



STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2026





The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce is an economic development-focused, membership-supported organization. Membership is comprised of business enterprises, civic organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits, community organizations, and public sector agencies. Our vision is to support and promote a prosperous economy for the greater Federal Way area in the South King County region of the Puget Sound.

Strategically vital to international trade and commerce in our state, Federal Way is the 5th largest city in King County and 10th largest city in the State. The Chamber's regional scope also includes Pierce County, the State's second largest labor market behind King County.

The business community in the greater Federal Way region recognizes that we are part of an economically interdependent region and state, with diverse needs and interests, and that no one area can progress without another. The Chamber acknowledges that funding these priorities necessitates diversified revenue sources and urges the legislature to pursue funding mechanisms that equitably distribute the tax burden across businesses and residents alike, while ensuring transparency and accountability in tax collection and allocation.

The Chamber encourages the legislature to prioritize comprehensive reform of Washington's regressive tax structure prior to implementing any new taxation measures, ensuring that future revenue generation supports both fiscal sustainability and economic fairness.

The Chamber supports the following 2026 legislative priorities:



BUSINESS CLIMATE AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The greater Federal Way region is engaged in a constant national and global competition for our employers and revenue generators. South King County's position as a key competitor in a global economy mandates that policies be embraced which stimulate economic competitiveness and do not burden our private sector businesses to balance a deficit.

1. With economic development in Federal Way and the South King County region as a core programming function, the Chamber looks for continued funding for initiatives that support business growth and development, particularly in data-driven programming for business retention, expansion and attraction, workforce development strategies, talent gap and alignment, as well as baseline data collection and regional economic development strategies with Federal Way as a growth hub for business connection.
2. With its diverse workforce, the Federal Way region is uniquely positioned to support entrepreneurial opportunity through corridors for acceleration, incubation, and innovation. The Chamber seeks continued investment in its efforts to build ecosystems within a culturally responsive lens that integrate across industry sectors to help create, connect, support, and promote innovation as a small business model.
3. Recognizing that visitor and hospitality trends locally and within regional corridor are destination amenities related to maintaining and growing a talent pipeline, the Chamber seeks investment to align talent recruitment strategies with destination management efforts tied to workforce and visitation.





WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

The Chamber believes our elected officials should work to protect business and individual economic prosperity by adequately funding the K-12 community and technical college system to prepare the workforce of tomorrow with STEM and career connect learning, particularly as it relates to the workforce development and entrepreneurial business support for underserved populations in South King and North Pierce counties.

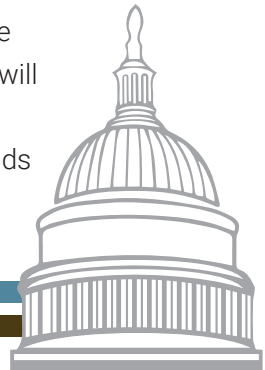
1. The Chamber seeks for legislators to address Washington's constitutional obligation to comply with the court order to fund basic K-12 public education as preparation for an educated workforce. As we look to create a competitive regional balance, the Chamber encourages our legislators to address the issue of regionalization which places Federal Way Public Schools in an inequitable funding position. As a result of regionalization, FWPS receives approximately \$12 million dollars less than all other King County school districts, with the exception of Auburn. Additionally, the current local effort assistance formula, must be re-examined, especially given the most recent adjustment to the per pupil formula. Combined these two significantly impact Federal Way Public Schools.
2. The Chamber recognizes that childcare is a critical workforce issue as well as a growth industry, particularly in Federal Way which the WA state Childcare Collaborative Taskforce has identified as a childcare desert. The Chamber recognizes that childcare is an integral component of business infrastructure and supports a balanced approach in ensuring the development of affordable and accessible childcare industry in the greater Federal Way area.
3. The Chamber supports the annual funding for the Higher Education Center (HUB), a partnership with Federal Way

Public School District, Highline College, and the University of Washington Tacoma, which continues to be vital in bringing additional education and training opportunities to the greater Federal Way region. The Chamber supports Highline's Welcome Center of Student Success and, as the college is part of the SBCTC system, ask the legislature to continue funding through SBCTC Capital Projects list, keeping the Center in the queue for funding in the 2027-29 Biennium.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

As an economic hub in the South King County region, transportation along its business corridors is critical for our economic vitality, creating sustainable jobs, and moving goods to and from one of the largest distribution centers in Washington.

1. The Chamber supports the exploration of developing and/or enhancing a multimodal transportation strategy that moves people, services, and goods with easy access along east-west and north-south corridors within the South Puget Sound region. Connecting consumers to the marketplace that includes both King County and Pierce County is a critical component in the retention and attraction of business and its workforce to our area.
2. The Chamber supports efforts to complete the Puget Sound Gateway project (SR 167/SR 509), which will alleviate congestion on south King County and north Pierce County roads. The Puget Sound Gateway project will enhance freight mobility in and out of the Port of Tacoma as the Northwest Seaport Alliance expands their maritime cargo operations.



3. The Chamber recognizes the necessary investment of mass transit / light rail to meet the growing demands of a growing residential and business community. We welcome Sound Transit's investment in South King County and support ongoing planning for Tacoma Dome Link Extension station in south Federal Way as economic development driver which meets commuter needs.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, January 15, 2026

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