



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

February 11, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. 29 cities were represented. ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included: Alex Andrade, Burien (PIC Alternate); Adam Olen, Duvall (PIC Alternate); Susan Honda, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Paul Adair, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Nathan Loutsis, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Nathan Loutsis, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Julie Hsieh, Mercer Island (PIC Alternate); Vikek Prakriya, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Dan Murphy, Snoqualmie (PIC Alternate); Hugo Garcia, Burien; Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Chris Searcy, Enumclaw Staff; and Tania Mondaca, King County Council Staff.

Chair Assefa-Dawson 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

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment and encouraged any individuals with comment to contact sca@soundcities.org .

Hearing none, Chair Assefa-Dawson closed this portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2025 Meeting

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the December 10, 2025 SCA PIC meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, seconded to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, thanked members for the opportunity to serve as chair and staff for their support. She also expressed excitement to work alongside Redmond Council President Melissa Stuart, SCA PIC Vice Chair.

Chair Assefa-Dawson also stated that PIC must select an additional Nominating Committee member. Current members include Council President Ruth Pérez, Renton; Vice Chair Stuart; and Mayor Troy Linnell, Algona. In January, SCA invited members of the Snoqualmie Valley to fill a

vacancy on an unexpired term and received one application. Mayor Pro Tempore Ronn Mercer, Duvall, will serve in the role.

Chair Assefa-Dawson also relayed that there was an emergency council meeting in Federal Way to replace the sitting Council President, and that Susan Honda is now serving in the role.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein expressed his excitement for the year. He shared that SCA has many new members this year as there are 62 new elected officials, including 17 new mayors. Feldstein also relayed that people across the region care about what the PIC has to say on various issues. He challenged members to think about the best outcome for the region, not just their city.

Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair echoed Feldstein's sentiments about PIC's importance.

6. PIC Orientation & Welcome New Members

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

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz reviewed SCA's mission and three pillars of governance, advocacy, and knowledge-sharing. She explained that SCA is governed by a Board of Directors that oversees the general activities of SCA, and that PIC evaluates and recommends policy decisions and regional committee and board appointments. Each city selects a representative and alternate to serve on PIC. PIC is a representative body of each city in SCA and a vehicle for bringing regional issues to member cities and vice versa.

PIC members introduced themselves, as did SCA staff.

SCA Policy Analyst Dax Tate reviewed the function and role of PIC. He reviewed that each city has an equal voice on PIC regardless of population. Tate stated that PIC provides policy direction to SCA appointees on regional boards and committees. When PIC and the SCA Board of Directors adopt a position, it is binding. If there is no position, the SCA caucus shall develop a consensus. If there is no consensus, members can vote their conscience. However, members must still represent the interests of all cities and not support policies that harm the interests of any member city. Various issues across the statewide, countywide, regional, SCA caucus, and/or city levels can all be identified and brought to PIC for discussion and guidance.

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein reviewed that PIC members should discuss topics with their cities ahead of PIC meetings and funnel their city's perspective into discussion at PIC. The PIC Preview and a hot sheet with a summary of topics and key questions are available as tools for members to do so. Members are then encouraged to serve as a megaphone sharing out to their city councils what was discussed and decided at PIC, with the PIC crib notes and meeting minutes as tools to support them. Similarly, PIC members should also funnel city and local issues, County and regional issues, statewide issues, and regional board and committee topics into PIC. PIC

discussions should be communicated back to member city councils, King County Council, the Washington State legislature, and SCA caucuses.

Foltz then overviewed the two-touch rule and timeline for policy positions. A given issue will be introduced at an initial meeting and decide whether they want to consider adopting a position. A majority of members present must vote in favor of bringing the issue back to the next meeting for possible adoption. In between PIC meetings, members should seek feedback from city council members and staff regarding any amendments, such as to a letter, as applicable. Proposed amendments can be sent to the Senior Policy Analyst and/or the Executive Director. At the next PIC meeting, proposed amendments will be reviewed in succession, and additional amendments can be made. PIC will then vote whether to recommend the final action, such as a letter, or position to the SCA Board of Directors for approval. An exception to this rule is an emergency action, which is uncommon, but can be utilized if not immediately addressing a policy issue renders SCA unable to take a position on a timely basis. However, the two-touch rule should be the standard SCA follows.

PIC members will receive various materials from SCA staff. Two weeks prior to the meeting, members will receive a PIC Preview, which is a draft meeting agenda and provides information on any pre-PIC meetings. The week prior to the PIC meeting, members will receive a hot sheet which provides an overview of agenda items with brief descriptions and key questions for city colleagues. Members will also receive the PIC packet the week prior to the PIC meeting, which includes the meeting agenda, previous meeting minutes, and memos with background information. Following the meeting, members will receive crib notes that can be shared with city councils and includes key discussions and decisions.

Redmond City Council President Melissa Stuart, SCA PIC Vice Chair, noted that the chat has been highly utilized tonight but is not typically as highly utilized as alternates cannot interact with it, and anything sent is included in the minutes.

Deputy Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that PIC had a large influence on the Best Starts for Kids Levy and the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, including data collected and how elected officials govern large-ticket items related to the levies. Deputy Mayor Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, shared that PIC was valuable in framing the issues he could tackle in office. He stated that it is helpful to connect with other cities on how they approach various topics, such as mental health co-responders.

SCA Policy Analyst Laura Belmont reviewed that quorum is achieved when 51% of members of the committee are present at a meeting. They stated that if less than a quorum of the members is represented at a meeting, a majority of the members represented may adjourn the meeting. A vote of two-thirds of members represented at a meeting at which quorum is present is necessary to advance a public policy position to the Board. Belmont reviewed the proposed dates for the 2026 PIC meetings and that the PIC meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm. They encouraged members to RSVP to PIC meetings early to ensure quorum is met at meetings and so they can receive their personalized Zoom link to join the meeting. If a representative RSVPs “no” to a meeting, they are to cc their alternate who is to then RSVP.

Feldstein overviewed the composition of the SCA Board of Directors: 4 members each from the North and South Caucuses, 1 member each from the South Valley and Snoqualmie Valley Caucuses, the PIC Chair, a City Manager/City Administrator Representative, and a Past President. The Board finalizes decisions PIC makes.

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, stated that prior PIC meetings were held in-person and fostered a collaborative feel among members. He asked if there has been consideration for PIC members meeting in-person more often. Feldstein stated that he values in-person meetings and encourages more of it and expressed that it is ultimately PIC's decision. Feldstein stated that in-person does cause strain on staff and can be a barrier to some PIC members, though PIC members can discuss it. Boyce stated he feels that this is worth discussing.

Feldstein reviewed SCA's mission, vision, values, and guiding principles. He highlighted that members bring diverse perspectives from their cities and a wealth of experience.

Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, suggested sending out a survey to determine whether PIC members are interested in meeting in-person. Feldstein added that meetings would likely rotate between cities if held in person.

Vice Chair Stuart stated she is happy to explore the idea of meeting in person. She expressed that a lower frequency of in-person meetings makes the ones held in person special and should present an opportunity to experience something that makes things worth everyone's time. Vice Chair Stuart encouraged members to share ideas of cities or items they want to see.

Council President Ruth Pérez, Renton, stated members are always welcome in Renton, which has hybrid capabilities.

Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific, stated that hybrid options for in-person meetings are useful to prevent absences.

7. PIC Looking Back & Looking Forward

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

SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein reviewed the 2025 PIC discussion topics, which can be viewed on pages 21-22 of the PIC packet (available [here](#)). SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz highlighted the pre-PIC Sound Transit tour.

Foltz then overviewed items carrying over to 2026. This includes annual items such as state legislative session update/review, State and County legislative agendas, and committee appointments, as well as specific topics like King County Transportation District tax, indigent defense, transit safety, and utility rates. Other discussion topics include the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Puget Sound Regional Council representation, and various countywide levies and levy follow-up.

SCA Policy Analyst Laura Belmont overviewed possible issues for PIC discussion pertaining to utilities and the environment. They highlighted potentially following up on the fall's Regional Utility Rate Summit, particularly since the item is continuing to rise in discussion amongst caucuses and will be before the Regional Policy Committee this year. Belmont also mentioned the long-term solid waste disposal decision as a topic of interest, as cities have expressed interest in the timing of the decision and impacts of rail. Belmont also overviewed organics rulemaking and updating guiding principles for the SCA Caucus for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update as possible topics of interest.

SCA Policy Analyst Dax Tate overviewed that cities may have interest in following up on relief from indigent defense caseload standards or discussing gun violence prevention. He shared that members may have interest in discussing flood response and what can be improved in future emergency responses. For transportation, the transit safety task force drafted an implementation plan and is now shifting to an implementation plan, and there is interest in cities sharing their perspectives. He also raised the Puget Sound Regional Council Regional Transportation Plan as a topic of interest.

Foltz then opened the floor for feedback from members on topics of interest at PIC, lunch and learns, trainings, and pre-PICs.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ronn Mercer, Duvall, stated he is glad to see topics continuing and stated he thinks Duvall shares many priorities of other cities. He stated a particular interest of Duvall's is how to deal with land use regulations from the state and the disparate impacts on urban versus rural areas from levies.

Deputy Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that Issaquah has struggled with generating housing since COVID, as they had previously exceeded their housing targets. He stated that their growth has occurred everywhere except their regional growth center, and as such would like to know what is working well for other cities in the County.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, placed topics of interest to her city in the chat (Appendix B), which were: behavioral health, protections for immigrant community, human services, economic development, surveillance and privacy in a world with Flock and Ring cameras, AI, new technology in transportation especially aerospace vehicles, housing solutions that address lowest capacities, and job creation and opportunity sharing. Kruller stated that AI is a lower priority for them, but the top-listed issues are of high interest to Tukwila.

Deputy Mayor Debbie Treen, Sammamish, shared that they have the same issues as Duvall and Issaquah around one-size-fits-all regulations around housing that feel like unfunded mandates, particularly given their lack of resources.

Councilmember Mark Joselyn, North Bend, stated that his city has hired a lobbyist regarding exit 34 on the I-90 as many trucks pass through, which reduce capacity for moving goods across the region. Joselyn also raised that many cities are writing a letter regarding HB 2015 and the criminal justice sales tax.

Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific, echoed the concerns others raised. He stated that he is particularly concerned regarding the caveat on the criminal justice sales tax that cities cannot cooperate with federal agencies, citing that Pacific interacts with more agencies than just Immigration and Customs Enforcement, such as in arson cases. Kave also expressed flood response is a major issue in Pacific.

Redmond Council President Melissa Stuart, SCA PIC Vice Chair, stated that discussions among PIC last year raised that the County legislative agenda is potentially more impactful than the state one and wants to ensure we go back to this. Vice Chair Stuart also wanted to raise the factors underlying utilities and the need to improve relationships with state regulators as future discussion topics. She also stated job numbers may be a topic of interest for PIC.

Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, echoed support for economic development conversations and regional utility rates. He also stated that the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative may be of interest, as are the Regional Wastewater Services Plan and affordable housing.

Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien, stated that she is particularly interested in the utility rates and Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update. Moore expressed her city is also interested in the expansion of the SeaTac airport.

Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, stated that she read the Small Business Administration is requiring 100% of business owners to be United States nationals or citizens to get grants, which will have a large impact on our cities, as many restaurant or small business owners may be green cardholders and not citizens. She stated immigration overall is also an issue, but this is a specific item of interest within that umbrella.

Councilmember Shilpa Prem, Kirkland, echoed what has been said and added that prior to the pandemic there was discussion around a regional transit package, and that she has heard it may come up again. Prem also stated interest in SCA developing an affordability agenda. She stated that cuts at King County are of concern to Kirkland, particularly around cuts affecting King County-Cities Climate Collaboration.

8. PIC Schedule

Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, directed members to Resolution 2026-1 on page 25 in the PIC packet (available [here](#)) for the full list of dates for PIC meetings for the year.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila moved, seconded by Councilmember Elizabeth Porter, Covington, to adopt Resolution 2026-1 as presented in the PIC packet. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Updates/Informational Items

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz presented this standing agenda item to offer an opportunity for questions from PIC members. Foltz stated that SCA newsletters will shift to quarterly rather than

monthly. She opened the floor for questions on the regional board and committee updates. Seeing none, Foltz overviewed the levies and ballot measures tracker and encouraged members to submit items.

Redmond Council President Melissa Stuart, SCA PIC Vice Chair, stated that she will assume potential levies listed in the PIC topics brainstorming discussion are not occurring until they are on the tracker but expressed particular interest in the affordable housing levy. Foltz clarified that items on the tracker are known to be coming forward; once items become finalized and/or scheduled, they will be added to the tracker.

Foltz stated that staff have added a new PIC Work Plan to the packet to provide a way for members look further ahead at upcoming topics. This is a living document so PIC can remain flexible and proactive but will help give members more advance notice on items. Items listed on the work plan are not formally on the agenda until they are sent out in the PIC Packet.

10. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, stated it was encouraging to see how cities joined in camaraderie regarding the Super Bowl Victory and is interested in other opportunities for unity.

Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific, stated he will be working on a white paper for flood issues in the valley and asked members to reach out if they have any knowledge on the history of flooding and flood control efforts. Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island, suggested Kave reach out to King County's Office of Emergency Management.

Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, stated that many members may be far from the airport, but one city's issue is everyone's issue. She added that PIC Packets are intimidating but the hot sheets will be helpful for engagement and sharing with councilmembers. Chair Assefa-Dawson encouraged members to get early input from their cities on discussion topics and to apply for committee vacancies.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
February 11, 2026**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	Jennifer Freeburg
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Naren Briar
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell		
Burien	Sarah Moore	Alex Andrade
Carnation	Jim Ribail	Sam Harrison
Clyde Hill	Dean Hachamovitch	
Covington	Elizabeth Porter	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Yoshiko Grace Matsui	Harry Steinmetz
Duvall	Ronn Mercer	Paul Adair
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Jan Martinelli
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Susan Honda
Hunts Point	Joe Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Kelly Jiang
Kenmore	Eric Adman	Nathan Loutsis
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Shilpa Prem	Kelli Curtis
Lake Forest Park	Tracy Furutani	Larry Goldman
Maple Valley	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	Wendy Weiker	Julie Hsieh
Milton	Jason Roberts	Bruce White
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Andy Jacobs
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Mark Joselyn
Pacific	Vic Kave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Vikek Prakriya
Renton	Ruth Pérez	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Debbie Treen	Josh Amato
SeaTac	Peter Kwon	Mohamed Egal
Shoreline	Laura Mork	
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Louis Washington	Dan Murphy
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Dennis Martinez
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

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

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:06:55 From Leah Willoughby, SCA (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

They can please use the public link!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82856191652?pwd=c9Ve0VJNE4znIk2tafBEO9aJ4pdRUa.1>

19:19:11 From Dax Tate, SCA (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:

Intros - Name, Title, City, # of yrs on city council, # of yrs on PIC

19:28:33 From Tamie Deady, Black Diamond to Hosts and panelists:

sorry had to step out. my dad took a fall. I am Tamie Deady City of Black Diamond Mayor Pro Temp. Council member for 15 years. pic member for 13 years.

19:32:30 From Kate Kruller, Tukwila CM to Hosts and panelists:

So far, the Hot Sheet is a GREAT idea!

19:35:23 From Sarah Moore, Burien to Hosts and panelists:

Is there a way to connect new people to a mentor?

19:37:30 From Dax Tate, SCA (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:

We don't have an established process for that, but we are always happy to help facilitate connections!

19:38:24 From Melissa Stuart, Redmond to Hosts and panelists:

@Mayor Moore: I'm happy to visit Burien and answer any questions you might have. I'd love to learn more about your city!

19:40:08 From Sarah Moore, Burien to Hosts and panelists:

Melissa Stuart 1000% yes please!

19:40:59 From Tola Marts, Issaquah DCP to Hosts and panelists:

Crib notes are going to be soooooo helpful in generating muni feedback!

19:57:06 From Tracy Taylor, Auburn to Hosts and panelists:

I love that @billboyce

19:57:48 From Kate Kruller, Tukwila CM to Hosts and panelists:

I would like to transition to more in-person meetings.

20:20:48 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Everyone:

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?

20:24:39 From Kate Kruller, Tukwila CM to Hosts and panelists:

Behavioral Health

Protections for immigrant community

Human services

Economic development

Surveillance and privacy in a world with flock and ring cameras

AI

New technology in transportation - especially aerospace vehicles

Housing solutions that address lowest capacities

Job creation/opportunity sharing

20:32:27 From Aj Foltz, SCA (she/her) to Everyone:

<https://soundcities.org/2025-sca-legislative-agenda/>

20:53:15 From Robert Feldstein, SCA (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you all! Looking forward to working with this incredible group in the coming year!

20:53:17 From Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island to Hosts and panelists:

Nice work Lydia and SCA team; thank you!

20:54:01 From Sam Harrison, Carnation to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks!