SCA Public Issues Committee

November 4, 2026 - 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL

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/82186587398?pwd=zXxmHwY91zelhK8ybpQ5I9TPDcXt4A.1

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / Meeting ID: 821 8658 7398 / Passcode: 023063

AGENDA

1)	**Welcome and Roll Call – Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, PIC Chair**	5 Minutes
2)	**Public Comment**	5 Minutes
3)	Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2026 Meeting Page 6	5 Minutes
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)	Hazardous Waste Presentation DISCUSSION Page 11 Laura Belmont, Policy Analyst	20 Minutes
7)	SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda DISCUSSION Page 14 Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst	30 Minutes
8)	2026 SCA Impact & 2027 Work Plan Discussion DISCUSSION Page 21 Aj Foltz, Senior Policy Analyst	20 Minutes
9)	**Updates/Informational Items** a. Regional Boards & Committees Upcoming Issues b. Levies & Ballot Measures c. 2026 PIC Work Plan	10 Minutes

10) For the good of the order

11) Adjourn

Upcoming Events

a. Veterans Day – November 11 – SCA Offices Closed
b. US Digital Partners Lunch & Learn – November 13 – Details TBA
c. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – November 18 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Bellevue City Hall
d. HealthierHere HR1 Lunch & Learn – Novebmer 30 – 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
e. SCA Annual Meeting – Evening of December 2 – Museum of Flight
f. SCA PIC Meeting – December 9 – 7 – 9:00 PM – Virtual
g. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – December 16 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall

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
KCPEC	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
October 14, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Renton Technical College, Room C111

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**
   Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. 25 cities were represented. (Attachment A).

   Guests present included: Les Sessoms, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Joe Vinson, SeaTac; Andreana Campbell, Kirkland Staff; Eric Perry, Renton Staff; Jose Brito Alvarado, King County Council Staff; John Sheller, King County Library System.

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 – September 9, 2026 Meeting**
   Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the September 9, 2026 SCA PIC meeting.

   Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Council President Ruth Pérez, Renton, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2026 SCA PIC Meeting. The motion passed with Deputy Mayor Debbie Treen, Sammamish, abstaining.

4. **Chair's Report**
   Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair, overviewed the October PIC agenda and reminded members that the November PIC meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month due to the regular PIC day falling on a federal holiday.

5. **Executive Director's Report**
   SCA Executive Director Robert Feldstein shared updates regarding SCA's work on the county's upcoming housing levy through the Breaking the Cycle Work Group, the transit safety task force, the MIDD/Bridge Implementation Plan, the upcoming Best Starts for Kids levy renewal, and upcoming utilities summit.

   Feldstein shared the SCA Board's direction regarding next year's PIC schedule, including their plan for PIC to meet in person every other month. Council President Issaquah, and SCA Board of

Agenda

Directors member, Tola Marts shared that the SCA Board intends for its emphasis on in-person meetings to be a sign of enthusiasm for the value of PIC meetings.

Feldstein then shared that the application for 2027 SCA Board and Committees appointments is now open. Members were encouraged to consider applying and to share with other members.

6. **Appointment of the 2027 SCA PIC Nominating Committee Members**
   Federal Way Councilmember, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA PIC Chair briefly reviewed the policies for appointing the PIC Nominating Committee, as included in the SCA Bylaws. Chair Assefa-Dawson appointed the following individuals to the 2027 SCA PIC Nominating Committee:

   - Mayor Troy Linnell, Algona, representing the South Valley Caucus
   - Mayor Pro Tem Ronn Mercer, Duvall, representing the Snoqualmie Valley Caucus
   - Council President Melissa Stuart, Redmond, representing the North Caucus
   - Councilmember Alex Andrade, Burien representing the South Caucus

7. **Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Update**
   This item was discussed after Item 8.

   Marissa Chávez, King County, presented an update on the Breaking the Cycle Investments and Revenue Workgroup, including an updated timeline; current needs, investments, and levies; and example levy rates, investments, and comparisons.

8. **SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda & County Priorities**
   SCA Senior Policy Analyst Aj Foltz presented the 2027 Draft SCA State Legislative Agenda. Foltz reported that PIC discussed potential priorities in September. She reviewed the process of developing the State Legislative Agenda and County Priorities and shared plans for a webinar in 2027 to discuss a state legislative strategy.

   Council President Melissa Stuart, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors adopt the 2027 State Legislative Agenda.

   Councilmember Adam Olen, Duvall, moved to amend the 2027 SCA State Legislative Agenda to add language requesting that the state align housing requirements with funding for additional infrastructure needs surrounding housing construction as follows:

   "Aligning state housing requirements with funding for the infrastructure necessary to accommodate growth, including water, sewer, transportation, and other essential public facilities, with particular consideration for smaller cities with limited fiscal capacity."

   Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific, moved, and it was seconded, to amend the proposed language to say: *"Recognize state housing requirements come with additional needs for infrastructure…"* The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien, to amend the language of the amendment to read "…with particular consideration that it is cost-prohibitive to the desired development." The motion passed unanimously.

The motion by Olen, as amended, passed unanimously.
Council President Satwinder Kaur moved, seconded by Council President Melissa Stuart, Redmond, to amend the 2027 State Legislative Agenda to add the following section, as included in the meeting materials:

Supporting Clean Air Agencies
Local clean air agencies are the primary point of contact for cities on air quality enforcement, monitoring, forecasting, and community education. State funding was cut by 65% in 2025 - a reduction of $1.6 million statewide. Cities are already seeing impacts, including reduced complaint response, scaled-back monitoring, and decreased community education.

SCA supports:
- *Restoring the $1.6 million cut through the Department of Ecology; and,*
- *Establishing a stable, long-term funding source.*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Council President Ruth Pérez, to amend the Utility Affordability section of the 2027 State Legislative Agenda to read as follows:

Utility Affordability
Cities are on the frontlines where ratepayers are impacted, often directly providing utility services to ratepayers and maintaining local infrastructure or partnering with utility districts for those services. SCA cities ask the state to collaborate with utility agencies to explore data-driven regulatory approaches that achieve measurable environmental outcomes while mitigating ratepayer burden.

SCA supports:
- *A data-driven regulatory approach that ensures that infrastructure investments deliver meaningful environmental or public health benefits; and,*
- *Coordinating regulatory requirements to prevent and reduce stacking of requirements that contribute to upward rate pressure on ratepayers*
- *Policies that shift the costs of end-of-life management of various products from ratepayers and local governments to producers via extended producer responsibility (EPR).*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to amend the 2027 State Legislative Agenda to add the following as a bullet point under the "SCA Supports" heading of the "Support Local Housing Priorities" section:

"Clarifying that the HB 1220 obligation to plan for and accommodate growth by income level is a planning-level responsibility, rather than a requirement to identify funding;"

The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Gene Achziger, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Mayor Sarah Moore, Burien, to amend the 2027 State Legislative Agenda to add a section on mitigation for airport impacts. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

The motion by Stuart was not brought to vote.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors adoption of the 2027 State Legislative Agenda, as amended, with the understanding that the discussion on the proposed amendment regarding airport will return for discussion at the November 2026 PIC meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: The County Priorities discussion was postponed until after the Breaking the Cycle presentation.

Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors adoption of the 2027 SCA County Priorities as provided in the meeting materials. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Updates/Informational Items**
   In the interest of time, Chair Assefa Dawson director members to materials provided for review and moved to the next item.

10. **For the Good of the Order**
    Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn encouraged members to attend the upcoming cohosted event: Association of Washington Cities (AWC) District Meeting and SCA Fall Event.

11. **Adjourn**
    The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
October 14, 2026

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	David White	Troy Linnell
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	Tom Stowe
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Naren Briar
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Burien	Sarah Moore	Alex Andrade
Carnation	Jim Ribail	Max Voelker
Clyde Hill	Dean Hachamovitch	
Covington	Elizabeth Porter	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Yoshiko Grace Matsui	Gene Achziger
Duvall	Ronn Mercer	Adam Olen
Enumclaw	Ed Storton	Jan Martinelli
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Les Sessoms
Hunts Point	Joe Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Paul Adair
Kenmore	Eric Adman	Nathan Loutsis
Kent	Bill Boyce	Satwinder Kaur
Kirkland	Shilpa Prem	Kelli Curtis
Lake Forest Park	Tracy Furutani	Larry Goldman
Maple Valley	Syd Dawson	Dana Parnello
Medina	Heija Nunn	
Mercer Island	Wendy Weiker	Julie Hsieh
Milton	Jason Roberts	Teri Mounts
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Andy Jacobs
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Eric Zimmerman
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Mark Joselyn
Pacific	Vic Kave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Vivek Prakriya
Renton	Ruth Pérez	Ed Prince
Sammamish	Debbie Treen	Josh Amato
SeaTac	Peter Kwon	Joe Vinson
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.

Item 6:
Hazardous Waste Presentation
DISCUSSION

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

SCA Hazardous Waste Program Management Coordination Committee (MCC) Members
Councilmember John Boyd, Kent; Councilmember Sam Harrison, Carnation

Discussion

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (Program) in King County works to protect public and environmental health from hazardous materials through work spanning hazardous waste collection and disposal services, prevention programs, research, and policy initiatives. The Program is primarily funded through fees on solid waste and sewer services. These fees have remained the same since 2022, and the Program's fund balance is projected to fall below the required reserve beginning in 2029 without a rate adjustment. The Program is conducting stakeholder engagement exploring possible rate increase options, a 7% increase or a 9.5% increase. These translate to about a 7 cent and 10 cent increase per month for a single-family residential customer, respectively. Members will receive an overview of the Program's work and hear about ongoing rate analysis and engagement.

Background Information
The mission of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's (Program) is to protect public health and the environment from risks posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. Items that are considered hazardous waste include items like cleaning supplies, motor oil, and oil-based paints. The Program serves King County's 2.3 million residents and over 70,000 businesses providing a range of services including:

- Household hazardous waste collection and disposal services
- Promoting safer alternatives and safe management practices to reduce the use of and exposure to toxic materials through technical assistance, education, and incentives programs
- Advancing policies to promote systemic change in production, use, and disposal of hazardous waste
- Conducting research that informs services, measure program effectiveness, and guide systems-change efforts

The Program partners with local jurisdictions to provide direct services, coordinate resources, and support compliance with state regulations for hazardous waste management. The Hazardous Waste Management Program is overseen by a coalition of local partners:

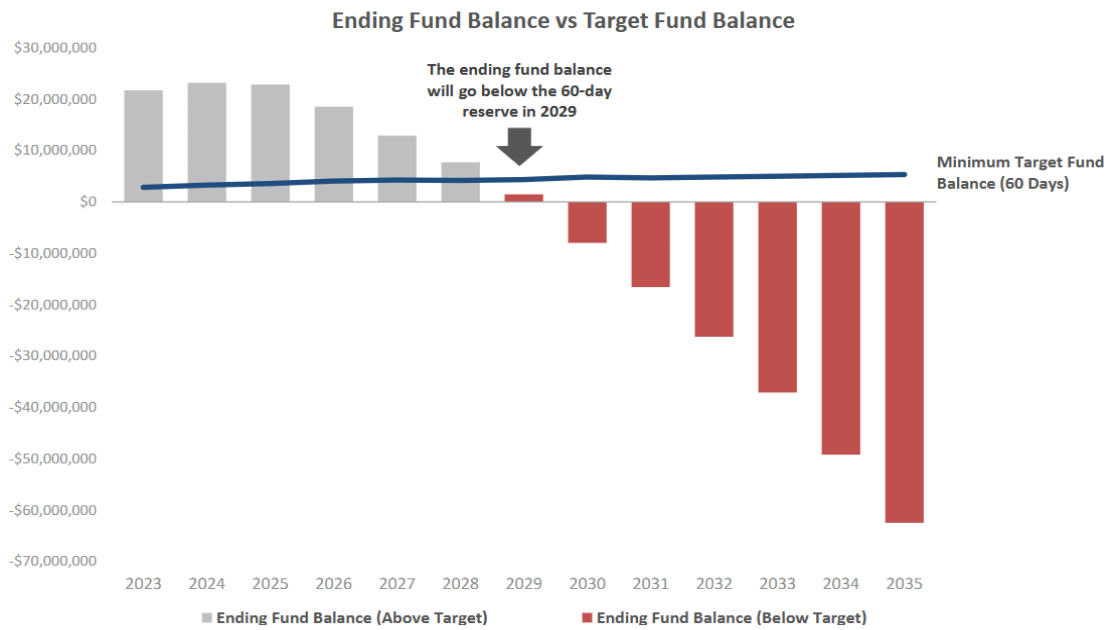
- King County Solid Waste Division;
- King County Water and Land Resources Division;
- Public Health - Seattle & King County;
- Seattle Public Utilities; and
- Sound Cities Association.

Together, these five partners form the Management Coordination Committee (MCC), to which SCA appoints a representative and an alternate. The Program is funded by Local Hazardous Waste fees on solid waste and sewer services, set by the King County Board of Health. Fee rates have remained the same since 2022. A table of fee rates is shown below.

Rate Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2027
Wastewater fee (per 1M gal.)	$45.79	$48.26	$50.87	$53.62	$56.51	$56.51
Transfer station fee						
Private vehicle (per trip)	$1.81	$1.91	$2.01	$2.12	$2.23	$2.23
Commercial vehicle (per ton)	$4.73	$4.99	$5.25	$5.54	$5.84	$5.84
Solid Waste fee						
Single family residential (per mo.)	$0.84	$0.89	$0.93	$0.98	$1.04	$1.04
Commercial cart (<0.48 yd/mo.)	$1.46	$1.54	$1.62	$1.71	$1.80	$1.80
Commercial dumpster (0.48-10 yd/mo.)	$12.01	$12.66	$13.34	$14.06	$14.82	$14.82
Commercial roll-off (>10 yd/mo.)	$46.15	$48.64	$51.27	$54.04	$56.96	$56.96

Historical and current fee rates as presented at the October 2026 Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

However, the fund balance is projected to go below the 60-day reserve in 2029 and to become negative in 2030 and beyond (shown below), prompting the Program to seek a rate increase.



Program fund balance projection as presented at the October 2026 Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

The MCC discussed possible rate options from May to September 2026, voting at their July meeting in support of further exploring possible rate options of a 7% or 9.5% rate increase. These translate to about a 7 cent and 10 cent increase per month for a single-family residential customer, respectively. The Program is now conducting engagements with a variety of stakeholders, including the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee, and SCA members, before bringing a rate increase proposal to the Board of Health in early 2027.

Questions for discussion

The Program is looking for feedback from SCA members, particularly on the following questions:

- Which hazardous waste services are most important to you and your community?
- What community and local impacts should the Program consider?
- What are your thoughts on these rate options, given that actual rates may vary based on when an increase is implemented?

Item 7:
SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda
DISCUSSION

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

2026-2027 Legislative Committee Members
The SCA Legislative Committee is a subcommittee of the SCA Board and generally includes 5-6 members representing the geographic caucuses. In 2026-2027 the members are:

> Councilmember Lynne Robinson, Bellevue (Chair); Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Amy McHenry, Duvall; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent

Discussion

At the November meeting, PIC will revisit a discussion regarding adding an amendment to the SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda.

Recap from October Meeting
At the October PIC meeting, City of Des Moines proposed and subsequently withdrew an amendment to the SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda to call on the state to pass legislation on mitigation for health impacts and disparate economic development in airport communities.

PIC discussion included recognition of the challenges that airport communities are facing, as well as concerns that amendment language could be construed broadly by the state to apply to local mitigation requirements or mitigation for other regional infrastructure such as municipal airports or rail corridors.

Des Moines withdrew this amendment after other PIC members suggested discussing a revised amendment relating to airport mitigation at the November PIC meeting.

PIC Vice Chair Melissa Stuart requested that more background information be brought to PIC to inform the discussion. SCA staff have also been connecting with cities regarding a potential path forward.

You can find proposed language from the City of Des Moines on Attachment B.

SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda
As approved by the SCA Board of Directors

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) urges the Washington State Legislature to adopt an equitable approach to policymaking that empowers cities to meet their unique challenges. SCA appreciates the state's work to address city needs in 2025, including the adjustment of HB 2015 public safety funding requirements and the passage of SB 6110 to clarify e-bike definitions and establish a taskforce. SCA looks forward to early and frequent collaboration in these areas and the priorities below.

Local Budget Sustainability

SCA cities advocate for policies that strengthen local revenue authority and increase funding flexibility for essential local government services to support long-term fiscal health. SCA cities face persistent and growing budget challenges as revenue sources fail to keep pace with inflation, economic uncertainty, and increasing service demands.

SCA supports:

- Preserving existing revenue-sharing provisions across state policies, balancing the state budget without shifting costs to cities, and no new unfunded mandates;
- Expanding and reforming local revenue tools, including transportation benefit districts, short-term rental taxes for affordable housing, and lifting the property tax cap;
- Providing cities with more flexible and equitable funding options that are not tied solely to local retail activity and can better support a range of local government services; and,
- Developing a long-term fiscal sustainability framework that offsets revenue losses, shares revenue, and keeps pace with inflation and service demands.

Fund & Support Indigent Defense Services

SCA cities require sustained state funding, workforce development, and guidance to meet the new indigent defense caseload standards, which are expected to significantly strain local budgets and operations. The projected cost increase for surveyed SCA cities is nearly 700% over ten years, with Washington's local funding model disproportionately impacting cities with the most indigent defense cases.

SCA supports:

- State funding for most—if not all—public defense to ensure equity and stability; and,
- Policies that strengthen the public defense workforce.

Expand Access for Public Safety Local Options

SCA cities support the creation and preservation of a local option toolbox for public safety and the flexibility to allocate funds based on local priorities. While cities appreciate the sales tax authority and Public Safety Funding Program grants established by ESHB 2015, additional funding sources and flexibility are needed to effectively meet local public safety needs.

SCA supports:

- Maintaining cooperation between the Criminal Justice Training Commission and cities to ease eligibility requirements; and,
- Increasing support for ongoing public safety workforce needs and alternative crisis response programs.

Support Local Housing Priorities

SCA cities strongly support inclusionary zoning and other local housing tools that have successfully increased the number of affordable housing units in cities. Following the 2024 Comprehensive Planning process, cities are working diligently towards the set targets and request the following changes to meet state and local housing goals. The state, however, continues to pass conflicting legislation that impedes this work.

SCA supports:

- Clarifying that the HB 1220 obligation to plan for and accommodate growth by income level is a planning-level responsibility, rather than a requirement to identify funding;
- Providing adequate time for cities to implement and measure the success of existing regulations before requiring new changes;
- Utilizing performance management strategies to assess the effectiveness of housing regulations to support efficient housing development;
- Recognizing state housing requirements come with additional needs for infrastructure to accommodate growth, including water, sewer, transportation, and other essential public facilities, with particular consideration that it is cost-prohibitive to the desired development; and,
- Collecting local, regional, and statewide housing data and sharing with cities and counties to aid reporting requirements.

Foster Economic Development

SCA cities support fiscally sustainable policy approaches that encourage equitable economic growth and business investment. The state should prioritize stable and reliable revenue sources that balance fiscal needs with the potential impacts on cities, residents, and local economies.

SCA supports:

- Implementing a proactive economic development strategy that encourages investment and job growth in communities across Washington;
- Expanding economic development resources, particularly for small cities with limited capacity to pursue opportunities for growth; and,
- Strengthening state-local fiscal partnerships to ensure cities have the resources needed to serve growing communities.

Utility Affordability

Cities are on the frontlines where ratepayers are impacted, often directly providing utility services to ratepayers and maintaining local infrastructure or partnering with utility districts for those services. **SCA cities ask the state to collaborate with utility agencies to explore data-driven regulatory approaches that achieve measurable environmental outcomes while mitigating ratepayer burden.**

SCA supports:

- A data-driven regulatory approach that ensures that infrastructure investments deliver meaningful environmental or public health benefits; and,
- Coordinating regulatory requirements to prevent and reduce stacking of requirements that contribute to upward rate pressure on ratepayers
- Policies that shift the costs of end-of-life management of various products from ratepayers and local governments to producers via extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Fund & Support Local Transportation Priorities

SCA cities ask the state to provide flexible options for funding local transportation. Cities face a major transportation funding gap: the Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Transportation Plan shows a 45% shortfall for cities compared to much lower gaps for counties and WSDOT.

SCA supports:

- State transportation revenue that preserves and improves on local revenue sharing and provides funding for preservation, maintenance, operations, and safety improvements, particularly in rural or underserved areas;

- Exploration of a sustainable alternative to the gas tax, such as a Road Usage Charge or Highway Use Fee; and,
- Creation of flexible local funding options to address growing infrastructure demands.

Modernize Liability Laws to Protect Cities and Taxpayers

Like the state, SCA cities face rapidly escalating liability costs that strain budgets and jeopardize essential services. SCA supports balanced, statewide liability reforms that ensure fair compensation for injured parties while preventing municipalities and taxpayers from bearing disproportionate financial burdens.

SCA supports:

- Updating joint liability statutes to ensure that financial responsibility is proportional to actual fault;
- Reforming the calculation of medical damages by allowing only actual amounts paid or owed rather than inflated, billed charges; and,
- Promoting fairness and transparency in jury awards by ensuring that any stated amounts of non-economic damages presented to a jury are directly tied to evidence.

Supporting Small City Priorities

SCA advocates for state legislation that recognizes the unique circumstances and priorities of small cities. Limited budgets and staff capacity can make it difficult for small cities to implement state regulations, and increasing administrative requirements diverts resources from delivering essential local services. Addressing these considerations will not only support small cities but also strengthen outcomes for cities of all sizes.

SCA supports:

- Strengthening coordination between state agencies to better align affordable housing, land use, and environmental regulations;
- Evaluating the cumulative impacts of existing state requirements on local staff capacity, and allow additional time as needed, before changing or imposing additional regulatory or administrative obligations; and,
- Reducing and streamlining reporting requirements under the Growth Management Act to improve administrative efficiency and allow staff to focus on core city responsibilities.

Supporting Clean Air Agencies

Local clean air agencies are the primary point of contact for cities on air quality enforcement, monitoring, forecasting, and community education. State funding was cut by 65% in 2025 - a reduction of $1.6 million statewide. Cities are already seeing impacts, including reduced complaint response, scaled-back monitoring, and decreased community education.

SCA supports:

- Restoring the $1.6 million cut through the Department of Ecology; and,
- Establishing a stable, long-term funding source.

SCA Legislative Guiding Principles

SCA supports legislation that aligns with the following guiding principles:

- Advance racial equity and social justice
- Improve the social safety net
- Make no unfunded mandates to cities
- Preserve local decision-making authority

Adjusted Amendment Language
Proposed by the City of Des Moines
SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda

Addressing SEA Airport Impacts
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA Airport), serving over 50 million passengers per year, is crucial to the economic development of our cities, King County, the Puget Sound region, and the State of Washington. While the airport's operations bring widespread benefits, the negative impacts, including noise and air pollution, health disparities, lower property values, and limited economic development, are felt most acutely in the communities immediately surrounding the airport. Existing programs do not adequately address these impacts.

SCA supports:

- The State working directly with the Port and the cities immediately surrounding SEA Airport to address the impacts these communities experience through new or expanded programs, not just continuation of current efforts;
- State funding to repair and replace failing residential sound insulation near SEA Airport;
- Ongoing economic development support for these communities; and
- Funding to address public safety and resident health impacts in these communities.

Item 8:
2026 SCA Impact & 2027 Work Plan Discussion
DISCUSSION

At the November 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 2027. This discussion will serve as a brainstorming session for members to raise potential topics or action items for the year.

2026 SCA Impact
Over the past year, the SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC) has worked on several regional issues for the benefit of member cities.

2026 PIC Discussions & Actions

January	***No January PIC Meeting***
February	**ACTION:** 2026 PIC Schedule **DISCUSSION:** PIC Orientation & New Member Welcome **DISCUSSION:** Looking Back & Looking Forward
March	**ACTION:** Regional Board & Committee Appointments **EMERGENCY ACTION**: Transportation Benefit District Sales Tax
April *In-Person Meeting*	**ACTION:** Regional Boards & Committees Mid-Year Appointments **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION:** 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION**: State Legislative Update & Panel Discussion
May	**DISCUSSION:** Potential Affordable Housing Regional Initiative **ACTION:** 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter **POTENTIAL ACTION:** Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative
June	**ACTION:** Regional Boards & Committees Mid-Year Appointments **POTENTIAL ACTION:** 2027 Solid Waste Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION:** December 2025 Flood Response – SCA Survey
July *In-Person Meeting*	**ACTION:** 2027 Solid Waste Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION:** Affordable Housing Levy Discussion **DISCUSSION:** MIDD III Implementation Plan
August	***No August PIC Meeting ***
September	**DISCUSSION:** Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Update **DISCUSSION**: State & County Legislative Agendas **DISCUSSION**: Levies & Ballot Measures Round Table

October *In-Person Meeting*	**ACTION:** Appointment of the 2027 SCA PIC Nominating Committee Members **DISCUSSION:** Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Update **ACTION:** State & County Legislative Agendas

Additionally, SCA has been involved in a number of regional discussions.

Past	King County Parks Levy (2025) King County Executive's Public Safety Roundtable (2025) Regional Utility Rate Summit (2025) KCTD Councilmanic Sales Tax (2025 & 2026)
Current/Ongoing	Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Regional Transit Safety Task Force (and five Working Groups) Regional Utility Summit Hazardous Waste Service Level Workgroup Statewide Housing Innovation Hub
Upcoming	Best Starts for Kids 2027 Levy Renewal

2027 PIC Work Plan

PIC will engage in a discussion on potential PIC topics and areas of focus for the upcoming 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 upcoming 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?

Item 9.a:
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:

- **Regional Policy Committee**
  - The King County Council renewed the Behavioral Health Bridge (Bridge) Sales Tax Fund, formerly known as MIDD, in September 2025. The Bridge Implementation Plan is currently under county review.
  - King County HHHS approved significant additions to the Bridge Implementation Plan. Most notably, HHHS added a Phase 2 section that would allow King County Council oversight of pre-procurement processes to ensure alignment with the five strategy areas outlined in the implementation plan.
  - The SCA RPC Caucus has put forward amendments to ensure that 1) ZIP code level reporting is prolific throughout the Bridge Implementation Plan, and 2) RPC receives reports on pre-procurement processes at the same time as King County Council.
  - RPC's amendments will be discussed and voted on at the November 5 RPC 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
Regional Policy Committee (RPC)	**Caucus Chair:** Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn **Caucus Vice Chair:** Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland Councilmember Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation	Nov. 5	Behavioral Health Bridge Implementation Plan Oct. 14: Discussion Nov. 5 Special Meeting: Discussion & Possible Action

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; Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya, Bellevue; Councilmember Christina Rustik, North Bend	Nov. 5	Draft 2027 AHC work plan 2026 CPP housing monitoring insights Possible action: Plan review program updates 2027 state legislative priorities
KCRHA Governing Board	Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton; Councilmember Kelly Jiang, Issaquah; Mayor Betsy Robinson, Shoreline	Nov. 6	TBD
Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board (TPB)	**Caucus Chair:** Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland; **Caucus Vice Chair:** Council President Susan Honda, Federal Way; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Peter Kwon, SeaTac; Council President Ruth Pérez, Renton; Councilmember Erika Boyd, Issaquah	Nov. 8	Ongoing discussions around 2027 project selection framework update, including newly-developed Opportunity Index
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)	Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish; Councilmember Laura Mork, Shoreline	Nov. 13	Comprehensive solid waste management plan, long-term disposal discussions, multi-family organics and organics enforcement, State policy forward look
Local Hazardous Waste Program Management Coordination Committee (MCC)	Councilmember John Boyd, Kent; Councilmember Sam Harrison, Carnation	Nov. 17	Briefings on Board of Health engagement and process on proposed 2028-2029 Rate Increase, draft 2027 Program annual work plan, 2027 legislative policy agenda and session preview

King County Regional Transit Committee (RTC)	**Caucus Chair:** Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvin, Renton **Caucus Vice Chair:** Deputy Mayor Neal Black, Kirkland Council President Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Councilmember Tracy Taylor, Auburn; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines; Councilmember Pamela Stuart, Sammamish; Mayor Jim Ribail, Carnation; Councilmember Larry Goldman, Lake Forest Park; Councilmember Vishal Bhargava, Bellevue; Councilmember Julie Hsieh, Mercer Island; Mayor Jim Mayhew, Snoqualmie.	Nov. 18	Annual briefing on Metro's Performance Measure's Dashboard, and a briefing on the 2026 System Evaluation Report. RTC is also beginning conversations on updates to Metro's policy documents, will continue through 2027 and into 2028.
Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)	**Caucus Chair:** Melissa Stuart, Redmond **Vice Chair:** Kelli Curtis, Kirkland Ryan McIrvin, Renton; Amy McHenry, Duvall; Jim Ribail, Carnation; Kate Baldwin, Auburn; Annette Ademasu, Shoreline; Mark Joselyn, North Bend; Lisa Wissner-Slivka, Clyde Hill; Marli Larimer, Kent	Nov. 18	School Coordination Update Annual Annexation Update Affordable Housing Committee Updates
Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Planning Board (GMPB)	**Caucus Chair:** Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton Mayor Amy McHenry, Duvall; Councilmember Pam Stuart, Sammamish; Mayor Mark Mullet, Issaquah; Councilmember Cheryl Paquette, Carnation; Council President Satwinder Kaur, Kent	Nov. 19	TBD
Board of Health (BOH)	Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Councilmember Victoria Schroff, Maple Valley; Deputy Mayor Hugo Garcia, Burien; Council President Satwinder Kaur, Kent; Councilmember Cheryl Paquette, Carnation; Councilmember Pierre Blosse, Des Moines	Nov. 19	Briefings on 2027 workplan, King County and Public Health Seattle King County legislative priorities, transportation safety

Agenda

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	Dec. 2	Regional Wastewater Services Plan update (initial analysis summary of comments, equity and social justice), discussion on Proposed Ordinance on Class A Biosolids.
Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Advisory Committee (MIDD AC)	Deputy Mayor Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle; Councilmember Jane Ho, Tukwila	Dec. 10	TBD
King County Regional Law, Safety, & Justice Committee (RLSJC)	**Caucus 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	Dec. 10	TBD – will likely include discussion of 2027 topics
Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board	Mayor Thomas McLeod, Tukwila; Mayor Jeff Wagner, Covington; Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish; Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline; Mayor Katy Harris, Yarrow Point; Councilmember Mark Joselyn, North Bend	Dec. 17	TBD

Item 9.b:
Levies & 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**
2027	TBD	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal	TBD Previous renewal: Aug. 2021 Current rate: $.19/$1,000 AV	Scheduled renewal for BSK levy

Tracking Potential Taxes & Levies			
Year	**Measure**	**Proposal**	**Status Update**
2027	TBD	Affordable Housing Levy OR Levy Lid Lift	BTC Investments & Revenue Workgroup meetings currently taking place to shape the levy
2027 or 2028	King County Transportation District voter-approved sales tax	0.2% sales tax focused on Metro	Early stages of informal discussion
Newly available by the State	**House Bill 2442:** Authorizes a new city/county local sales and use tax to fund services for children and families	0.01% sales and use for things such as: workforce development, childcare, after-school programs, client transportation, rental assistance, and more	TBD Counties and cities have non-compounding authority; counties that take the increment must offer credit to any cities that take the increment. There is no implementation date or requirement for cities to adopt before the county

Newly available by the State	**House Bill 2442:** Authorizes a new county property tax levy for public health clinic expenses	$.05/$1,000 AV authority for the operation, maintenance, and capital expense of public health clinics	TBD Anticipated King County will choose to take it

Upcoming Ballot Measures – SCA Cities & Special Districts

This section relies on self-reported data from SCA cities and may not reflect the entire slate of upcoming ballot measures in all jurisdictions.

Election	City	Measure	Proposal
2026/2027	Yarrow Point	Public Safety Levy	TBD
November 2026	Kenmore	Levy lid lift	Levy lid lift to support and fund programs and services related to Climate and Environmental Stewardship, Affordable Housing, and Human Services. Expected to cost 36 cents per $1,000 of assessed value.
November 2026	Shoreline (Special District)	Parks District	Creation of Shoreline Metropolitan Park District. Initial property tax rate for the district is expected to be $0.55 per $1,000 of assessed value
November 2026	Lake Forest Park	Public Safety Levy Lid Lift	$0.22/1000 of assessed value to fund increases in public safety costs
November 2026	SeaTac	Public Safety Sales Tax	A 0.1% sales and use tax to fund public safety, with at least one-third dedicated to fire protection and/or criminal justice.
November 2026	Issaquah	Park Bond Renewal	Funding for park, trail, and recreation projects in the City's Park System Plan. $0.08/1000 of assessed value
November 2026	Clyde Hill	Property Tax Levy Lid Lift	Tax levy rate would increase to $0.50/1000 of assessed value. Proposed in light of costs of essential services rising faster than revenues.

Past Taxes and Levies (2025-2026) *Chronological order; most recent first*				
Year	**Month**	**Measure**	**Proposal**	**Conclusion**
2026	--	King County Transportation District councilmanic sales tax	0.1% sales tax; 100% dedicated to roads SCA position was to request a 25% city pass-through and city involvement in decision-making.	Approved at 6/12 KCTD meeting, with collection beginning 1/1/27. Implementation is ongoing. Key amendments included: • 12.5% share for cities through City Transportation Improvement Program (CTIP), based on population. • Initial 15% limit (only impacting Seattle) was removed.
2025	November	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy renewal	$0.250 per $1000 of assessed value	Passed by 80.7% on the November 4th ballot.
2025	September	Mental Illness & Drug Dependency (MIDD) sales tax renewal	Renewal of the 0.1% sales tax for behavioral health services	King County Council passed the renewal in September 2025.
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 5th ballot.
2025	April	Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Levy renewal	$0.0275 per $1000 of assessed property value (decrease from current $0.03501 levy rate)	Approved by voters on the April 2025 ballot.

Item 9.c:
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
November	**DISCUSSION:** Hazardous Waste Presentation **DISCUSSION:** SCA 2027 State Legislative Agenda **DISCUSSION:** 2026 SCA Impact & 2027 Work Plan Discussion	*Countywide Levies/Levy Follow-Up* • King County Transportation District Tax - 0.2% voter-approved tax for King County Metro *Utilities/Utility Affordability* • Regional Utility Affordability Rate Summit follow-up • Solid Waste Long Term 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 *Identified by PIC Members* • Land use regulations • Affordable housing • Behavioral health • Protections for immigrant communities • Economic development • Human services • Local areas/regional assets (e.g., SeaTac airport expansion; North Bend trucking facilities)
December	**ACTION:** 2027 Committee Appointments	

		• Surveillance and privacy, related to Flock and Ring cameras • AI and technology • Criminal Justice Sales Tax • Flood response & emergency management • Regional utility rates

Past 2026 Meetings

Month	Agenda Items
January	***No January PIC Meeting***
February	**ACTION:** 2026 PIC Schedule **DISCUSSION:** PIC Orientation & New Member Welcome **DISCUSSION:** Looking Back & Looking Forward
March	**ACTION:** Regional Board & Committee Appointments **EMERGENCY ACTION**: Transportation Benefit District Sales Tax
April *In-Person Meeting*	**ACTION:** Regional Boards & Committees Mid-Year Appointments **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION:** 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION**: State Legislative Update & Panel Discussion
May	**DISCUSSION:** Potential Affordable Housing Regional Initiative **ACTION:** 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter **POTENTIAL ACTION:** Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative
June	**ACTION:** Regional Boards & Committees Mid-Year Appointments **POTENTIAL ACTION:** 2027 Solid Waste Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION:** December 2025 Flood Response – SCA Survey
July	**ACTION:** 2027 Solid Waste Rate Response Letter **DISCUSSION:** Affordable Housing Levy Discussion **DISCUSSION:** MIDD III Implementation Plan
August	***No August PIC Meeting ***
September	**DISCUSSION:** Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Update **DISCUSSION**: State & County Legislative Agendas **DISCUSSION**: Levies & Ballot Measures Round Table
October	**ACTION:** Appointment of the 2027 SCA PIC Nominating Committee Members **DISCUSSION:** Breaking the Cycle Investments & Revenue Workgroup Update **ACTION:** State & County Legislative Agendas