thanked PIC members for the opportunity to serve as chair for the prior two years and expressed appreciation for members who have been regularly attending PIC. Roberts also shared that his thoughts are with individuals living along various rivers in the County who are experiencing flooding and expressed appreciation for the work of those helping their communities during the atmospheric river event. Roberts also stated that after 14 years, he is stepping away from serving as Shoreline's PIC representative and that a new councilmember will fulfill the role. He also expressed appreciation for Covington Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair, who will not be returning.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein expressed appreciation for Roberts and Cimaomo, as well as all members serving on PIC. Feldstein shared that the PIC Nominating Committee recently met to set appointments for the year. He also stated that over 120 people attended the SCA Annual Meeting, where King County Executive Girmay Zahilay spoke and nine SCA members were honored as members emeritus. Feldstein shared that SCA Board elections were recently conducted as well.

6. PIC 2026 Chair and Vice Chair Election

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, has been nominated as SCA PIC Chair for next year. Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, has been nominated as SCA PIC Vice Chair.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, to elect Assefa-Dawson as PIC Chair and Stuart as PIC Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Stuart thanked members for their support and expressed that her thoughts are with those in flooding areas. She also shared that she plans to be actively engaged in PIC agenda setting, serve as a point of contact and resource for North and Snoqualmie Valley Caucuses, and support bench-building efforts for committees. Stuart also expressed enthusiasm for visiting member cities and encouraged members to reach out to her.

Lydia Assefa-Dawson thanked Roberts for his encouragement and members for their support and expressed excitement to work with Stuart. Assefa-Dawson shared that she has been a long-serving PIC member. She asked for grace during the first couple of meetings as she adjusts to the role and expressed excitement to serve as PIC Chair.

7. 2026 Regional Boards and Committees Appointments

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein shared there was a large uptick in applicants this year as compared to past years. He shared that PIC Nominating Committee members considered geographical balance, city size and structure, and levels of experience, among other factors during selections. He thanked SCA PIC Nominating Committee members and staff for their work in the nomination process.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, thanked Councilmember Ruth Pérez, Renton, for her leadership during this process. She encouraged members to join the PIC Nominating Committee next year and to help in recruitment for future years. Stuart also shared that the committee identified opportunities for clarification in the application process that they will address in the future.

Councilmember Ruth Pérez, Renton, thanked Stuart and shared that the process this year was much more efficient than prior years due to the effort the committee put into preparation. She expressed gratitude to the SCA staff for their guidance in the selection process.

Shoreline Mayor, Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair asked Feldstein to clarify why there are six term limit exceptions being proposed. Feldstein shared that members receiving exceptions were most often in the middle of large bodies of work and/or were serving in a leadership role and thus needed to remain involved during a process.

Pérez moved, seconded by Stuart, to adopt the regional board and committee appointment recommendations made by the PIC Nominating Committee as presented in the December PIC Meeting Packet on pages 21-24 ([here](#)). The motion passed, with Bothell dissenting.

8. SCA 2026 State Legislative Agenda & County Priorities

Foltz first overviewed the proposed amendments to the State Legislative Agenda, which are included on pages 27 and 28 of the December PIC Meeting Packet ([here](#)). She shared that the Legislative Committee’s main considerations were that this is a short legislative session and state budgetary constraints.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ronn Mercer, Duvall, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue to adopt the draft state legislative agenda. Following discussion of amendments detailed below, the motion to adopt the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, asked whether there will be time to discuss the agenda as written, to which Roberts said there was. Stuart shared that Redmond is suggesting changing the word “and” to the word “that” in the phrase “prioritizing incentives over mandates and allow locally tailored approaches”, as it is more consistent with her city’s own legislative agenda.

Stuart moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to make the above change. Roberts asked whether there were any objections. Seeing none, the change was adopted.

Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent, shared that she wanted to advocate for liability reform, particularly around joint and severable liability. She stated that a city can be made to pay 100% of damages even if the city is not the primary party at fault. Troutner added that cities, counties, and the state are facing billions in lost revenue due to large judgements. She shared Newcastle

has proposed a similar amendment and that the City of Kent is willing to retract their amendment to support Newcastle's.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, expressed support for the points raised by Troutner and shared that their city managers have spoken on this item. He shared that one of the large items Newcastle wanted to see changed was that expenses were based on actual medical damages not projected damages.

Government Affairs Manager Kyle Moore, Kent, shared that he wrote Kent's proposed amendment and thanked Troutner and Charbonneau for their statements. He shared that in Kent, there was a crash caused by a reckless driver and there was a finding that the bus stop placement was incorrect by one inch. Because of this, Kent was made to pay the entire claim. Moore stated that in these cases, there is a tendency to go after the party with the most funds. He added that insurance rates are going up and less insurance providers are willing to insure cities with these types of liabilities, which will cause all of our cities to suffer significantly and financially. Moore shared that a city in Washington declared bankruptcy due to a lost judgement.

Charbonneau moved, seconded by Troutner, to adopt proposed amendment number 3 as presented in the PIC packet. The motion passed unanimously.

Foltz then overviewed proposed amendment number one which was proposed by Councilmember Ted Weinberg, Mercer Island. The proposed amendment pertains to defining e-motorcycles and e-bikes which is a gap in current law.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that Issaquah addressed standardization of their code around e-bikes, including more standardized policies around e-bike access for newer drivers. Their revision made it such that e-bikes can go anywhere a pedal bike can go, and expressed concern for a scenario where the regulatory environment is confusing for young riders.

Mayor Pro Tempore Mark Joselyn, North Bend, stated that his city has passed legislation around e-bikes. He expressed that anything at the state level would be helpful for clarification, but that the word "standardization" may be better-suited than "regulation", as he is not ready to call for increased regulation at this time.

Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, agreed with Joselyn. She stated that Snoqualmie recently passed an item in their municipal code on e-bikes but had a lot of back and forth on it. Christensen stated that some additional assistance at state level would be helpful, but that a balance is needed.

Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish, shared that Sammamish also recently discussed e-bike regulation and that there is currently a hodge podge of regulations among cities. She stated that Sammamish is in favor of the state looking at consistency among all cities regarding regulations. Lam said she was interested in a minimum age of 12 for class 1 bikes as they can go up to 20

miles per hour. She said that she believes this amendment is great, but that more study is needed by the state.

Mercer shared this issue has not gone before his council yet but that he is in favor of clarifying language. He stated that he is hearing consensus on the need for clarifying language, but is unsure if this raises to the level of a state legislative priority. Mercer stated he would love to revisit it in the future but that he would not push this at the state level, particularly given resource limitations.

Councilmember Jack Lamanna, Normandy Park, shared that he is unsure if a one-size-fits-all criteria at state level will fit needs for diverse cities. Lamanna added that he does not think this topic is worth pushing hard at the state level given that many other issues take precedence.

Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore, shared that this is a transportation issue and that there is a hole between e-bikes and larger vehicles the state has not addressed. Herbig stated that he feels state regulations make more sense than a hodge podge and appreciates this matter being brought up.

Stuart shared that Redmond is also concerned about rise in e-bikes. She stated that if the amendment were to move forward, it would perhaps be most helpful to disassociate it from e-bikes and instead focus on e-motorcycles and e-dirt bikes which are the current hole.

Councilmember Ted Weinberg, Mercer Island, shared that people in his community wanted a lot more than definitions, and that his council moved forward with a limited approach of just defining the term to plug the hole.

Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts, SCA PIC Chair, suggested that the next iteration of the PIC discuss this topic further.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein asked whether members are interested in the second bullet of the amendment but not the first. He also shared that the agenda should be passed at this meeting if it is to be ready before the start of the legislative session.

Weinberg moved, seconded by Christensen to adopt amendment number one as presented in the December PIC Meeting Packet. The motion passed, with Black Diamond, North Bend, and Duvall dissenting.

Foltz introduced the County Priorities and corresponding process for amendments and voting. She directed members to pages 29-31 of the December PIC Meeting Packet for the redlined version of the document.

Herbig, moved, seconded Curtis, to adopt the redlined County Priorities. Following amendments discussed below, the motion passed unanimously.

Feldstein shared that this is a new document expressed his excitement for it.

Roberts moved, seconded by Marts, to adopt an amendment to the Utility Rates Affordability section adding a bullet reading, “Advancing the suggested rate mitigation solutions identified at the Summit, such as advocating for a data-driven regulatory approach that ensures that infrastructure investments deliver meaningful benefits”. Following discussion detailed below, the motion passed unanimously.

Stuart shared that discussion at the Regional Utilities Rate Summit included ensuring that regulations are supported by data, and that the proposed amendment seems in line with those discussions. She expressed appreciation for Shoreline Deputy Mayor Laura Mork’s and Kirkland Councilmember Penny Sweet’s work on this topic and stated Redmond would be happy to support the amendment.

Joselyn shared support for Stuart’s remarks and asked whether data centers were brought up in the discussion of this amendment, which they were not.

Roberts asked for further amendments. Seeing none, the amended County Priorities were voted upon.

9. Updates/Informational Items

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz presented this standing agenda item to offer an opportunity for questions from PIC members. Items included in the Regional Boards & Committees Upcoming Issues item went through the end of the year; items for the new year will be brought forward in January. Committee work plans will also likely be brought to PIC.

Feldstein added that SCA is more impactful in upstream work, which includes work plans. He asked members to dive in on work plans and stated that some committees are in flux due to the King County Executive transition.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, stated that she has received an email that her committee is in flux and asked Feldstein whether he had any insight on decision times. He replied that he did not, and that multiple committees are in flux. Foltz also added that SCA staff are tracking this closely to ensure priorities are not lost.

Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond, asked whether everyone appointed or re-appointed to a committee could hear directly from SCA staff if their work has been affected by the aforementioned staff pause. Foltz shared that once appointments are finalized, SCA staff will be conducting outreach with incoming appointees, and that this will be included.

Foltz also shared that the December SCA newsletter has been delayed due to other SCA activities but will be released shortly. It will include a brief survey for ideas for the new year. Feldstein added that this survey includes tour requests.

Foltz stated that the levies and ballot measures memo is also in the packet but has not changed much. She asked members to contact SCA staff if they have items to add to the memo.

10. For the Good of the Order

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein shared that the Association of Washington Cities' City Action Days is happening in January, and that SCA appointee orientation will be held in SeaTac in February.

Covington Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., SCA PIC Vice Chair, expressed appreciation for all of the PIC members and wished them the best moving forward.

Tracy Taylor, Auburn, stated that it has been excellent first year on PIC and wished Cimaomo a happy birthday.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
December 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		
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	John Lebo	Tracy Furutani
Maple Valley	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	Jessica Rossman
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	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 December 10, 2025**

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:05:42 From Claire Miccio to Everyone:

I am an attendee that accessed the link through the agenda online

19:24:21 From Robert Feldstein to Hosts and panelists:

Lots of appreciation. For my first year, we ran it as we have in the past - which was amazing and served us well - but we're committed to getting even better and looking for process improvements for next year for both recruiting and nominating process. Thank you all.

19:27:30 From Carston Curd, Bothell to Hosts and panelists:

I dissented in the prior motion.

20:12:49 From Tracy Taylor, Auburn to Hosts and panelists:

Happy Birthday Joseph!

Attachment C: Written Public Comment Received Prior to the Meeting

7 December 2025

Dear Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee;

Joe A. Kunzler here. Some of you have heard from me on transit, on tackling Tsimerman and on open government. All thoughts mine, and they are on a matter of democratic security – namely *my* suggestions how to make Redmond President Kritzer’s “Never Again Means Never Again” *stick* 84 years to the day after Pearl Harbor.

84 years to the day after unprovoked attacks that forced the United States into World War II, I come to you with a warning: The victories in Redmond and Bellevue over Alex Tsiemrman may translate into the Tsimerman Wars spilling over into your city hall. Already, the Sound Cities Association Board of Directors erected emergency defenses to close their airspace to any such attack as if they were a NATO member state bordering Ukraine worried about Russian drones flying in. You should be equally concerned.

Why? Most of your member city halls are *unprepared* for this threat of sustained antisemitism, racism, sexism, and illegal campaigning coming to your city hall. “Never Again Means Never Again” is not just a slogan – but *a leader’s call to action*.

Now about these Tsimerman Wars, you may think similarly as FDR did on September 3, 1939 regarding World War II that,

“I hope the United States will keep out of this war. I believe that it will. And I give you assurance(s) and reassurance that every effort of your Government will be directed toward that end. As long as it remains within my power to prevent, there will be no blackout of peace in the United States.”

Sadly, on December 7, 1941, a surprise attack landed on Pearl Harbor, and on the next day, FDR declared not just “a day of infamy” but also, “Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.”

So what’s next to defend our democracies in between elections to prevent Tsimerman’s hatefests? I quote to you Finland President Alexander Stubb in *Foreign Affairs* to set the think global-act local tone:

“Finland has embraced what I have called “values-based realism”: committing to a set of universal values based on freedom, fundamental rights, and international rules while still respecting the realities of the world’s diversity of cultures and histories.”

I think we can have “values-based realism” here to protect democracy in between elections. There needs to be shared principles for public comment throughout Sound Cities Association members. Here are my suggestions from what helps win:

- City business boundary – to quote from Redmond, “City business is considered something relevant to the ongoing and regular operations of the City and/or topics which would routinely involve the government of the City”.
- No campaigning or electioneering – except for city council leadership

- No comments of incitement, fighting words, true threats, obscenity, or any other type of speech not legally protected speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
- Preferably no greetings or signs.

That should be sufficient. All were tested in the skies over Redmond and Bellevue. They can now be your values-based realism.

Some will say you cannot do even this for public comment. But herstory tells another story. Bellevue and Redmond have excluded Tsimerman for six months. No lawsuit. Just action to end bullying. King County Council is taking escalating action against Tsimerman with new leadership. Sound Transit and Puget Sound Regional Council have Tsimerman excluded, again. So those alleging you cannot protect your communities from Tsimerman are full of *mistruths*.

I began this missive with history and stern messages. But I am reminded after the strategic victories in Redmond on July 1 and Bellevue on November 21, that there *is* hope in action. For as Tony Blair said after 9/11, “The kaleidoscope has been shaken, the pieces are in flux. Soon they will settle. Before they do, let us reorder the world around us.” I also quote Sanna Marin’s Hope in Action below,

“The world isn’t going to end, and it is only through action that we can feel hopeful again. Action doesn’t have to be grand; we can all make a difference doing our own small part. Participation can give us the meaning and purpose in life that many are craving, especially in the current world situation.”

The best way to preserve democracy in between elections and stop Tsimerman’s hatefests is to look to Redmond and adopt her defenses as Bellevue did. That will drive out the hate and keep the truth coming from diverse, knowledgeable voices.

Finally, I remind that under RCW 42.30.240 that you have to have public comment before selecting city council and board officers. I’ve already reminded various jurisdictions of this duty, so I shall here.

Thank you for your continued public service;



Joe A. Kunzler
growlernoise@gmail.com

Item 6: PIC Orientation & New Member Welcome

At the February 11, 2026 Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting, we will start the year by orienting new and existing members to the work and purpose of PIC. This information is geared toward new PIC members but is also an important reminder for returning members.

Committee Functions

The SCA Bylaws provide that SCA shall have a Public Issues Committee (PIC), “which shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions.” Membership consists of one member and one alternate from each SCA city and town, each of whom must hold an elective office in the city or town they represent. Each city has an equal vote on the PIC, regardless of size.

Quorum & Voting

Per the SCA bylaws, fifty-one percent of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the committee. A vote of two thirds (2/3) represented at a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the advancement of a public policy position to the SCA Board.

Policy Positions

In general, when taking a policy position, issues will be first heard at one meeting for discussion and may return no sooner than the next regularly scheduled meeting for action. If not immediately addressing a policy issue renders SCA unable to take a position on a timely basis, 85% of those present at a regularly scheduled meeting may declare an issue an emergency, allowing the issue to be discussed and voted upon at the same meeting.

SCA representatives serving on regional boards and committees shall endeavor to avoid taking positions that are harmful to any SCA member cities. SCA appointees shall follow the following protocols when serving on regional boards and committees:

- 1) When the PIC & Board adopt a public policy position, it shall be binding on SCA representatives serving on regional boards and committees;
- 2) In the absence of such a position, the SCA caucus of a given board or committee shall attempt to develop a caucus position that represents the consensus of the caucus, based (where applicable) on existing SCA policy positions;
- 3) Where no policy position has been adopted by the PIC and Board, and the caucus is unable to reach a consensus position, individual members shall be free to vote their

conscience, with the caveat that no SCA representative to a regional board or committee shall vote in a manner that is at odds with an adopted SCA policy position.

The adopted Operating Policies of the PIC provide that “The PIC shall not make policy recommendations to the Board of Directors that are divisive among the members of SCA. ‘Divisive’ is defined as ‘creating disunity or dissension’ among SCA member jurisdictions. SCA shall not take policy positions that are harmful to the interests of any member city, even if favored by a supermajority of members.

PIC Revamp

In June 2025, the PIC discussed revamping the structure of presentations and action items that come to PIC. Members agreed to shift the focus from external presentations to staff-led discussions on regional issues affecting our cities. External partners focused on providing information, resources, and awareness will now mostly be scheduled at Pre-PIC meetings or via SCA venues like Lunch and Learns. On the other hand, regional partners are welcome to present at PIC when they are seeking genuine feedback while shaping an idea or looking for external viewpoints. Our line - “Present at PIC if you have questions, not if you have answers.”

Members also 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 at their regional committees, not requiring the PIC to take formal action. The new PIC structure echoes pre-pandemic operations and incorporates feedback from the 2025 SCA Membership Survey and member-staff conversations.

More information and guidance for caucuses can be found on [Attachment A](#).

Additional Resources

- A. [PIC Operating Policies](#)
- B. [SCA Bylaws](#)
- C. [SCA Board Policies](#)



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

38 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

Public Issues Committee Revamp

General guidelines for new PIC structure and examples of when issues would come to PIC

At the June PIC meeting, members agreed to shift the focus from external presentations to staff-led discussions on regional issues affecting our cities. External presentations will now mostly be scheduled at Pre-PIC meetings or via SCA venues like Lunch and Learns. PIC members also 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 at their regional committees, not requiring the PIC to take formal action. The new PIC structure echoes pre-pandemic operations and incorporates feedback from the 2025 SCA Membership Survey and member-staff conversations.

This memo informs SCA caucus members about the current SCA Bylaws governing PIC, outlines the new guidelines for PIC meetings, and provides examples of when issues would come to PIC.

SCA Bylaws: PIC Manner of Acting (paraphrased)

- Fifty-one percent of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum;
- Needs vote of two thirds (2/3) for the advancement of a policy position to the Board;
- Votes are in the name of the member city;
- Issues will be discussed at one meeting and any action will be at the next meeting;
- If necessary, 85% of those present may declare an issue an emergency, and the issue may be voted upon at the same meeting.

New Guidelines for PIC meetings

- **Focus on fewer presentations from external entities and more PIC member-centered conversations**
- **Move most longer, external presentations to before the PIC meeting** (either in the form of Pre-PIC or SCA Lunch and Learns)
- **Identify issues earlier:**
 - Goal of 2 PIC meetings *before issue is acted upon* by a regional committee (as possible)
 - 1st PIC: Discuss amongst PIC members; raise major themes and questions.
 - 2nd PIC: Members bring back input from their respective cities, and PIC will possibly take action on the issue in the form of an SCA “policy position” or formal response letter
 - OR, if action is not scheduled in committee, the goal is for PIC to discuss issues alongside the regional boards and committees to inform the possible next steps
- **Follow-up after PIC meetings**
 - **No formal action:** In most cases, PIC discussion will inform SCA caucuses on how to navigate/address the issue at their regional committees.

- **Formal action:** In some cases, the PIC may want SCA to take formal action. Per SCA bylaws, the PIC recommendation would then go to the SCA Board (the following week) for approval.

Examples of when issues would come to PIC:

- Situation 1: There is pending action in a regional committee.
Purpose: Ensure consensus or no unintended harm before SCA votes.
- Situation 2: Disagreement between SCA and other regional committee members.
Purpose: To identify new solutions and/or gather further support for their position.
- Situation 3: Disagreement among SCA Caucus members.
Purpose: Bring the issue to the larger PIC for a healthy debate and the sentiments of the full membership.
- Situation 4: Completion of a large body of work or major report.
Purpose: Ensure members are informed of new & important work and how cities can engage (e.g., a new report, toolkit, or action plan).
- Situation 5: Interest from cities in a PIC discussion about addressing a challenge or opportunity impacting SCA cities (could be outside of any regional committee work).
Purpose: Share best practices, commiseration, and identify steps forward or areas of collaboration.
- Situation 6: Concern about a policy or action, (e.g., by Seattle, County, or State).
Purpose: For cities to raise awareness and gauge interest in collective action or response.

What this means for you:

- **As an SCA representative on a regional board or committee:**
 - Work with your caucus colleagues and chair and the SCA staff to identify issues from regional committees that are potential or ready for PIC discussion.
 - When an issue from your committee has been discussed at PIC, if you attended the PIC meeting or discussed with your PIC representative, help convey the sentiments of PIC at regional committee meetings; SCA staff to your committees can also convey the sentiments of PIC and discuss potential next steps for committee members.
- **Generally, as an elected official and SCA member:**
 - Work with your city's PIC representative to learn about what issues are coming out of PIC, where your input is needed, and what actions SCA is taking.
 - Help identify issues (Situation 5&6) that might be of common interest and should be brought to PIC. For these, please reach out to the SCA policy staff supporting your respective board or committee or, if uncertain, Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz at aj@soundcities.org



Item 7:
PIC Looking Back & Looking Forward

DISCUSSION

At the February Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting, SCA staff will lead a presentation on the work PIC has achieved in the past year and the items coming up in 2026. This discussion will serve as a brainstorming session for members to raise potential topics or action items for the year.

Looking Back

Over the past year, the SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC) has worked on several regional issues for the benefit of member cities.

2025 PIC Discussions & Actions

January	2025 SCA Legislative Agenda PIC Orientation and New Member Welcome
March	Growth Target Reconciliation King County Parks Levy Renewal
April	Legislative Update Solid Waste & Sewer Rate Changes SCA Membership Survey Findings
May	Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal Solid Waste Division Rate Changes
June	Revising the Public Issues Committee House Bill 2015 & New Criminal Justice Sales Tax King County Transportation District Sales Tax
July	King County Transportation District Sales Tax New Indigent Defense Caseload Standards
September	Sound Transit Tour of Mercer Station King County Library System (KCLS) Levy Lid Lift KCTD: Prep for Upcoming King County Council Discussion New Indigent Defense Caseload Standards: SCA Draft Letter
October	Indigent Defense Caseload Standards Letter to the Legislature 4Culture Doors Open Presentation
November	Transit Safety and Security Briefing Unapproved Food Vendors Briefing PSRC Committee Restructuring

	Election Results Roundtable
December	2026 Regional Boards and Committees Appointments SCA 2026 State Legislative Agenda & County Priorities

Looking Forward

SCA Policy Staff have identified a number of items for discussion at PIC this year. **Please communicate with your city councils prior to the PIC meeting and bring answers to the questions below.**

Discussion Questions:

- What issues are important to your city council this year?
- What regional issues – or shared city challenges - do you think would benefit from discussion at PIC?
- What items would you like to learn more about in trainings/lunch-and-learns and Pre-PICS?

Potential 2026 PIC Issue Areas

Legislature

- State legislative session review

Regional Issues

- Preparation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Countywide Levies/Levy Follow-Up

- MIDD III Implementation Plan
- Potential Affordable Housing Countywide Levy
- King County Transportation District Tax
 - 0.1% councilmanic sales tax by KCTD – likely focused on rural roads.
 - 0.2% sales tax for popular vote – likely focused on King County Metro

Utilities/Utility Affordability

- Regional Utility Affordability Rate Summit follow-up
- Long Term Solid Waste Disposal Plan

Environment

- Organics Rulemaking
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan

Public Safety

- Indigent Defense
- Transit Safety
- Gun Violence Prevention

Emergency Management

- Flood Response

Regional Committees

- PSRC Representation

Item 8:
2026 PIC Meeting Schedule
ACTION ITEM

Potential Action

Approval of Resolution 2026-1, Setting the Public Issues Committee’s 2026 Meeting Schedule.

Background

Pursuant to SCA Bylaw 4.16.7, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) “shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions.” PIC meetings are open to the public, and agendas are available on the SCA website. Pursuant to SCA Bylaw 4.16.7.c, regular meetings of the PIC “shall be held monthly or as deemed necessary.”

In the interest of openness, accountability, and transparency, the PIC will adopt a meeting schedule by resolution at its first meeting of the year. This will enable all SCA members and the public to be aware of meeting dates.

Times & Locations

The PIC typically meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. In 2026, the November meeting falls on a federal holiday and will instead be held on the first Wednesday of that month.

SCA staff plans to hold some PIC meetings in person in 2026, tentatively in April, July, and October. Location details are to be determined and will be shared prior to each meeting and posted on the SCA website. These in-person meetings will not be hybrid.

Attachment

A resolution establishing the PIC meeting schedule for 2026 is included in [Attachment A](#) .

**Sound Cities Association
Resolution 2026-1
2026 Public Issues Committee Schedule**

WHEREAS, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) of the Sound Cities Association meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM to conduct the regular business of the Committee, unless otherwise stated; and

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS

The Public Issues Committee sets the following schedule for 2026 PIC meetings:

February 11
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July 8
(No August Meeting)
September 9
October 14
November 4
December 9

SECTION 2. LOCATION.

Unless otherwise stated, PIC meetings will be held remotely.

The location of each PIC meeting will be posted on the Sound Cities Association website, www.soundcities.org, and will be set not less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

PASSED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THE 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

Lydia Assefa-Dawson, 2026 PIC Chair

Date

Attest:

Date



February 11 2026
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 9.b:
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:

- **PSRC Transportation Policy Board:** Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
 - The RTP is open for public comment, and the planned final vote to approve will take place at the PSRC General Assembly meeting in May.

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
Regional Policy Committee (RPC)	<p>Caucus Chair: Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn</p> <p>Caucus Vice Chair: Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland</p> <p>Councilmember Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation</p>	Feb 11	<p>Consent Agenda: Veterans, Seniors and Human Services 2024 Annual Report</p> <p>Action: 2026 Work Program</p>
Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board (TPB)	<p>Caucus Chair: Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland;</p> <p>Caucus Vice Chair: Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way;</p> <p>Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Peter Kwon, SeaTac; Council President Ruth Pérez, Council President Barb de Michele, Issaquah</p>	Feb 12	<p>Reviewing and incorporating feedback on Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with planned final vote in late May.</p> <p>Reviewing federal priorities and project selection process for 2027.</p>
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)	<p>Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish; Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline</p>	Feb 13	<p>Briefings and discussions on the 2027 Solid Waste Rate, comprehensive solid waste management plan, curbside organics and recycling, waste acceptance rule update. Possible action on an advisory committee letter on King County Title 10 Legislation.</p>

Local Hazardous Waste Program Management Coordination Committee (MCC)	Councilmember John Boyd, Kent	Feb 17	Briefings on City and Tribal Grants Program, Operating structure assessment, Racial Equity Implementation Plan. Executive session on household hazardous waste facilities.
King County Regional Transit Committee (RTC)	Council Pres. Barb de Michele, Issaquah; Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Deputy Mayor Neal Black, Kirkland; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Councilmember Tracy Taylor, Auburn; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines; Councilmember Pamela Stuart, Sammamish; Councilmember Larry Goldman, Lake Forest Park; Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation; Councilmember Vishal Bhargava, Bellevue.	Feb 18	Beginning review of Metro Strategic Plan in 2026, update will be completed by 2028. Transit Safety Task Force recommendations and implementation will be reviewed as they take shape.
Board of Health (BOH)	Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Council President Barbara de Michele, Issaquah; Councilmember Victoria Schroff, Maple Valley; Deputy Mayor Hugo Garcia, Burien; Council President Satwinder Kaur, Kent; Councilmember Cheryl Paquette, Carnation	Feb 19	Possible votes: BOH Workplan in February, resolution supporting Foundational Public Health Services funding in winter, proposed BOH Food Code changes in the spring, resolution recognizing World Tuberculosis Day on March 24.
KCRHA Governing Board	Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton; Councilmember Kelly Jiang, Issaquah; Mayor Betsy Robinson, Shoreline	Feb 20	Actions to approve the 2026 proposed budget and the 5-Year Plan Addendum.
Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)	Chair: Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline Vice Chair: Mayor Jessica Rossman, Medina Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien; Deputy Mayor Dave Hamilton, Bellevue; Councilmember Hanan Amer, Auburn; Council President Melissa Stuart, Redmond	Mar 4	Regional Wastewater Services Plan update discussions, sewer rate and capacity charge discussions and response letter
Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)	Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello, Maple Valley; Councilmember Lindsey Walsh, Issaquah; Councilmember Annette Ademasu, Shoreline; Deputy Mayor Hugo Garcia, Burien;	Mar 5	Briefing: King County Countywide Housing Needs Assessment policy implications Briefing: 2026 Financial and policy outlook

	Councilmember Claire Sumadiwiryra, Bellevue; Councilmember Christina Rustik, North Bend		
King County Regional Law, Safety, & Justice Committee (RLSJC)	Chair: Deputy Mayor Neal Black, Kirkland; Councilmember Zandria Michaud, Kent; Mayor Troy Linnell, Algona; Councilmember Steve Sinwell, Clyde Hill; Mayor Eric Zimmerman, Normandy Park; Councilmember Carmen Rivera, Renton; Councilmember Suzan Torguson, North Bend; Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	Mar 26	Regional Gun Violence Youth Ambassador Program Presentation



Item 9.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
2026	TBD	King County Library System levy lid lift	TBD	KCLS staff are exploring options for a possible levy lid lift
2027	TBD	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal	TBD	Scheduled renewal for BSK levy

Upcoming Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Election	City	Measure	Proposal

Upcoming Ballot Measures - Special Districts			
Election	Special District	Measure	Proposal
TBD	Covington	Parks District	TBD – Fact-finding stage

Other Renewals – King County		
Year	Renewal	Status Update

Item 9.d:
2026 PIC Work Plan

This document provides a look ahead at upcoming topics for PIC meetings. The PIC work plan is a living document, subject to change as issues arise or are identified for discussion. **Items listed below are not finalized unless formally listed on an upcoming PIC agenda.**

Month	Agenda Items	Potential Topics
March	DISCUSSION: FIFA Local Organizing Committee	<i>Countywide Levies/Levy Follow-Up</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDD III Implementation Plan Potential Affordable Housing Countywide Levy King County Transportation District Tax (0.1% councilmanic KCTD tax; 0.2% voter-approved tax for King County Metro) <i>Utilities/Utility Affordability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Utility Affordability Rate Summit follow-up Solid Waste Long Term Disposal Plan <i>Environment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organics Rulemaking Regional Wastewater Services Plan <i>Public Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigent Defense Transit Safety Gun Violence Prevention <i>Emergency Management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Response <i>Regional Committees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSRC Representation
April <i>In-Person Meeting</i>	DISCUSSION: State Legislative Session Review	
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	DISCUSSION: State & County Legislative Agendas DISCUSSION: 2027 Appointments Briefing	
October	ACTION: State & County Legislative Agendas	

November		
December	ACTION: 2027 Committee Appointments	

Item 9.d:
2026 PIC Work Plan

This document provides a look ahead at upcoming topics for PIC meetings. The PIC work plan is a living document, subject to change as issues arise or are identified for discussion. **Items listed below are not finalized unless formally listed on an upcoming PIC agenda.**

Month	Agenda Items	Potential Topics
March	DISCUSSION: FIFA Local Organizing Committee	<i>Countywide Levies/Levy Follow-Up</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIDD III Implementation Plan • Potential Affordable Housing Countywide Levy • King County Transportation District Tax (0.1% councilmanic KCTD tax; 0.2% voter-approved tax for King County Metro) <i>Utilities/Utility Affordability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Utility Affordability Rate Summit follow-up • Solid Waste Long Term Disposal Plan <i>Environment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organics Rulemaking • Regional Wastewater Services Plan <i>Public Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigent Defense • Transit Safety • Gun Violence Prevention <i>Emergency Management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Response <i>Regional Committees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSRC Representation
April <i>In-Person Meeting</i>	DISCUSSION: State Legislative Session Review	
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	DISCUSSION: State & County Legislative Agendas DISCUSSION: 2027 Appointments Briefing	
October	ACTION: State & County Legislative Agendas	

November		
December	ACTION: 2027 Committee Appointments	