

Government Relations Updates

Executive Board

January 23, 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.

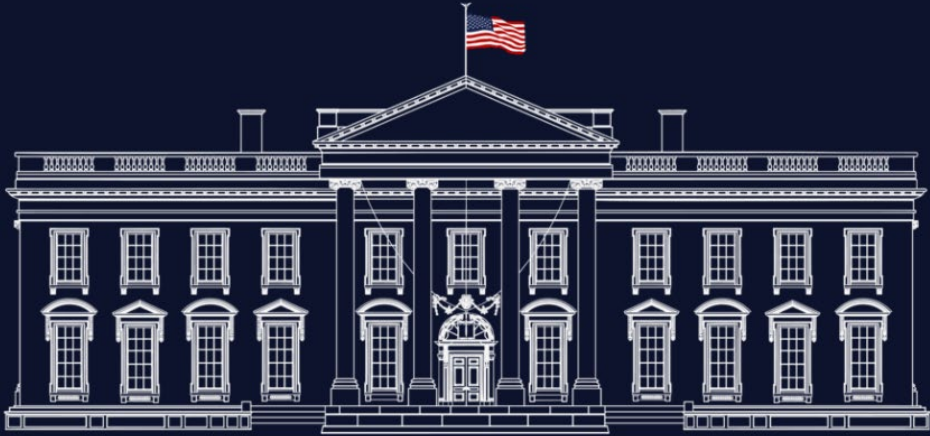
psrc.org/equity

Federal Updates

- DOT Secretary Nominee **Sean Duffy**, floor vote imminent
- HUD Secretary nominee **Scott Turner**, vote in Senate Banking Committee 1/23
- **Surface Transportation Reauthorization**
House Transpo & Infrastructure hearings
- **Continuing Resolution** keeping federal government operating until March 14, 2025



Executive Orders



- 26 executive orders, 12 memos and 4 proclamations
- Immigration and border, climate, energy, regulatory freeze of rules pending review, federal return to work, hiring freeze, termination of DEI programs



Executive Orders

- [Unleashing American Energy](#)
- [Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#)

Sec. 6. Federal Homeland Security Task Forces

Sec. 9. Efficient Removals of Recent Entrants and Other Aliens

Sec. 11. Federal-State Agreements

Sec. 17. Sanctuary Jurisdictions

Sec. 18. Information Sharing

Sec. 20. Denial of Public Benefits to Illegal Aliens



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
[Tax Ideas](#) (WA State Standard)



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)





Julie Meredith

[Introduction to Julie Meredith
\(WSDOT\)](#)



Housing Research Center



- [Sign on Letter](#)
- Budget ask:
\$250,000 FY 2025
and \$750,000 FY
2026 and each
subsequent year
- [One-pager](#)



Housing Stability – Rent Stabilization

Rent stabilization [HB 1217](#)/[SB 5222](#)

- Limit rent increases to no more than 7 percent per year
- Require 6 months' notice for a rent increase of 3 percent or more
- Establish fees count as rent for the purposes of calculating an increase
- Limit move-in fees to the equivalent of one month's rent or less
- Limit late fees to no more than 1.5% of the monthly rent



Road Usage Charge



- Phased Approach
 - Phase 1 – July 2027 voluntary for EV and hybrid vehicles
 - Phase 2 – July 2029 mandatory for EVs and hybrid, voluntary for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles w/more than 20 mpg
 - Phase 3 – July 2031 phase in ICE vehicles
- 2.6 cents per mile, increased over time linked to fuel tax
- Odometer reporting



Road Usage Charge

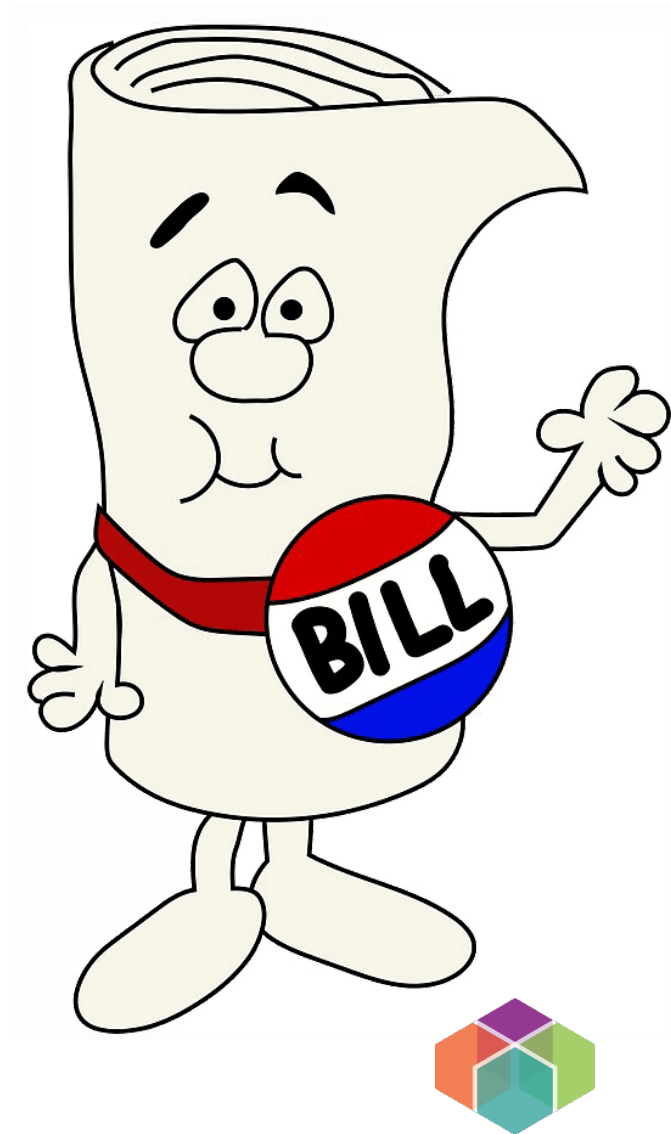


- Highway purposes protected by the 18th amendment
- Uses licensing fee provision, creates highway use restriction but also permits bonding
- JTC study for local government revenue
- Additional RUC could be added for transit or local gov't in future using the RUC collection mechanism bill creates



Bills to Watch

- Lot splitting [HB 1096](#)
- Affordable Homes Act
- Transit Oriented Development [HB 1491](#)
- PSH and Shelter Siting [HB 1195](#)
- Housing Element & GMA [HB 1235/SB 5148](#)
- Min. parking requirements [HB 1299/SB 5184](#)





Thank You!

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