



Puget Sound Regional Council

# Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101**

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## Attend

- The public can attend meetings at [PSRC's office](#).
- PSRC staff will be available to provide floor access 10 minutes before the meeting's start time and up to 15 minutes after the meeting's start time.
- If you arrive outside of these times, please call 206-464-7090 for assistance.

## Provide public comment

- **Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda. Each member of the public will have 2 minutes to speak.**
- **In-person:**  
Public comments may be made in person at PSRC's office.
- **Comments during the meeting by Zoom or phone:**  
[Registration](#) is required and closes at 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. Late registrations will not be accepted.
- **Written comments:**  
Comments may be submitted via email to [msvob@psrc.org](mailto:msvob@psrc.org) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. Comments will be shared with board members.

Public comments are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter [42.56](#).

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### 1. Call to Order (10:00) – Councilmember Conrad Lee, EDD President

### 2. Communications and Public Comment

Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda.

### 3. President's Remarks (10:15)

### 4. Staff Report (10:20)

### 5. Consent Agenda – Action Items (10:25)

- a. Approve Minutes of Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting held September 3, 2025
- b. Approve Vouchers dated August 29, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of \$2,161.72

c. Approve 2026 Economic Development District Board Meeting Calendar

**6. Action Item (10:27)**

a. Ratify Nominating Committee for Election of Officers – *Councilmember Conrad Lee, EDD President*

**7. Discussion Item (10:30)**

a. Regional Economic Strategy Working Session – *Jason Thibedeau, PSRC*  
Note: This meeting includes smaller breakout sessions, both in person and online. Members of the public who wish to hear the breakout group discussions are encouraged to attend the meeting in person. In addition, after the breakout sessions, staff will report out a summary of the discussions in each group.

**8. Information Items**

a. Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program (FY2026-2027)  
b. WEDA Draft 2026 Legislative Agenda

**9. Next Meeting: March 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**10. Adjourn (12:00)**

Board members please submit proposed amendments and materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Mikayla Svob, [msvob@psrc.org](mailto:msvob@psrc.org), or mail.

For language or ADA assistance at PSRC board meetings, please contact us at 206-464-7090 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. For TTY-based telecommunications relay service, dial 711.

العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance>.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **MINUTES**

#### **Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board**

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

**Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Councilmember Conrad Lee, President. To determine attendance and a quorum was present, a verbal roll call was conducted by staff.

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:  
<https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

President Lee shared that PSRC staff would brief the board on a Legislative Update, Puget Sound Regional Data Trends, and the Regional Economic Strategy Update.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, updated the board on PSRC projects and events, included as information items in the September 3, 2025, agenda packet, on pages 14-15. This agenda, as well as past materials for the board, can be found on the [Economic Development District Board webpage](#).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held June 4, 2025

- b. Approve Vouchers dated May 1, 2025 through August 15, 2025 in the amount of \$156.00

**ACTION:** It was moved and seconded (Simpson/Alberson) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, provided a federal and state legislative update and briefed the EDD Board on the process to adopt recommendations to the 2026 Washington State Legislature.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: PUGET SOUND REGIONAL DATA TRENDS**

Craig Helmann, Director of Data, provided a background presentation on the latest data trends in the central Puget Sound region.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY UPDATE**

To conclude the meeting, Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, and Katie Enders, Associate Planner, discussed the development of the Regional Economic Strategy update, including outreach efforts to date and the draft regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis.

**NEXT MEETING**

The board will meet on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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 Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Councilmember Conrad Lee, President  
 Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Josh Brown, Executive Director  
 Puget Sound Regional Council

**ATTACHMENT**

A. EDD Member Attendance for the September 3, 2025, Meeting

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board			
Voting Members			Voting Members
<b>King County</b>	2	EXEC Shannon Braddock	<b>Ports</b>
		Vacant Alt	Port of Bremerton
		Ashton Allison Alt	1 COM Axel Strakeljahn*
		CM Reagan Dunn	1 COM Cary Bozeman Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Everett
		Cody Eccles Alt	1 COM David Simpson
			1 COM Glen Bachman Alt
Seattle	2	CM Alexis Mercedes Rinck	Port of Seattle
		CM Cathy Moore Alt	1 COM Ryan Calkins
		Vacant Alt	Vacant Alt
		MYR Bruce Harrell	Annie Tran Alt
		Vacant Alt	1 COM Deanna Keller
		Markham McIntyre Alt	1 COM Kristin Ang Alt
			<b>Commerce</b>
Bellevue	1	CM Conrad Lee*	1 Grace Yoo
		MYR Lynne Robinson Alt	Keith Swenson Alt
		Corbin Hart Alt	1 Andrea Reay, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce*
			1 Vacant Alt
Cities/Towns	2	MYR Dana Ralph, Kent	<b>Economic Development</b>
		CM Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	EDC - Seattle & King
		CM James Alberson, Renton Alt	1 Rachel Smith
		CM Tracy Taylor-Turner, Auburn Alt	1 Lynnette Buffington Alt
<b>Kitsap County</b>	1	COM Oran Root	1 Joe Morrison
		COM Katie Walters Alt	1 James Davis Alt
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1 Ray Stephanson
		CP Eric Younger Alt	1 Daniel Tappana Alt
Cities/Towns	1	CM Ed Stern, Poulsbo*	1 Michael Catsi
		CM John Morrissey, Port Orchard Alt	1 Sarah Bonds Alt
			<b>Workforce Development Councils</b>
<b>Pierce County</b>	1	CM Dave Morell*	1 WDC - Olympic
		CM Bryan Yambe Alt	1 William Dowling
Tacoma	1	CM Joe Bushnell	1 WDC - Sea-King
		CM Kiara Daniels Alt	1 Marie Kurose Alt
Cities/Towns	1	Mayor Jason Whalen, Lakewood	<b>Organized Labor</b>
		Mayor Dave Olson, Edgewood Alt	WSLC
			1 April Sims, WSLC President
			1 Chelsea Mason-Placek Alt
<b>Snohomish County</b>	1	CM Jared Mead	<b>Presidential Appointments</b>
		CM Megan Dunn Alt	1 Brian Surratt, President & CEO, GSP*
Everett	1	CM Paula Rhyne	1 Rebecca Lovell, COO, GSP Alt
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt	1 Tom Florino, Amazon*
		Dan Eernisse Alt	1 Michael Greer, President & CEO, ArtsFund
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jason Moon, Mukilteo	
		CM Erin Murray, Mountlake Terrace Alt	<b>Non-voting Members</b>
<b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>			PSRC President, Ex-Officio
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Vacant	Bob Drewel
		Vacant Alt	PSRC President
Suquamish Tribe	1	CHR Leonard Forsman	EXEC Dave Somers
		CM Jay Mills Alt	Navy Region NW
			Bill Bulis, Executive Director
			1 Russell Byrd, CPLO Alt
			<b>Abbreviations</b>
			CM Councilmember
			* Executive Committee
<b>Voting</b>	33	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	21 COM Commissioner
			1 = Voting Member for Meeting
			CHR Chair



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 3, 2025

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**To:** Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board  
**From:** Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager  
**Subject:** **Approve Vouchers dated August 29, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of \$2,161.72**

**IN BRIEF**

PSRC vouchers are reviewed by the Operations Committee and approved by the Executive Board. To comply fully with RCW 42.24.080, vouchers for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (CPSEDD) should be approved by the EDD Board as well.

**DISCUSSION**

The EDD Board should approve the following vouchers:

<b>Approved Vouchers dated August 29, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of</b>		
<b>\$2,161.72</b>		
<b>REQUESTED</b>		
<b><u>WARRANT DATE</u></b>	<b><u>VOUCHER NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>
8/29/2025	PR 01304	\$ 41.90
8/31/2025	AP 000573	\$ 185.82
9/30/2025	AP 000675	\$ 500.00
10/20/2025	AP 000713	\$ 1,434.00
		<b>\$ 2,161.72</b>

For more information, contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292 or [awerfelmann@psrc.org](mailto:awerfelmann@psrc.org).

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. A/P Check Batches



A/P Check Batches		
Dated	Check Numbers	Amount
08/29/25 – 10/20/25	AP 000573; 000675; 000713	\$ 2,119.82
Payroll Checks	PR01304	\$ 41.90
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$2,161.72</u></b>

Payment Certification RCW(42.24.080)

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that the materials have been furnished, the services rendered, the labor performed as described, or that any advance payment is due and payable pursuant to a contract or is available as an option for full or partial fulfillment of a contractual obligation, and that the claim(s) is(are) just, due and unpaid obligations against the above-named governmental unit, that we are authorized to authenticate and certify to said claim(s).

**Authorized District Signature(s) for Payment Claims (Auditing Officer(s) or Board Member(s)):**

  
 Authorized District Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 11/17/25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Authorized District Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Authorized District Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized District Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date

## Check Summary Report

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting - December 3, 2025

Check

Number	Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
PR01304	8/29/2025	Katie Enders	Per Diem for Tech Conference - Enders	41.90
000573	8/31/2025	AirBNB	WEDA Conference Lodging - Enders	185.82
000675	9/30/2025	Technology Alliance	Tech Conference - Enders	500.00
000713	10/20/2025	Acrisure	FY26 D&O Insurance	1,434.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>2,161.72</b>



## Puget Sound Regional Council

December 3, 2025

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**To:** Central Puget Sound Development District Board  
**From:** Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager  
**Subject:** **Approve 2026 Economic Development District Board Meeting Calendar**

### **IN BRIEF**

Staff is recommending a set of dates for quarterly Economic Development District Board meetings in 2026.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The EDD Board should approve the following meeting schedule for 2026:

- Wednesday, March 4 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 3 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 2 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 2 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### **NEXT STEPS**

For additional information, please contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at [jthibedeau@psrc.org](mailto:jthibedeau@psrc.org) or 206-389-2879.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

December 3, 2025

### **ACTION ITEM**

**To:** Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board  
**From:** Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager  
**Subject:** **Ratify Nominating Committee for Election of Officers**

### **IN BRIEF**

President Lee is asking the board to ratify a nominating committee to make recommendations for President and Vice President of the EDD Board for the term starting in March 2026.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Ratify the Nominating Committee appointed by EDD Board President Conrad Lee.

### **DISCUSSION**

In accordance with the CPSEDD Board bylaws, Commissioner Conrad Lee's two-year term as President will be completed at the March meeting in 2026, at which point the positions of President and Vice President will become vacant. At the December meeting, President Lee will appoint a Nominating Committee for board ratification. The Nominating Committee will present nominations for President and Vice President to the EDD Board at its March 2026 meeting for board action.

The proposed nominating committee members are:

- Mayor Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton
- Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent
- Mayor Elect Ed Stern, City of Poulsbo
- Ray Stephanson, Economic Alliance Snohomish County
- Michael Catsi, Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

### **NEXT STEPS**

For additional information, please contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at [jthibedeau@psrc.org](mailto:jthibedeau@psrc.org) or 206-389-2879.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

December 3, 2025

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

**To:** Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board  
**From:** Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager  
**Subject:** **Regional Economic Strategy Board Working Session**

### **IN BRIEF**

At the December meeting, staff will facilitate a working session with EDD Board members to help inform the new Regional Economic Strategy and future economic development implementation efforts at PSRC.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (EDD) is responsible for updating the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years. The CEDS is designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resilience of a region, building off other regional planning efforts. The CEDS is required to include a summary background of the region's economic conditions, a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis and a set of strategies to address the identified challenges and opportunities.

Implementation of the CEDS is accomplished by a broad set of regional shareholders, highlighting important ongoing economic development programs and initiatives as well as identifying new opportunities for implementation. Adoption of a regional CEDS enables local jurisdictions and eligible organizations to qualify for funding under U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs.

The EDD Board adopted the current CEDS, referred to locally as the Regional Economic Strategy, at its December 2021 meeting. The strategy covers the period from 2022-2026. The EDD Board is required to adopt an updated 5-year CEDS by the end of 2026.

At the December meeting, staff will facilitate an in-person working session of EDD Board members to discuss three areas:

- What role can PSRC play in advancing regional economic development?
- What strategic areas from the updated Regional Economic Strategy should PSRC focus on?
- How can EDD Board meetings be organized to be most effective in supporting this work?

### **PSRC's role in regional economic development**

Economic development efforts in the state and region are accomplished by a broad ecosystem of partners including state agencies, local jurisdictions, ports, workforce development organizations, Associate Development Organizations (ADOs), chambers of commerce, industry sector organizations, and other economic development partners.

PSRC is home to the region's Economic Development District (EDD), which is authorized by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The EDD Board represents the economic development interests of the region and is made up of both elected officials and non-elected members. Approximately half of the seats are held by local jurisdictions, with the remaining seats being held by regional ports, labor, workforce development, and other economic development organizations.

The EDD has received an annual Partnership Planning Grant of \$100k/year from the EDA, matched with local funds collected from PSRC member organizations. These funds support ongoing maintenance of the Regional Economic Strategy and regional coordination and collaborative work.

PSRC's work in economic development has traditionally focused on three areas:

#### Amplifying Regional Economic Development Efforts

PSRC works to promote regional economic strategy development and implementation efforts, and to expand knowledge of the regional economy and the economic development ecosystem.

#### Coordinating Analysis & Strategy Development

PSRC coordinates with partners to analyze the regional economy, identify new industry opportunities and develop strategies to support growth of jobs in the region.

#### Providing Technical Assistance to Local and Regional Efforts

PSRC provides technical assistance and data to local jurisdictions and organizations in their economic development planning efforts.

Board members will break out into small groups to discuss these roles and help prioritize organizational efforts.

### **Regional Economic Strategy strategic areas**

PSRC facilitates the development of the Regional Economic Strategy, which provides a comprehensive assessment of factors that impact the regional economy. It is organized around overarching regional goals, SWOT analysis and strategic direction to improve the regional economy. The goal areas include:

Economic Opportunity: Expand economic opportunity across the region to ensure individuals and communities have the tools, resources and access to participate fully in the economy. This includes preK-12 education, post-secondary educational and training opportunities, local economic development, childcare, entrepreneurship and startup infrastructure, access to economic opportunity, and broadband.

Quality of Life: Support a high quality of life for regional residents, businesses and visitors. This includes regional growth management, housing, cost of living, transportation, access to arts, culture, and tourism, regional health, and disaster preparedness.

Global Competitiveness: Strengthen global competitiveness to ensure the region remains a leader in international trade, innovation, and emerging technologies. This includes trade policies, advancing the region's industry sectors and emerging technologies, the innovation ecosystem, business recruitment, retention and expansion, and tourism promotion. It also includes preservation of ports, industrial lands, military installations, and maritime sites, investments to support freight mobility and logistics, inter-regional transportation connections, power capacity, aligning workforce development to business needs, and talent attraction.

Business Climate: Foster a strong business climate that supports the regional economy by encouraging business growth and expansion. This includes business and tax climate, regulatory framework and permitting, technical and financial support for businesses, funding for economic development, and revitalization of downtown areas.

Utilizing takeaways from the discussion on PSRC's role in economic development, board members will be asked to weigh in on how PSRC can prioritize its efforts across these strategic areas.

### **Board meetings and engagement**

The EDD Board currently meets on a quarterly basis. These meetings provide the opportunity for the board to learn more about and engage in efforts to improve the regional economy. Depending on the topic, presenters include PSRC staff and representatives from other organizations and entities leading up these efforts. In addition, the Board discusses and updates the Regional Economic Strategy to meet U.S. EDA requirements.

Board members will break out into small groups to discuss the format of meetings,



board representation, and collaborative opportunities to help staff facilitate timely and effective board meetings.

**NEXT STEPS**

For additional information, please contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at [jthibedeau@psrc.org](mailto:jthibedeau@psrc.org) or 206-389-2879.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

December 3, 2025

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

**To:** Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board  
**From:** Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager  
**Subject:** **Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program (FY2026-2027)**

### **IN BRIEF**

At its December meeting, the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board will be given information on the Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program FY2026-2027.

### **BACKGROUND**

PSRC's Biennial Budget and Work Program was adopted in May 2025 and covers July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

The proposed supplemental budget reflects revenues and expenditure of \$45,678,000, including an increased carryover grants from the previous biennium that have been added since adoption in May 2025. As a reminder, grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis and are earned only after completion of the work. A full draft budget is available online at <https://www.psrc.org/about/budget>.

Throughout the month of January, PSRC staff will provide the draft supplemental budget information to the Executive Board, Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, and the Regional Staff Committee. PSRC staff will bring any comments received to the February 26 meeting of the Operations Committee. In March, the Operations Committee will be asked to recommend approval of the budget to the Executive Board. Following in April, the Executive Board will recommend the budget for adoption by the General Assembly, which will be held on May 28, 2026.

### **NEXT STEPS**

For additional information, please contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292 or [awerfelmann@psrc.org](mailto:awerfelmann@psrc.org).

**ATTACHMENT**

A. Economic Development District (Task 300)

## Economic Development District (Task 300)

### Objective

Provide staff support to the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (EDD) Board of Directors. Maintain the central Puget Sound region's eligibility for economic development planning and technical assistance funding from the federal Economic Development Administration. Develop, update, and assist in implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy, which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Under direction from the EDD Board of Directors, coordinate with public, private, and community stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives that strengthen the region's economy.

### Sub-Tasks

#### Sub-Task 1. General Administration

Ongoing administrative, managerial, and operational efforts are required to maintain status as the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (EDD), including:

- a. Annually updating the Regional Economic Strategy.
- b. Developing and maintaining tracking tools, performance measure data and other products to facilitate strategy implementation.
- c. Preparing the annual budget and work program.
- d. Developing, applying for, and monitoring grants and contracts in support of the Regional Economic Strategy.
- e. Securing and managing U.S. Economic Development Administration Planning Grant.

#### Sub-Task 2. Support Boards and Committees

Convene and provide staff support to the EDD Board of Directors, subcommittees, and other working groups or taskforces.

#### Sub-Task 3. Economic Strategy Development

The Regional Economic Strategy, adopted in December 2021, is the guiding document for key regional economic initiatives. The next update of the Regional Economic Strategy, scheduled for adoption in December 2026, will include:

- a. Identification of emerging industry opportunities, subsectors, or cross-cluster opportunities;
- b. Identification of challenges and opportunities faced by the region's economy;
- c. Qualitative and quantitative analysis to help detail the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and
- d. Development of targeted strategies to improve the region's competitive position;

### Sub-Task 4. Economic Strategy Implementation

The EDD Board will maintain a work plan of initiatives to implement the strategy, informed by ongoing evaluation. Economic development staff will work with regional partners to implement these initiatives, including developing, implementing, and collaborating on events that bring together economic development interests in the region and highlighting regional priorities.

### Unfunded Sub-Tasks

None

### Major Milestones and Products

1. Annual Economic Development Work Plan Developed (*2026 and 2027*)
2. U.S. Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Secured (*April 2026*)
3. Regional Economic Strategy Updated (*January 2027*)

### Mandates

This work element provides for program development, administration and management of regional economic development planning activities as required by:

1. Federal authority for the creation, recognition and funding of multi-jurisdictional economic development districts is found in the **Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965** (Public Law 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121 *et sec.*) as amended, including the comprehensive amendments by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-393) and the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-373). Criteria for district program functions and funding are found in 13 CFR Part 301 (area eligibility), 302 (district designation), 303 (district planning process) and 306 (planning assistance).1. **EDD/PSRC Memorandum of Agreement** dated June 27, 2002.
2. Authority for the CPSEDD creation is by a **Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement** between the counties of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish dated May 5, 1971 and amended November 13, 2003.
3. **EDD/PSRC Memorandum of Agreement** dated June 27, 2002.

### Policy Direction and Interagency Staff Involvement

Economic Development receives policy direction from the EDD Board of Directors.

### Summary of Revenues and Expenditures

### Summary of Consultants within Economic Development District

#### Summary Revenues & Expenditures

Revenues:

Expenditures:

EDA Grant	\$200,000
PSRC Local	\$361,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$561,000</b>

Salaries & Benefits	\$369,000
Overhead	\$168,000
Direct Costs	\$23,000
Consultants	\$0,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$561,000</b>

<b>Budget Comparison:</b>	
Draft Supplemental FY 26-27	\$561,000
Sept 25 Amended FY 26-27	\$558,000

<b>FTE Staffing Comparison:</b>	
Draft Supplemental FY 26-27	1.13
Sept 25 Amended FY 26-27	1.13

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WEDA) **DRAFT 11/11/25**

### *Working Together for Economic Vitality & Opportunity Across Washington*

During these increasingly complex and challenging times, communities across Washington need strong partnership with the State as they continue to face challenges growing jobs and addressing affordability for residents and employers. Business competitiveness in Washington has been threatened with historic state tax increases, difficult regulations and the uncertainty of federal tariffs and the loss of federal contracts/funding. Serious equity gaps with access to capital and resources in underserved communities, including rural areas, persist. We are losing business recruitment and expansion opportunities due to energy capacity needs and infrastructure gaps. Building economic vitality and opportunity across all of Washington will continue to take intentional work, strategic partnerships and smart investments. Now more than ever, Washington State needs to establish a bold vision and thoughtful statewide economic development strategic plan that aligns with regional and local strategies; WEDA stands ready to help lead and support action.

As Washington State's *only* trade association laser-focused on economic development, WEDA is committed to retaining, recruiting and expanding jobs and fostering investment across all of Washington. Economic Development returns critically-needed revenue for the State and communities; reductions to the economic development ecosystem and toolbox only result in lost opportunities for revenue, employers, workers and families.

WEDA's 2026 Legislative Agenda focuses on the actions lawmakers must take to help communities statewide grow family wage jobs, foster vibrant and resilient communities, support opportunity for all, increase business competitiveness and spark investment.

#### WEDA'S TOP 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

1. *Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem*
2. *Support Catalysts & Climate for Business Competitiveness*
3. *Increase Economic Vitality for All of Washington*

WEDA's over 185 member organizations includes cities, counties, ports, economic development councils, tribes, business, education/workforce and community-based organizations that prioritize economic development. WEDA's strategic goals are to empower communities across Washington with tools to foster economic vitality and opportunity, assisting employers large and small in competing globally and growing jobs, while supporting inclusive economic development.

# WEDA'S TOP 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 1. Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem

WEDA believes a robust economic development ecosystem at the state, regional and local levels is crucial for sustained economic vitality, resilience and job growth.

### 2026 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- Support state-level leadership & funding for economic development, including the establishment of a collaboratively-developed statewide economic development plan, and strong Business Recruitment, Retention & Expansion + Innovation programs.
- Protect funding for regional capacity to coordinate and deliver economic development services and pass “trailer bill” to address problems with the ADO bill, SB 5677 (2025).

Governor Booth Gardner created the “Team Washington” network in 1985 and 40 years later, 35 high performance regional economic development organizations serve all 39 counties and underpin the State’s economic development initiatives. These economic development organizations, called Associate Development Organizations-ADOs (or Economic Development Councils-EDCs), enhance economic development service delivery and deliver results statewide through public-private, state-regional-local partnerships. ADOs have a mission of *confidential, client-based* economic development that public-private partnerships are uniquely equipped to provide. ADOs are a proven, accountable, cohesive and intergovernmental network that covers the entire state. **However, state funding reductions in 2025 have hampered this partnership.**

The collective results from these entities are outstanding. Over the last five years, local ADO/EDC partners have helped over **588 businesses expand or develop new facilities** and **assisted 1,207 startups**. These companies have invested over **\$11.7 billion** in land, buildings and equipment. These growing businesses have **created over 19,538 new jobs and retained over 22,072 jobs**. ADO business clients generate over **\$100 million in new tax revenues** for Washington State and local communities annually.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, ADOs have shouldered significant *new* responsibilities, providing locally-driven resources and tools to employers across the state, rapidly responding to business and community leaders to recover and grow jobs. ADOs continue to work with Commerce and many others on strategies to address gaps in access to capital with increased outreach, capital and technical assistance and efforts to stimulate markets in underserved communities.

Beyond the legislative restoration of prior severe state funding reductions from the Great Recession and one-time only funding during the pandemic and partial investment in all but the three largest counties in 2024, ADO funding levels have remained stagnant for almost 15 years, *and they were significantly reduced in 2025*. Despite significant additional responsibilities and challenges retaining and recruiting staff, ADOs do not receive any Cost-of-Living, inflation or annual population adjustments. Long term, additional ADO funding is critical if Washington wants to grow jobs, retain and expand existing firms, recruit new business, support key industry clusters and support an equitable economy and inclusive economic development. Every state dollar leverages a match of at least six dollars from other public and private sources.

**Recognizing fiscal constraints in the 2026 session, WEDA supports protection of existing ADO funding and passage a “trailer bill” to fix problems with SB 5677 (2025). Long-term, a return to at least the State’s \$5 million (annual) prior investment into the ADO partnership would catalyze important ADO initiatives fostering innovation, sustainability, partnerships and equity (including rural).**



## 2. Support Catalysts & Climate for Business Competitiveness

WEDA supports investments in infrastructure and programs that catalyze business retention, expansion and recruitment at the regional and local levels – and a fiscal and regulatory environment that fosters business competitiveness.

### 2026 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- Oppose additional taxation on employers that hinders economic growth, and increased regulation which undermines business competitiveness; support permit streamlining
- Protect the TIF for Jobs tool (2021) now being employed/explored by over 25 jurisdictions
- Support site readiness programs, and the creation of a site certification program
- Support state public works programs designed to help expand businesses including: Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), Public Works Trust Fund & Tran. Imp. Board
- Support broadband and clean energy capacity initiatives and investment
- Support and protect investments in road, rail and transit infrastructure, maintenance and services to move people and freight more efficiently
- Support the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund

Employers need a predictable fiscal and regulatory environment to be competitive, and to protect and grow jobs. The 2025 state legislative session was one of the most consequential for businesses ever, with passage of the largest tax increases in history. As Washingtonians struggle with rising inflation, affordability challenges and economic uncertainty, these massive tax increases are hitting businesses and the communities they serve hard. The cumulative impact of the new taxes and regulations is a climate of uncertainty for employers, particularly small businesses. There is also confusion about how new taxes are being implemented. If Washington is to remain a place where economic opportunity, innovation and entrepreneurship thrive, lawmakers must prioritize tax and regulatory reform that supports employers rather than so significantly burdens them.

Washington also has certain key tax policies that lead to job retention, expansion and recruitment, including Business & Occupation (B&O) tax credits and incentives for trade and logistics, food processing and agriculture. These key tax policies should be maintained so jobs are not lost.

The COVID-19 crisis heightened awareness that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, creating two-thirds of net new jobs and anchoring the vibrancy of business districts. Small businesses including microenterprises need a strong ecosystem of technical assistance, capital and new tools to pivot and grow. State funding reductions in small business programming and technical assistance have undermined small business retention and growth.

**WEDA opposes increased taxation on employers and supports permit streamlining/efficiency initiatives that increase predictability in development. State legislative action and agency rule proposals should address their impact on economic development and business competitiveness and be carefully crafted to avoid stifling competition and investment.**

Adequate reliable, modern infrastructure is also critical for successful economic development. Underpinning all commerce is physical infrastructure: roads, transit, airports, railroads, water/sewer, broadband and energy. Public investments in infrastructure create construction jobs, set the stage for future private investment and shape an area's prospects for generations. Responding swiftly to unforeseen infrastructure needs of new or relocating businesses is also crucial to economic development. Washington State's economic future depends on both infrastructure capacity and the wise stewardship of these resources, **particularly as capacity challenges increase.**

**WEDA supports tools and programs that fund infrastructure which enables economic development, encourages out-of-state public and private investment and improves the State's competitiveness.**

### 3. Increase Economic Vitality for All of Washington

WEDA supports policies and investments that ensure that all parts of the state, and all people, benefit in economic growth through inclusive economic development. The economic vitality of rural and underserved urban areas is critical to the long-term health of the entire state.

#### 2026 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- **Protect the .09 percent Sales & Use Tax for Public Facilities and economic development activities in Rural Counties.** Rural counties in Washington have benefitted from up to a .09% “rebate” of locally generated state sales & use tax for over twenty years. This tool helps build critical infrastructure, attract new industry, diversify economies and create and retain jobs.
- **Protect Inclusion investments** in outreach and assistance programs for equitable and inclusive economic development to ensure that historically disadvantaged businesses, particularly underserved and underrepresented communities statewide, have equal opportunity to achieve economic prosperity.

Many rural and underserved communities continue to struggle without adequate access to capital and resources. This has negative impacts on communities’ broader ability to grow their tax base and provide basic government services. WEDA supports strategies to address equity gaps with increased outreach, capital, tools and technical assistance and efforts to stimulate markets in underserved communities, including rural, which face unique capacity and capital gaps.

#### ADDITIONAL WEDA PRIORITIES

**Workforce Development:** In a global economy, human capital is an essential ingredient that drives business innovation, growth and competitiveness. WEDA supports Washington’s 12 Local Workforce Development Boards which apply an equity lens to meeting talent pipeline needs with innovative, data-driven solutions. WEDA supports resources that offer regions flexibility to implement programs and strategies to address the myriad workforce challenges faced by historically disadvantaged communities, low-income populations and emerging industry sectors, including the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program. Maintaining funding for EcSA (Employment Security Department and Department of Commerce request) is critical for Local Boards to leverage resources to help provide a quality workforce through reskilling and reemployment in family-sustaining jobs. Simplifying these funding streams to align with the codification of EcSA will support local boards’ business services to move people out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. Other important workforce programs include the Job Skills Program, Customized Training, Apprenticeships, One-Stop WorkSource Centers, work-based learning and reskilling.

WEDA also supports the preservation of and growth of state funding for Washington’s community colleges and public four-year universities. Maintaining investments in post-secondary education and producing a highly skilled workforce are vital for economic development, and Washington is falling terribly short at meeting employers’ needs of 70% post-secondary attainment by our students. Talent development starts with strong early learning, a robust K-12 system and completion with credentials from the State’s top-quality educational institutions and internationally recognized research universities. We also face severe childcare capacity gaps that must be addressed to support early child development and working families. Our education systems can’t be taken for granted and need sustainable funding and support.

**Housing Affordability & Supply:** WEDA will support legislation to improve housing affordability and expand opportunities for housing at all income levels, particularly workforce and attainable housing.

**Clean/Green Economy:** WEDA supports programs, funding and incentives to create jobs in the Clean Economy including the circular economy, hydrogen, fusion, fission, solar, wind and other renewable technologies including industrial symbiosis while also maintaining a balanced approach.