

Government Relations Updates

Growth Management Policy Board

January 16, 2025



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

psrc.org/equity

Federal Updates

- Republican House Majority is very close – will be 220–215 (217–215 until special elections)
- Continuing Resolution keeping federal government operating until March 14, 2025
- Tax cut extension focus for Congress
- HUD Secretary nominee Scott Turner, hearing January 16



2025 State Legislature



- Democratic majority in the Senate will be 30-19. The Democratic majority in the House will be 59-39
- Legislative session started on January 13, runs 105-days, ends on Sunday, April 27, 2025
- Over 30 new or new role legislators



2025 Legislative Session Budget Outlook

- Operating budget deficit of \$12 billion
- Transportation budget deficit of \$8 billion
- Governor Ferguson gave most state agencies 6% budget reduction targets
- New revenue being discussed by legislature



Governor Ferguson Budget Priorities



- **Education**
- **Public Safety** – \$100m for law enforcement officers
- **Housing** – \$600m investment
- **Ferries** – \$20m for crew recruitment
- **Affordability** – \$240m for universal school lunches and expansion of childcare for small businesses

[Governor Bob Ferguson Budget Priorities 2025–2027](#)



Governor Ferguson Executive Orders

- Housing
- Reproductive Freedom
- Permitting Reform

Governor Ferguson signs three executive orders moments after inauguration



Commerce Secretary



Joe Nguyen

Former state senator Joe Nguyễn hits the ground running at Commerce Department (WA State Department of Commerce)



Bills to Watch

- Rent stabilization [HB 1217/ SB 5222](#)
- Lot splitting [HB 1096](#)
- Transit Oriented Development
- PSH and Shelter Siting [HB 1195](#)
- Housing Element & GMA
[HB 1235/ SB 5148](#)
- Min. parking requirements
[HB 1299/ SB 5184](#)



An aerial photograph of Everett, Washington, showing the city, harbor, and surrounding mountains. The city is densely packed with buildings and houses, with a large harbor area containing many boats and a bridge crossing the water. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Thank You!

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